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Early Childhood Families

Although we still have a few weeks left in 2009, Early Childhood registration for 2010-2011 is just around the corner. 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!!

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.

Lower School Families

The holiday season is upon us! Merry Christmas to all of you. Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. Not only is it a time for celebration, but also a time dedicated to focusing on our families. It is a season where joy and goodwill spread like wild fire. We have such a precious community here where our children can experience the joy of the true meaning of Jesus' birthday.



Christmas Programs Times:

Monday, Dec. 14th at 7:00 PM K and 1st grade
 Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 PM 2nd - 5th grade

All students - Please **arrive at 6:30** and go to your classroom. All Saints Hall doors will open at 6:15. As a courtesy to our performers, please have all siblings sit with

their parents throughout the evening.

Dress:

All grades are able to wear festive Christmas outfits to the program. A festive outfit is not the child's uniform and can be any dress that would typically be worn to a Church service. The concert attire does not need to be green or red. **First and second graders** are asked to bring a hat, mittens and/or scarf. **Fifth graders** are asked to bring a Santa hat if you already own one. Do not feel you need to go out and buy a hat. If you do not already have a hat, please have your child inform Mrs. Khandjian.

Lower School Recess Weather Policy

St. John's Lower School students will have an outdoor recess if it is 20 F or above with windchill. If the temperature is below 20 F with windchill, or if it is, raining students will remain inside for indoor recess.

All students must dress warmly during the winter season with heavy coats, hats, gloves and thick tights if skirts are worn. We will use the WBAL website to determine the temperature.

At St. John's we value the beautiful campus, which is our extended classroom. We encourage free outdoor play and realize the benefits of exercise when children return to their afternoon lessons.

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.

Transporting Volunteer

Anyone able to pick up a ping pong table in the Woodlawn area and deliver the table to school should contact Tiffany Rath at trath@stjohnsec.org. Thank you!

Survey Reinstated

Thank you to all of the families who have already completed the survey sent out



Sunday, Nov 29th to help us prepare for the coming academic year. Your input is valuable and will assist arrangements for next year. Currently, we have had only 48% of our families respond. Unfortunately, this result will not help us with our planning for the next school year. We are extending the due date of the survey. If you have not already, please complete the survey by Sunday, Dec. 20th. If you experience trouble opening the survey, we suggest you try again in the evening hours. The email server seems to move more quickly with less users in the evening. The link is also available on the website if you no longer have the email. Please let the front office know if you continue to experience difficulty.

Symphony of Lights

St. John's Parish Day School
Presents
Symphony of Lights



Please gather your entire family and your SJPDS classmates and join us for a private 1.3 mile walk through Merriweather's festive Symphony of Lights.

When: Promptly at 4:30 PM on Friday, December 11. Our group must complete the walk by 5:45 PM, as cars will take the course at 6:00 PM.

Where: Enter the Symphony of Lights entrance from Broken Land Parkway, turn left and proceed to the next right. Please park on the grassy lot of your left.

Cost: \$5 per person. Children under 2 are free.

All proceeds benefit the Maternal Child Services of Howard County General Hospital.

Please remember to bring your signed waiver. Extra Waiver forms will be available at the Welcome table.

Parents' Association



SCRIP PROGRAM: Many thanks to the families (and teachers) who got a jump start on their Christmas shopping by using our new program to purchase gift cards. Our second order brings our grand total already



raised through the Scrip program to over \$600!

Think how much money we could raise for our school if half of our families participate with grocery and gas cards alone! According to the calculator on the Scrips website, if 100 families spent \$200 per month on grocery cards and \$50 per month on gas cards, the income for the year for the school could be over \$10,000!

Forms will be sent home again on Thursday, December 10 and orders are due no later than 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 15. The cards will be in no later than Friday, December 18.

Questions, please contact Colleen Rives (colleen_rives@comcast.net).

SAVE THE DATES: Mark your calendar for our upcoming Dining Out events at **Cheeburger Cheeburger** on Tuesday, January 12 and **Qdoba** on Tuesday, February 9.

These are two great events; Cheeburger Cheeburger will honor the coupons that will be distributed after break from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm so get your Early Childhood friends together and plan a lunch date! And while Qdoba can only include sales from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, they donate based on ALL purchases during that time - no coupon needed so the more friends we meet there, the more money we raise!

SJPDS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: The Most Well Loved Event of the Year - The Christmas Bazaar!! Please start gathering together all of the interesting items that you have around the house that you know someone else could be blessed by. You know those scarves that just don't suit you, the perfume that smelled better on your friend or the golf balls that are gathering dust. A collection box will be placed on the front lobby. Details will follow soon. In the meantime, start searching!

See the sign-up sheets in the Lower Commons to volunteer to wrap gifts and help children shop. Thanks to your donations, we have plenty of wrapping paper and tape now. *Donations of gift bags and press-on bows are still needed.*

Volunteers are also needed on Sunday, Dec. 13th beginning at 5:00 PM in the auditorium. Sign up in the Lower Commons as well, or just show up. Pizza will be served!!

REUSED UNIFORM SALE: Save the Date! Purchase gently used uniform items on Saturday, January 23 from 8:30 - 10:30 am. All proceeds benefit the Parents' Association goals.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS: Need ideas for a holiday or end of the year gift for your teachers? Want to wish your teacher a happy birthday? The PA has compiled a list of teacher and staff "favorites" and birthdays. The list has been updated and now includes over 50 teachers and staff. Check it out on the Yahoo

Group or email Colleen Rives at colleen_rives@comcast.net for a copy.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH PARKING: Please remember to honor the hard work of our Volunteer of the Month prize winner, by leaving the space open for the winner weekdays from 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Sign in when you volunteer at the Front Office to be eligible for the drawing.

Congratulations to **Mona Potter**, our October Volunteer of the Month, who received a Starbucks Gift Card and to **Suzanne Husted**, our November Volunteer of the Month, who won the coveted parking space for one month.

UPCOMING PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

- ❖ Friday, December 11 - Symphony of Lights Walk-Through (4:30 - 5:45 pm)
- ❖ Sunday, December 13 - Christmas Bazaar Set-Up
- ❖ Monday, December 14 - Christmas Bazaar (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)
- ❖ Tuesday, December 15 - Christmas Bazaar (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)
- ❖ Tuesday, January 12 - Dining Out: Cheeburger Cheeburger (12:00 noon - 9:00 pm)
- ❖ Saturday, January 23 - Reused Uniform Sale (8:30 - 10:30 am)
- ❖ Tuesday, February 9 - Dining Out: Qdoba (5:00 - 8:00 pm)

St. John's Parish Day School Annual Fund Well-Being: Now and into the Future

Our Annual Fund, "Well-Being - Now and Into the Future," is progressing nicely with two-thirds of the faculty and staff and about 90% of the Board of Trustees having pledged and/or contributed. Our current total is now \$39,402 - well over a third of the way to our goal! Please consider a gift or pledge today - it is a gift to your children beyond measure.

If you'd like to make you donation online:

- 1 - Go to website: stjohnspds.org.
- 2 - Go to "for our Families" on the home page.
- 3 - School down to box on left with red circle.
- 4 - It says "Please give to the Annual Fund" in the upper left-



hand corner.

5 - Press "Make a Donation" in the lower, right-hand corner.

6 - Paypal Form will appear with clear directions.



Thank you!

After School Programs

Reminder! Tuesday, December 15th is the last day to sign up for our Winter Session After School Programs. The course description was sent via email on December 2nd with the subject "After School Programs update". A flyer was sent home last week in the Thursday folders. Look for the bright orange registration form. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at mparlette@stjohnsec.org or call 410-465-7644 ext. 329.

Battery Recycling

Thank you to all families who have helped in our battery recycling program led by our fourth graders here at St. John's. The fourth grade has done some research and are going to change their green project this year to a Capri-Sun collection. Students are welcome to recycle their Capri-Sun pouches in the orange bins in the Lower School lobby and in All Saints Hall.

Our research discovered that:

Today's common household batteries-those ubiquitous AAs, AAAs, Cs, Ds and 9-volts from Duracell, Energizer and others-are not thought to pose as great a threat to properly equipped modern landfills as they used to because they contain much less mercury than their predecessors. As a result, most municipalities now recommend simply throwing such batteries away with your trash.

Consumers should note that any old batteries they may find buried in their closets that were made before 1997-when Congress mandated a widespread mercury phase-out in batteries of all types-should most surely be recycled and not discarded with the trash, as they may contain as much as 10 times the mercury of newer versions.

Other options abound, such as the mail-order service, [Battery Solutions](#), which will recycle your spent batteries at a cost of 85 cents per pound. To find a company near you where you can drop off your old batteries for recycling, check out the comprehensive national database at the [Earth911.org](#) website. Meanwhile, the national chain, [Batteries Plus](#), is happy to take back disposable batteries for recycling at any of its 255 retail stores coast-to-coast.

<http://environment.about.com/od/recycling/a/batteryrecycle.htm>



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

Celebrating Christmas at St. John's Church

Crèche Service, Sunday December 20th



9:00 am; All Saints Hall

Christmas Eve Services:

3:00 pm and 5:00 pm: A Simple Christmas Eve Liturgy in All Saints Hall,

music provided by piano and singers.

This service offers a relaxed beginning to Christmas Eve. Come for some breathing space, gentle carols, a short homily that's inviting to children and nourishing to adults. Families with young children will find this 45-minute service especially comfortable, and everyone is invited to experience this opportunity for worship.

5:00 pm: Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist in the Historic Church.

8:00 pm: Holy Eucharist and traditional Christmas music in the Historic Church, with musical prelude beginning at 7:15 pm.

10:30 pm: Holy Eucharist and traditional Christmas music in the Historic Church, with a prelude beginning at 10:00 pm.

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist with hymns in the Historic Church.

Update from Nurse

The State of Maryland has changed the guidelines for administering the H1N1 flu vaccines to include more individuals. St. John's still has the H1N1 FluMist available and will continue to offer this until December 17th. We are going to offer this to anyone in the St. John's school community between the ages of 2 and 49. This includes parents and siblings who



meet the following guidelines:

1. You must be between the ages of 2 years old and 49 years old.
2. You can not be allergic to eggs or have had a severe reaction to any type of flu vaccine in the past.
3. You can not have a chronic medical condition (asthma, diabetes, etc.)
4. You may not be receiving chemotherapy or have a compromised immune system.

FluMist is readily available and consent forms are in the Lower School Office and the Nurse's office. The FluMist is available between 10:00 am and 1:30 pm until next Thursday and no appointment is needed. No injectible vaccine is available. Please email me at lmorgan@stjohnsec.org if you have additional questions.

Upcoming Events

Friday, Dec. 11 - AM, PM & Full Day 4's and Transitional Kindergarten attend a Tiny Tots Concert at River Hill High School. No afternoon classes for Mrs. Joerdens' and Mrs. Dansie's children as they will attend the morning concert.



Friday, Dec. 11 - Symphony of Lights 4:30 - 5:45

Monday, Dec. 14 - Lower School Christmas Program @ 7:00 in ASH for K and 1 graders

Tuesday, Dec. 15 - Lower School Christmas Program @ 7:00 in ASH for 2nd - 5th graders

Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 14-15 - Christmas Bazaar sponsored by Parents Assoc.

Friday, Dec. 18 - **All Early Childhood classes dismiss at 11:45**, including Full Day

- **No afternoon classes PM 3-day 3's and PM 4's**

- **No Extended Day Program**

- **No Aftercare**

- **Lower School Dismisses at Noon**

Monday, Dec. 21 - Friday, Jan. 1 - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Monday, Jan. 4 - School resumes

Wednesday, Jan. 6 - Regular schedule. NO STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY for Early Childhood

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.

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