

# St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

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www.stjohnspds.org

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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

### Walk for Wamunyu Pledge Sheets

Pledge sheets for our annual Kenya fundraiser went home this week. It is called "Walk for Wamunyu" because the money we raise will go to the Wamunyu Special Needs School in Kenya. This school is a boarding school for students with severe learning needs. They are in need of several items including a fence, wheelchairs, vocational training supplies, and mosquito nets, just to name a few. This school is special to us because at least two of these students are being mainstreamed into the Mbaikini Primary School (our sister school). We have done such a wonderful job raising money for Mbaikini that we wanted to spread the wealth and help other schools as well. We have received a grant from the Episcopal Diocese and are working in connection with St. John's Church to raise these funds for the school.

Lower School students are being asked to set a goal for how many times around the field they can walk/run in 30 minutes and Early Childhood Students will walk for 15 minutes. Students at Mbaikini Primary School walk an average of 2 miles one way each day. Eight times around our field is about one mile, so sixteen times would be two miles. Can you walk as far as a student from Mbaikini walks every morning? Please collect all money ahead as all pledge sheets and payment are **due by Monday, April 19**. As an added incentive, any student that raises \$25 or more in pledges gets a pedometer with the school's name on it. So get those pledges!! Attached to the pledge sheets will be a cover sheet explaining all the details and including a script for you to use when explaining the purpose of our fundraiser to friends, family and even neighbors. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tami Green at [tgreen@stjohnsec.org](mailto:tgreen@stjohnsec.org).

### Jr. Garden Club Flower/Photo Show

The Howard County Jr. Garden Club Flower/Photo Show is coming April 29th and 30th!

### Save the Date: Evening of April 30<sup>th</sup> - All-School Family Movie Night and Alumni Get-Together

Come join us on the Upper Field at 8:00 P.M. on Friday night, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the night before the Carnival for a Family Movie Night (film to be announced the week after Easter Break). Popcorn will be available. Bring your blankets, chair, drinks and any other comforts you need for a movie night under the stars. Our friends at FunFlicks are providing the gigantic, inflatable screen. Alumni, coming at 6 P.M. for a Pizza Get-Together in Clark House, will be joining us with their families for a fun time of fellowship and entertainment.

### Early Childhood Classes Create Art for the Heart

To support the good work of the American Heart Association, Mrs. Sue Grosso entered an art contest sponsored by AHA. The works, created by various EC classes, are exhibited currently in the hall outside Mrs. Grosso's room, on the first floor of the EC wing. Drop by and have a look at lovely handiwork featuring hearts, made by three and four-year-olds. All works will be sent on April 1 to be judged. Winners in every grade category will be awarded prizes and their works exhibited at a reception in late spring.

### Summer Camp Update

It's hard to believe that summer is only 3 months away! This year, during camp, our friends will be busy exploring new topics, arts & crafts, learning new games and enjoying the summer with our staff.

Sessions are starting to fill. Space is limited so please register early. Watch for the Summer Camp link on the St. John's website. We have an array of 6 fun-filled weeks for our friends. If you are entering a 4's program through 6 years of age or have an older sibling who would like to attend our Lower

School camp we would love to share the summer with you. Sibling discounts and multi-session discounts are available! Call Melissa for more information at 410-465-7644 or email [mparlette@stjohnsec.org](mailto:mparlette@stjohnsec.org) Check out our wish list!

### **Mrs. Parlette's Summertime Wish list**

*I am on a Trash to Treasures hunt! Camp is in need of the following items for craft projects:*

- A ton of newspaper for Paper Mache projects and much more!
- Brown paper grocery bags for games and packing our goodies in
- At least 200 paper towel rolls for critter creations!
- Cereal boxes for reptile works
- Egg cartons
- Baby food jars (4oz. or 6oz. glass with lids) for ocean projects
- 8 oz. water bottles for ocean projects and I Spy containers.
- 2 liter soda bottles for Hydro planting
- 1 liter clear plastic bottles for space packs.
- Clean tuna cans for betel traps!
- Shoe boxes of all sizes for pyramid building!
- Shirt boxes and gift boxes for creative games during Coney Island week.
- Sheets of ply wood for making our very own St. John's go cart!

Sounds interesting, huh..... we still have space available if you have any questions please feel free to e-mail Melissa Parlette at [mparlette@stjohnsec.org](mailto:mparlette@stjohnsec.org) or call 410-465-7644.

### **Transportation Fair**

On Friday, March 26, the first annual Transportation Fair was held for the Kindergarten classes. The rest of the school was invited as well. The kindergartners have been learning about a variety of modes of transportation from long ago until the present and even beyond (there has been some discussion regarding concept cars)! What a better way to extend their learning then to bring them up close to experience the real thing! And experience they did! None of this would have been possible without Anna Loomis and her committee of workers who organized the event and were able to have 21 vehicles on display for the fair.

We would like to thank Mr. Peddicord (Meadow's dad), who provided a bobcat, a dump truck, a four-wheeler, and a John Deere tractor. The MD National Guard brought a humvee and a military transport truck. The Howard County Fire Dept. exhibited their ladder truck. We oohed and aahed at a purple Challenger with a great sound system driven by Mrs. Pierce (John's mom) from Musselman's Dodge. Linda Fleming from Zbest Limousines let us feel like stars as we enjoyed the music and comfort of the limo. Mr. and Mrs. Abell (JJ's parents) shared their Porsche Boxster convertible, while Mr. Eric Tich, a parishioner, let us look inside his Ferrari. And did we mention the steamboat from Mr. Baird (Sasha's great-uncle)? There was also a fishing boat and a school bus. SJPDS' own, Mr. Matt and Mr. Warren, joined the fun and gave the kindergartners a ride in the St. John's golf cart. Mrs. Newsome (Lindsey's mom) brought her pony, Cupcake, and her horse trailer. We saw Brandon Heath's snowplow that the kindergartners were able to operate and his friend Rich Kewer's Bronco with huge tires and a loud engine to go with it. Lisa and Megan Kratz, friends of Brandon Heath, showed off their El Camino low rider with cool hydraulics that the classes got their hands on. And what Transportation Fair

## **Dates to remember**



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

- School Closed for Spring Break

### **Monday, April 12**

- School resumes

### **Wednesday, April 14**

- EC Staff Development; AM classes dismiss at 11:15 and PM classes arrive 1:00 – 1:10; No change to full day classes
- PA Barnes and Noble Night, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

### **Thursday, April 15**

- PA Mother Son Night RSVP forms and payment are due

### **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, 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, April 28**

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

### **Thursday, April 29**

- Howard County Jr. Garden Club Flower/Photo Show

### **Friday, April 30**

- Howard County Jr. Garden Club Flower/Photo Show
- Alumni Pizza Get-Together, 6:00 pm
- Family Movie Night, 8:00 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.*

would be complete without a hand pump car? Mr. Gene Tucker (Sasha Loomis' grandfather) laid the track and the kids went to work pumping up and down. The biggest thrill came when the helicopter landed on the field next to the Lower School playground. Thank you, Mrs. Peddicord (Meadow' mom).

Now, let us see what the kindergartners liked about the Fair. Ask your child what his or her favorite thing was!

*First, Ms. Rovnan's Class –*

"...limousine because it had a TV in there and all of us could get in there." - Caroline

"...old fashion train because I got to ride on it and I liked it." –Lindsay

"...limousine because it was cool and I liked it." – Austin

"...truck because I honked the horn and used the steering wheel." - Stellan "...the big army truck because it was around St. John's." – Kristhen

"...pony because it was cute and fuzzy." – Elliana

"...limousine because we could watch TV and it had long seats." – Wyatt

"...big truck because I honked the horn." – Colin

"...helicopter because it was cool and it was the first time I saw one at school." –Josh

"...pony because it was cute and soft." – Shianne

"...limo because there were glass cups and a TV." – Antonio

"...golf cart because it was fast and fun." – Meadow

"...monster truck because it was purple." – McKenzie

"...bobcat tractor because it was green and I got to sit in it." – Sam

"...big truck because I got to go in the driver's seat." - Cooper

*Mrs. Robinson's Class –*

"... the dump truck, because the horn was so loud."- Maddox

"... honking the horn in the dump truck." - Ryan

"... the pony, Cupcake, because ponies and horses are my favorite animal." - Megan

"... the limo, because it was long." - Erin

"... the hand pump car, because we got to ride on it." - Sasha

"... the whole thing, because it was awesome. I saw a helicopter land, and I got a ride on the hand pump car." - Joey

"... the ATV (4-wheeler), because I sat on it." – Elias

"... the helicopter, because it was very, very great." - Kaitlin

"... Cupcake, because she was cute." - Macy

"... the limo, because it had a lot of seats." - Daniel

"... Cupcake the pony, because it was pretty and cute." - Kelsey

"... the humongous Army truck, because I got in it." - Brendan

"... the helicopter, because it was awesome." - Junho

"... the monster truck, because it was really big." - Adam

"... the Army trucks, because they were big." - Griffin

"... the helicopter, because it landed in the field." - Kristin

"... the helicopter. It was awesome!" - Jacob

*Mrs. Heath's class –*

John wrote, "My favorite was the Challenger because it

was purple for the Ravens".

Alex wrote, "I saw a helicopter. I thought it wasn't real, but it was real."

Claire wrote, "...I rode in a golf cart. I always wanted to ride in one."

Caitlin wrote, "I like the pony because she is cute and I like that name."

Lilly wrote, "It was so cold outside, but my favorite vehicle was the limo because it warmed me up. ...The horns scared me out of the daylight."

James wrote, "I liked that the helicopter was landing on a land and ... that the helicopter goes high in the air."

Connor B. wrote, "I saw a pony and I want a pony for my birthday because it's fast."

JJ wrote, "I liked when the helicopter landed in the field..."

Maely wrote, "My favorite was the limo because it was fancy and cozy inside."

Kole wrote, "My favorite was the army truck. ... it was cool."

Laura wrote, "I like the part when the school bus and the dump truck honked the horn at the same time and the teachers didn't know which one was which."

Hayden wrote, "I also liked the humvee because I like the army."

Connor S. wrote, "I like the low rider because I like when the low-rider went up and down."

Megan wrote, "...was when we went into the limo. I could have stayed in it forever."

Maddie wrote, "I liked getting inside the limo."

Caleb was absent, but he wishes he had a Z car and a flying car.

## Early Childhood

### EC Staff Development Day

Wednesday, April 14 is an EC Staff Development Day:

- Morning students dismiss at 11:15
- Afternoon students arrive 1:00-1:10
- No change to full day and extended day schedule

### Lunch and Learn Update

Lunch & Literature (Thu.) – Several openings available

Lunch & Science (Mon.) – One opening available

To sign up, please stop by the EC office with your registration form and check.

## Lower School Early Childhood

Dear Families,

Happy Spring!! I hope that everyone is enjoying the change of seasons as we move into nice weather where playing outside is again becoming an everyday event.

First, I would like to thank all of you for your kind thoughts and prayers during the past month. I am thrilled to be back at school part-time during this week and full-time after spring break. Seeing your children's smiling faces and warm welcomes has been such a joy. I look forward to a fun, learning filled spring. I hope you have a wonderful Easter with your families.

What is normal in the spring??

Each spring, we again make the transition from indoor to outdoor recess. While it is so positive for your

children to be getting fresh air and exercise again, it is a transition. At this time of year, you may again see challenges in relationships with other students begin to bubble. Please know that this is normal and is a learning process for your children. We strive to teach them how to navigate challenging social situations. My advice for your assistance at home is to listen to your children. Let them talk through challenges in a comfortable and judgment free place. Children will often react to your own emotions. If they feel you are upset, it can spur additional feelings. Children will often need direction to explore "the other side of the story" and why someone may have acted the way they did. If you have concerns, please always feel comfortable to communicate with the school starting with the classroom teacher. If an issue persists, please contact me as well. We look forward to continuing partnering with you.

Have a wonderful day!

Mrs. Rath

### **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**

### **Labels for School or Camp**

Stuck on You designs and manufactures high quality, colorful, personalized labels for children. Their best selling vinyl **stickers are waterproof, microwave and dishwasher safe!** They are perfect for everything children bring to school including lunch boxes, sports equipment, back packs, school supplies, food containers, bottles, pacifiers, sippy cups, bike helmets – even shoes! Their clothing labels - commercial laundry-safe and tough – are ideal for clothing, towels and athletic uniforms. Their subject labels are perfect for older children's books, notebooks, and folders. Even better - children can choose from over 100 adorable "icons" to put on their labels to make them more personalized and easy to recognize.

Stuck on You offers us the opportunity to raise funds for our school. They offer the school up to \$2 per pack of labels. Order forms will go home after break, you may order online at [www.stuckonyou.biz/sjpd](http://www.stuckonyou.biz/sjpd) or you call toll-free at 1-888-236-2800 and for each packet of labels ordered, our school will receive a commission. Don't forget to mention SJPDS when ordering by phone. Put an end to the Lost & Found forever!

### **Favorite Stories – Barnes and Noble Night**

Save the date! Join your friends and some of your favorite teachers at Barnes and Noble Night, **Wednesday, April 14** from 6:00-8:00 pm. This year's event will be for both Early Childhood and Lower School students and their families. A percentage of our sales will be contributed to SJPDS. New this year -

online orders will also be accepted from 4/14-4/19. Vouchers will be sent home after we return from Spring Break.

### **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!

### **Mother Son Event**

Join us for an evening of building open to all Early Childhood and Lower School boys and their mother, grandmother, aunt or other building buddy. The event will be held on **April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm** and will feature a unique Lego/Duplo experience and ice-cream sundae bar. Invitations went home this week and **RSVP slips are due April 15<sup>th</sup> so that we can order the correct number of Lego/Duplo blocks.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are planning to attend with your son and would like to bring a sibling who is not a SJPDS student, please indicate this on your RSVP form and include an additional \$15 per non-SJPDS student to cover the cost of the Lego/Duplo blocks.

**Volunteer need:** *We are looking for a photographer willing to attend the event and capture the festivities and final products. If you are a photographer and available please contact us as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made with adequate time.*

For more detailed information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Amy Abell at [amy@sadiesgift.org](mailto:amy@sadiesgift.org) or Sandy Kastantin at [smkastantin@verizon.net](mailto:smkastantin@verizon.net).

WE WISH EVERYONE AND SAFE AND HAPPY EASTER AND SPRING BREAK! SEE YOU ON APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>!

## **In Our Community**

### **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)

### **Stations of the Cross for Children and Families**

Good Friday, April 2 at 10:00 am, 10:45 am and 11:15am

In a special experience of Stations of the Cross designed for children and families, we will travel the path to the cross together with music and prayerful exercises intended to foster a deeper understanding of Christ's passion. Our journey will begin on the lower level of The Center for Ministry and Education (CME). There will be three sessions of the Stations led by clergy, the first at 10:00a and the second at 10:45a, the third will occur at 11:15am. Contact Nancy Narrett with any questions at [nnarrett@stjohnsec.org](mailto:nnarrett@stjohnsec.org).

### **Get Ready to Rummage!**

Join us for the Clean Sweep Rummage Sale on Fri., April 16 and Sat., April 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium and All Saints Hall. Proceeds from the sale will benefit this year's Outreach initiatives.

Donations of clean and gently used clothing, toys, house wares, holiday items, tools, gardening equipment, sports equipment, furniture and more (NO COMPUTERS or TV's, please) will be accepted at the Auditorium entrance during the following times:

Sun., April 11: 2:00-4:00 p.m., set-up & drop off  
Mon., April 12: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Tues., April 13: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Wed., April 14: 9:00 a.m.- Noon. (Drop off ends)  
Contact: Monica Fabbri, [wfababri@pol.net](mailto:wfababri@pol.net).

### **Vacation Bible School: June 21st-June 25th, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Registration begins April 1st!**

St. John's Vacation Bible School is going on a Deep Sea Adventure. The camp is geared toward helping children discover the depth of Jesus' love for all. Using a "deep sea adventure" theme, children explore an underwater city with three young extreme surfers and an array of friendly sea creatures. They will hear Bible stories that show how Jesus can make life-changing differences for all of us. Everyday involves music, games, snacks, crafts and Bible story time.

Be a part of this memorable week at St. John's, the week of June 21st-June 25th, from 1:30-4:30 each day. This program is available for participants entering 3 year preschool through students entering 5th grade in the Fall. We are encouraging all 6th-12th graders to sign up for a fun week of volunteering. As this is purely a volunteer run camp, all families are required to volunteer through assisting with crafts, games, teaching or snack service.

We look forward to seeing you on our *Deep Sea Adventure!* Register April 1st through 30th by clicking the link on St. John's website: [www.stjohnsec.org](http://www.stjohnsec.org) or pick up a registration form in the church PLC. Cost is \$30 per camper and \$70 maximum per family. Questions, please contact Joan Stralka at [jdstalka@comcast.net](mailto:jdstalka@comcast.net)

### **Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA)**

CSA is basically a community getting together and

working with a local farm to receive fruits and vegetables picked at their freshest. Our family joined the Centennial based CSA last spring and we loved it! Each week we received enough produce to feed a family of 4. The food was so fresh and delicious. And, it gave us a chance to try new veggies we may never have eaten! This spring, the Centennial community has again joined forces and is working with a local farm to offer another CSA. In fact, this year, it will be even better. Families can go online and choose which fruits and veggies they would like. There will even be bread, eggs, and meat available. The dairy and beef are hormone free, and the produce is grown with no pesticides. Every Thursday, from June through November, you can pick up your produce at Burleigh Manor Middle School.

The sign up for the Centennial CSA was last week, but there are still spots open and the St. John's community is invited to join. This is your opportunity to purchase 26 weeks of LOCAL fruits and vegetables (and optional eggs, meat and cheese too!) picked at the height of freshness the day before delivery to our community including strawberries, corn, tomatoes, squash, herbs, free-range eggs & meats, and much more. "The Breadery" bread can be included as well. Also, food will be donated by the farmer to local families in need. Go to [www.martinherbfarms.com](http://www.martinherbfarms.com) for details on how to sign-up and click on Centennial CSA link from home page.

Questions? Feel free to contact Michelle Haskey at [mhaskey@comcast.net](mailto:mhaskey@comcast.net)