



Contents

Update from Nurse
 Early Childhood
 Lower School
 Parents' Association
 Our Episcopal Life
 Christmas at SJEC
 Update from Nurse
 Upcoming Events

Registration Process

SJPDS Early Childhood Registration Process and Lower School New Student Applications

After many conversations with our families and staff as well as considerable deliberation within the Administrative Team of the Parish Day School, *we have decided to revamp the Early Childhood registration process* in order to meet the desires of our families and to serve on-going needs of the school. We have conducted surveys to ensure that we know in advance the basic classes that will be necessary to fully accommodate the needs of our Priority Registration families. I want to provide a brief overview of the new registration policies below; the full guidelines may be obtained from the Early Childhood Office next week.

1. NEW! 4-Year-Commitment Registration - Anytime between January 4 and February 1

To facilitate ANY families, returning or new, who know that they want their children (3 or 4-year olds) to continue on into the SJPDS Lower School, this program gives **FIRST PRIORITY** registration for children each year for 4 years in return for a 4-year, advance, non-refundable contract deposit (yearly registration fees are also waived with this registration). Families will be able to register in the EC Office at their leisure during school hours between January 4 and February 1.

2. Returning Current Family and their Siblings Registration - February 1

Families with a child(ren) currently in SJPDS may enroll current child(ren), *and any siblings*, for next year all on the first day of Priority Registration; **HOWEVER, THE PROCESS WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!** The need to arrive at 3:00 AM or earlier in order to get in line for registration has been eliminated. **Families will submit pre-registration cards to the school in**

advance and, by lottery from those cards, will be assigned specific registration times on the first day of registration.

3. SJEC Parishioners and Siblings of New LS Applicants - February 2

On the second day of Priority Registration, parishioner families and the siblings of new Lower School applicants (who have completed KG testing or a Shadow Day for Grades 1-5) may register. There are no Parish discounts this year.

4. Siblings of Non-Returning or Former Students, Legacies - February 3

On the third day of Priority Registration, siblings of non-returning or former students and Legacies (the children of former SJPDS students) may register.

5. Open registration -

February 6

We hope that this process will meet the needs of all of our families while being a bit more "friendly." Feel free to contact the Early Childhood Office next week for complete details and forms.

Lower School applications for new students should be submitted to the school as soon as possible!

Grace and Peace,

Steve Harrison, Headmaster

Early Childhood Families

Early Childhood Toy Drive

Monday or Tuesday, each Early Childhood family received a letter about our annual toy drive. A reminder that this important tradition continues, as we invite each child to bring one gift (please refer to the letter for your class' age range), to be presented in Chapel. **The drive concludes on December 10th.**

Thank you for supporting this project that brings Christmas joy to many girls and boys!



The **Early Childhood Evening Christmas Programs** will be held at 6:30 PM in All



Saints Hall on the following evenings -

Tuesday, Dec. 8th

Mrs. Baumann

Mrs. Grosso

Mrs. Runicki 3-day

Mrs. Joerdens AM

Mrs. Dickinson

Wednesday, Dec. 9th

Mrs. Illar PM

Mrs. Benzing

Mrs. Dansie

Mrs. Joerdens PM

Mrs. Hoffner

Thursday, Dec. 10th

Mrs. Rudnicki 2 AM

Mrs. Illar AM

Mrs. Rice

Mrs. Wagner

Mrs. Pontier

Children in Mrs. Pontier's, Mrs. Dickinson's and Mrs. Hoffner's classes should be in their classrooms at 6:00.

All other children should be brought to their classrooms at 6:15. The doors to All Saints Hall will open at 6:00. We ask that you not save seats for other families, rather, sit in the number of seats your family will need. During

performances, children in the audience must be seated in a chair. As always, please be respectful of others when videotaping, standing to the sides or back of the room. There will be time after the performance, before the children leave the stage, for picture taking of each class.

*Watch for Early Childhood Lunch and Learn brochures coming home this week!

***After School Programs Winter Brochure was sent out via e-mail Tuesday, December 1st. Subject: "Winter Brochure 2010 Update"**

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 their classroom. All Saints Hall doors will open at 6:15. As a courtesy to our performers, please have all siblings sitting with their parents throughout the evening.

Dress:

All grades are able to wear festive Christmas outfits to the program. **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.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Survey



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. If you have not already, please complete the survey by Sunday, Dec. 6th. 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.

2009-2010 Annual Fund Update



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 \$36,872 - 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.

Parents' Association



SCRIPS 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. With only 15 families and teachers participating, we earned just over \$200! This program has huge potential! Think how much we could raise for our school if we had even half of the 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!

We will be sending home order forms weekly until Christmas and then every other week or monthly depending on demand.

Future order dates:

Forms sent home Thursday, December 3 - Orders due at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 8

Forms sent home Thursday, December 10 - Orders due at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 15

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

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING: Thank you to the parents who took time out on a rainy night to attend our General Meeting! We got great feedback on past events and took a look ahead at upcoming events.

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS: Gather your SJPDS friends, classmates and alumni for a private Symphony of Lights group walk-through on **Friday, December 11th**. The walk begins promptly at 4:30pm and will end at 5:45pm. At the beginning of the walk we will collect your family waiver and a \$5 donation per walker over the age of 2 years to benefit Howard Hospital Foundation Maternal Child Services. Strollers are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Holinsky (theholinskys@comcast.net) or Karen Clark (kccphoto@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

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 mean-time, 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.*

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.

TEACHER APPRECIATION: Thank you to the 2nd grade and 3 year old classes for providing a wonderful chili buffet for our teachers and staff on November 23!

The next event for our teachers and staff will be held on **Wednesday, January 20**. Transitional Kindergarten and 1st grade families will be contacted to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Conord (conordgirls2@comcast.net) or Pam Warburton (thewarburtons@verizon.net)

JUICE BAG COLLECTION BINS: Please deposit your empty juice pouches (Capri Sun, Honest Kids and Kool-Aid pouches) in the Neon-Orange recycling bins located in the main foyer, cafeteria, and 2nd floor commons. For more information, please visit www.terracycle.net or contact Amy Paulino at

leette1ames@yahoo.com. Many thanks to Mrs. Appelbaum and her 4th grade class who will be taking on the collection management of this program for the Parents' Association!

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.

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)
- ❖ Saturday, January 23 - Reused Uniform Sale (8:30 - 10:30 am)

Our Episcopal Life

This season is filled with traditions and celebrations, and this week in chapel we have been introducing a full array. Perhaps you will want to extend these celebrations into your own family life in the coming days and weeks.



We began the chapel week speaking about the ways we prepare our hearts and homes for Jesus during **Advent**. Advent calendars, and particularly our Advent wreath used in church (and at home as well, you just need a small table-top wreath and four blue or purple candles to be lit successively each week of Advent), help us focus our anticipation and expectation that Christ is being born in our midst as we celebrate God's love at Christmas. We introduced another tradition of light and anticipation happening around us this season with the celebration of **Chanukah**, in which each candle on the menorah represents God's miracle of keeping the oil lamps burning in the temple for yet one more night. And by the end of this week we will be celebrating the **Feast of St. Nicholas** (officially on December 6th), who was Bishop of Myra during the 4th century. While Nicholas' life is remarkable for many reasons during an important time in the life of the church, he is best remembered for his generosity and service to the poor, which



Christians continue to celebrate in traditions of gift-giving. In fact, on Friday afternoon we will follow the German tradition of leaving our shoes outside our classroom doors in anticipation of a visit from generous St. Nicholas!



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

Flu Vaccine Update

H1N1 vaccines will be available until December 17. FluMist is readily available and consent forms are in the Lower School Office. Some doses of injectible vaccine are



available for students with a documented medical requirement. Vaccines are available Monday through Friday from 10 am until 1:30 pm. If you have any questions about who can receive the vaccine or FluMist, please email me at lmorgan@stjohnsec.org if you have additional questions.

Thank you,
Mrs. Morgan

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 8 - Evening Christmas Program 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 9 - Evening Christmas Program 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 10 - Evening Christmas Program 6:30 PM

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.

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. Lower School dismisses at noon. No Extended Day Program. No Aftercare.

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

[Forward email](#)

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to trath@stjohnsec.org by sharrison@stjohnsec.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



St. John's Parish Day School | 9130 Frederick Road | Ellicott City | MD | 21042