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St. John's Parish Day School Newsletter

A Note from the Headmaster

Excitement is in the air! School has begun, at least for the Lower School, and it will start for the Early Childhood program on Monday. Few times in our lives match the thrill and positive anticipation that the start of school brings for our children. The fact that this is so at St. John's is no surprise for our families, and yet, in today's world, this positive level of expectation in children for school seems to be increasingly hard to find in the general society. While the wide range of students in the U.S. might be glad to be back with their friends when school first starts each fall, the novelty soon wears off and students elsewhere often become somewhat bored in their classes and dislike school. What is novel about St. John's students is that while they excited for school to start, this excitement does not soon wear off - in fact, our students love coming to school all year long. Nothing is more thrilling than seeing happy, smiling children hop out of cars in the morning, eager to get to their classes for another day of academics, athletics, and artistic encounters.

St. John's students know they are loved, challenged, and nurtured here, and they respond positively to this environment. For them, school is fun, learning is fun, faith formation is fun, and being allowed truly to remain children for a bit longer is fun. Our students love school, and it shows, both at St. John's and beyond. One feature of our graduates that receives frequent comments from successor schools is that a graduate of St. John's stands above other students in their public and independent schools in their joy of learning and ability to succeed in those settings. May this

always be so for our children!

Have a wonderful academic year at St. John's!

Grace and Peace,
Steve Harrison, Headmaster



Mbaikini School Visit By, Mrs. Green

St. John's Church and School has adopted a sister school in Kenya, the Mbaikini Primary School. Money has been raised over the past several years to build them a fence around their school yard, a water tank, and now a resource center. Members of the church and school visited the Mbaikini School this summer for the second time. Enjoy a description of Mrs. Green's visit below, our P.E. and third grade teacher.

It is so difficult to put my visit to the Mbaikini Primary School into words. I think the word I've been using most to describe it is amazing. It was a wonderful combination of spirituality and humanity. Not a day went by that we did not hear the melodious sounds of singing, drumming, and dancing. I'd also like to say thank you to all of you who have supported this wonderful outreach in some way. I wish you could have been there to see the children's faces light up when we were handing out the t-shirts and the soccer balls. They may have little in terms of material goods, but they have so much in love, joy, and learning. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with the students and the community in the next few weeks. The schools in Wamunyu, Kenya are experiencing a severe drought which makes it difficult for students to attend school. If you are so inclined, please visit the Kenya Connect website to make a donation to their famine relief campaign.

I am also pleased to announce that James Musyoka, Field Director for Kenya Connect in Wamunyu, will be coming to St. John's Church and the day school this month. He will be visiting the church and attending services on September

20th followed by a visit to SJPDS on Monday, the 21st. This is James' first visit to the US so we hope to make it a memorable one with lots of singing, dancing, and what we Americans do best - food!



H1N1 Preparedness

H1N1 Preparedness
By Lisa Morgan R.N.
School Nurse

The new school year is upon us. Along with all of usual new school year tasks, we at St. John's have already been discussing how the school will be preparing to deal with the H1N1 flu. No one really knows how many people will be affected or how severely they will be affected, but we are following some guidelines developed last year.

1. We will continue to encourage the use of hand washing with soap and water whenever possible. We are putting signs in the bathrooms and by classroom sinks to teach children how to properly wash hands.
2. We will be teaching children how to use tissues and to cough and sneeze in tissues or their sleeve. We will be teaching them to wash their hands after they use a tissue.
3. We will be drinking out of cups instead of the water fountains. The fountains will be used to fill pitchers of water, but we are discouraging people from drinking directly out of them.
4. Students and staff with a temperature of 100 F or greater will be sent home from school and may not return until they have been fever free without the use of medicines such as Advil or Tylenol for 24 hours. This is our school policy for any illness, not just flu symptoms.

I have been in contact with the Howard County Health Department and the State of Maryland about possibly

providing flu vaccines to students, but I do not have positive confirmation as of yet.

Please email me at lmorgan@stjohnsec.org with any questions or concerns.

*Mrs. Morgan will be here each day of the week for all our students at St. John's from 9:30 - 1:00. If your child is ill after 1:00, they will come to the office.

Legacy Stones

Each graduating fifth grade class from St. John's has created or donated a particular gift to the school in memory of their class called the legacy gift. Our first graduating class designed their own St. John's flag and our second class donated a roly pig composter, used on our Waste Free Wednesdays. Out my window every morning, I see the wonderful gift from the 08/09 graduates. Each of the twenty-seven students and two teachers created a stone embedded with tiles that each have their own design and flair.



Over the summer the graduates and their parents came to help arrange the stones and plants. The twenty-nine stones are artistically arranged over the hill between Clark House and the front doors of the school in the heart of the campus. While the alumni enjoyed putting the well-made stones on the hill, it was apparent how happy they were to see each other. Mrs Bates, who taught fifth grade last year, commented on how excited the students were to do the last part of the project themselves, but were more excited to see each other.

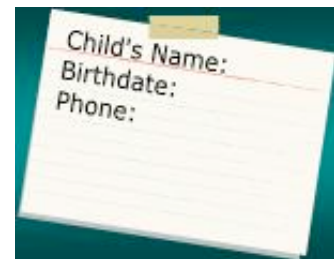
Even though each child made a similar stone, the art formed with the tiles was designed by each student. The legacy stones similar form highlights how well the class worked together and the sense of a cohesive team they created. The artistic tile design of each stone shows the honored uniqueness and varied gifts each alumni brought to the class. In the nurturing garden of St. John's, all the fifth graders grew to know who they were and felt confident to

share that with the world.

Thank you to all the Fifth graders for the creation and planting of the stones, and to the fifth grade parents for their donations and hard work. Mary Silver deserves a special thank you for all her additional time and effort. Thank you as well to Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Obrebska for their efforts with the legacy stones and throughout their fifth grade year. The legacy stones are a special gift and we ask that students enjoy viewing the stones, but avoid stepping on them or walking in the garden. These stones each represent a person and their precious moments at St. John's.

Preschool/Early Childhood Families

Information for all of our Preschool/Early Childhood families:



We look forward to welcoming you on Thursday and Friday, 9/10 & 11, at our Get Acquainted Days. Please bring any outstanding forms to the Early Childhood office. Additionally, medication orders and medications should go to Nurse Lisa Morgan. Her office is on the first floor in the Early Childhood wing.

So that we are always able to connect with you, please advise us of any changes to your e-mail address or phone number.

Parent Association

Welcome! We are so excited about the upcoming year and thankful to so many of you who took the time to attend the Preschool Socials and the All-School Picnic prior to the start of school!



We all have a million things to do with the start of school, but I am going to add to the list anyway! You can help the Parents Association by completing the items on this PA "To Do" list!

Thank you,

**Colleen Rives
PA President**

- 1. Sign up to receive PA emails, receive reminders about PA events, be able to download PA forms and view the SJPDS calendar. Send an email to sjpbs_pa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.**
- 2. Send in your completed Orioles Tickets Order Form. Tickets are limited and over 100 have already been sold.**
- 3. Start saving Box Tops and register your Giant, Safeway, and Target cards so SJPDS receives credit for your purchases.**
- 4. Turn in your Pizza Friday orders, if you haven't done so!**
- 5. Bring your checkbooks to BTS Night and check out our new Spirit Wear items!**

Our Episcopal Life

**Our Episcopal Life
Chaplain Jenni**



This column in our weekly newsletter will reflect our common life in God and our Episcopal identity at St. John's. Check here for updates on weekly chapel themes for your family to continue conversations at home, for news about special celebrations and events, suggested resources and book reviews, and other items that will help us grow in community and in faith.

Lower School Chapel

In the next few weeks of chapel, we will be exploring our life of worship: what we see and do in church, what we sing and say in church, and what we hear in church. Be ready to learn some new songs and prayers, and perhaps even venture to write your own.

One Worship

Sunday, September 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Front Lawn the entire St. John's Community will join in one worship service. On this day, all five worshipping congregations join together, which is followed by the Parish Fair. Please come and enjoy the morning with your Friends and Family here at St. John's!



Thank you!

A big thank you to the Parent's Association for all their hard work and shared talents already this year. All the staff had a delicious lunch provided at our retreat, cooked by Kristen Conord. A lovely picnic was coordinated by Amy Paulino to welcome back all our families. The staff greatly appreciated our gift, the "green friendly" St. John's shopping bags. Thank you to all the parents who made these events a success!



Reminders

Mon. Sept. 14th - Lunchbox begins
- First Day of Preschool/Early Childhood

Fri. Sept. 18th - Pizza Friday begins

Tues. Sept 22nd - Back to School Night for Kindergarten through Second grade at 6:30 in ASH.

Wed. Sept. 23rd - Back to School Night for Preschool/Early Childhood at 6:30 in ASH

Thurs. Sept. 24th - Back to School Night for Third through Fifth grade at 6:30 in ASH

Fri. Sept. 25th - Lower School Early Dismissal at 12:00

"It is not so much what is poured into a student, but what is planted that counts."

Unknown



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