

St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

(410) 465-7644

9130 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

www.stjohnspds.org

March 11, 2010



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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

Author Visit

SJPDS is excited to welcome author Carole Boston Weatherford to St. John's for a day-long visit on Friday, March 26. This award-winning author will be doing grade-level presentations for the Lower School as well as meeting with our Early Childhood Classes during their morning and afternoon chapel times. Her book, *I, Matthew Henson*, is one of this year's Black-Eyed Susan Picture Book nominees. She received the Caldecott Honor Medal for *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*. Her most recent book, *First Pooch: The Obamas Pick a Pet*, is a fun look at how the President's family chose their dog. Thanks to the Parents' Association for making this author visit possible. For more information on this author, visit her website at www.caroleweatherford.com. See Mrs. Beyer or Mrs. Bentivenga with any questions.

Safety Reminder

A reminder to all families – For the safety of the children, we ask that, when walking children in and out of school, you use **only the Main Entrance**. Ample parking for parents is available at the north end of the Church lot, behind Rose Hill (the white house), parallel to the cemetery (designated spots along driveway), and on the side of and behind the Church.

Financial Seminar

As a service to our families, St. John's PDS presents a Financial Seminar: "College Planning" on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Auditorium. Brian Avrunin of Ameriprise Financial Services will be presenting. ALL ARE INVITED. Refreshments will be served. Though the seminar is complimentary, please call Anne Hanchett at 410 465-7644, ext. 400 to register.

Reading Passports due March 17

A reminder from the media center: all reading passports must be turned in to Mrs. Beyer or Mrs. Bentivenga by Wednesday, March 17 to receive a special reward. If yours has been misplaced, we have extras in the media center. Happy reading!

Early Childhood

Thank you!

A very special thank you to Margie Joerdens and her husband Tad for shoveling a path on the EC playground, allowing the children to go out there to play. Monday and Tuesday were glorious days to be outside!

Spring Sings

Our annual "Spring Sings" will be held in May – on the following dates:

Tue. May 4 at 10:45

Mrs. Rudnicki (2-day)
Mrs. Grosso
Mrs. Joerdens (AM)
Mrs. Rice

Wed. May 5 at 10:45

Mrs. Baumann
Mrs. Rudnicki (3-day)
Mrs. Illar (AM)
Mrs. Benzing
Mrs. Wagner

Wed. May 5 at 2:15

Mrs. Illar (PM)
Mrs. Joerdens (PM)
Mrs. Dansie
Mrs. Pontier
Mrs. Hoffner
Mrs. Dickinson

Please put the date and time of your child's class on your calendar. You won't want to miss this musical experience!

EC Art Show

The EC Art Show is on display in the Lower Commons. Please stop by and enjoy the special pieces from Mrs. Dutra's art classes.

Lower School

Contracts and Re-Enrollment Reminder

Families who are planning to submit contracts for next year are encouraged to do so soon to ensure spaces for your children for next year. Many of our classes are filling up quickly, and we want to provide priority for our current families before opening spaces to students new to St. John's PDS. Kindergarten students especially should have contracts in by March 15 to reserve a spot for next year. Financial assistance notifications are scheduled to be mailed to our families early next week. If you have any questions for LS enrollment, please contact Jane Tolen (410-465-7644 ext. 287). Questions regarding EC registration should be addressed to Judy Robbins (410-465-7644 ext. 328).

Lower School Conferences

Lower School conferences will take place Monday, March 15th. There will be no school that day, but childcare will be provided. Conference sheets will be hung outside of your child's classroom.

Conference Care Notice

Conference care for March 15th will be held in the following areas:

| | |
|------------|--|
| 7:30- 8:50 | Lower School Music Room with before care friends. |
| 8:50- 3:00 | ASH or outside. Please be sure to read the board in the front lobby for our location! We will have indoor and outdoor play during the day. |
| 3:00- 4:00 | Media Center. |

A Tapestry of Song

The 3rd Grade Concert, "A Tapestry of Song", will be held on Tuesday the 16th at 9:30 am in All Saints' Hall. We so hope each 3rd grade child will have at least one parent or adult in the audience, as this is an interactive program and we need your participation!!! The program will last approximately 1 hour.

Dads' Night Cancelled

Please be advised that due to scheduling conflicts (Tiffany is still out on recovery, and Steve has prior Vestry commitments, among other conflicts), the 1st annual 2nd and 3rd Grades Dad's Night, previously planned for Tuesday the 16th, has been cancelled. We will revisit its debut next year!

Terra Nova Testing

The 2nd through 5th graders will be taking the annual Terra Nova tests on March 23rd, 24th and 25th. Terra Nova is a standardized test which measures achievement in both reading and math. While this test can be a helpful evaluation tool, please bear in mind that a test is only a snapshot in time of your child's performance. Teachers have been thoughtfully discussing the test with students to promote confidence in their skills. At home, we encourage you to help your child be prepared by getting a good night's sleep and eating a protein-filled and healthy breakfast. We ask parents to treat these days as any other school day.

Easter Parades

Mark your calendars now for our Easter parades on April 1st!!!

K/1st Grade Spring Music Program

Mark your calendars for the Kindergarten/1st grade Spring Music Program on Wednesday, April 28th at 2:00 p.m.

Dates to remember



Thursday, March 11

- EC Health Fair sponsored by the Parents' Association
- Financial Seminar, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 12

- EC Health Fair sponsored by the Parents' Association

Monday, March 15

- LS Conferences
- No Lunch Box Program for EC students

Tuesday, March 16

- 3rd Grade Concert, 9:30 – 11:00 am
- Original Works orders due

Wednesday, March 17

- Media Reading Passports due

Saturday, March 20

- Father Daughter Dance sponsored by the Parents' Association, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, March 23 through Thursday, March 25

- Terra Nova Testing (2nd – 5th grades)

Friday, March 26

- Author Visit by Carole Boston Weatherford

Wednesday, March 31

- EC Easter Parades (3-day 3's at 11:15 and 2:45)

Thursday, April 1

- EC Easter Parades (2-day, 5-day, full day classes at 10:45 and 2:30)

Friday, April 2 – Friday, April 9

- School Closed for Spring Break

Monday, April 12

- School resumes

Friday, April 23

- PA Mother Son Lego Event

Wednesday, April 28

- Spring Music Program (K/ 1st Grades)

Tuesday, May 4

- EC Spring Sings (see schedule in newsletter)

Wednesday, May 5

- EC Spring Sings (see schedule in newsletter)

Archived copies of the newsletter can be found at www.stjohnspds.org in the For Our Families section.

Our young singers and actors are working diligently on this program titled "Friends." They are learning songs about how to be a good friend. Please have them wear clothes that they would wear for a free dress day or a play day, depending on the weather. Come enjoy this program that is sure to bring a smile to your face!

Parents' Association

Recruiting Committee

The PA By-Laws require us to form a Recruiting Committee by the 1st of March. Thank you to Sharon Blessing, Melanie Bovard, Kathy Chappell and Jennifer Hurley who have volunteered their time to help on this committee. The Recruiting Committee is charged with assembling a list of interested candidates for President (which will be voted on at our Spring PA General Meeting) as well as a slate of candidates for the remaining positions based on interest and information from this form. All terms are for one year with the exception of President who serves a two year term, one as President and one as Past President.

Please take a moment to thoughtfully consider serving on the Parents' Association Board for the next year. It is a rewarding experience and a wonderful way to get to know more about the school and the community.

In order to aid our recruitment efforts for next year, please see the Officer Recruitment Form which follows this week's newsletter. Please indicate your interest in the Officer positions. Feel free to contact any member of the Recruiting Committee with questions!

Please return the form to the Lower School Office or by email to Colleen Rives no later than April 1, 2010.

Thank you!

Colleen Rives (colleen_rives@comcast.net)
Sharon Blessing (slbless@verizon.net)
Melane Bovard (mbovard1@verizon.net)
Kathy Chappell (chappellfamily@comcast.net)
Jennifer Hurley (ten497@verizon.net)

Dining Out

Thanks to all the families who dined at Qdoba for our fundraising event. We raised \$290 in one evening and had a fun night out!

Staff Appreciation

Reminder: The Kindergarten and Full Day Fours (Early Childhood) classes are hosting the monthly "Teacher Appreciation" this month on March 18, 2010 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. This month's theme is dips and it is titled "Any Dip Will Do." We will be serving many delicious dips, with various items for dipping. We will also be serving pulled pork, cole slaw and shrimp cocktail. If your child is in one of the hosting classes, you should have received an email from Kristen Conord or Pam Warburton via VolunteerSpot.com. If you have not signed up, please do so now. If you did not receive the email please contact Kristen or Pam for more information.

Father/Daughter Dance

The Father/Daughter dance committee is looking for volunteers to help teach basic dance moves and get

couples moving on the dance floor. If you are available on Saturday March 20th from 6-8pm and interested in helping please contact Sue Holinsky at theholinskys@comcast.net or Karen Clark at kccphoto@gmail.com. Your help is appreciated!

Original Works

It's time for Original Works. The Original Works Program provides a unique opportunity to turn your child's very own artwork into professionally made custom products to wear and share. The children, directed by their teachers, have created a work of art for the Original Works program.

Program details were sent home last week with your child. All Original Works orders must be placed no later than Tuesday, March 16. If you prefer to have your child create a new masterpiece, artwork must be on 8 1/2 x11 cardstock (#65) paper. Artwork larger or smaller will be returned unprocessed. To make it easier on our families, the correct paper is available in the Lower School office for you to pick up.

Any questions regarding the program should be directed towards Julia Rineman at mjrino@comcast.net.

Stuffed Animals Donations Needed!

As we prepare for the SJPDS Spring Carnival, we are in need of over 350 stuffed animals to offer as prizes. Now is the opportunity to clean out the playroom, your child's room, or anywhere else in the house these little critters may be hiding! Starting this week, a box will be located in the lobby to collect clean and gently used stuffed animals. To clean stuffed animals put them in a pillowcase and close with a large safety pin or tie the end in a knot. Wash as you normally would, and dry in the dryer. Remember, a stuffed animal that is no longer loved in your home, may be very much loved in someone else's!

Spring Carnival Sponsors

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Spring Carnival is scheduled for Saturday May 1. We are looking for a few sponsors for our games. Game sponsors provide prizes for the game of their choice. To recognize our generous donors we will proudly display your name or business name in our Spring Carnival newsletter, and we will encourage our parents to patronize your business. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation. Please contact Tiffany Fowble at 410-461-3125 or Marla Harrington at 410-465-8452 for more information.

Inclement Weather Policy

Please be advised that we will NOT be following Howard County's lead the rest of this school year as far as delayed openings or closings. Please check your email, the school website, school telephone, and schoolsout.com.

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