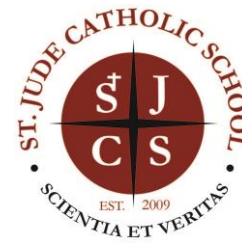


SJCS FIRE

St. Jude Catholic School

Where Faith, Love and Leaders Grow



SJCS Parent Bulletin Spring 2019

Dear SJCS Parents:

Happy Spring! I hope your spring break was restful and renewing. We are excited for the final stretch of the academic year. It's been a wonderful one of many blessings, for sure!

I wanted to update you on a few staffing changes for this year and for next academic year. Mrs. Alyssa Young finishes up her last week with us in the office as Mrs. Nhora Strickler will begin as Office Assistant after our Easter break. We thank Mrs. Young for her hard work for us all, especially the many students and visitors who come in and out of the office throughout the day!

Mrs. Lora Taylor, FD PreK teacher, has accepted a Preschool Director position at a local preschool for next year. Mrs. Jenny Johnson also will finish up the year as our Enrichment teacher, so I thank them all for generously giving to the mission of Catholic education and SJCS!!!

The Sisters received our assignments for the 19-20 academic year and Sr. Mary Lawrence, 5th grade, is assigned to the Motherhouse and to 5th grade at one of our Spiritus Sanctus Academies. Sr. Mary John, from Jasper IN, will be our new 5th grade HR and MS Religion teacher for next year. She is thrilled to be with us at St. Jude! Sr. Theresita, Sr. Maris Stella, and I are re-assigned to St. Jude next year. We are most grateful to return to our beloved St. Jude!

We will certainly miss Mrs. Young, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Johnson, and Sr. Mary Lawrence.... I thank each of them for their joyful dedication and hard work for us as they have been an essential part of our "Team St. Jude."

At PND High School, Sr. Maria Suso is returning to teach Biology, but Sr. Mary Esther is moving to a new mission in CA. We're excited to have Sr. Catherine Thomas return to PND and our Peoria mission as she was assigned here from 2013-2016.

We are now hiring for our full day Preschool teacher, Aftercare Director, Enrichment teacher, and a second section 2nd grade teacher. Please direct any inquiries and resumes to the School Office.

As always, I will update you with developments over the next few months. Staffing assignments are ever in flux, so thanks for your patience and understanding as we strive to make the best decisions possible for our growing School.

I am very grateful to God, to Father Henehan, my Sisters, and my extraordinary Team for their labors and their help to be a small part of HIS work to form and educate disciples of Christ for Heaven *forever!*

Thank you for sharing your greatest treasures with us.

God bless you always,

Sr. Maria Christi, OP

THANK YOU!

Special prayers of gratitude and amazement for our 2019 Gala! Once again, Father and I are humbled by the hard work of our Gala committee and the response of our generous school and parish community. We exceeded our financial goals for this year's event and have already seen the benefits in action. Document cameras, allowing teachers to make our Smartboards more interactive, are up and running in the classrooms! Microscopes and other equipment have been ordered for our science lab to accommodate larger classes, the 4th Grade leveled classroom library is ready to be shelved, and plans are underway for our outdoor basketball court and security camera additions this summer. Thank you to all who contributed to this event in any way. Our students and staff will enjoy these benefits for years to come!

CONGRATULATIONS!

...to **8th Grader Anneth Hape** who won the St. Jude Spelling Bee in January, then advanced to the Peoria Journal Star Regional Spelling Bee last weekend. Anneth competed against nearly 40 of the top spellers in the area **and PLACED 2nd!** Anneth, thank you for your beautiful effort and representation of SJCS!

..... to **1st Grade A & Mrs. Kouri**, winners of the 3rd Quarter "Reverence Challenge." They will enjoy pizza and ice cream this week with Fr. Henahan and Fr. O'Brien!

...to **4th grader Cora Heinz** whose entry in Illinois American Water Company's "Imagine A Day Without Water" art contest won \$100 for her class! Way to go, Cora!

...to **Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Stedwill** who were awarded a \$1000 grant from PNC Bank to provide an outdoor discovery zone for the preschool students. Coming soon to the pine tree line area, the discovery zone will have seasonal materials and places for children to explore nature and develop their neural pathways. We are so grateful for their hard work and look forward to our new outdoor learning space!

PARENTS: PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

Please join us for our **Parish Mission with Paul George** TONIGHT at 7 pm in Hettinger Hall. Using a unique blend of humor and authenticity, George will present *Discovering God and Finding True Joy*, and *Living with Purpose*.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars and plan to attend our next **Light of the World retreat this fall, Nov 1-4**. We realize family responsibilities keep us all very busy, so we are announcing these dates early to allow plenty of time to plan for this life-changing weekend. Many of our school parents have attended and would be happy to share their experiences. Contact the school office for more information.

PARENT EDUCATION CORNER:

Fascinating and important study about screen time & brain development:

<https://www.screenagersmovie.com/tech-talk-tuesdays/groundbreaking-study-discovers-an-association-between-screen-time-and-actual-brain->

[changes?utm_source=Impact+Flow+Attendees&utm_campaign=3683e72b6f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_12_11_02_45_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c7c0526734-3683e72b6f-160104613&mc_cid=3683e72b6f&mc_eid=ea55077dcf](https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/item/13364-in-their-own-words-parents-of-kids-who-think-they-are-trans-speak-out.html)

Important to remain vigilant about what our culture teaches our youth:

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/item/13364-in-their-own-words-parents-of-kids-who-think-they-are-trans-speak-out.html>

Perspective.....:

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dear-parent-about-that-kid_n_6154898?fbclid=IwAR0weRWweQFpsG90T0bZLZHF7yEAw1MRjChine3rhUz2avfPrvhXOgDBec&ncid=fcbklnkushp00000063&utm_campaign=hp_fb_pages&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=main_fb

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE & "TAKE 5":

We are in the final weeks of Lent, and I pray it has been a fruitful time for your family. Please join in our **School Almsgiving to contribute to our Lenten St. Vincent DePaul Food Drive**. Please have students send in non-perishable food items for the collection baskets in the gym.

There are several Lenten resources available for your family's use. The at-home component of our **Take 5 Lenten program** is a great way to practice the three pillars of Lent as a family, with meaningful ideas that are easy to implement. Donating 5 canned goods to our food drive would be a great way to Take 5! If you need another copy of the Take 5 calendar, it is posted on SchoolSpeak.

CRS Rice Bowls were sent home on Ash Wednesday and offer another option for almsgiving. **Rice Bowl donations** benefit needy families worldwide served by Catholic Relief Services, with 25% of our Rice Bowl donations used to benefit families right here in the Diocese of Peoria.

PRAYERS FOR OUR STUDENTS:

Please join us in praying for our St. Jude students who will receive the Sacraments this spring:

- **Eighth graders** who were confirmed at the Cathedral of St. Mary's on Wednesday, April 3!
- **Second graders** will receive their 1st Holy Communion at St. Jude on Saturday, May 4, at 10AM. We will also celebrate our First Communicants later that week during our May Crowning and Mother's Morning on **Thursday, May 9** (original date was May 10).

SPRING CONFERENCES:

To help ensure Kindergarten readiness, we will be offering **spring parent-teacher conferences for all Preschool families**. A scheduling link will be sent home in the next few weeks, and we ask every preschool family to sign up. Grade school parents are reminded that conferences are available at any time and may be requested through your child's homeroom teacher.

ENCOURAGING ON-TIME ARRIVAL:

With the conclusion of our third quarter, we offered again free-dress day to those students who achieved **perfect attendance** (no absences or tardies) during the quarter. Late arrivals due to morning appointments are not recorded as tardies. Many schools issue a perfect attendance certificate at the end of the year, but we have chosen to offer this award at the conclusion of each quarter, allowing every child several opportunities a year to achieve it. While we realize illnesses cannot be avoided, we appreciate the effort made to ensure on-time arrival, which minimizes classroom disruption.

NEW POLICIES NEXT YEAR:

As we look ahead to the 2019/2020 school year, we will be working on **revisions to our tardiness policy, volunteer hour requirements, and guidelines for parent supervision of their students during athletic events**. New policies will be included in our Parent/Student handbook this fall.

WOULD YOU HELP US???:

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS:

Please consider donating to the *Invest in Kids* scholarship program before the end of the school year. The program provides significant

scholarships for families with financial need wishing to send their children to private school and has already benefited many St. Jude students. Your donation may be designated specifically for SJCS, and donors receive state tax credit equal to 75% of their donation. A donation of just \$100 through this program will have a net cost to the donor of only \$25, and a St. Jude family will receive a full \$100 in tuition scholarship. Call the school office or visit empowerillinois.org for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINES:

Invest in Kids scholarship awards will continue over the next few months, but the number of qualified families currently far exceeds available funds in this program. Families wishing to be considered for financial assistance should also be sure to **apply through FACTS** to be considered for the Knights of Columbus, Spalding, and St. Jude parish scholarship.

The application deadline is April 15, 2019. More scholarship and application information is available on SchoolSpeak.

IMPORTANT 4th QUARTER DATES:

- Sun. & Mon. April 7&8: Parish Mission with Paul George 7 PM
- Tue. April 9: Middle School Chess Club 3:15 PM
- Thu. April 11:
 - Stations of the Cross 2:15 PM, parents welcome
 - Middle School Chess Club: 3:15 PM
 - 5th Grade Info Night for 4th grade parents, 6:30 PM
- Fri. April 12: Student Trivia Night 6 PM
- Sun. April 14: Parish Penance Service, 3-5 PM (10 priests available!)
- Mon. April 15: FACTS scholarship application deadline
- Tue. April 16: 7th Grade attends Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
- Thu. April 18-Mon. April 22: Easter Break
- Tue. April 23:
 - 5th-8th Grade Field Trip, Peoria Symphony Orchestra
 - Middle School Chess Club 3:15 PM
 - PTO Meeting 6:30 PM
- Thu. April 25:
 - Midterm
 - Middle School Chess Club 3:15 PM

- Thu April 25-Sat. April 27: Rummage Sale
- Fri. April 26: Spring Trivia Night 6:30 PM
- Apr 29- May 1: Preschool Conferences
- Tue April 30: Athletic Banquet 5:30 PM
- Wed. May 1: Spirit Day & 2 PM Dismissal
- Thu. May 2: Education Commission 6 PM
- Sat. May 4: First Communion 10 AM
- Mon. May 6: Preschool Info Night, 7 PM
- Tue. May 7: Fine Arts Night for 1st-8th graders
- Thu. May 9: May Crowning & Mother's Morning 8:30 AM (*please note date change from 5/10*)
- Thu. May 16: Family Picnic 5 PM
- Fri. May 17: Last day of school for 8th graders
- Tue. May 21: 8th Grade Graduation Mass 5:30 PM
- Thu. May 23:
 - Last day of school for half-day preschoolers
 - Field Day for K-7th grade 11:30 AM
- Fri May 24:
 - Last day of school for FDP, K-7th graders
 - 11:30 dismissal, no aftercare