

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER, 2010
KNIGHT NEWS
www.sjslibertyville.org

Dear Parent,

Welcome back. I hope that the summer has been a time for family, for renewal of energy and I hope that you gave some time to our Creator. A new school year is upon us. I and the faculty are looking forward to being a part of your family once again.

Our year begins with the culmination of the School Improvement Process that we began last January. Our faculty and staff along with SAC and other parents have been discussing and reviewing all aspects of our school operation and have made recommendations as we move the school forward. As the year progresses I will be sharing with all of you these recommendations. You will be asked to take a parent survey which will be part of our completed report. On October 5, 6 and 7 a team of Archdiocesan administrators and educators will be visiting our school and will validate the work of our Improvement Process. We do expect that the State Board of Education will also be sending a team, but the actual date of that visit has not been determined.

This year we will be emphasizing the studying of Sacred Scripture as we “Explore the Word and Live the Message”. The Word of God is so rich in meaning and relevance for our children and families. We hope that you will engage your family as we explore not only the weekly Sunday readings, but as we reflect on the stories of our ancestors in faith. Try to include readings from the Bible in your family reading time and share some of your favorite passages with your children.

This year we hope to “go green” as much as possible. This *Knight News* will be the last one that we will send to every family via backpack mail. All other issues will be on our web-site. We will have a limited number of printed copies available in the office. Please refer to our web-site daily for relevant information.

May God’s blessings continue to shower our school and parish community.

Sincerely,
Charles Lynch

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

We welcome a number of new faculty and staff as we begin the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Terry Mulligan will be teaching first grade this year. Mr. Mulligan graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Elementary education. He substituted for us last year and just completed a six month teaching assignment at our sister school in Tanzania. We are very happy to have him with us.

Mrs. Anne Phoenix will be teaching in fifth grade and will teach Social Studies for grades 5 and 6. She has her degree from Western Illinois University and taught in Lake Bluff Middle school for six years. She also substituted in our school last year and is eager to return to teaching.

Mr. Colin Spude has accepted the position as a 7th grade homeroom teacher and science instructor for 7th and 8th grade. Mr. Spude received his degree from St. Norbert College and spent time with us last year in various classrooms. He is eager to begin his teaching career in a faith-filled environment.

Mrs. Rebecca Sear will teach Spanish in grades 5-8. Mrs. Sear earned her bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and fulfilled her requirements to teach Spanish from DeSales University in Pennsylvania. She completed a temporary assignment teaching 8th grade Spanish at Highland Middle during the 08-09 school year. Mrs. Sear is a parishioner and is looking forward to joining our school community.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

The **Open House for grades 5-8** will be held on Thursday, August 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Koenig Center. Please arrive early and sign up to volunteer for various school activities. This is an important evening for parents to meet teachers and to hear about our school programs.

The **Junior High Activity Night** for 7th and 8th graders will be on Friday, August 27th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Koenig Center. This is a fun evening and a chance for 7th and 8th graders to get to know one another as the new year begins. Parents must pick up their children right at 9:00 p.m.

Our **Opening All School Liturgy** will be Friday, August 27th at 10:00 a.m. Join us as we ask God to bless our new school year.

The **Open House for grades K-4** will be on Thursday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Koenig Center. Please arrive early to sign up for volunteer opportunities in your child's classroom. You will have the chance to meet your children's teachers and to hear about their expectations.

NO SCHOOL DAYS. There will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 6th (Labor Day) and on Thursday, September 9th (faculty in-service).

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY will be on Thursday, September 23rd. All children should wear good clothes for their pictures.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Curriculum is defined as the specific learning program that collectively describes the teaching, learning and assessment materials, available for a given course of study. As the Assistant Principal at St. Joseph School, I work with Mr. Lynch and the teaching staff to address curricular scope and sequence, identify current trends in content areas and support teachers in the implementation of innovative teaching strategies and lesson design.

Our curriculum at St. Joseph School is based in both Archdiocesan and State of Illinois teaching standards. While the curriculum can be set in a particular content area and is driven by the Archdiocese and the state, the delivery of instruction remains flexible, allowing us to meet and exceed standards, while catering to varying student needs and learning styles. Our teachers work diligently to differentiate instruction to meet the unique learning needs of the students in their classrooms.

This year I will post Curriculum Updates in the Knight News, to share information on our curricular design and programming with the parent community. I look forward to sharing this exciting piece of the school program with you!

Nikki Raftery

A MESSAGE FROM SJSPA

On behalf of the St. Joseph School Parent Association (SJSPA), welcome!

The purpose of SJSPA is to provide the school community with a supportive organization that coordinates events and various programs for students, teachers and families. These are all made possible by parent volunteers and through fundraising. Our goal this year is to raise enough money to support the annual SJSPA budget. These are ways to contribute to SJSPA:

- Box Tops for Education
- Fall Fundraiser (Spirit Run) – Tuesday, October 26, 2010
- Ink Cartridges
- Innisbrook Online Gift Wrap
- Santa's Secret Shop
- School-Pak – School Supplies
- Spirit Wear
- Spring Fundraiser – Athletic Committee/SJSPA
- Uniform Resale
- Target – Take Charge of Education

For the most up-to-date information on the Parent Association, please click on our link on the school website (www.sjslibertyville.org).

Meeting dates have already been posted, and more information will be added throughout the year.

We are blessed to have a school community that's so generous. We thank all the parents that have already volunteered their time for this school year. We also welcome and encourage new families to get involved. Without you, the Parent Association and its' programs and events wouldn't be possible. We are looking forward to a rewarding school year.

SJSPA Board Members 2010-2011

Melissa Galla- President

Tracy Lombardo – Vice President

Margaret Herron – Treasurer

Cristina Riggio – Secretary

Brigid Dutton – Knight News

NEW FAMILY WELCOME PICNIC

The New Family Welcome Picnic is on Sunday, September 26 from 3:30 until 6:30PM at Sunset Rotary Park and the Koenig Center. If you have not done so already, Buddy Families as well as New Families need to RSVP to Denise Liesen at phone: 847-263-4362 or email: dliesen@me.com.

Also, we need volunteers from 8th grade or Carmel students in need of service hours to help with kids' games. Please contact Shannon McCane at phone: 847-549-9146 or email: mccane22@yahoo.com to join the fun!

SOCK HOP 2010

All You Cats and Chicks- Come & Get Your Kicks at the St. Joseph School Sock Hop!!

Reserve your spot to Rock Around the Clock—Friday, September 17th from 6:00-8:00! Just \$5 gets you in the door for food, games, 50's music & dancing---and tons of family fun!

All Preschool-Grade 4 students and parents can make the scene! And anyone “in the know” will register in advance!

Wear your 50's finery and be ready to Shake, Rattle and Roll! Bring a pair of socks for the homeless and receive a 50's favor for yourself!

Any questions, Daddy-O?? Just contact:

Gerianne Hardy
(geriann.hardy@gmail.com)

Brigid Dutton
(bkdutton3@comcast.net)

Be There or Be Square!

Calling all 5th and 6th Graders!

Mark your Calendar for the 5th and 6th Grade Social on Friday, September 24 from 7-8:30 PM in the Koenig Center!

Please be on the lookout for the RSVP form, which will be coming soon.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bunny Otrembiak (847-362-7898) Cristina Riggio (847-549-1644)

Help SJSPA Help Our School!

Target- Take Charge of Education

Enroll in **Take Charge of Education** and Target will donate 1% of each **REDcardSM** (Target Credit Card[®], Target[®] Visa[®] Credit Card, Target Check CardSM) purchase you make back to our school.

To get started with the **Take Charge of Education Program** and designate St. Joseph School, please give our **Target School ID: 5746**. The following are 3 ways you can enroll with your Target **REDcardSM**:

- 1. Enroll Online – Target.com/tcoe**
- 2. Call 1-800-316-6142**
- 3. Enroll at an in-store kiosk**

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Galla at melissa.brock.galla@hotmail.com.

INNISBROOK GIFT WRAP

Shop the **Innisbrook Online Store** all school year and St. Joseph School Parents Association can earn up to 40% profit from your order!

Innisbrook has a great selection of high quality gift wrap, bows, gift bags, etc. You can even order Helen Grace Chocolate or subscribe to magazines.

Follow 4 easy steps:

- 1. Go to www.innisbrook.com**
- 2. Select online shopping**
- 3. Enter School Code: 101503**
- 4. Shop!!!**

Please consider purchasing or replenishing your supplies through **Innisbrook!**

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION 2010-2011 DRIVE

Please keep clipping those Box Tops! Box Tops are located on the packaging of hundreds of your favorite products. Each box top is worth 10 cents. Each “bonus” box top is worth 50 cents or more. Last year, we earned over \$1,230 from this program! Thanks to all of you who helped, we received a total of over 11,000 regular box tops, and almost 200 bonus box tops. That’s a lot of clipping! It all

adds up, and it's so easy to do! Since 2002, our school has earned \$12,488! With these earnings, the SJSPA is able to purchase needed equipment and supplies for our school, and to support special programs for the students. Chances are, you have a number of these products in your pantry right now! Go to **www.btfe.com** (box tops for education) for the list of products that contain box top labels. Please place your supply of box tops in a baggie/envelope (preferably apart from Campbell Soup labels) and drop them in the collection box in the school entrance or send them in through backpack mail. We handle the bundling and shipping details and ensure proper receipt of earnings checks back to St. Joe's.

Another opportunity for adding to our box top earnings is called Marketplace Online Shopping. Again, go to www.btfe.com and click on "Marketplace". You can shop at over 70 online stores like **Lands' End, Barnes & Noble, Justice, Kohls, and The North Face**, to name just a few!! A percentage of your purchases will be credited back to our school at no additional cost to you. (Prices are set by the individual stores and are the same whether you make purchases through the Box Tops Marketplace or directly from the store web sites, so help your school while you're making these purchases!) You'll have access to sale prices, promotions and deals just like any online shopper. *In addition*, many stores offer special sales and promotions *just* for Box Tops supporters on the Deals and Discounts page! Check it out and save yourself some money too!

Contact Kate Burns @ 847-573-1981 with questions. Thanks to all of you diligent "clippers" (including the many grandparents, aunts & uncles, friends and neighbors) who contribute box tops to us! We hope to raise the awareness of this program this year and increase our earnings! Help spread the word! Every bit helps our children!

SJSPA says Thank You!!

Uniform Resale

Last spring's uniform resale was a huge success! The school earned \$528 for the Parent Association. Thanks to all for your generous donations! Special thanks to Lynn Sacramento and Deanna Willemsen for chairing this event and working hard all year to coordinate donations.

School Supply Program

This year 140 school supply kits were purchased from School-Pak. Special thanks to Margaret Herron for chairing this program, and to the whole Galla and Herron families for helping to distribute the supplies.

New Family Play-at-the-Park

Thank you to Shannon McCane, Denise Liesen, Lori Ventura and the buddy families who helped welcome our new school families on August 11. Over 100 people came to play at the park and meet some new faces.

Thank You Heather!!

We would like to thank Heather Hayek for all her efforts in serving as Secretary for the St. Joseph School Parent Association and Chair for the Knight News these past few years.

Thanks Heather for all your hard work!!