

October 24, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Service Project; Fall Festival; Parent-Teacher Conferences; Military Families; and Uniform Updates.

Thoughts for the week: This week I came across these two great quotes that jumped out at me as powerful statements of our school mission:

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” – Fredrick Douglas

“A Catholic education is, as you know, an investment in eternity. Your new car will be old in a year. The child you educate in a Catholic school is immortal. This education will never have to be replaced. It will last forever, and by that, I mean forever. The school that you help to educate that child is in business with God for that child.” - Holy Cross Sister, Sister Madeleva, former President of Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana

We are proud of the strong Catholic education we offer at Saint Joseph. This week take time to reflect on our mission and the great things that happen at Saint Joseph Catholic School. Share those thoughts with a friend, colleague, or neighbor.

Service Project: Our first schoolwide service project this year benefits the Catholic Charities Clean of Heart ministries. We will be collecting new men’s socks and new or gently worn men’s shoes now through the month of “Socktober”. Please help us support this ministry to help bring comfort and clean clothing to the poor and homeless of our city. The collection will run until October 28th.

Fall Festival: Our PTO decided during their last meeting that, while we did not feel it was safe to open our gates to all 221 families, 40+ teachers, vendors, and countless siblings at the same time for our traditional Fall Festival, it was time that, instead of canceling/postponing another event, we come up with an alternative. We want to give our students and families a glimpse into some of the fun things that take place at our school in a normal school year. PTO will be hosting a mini fall festival on **Thursday, October 28** during the school day **12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**. Classroom doorways will be decorated for all students to walk around to see while they Trick or Treat for candy at each doorway. The children will also participate in a dance party, cake walk, class party/activity, and enjoy a cold treat from Pelican’s Snowballs. Student Council will be sponsoring a free Halloween colors (black, brown, green, yellow, orange, purple) dress down day (no costumes, please!).

Students who wish to participate in the pumpkin decorating contest must have their pumpkin in the school office by 8:00 am on Thursday, October 28th.

Also, we would love for parents to join the fall fun by **volunteering** to help with the dance party and cakewalk. Homeroom parents will send an email asking for volunteers for these events and

anything your homeroom teacher needs for their class party/activity. Please respond to the homeroom parent confirming your available time and/or party item donated.

As always, thank you for your support of our students and teachers. We look forward to a fun “Fall Festival”!

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Friday, October 29th is Parent/Teacher Conference Day. There will be no school for students. All conferences will be virtual.

Pre-K -4th-grade families - Parents are encouraged to attend a conference with their child’s teacher. Teachers will reach out to some parents for whom a conference is required.

5th and 6th-grade families - Conferences are optional for students who currently have all As and Bs. If you elect to schedule a conference, please schedule a conference with the subject/subjects teacher of your choosing.

Conferences are required for any student who has a grade of C or lower. Please schedule the conference with your child's subject teacher in which they have a C or below. Grades can be checked on FACTS Family Portal to determine if a conference is necessary. The student is required to be part of the conferences.

Please use this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48AFAC23ABFC1-parent1> to register for your 15-minute virtual conference. The schedule is set up on a 20-minute rotation – 15 minutes for the conference and 5 minutes for the teacher to prepare for the next conference.

The link will close at Noon on Wednesday, October 27th.

If you would like to meet with a teacher other than your child’s homeroom teacher, please also use the link to schedule an appointment.

Military Families: Is anyone in your household active, retired, or a veteran of the military? We are gathering information about our military families so that we can better support and recognize you. If someone in your household (or immediate family such as a grandparent, sibling, etc.) is an active, retired, or a veteran member of the military, reserves or National Guard, please click on this link to fill out the survey:<https://forms.office.com/r/xcm5xAukKC>

We are hosting a Veteran’s Day Mass on Friday, November 12, 2021, at 8:15 a.m. We invite all members of the military in our school family to join us (in uniform if possible) so that we can recognize you and thank you for your service.

Uniform Update: There continue to be major delays on Lands End uniform pieces. For the foreseeable future, I have approved non embroidered pieces and non-Lands End pieces (that are in our uniform colors) for all students. This will be in effect until Lands End gets caught up. This is for emergency situations only. Please continue to do your best to make sure your student is in the appropriate Lands End uniform pieces. I will let you know when we return to the full uniform policy.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us -
“Blessed are we”. Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
Principal
dyarnall@stjosdevine.com