

SCHOOL NEWS



St. John the Baptist Catholic School Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar!

- Dec. 2: Breakfast with Santa at 9 AM and 10:30 AM
- Dec. 2 - 8: Scholastic Book Fair
- Dec. 7: Sons of Sicily Spirit Day
- Dec. 11: School Christmas Concert at 7 PM - All Students
- Dec. 12: Reconciliation for grades 3 & 4
- Dec. 14: Mission Day - Donation for Casual Dress
- Dec. 15: Reconciliation for grades 5 & 6
- Dec. 16: Grade 4 Retreat Day and Serve at the Lord's Luncheon
- Dec. 16 and 17: Poinsettia Sale after all the Masses
- Dec. 18: Christmas Band Concert for Instrumental Students
- Dec. 21: Last day of School before Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 22- Jan 1: No School, Christmas vacation
- Jan 2: School Resumes

From the Principal's Desk...

I recently read a joke that said: Dear Santa, Just leave your credit card under the Christmas tree! Some years, I feel like that is truly what happens! So this year, I have some new goals. To spend more time with friends and family, to spread kindness, to give generously from the heart, to never lose site of what Christmas is all about, and to capture as many memories as I can.

I wish you a December filled with gladness, joy and happiness and to top it all off, a wonderful New Year, without too many credit

St. John's Scholarship Fund



Our first annual campaign to raise money for scholarships to our school began on "Giving Tuesday", November 28, 2017 and run through the last day of Catholic Schools Week, February 3, 2018.

St. John's School Volunteer Project: Children, parents and parishioners can perform acts of kindness, giving or any type of charity work they choose. A school web site link is available to record volunteer work and # of hours donated. An anonymous donor will give \$1 to the school for every hour donated, and we are looking for others to match that donation.

Bike-a-Thon at Local Gym: From 8am-8pm on Sat, Feb 3 (last day of campaign) we will have 24 volunteers ride a stationary bike for 30 min. Each rider will be asked to obtain sponsors from family, friends, co-workers, etc. A friendly competition between riders is planned. We're still looking for some bikers to participate!



Upcoming Events

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be open in the social hall 9:00-9:30 on Monday, Dec. 4th – Friday, Dec. 8th. The book fair will also be open during Breakfast with Santa. Please stop by to check out the many books that will be on sale. They make great Christmas and birthday gifts!



Gingerbread Houses



Mrs. O'Byrne's class will be building gingerbread houses in December. Students may again bring in their pennies to vote on their favorite gingerbread house. The proceeds will benefit our local food pantry.

School Christmas Concerts

Our school Christmas Concert is on Dec. 11th at 7 PM, with the entire school participating. Every grade, which includes every student, performs some of the songs that they have been learning this fall. Our band will be performing on Dec. 18th at 7:00 PM in the main Church. This is for our band students but all families are welcome to come out and hear our band perform. They do an amazing job! You are welcome to join us at both events – the children have worked very hard for these presentations. Please feel free to invite as many friends and family as you wish to come and see their performances. We also ask each family to donate a small plate of cookies to share after the concert on **Dec. 11th**. Any leftovers cookies will be bagged up and frozen for the band concert.



Christmas Eve Masses



Our Christmas Eve Masses are at 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 in the main church. The 4:00 Mass is a Children's liturgy and our Children's choir is singing. If you are attending any of these Masses and would like to help as a family, please contact Sr. Jane: srjkeller@sjbnf.org. She has a variety of opportunities in which your family can help out.

School Open House

Our first school Open House of the new year will be held on Sunday, January 21st from noon – 2. Please tell your friends and families to come and check out what a great school we have here. There will be just a preschool Open House on Feb. 25th from noon – 2, should you know anyone with young children.

Catholic Schools Week

We have lots of fun activities planned for Catholic Schools Week and more info will come home in January. But to begin our Catholic Schools Week, all the families in our deanery are invited to participate in Mass at York Catholic on Jan. 27th, followed by a competition between the teachers of all of our schools in a Minute to Win It style competition. Food will be available for purchase between Mass and the competition. Plan on coming out to cheer our school to victory! More information will follow, including the chance to buy some spirit wear so we can show our unity. Additionally, St. John's Home & School Association will again sponsor an Assembly featuring Eric Energy on January 31st, Movie Night on February 2nd and lunch for the staff during Catholic Schools Week. Be sure to mark your calendar for the activities during Catholic Schools Week!





St. John's music teacher, Mr. Vycosil, and our students gathered in New Freedom on November 25th to sing Christmas carols before the arrival of Santa Claus and Christmas tree lighting.



REMINDERS

SCRIP

Don't forget to purchase your Scrip shopping cards for the Holidays from St. John's School. All the monies earned go towards helping students attend our school in the form of a scholarship. Scrip cards to many retailers are available. Deadline for ordering in time for Christmas is December 4th. www.shopwithscrip.com

Snow Closures



In the event of inclement weather or for any other event that causes us to cancel school, it's important to know what procedures we follow. You will receive a notice from the school (One Call Now) to your home phone, cell phone or email (or all of the above) if there are any changes to our school schedule. We also have announcements made on WGAL news 8 and FOX 43 if there is a delay or cancellation. Any change in routine will also be on voicemail (Julie Shallcross/Kim Lhotsky) for the school.



Poinsettia Sale

Our school will be selling Poinsettias in the atrium of the church on Dec. 16th and 17th after all Masses. These traditional holiday plants now come in several colors and varieties.

Participating Makes a Difference!

Missions

Congratulations to Mrs. Miller's First grade class for raising \$108.01 for the Pontifical Missions from their beautiful and scary decorated pumpkins!

Our mission day this month will be going towards a needy family from our school. Your donations will go towards gift cards to help a family struggling to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity.

Bingo Night

St. John's School held a CASH Bingo on November 2nd at the New Freedom Community Center and it was a huge success again this year! St John's school received proceeds of \$6,175. Thanks to all parents and parishioners who came out to have a fun night and to support our school!

Clair's Gourmet

The school made proceeds of \$1,247! Thanks to all who purchased items for this fundraiser.

Save the Date for the 2018 Auction and Dinner Dance on Saturday, April 28th!

The theme this year is DISCO! Please plan on joining us for a fun evening of dining and dancing. If you volunteer 10 hours of your time to school events up to that date, you will be able to purchase 2-for-1 tickets to the event. Just go into the link for the volunteer sign up! <http://www.stjnschool.org/volunteer-sign-up/>

Principal's Awards



Allie and Lizzy Patera: Helped at Sunday Mass

Adela Wooden: Sat with a friend who was sad



Olivia Struck, Nicky Struck, Bernadette McLain, Maryn Evler, Wyatt Traband, Eli Mazziott, Emma Crone, Jaelynne Cromedy and Summer Antkowiak: All came out to sing at the New Freedom Tree Lighting ceremony!