

St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

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www.stjohnspds.org



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Please call or email when your child is absent.

Absentee Phone and Email
(410) 465-6935
absent@stjohnsec.org

All School News

Spread our Spirit to Haiti

St. John's, in our spirit of kindness and compassion, is spreading our spirit to Haiti. Students and parents will be able to vote with change for the spirit wear the Lower School and Early Childhood students will wear. Change can be brought to the Lower School lobby before and after school to vote for:

- 1 - Free Dress Day
- 2 - P.J. Day
- 3 - Crazy Hat Day
- 4 - Crazy Hair Day

The jar with the most money will win and all proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross Haiti relief fund. Voting begins today and ends Friday, Feb. 5th. Our spirit day is Friday, Feb. 12th.

All School Bingo

Hope to see you at Bingo this Friday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm! Questions or forgot to RSVP, email Sue Holinsky at theholinskys@comcast.net.

Valentine's Day Pencils

Send your friends, classmates, teachers or anyone a special message for Valentine's Day! A Valentine message will be attached to a Valentine pencil and hand-delivered prior to their class party. This project will help the 4th graders raise funds for their 5th grade Echo Hill trip! Pencils are \$1 each. Please place your order by February 2nd! Additional forms are available in the LS Office.

Gala Western Wear Day

On Friday, February 5th, students and staff can wear "western" wear to celebrate this year's Gala theme! Please keep in mind that shoes need to be safe and no weapons will be allowed!

Class Photographs

Blanton Studios will on campus taking group pictures on Tuesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 10. EC order forms and class schedule will be sent home next week. LS order forms went home last week and the scheduling particulars will be available soon.

Summer Camp Update

Hi Families!

It is hard to believe that summer is only 5 months away! This year at St. John's we are proud to announce our line-ups of camp this year!

Early Childhood Camp Ages 4 thru 6

Mini Camp: 6/7 - 6/11 & 6/14 - 6/18

6 week summer camp June 28th - August 6th

Come full-day or for just the morning session.

Special features for our younger friends will be Jumpbunch, Pottery Stop, Cannelloni Kids, Water Time - all here on campus and much more!

English Language Camp Age 4 by 1/1/09 to entering 1st grade

Session 1: 6/28 - 7/15

Session 2: 7/19 - 7/29

Morning Session - Monday through Thursday.

This camp is designed to help children improve their language skills and get ready for school!

LS Camp for children entering 1st grade through entering 6th grade

June 28th - August 6th

Groups are divided as follows:

Children entering 1st grade - entering 3rd grade

Children entering 4th grade - entering 6th grade

This year we will have special features: Mad Science, Cannelloni kids and swimming off campus for the Lower School grades.

Before and After Care will be available for camp.

Look for our brochure this week in the Thursday folder!

Early Childhood

As we conclude our EC Open Houses, I want to thank all who have generously given of their time to take prospective St. John's parents on tours. To Tiffany Fowble, Fliss Hemsley, Sue Holinsky, Kim Scherock, Colley Ward and Pam Warburton, our guides for the second Open House - you were terrific! A parent's perspective is invaluable. Again, many thanks to all who helped to make our EC Open Houses a huge success.

February 3rd - EC Staff Development

Dr. Judy Grados, a child psychologist, will be leading our February EC Staff Development meeting. Dr. Grados, a former St. John's parent, will address social competence in young children as it leads to enhanced self-esteem and is a foundation to later personal and professional success.

Wednesday, February 3rd

- morning students dismiss at 11:15
- afternoon students arrive 1:00-1:10
- no change to full day and extended day schedules

A reminder to all returning students and siblings of returning students - please check your e-mail or class bulletin boards, no later Thursday, January 28th or Friday, January 29th to find your assigned time for registration Monday, February 1st in the Upper Commons.

Lost and Found items will be displayed on a table in the Lower Commons the week of February 1st.

Dates to remember



Friday, January 29

- Session 1 Lunch and Art Program begins
- PA Family Bingo at 6:00 – 8:00 pm (ASH)

Saturday, January 30

- Admissions Testing at 9:00 am

Monday, February 1

- EC Registration for families of returning students (in EC or LS) and their siblings at pre-assigned time (Upper Commons).

Tuesday, February 2

- EC Registration for children of parishioners and siblings of new LS students at 8:00 am (Upper Commons).

Wednesday, February 3

- EC Registration for siblings of non-returning students or siblings of former students and legacies (children of SJPDS alumni) at 8:00 am (Upper Commons).
- EC Staff Development Day
 - AM students dismiss at 11:15 am
 - PM students arrive from 1:00 – 1:10 pm
 - No change to full-day or extended day

Thursday, February 4

- LS Memory Book Meeting at 9:00 am (Clark Hs.)
- National Aquarium Outreach Program for EC

Friday, February 5

- Western Wear Day for Gala

Saturday, February 6

- EC Open Registration for new families

Tuesday, February 9

- Group pictures
- PA Dining Out at Qdoba 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, February 10

- Group pictures

Monday, February 15

- SCHOOL CLOSED (Presidents' Day)

Tuesday, February 16

- Shrove Tuesday – Parish Pancake Supper

Saturday, February 20

- Gala "Blazing West" 6:30 – 11:30 pm

Sunday, February 21

- SJEC Orchestra Concerts for Children 3:00 & 4:30 pm

Inclement Weather Policy

If Howard County schools are closed because of inclement weather, St. John's will be closed. If Howard County schools open late (regardless of one hour or two), the Lower School will begin at 10:00 AM and **morning** Early Childhood will be closed. Student drop-off for Lower School will be from 9:45-10:00 AM. Full day Early Childhood student drop-off will be from 10:00-10:15 AM. Extended day 3's will go to Mrs. Rudnicki's classroom.

In addition:

1. No Before School Care will be available.
2. Late morning openings will not affect afternoon classes.
3. If Howard County should make an **announcement by Noon** to close early due to snow or inclement weather:
 - a. AM classes will dismiss at the regular time
 - b. Full day classes will dismiss at noon
 - c. There will be **NO** afternoon Early Childhood
 - d. After School Care will be cancelled.
 - e. A phone tree will be activated to notify families
4. If the decision to close early is made **later than noon**:
 - a. We will follow the same decision as Howard County.
 - b. After School Care will be cancelled.
5. In all other irregular situations that may affect the safety or usefulness of the school environment, we will make the decision to close the school on a case-by-case basis and will contact parents by all the methods listed below. Irregularities include, but are not limited to: electrical disruption, heating/air-conditioning problems, plumbing issues, etc.

Information about school closures will be provided via the following media sources:

- WBAL 1090AM radio
- Our website, www.stjohnspds.org
- www.schoolsout.com
- Information will also be placed on the school's answering machine. You may call 410-465-7644 to listen to our messages.
- Email notification to families

Lower School

Grade Level Coffees

Come hear a curriculum overview for your child's next year here at St. John's. Teachers will have the opportunity to share the engaging and inspiring academic program your children experience on a daily basis. Bring any questions and enjoy a morning cup of coffee.

4th - 5th grade - 8:30 - 9:30 Tuesday, Feb. 9th
2nd - 3rd grade - 8:30 - 9:30 Wednesday, Feb. 10th
K - 1st grade - 8:30 - 9:30 Thursday, Feb. 11th

Memory Book Meeting

Lower School Memory Book Volunteers will meet on the 4th of February in the 2nd floor conference room of Clark House at 9:00 am.

Parents' Association

Dining Out at Qdoba

Join us for our monthly Dining Out Event at Qdoba on Tuesday, February 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Qdoba generously donates a portion of ALL sales during this time slot - no voucher necessary - so tell your friends!

Father-Daughter Dance

Create memories to last a lifetime! Save the date for our first annual Father-Daughter Dance, Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 6-8 pm. This event is for all early childhood and lower school girls and their dads, grandpas, uncles, or special escorts. Grownups get a chance to treat their special little girl to an exciting evening filled with music by a professional dj, dancing, food, games, a professional photo, and favor. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance. More information is forthcoming!

Volunteer Appreciation

Each month a volunteer name is selected at random from the pool of volunteers who have offered their time to our school during the preceding month. Remember to sign in at the Front Office when you volunteer to be eligible.

Congratulations to our December Winner of the coveted Volunteer Reserved Parking Space, **Valerie Sabol!** Valerie is a Room Parent in Early Childhood.

In Our Community

Update on Kenya Connect: Grant from Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The St. John's Church had applied for a grant to continue to support our work in Kenya. Our group of parishioners and staff that traveled to Kenya this past summer found The Wamunya Special Needs School to have a strong caring heart, but greatly in need of the most basic supplies. St. John's has been awarded \$2,500 of grant

money directed to the Special School Project, which will be added to any fund-raising done within the school or church. The grant was awarded by The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland MDG, Millenium Development Goals, grant program. Congratulations to all who have worked hard to make this a success. More information can be found at <http://www.globalmission.ang-md.org/MDGs%20-%20Diocese%20of%20MD.htm>

Committee Forming

Mrs. Green is forming a committee to guide our Kenya Connect Mission to the future. Our first task is to organize our spring fundraiser. She needs your help. If you are a staff member or a parent and you would like to help Mrs. Green with this fabulous ministry, please send an e-mail to tgreen@stjohnsec.org. We will be holding a meeting in the next week or so to start brainstorming ideas for our fundraiser. Thank you in advance for all the support you have offered this mission in the past. Looking forward to continuing to make a difference for our friends in Kenya, especially at the Wamunyu