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ATTENTION
EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILIES!



If you are applying to the Lower School for Kindergarten, the \$100 fee will be waived if your application is received by Friday, January 15. Please bring the application to the Lower School office or Clark House so that your child's kindergarten assessment can be scheduled by the end of January. The Teacher Evaluation Form should be given to your child's current teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Lower School office or Jane Tolen at 410-465-7644, ext. 287 or jtolen@stjohnsec.org.

Early Childhood Families

What a fabulous way to begin the Christmas holidays! Kristen Conord and her amazing team of parent volunteers prepared and served a delicious lunch for the Staff on December 19th. From the festive decorations, to the favors - beautifully boxed chocolates, to the entrees, and the most scrumptious array of homemade desserts we've ever seen, everything was perfect! Thank you to all who planned, set up, decorated, cooked, baked, and served. You are the BEST!!! After lunch, we had a gift exchange, at the Terrace Level in front of a roaring fire. St. John's is a unique place, where people truly care about each other.

Thank you to our families for all the gifts you bring to each of us each and every day. Special holidays are the icing on the cake!

Judy

Early Childhood Conferences will be held on Thursday, January 21st and Friday, January 22nd. Please sign up for a conference on the bulletin board outside your child's

classroom. Childcare will be provided during your scheduled conference time. The conference schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 21

Mrs. Rudnicki's 2-day class
 Mrs. Illar's AM class
 Mrs. Benzing's class
 Mrs. Joerdens' AM class
 Mrs. Rice's class
 Mrs. Wagner's class
 Mrs. Dickinson's class
 Mrs. Pontier's class

Friday, Jan. 22 (AM only)

Mrs. Illar's PM class
 Mrs. Baumann's class
 Ms. Rudnicki's 3-day class
 Mrs. Grosso's class
 Mrs. Dansie's class
 Mrs. Joerden's PM class
 Mrs. Hoffner's class

On your conference day, you will be given a Pre-registration card to be used by all returning students, as well as their siblings (one card per family). We ask that you complete the card and return it to the EC Office if you will be registering a child for next year.

The cards will be randomly drawn and assigned numbers for your registration time on Monday, February 1st. The list of registration times with registration number and family name will be posted outside each classroom and sent via email to all families on Wednesday, January 27th.

This procedure will eliminate families having to arrive early for registration, as you will have an assigned time.

Last chance to sign up for Lunch and Literature.

Session I - Lunch and Literature has been changed to Thursdays. The dates will be Thursdays, January 28, February 4, 11, 18 from 11:45-1:15. After lunch, the children hear a Big Book story and then do fun, story-related activities (through creative play, songs, movement, and crafts). This program reinforces the joy of reading.



Note: We will have to cancel this session unless we have a minimum 6

participants.

Open House Guides Needed

Early Childhood registration for 2010-2011 is next week. Open Houses for parents of prospective students are

scheduled for January 13th and 26th from 10:00-11:30 AM.

If you are interested in being a guide, please call or stop by the Early Childhood Office. (410-465-7644) You, our families, are our best sources of advertising!!

Lower School Families

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a wonderful and restful Christmas holiday with your family and friends. I am inspired as we launch into a new year, even a new decade. While we have the foundation of our strong and successful first semester to continue, I envision an exciting and very productive second semester.

Friday Early Dismissal Date Change

The early dismissal Friday planned for January 29th will now be changed to FRIDAY, JANUARY 22nd. Lower School will have a typical 3:30 dismissal on the 29th. There will be an extended care option on the 22nd; forms are in your Thursday folders. The 22nd will not be a pizza Friday, but the 29th will now be a pizza Friday.

Friday, Jan. 22nd - LS Dismissal at Noon

Friday, Jan. 29th - Full day of LS

Thank you for your understanding of our schedule change. We will be so thrilled to have an afternoon where EC and LS staff will be able to work together in our AIMS subcommittees. We appreciate your help and support as we proceed through the accreditation process.

Used Uniform Sale

Has your child outgrown their uniform? There will be a used uniform sale on Saturday, Jan. 23rd beginning at 9:00 AM in the Lower School lobby.



Lower School Recess



It is a cold winter, as we have all felt. Many children are unfortunately coming to school with thin fleece jackets and without hats and gloves. All students must dress warmly during the winter season with heavy coats, hats, gloves and thick tights if skirts are worn.

Re-enrollment Contracts

Lower School families will receive re-enrollment contracts for the next school year beginning next week.

Kindergarten Registration for EC

Kindergarten Registration for SJPDS Early Childhood Families



We are pleased to offer our Early Childhood families, whose children are continuing on to the Lower School, several new features that will streamline the process. Please review the steps outlined below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Lower School office or Jane Tolen at 410-465-7644, ext. 287 or jtolen@stjohnsec.org.

- Attend one of the Lower School open houses or schedule a tour.
 - Submit a Lower School registration (application) form. If the form is submitted to the Admissions Office or Lower School Office on or before January 15, 2010, the registration fee will be waived. After January 15, the non-refundable registration fee of \$100 must accompany the registration form.
 - Submit the Teacher Evaluation form to your child's current teacher.
 - Schedule a Kindergarten assessment. SJPDS Early Childhood parents have the option of having their child assessed during normal school hours or coming to one of the Saturday sessions (January 9 or 23 at 9:00 AM).
 - Parent interviews with the Headmaster optional, not required.
 - Mail financial aid form to SSS by January 1 or submit online financial aid forms by January 15. Financial aid form results must be received by the school on or before February 1.
- Notification of admission status will be sent from the school on March 1.

Registration Information Sessions

Mr. Harrison is holding Registration Process Information Sessions on Friday, January 8 at 8:30 AM, 2:30 PM, and 7:00 PM for families to ask questions about our overall registration process. These will be held in the Fireplace (Terrace Level) Commons.

Gala Decoration Creation

Interested in helping decorate for the Gala? Come any Wednesday evening from now until the Feb. 10th from 7:00

PM - 9:00 PM. Please meet in the Lower School Lobby.
There is no need for talent, just willingness to lend a hand.
We hope to see you there.

Annual Fund

"Well-Being - Now and Into the Future" SJPDS Annual Fund Facts



\$9,758 - The average full-time SJPDS student tuition for 2009-2010.

\$11,893 - The average educational cost per full-time SJPDS student for 2009- 2010.

\$2,135 - The GAP between average student tuition and the actual cost this year.

This gap must be covered by the school through other fundraising efforts such as the Annual Fund and the Gala. Contributions to the Annual Fund are tax-deductible, whereas increased tuition is not. Please consider a generous contribution to this year's "Well-Being" Annual Fund drive. If you have already given or pledged, we thank you and ask that you consider a second gift for the well-being of our wonderful school.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS:

\$514 - The average per child Annual Fund gift for AIMS schools (Association of Independent Maryland Schools) our size at the 25th percentile level of giving.

\$1,484 - The average per child Annual Fund gift for AIMS schools (Association of Independent Maryland Schools) our size at the 50th percentile level of giving.


\$100,000 - Our Annual Fund goal this year.

\$164,110 - Amount collected last year for Annual Fund by other AIMS schools our size at the 25th percentile level of giving.

\$465,985 - Amount collected last year for Annual Fund by other AIMS schools our size at the 50th percentile level of giving.

St. John's Church does not directly subsidize the Parish Day School, but it has covered school deficits in years past.

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

Our Episcopal Life



Do you have moments when you suddenly see something you had not noticed before?
 --One move or glance from your child and you suddenly see that she has blossomed

in a new way? One moment of joy gathered together and you discover you really have come through a challenge to a new day? One conversation in which you "overhear" yourself saying something and find, to your surprise, how much you have grown?

In each of these moments, something new and wonderful has happened along life's journey, and suddenly now you see it!

Epiphany, the season we are now entering in our church year, is a time for these kind of eye-opening moments. Listen to the Scripture stories we tell at this time of year, and you will hear again and again moments in which people see, they notice, what is happening right before their eyes - who Jesus is, what Jesus means, and who they are in Christ's company.

Epiphany is a season that celebrates people near and far discovering in Jesus the love of God that has been meant for them all along.

May you and your family share the wonder of seeing God's love in your life in new ways this season!

Upcoming Events

Friday, Jan. 8 at 8:30 AM, 2:30 PM, and 7:00 PM Registration Process Information Sessions on for families to get their questions answered about our overall registration process. These will be held in the Fireplace (Terrace Level) Commons.



Monday, Jan. 11 - Session 1 Lunch and Science Program begins

Tuesday, Jan. 12 - Dining Night out Cheeburger, Cheeburger from Noon - 9:00 PM

Wednesday, Jan. 13 - Open House for parents of prospective EC students
- Session 1 Lunch and Science Program begins

Friday, Jan. 15th - Lower School Registration Due date

Monday, Jan. 18 - School Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance

Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21 & 22 - EC Closed for Parent Teacher Conferences (see preceding article for further information)

Tuesday, Jan. 26 - Open House for parents of prospective EC students

Friday, Jan. 29 - Session 1 Lunch and Art Program begins

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