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A note from Mr. Harrison

With September a distant memory and October having fledged by, we find ourselves squarely ensconced in the pre-holiday push that leads up to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Activities abound and schedules begin to get even busier just as the weather cools off and coats and gloves are necessary. This is a time when health issues become even more prevalent, especially with the flu concerns this year, so please be sure to help your children get lots of sleep, eat in healthy ways, and practice good hygiene (like washing hands and thoroughly covering mouths with the arm when coughing or sneezing) so that we all can stay healthy and active.

As a result of some of our special activities of late, I want to say a few "thanks you's" to people who have given hugely of their time and expertise to make our events successful. First, Julia Rineman and Katie Martinez were so creative with the Sally Foster displays and did a wonderful job running that (successful) fundraising effort for the PA.. Melissa Newsome, Jane Tolen and Anne Hanchett deserve abundant accolades for the planning and implementation of the Fall Wine and Cheese Social. By all accounts it was a delightful evening of fun and socialization, and we are thankful to these women and the Board of Trustees for their work and sponsorship. I also want to recognize Karen Clark, and Sue Holinsky, the masterminds behind our wildly wacky and stunningly successful Fall Family Fun Day. The rain held off and allowed us all to enjoy Halloween on campus with the "Trunk-or-Treat" cars and myriad of fun activities for the entire family last Saturday. Thank you all, and many others, for helping to make St. John's PDS a wonderful place to be!

Now for a few reminders and updates. 1) Please return any "Open House" yard signs so that we can reuse them next year. 2) Keep an eye on your mailboxes for the Annual

Fund materials that are coming soon, and please consider a generous gift or pledge to support St. John's Well-being: Now and Into the Future. 3) We ask that all families on our tuition payment plans be vigilant in adhering to their payment schedules. 4) Stay tuned for announcements soon about the availability of the H1N1 flu vaccine at St. John's. 5) Please consider joining us during Kindergarten Visit Days, November 17th, 18th, and 19th! These visits are for approximately ½ hour and reservations are required. Please call the Lower School office at 410-465-7644, ext. 212 to reserve a spot. 6) I have listed my November book selection on the SJPDS website. This month's selection is *Best Friends, Worst Enemies* by Michael Thompson, 2002 (ISBN:0-345-44289-X) about the relational and social lives of children. You can read a bit more about this and other selections on our website under the "For Our Families" section.

Lastly, I want to announce that I will be holding "Coffee and Conversation with the Headmaster" sessions on Thursday, November 19 at three different times on that day: 8:45 AM, 2:45 PM, and 6:00 PM. These sessions will be held in the Terrace Level Lobby by the fireplace (where we hope to have a roaring fire for our time together). These will be opportunities for parents, faculty, staff, and friends to spend unstructured time for us to get to know each other better, ask questions, and chat about topics of your choosing. I hope you will consider stopping by at one of these times to chat!

Have a fulfilling November,
Steve Harrison, Headmaster

For all Early Childhood Families



**Early Childhood Thanksgiving
Services - Tuesday, November 24th**

We invite the families of our 2 and 5-day classes to be a part of our Thanksgiving Services in the Church at 10:45 (morning classes) and 2:00 (afternoon and full day classes). Chaplain Jenni will join us as we give thanks for all of God's gifts.

As this is a Church Service, we request that no cameras, including video, be brought into the Sanctuary. If younger children become restless, please feel free to walk them to the vestibule.

Children will come to school at the regular times, but dismissal will be earlier than usual (at approximately 11:15-including extended day 3's and 2:20). After the Services, the children will be dismissed from their classrooms. There will be no extended day for 3's as well as no aftercare for all classes.

We hope you will be able to join us, as we celebrate all those things for which we are thankful.

For all Lower School Families

Reminders

Lower School will be closed Monday, November 9th. The staff will be enjoying the annual AIMS conference.

Thanksgiving Baskets



Please be reminded that we are collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed to families in need! Each classroom is collecting for one particular family. Specific donation lists are posted outside the classrooms.

Please indicate your donation by signing up on the class sheet. If you are able to, please purchase the largest cans, boxes or jars of your items, as the families are large. The last day for the collection will be at noon on Thursday, November 12th . These gifts of food will be presented by the children at our daily Chapel services. Parishioners will deliver the baskets Sunday, November 15th. Thank you for your generous support!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Our next parent teacher conferences are scheduled for the afternoon on both Monday, Nov. 23rd and Tuesday, Nov. 24th. Conference sign-up sheets will be hung outside of classrooms starting Friday, Nov. 6th. If the conference times listed are not convenient for you, please see your classroom teacher to arrange another time. To schedule a conference with a specialist teacher, please contact them directly.

Monday, Nov. 23rd - Lower School Early Dismissal for Conferences (There is extended day care, after care and drop-in conference care)

Tuesday, Nov. 24th - Lower School Early Dismissal for Conferences (There is drop-in conference care, but there is no extended day care or after care.)

Please Bring Fabric for Special Chapel Week

November 10-13 will be a special chapel week for the Lower School division at St. John's. We will be celebrating together our Creativity that Comes from God!

Chaplain Jenni will be visiting classrooms during that week, and part of the week before, to involve the students in a special liturgical art project. Each student is asked to bring in a long strip (up to 3 ft) of fabric, ribbon, or other material from home to weave into a banner for our worship space. The fabric may be patterned or plain, but should feature one of the liturgical colors of our church year: Blue, White, Green, Purple, or Red. (For the church year, these are true, rich colors rather than pastels or neons). The fabric may be new material, or may be taken from something you already have.

Please bring in your fabric **beginning Monday, November 2nd** to be ready for your classroom visit! You may want to bring it in a Ziploc bag labeled with your name for safekeeping.

Child Care

Conferences for Lower School parents on Nov. 23rd, Nov. 24th, March 15th and May 21st will have drop-in child care. There will not be extended day care or after care on Nov. 24th, Dec. 18th, and June 11th.

Happy All Souls Day,
Tiffany Rath
trath@stjohnsec.org

Parents' Association



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING: Please save the date for our Parents' Association General Meeting to be held on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 pm.

FALL FAMILY FUN DAY: Thank you to all our volunteers who made Fall Family Fun Day such a success! We appreciate all our Early Childhood and Lower School families who assisted at the welcome tent, facepainting lines, craft tables, made baked goods, worked at the bake sale table, and helped set up and

clean up. We are especially thankful to the families who participated in our first Trunk-or-Treat! Congratulations to the Martinez family who won the Best Trunk contest for their creative Alice in Wonderland themed trunk. They received a premium parking space for the month of November.

A special thank you to the following people who went the extra mile to help make Fall Family Fun Day run smoothly: Julia Rineman, Lisa Hermodsson, Chris Richardson, John Pirie, Marilyn Faura, Dee Kille, Don Cressin, and Seble Shiferan.

SPIRIT WEAR IS COMING: Thanks to all who stopped by the Spirit Wear display at Fall Family Fun Day. Look for new items coming soon! Spirit Wear will make great holiday gifts! If you have questions or would like to place an order, please contact Amy Auman at amyauman@gmail.com, Jennifer Walker at jlwalker9320@comcast.net, or Pat Weibking at clapton824@aol.com.

SPRING CARNIVAL PLANNING MEETING: Would you like to help plan an event that will be an absolute blast for families? Then please join us to talk about the Spring Carnival! There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, November 11th from 9 - 10 a.m. first floor of Clark House. We will be discussing volunteer opportunities and answering questions about the planning of the carnival. Attending this meeting does not automatically place you on the Carnival Planning Team. Just come and hear what it's all about and hopefully you will be inspired join us. See you there!

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS: Save the Date! Our second annual walk through the festive Symphony of Lights will be held on Friday, December 11 from 4:30 to 5:45. More information on how to participate is coming soon. Please contact Sue Holinsky at theholinskys@comcast.net or Karen Clark at kccphoto@gmail.com for more information.

ATTENTION ALL JUICE DRINKERS...HELP THE PLANET, HELP OUR GREEN SCHOOL INITIATIVE!!! St John's PDS PA is pleased to announce a new recycling program as part of this year's passive-fundraising



efforts. The school will receive 2 cents for every CAPRI SUN, HONEST KIDS and KOOL-AID drink pouch you send in. The juice pouches will then be upcycled into pencil cases, backpacks and handbags. Please help us earn money for our school while contributing to our Green School recycling efforts. Please deposit your empty juice pouches in the Neon-Orange recycling bins located in the main foyer, cafeteria, and 2nd floor commons. For more information, please visit www.terracycle.net or contact Amy Paulino at leettle1ames@yahoo.com.

GROCERY CARD REMINDER: Please register or renew your GIANT, SAFEWAY, TARGET and HARRIS TEETER cards by Nov. 1, 2009. Contact Amy Paulino with any questions or concerns: leettle1ames@yahoo.com

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. Names are still being compiled for the September and October winners.

Congratulations to our August Winner of a Starbucks Gift Card, Amy Kelly, who helped with our Preschool Popsicles events this summer!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH PARKING: Take a look at the premium parking spot in front of Clark House that will be awarded to the winner of our Volunteer of the Month drawing. All November volunteers will be entered in a random drawing to win the coveted spot for the chilly month of December. Please remember to honor their hard work for our school by leaving the space open for the winner weekdays from 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Sign in at the Front Office to be eligible for the drawing.

UPCOMING PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

- Wednesday, November 11 - Spring Carnival Planning Meeting from 9:00 - 10:00 am
- Thursday, November 19 - PA General Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 1 - Dining Out at Mimi's Cafe
- Friday, December 11 - Symphony of Lights Walk-Through from 4:30 - 5:45 pm

Kindergarten Visits

Experience firsthand our outstanding kindergarten program by joining us during Kindergarten Visit Days, November 17th, 18th, and 19th! Visits are for approximately ½ hour and reservations are required. Please call the Lower School office at 410-465-7644, ext. 212 to reserve a spot.

Book Fair



The Book Fair will be open Thursday night from 7:30-8:30 pm. Our last day will be Friday November 6 from 8:15 am - 4 pm. If you haven't had a chance to stop by the media center this week, please come by & check out the great books and other goodies we have for sale. All proceeds benefit the media center. Remember to check your child's teacher's "Wish Bin" for books they would like donated for their classrooms. We thank you for your support and are especially grateful for our fabulous volunteers! If anyone can help us pack up Friday afternoon, we'd love some extra hands from 4- 5 pm. See you at the Book Fair

Spring Carnival

Would you like to help plan an event that will be an absolute blast for families?

Then please join us to talk about the Spring Carnival! There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, November 11th from 9 - 10 a.m. in 1st floor

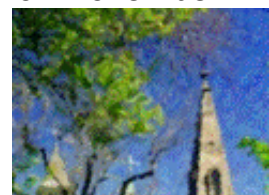


conference room at Clark House. We will be discussing volunteer opportunities and answering questions about the planning of the carnival. Attending this meeting does not automatically place you on the Carnival Planning Team. Just come and hear what it's all about and hopefully you will be inspired join us. See you there!

SJPDS Sunday

Come celebrate Parish Day School Sunday on November 15th!

Each year St. John's Church looks forward to celebrating St. John's Parish Day School, and our church and school



common life, on a designated Sunday with special prayers, music, and readings. All PDS families are warmly invited to attend the 9 am service in the Historic Church on Sunday, November 15th. St. John's students, who will be singing during the service, are asked to wear their uniforms.



St. John's also welcomes all children, including visitors, for Sunday School at 10:30 am. For help in finding your classroom or with any other questions, please check in that morning with Nancy Narrett, our director of Children's Faith Formation, at the Sunday School table located near the Lower School office.

Our Episcopal Life

How we care for each other in community both expresses and shapes our values - we care for one another at St. John's because we honor each individual as a whole person, and seek their well-being in body, mind and spirit; and as we take steps to reach out and care for one another, we become the loving place for children and families that we desire to be.

While the whole community participates in acts of caring at St. John's, we have formed a special team (called the c3 committee: care, community, collegiality) to coordinate our support to students, families, and staff. If your family is going through a difficult time, if sorrows or joys arise, please



let us know so that we may reach out to you. We will begin publishing a community prayer list in our weekly newsletter, and we invite you to offer your concerns or thanksgivings for the St. John's family to

hold in prayer. You may contact us by speaking to the school office, by talking to a teacher, or by contacting me in the church office (410-461-7793). We really do want to hear what is happening in the lives of our students and families.

Also, after Lower School Chapel on Thursdays I am usually available in the Historic Church until 4pm. You may stop in to chat, or just to have a moment of quiet in our beautiful worship space.

Chaplain Jenni

Upcoming Church Events

Season Opener: VIVA ITALIA!

Sunday, November 8th at 4 PM, marks the opening concert of the Orchestra of St. John's, Howard County's first professional orchestra, composed of 15-30 professional musicians selected from a wealth of regional talent!

The concert will be performed in the Church, with light refreshments to follow. Tickets are \$15 for adults; admission is free for those under 18, accompanied by an adult.

To learn more about the Orchestra of St. John's, and listen to excerpts from previous concerts, please visit the orchestra's website at www.orchestraofstjohns.org.

We hope to see you there!

Yard Sign Return

Thank you to all the families who have placed a yard sign in their yard to advertise the Lower School SJPDS open houses. Please return the yard signs to the box in the Lower School lobby.

Mistletoe Village

We are happy to announce our 1st annual Mistletoe Village- "A Gift Boutique", your one-stop shopping for holiday gifts. A collection of vendors will be on hand with a wide variety of specialty items. This event will be held in All Saints Hall on Thursday, Dec 3 from 6-10 PM that evening. Admission is free, and a portion of the proceeds go to SJPDS. Come out and support the school as well as local small businesses while getting your shopping done. Fliers with more information will be coming home soon.



Do you have a home-based business or provide a service? Sign up today to participate as a vendor. SJPDS families will have priority registration from now until 10/14, when outside vendors may begin to register until 11/16. Only one rep per company, first come, or -

first served. To take part as a vendor or for more information, please contact Lisa Hermodsson at Hermodsson@verizon.net or (410) 696-2797 or Tracie Feron at tracie.feron@verizon.net (410) 750-3191.

Thank you



Thank you to all of the parents who guided Open House tours the past few weeks. The prospective families have truly appreciated hearing about your experiences here at St. John's.

Upcoming Events

Mon. Nov. 9th - Lower School Closed for AIMS conference

Wed., Nov. 11 - Transitional Kindergarten to Sharp's Farm for a Pilgrim History visit

Thurs., Nov. 12 - School picture retakes for Early Childhood

Sun. Nov. 15th - SJPDS Sunday at 9:00 AM
- Adult Forum with Steve Harrison at 10:15 at SJEC

Wed. Nov. 18th - Nov. 20th - 5th grade Echo Hill Outdoor Education trip

Friday, Nov. 20th - Lower School Report cards will be sent home in backpacks

Monday, Nov. 23rd - Lower School Early Dismissal for Conferences

Tuesday, Nov. 24th - Lower School Early Dismissal for Conferences

Tuesday, Nov. 24 - EC Thanksgiving Services in the Church

Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 25-27 - School Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Monday, Nov. 30 - School resumes

Wednesday, Dec. 2nd - PA Dining Night Out - Mimi's Cafe - 5:00 - 10:00 PM



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