

March 1, 2020

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the Week; Read Across America Week; International Potluck Dinner; Family Math Night; Daily Lenten Mary's Children; Stations of the Cross; MADE; Talent Show; Coffee and Conversations; 2020-21 Major Calendar Dates; and Swimming Tips.

Thoughts for the week: Lent is one of the best times of the year for spiritual renewal. In some ways it can be considered a forty day retreat lived each year within the context of your daily life. Most Catholics have understood the importance of Lent since childhood because of Lenten practices, such as being marked with ashes, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and giving something up as a sacrifice. All of these practices help to bear spiritual fruit in our lives.

One of the most important parts of our Lenten practice is that of engaging the Holy Scriptures in a powerful and personal way. Scripture is the Word of God. Therefore, with the Word of God, we encounter Jesus Himself as we prayerfully reflect upon it. Reading and meditating on the Scriptures is a way of allowing our Divine Lord to speak to us, draw us to Himself and communicate His perfect and all-consuming love. This Lenten season take time to read and meditate on the scripture. The daily reading can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/030120.cfm>

Read Across America Week: Saint Joseph Catholic School will participate in Read Across America this week. We are celebrating as a school with themed days.

Monday, March 2nd “Character Day” – dress up like your favorite book character (Dr. Seuss or any book character)

Tuesday, March 3rd *Fox in Socks* – wear crazy socks

Wednesday, March 4th *Horton Hears a Who* – perform a random act of kindness

Thursday, March 5th *Cat in the Hat* – wear a fun hat

Friday, March 6th School-wide Reading Day – read with our Mass buddy class for 20 minutes.

International Potluck Dinner: Saint Joseph School is excited to host an International Potluck Dinner along with a Family Math Night on Tuesday, March 17. Please come with your family and share a favorite dish from your cultural background (or any family favorite). Together we will enjoy delicious food from around the world, then participate in Family Math Night.

Family Math Night: Tuesday, March 17th will be our first annual Saint Joseph Family Math Night. Families are invited to join in the fun of solving math problems, completing puzzles, and stretching your brain! The fun will begin with our International Potluck Dinner, followed by math activities in the gym. The evening will culminate with a parent vs. student math relay and

door prizes! Students who attend will earn math extra credit. Please RSVP by March 6 via the flyer coming home in the Monday folder. We look forward to seeing you there!

Daily Lenten Mary's Children: Students and parents are encouraged to join the daily Mary's Children Rosary group for the Lenten season. The group will meet daily from 7:25-7:45 a.m. each day the school is in session. All are welcome to join this prayer group.

Stations of the Cross: Each Tuesday and Thursday during Lent that school is in session, students and faculty will pray the Stations of the Cross in the gym at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to join this prayer service.

MADE: A big thank you to Mr. B, Miss Henry, Miss Finley and Mrs. Fennessy and all the many volunteers who help make this new event highlighting our Fine Arts at Saint Joseph a success! It was a fantastic night!

School Talent Show: Can your child sing, dance or perform a unique talent? The Student Council will host a school-wide talent show. The Student Council judges will pick the top 15 acts to perform on Thursday April 9th at 9:30 for the student body. There will be auditions the last full week of March. Please look for more information in the coming weeks about auditions.

Coffee and Conversations: The March Coffee and conversations is being moved to March 12th.

2020-21 Major Calendar Dates: The Columbia Catholic schools have set our academic calendar for the 2020-21 school year. Please see some major dates below. The full calendar will be sent home later this spring.

Aug 18:	Open House 12:00-3:00
Aug 19:	First day of school
Aug 19-21:	12 noon dismissals
Sept 7:	Labor Day/no school
Oct 1:	Grandparents Day
Oct 2:	No school/teacher work day
Oct 3:	Auction
Oct. 30:	No school/parent teacher conferences
Nov 25-27:	Thanksgiving
Dec 18:	12 noon dismissal

Dec 21-Jan 1: Christmas break

Jan 4: No school/ teacher work day

Jan 5: Classes resume

Jan 18: Martin Luther King, Jr holiday/No school

Feb 12: No school/teacher work day

Feb 15: No school/weather make-up day, if needed

March 4: Noon dismissal/teacher work day

March 5: No school/teacher work day

April 1: 12 noon dismissal

April 2-9: Easter Break

April 12: Classes resume

May 3: No school/teacher work day

May 31: Memorial Day/no school

June 3: All school awards day

June 3: 6th grade graduation

June 4: 12 noon dismissal/last day of school

Swimming Tips: Is your child learning to swim by holding his breath? He shouldn't be! Here's why:

Anytime anyone holds his breath while going underwater, there is a risk of getting water up your nose. And that feels terrible! Try blowing air out of your nose while going underwater. That pushes air out of your nose which keeps water from getting up your nose.

Also, by blowing air out when going underwater, your body begins to relax as opposed to holding your breath which causes you to tense up. Beginning swimmers particularly need to minimize tension when learning how to swim. And blowing air out of their noses helps relieve tension.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Faith to Move Mountains" Matthew 17:20. Have a blessed week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
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