

St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

(410) 465-7644

9130 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

www.stjohnspds.org

April 22, 2010



ST. JOHN'S

PARISH DAY SCHOOL

In this issue

All School News

Walk for Wamunyu	p.1
Volunteer Reception	p.1
Movie Night	p.1
Dads' Night Out	p.1
Tuition Payment Information	p.1
LS Art Show	p.2
Talent Show	p.2
Summer Enrichment Camp	p.2
English Language Camp	p.2

Important Dates

	p.2
--	-----

Early Childhood

Staff Hospitality Thank You!	p.3
Tea with Moms	p.3
EC Field Day	p.3

Lower School

Uniform Reminder	p.3
------------------	-----

Parents Association

Barnes and Noble Night	p.3
Spring Carnival	p.3
Free Child Safety ID Kit	p.3
Stuffed Animals Needed	p.3
Box Tops Contest	p.3

In Our Community

Labyrinth Dedication	p.3
Author Visit by Ned Tillman	p.4

Please call or email when your child is absent.

**Absentee Phone and Email
(410) 465-6935
absent@stjohnsec.org**

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

All School News

Walk for Wamunyu – Friday, April 23rd – Please join us!

The children will be walking on the Upper Field – please join us to cheer them on! Please see the schedule below to determine when your child will be walking. One lap will be one time around the field for the Lower School children. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tami Green at tgreen@stjohnsec.org.

9:00 – 9:45 3rd Grade
9:30 – 9:45 Mrs. Wagner's and Mrs. Joerdens' AM classes

10:00 – 10:45 2nd Grade
10:15 – 10:30 Mrs. Illar's AM class
10:30 – 10:45 Mrs. Baumann's and Mrs. Rudnicki's classes

11:00 – 11:45 4th and 5th Grade
11:00 – 11:15 Mrs. Rice's and Mrs. Benzing's classes
11:15 – 11:30 Mrs. Grosso's class

12:45 – 1:30 Kindergarten
1:00 – 1:15 Mrs. Illar's PM and Mrs. Dansie's PM classes
1:15 – 1:30 Mrs. Pontier's class

1:45 – 2:30 1st Grade
1:45 – 2:00 Mrs. Hoffner's class
2:00 – 2:15 Mrs. Dickinson's class
2:15 – 2:30 Mrs. Joerdens' PM class

Volunteer Reception!

We are thanking our many wonderful parent volunteers, who are so supportive of us and the school throughout the year, by hosting two receptions on Monday, April 26th! There will be a breakfast reception from 8:30 - 10:00 am that morning in Clark House and an afternoon dessert reception from 12:30 - 2:00 in Clark House as well. Please join us and let us show our appreciation for all that you do!

All-School Family Movie Night and Alumni Get-Together

Come join us on the Upper Field at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, April 30th, the night before the Carnival for a Family Movie Night, sponsored by the Parents' Association. 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.

Dads' Night Out - Brunswick Stew Event

Friday night, April 30 10:00 PM to May 1 11:00 AM
Calling All Interested Dads - We will be cooking a large caldron (22 gallons) of Brunswick Stew over an open fire all night long. Some preliminary food preparation (cutting meat, potatoes, onions, etc.) will be done indoors, but the majority of the event will be out of doors through the night. Dads are invited to come, bring a folding chair, snacks and libations, cards, etc. and join in the fellowship with other dads and male staff members. The stew (a "slurry stew") requires constant stirring, chopping of ingredients, and fire tending - thus the night-long event. Breakfast will be served to those present. The stew will be ready to eat on a first-come, first-served basis on Saturday, May 1st after 11:00 AM. Come on out for this inaugural event and join the fun!

Tuition Payment Information

Thank you to all parents of 2010-2011 students who have returned your

Tuition Management Systems forms. As you are aware, this company will be doing our tuition billing for the coming school year. Forms must be returned to the school so that the information can be passed on to Tuition Management Systems in time for June 1 tuition statements to be mailed. All tuition bills will be sent through Tuition Management Systems, no matter which payment plan you have chosen. We hope this tuition billing option will make it more convenient for our families by providing more options for tuition payment.

Even though tuition will be billed through Tuition Management Systems, you still have the choice of paying the school with a check payable to St. John's PDS if it is more convenient for you. Checks may be placed in the tuition payment boxes located outside the school offices or mailed to the school.

The Art Show is coming!!

This year the artists at St. John's Parish Day School will "wow" you with their inspiring art pieces! Come on in the weeks of May 3rd through the 14th.

Each child will have at least one art piece on display. Mrs. Ficca's Kindergarten and First grade artists will display in the lobby and close to the art room. Mrs. Rose's Second through Fifth grade artists will display throughout the downstairs and upstairs lobbies, as well as, in the early childhood and lower school hallways. Art is and will be everywhere! Keep your eyes open and take it in!

Talent Show!

Come enjoy the fun!!!! The 4th grade is hosting their annual Talent Show on Friday, May 14th at 6:30 pm (please note the time has changed from 7:00 pm) in All Saints' Hall! Practices will take place May 3rd and 4th in ASH immediately following school those days and we ask that each child participating is accompanied by an adult. The deadline to sign up has been extended to Thursday, April 29.

SJPDS Summer Enrichment Camp

Looking for a safe, fun environment for your child this summer? St. John's offers 6 weeks of an enriched program with different weekly thematic units. Our camp staff will help your child explore through Music & Movement, Literature, Science, Art and Gym. We have in-house field trips, culinary delights, pottery and afternoon water time fun on our campus too! Our 1st and 2nd grade campers will enjoy all the fun along with swimming at a local pool. Come, bring a friend and make a memory here at St. John's. Sibling and Multi-Session discounts are available. For information or to register online, visit our website at www.stjohnsummer.com. Questions, please contact Melissa Parlette at mparlette@stjohnsec.org or (410) 465-7644.

SJPDS Summer English Language Camp

Join us for a special program that helps children improve their English language skills and get ready for school! The camp is designed for children age 4-6 years who speak a language other than English at home and have completed at least one year of pre-school. Special focus will be placed on oral language skills, vocabulary development and reading readiness skills. Activities will revolve around fun summer themes while they help children prepare for the upcoming school year. Children must be 4 years old by January 1, 2010. Sibling and Multi-Session discounts are available. Camp is taught by ESL teachers Elizabeth Coppolino and Mira Choi. Session 1 runs 6/28-7/15 and Session 2 runs 7/19-7/29. For more

Dates to remember



Friday, April 23

- Walk for Wamunyu on the Upper Field, 9:00 – 2:30
- PA Mother Son Lego Event, 6:30 pm

Monday, April 26

- Volunteer Receptions, 8:30 – 10:00 am or 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Wednesday, April 28

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

Thursday, April 29 – Friday, April 30

- Howard County Jr. Garden Club Flower/Photo Show, Lower Commons
- Talent Show Sign-Up Forms Due

Friday, April 30

- Alumni Pizza Get-Together, 6:00 pm
- Family Movie Night, Sponsored by the PA, 8:00 pm
- Dads' Night Out, 10:00 pm

Saturday, May 1

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

Sunday, May 2

- Labyrinth Dedication, immediately following the 11:15 am service, approximately 12:30 pm

Monday, May 3 – Friday, May 14

- LS Art School, Lower Commons

Monday, May 3

- Talent Show Practice, 3:30 pm

Tuesday, May 4

- EC Spring Sings, 10:45 am (Mrs. Rudnicki 2-day, Mrs. Grosso, Mrs. Joerdens AM, Mrs. Rice)
- Talent Show Practice, 3:30 pm

Wednesday, May 5

- EC Spring Sings, 10:45 am (Mrs. Baumann, Mrs. Rudnicki 3-day, Mrs. Illar AM, Mrs. Benzing and Mrs. Wagner)
- EC Spring Sings, 2:15 pm (Mrs. Illar PM, Mrs. Joerdens PM, Mrs. Dansie, Mrs. Pontier, Mrs. Hoffner & Mrs. Dickinson)

Thursday, May 6

- Gr. 4 & 5 Chorus and String Concert in ASH, 7:00 pm

Friday, May 7

- Time with Moms (K and Gr. 1) in classrooms, 2:00 pm

Friday, May 14

- Lower School Talent Show in ASH, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 19

- Author Visit by Ned Tillman in ASH, 7:00 pm

Friday, May 21

- Early Childhood Field Day, 9:00 – 11:45 am – no PM classes, including Extended Day 3's, Full Day 4's & TK
- Lower School Early Dismissal, 12:00 (child care will be available during conference times).

information or to register online, visit our website at www.stjohnsummer.com. Questions, please contact Melissa Parlette at mparlette@stjohnsec.org or (410) 465-7644.

Early Childhood

Staff Hospitality Thank You

Thank you to the parents of our Morning 4's and 3rd grade students who provided a fabulous Quiche and Salad Luncheon for the staff Tuesday. Pam Warburton and Kristen Conord, as always, were gracious hosts.

Tea with Moms

Thank you for joining us for "Teas with Moms." The children were thrilled to have you be a part of their school day.

EC Field Day

Friday, May 21st, the 3 & 5-day afternoon classes will join the morning classes for this special event. Arrival time is 8:50-9:00 and dismissal will be at 11:45, from the classrooms. There will be no afternoon EC classes, including Extended Day 3's, Full Day 4's and Transitional Kindergarten.

The activities will be held outside, weather permitting. In the event of rain, Field Day will be held inside. Please dress your child in comfortable clothes (shorts if it is hot). They should wear tennis shoes - no sandals, dress shoes, crocs or cowboy boots.

To volunteer, please sign up on the sheet outside your child's classroom. If you can be flexible, Mrs. Coolahan will make assignments and send home a letter with your activity and time.

Lower School

Uniform Reminder

We think it is truly spring and then it feels like winter again. Please keep in mind the drastic temperature changes we are seeing when you children are planning what to wear to school. Having a warm sweater for your children to wear will be needed as the building temperature can be warmer or cooler. Please remember that additional layers worn in the classroom need to meet the uniform guidelines. The children are asked not to wear their coats in the classrooms.

Parents' Association

Barnes and Noble Night

This year's Barnes and Noble night was a success! A special thank you to Mr. Robbins, Mrs. Dansie, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Pontier, and Mrs. Rudnicki for reading their favorite stories to our Early Childhood guests. Our Lower School friends enjoyed a few challenging Diary of a Wimpy Kid games led by Mrs. Brunner, Mrs. Bates, and Mrs. Beyer. Thank you to all our teachers and families for participating in this fundraiser!

Spring Carnival

Get ready for Spring Carnival 2010! The Carnival will be held on Saturday, May 1st from 1-4 p.m. We have some exciting new events planned such as Basketball Bonanza, Scooby Doo Soccer, Touchdown Toss, and a dunk tank

with special guests, as well as much more! Information went home this week about advanced ticket sales and pre-orders for pizza. Send in the form now and don't wait in line at the Carnival. We also have over 30 high school students who are working at the Carnival, but we still need your help. Please sign up to volunteer for 1/2 hour, and help make this the most exciting Carnival yet! You can sign-up to volunteer by visiting <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/91-61771399831> or by emailing Kristen Conord at conordgirls2@comcast.net.

Reminder: The main entrance will be CLOSED to traffic to allow for a safe and open area for our Carnival attendees. All traffic will enter and exit campus at the Parish Life Center Entrance and will be routed as on Fall Family Fun Day. Parking will be available behind the church, in the teacher lots and around the Parish Life Center. There will be NO PARKING along the driveway to allow for 2-way traffic.

If you have a pop-up tent (approximately 10x10) you can loan us for the Carnival, please contact Marilyn Faura at faurama@gmail.com.

Free Child Safety ID Kit

Evan Rose and Jim Arend of New York Life Insurance will be on-site at the Carnival offering free Child Safety ID kits for children accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Identifying information, a digital photograph and digital fingerprints are entered into the computer and printed while you wait. The 8½ by 11 sheet is printed on photo paper and contains the picture of your child, the fingerprints and the identifying information at the top and two detachable wallet-sized cards at the bottom. The computer program is designed to delete all information about the child after the ID sheet has been printed. Absolutely no information about your child is retained by New York Life. Look for them at the Carnival!

More Stuffed Animal Donations Needed!

Thank you to everyone who has donated stuffed animals thus far. We have quite a stockpile growing, but we still need more! If you have not had the opportunity to drop yours off, we will be accepting donations until Friday April 30th. Please place your clean, gently used stuffed animals in the bin outside the lower school office marked "Stuffed Animal Donations". Thank you for helping to make the SJPDS Carnival's "Animal Wrangler" game a success!

Box Tops Contest

The information in the last week's newsletter contained a typo in the dates. The contest will run between April 19 and May 3 and the Lower School class collecting the most Box Tops will win a Free Dress Day for their class while the Early Childhood class collecting the most during this same period will win a Pajama Day for their class. Be sure to label the bag or sheet you send in with your child's name and teacher for him or her to receive credit.

In Our Community

St. John's Labyrinth Dedication

Please join in the celebration on Sunday, May 2 at 12:30

pm, reception immediately following.

Did you know that Mr. Hiken's class will be responsible for care of the Labyrinth Garden? Also, additional Gifts in Thanksgiving or Gifts in Memory are possible according to the landscape plan and the needs of the garden; please contact The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak to learn more about these opportunities at 410-461-7793.

Award winning author, Ned Tillman Comes to St. John's on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 7pm

The Chesapeake Watershed: A sense of place and a call to action

Please join local author, Ned Tillman as he explores the beauty and history of this region. Learn more about the important role church communities and schools play in the understanding of our relationship with the natural world and how these communities are becoming leaders in our society's transformation from exploiting the earth to becoming stewards of the earth. Many schools, such as St. John's, have become green schools and many churches have become green sanctuaries, but there is far more to do. Come participate in an evening with Ned Tillman, who will help us envision what we can do as leaders in our part of the world to continue to restore the balance between earth and man. You will learn about environmental sustainability and hear anecdotes from his book about Howard County including stories of St John's Parishioner Senator Jim Clark, the Howard County Conservancy, Manor Lane and hiking and canoeing along the Patapsco River from Sykesville, through Ellicott City to Elkridge.

Author Ned Tillman, a lifelong resident of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, has enjoyed a long career in the environmental industry and now advises organizations on how to become more sustainable. He has served as chair of the County Environmental Sustainability Board and the Howard County Conservancy and is on the executive board of the Izaak Walton League, a leading national conservation group. He received degrees from Franklin and Marshall College and Syracuse University in earth and environmental sciences. He has been on the staff of The Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland and president of Target Environmental, Columbia Technologies, and Growth Adventures. He is currently on a speaking tour encouraging greater individual, corporate, and governmental actions.

Ned Tillman's book will be available for sale. You are invited to a book signing following the talk.

This event is free and open to the public and takes place in All Saints Hall at St. John's Parish Day School.