



St. John The Baptist Catholic School Newsletter

November 19, 2009

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Articles due by noon Monday for Wednesday publication
to Mike Smalley at mssmalley@stjohns-savage.org.

Mrs. Behnke's Corner

**Can you spell the word aardvark or quadrangle?
These are just a couple of the words given to the Spelling
Bee Contestants AND they were spelled correctly!**

We would like to thank all of our spelling bee contestants. Great Job!

Congratulations to our top three Spellers:

Jacque Luth
Elissa Kapusinski
Charlie Fox



Jacque and Elissa will be competing in the District 191 Spelling championship on Monday, December 21, at the Mraz Center at the Burnsville High School beginning at 7:00 pm.

A special Thank You to Mrs. Rimnac for her organization for this school event.

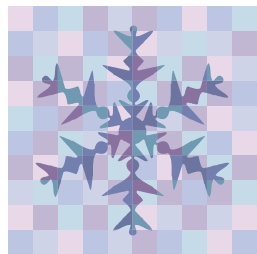
Upcoming Events

November

- 22 - Turkey Bingo
- 22 - Youth Bingo, 6:30-8:30pm
- 24 - Steppingstones Thanksgiving Feast
- 24 - Middle School Fine Arts Performance, 7pm
- 25 - Steppingstones Thanksgiving Feast
- 25 - NO RE
- 26 - NO SCHOOL - Happy Thanksgiving
- 27 - NO SCHOOL
- 29 - Advent Begins
- 30 - Advent Service 10:50 in church

December

- 1 - SAC, 7pm
- 2 - RE
- 3 - Mass, 9:25am
- 3 - Winterfest, 6pm
- 4 - St. Nicholas Day
- 4 - End of 1st Trimester
- 6 - Children's Shopping Spree
- 7 - Advent Service 10:50 in church
- 8 - LATE START, 11:15am
- 8 - Mass, 2:30pm
Immaculate Conception
- 9 - RE, Large Gathering
- 13 - Barnes & Noble/Home & School Fundraiser
- 14 - Advent Service
- 14 - Home & School Mtg., 7:30pm
- 14 - Davanni's Night
- 15 - Christmas Concert, 7pm
Grades 2, 3, and 5



Savage Winterfest

Join us at Savage Winterfest Thursday, December 3 from 5 - 8 pm. Our 5th graders will be welcoming Santa at 6:00pm in song at The Depot, downtown Savage with tree lighting at 6:15pm. Enjoy many other fun festivities throughout the evening.

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1st Trimester Fine Arts Performance

All are welcome to join the middle school students in celebrating “God’s Building – God as the Architect” next Tuesday. Performances will be at 2:30 and 7 pm in the auditorium.

All middle school music students should report at 6:45 – 6th grade to 313, 7th grade to 302, and 8th grade to 311.
Mrs. Urbina, Music Teacher

Fine Arts Program

The St. John's Fine Arts Program is Tuesday November 24th; the theme this year is Building God's Home. The activities that will be included are Mrs. Urbina's sixth, seventh and eighth grade music classes, Mrs. Politt's sixth and eighth grade technology classes, and Mrs. Piquette's sixth, seventh and eighth grade art classes. There will be different varieties of artwork, technology and music. The music portion demonstrates the creation story with many different types of instruments. The technology portion is displaying wonderful movies documenting God's work such as The Seven Wonders of The World. The art portion includes forms of unique artwork that vary from plastered masks to landscapes. Hope to see you on Tuesday!

Corie, Grade7

Ski Club News

Ski Club registration are currently being accepted for the winter season. Students grades 3 to 8 are invited to participate in this extra curricular activity. Forms and Welcome letter were sent via email on Wednesday, Nov. 18. They are available on our website www.stjohns-savage.org for download. Any questions please contact Jane Hurinenko at 952-892-7664 or hurinenko6@msn.com.

St. John's Marketing Committee

St. John's Marketing Committee would like to recognize and thank Denise Bauer, Julian and Jeanine Streit, and Tim Malone for spreading the word to new families about our school. We had a very successful Open House last night and are so thankful to current families who continue the word of mouth campaign, telling friends and neighbors about what a terrific school we have at St. John's. Our next Open House will be January 12th, please keep spreading the word!

Influenza Update - Nov. 17, 2009

By Dawn Willson
Director of Health Services
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

Absentee rates return to normal

While the threat of H1N1 and seasonal influenza is still present, our district has seen a decline in the number of persons who are reporting Influenza Like Illness. All buildings are now experiencing an absentee rate similar to what it would normally be on a daily basis at this time of year.

Continue to follow health recommendations

Even though the numbers seem to be decreasing, the national Center for Disease Control (CDC) anticipates there could be additional waves of influenza illness and the numbers could spike again. For this reason, we should continue to do what we can to prevent the spread of illness: Wash hands frequently, cover coughs/sneezes, remain home when ill and receive an influenza shot as soon as the vaccine is available.

Vaccination clinic will be scheduled

Scott and Dakota Counties have agreed that Dakota County Public Health will schedule an H1N1 vaccination clinic at the Burnsville High School when vaccine becomes available. This clinic will be for all families in our district, including those who live in Scott County. We will share the specific dates/times for the clinic as soon as we are informed.

Our New Friends

Friday, November 13th, all students had the opportunity to invite a special guest or grandparents to come to the school Mass and/or have a tour of the school. Mrs. Diedrick's seventh grade Religion class and Mrs. Calices' fifth grade class have been emailing seniors at Augustana Regent. They email the seniors once a week and wait for a reply. The great thing about this is that they get to meet and learn about new people. On grandparent's day the seniors visited the school and attended the school Mass. It was a great experience for the children, seniors, special guests, and grandparents.

Corie, grade 7

Have Fun While Serving Your School

St. John's is fortunate to have a group of dedicated students called the Student Service Council. Megan C., 7th grader has been serving for over a year. She has helped the school with things they need. She said, "we have helped organize Catholic Schools Week, volunteered at the marathon, served pancakes at the pancake breakfast, and decorated the school with posters." Anyone can get involved when they are in 6th-8th grade. Volunteering for Student Service Council even counts toward service hours! This group of students meets the third Friday of every month at 8:15AM, in the computer lab. We meet tomorrow morning. Hope to see you there.

~ Nicole, 7th grade

Alumni News

SJB Alum invited to perform at Carnegie Hall.

"Bridget Keenan, SJB class of 2006, who grew up singing at St. John's, is a member of the FreeStyle Jazz Vocal group at Burnsville High School. FreeStyle has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in April of 2010. Bridget's group will be presenting a Jazz Brunch on Saturday, November 21 at Chataeu LaMothe in Burnsville. They will also be singing at the Burnsville Tree Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, November 25 as well as various Holiday concerts. For more information (and audio/video clips), you can visit their web site at www.freestylechoir.org"

Holy Angels to present Star Child

Show dates are December 4 and 5

Begin your holiday season with a performance of *Star Child*—a celebration of the season in music and words, featuring the music of David Haas. *Star Child* is presented by the students at the Academy of Holy Angels (AHA) and its Starlight Productions theater company. Holy Angels is located at 6600 Nicollet Avenue S., Richfield. *Star Child* is a one-hour show perfect for every member of the family. Public performances are Friday, December 4, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 5, at 4 and 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$5. Neighboring elementary schools will receive special invitations to one of two Friday, December 4, matinee performances. For more information, call 612-798-2612.

Christmas at the Academy

It's become a holiday tradition! Enjoy holiday carols and music by candlelight during *Christmas at the Academy* on Wednesday, December 16, at 7 p.m. at the Academy of Holy Angels. There is no admission charge for *Christmas at the Academy*, but a freewill donation is accepted. The Concert Choir, Academy Singers and Praise Group will perform with instrumentalists in the Holy Angels chapel. After refreshments, the audience will move to the theater for the Academy Jazz Band and Concert Band performances followed by a holiday sing along.

Burnsville High School Boys swimming team

Burnsville High School Boys swimming team is looking for new swimmers. Any 7th or 8th grade boys interested in swimming should contact coach Dettmann at daviddettmann@hotmail.com. Any skill level is welcome and our first day of practice is Nov. 30th at 5pm in the Burnsville High School Pool. See attached flier for further information.



Faith Community News



VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children

is an adult training program that focuses on preventing child sexual abuse and is required for all adult volunteers working with youth at St. John's. It includes facts and myths about abuse as well as a five-step process to protect children. The next training session is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6pm, in the parish center and is open to all adults over the age of 18. To register go on-line to www.virtus.org and click on *Registration*. If you cannot register on-line or have questions call Tracy at 952.890.9465, ext. 118.

ADVENT-ure into the Season

Everyone is invited to celebrate the Season of Advent on Friday, Dec. 4, from 7-9pm, in the parish center. There will be a variety of activities for all ages including creating an Advent wreath from live greenery. Cost is \$10 per family. Pre-registration is required; a minimum of 10 families is required for this event to occur. Registration forms are available on-line at www.stjohns-savage.org and in the atrium or parish and education offices.

**Adults, teens and Confirmation candidates who are looking for a great service opportunity are welcome to volunteer to help younger participants at activity stations. To learn more about St. John's *ADVENT-ure* or to volunteer, contact Andi Little at alittle@stjohns-savage.org or call 952.890.9434.

Steve Angrisano in concert at LIFELINE

Steve Angrisano is an internationally known Catholic musician, songwriter and witness. He will be in concert at NET Ministries LIFELINE on Saturday, Dec. 5. Meet at door #1 at 4:30 pm. (LIFELINE doors open at 5:30pm) with planned return to St. John's by 11 pm. The concert will be part of an evening which also includes Mass and presentation by Fr. Nels Gjengdahl. **Tickets are required for this event.** Cost if registered before Nov. 23 is \$10 per person; after Nov. 23 cost is \$20 per person. Depending on the number of people attending, a bus may be reserved at an additional cost of \$5 per person; otherwise, transportation to and from West St. Paul will be by car. Adult chaperones also are needed!

Registration materials are available on-line at www.stjohns-savage.org and in the education office. For more information contact Lori Taormina at taormina@stjohns-savage.org or 952.890.9434.

**Adult chaperones need to have completed a background check and VIRTUS training. If carpools are to be used, all driver/chaperones also must have completed a driver's check. To check on your status or to get background check materials, contact Tracy Tredinnick at tredinnick@stjohns-savage.org or call 952.890.9465, ext. 118.*

Turkey Bingo

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an evening of Turkey Bingo and a turkey sandwich dinner on Sunday, Nov. 22, in the school gym. Doors will open at 5pm for dinner. Cost is \$5. Bingo starts at 6pm. \$5 per card plays all evening. Bring your family, invite your friends and take a chance to bring home a Thanksgiving turkey. There will be a raffle for additional prizes, too. All proceeds will go toward our Sister Parish Vacation Bible School in 2010.

Children's Shopping Spree

Children in grades 6 and under, here's your chance to shop for mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grandmas and grandpas at great prices. It's the Children's Shopping Spree. Mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec. 6, from 8am-12:30pm, in the parish center. Gifts are priced from \$.50 cents to \$3.50. Santa's helpers will assist the young shoppers in choosing their gifts. We are in need of adult volunteers that are VIRTUS trained to supervise tables during the Children's Shopping Spree. If you can share a few hours of your time, contact Lori Kapusinski by e-mail at kapusins@integraonline.com or by phone at 952.226.5372. Donations of new items, cash or nicely handcrafted items may be brought to the parish or education offices.

Save the Date

The Adult Faith Formation Committee will host a Men's Breakfast on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 12, with guest speaker John Crudele. Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.



Faith Community News



Schwan's Fundraiser

Schwan's Truck returns to St. John's on Dec. 16 Starting Sunday, Nov. 22 at Turkey Bingo, St. John's parishioners, their friends and family members can order holiday delights such as seasonal pies and hors d'oeuvres for their Christmas parties and celebrations from Schwan's and help raise money to help us create a Vacation Bible School experience for the children of our sister parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary, in Houston, Miss. Order forms and catalogs, which include a wide variety of seasonal specials as well as traditional Schwan's favorites, are available in the atrium and parish and education offices. Pre-orders will be taken until noon, Monday, Dec. 14 for guaranteed delivery on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The Schwan's fundraising truck will be in the church parking lot from 4 to 7 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 16. At that time, you also may purchase items without pre-orders then, but some items may be limited. No payment is due until delivery is made. Schwan's also offers the opportunity to purchase gift cards for family, friends and others as a perfect gift for those "hard-to-buy-for" people on your Christmas giving list. This year, Schwan's also is offering a special calendar for purchase for \$7.99 which contains coupon savings of over \$150. For more information or to place a Schwan's order for IHM VBS, contact Andi Little at alittle@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434.

Thank you FMSC volunteers!

A huge, heart-felt THANK YOU goes to the 80 St. John's parishioners -- children and adults -- packaged enough meals in their two-hour shift to feed 37 children for ONE year at the Chanhassen site of Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, Nov. 14. Your generous gift of time and energy is truly appreciated. A very special thank you to First Student bus driver Karen Klein, too, who donated her time to provide bus transportation to and from the FMSC site. Another parish-wide trip to FMSC will be planned for Spring 2010. Watch the bulletin for details.

First Reconciliation was celebrated Nov. 17

More than 20 priests gathered at St. John's to hear confessions at our parish celebration of First Reconciliation on Tuesday, Nov. 17. We thank them for their presence as our parish children experienced God's sacrament of healing for the first time. Children who prepared for this sacrament who were unable to attend the communal penance service are welcome to celebrate Reconciliation with the parish during its Advent Penance Service at 2pm, Sunday, Dec. 20, or to make a private confession on any Saturday, starting at 3:30pm, in the church. For more information about St. John's preparation for the first sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, contact Andi Little, director of faith formation, at alittle@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434.

Operation Christmas Child

Confirmation candidates and young people in our school and religious education programs will be going to the Operation Christmas Child packing center at a variety of times in the next few weeks. All parishioners are more than welcome to pack a shoe box for OCC -- for a girl or a boy who may have never experienced the joy of receiving a gift -- and our teens will bring them to the center on their packing dates. To learn more about Operation Christmas Child and what to pack in a box, visit: www.samaritanspurse.org or pick up a flyer in the Education Office. Packed shoe boxes should be brought to the Education Office no later than Wednesday, Dec. 2, to ensure they are ready for overseas delivery. To learn more, call (952) 890-9434.

December Adult CCD features An Evening of Advent Reflection

Celebrate the joyful anticipation of the Advent season with an evening of reflection facilitated by Lori Dahlhoff, musician, teacher and catechesis specialist on the Archdiocesan parish services team, on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 6:30-8pm in the atrium. Lori works to build bridges between the richness of people's daily lives and the banquet of the Catholic Tradition. Adult CCD (Catholicism, Coffee and Dessert) is hosted by members of St. John's Adult Faith Formation Committee. There is no cost to attend and everyone is welcome. There is no cost to attend and everyone is welcome.