

# St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

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9130 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

www.stjohnspds.org

March 4, 2010



ST. JOHN'S

PARISH DAY SCHOOL

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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

### Class Photographs

Please remember Picture Days are now Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>! Please refer to the schedule for details:

#### Tuesday, March 9

- Illar
- Grosso
- Joerdens
- Junior Garden Club
- Rudnicki (2-day)
- Benzing
- Heath
- Durkee
- Rice
- Bates
- Hiken
- Wagner
- Master Jr. Garden Club

#### Wednesday, March 10

- Pontier
- Hoffner
- Dickinson
- Rotella
- Rudnicki (3-day)
- Baumann
- Brunner
- Appelbaum
- Schoenhut
- Robinson
- Student Council
- Rovnan
- Dansie
- Joerdens PM
- Illar PM

### 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. Autographed books will be able to be ordered by parents of Lower School and Early Childhood students. An order form will be going home at the end of this week, and all order forms and money must be turned in by this **TUESDAY, March 9**. For more information on this author, visit her website at [www.caroleweatherford.com](http://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.

### Gala Gold Rush Winner

And we have a winner! Pam Warburton, Adam's mom, is the winner of the Gold Rush! WOOHOO! Pam has won a \$500 gift certificate to create her own piece of Hot Diamonds Jewelry at St. John's Jewelers! Thank-you everyone for purchasing a chance(s) for the Gold Rush! St. John's Jewelers is located on Route 40 in Ellicott City. They have long supported St. John's

Parish Day School. They have a fabulous selection of jewelry and special occasion gifts. If you are in the market for a special item, please consider visiting their store. Mention you heard about them at St. John's PDS.

### **Gala Wrap Up Meeting**

Join us next Wednesday, March 10 at 8:45 am for the Gala Wrap Up Meeting. Come celebrate our success! Please be prepared to share two things that you liked about the Gala and two things that you feel could be improved upon. If you can't make it to the meeting, send along your two positive comments and two areas for improvement via email to [ahanchett@stjohnsec.org](mailto:ahanchett@stjohnsec.org).

### **Parents are Welcome to Chapel!**

Please know that we always welcome our parents at Chapel! Not only on Thursdays, and on their child's birthday, but EVERY day! So please come and celebrate with us whenever you would like – we'll love having you!

## **Early Childhood**

We never know who might pay us a visit! Monday, March 1st, the ZooMobile came to St. John's!!! The 3 & 5-day 3 year-old classes had the opportunity to see a tortoise and an African penguin that lives on the beach, as well as to pet a chinchilla, who has the softest fur of any animal!!



### **COMING SOON TO ST. JOHN'S PARISH DAY SCHOOL . . .**

The EC Art Show will begin March 9<sup>th</sup> and run through March 19<sup>th</sup>. All children who have Art with Mrs. Dutra will have a piece of art on display. Your children have created some beautiful works! If it isn't in your plans to visit the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art this March, we invite you to something just as special!

Please note the April **EC Staff Development Day will be April 14<sup>th</sup>**, which is the second Wednesday in April.

## **Lower School**

### **Conferences**

Lower School conferences will be Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will not have school that day, but childcare will be provided. Conference sheets will be hung outside of your child's classroom by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **A Tapestry of Song**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade musical presentation will be on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Come see your child in "A Tapestry of Song." Together we will weave our way around the world. We hope to have at least one parent or adult for each of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders because this is an interactive program and we need your participation. This program will last just under an hour. Your child needs no special attire for this program. Come join in the fun on March 16<sup>th</sup>!

## **Dates to remember**



### **Monday, March 8**

- Sign-up for LS Conferences posted

### **Tuesday, March 9**

- Class Pictures (see schedule in newsletter copy)
- Kenya Connect Meeting, 4:00 pm, Mrs. Green's room
- EC Art Show in Lower Commons (through Friday, March 19).

### **Wednesday, March 10**

- Class Pictures (see schedule in newsletter copy)
- Gala Wrap-Up Meeting, 8:45 am

### **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

### **Tuesday, March 16**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Concert, 9:30 – 11:00 am

### **Wednesday, March 17**

- Media Reading Passports due

### **Saturday, March 20**

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

### **Friday, March 26**

- Author Visit by Carole Boston Weatherford

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

### **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/closings, etc. 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

## Easter Parties

We're all looking forward to our Easter class parties on April 1st!!!!

## Junior Master Garden Club

For our Junior Master Gardener Club after school program, Carrie Engel, a WBAL TV celebrity from Valley View Farms, came to be our guest speaker. She taught us about Bonsai Tree gardening. We learned so much about them. Carrie Engel came to Junior Master Gardener Club because we have been learning about trees. Bonsai means "tree in a pot". When she came we also all got our own Bonsai plants. Mrs. Schoenhut and Mrs. Pirie, the leaders of Junior Master Gardeners, organized this for us. Having a celebrity guest made this meeting extra special! Way to grow!

*Compiled and written by:*

*Charlotte Alavi, James Barefoot, Ava Boussy, Josie Hyde, Ava Pirie and Olivia Poirier. (Jr. Master Gardeners)*

## Parents' Association

### Early Childhood Health Fair

The Early Childhood Health Fair is being held next week - March 11th and 12th. Volunteer signup sheets are up. Please take a moment to sign up and join us for this wonderful event.

### Staff Appreciation

This month, the Kindergarten and Full Day Fours (Early Childhood) classes will be hosting the monthly "Teacher Appreciation" scheduled for **March 18, 2010** from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. This month's theme is "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 will be receiving an email from Kristen Conord or Pam Warburton via [VolunteerSpot.com](http://VolunteerSpot.com). Please watch your email and/or check your junk mail, as the email will be sent early the week of March 1st. Any questions or problems, please feel free to contact Kristen or Pam.

### Father Daughter Dance

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

We are also looking for volunteers to help us with baking, decorating, and/or assisting that evening. If you are interested in helping with this event, 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!

### Original Works

Child's Artwork + Paid Order = Original Works Memorable Gifts

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 will be sent home this week with your child. All Original Works orders must be placed no later than **Tuesday, March 16**. Any questions regarding the program should be directed towards Julia Rineman at [mjrino@comcast.net](mailto:mjrino@comcast.net).

### Coming Soon...Mother Son Event!

Come build a ship, a tower, a car... and your mother-son bond! Our Mother-Son event will be held **April 23rd, 6:00-7:30pm** and will feature a unique Lego / Duplo experience and refreshments. A flyer will be coming home during the last week in March with more detailed information. Volunteers (especially Dads) and a photographer will be needed. If you are interested please contact Amy Abell at [amyandjason@comcast.net](mailto:amyandjason@comcast.net) or Sandy Kastantin at [smkastantin@verizon.net](mailto:smkastantin@verizon.net).

### 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!

### Volunteer Appreciation

Each month a volunteer name is selected at random from the pool of volunteers who have offered their time to our school during the preceding month. Remember to sign in at the Front Office when you volunteer to be eligible.

Congratulations to our February Winner of the coveted volunteer Reserved Parking Space, **Karen Tucker!** Thank you, Karen, for volunteering in support of the Gala, as well as your tireless efforts as the Used Uniform Coordinator and Lower School Memory Book Coordinator!! As winner of this random drawing from February volunteers, Karen and family are the recipients of the great parking spot in front of Clark House for the month of March. Thanks again Karen for all you do for SJPDS!

## In Our Community

### Kenya Connect Meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kenya Connect Committee will be Tue., Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in Mrs. Green's Classroom. We will be discussing our spring fundraiser as well as Mr. Ngila's visit in April (Head of School for Mbaikini Primary). We hope to see you there. If you can't make the meeting, please let me know that you're interested by e-mailing me at [tgreen@stjohnsec.org](mailto:tgreen@stjohnsec.org).