

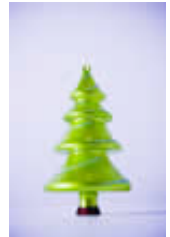


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## Early Childhood Families

Reflecting on the past few weeks in Chapel, where we have talked about the Church season of Advent - a time for remembering the wait for Jesus' birth and celebrating the presence of His spirit in our lives. The children learned the joy of giving as they brought gifts to Chapel, for those less fortunate, made decorations and gifts for their families, and of course, we cannot forget shopping at the Bazaar!



The excitement built, as we practiced for our Christmas programs, where joyfully the Story of the Nativity unfolded. The evening would not be complete without a visit from Santa Claus - always a surprise!

Especially at this time of year, I am reminded of why St. John's is such a special place.

Christmas Blessings to all -  
Judy

### Lunch and Learn News

We have added an additional section of Lunch & Science -Session 1 on Mondays (1/11, 1/25, 2/8, 2/22). Space is limited.

Although Lunch & Literature is scheduled for Tuesdays, there has been more interest in a Thursday class. We will be able to switch days if we can sufficiently fill the class. Please call or stop by the Early Childhood Office if you are interested in either of these after school programs.

### Wanted - Open House Guides

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!!!

Thanks to all who gave so generously to our Toy Drive. After being sorted by the Staff, the toys and gift cards were delivered to the families last weekend, by members of the Church. Your gifts helped bring joy into the lives of many children.

### Lower School Families

Merry, merry Christmas! I so much hope you are enjoying this wondrous season as much as we are here at St. John's. Thank you to all of the children, parents and staff who helped to create the beautiful musical moments at both of the evening programs. I wish each of you a happy, healthy and restful Christmas. Enjoy every moment.



### 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 will be send home the first week after break. 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.

### 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.

## Parent Association



**PIZZA FRIDAY:** Don't forget! Last chance to order Pizza Friday for next semester! Please turn in Pizza Friday order forms to the LS office with a check made out to SJPDS and marked "Pizza". Absolute latest deadline is Friday, December 18. Questions? Contact Michelle Haskey at [mhaskey@comcast.net](mailto:mhaskey@comcast.net). If you are interested in volunteering to help with Pizza Friday, contact Amy Abell at [amyandjason@comcast.net](mailto:amyandjason@comcast.net).

**ROOM PARENT MEETING:** Please plan to attend the Winter Room Parent Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm. Questions? Contact Kara Windebank at [kwindebank@gmail.com](mailto:kwindebank@gmail.com) or Jaime Kline at [starrflyr13@hotmail.com](mailto:starrflyr13@hotmail.com).

**COORDINATOR NEEDED:** A volunteer is needed to coordinate the Early Childhood Memory Book. If you are interested or would like to find out more about this role, please contact Kathy Chappell at [chappellfamily@comcast.net](mailto:chappellfamily@comcast.net).

**SCRIP PROGRAM:** Thank you for the Scrips orders. We will resume orders after the holidays. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Rives ([colleen\\_rives@comcast.net](mailto:colleen_rives@comcast.net)).

**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 all teachers and most specialists and staff. Check it out on the Yahoo Group or email Colleen Rives at [colleen\\_rives@comcast.net](mailto:colleen_rives@comcast.net) for a copy.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH PARKING:** Please remember to honor their 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.

#### UPCOMING PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

- v Tuesday, January 12 - Dining Out: Cheeburger Cheeburger (12:00 noon - 9:00 pm)
- v Saturday, January 23 - Reused Uniform Sale (8:30 - 10:30 am)
- v Tuesday, January 26 - Room Parent Meeting (7:00 - 9:00 pm)
- v Tuesday, February 9 - Dining Out: Qdoba (5:00 - 8:00 pm)

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## 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.

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

I can't BEGIN to thank you all for your lovely donations for the over 12,000 abandoned, abused, and/or stray dogs and cats that come through BARCS' doors each year. We are the second largest animal shelter in the state of Maryland and accept all animals regardless of their age, breed, behavior or health. I am SO touched by your compassion for these homeless animals and your efforts to help them! Thank you again for your kindness and generosity! You have my heartfelt gratitude!



Most Sincerely,  
Russell Ashton

## Board of Directors BARCS

### After School Programs

Attention Early Childhood & Lower School Families:

I just wanted to remind you that our after school programs registration for the winter session is coming to a close. We will **extend the registration date until FRIDAY December 18th**. Cannelloni Kids session one is closed for grades 1-5 all other classes have openings. If you have misplaced your registration form you may pick one up at the front office or out in the main lobby on the programs bulletin board. Also check your email dated 12-1 subject winter brochure update. This email has the registration form and course descriptions.

Happy Holidays to all!  
Melissa Parlette

### 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](http://www.stjohnspds.org)
- [www.schoolsout.com](http://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.

Upcoming Events

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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