

# St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

(410) 465-7644

9130 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

www.stjohnspds.org

March 18, 2010



## In this issue

### All School News

Arrival & Dismissal Reminders	p.1
2010 – 2011 Calendar Dates	p.2
<b>Important Dates</b>	p.2
Transportation Fair	p.3
Author Visit	p.3
Celebrating Successes	p.3
Annual Fund Update	p.3
Financial Seminar	p.3
Gala Thank You	p.4

### Early Childhood

Easter Parades	p.4
Spring Lunch and Learn	p.4
Tea with Moms	p.4
Thank you!	p.4
Health Fair	p.4

### Lower School

Terra Nova Testing	p.4
Easter Parades	p.4
K/1 <sup>st</sup> Gr. Music Program	p.4

### Parents Association

Officer Recruitment	p.4
Dining Out La Palapa	p.5
Scrip Order due 3/23	p.5
Father Daughter Dance	p.5
Stuffed Animals Needed	p.5

### In Our Community

Easter Service Schedule	p.5
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### Inclement Weather Policy

**Please call or email when your child is absent.**

**Absentee Phone and Email**

**(410) 465-6935**

**absent@stjohnsec.org**

## All School News

### Arrival and Dismissal Reminders

As the year goes by and the weather gets nice, it is good to remind families of our basic morning and afternoon procedures.

**Parents, please do not leave children unattended in your car for any reason.**

**When visiting during the school day, please stop by the Lower School office to sign the Visitor's Log and receive a visitor's badge. If items are brought in for the students, during the school day, they should be taken to the offices, rather than the classrooms.**

### Arrival and Dismissal

- **Entrance into the Campus**

Parents must enter the campus at the Rose Hill entrance and follow the road around the campus to the Terrace Level entrance.

- **Early Childhood**

Morning "drop-off" begins at 8:50 AM. Afternoon "drop-off" begins at 12:25 PM. Children may be dropped off at the Terrace Level. Staff will be assigned to help the children to their classrooms. Parents may choose to park in the upper parking lot and walk their child to and/or pick their child up from the classroom. Parents are asked to pick up their child from the classroom at the end of the session.

- **Lower School**

Morning "drop-off" begins at 8:15 AM. Children may be dropped off at the Terrace Level. **Children will be considered late after 8:30 AM.** At dismissal, parents may pick up their students from the classrooms at 3:25 PM. Those students being picked up in the car line, will be dismissed from the Auditorium doors at 3:30 PM.

- Parents are asked to line up at the speed bump and wait to advance until a staff member comes outside with your child.
- Parents are asked to display the car sign, provided with their child(ren)'s name(s), to expedite the loading process. Place the sign on the visor and pull down the visor, displaying the name, when approaching the pickup area. This facilitates the pick up process for staff members walking children to their cars.
- Parents, who choose to park, should use the upper parking lots (behind Rose Hill and beside the Church) and walk their children to and/or pick their child up from the classroom.
- You may **ONLY** drop your child off at the Terrace Level. Adults are there to receive your child and verify their safety.

**No child should be dropped off in the upper parking lot, or by Clark House, and allowed to walk into the school unaccompanied.**

### Late Arrival

If your child has arrived late, please park your car in an authorized parking space and accompany them to their Early Childhood classroom or the Lower School Office. Parents of Lower School students, who arrive late, must accompany their child(ren) to the office to complete a "Late Arrival Form" and walk their child(ren) to their classroom teacher. Please do not park in Reserved or Handicap spaces. Classes start promptly at 8:30AM. It is essential for your child's learning to arrive on time.

### Visiting During Pick Up

St. John's is a warm and welcoming community where life-long friendships are made. We welcome parents to visit and enjoy each other's company. We

do ask that while engaging in these conversations on school grounds that you *keep a close eye on your children and require them to respect and follow all of the school rules (i.e. no running in the halls or sliding down the banisters).*

### **Pick Up Procedures and Stranger Identification**

It is extremely important to release a child only to an authorized adult. The parent/guardians are required to alert St. John's Parish Day School, by written notice or phone, if someone other than the enrolling parent/guardian will pick up the child. The parents/guardians have listed authorized people on the emergency card.

All unfamiliar individuals must produce a valid identification. You may use driver's licenses or photo ID for identification. We cannot release children to anyone less than 18 years of age. No child may leave our school without being accompanied by an adult. Lower School students who leave early must be signed out by the accompanying adult. A sign-out registry is located in the Lower School office.

### **Parking**

Parking for parents during the school day is available behind Rose Hill and in the Church lots. There is also limited parking along the road behind the playground. Parking in both the lot in front of the Early Childhood building and by the playground is for staff only during the school day. Please respect all reserved/handicap parking and keep all crosswalks clear.

Note that part of Rose Hill parking lot is used during the school day for Lower School recess as denoted by the orange cones. During this time, parking is not permitted in this area.

### **Primary Dates for the 2010-2011 Academic Year**

Please note the following major dates for next year:

- 9/1/10 Wednesday
  - SJPDS Staff Retreat and PA Luncheon
- 9/9/10 Thursday
  - Classes begin for BOTH EC and LS
- 10/15/10 Friday
  - EC & LS Parent Conference Day – No classes
- 10/21& 10/22/10 Thursday & Friday
  - Grandparents and Special Friends Days
- 10/30/10 Saturday
  - PA Fall Family Fun Day
- 11/14/10 Sunday
  - Parish Day School Sunday
- 11/24-11/28/10 Wednesday-Sunday
  - Thanksgiving Break
- 12/17/10 Friday
  - Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break
- 12/18/10-1/2/11
  - Christmas Break
- 1/3/11 Monday
  - Classes Resume
- 1/17/11 Monday
  - ML King, Jr. Day - School closed
- 1/21/11 Friday
  - EC closed for Parent Conferences
- 2/21/11 Monday
  - Presidents' Day – School closed
- 3/5/11 Saturday
  - Gala
- 3/14/11 Monday
  - LS closed for Parent Conferences

## **Dates to remember**



### **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 (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades)

### **Tuesday, March 23**

- Scrip Orders due

### **Thursday, March 25**

- Financial Seminar: Planned Giving, 7:00 pm

### **Friday, March 26**

- PA Author Visit by Carole Boston Weatherford
- Kindergarten Transportation Fair

### **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 at 10:45 & 2:30)
- LS Easter Parades

### **Friday, April 2 – Friday, April 9**

- School Closed for Spring Break

### **Monday, April 12**

- School resumes

### **Monday, April 19**

- PA Dining Out at La Palapa

### **Tuesday, April 20**

- PA Dining Out at La Palapa
- EC Tea with Moms (2-day 3's & AM 4's), 11:00
- Staff Hospitality Event sponsored by the PA

### **Wednesday, April 21**

- EC Tea with Moms (AM 3 & 5-day 3's), 11:00
- EC Tea with Moms (Full day 4's & TK), 2:15
- EC Tea with Moms (PM 3-day 3's & PM 4s), 2:30

### **Friday, April 23**

- PA Mother Son Lego Event

### **Wednesday, April 28**

- K/ 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Spring Music Program, 2:00 pm

### **Saturday, May 1**

- Spring Carnival Sponsored by the Parents' Association, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

### **Tuesday, May 4**

- EC Spring Sings, 10:45 am (see schedule in 3/11 newsletter for classes performing)

### **Wednesday, May 5**

- EC Spring Sings, 10:45 am and 2:15 pm (see schedule in 3/11 newsletter for classes performing)

*Archived copies of the newsletter can be found at [www.stjohnspds.org](http://www.stjohnspds.org) in the For Our Families section.*

4/16-4/25/11 Saturday-Monday  
Easter Break

4/26/11 Tuesday  
Classes resume

5/27/11 Friday  
EC last day of school

5/30/11 Monday  
Memorial Day – School closed

6/5/11 Sunday  
Grade 5 Graduation

6/10/11 Friday  
LS last day of school

### **Transportation Fair**

Friday, March 26th is the first annual Kindergarten Transportation Fair! Ever wondered how a truck can be fueled by something other than gas? Excited to see a fast car? Have you ever seen a helicopter on St. John's field? These, and more, will all be a part of the fair!

Kindergarten classes will be guided through from 10:00 until 11:15, and the fair will continue to be open until 1 pm to allow for students from the rest of the school to attend.

### **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](http://www.caroleweatherford.com). See Mrs. Bayer or Mrs. Bentivenga with any questions.

### **Celebrating Successes for Children 2010 – Nominations due 3/26**

Each year, the Howard County Office of Children's Services honors people and programs that make a difference in the lives of children. Celebrating Successes is an annual awards ceremony and celebration that takes place in April. Please take a few minutes to nominate a person, program, or business who serves Howard County children in one of the following categories, Infants and Toddlers, Preschool Age, Elementary Age, Middle School Age, High School Age, Youth Award, Family Friendly Business Award. Be creative with your nomination! You may nominate anyone who works with or for children in Howard County. Consider nominating your child's teacher, child care provider, camp counselor, Scout leader, coach, or religious school teacher.

#### *How to Nominate:*

- Online at [www.howardcountymd.gov/children](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/children) (using the form below)
- By email – request a nomination form at [pkung@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:pkung@howardcountymd.gov)

- On paper – request a nomination form by calling 410-313-1940

*Deadline:* Nominations must be received by Friday, March 26, 2010.

*The Big Event:* All nominees will be recognized at our 11th annual Celebrating Successes event on Thursday, April 29. Last year, more than 90 people and programs were nominated. We will also recognize our Shining Stars Gallery - nominees who have been nominated more than 4 times over the years.

*Sponsored By:* The Howard County Child Care Resource Center, the Local Children's Board, the Howard County Department of Citizen Services, and the Howard County Early Childhood and Child Care Coalition.

*Rules and Guidelines for Your Nomination:* Choose only one category for the nominee. An individual nominee doesn't have to be a resident of Howard County, but he or she must serve Howard County children. Program or business nominees must be located in Howard County. Winners are chosen based on the quality of the nomination, not on the number of nominations received for that nominee.

Your nomination must be received by March 26, 2010.

### **More Apples = More Well-Being!**

St. John's financial Well-Being is growing through gifts. We now are \$928 short of 23 apples on our Apple Tree signs, which means we are that close to \$57,500 in gifts and pledges to this year's Annual Fund Appeal. St. John's Episcopal Church parishioners have generously joined in giving. Gifts from faculty and staff, parents, friends, and Board members are continuing to come in. PLEASE, if you are enjoying the benefits of a St. John's education but have not yet joined these givers, won't you step forward and send in your gift or pledge soon? In several weeks we will have a Phone-a-thon to call those who have not yet responded. Shorten the Phone-a-thon and let your generosity be known soon by sending in a gift! Let's fill up the Well-Being Apple Trees by May!

### **Financial Seminar: The Benefits & Details of Planned Giving**

In service to our families St. John's Parish Day School invites you to our second Financial Seminar: The Benefits & Details of Planned Giving. Initially scheduled for Feb. 11th, which was the Snow Week, it will be on Thursday, March 25th at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. Our presenter is Brian Avrunin CRPC, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial Services, Ind. As those who came last week to the seminar on College Planning discovered, Brian is a delightful, warm, knowledgeable person who informed and entertained us. He also offers a complimentary financial consultation to those who come to the seminars. As before, please call me at 410 465-7644, Ext. 400 to register that you are coming. Since we have wonderful refreshments, we'd like to have an idea how many are coming. As before, this seminar is informational, with no cost or obligation. Do join us!

Anne Hanchett  
Director of Development

### **Memories of the Gala & Bouquets of Gratitude**

Many thanks to all of you who donated items to the Silent and Live Auctions, came and enjoyed Blazing West, made new friends, shopped and bid generously, and loved and supported St. John's Parish Day School through being part of this happy, refreshing evening.

Heartfelt thanks to those of you who, led by Creative Visionary Colleen Citrano, decorated the atmospheric Gala sets in the weeks before and put it all together the night before Feb. 20th. Kudos to our gracious volunteers who sacrificed some or all of their own enjoyment by helping the night of the Gala at the Gold Rush, bar tending, and working to process the purchases at the Silent and Live Auctions.

Special gratitude is due to members of the Gala Posse, the committee who lived, breathed, and labored to make the Gala happen, from August 2009 to 3 a.m. on February 21st, 2010. These are: Mary Jane Rudnicki, Michelle Wildman, Kim McGill, Julia Rineman, Kara Windebank, Lianne Massey, Kelly Summers, Melissa Parlette, Ellen Dan, Pam Warburton, Jane Tolen, Meg Same, Kathy Chappell, Louis Welton, Greg Poirier, Greg Martinez, Michael Kasbeer-Betty, Karen Clark, Melissa Newsome, Kim Scherock, Debbie Bates-Schrott, Laurel Harrison, Jackie Rose, Anna Loomis, and Danielle Blice.

Look for more behind-the-scenes details and highlights from the Gala in the spring issue of Impressions.

Norma Richardson, Gala Chair  
Anne Hanchett, Director of Development  
Sheila Welton, Silent & Live Auction Head

## **Early Childhood**

### **Easter Parades**

Easter Parades are just around the corner! Please plan to join us on Thursday, April 1st at 10:45 for the 2 & 5-day morning classes, and 2:30 for the afternoon and full day classes. We are hoping for a beautiful spring day. In that case, our parades will be outside on the field next to the Auditorium.

Our 3-day friends will parade inside on March 31st at 11:15 and 2:45.

Dismissal will be from the classrooms, following the parades. After care is available for afternoon and full day classes.

### **Spring Lunch and Learn**

Watch for our Spring Lunch and Learn brochure coming out next week. Literature, Art and Science will be offered.

### **Tea with Moms**

Mark your calendar. . . Teas With Moms

- Tue., April 20 – 11:00 – 2-day 3's & morning 4's
- Wed., April 21 – 11:00 – morning 3 & 5-day 3's
- Wed., April 21 – 2:15 – full day 4's & TK
- Wed., April 21 – 2:30 – afternoon 3-day 3's & afternoon 4's

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to the Haskey family – especially Rebecca, Daniel and William, for donating their "like-new" Brio train table, trains, and tracks to our EC Program. Mrs. Illar's classes are thrilled to have this terrific addition to their classroom.

### **Health Fair**

Thank you to our Parents' Association and Dori Capodanno, Chair of the Health Fair, for an outstanding event. To all of our parent volunteers including Tara DeCapite, Sarah Sommers and Lisa Morgan, our School Nurse, at the Healthy Feelings Station. To the following community businesses and organizations – Ashton Family Dentistry, Crafton Dental Group, Smiles for Children Dentistry, Firefighter Dylan Murray - Howard County Fire Department, PFC Gazman and PFC Sheppard - Howard County Police Department and My Gym. Each child received a "goodie" bag given by Howard County General Hospital that included items donated by the visiting dentists, police department, Mars Supermarket and MD Poison Control Center.

What a fun, informative day for the children!

## **Lower School Early Childhood**

### **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/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Spring Music Program**

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

### **2010-2011 PA Officer Recruitment Form**

The Recruitment Form for PA Officers for the 2010 - 2011 school year was sent via email last week with the newsletter. Copies are also available on the PA table in the Lower School Commons, below the calendar. Please return the form to the Lower School Office or by email to Colleen Rives no later than April 1, 2010. If you have

any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Recruiting Committee.

Thank you!

Colleen Rives ([colleen\\_rives@comcast.net](mailto:colleen_rives@comcast.net))  
Sharon Blessing ([sbless@verizon.net](mailto:sbless@verizon.net))  
Melane Bovard ([mbovard1@verizon.net](mailto:mbovard1@verizon.net))  
Kathy Chappell ([chappellfamily@comcast.net](mailto:chappellfamily@comcast.net))  
Jennifer Hurley ([ten497@verizon.net](mailto:ten497@verizon.net))

### Dining Out

Join us for our monthly Dining Out Event at La Palapa in Ellicott City on **Monday April 19th AND Tuesday, April 20th – ALL DAY**. La Palapa has agreed to host a two-day event for our school, giving families more options for attending – so tell your friends!

### Scrip Orders due 3/23

Thank you to the families who have participated in the Scrip Orders and helped us raise almost \$800! Our next order due date will be Tuesday, March 23 and cards will be in prior to Spring Break. The order form is attached and is available on the SJPDS website, the Yahoo Group and printed copies are on the PA table in the Lower Commons.

If you haven't ordered yet, it is so easy! You simply place an order for Scrip Cards for the places you already shop - i.e. grocery stores, gas stations, clothing stores - and use them as cash when you purchase items at those stores. The order form is set up with the most frequently purchased cards but you may write in any participating stores at the bottom of the order form. For a complete list of participating vendors, please visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and click on Retailer List.

Questions, please contact Colleen Rives at [colleen\\_rives@comcast.net](mailto:colleen_rives@comcast.net).

### Father/Daughter Dance

We are looking forward to seeing you this Saturday at SJPDS's first annual Father-Daughter dance - **Saturday, March 20** from 6-8 pm! This event is for all early childhood and lower schoolgirls and their dads,

### 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](http://schoolsout.com).

**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

grandfathers, uncles, or special escorts. Grownups get a chance to treat their special little girl to an exciting evening filled with music and games provided by DJ Mark Whipple, dancing, a craft, food, and a professional keepsake photo. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Holinsky at [theholinskys@comcast.net](mailto:theholinskys@comcast.net) or Karen Clark at [kccphoto@gmail.com](mailto:kccphoto@gmail.com). Your help is appreciated!

### Stuffed Animal 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!

## In Our Community

### Palm Sunday Services

Saturday, March 27 at 5:00 pm (Historic Church);  
Sunday, March 28 at 7:45 am (Historic Church), 9:00 am (Historic Church), 9:00 am (All Saints' Hall), 11:15 am (Historic Church)

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

Holy Eucharist, 7:00 am (Resurrection Chapel, lower level of the Parish Life Center)  
Liturgy and Holy Eucharist, 7:30 pm (Historic Church)  
Prayer Vigil, 9:00 pm to 7:00 am (Resurrection Chapel, lower level of the Parish Life Center)

### Good Friday, April 2

Interactive Stations of the Cross, 10:00 am, 10:45 am, and 11:15 am (Center for Ministry and Education)  
Good Friday Worship, 12 noon (First Lutheran Church, 3604 Chatham Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042)  
Solemn Stations of the Cross, 7:30 pm (Historic Church)

### Holy Saturday, April 3

Holy Saturday Liturgy, 8:30 am (The Memorial Garden at Alda's Chapel)  
Holy Eucharist, 4:00 pm (Historic Church)  
The Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 pm (Historic Church)

### Easter Day, April 4

7:00 am (Historic Church)  
9:00 am (Historic Church)  
9:00 am (All Saints' Hall)  
11:15 am (Historic Church)