

November 1, 2020

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the Week; Time Change; Early Dismissal; 1st Quarter Report Cards; Honor Roll; Social Media/Text Chain; Extended Care; Box Tops for Education; COVID update; COVID Tests; and Long-Term Sub Needed.

Thoughts for the Week: Love, peace, patience, generosity, gentleness. These wonderful gifts of the Holy Spirit are both simple and nearly impossible to use. A moment of prayer often helps me find one of these gifts when I most need it. On the other hand, I am least likely to ask for help during that moment of stress. But these wonderful gifts are the oil that keep all relationships working. They help us loosen the grip of our self-centeredness and anger. They ease the tight grasp of a grudge that seems so important to hang onto. They fuel us with superhuman patience in the face of a stubborn two-year-old and with deep peace in moments of crisis.

Take time this week to pray this short prayer: Holy Spirit shower us with your gifts and help us share those gifts in our lives today. ~ Your 3-Minute Retreat for October 16, 2020.

Time Change: Just a reminder that the time changed at 2:00 a.m. this morning. We fell back and gained an hour...but school still starts at 8:00am!

Early Dismissal: The school will dismiss at 12Noon on Tuesday November 3rd. This change is to allow our faculty and staff time to vote. I hope each of you also takes time to vote.

1st Quarter Report Cards: On Thursday, October 29th you should have received an email with the link to your child's report card. Please contact the school office if you did not get your email report card.

Honor Roll: We are pleased to announce the Honor Roll students for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. Congratulations students!

4th Grade Honor Roll:

A – Anna Maria Alexander, Bryn Alexander, Isabella Alexander, Lawrence Bolchoz, Sofie Cepeda, Riylar Coffman, Jane deTreville, Boland Dupree, Leighton Ford, Johnny Foster, Reese Gabelman, Ava Gray Goff, Matthew Goff, Luke Greer, Maddie Jarvis, Ellison Judy, Sid McDonnell, Cooper Romine, Avery Shaw, Florence Shell, Presley Toler, Sadie Tyer, Evie Van Sant, Graham Walsh, Crosby Weymers, Alexander Yarnall

A/B - Madison Ferrante, Anna Fuller, Cesar Gonzalez, Foster Marsh, Andrew McCollum, Trey Meetze, Mary Seiner, Liliana Taylor, Patrick Wilson

5th Grade Honor Roll:

A – Noah Bennett, Madeline Bowie, Stella Catalano, Eliza Davis, Watson Dupree, Collin Frederick, Logan Giusti, Caitlin Macdonald, Harper McLeod, Will Sexton, Emma Thompson, Dylan Williams, Lily-Kate Woodard

A/B - Lucy Alphin, Louise Arrington, Valentino Bassante, Jack Bigger, Abby Bodman, Callum Bruner, Michael Carlson, Eady deTreville, Bailey Lisenby, William Maloney, Brady Mock,

Catelyn Roberson, Kylie Smith, Matthew Soto, Deagan Thompson, Blakely Timmons, Jack Tuorto, Owen Tyer, Taylor Williams, Elliott Wise

6th Grade Honor Roll:

A – Ries Bailey, Maddie Collins, Laura Grace Culberson, Ava Gabelman, Charlotte Greer, Claire Kaminski, Lindy McDonnell, Audrey Muir, Mary Grace Plexico, Keeley Toler, Connor Tomblin, Gabrielle Alexis Vogt

A/B - Annabelle Brock, Garrett Ferriell, Harley Haynes, Hadi Jabali, Spence Jaillette, Will Jaillette, Kira Kearnes, Cabe McCormack, Jill Schroeder, Joseph Seiner, Emmaline Sloan, Tyson Verver, Jack Wilson, Reese Wingo

Social Media/Text Chain: With more students at younger ages having devices for school, we have noticed an increase in upset feelings and other problems stemming from group texts and social media. Students are using devices to connect with friends away from school. However, our students are still young and often they are not mature enough to navigate the waters of online communication (texting, group chats, and/or messaging on social media platforms). Please take time to talk with your child about the consequences of their online words and actions. Additionally, please regularly monitor your child’s text messages and social media accounts.

I recommend that you, as an adult watch *The Social Dilemma* on Netflix. It addresses the psychological ramifications of social media on communication via text, messaging, Instagram, etc...

We are also planning to have a virtual speaker on internet and cyber safety over the next few months.

Extended Care: The Reopening Taskforce, with input from Advisory Council, has concluded that at this time we cannot provide the needed safeguards to reopen our Extended Care program. We do understand this is a hardship for many families, and we will revisit this decision for 4th quarter.

Box Tops for Education (BTFE): Earn cash for our school using the new Box Tops app – no more clipping! All you need is your smartphone. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online. Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase and earnings are identified and automatically updated at BTFE.com. You no longer need to clip or send Box Tops labels to the school.

If you shop for groceries online, you can now submit your email receipts from select retailers to earn Box Tops for your school. If your receipt contains participating products, Box Tops will be credited within 1 business day. To ensure that earnings from email grocery receipts are properly credited to your account, make sure you have the BTFE account (you can create one via the Box Tops app or website). Forward your email receipt to receipts@boxtops4education.com using the same email that is associated with your BTFE account. Box Tops will be credited within 1

business day and you can view your earnings in the MY EARNINGS section of the app or YOUR ACTIVITY section of the website.

COVID Update: As we move into the colder months and flu season, health officials say we may see a spike in COVID cases, so we want to reemphasize the importance of following safety protocols when you are out in the community. Best practices that can be implemented every day are the three Ws: **W**ear your mask, **W**ash your hands often, and **W**atch your distance. Please refrain from large group gatherings. If you socialize in large groups, please wear your masks. We also encourage you and your children to get a flu shot. Thank you for your support in these efforts- we really want to keep Saint Joseph Catholic School learning in-person.

Finally, as you begin making your plans for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, we ask that you avoid traveling to COVID “hot spots.” If you do leave the area over the break, whether it is a short or long-distance trip, we ask that you continue to follow safety protocols. Please take some time to review these two links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>

Some highlights from these links:

Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities. If participating in an outdoor event is not possible, and you choose to attend an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, and fully enclosed indoor spaces. Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather.

- The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:
- **Lowest risk:** Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
- **More risk:** Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- **Higher risk:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.
- **Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

We ask you to be mindful of these matters to prevent a COVID outbreak when we return to school after each of our holiday breaks.

COVID Tests: If someone in your household is being tested for COVID all members of the household should be quarantined until a negative test result or the appropriate amount of time has passed since exposure/symptoms.

Long-Term Sub Needed: SJCS is currently seeking a licensed teacher to act as a long-term substitute in third grade. If you are interested, please contact Principal Yarnall at dyarnall@stjosdevine.com.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves"~ Philippians 2:3. Have a blessed week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
Principal
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