

St. John's Parish Day School Parent Newsletter

(410) 465-7644

9130 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

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**

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

All School News

Heavy Rains Wreak Havoc in the Media Center

The Media Center and Technology Lab have been closed this week due to water damage from last Sunday night's heavy rain. Damaged gutters on both sides of the building from the winter's heavy snows allowed roof run-off to collect in the window wells outside of the Media Center and eventually to run into the Center itself. These gutters were slated for replacement this week following the receipt of an insurance settlement. Carpets were soaked throughout the Center and Lab, but the book collections and computers were undamaged. Water extraction services were called in and the damaged carpets have been removed. Cleaning, sanitizing, and drying the entire Media Center facility is being processed before new carpet can be installed. Meanwhile, Technology classes are being conducted from the mobile computer station in regular classrooms, but the Center itself will not be available for use until next week.

Spirit Day

This Friday, April 30th, St. John's will have a Spirit Day to celebrate the coming of Carnival! We will celebrate this year's Spirit Day with a Silly Hat Day. Your children are encouraged to wear their Silly Hat to school to show their school spirit, but it is not required. Lower School students can wear their regular school uniform or any St. John's Spirit Wear clothing items with their hats.

Dads' Night Out - Brunswick Stew Event

Friday night, April 30 10:00 PM to May 1 11:00 AM
Calling All Interested SJPDS 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!

St. John's Receives Award Celebrating Success for Children

St. John's Parish Day School is a recent recipient of the award Celebrating Success for Children. The award is issued to organizations and people who make a difference in the lives of children. The award is issued and presented by the Howard County Office of Children's Services. Headmaster, Stephen Harrison, Lower School Director, Tiffany Rath and Judy Robbins, Early Childhood Director attended a celebration and awards ceremony on April 29, 2010. Way to Go St. John's Parish Day School and their entire staff and many thanks to Mrs. Norma Richardson for nominating our school!

St. John's Receives Green School Status Renewal and Award

Last week Mrs. Schoenhut received this notification from Ryan Pleune, Director of the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education regarding our reapplication for Maryland Green School status. The extensive reapplication portfolio for St. John's PDS was meticulously compiled and submitted for the school by Carrie Pirie, mother of Ava Pirie, Grade 4. A grand thank you to Mrs. Pirie, Mrs. Schoenhut, Mrs. Klingaman, the students, and all of the many, many others who have contributed so much to make this Green School designation a reality for St. John's! Mr. Pleune's letter follows:

"Far away there in the sunshine,

Are my highest aspirations.
I may not reach them,
But I can look up and see their
Beauty,
Believe in them,
And try to follow them"
Louisa May Alcott - (1832-1888)

Good Morning ... [Mrs. Schoenhut},
On this early, foggy and rainy morning I sit here staring at
your wonderful portfolios that represent "souls" work of high
aspirations. I never knew there were so many people in one
state that were engaged in such amazing things with their
students, teachers and community to form a life changing
culture of education at their school or learning center. Thank
you for inspiring me to rise with you.

I could not wait any longer than the 40th Anniversary of Earth
Day to let you know that St. John's Parish Day School has
been approved by a reviewing committee of over 36
environmental education leaders in the region to be given a
2010 Maryland Green School/Center Award. We will be giving
out the awards during the Maryland Green Schools Youth
Summit on June 4th at Sandy Point State Park so please do
everything you can to be there in person with up to 40 of your
most dedicated students.

More formal recognition will follow this short email including a
phone call, a letter to your principal, an official invitation to the
Maryland Green Schools Ceremony and a press release to
submit to your local papers and news agencies. However, I
wanted you to know on this pivotal day that you and your
education community have contributed in a significant way to
what one of my teachers, Joanna Macy, describes as "The
Great Turning". The work you have done will make our world
a better place because you have changed the culture of
learning in and beyond your neighborhood and now you serve
as an example for others to follow your high aspirations.

Thank you and congratulations,
Ryan Pleune, Director of MAEOE and MD Green School
Coordinator

All-School Family Movie Night and Alumni Get-Together
Come and join our school family and alumni with their families
for a social evening and movie night, featuring WALL-E, on the
Upper Field at 8 p.m. this Friday night. WALL-E is a story of
how friendship, love and working together can change the
world and that taking care of the environment is important to
keeping human beings healthy, while over-consumerism and
corporate greed are harmful to the environment. Bring
blankets, chairs, jackets in case it turns chilly, anything you'd
like to eat or drink for your family. We'll have enough
popcorn, made the old-fashioned way, for the first fifty people
who would like a bag. This is Carnival Eve, remember! So
let's usher in a week-end of St. John's Family conviviality with
a happy, sociable evening under the stars -- visiting, snacking,
napping, even movie-watching permitted! *Note: If it is
raining, the event will be postponed until our Rain Date of June
3rd.*

Save the Date!

If your child will be attending Kindergarten at St. John's in the
fall, your family is invited to attend a special Welcome
Reception on Thursday, May 20th at 6:00 PM in All Saints

Dates to remember



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

- NO EC Staff Development – scheduled for 5/12
- 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

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

Wednesday, May 12

- EC Staff Development - AM dismissal at 11:15; PM arrival 1:00-1:10; No change to full day and extended day schedules

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).

Hall! Meet other families, our kindergarten teachers, and gather information about this exciting next step in your child's education. A separate invitation will be mailed this week.

Walk for Wamunyu an Overwhelming Success

There are no words to express the gratitude that we feel toward the SJPDS community for their outstanding support of the walkathon that occurred this past Friday. We were blessed with good weather, fun treats, and vivacious volunteers!! I am happy to report that our students surpassed expectations in two capacities - pledges/donations and goals for laps completed. Many students quickly surmised that they could easily exceed their goal for laps walked and most did just that! Thanks to the support of families, friends, and neighbors, the students of SJPDS doubled our goal and raised over \$6000 for the Wamunyu Special Needs School and Kenya Connect!! In the words of the students at Mbaikini Primary School (our sister school in Kenya) "St. John's Rocks"!! Thank you so much for your efforts and your continued support of such a wonderful partnership.

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!

The Campus Beautification Program

Have you seen the members of the GREEN EARTH PATROL busy at work? You surely have because the whole student body of Saint John's Parish Day School - from the Early Childhood program through Fifth Grade is now called the GREEN EARTH PATROL.

Did you know that there are 23 areas on campus that need to be maintained? The Campus Beautification Committee consisting of Reverend Carol and interested Church and School members got together last fall to walk the campus and map out all the areas needing care. Some areas are taken care of by the Maintenance Lawn Service and some gardens have been cared for by various church groups. The teachers wanted to have more opportunities for the Saint John's school children to care for their Earth and God's creations.

We are so very proud to announce that now ALL Saint John's children from Early Childhood classes through Fifth Grade are going to be more involved. Each grade level has agreed to take an area to maintain.

- The Early Childhood classes under Mrs. Smith's supervision will take care of the area alongside the building by her Science room.
- The Kindergarten classes will maintain the terrace garden with the cute little statues.
- The First Grade classes will take care of the garden outside of the Lower School Science room.
- The Second Graders (Howard County Jr. Garden Club) will continue to maintain the Alphabet Garden by the

EC playground.

- The Third and Fourth Grade classes will care for the slope along the ramp by the flagpole entrance.
- The Fifth Graders will weed and care for the new Labyrinth area.
- Mrs. Klingaman will also have various grade levels assist her with the upkeep of the Meadow by the EC playground.
- The Junior Master Gardeners afterschool group will care for the Butterfly Garden by the tulips as you drive in.

An Earth Day shower was held and children and parents were invited to participate in donating new tools and gloves for each grade level. All tools etc will be kept in new apple green labeled containers. We want to thank everyone so much for all the new items donated to the GREEN EARTH PATROL.

Our Wish List will be ongoing and will provide many opportunities for parents and grandparents to get involved and help the various grade levels with their areas. Groups of friends from the grade levels can also meet to weed over the summer. These are some of the things we still would like to see happen and need help with:

1. Flowers are always welcomed and appreciated. Just ask the individual teacher what they would like to have.
2. Each grade level would like to have a GO TO RESOURCE CONSULTANT who is either a Master Gardener or who has lots of gardening knowledge that they could email or ask questions or advice. If you are interested in such a position please email Anne Schoenhut to coordinate this. So far we only have such a resource for 5th Grade and that is Leonora Hoenes whose family donated the money for the Labyrinth and who is a member of the Howard County Garden Club.
3. We want to label each area so all know who is taking care of the gardens. If you have any sources or ideas we are currently researching and would appreciate your input. All signs have to be approved by the Grounds Committee.

So as you can see we are branching out. As we say in our Howard County Jr. Garden Club pledge, "We promise to do all in our power to take care of our trees, flowers, water, birds and butterflies and to watch for opportunities to make and keep our community clean and beautiful." Thanks for helping us GROW!

For any further information please contact Anne Schoenhut, second grade teacher, at ASchoenhut@stjohnsec.org.

Early Childhood

May is a busy month for our EC children!

- *May 1st from 1:00-4:00*, please bring your family to join in the fun at our Annual Spring Carnival. A new event will be the Dunking Booth! Come and see who will be dunked!!!
- *May 4th and 5th* are our Spring Sings - which will be held in the Auditorium (where we have Chapel and PE). The children will be wearing their t-shirts which

will be given to them the day of their program. The 2-day class will take the shirts home after their program. For all other classes, the shirts go home on Friday, after our field trip to Fairhaven. Since the children will be performing songs from the Spring Sings, we thought it would be fun if they wore their shirts.

- The residents of Fairhaven Retirement Community are looking forward to welcoming the children. It is always an eagerly anticipated event for them and us!
- *May 17th and 18th*, the children in our 3's classes will be visiting the Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills (watch for permission slips).
- *May 20th*, Transitional Kindergarten will be visiting Clark's Farm and doing a Pond Habitat tour.
- Field Day for all 3 & 5-day classes will be *Friday, May 21st*. Volunteers are still needed. Please sign up outside your child's classroom. Afternoon children will join the morning children and dismissal for all EC children will be at 11:45; including extended day 3's, full day 4's and Transitional Kindergarten.

From Donna Smith, EC Science Specialist

It is so exciting to see the overflowing basket of gardening tools and supplies you have donated to the science room in celebration of Earth Day. I am grateful for your generosity and support. The children and I look forward to using all of your wonderful gifts. Thank you.

Parents' Association

Spring Carnival - Please Help!

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! We also have over 30 high school students who are working at the Carnival, but we still need your help. The students are covering most of the shifts, but we must have parents selling tickets so the students are not responsible for handling any money. Please sign up at Volunteerspot.com or contact Kristen Connord at conordgirls2@comcast.net and she will sign you up. Thank You!

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.

Mother Son Lego Event

Thank you to all of the mothers and sons who attended our Lego and Sundae building event. There were over 110 couples in attendance and the evening was a smashing success. Many thanks to the Committee who planned the event from start to finish, Amy Abell, Kim Anderson, Sandy Kastantin, Amy Kelly and Julia Rineman, it would not have happened without them! Thanks to Amy Auman, Ellen Dan, Susan Lee and Pam Warburton for assembling the kits! Also, thanks to the AMAZING volunteers that evening, Julia and

Jason Abell, George Anderson, Kathy Dolan, Hannah and Matt Kline, Stephanie Havrilla, Sophie and Jeff Rives and Kara Windebank – you were terrific!

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.