



St. John The Baptist Catholic School *Newsletter*

September 30, 2009

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Sycamore: <https://www.sycamoreeducation.com/index.php?schoolid=1520>

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

Mrs. Behnke's Corner



Introducing Jody Hissam, Counselor

I'm Jody Hissam, and I'm one of the counselors here at St. John's. I went to Gustavus Adolphus College and received my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology. Earlier this year, I completed a

Master's Degree program in K-12 School Counseling at Minnesota State University – Mankato. I spent last school year as a counselor intern at Eagan High School, Nicollet Junior High School, and Gatewood Elementary School. I have been blessed this year with a counseling position, and I split my time between St. John's and Nicollet JHS. I have a passion for helping students of all ages, and look forward to getting to know and working with them. I am so excited to be at St. John's and I thank everyone for being so welcoming and helpful!

Sycamore Education System – I truly hope that you are signing on so that you can stay connected and informed about your child's school, grades, attendance, lunch, activities, etc. Many parents are finding the new system very user friendly and much easier to navigate than our previous system. We do envision Sycamore to become our prominent mode of communication as the teachers and administration continues to learn the functionalities; therefore, it is to your benefit to sign on and get connected. We have asked the technology committee to put together examples/screen shots of how tos which we hope will be helpful. The examples will be added to our school newsletter beginning next week. We also encourage you to contact the school office for help if needed.

Upcoming Events

October

- 1 - Mass, 9:25am
- 1 - 7th Grade Retreat
- 3 - Marathon, 9am
- 3 - Anniversary Celebration
 - Amazing Race, 1-3pm
 - Mass, 5pm
 - Hog Roast/Dance, 6-10pm
- 4 - Anniversary Celebration
- 4 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm
- 5 - Climb Theater, 7th Grade, 10am
- 6 - SAC Mtg., 7pm
- 7 - RE
- 8 - Mass, 9:25am
- NO SCHOOL - MEA Break**
October 12 - 16, 2009
- 19 - Home & School Mtg., 7:30pm
- 21 - VIRTUS, 9am
- 21 - RE, Large Group
- 22 - Mass, 9:25am
- 23 - Middle School Dance, 6:30pm
- 23 - Mid-Trimester 1
- 24 - WEE Faith, 9-11am
- 25 - Taste of Nations
- 25 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm
- 27 - Picture Retakes
- 28 - Preschool Retakes
- 28 - Mass, 9:25am
- 28 - RE
- 28 - Marathon Final Pep Rally, 3pm
- 30 - Trick-or-Treat for Food Shelves
- 31 - WEE Faith, 9-11am

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Mrs. Behnke's Corner - Continued

School Advisory Committee Presented to the Parish Council

Last week Jeff Schonhoff, SAC Chair, Melissa Becken, H&S President and I presented the school advisory committee's goals and achievements to St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Council. Below you will find a sampling of our school advisory subcommittee's goals for this year:

School Improvement: Build upon Christian Character development with a focus on Leadership; Maintain budgetary discipline in light of reduced student enrollment; Secure funding to purchase both text and resources identified in the curriculum review cycle; Identify an adhoc committee consisting of Faculty, SAC, students and parents to extend out the current School Improvement Plan 3 more years; Continue to address needs of updating technology to remain competitive; Review SAC and Faculty input of the Vital and Viable School survey to the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Process for insights of St. John's strengths and challenges; Administer ACRE assessment grades 5 & 8 as an indicator of faith strength and challenges.

Technology: Encourage instructors to attend relevant technology workshops and conferences held in the surrounding area or through collaborative efforts; Assess progress of new technology within classrooms; Continue to support having a part time parish wide named IT person on staff.

Marketing: Work to increase percentage of Stepping Stones students enrolling in Kindergarten at St. John's; Work to retain more students in 6th & 7th grade by targeting 4th & 5th grade students and families to better understand reasons for leaving and explain the many benefits of staying at St. John's thru middle school; Continue to solicit marketing ideas and opportunities from Committee members and other wishing to promote St. John's.

As you can see our SAC, faculty and staff are committed to providing the very best education and formation for all the students we serve. If you are interested in seeing the full powerpoint that was presented to the council, please contact me at bbehnke@stjohns-savage.org.

Fifty Years And Still Welcoming

When we opened our doors in September St. John's greeted 71 new students. Each one brings their own story and special gifts to our school.

Ava Roberts is a new second grade student that came from Clovis Christian in California. Her sister, Gwenyth, attends preschool at St. John's. Along with Ava and her sister, her father also attended St. John's. She enjoys learning and exploring new things with her classmates and teacher, Mrs. Andrews. "My favorite lunch is chicken pretzel," she said. After lunch Ava enjoys playing outside with her friends. She hopes to have a great school year as a second grader.

Napoleon Weah is a 6th grade student transferring from Hidden Valley in Savage. After going to church on Thursday, Napoleon said that he really admires the church and Father Tix. The teachers and the students have welcomed him with open arms and a warm heart. Even though learning his combination was hard, Napoleon said, "This is my first year having a locker and I really like it." After four full classes and home-room, Napoleon is excited to experience what lunch is like. While enjoying his favorite lunch, mini corn dogs, he also likes having a healthy choice of a salad bar. He rides the bus home with his little sister who is in kindergarten. Although having loads of homework, he still enjoys playing soccer after school. "I am excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for me."

Sara Janssen is a new student starting 7th grade. She came to St. John's from Twin Oaks in Prior Lake. Her favorite school lunch so far is beefy nachos with cheese sauce and her favorite subject is Geography. She also enjoys being with the people attending St. John's. When asked about the differences between St. John's and her previous school Sara said, "Twin Oaks is a public school so we didn't have uniforms."

Corie S. and Nicole M

Home & School Information

Marathon 2009 – Marathon Day is this Saturday October 3rd from 9:00- 10:30. There is still time to bring in your donations! We hope all are planning to come to this special gathering that kicks off a full day of celebrating the St. John's Community. Please refer to this week's Marathon News for more information and updates.

Home and School Co-Chair Position Opening – The Home and School Steering Committee is currently seeking a co-chair for the Parish Liaison position. Responsibilities include attending Home and School meetings (1x/month) and help coordinate events such as Celebration and Family Fun Night that are both School and Parish focused. A current membership and knowledge of St. John's Parish is a requirement. If you are interested, please contact Melissa Becken at 952-440-9126 or melissabecken@mchsi.com . The next Home and School meeting will be held in room #303 on Monday, October 19th at 7:30. All are welcome.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Flu update - Week of Sept. 28

Influenza-like-illnesses continue to be observed throughout the state, our community and our schools. The current outbreak is now widespread, according to state health officials.

When the number of students/staff absences because of flu-like-illnesses reaches 5% in a school or 3 in an elementary classroom, school districts notify the Minnesota Department of Health. As of Sept. 28, four of our schools have reached that threshold and parents at those schools have been notified. The four schools are Rahn, M.W. Savage, Sky Oaks and William Byrne Elementary Schools.

Please continue to take these actions to prevent the spread of the flu: Wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes into a tissue or elbow, and keep your child home if he/she is ill. Remember to call the attendance line at your child's school to report your child's symptoms.

More flu information is available at www.flu.gov and at www.isd191.org where you can also subscribe to e-mail news bulletins.

By Dawn Willson, Director of Health Services

Alumni News

National Merit Scholarship

Former St. John's Student Alyssa Boutelle, a senior at Prior Lake High School, has been named a semifinalist in the 55th annual National Merit Scholarship Program among 16,000 nationwide. More than 1.5 million juniors entered the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents fewer than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. To become a finalist, a semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Congratulations Alyssa!

School Lunch News

St. John's School Lunch Program is off to a successful start for the 2008-09 school year.

We appreciate the students and staff trusting us to prepare and serve to them healthy, nutritious meals.

In addition to featuring new items on our monthly menus, we have added other promotions. We have invited staff to share with us their memories of school lunch and we try to re-create the recipe/food on the days called "Down Memory Lane...". In September, we prepared "Fish Sticks" and "Toasty Dogs". Many students tried these and it has been requested that we keep them on the menu as a regular!

At least once a week, we list a pre-dressed, lettuce-based salad with a homemade dressing. We are surprised that the salads are extremely popular with the students and it has been one of the most favorite items on our Fruit and Vegetable Bar.

We also have added a day entitled "Cafeteria Kindness Commendation" day, where we honor those students who have demonstrated model behavior in the lunchroom.

We are celebrating National School Lunch Week during the week of October 6th – which is next week. Each day, we are featuring a school lunch memory menu submitted by a staff member. The kitchen staff is excited to try these new foods. However, we understand that the younger students may not feel the same way. So, for next week, the week of

October 6 – 10, all students in grades K-8 will have the option to choose the daily entrée item, a sandwich OR the Middle School daily option. As usual, the students select the entrée choice first thing each morning and their teachers can answer their questions regarding this, or feel free to contact Bunnie via note, phone or e-mail to explain this further.

Sports News



The 5th & 6th Grade girls had a tough match with Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Minnetonka this past Saturday. There were many learning moments for the ladies in this tussle. Although they got down early, they never gave up. Their full effort was evident until the final whistle. This defeat should provide motivation as the season presses on.



Children's Choir is coming soon.

Children's Choir has two branches that sing for Parish Weekend Masses and can be registered any week in September.

Cherubim:

Grades 3-6 that sing for every other 9:00 Sunday Mass

Rehearsals Wednesday 4:15-5:15 or 5:30-6:30

First Mass September 27th.

Seraphim:

Grades 7-8 that sing for every other 5:00 Saturday Mass

Rehearsals 4:00 on Saturdays that they sing.

First Mass September 19th

School Choir has two categories that sing for School Masses on Thursdays

Grades 3-6 sing for every other Thursday School Mass

Rehearsals every Tuesday during recess from 12:50 - 1:10.

First Mass September 17th.

Grades 6, 7, and 8 will each have opportunities to sing as a class for Mass

Rehearsals are custom scheduled to fit the class schedule.

Complete details will be included in the weekly School Newsletter or contact Tim Malone at (952) 890-9465, ext. 116.



Faith Community News



First Reconciliation...

information was provided to parents at an information meeting this past week. If your child is registered and you were unable to attend the meeting, information packets should have come home through the child's school or religious education class. There's still time to register for preparation for first sacraments for children in Grade 2 or older. Please contact Christy Connelly at cconnelly@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434 for more information about preparation for First Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist at St. John's.

WEE FAITH begins October 24

Wee Faith is a parent-child program modeled after the Archdiocese's Early Childhood Family program, for children ages 0 to five years old. All family members are encouraged to participate. Each of the two-hour sessions include a parent-child interaction component, parent discussion time, and children's time. The fall WEE Faith program is scheduled over four weeks on Saturdays, Oct. 24, Oct. 31, and Nov. 14 and 21, from 9 to 11am. Cost for the 4 weeks is \$15/family and financial assistance is available. Sessions meet at St. John's using classrooms in St. John the Baptist Catholic School. Pre-registration is required and deadline is Oct. 16. To learn more about this exciting and fun opportunity for Catholic parents to learn more about passing their Catholic faith on to their children, contact Joan Walerius, Early Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator at jwalerius@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434.

****Volunteer leaders also are needed to help facilitate parent discussion and children's groups. This also is a perfect service opportunity for teens who need service hours or who are Confirmation candidates! Training is provided! To volunteer for WEE Faith: contact Joan at jwalerius@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434.**

Confirmation

Information about St. John's preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation for teens in 10th grade or older is available in the RE Office. If you or your candidate were not able to attend the information meeting, packets are waiting for you or contact the RE Office to register your Confirmation candidate. All candidates, regardless of where they attend school, including those attending Catholic high school, must be registered. To register or to learn more about St. John's Confirmation preparation, contact Andi at alittle@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434.

Elementary Youth Ministry (EYM) kick-off is Oct. 22

Children in Grades 3, 4 and 5 are invited to kick-off the year of Elementary Youth Ministry (EYM) at Grand Slam in Burnsville. We will gather at 4:30pm in St. John's atrium to board the buses where all the excitement and fun of Grand Slam are open to us until 7:30pm. Cost is \$10/child which includes open access to bus transportation, laser tag, bumper cars, batting cages, basketball and mini-golf. Each child also will receive four game tokens, a hot dog and beverage. Registration deadline is **before the MEA break, Friday, Oct. 9**, to ensure we have enough chaperones! Adult chaperones are needed. All chaperones are required to have completed a background check and VIRTUS awareness training in accordance with Archdiocesan risk management policies. For more information, to register or to volunteer, visit www.stjohns-savage.org or contact Andi at alittle@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9434.

Stump the Pastor!

The 2009-2010 series of Adult CCD (Catholicism, Coffee and Dessert) kicks-off Sunday, Oct. 4, from 6:30 to 8 pm with an opportunity to "Stump the Pastor!" Bring your questions about the Catholic faith: the whys, the whats and the whos as Fr. Tix provides the answers. There's no cost and no registration! Just come and enjoy the discussion and fellowship.

Rainbows

All Saints Church in Lakeville is hosting the Rainbows Program. Rainbows is a non-denominational support group for children pre-kindergarten through Grade 8 who have suffered a significant loss in their lives either through death, divorce or other painful transition. The primary goal is to provide a safe environment for those families to sort through their pain and confusion, build self-esteem and learn coping skills to deal with their loss. Family orientation meeting is on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6:30pm, at All Saints Church, 19795 Holyoke Avenue in Lakeville. Program will begin on Thursday, Oct. 8, from 6-7:15pm. For more information contact our parishioner Diane Wirtz at (952) 440-3943.



Marathon News

God at Work for 50 Years!

September 30th, 2009

Countdown to Marathon...3 days

Marathon Day is this Saturday!

Donations collected to date: **\$14, 649.48**

Goal: **\$70,400**

We have some rallying to do in order to meet our goals for this year's Marathon. Remember, Marathon is our main and only fundraising event that provides much needed money to cover our school's operating expenses. St. John's prides itself on the energy, commitment and support of its students, teachers, staff; parents, parish & community, and we thank everyone for working together toward our goal for Marathon! Keep bringing in your donations – there is still time to meet our goal! Thank you to all of you who have participated so far and we hope to see you this Saturday!

Marathon Day Schedule

9:00 –10:30 - Marathon Kick-off – we will gather in the parking lot for a special send-off by Mrs. Behnke and Father Tix to start the festivities. Everyone will be on the look-out for **MARATHON MAN** – will he be there too? Students will walk, bike and rollerblade around the marked course. Then, head into the Parish Center for a traditional Marathon breakfast of hot dogs and lemonade (and donuts, apples, bars and cookies)!

10:30 – Raffle drawing will be held in the Parish Center – make sure to sign up prior to drawing time!

10:45 – Raffle drawing for Taylor Swift Concert Tickets - please see more info below!

Treats on Marathon Day

We would also appreciate a food donation from every family that attends Marathon. **PLEASE BRING A DOZEN OF YOUR ASSIGNED TREAT ON THE DAY OF THE MARATHON** to the Parish Center, *before* the Marathon begins. Thank you in advance for your support!

Donuts – Last name begins **A - G**

Bars – Last name begins **H - O**

Cookies – Last name begins **P - Z**

Marathon Day Prizes for Participants

Students who participate on Marathon Day, regardless of how much money she or he collects, can enter a raffle drawing for fun and exciting prizes. Be sure to look for the table in the Parish Center to enter into the drawing. The drawing is at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Center.

Taylor Swift Concert Tickets

Students that collect at least \$100 and submit a signed permission slip are automatically entered into the raffle for the concert tickets. Additional chances for the tickets are available for purchase this week in the school office and on Marathon Morning for \$5 each. Permission slips and money need to be in by Friday Oct. 2nd. There will be permission slips available at raffle table as well on Saturday. The raffle drawing will be held at 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Center on Marathon Morning.

Raffle Prize Drawing for \$100+ Donation Participants

All students who turn in at least \$100 are entered into the raffle prize drawing. Prize giveaway is on Thursday, October 29th. These awesome prizes include, but are not limited to, some of the prizes listed in this week's newsletter – see below!! A special thanks to all who donated prizes to the Marathon!

Show St. John's Spirit at Marathon

Students are encouraged to wear St. John's sweatshirts, sports jerseys or our school colors (maroon and gold) during the Marathon to show their school spirit.

Ice Cream Parties

Congratulations to the three classrooms that brought in the most money last week! Mrs. Skrove's Kindergarten class, Mrs. Durham's 4th grade class and Mrs. Rjmnac's 6th grade homeroom. Bring in your donations this week and your class just might win an ice cream party! There is one more week to win!



Traveling Trophy

The Traveling Trophy was won by Mrs. Skrove's Kindergarten Class for bringing in the most donations last week. Great job! Keep bringing in those donations and your Class may win next week!

Thank you to the following families and businesses who have donated prizes. If you would like to make a prize donation, contact Nancy Roscoe at anaroscoe@msn.com or Kaye Wahl at kaye@tksupply.com.

Taylor Swift Concert Tickets- Anonymous

Target Gift Cards - Ondracek family

Wild Tickets - Hietpas family

Family Funtastic Package-Brunswick Zone

Autographed baseball bats-KFAN

4 Wild Tickets - Lund family

Burnsville Bowl Party- Burnsville Bowl

Snow tubing Passes – Wild Mountain

WII game - KFAN

Lift Tickets-Hyland Ski

2 Timberwolves Tickets-Timberwolves

All students that raise at least \$100 are automatically entered into the drawing for prizes!

Academy of Holy Angels Fall Fun Run

Who: Fall Fun Run is open to students in all of the area grade and middle schools. Its a great way to ramp up for "the mile" run for gym class and get conditioned for winter activities!

What: AHA Fall Fun Run is a youth cross-country meet with races set up for both boys and girls in grades K-8. AHA cross-country student athletes will be assisting with the coordination/organization/running of the meet.

Where: Academy of Holy Angels—start & finish line located in the backfield area to the west of the main parking lot.

Why: Running can be fun! Run with friends, race for individual and school team ribbons, help your team win the championship trophy and develop positive life-long exercise habits.

When: Thursday October, 15 (first day of MEA break)

How Much: \$5.00 per student, parents no charge

Questions? Contact AHA Admissions at edapper@academyofholyanagels.org



ACADEMY OF
HOLY ★ ANGELS

Meet Schedule:

Grade in School	Division	X-C Distance	Race	Time
2nd grade & younger	Primary	1K	(0.6 miles)	10:00 AM
3rd & 4th grade	Bantam	2K	(0.6 miles)	10:20 AM
5th & 6th grade	Midget	3K	(1.2 miles)	10:40 AM
7th & 8th grade	Youth	3K	(1.2 miles)	11:00 AM
Family Race	All	2K	(1.2 miles)	11:20 AM

Registration Begins at 9:30am and ends at 10:30am. Event is Rain or Shine!!!

Awards: Medals awarded to the first three boy and girl finishers in each race.

Ribbons will be awarded to all participants in every race.

Members of the AHA Cross-Country team will be leading all participants through a warm-up and stretching session at 9:45 AM. Please join us!

The school that scores the best at the finish line brings home a trophy for their PE teacher!

Third, Fourth & Fifth GRADERS!

A Grand Slam Welcome!

To Elementary Youth Ministry!

4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22

An evening
of fun and fellowship
at Grand Slam USA
in Burnsville!

Cost is \$10/person and includes:

Unlimited batting (softball & baseball); mini-golf (18 holes!); laser tag; bumper cars; four (4) game tokens; laser tag (for the brave of heart!) and –
A hot dog & pop! **BUS TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM, TOO!**

In order to go, you have to have your permission slip and fees into the office
ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, Oct. 9**

****SPECIAL PARENT NOTE: CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CHECK THE VOLUNTEER SPACE ON YOUR CHILD'S PERMISSION SLIP. CONSIDER YOURSELF COUNTED IN AS A CHAPERONE UNLESS YOU HEAR DIFFERENTLY!**

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL (952)890-9434, EXT. 249