



St. John The Baptist Catholic School *Newsletter*

November 11, 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

Engineering at St. John's

Last Thursday 8th graders, Liliana Gomez, Sarah Zwack, Brandon Gill, and Andy Bollig, went to the University of Minnesota to attend the "Fluid Power Challenge" orientation with a focus on engineering. They watched a video about pneumatic and hydraulics. After that they were handed a kit. The man in charge told them to practice building a frame. Then they had to build a pneumatic lift by following instructions. The purpose of this orientation was to equip the school teams with the materials necessary to prepare for the Engineering Challenge which will be held in December. The students reported that there were many other schools from the Twin Cities area who will be participating. They got to see and try out a professional pneumatic lift. They had a lot of fun building and are hoping to be successful at the Challenge in December. I want to thank Mr. Martin for bringing this opportunity to our students and a special thank you to Mrs. Diedrick, middle school math/science teacher for enthusiastically stepping forward to be the St. John's Engineering Teams Advisor. We wish you the best of luck in the building of your portfolio and prototype in preparation for the Challenge on December 10th.

Manners Matter at St. John's

Yesterday Fox 9 News spent time in one of our 4th grade classrooms as the teacher reviewed the manners video and practiced the importance of being polite. The purpose was to show how St. John's teaches manners for everyday use and as an expectation. This video uses a fun interactive game show format where children play along and answer questions about manners. Kids Good Manners will also have an interactive board game out in a few months. Do visit their website at www.kidsgoodmanners.com. Jeff Freund, St. John's parent brought this opportunity to promote the manners DVD/Board Game and also to show how St. John's School uses faith, education, and manners as its core to build success in our students now and into the future as they grow to become responsible young adults. The segment will air next Friday, November 20, on channel 9, Fox News at 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45am and again in a longer segment during the 5:00pm news. We thank Jeff Freund and Ira Hackner the creator of the video for bringing this resource to our students and families.

Upcoming Events

November

- 13 - Mass, 1:30pm
- 13 - Grandparent's Day, 1:30-3:30pm
- 14 - Craft Fair, 9am
- 15 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm
- 17 - LATE START, 11:15am
- 17 - First Reconciliation, 7pm, Church
- 18 - 4th Grade Feast
- 18 - RE
- 19 - Principal Appreciation Day
- 19 - Penance Service, 9:25am
- 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

December

- 1 - SAC, 7pm
- 2 - RE
- 3 - Mass, 9:25am
- 4 - St. Nicholas Day
- 4 - End of 1st Trimester

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Thoughts for the day . . .

Father Mike Tix

Catholic high schools?

Parents routinely ask many questions as they think about high school for their child. There are the questions ranging from, "How do St. John's Middle School students transition to high school?" to "Is a Catholic high school education even possible for my child?" These and other questions, including those related to affordability are the topic of conversation at an information meeting being hosted by Father Tix on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the atrium. Helping to answer these questions will be Jesse Foley who is admissions director at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield. Jesse is a firm believer that no child should be denied a Catholic education who desires it and has worked hard to make a school like Holy Angels accessible to families with multiple children. All are invited to come and find direct answers to your questions.

The Children's Shopping Spree

To all children, 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 calendars now for Sunday, December 6th from 8am-12:30pm in the parish center. Gift 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 Shopping Spree event. If you can share a few hours of your time, please contact Lori Kapusinski by email 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.

Middle School Spelling Bee

Please join us for the Middle School Spelling Bee on Tuesday, November 17, at 1:45pm in the Father Wittman Auditorium. We will name two co-champions and an alternate to participate in the district bee on December 21. Congratulations and good luck to the top spellers in Middle School.

Grade 6

Marissa Bauer
Maggie Martin
Caleb Reiter
Sarah Waterman

Grade 7

Kayleigh Banttari
Will Diedrick
Tommy Fleetham
Michael Gillen
Elissa Kapusinski
Amanda Pfeiffer
Alicen Zschokke

Grade 8

Charlie Abbott
Abby Demuse
Brandon Gill
Katie Lehnerr
Jacque Luth
Mia Romani
Bailey Sernett
Nicole Swensen
Robert Tobroxen
Matt Warner
Lindsay Becker
Charlie Fox
Victoria Kusber
Emily Lerick
Nicole Oliver
Gil Roscoe
Daniel Strittmater
Julianna Thomas
Lucy Walbruch

General Music Dates

General Music Dates – Please mark your calendar with the following music dates for the 09-10 school year. Remember that concert participation is a required part of the music grade.

2nd, 3rd, 5th grade – Tuesday, December 15th

K, 1st, 4th grade – Tuesday, May 4th

Middle School 1st Trimester - Tuesday, November 24th

Middle School 2nd Trimester - Thursday, February 25th

Middle School 3rd Trimester – Wednesday, May 26th



Eager Emily

Emily Martin is in seventh grade and she plays for the St. John's soccer team. The position that she eagerly plays is defense. There are high and low points in soccer. "My favorite thing about soccer is improving every time I get on the soccer field," explains Emily. In her spare time she plays for a traveling soccer team. "I love playing with my classmates. It is so much fun; we come together and work together like a team." Her favorite memory this soccer season was helping her teammates make up extremely strange names for one another like Exodus and Genesis and then telling their opponents the names. "This season went by fast, it was a lot of fun and I learned a lot." Soccer is not just a sport but a life experience you remember it for a lifetime.

Corie, grade 7

8th Grade and Feed My Starving Children

Last Wednesday, November 4, the eighth grade class went to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. While we were there we helped bag chicken, veggies, soy, and rice for children all over the world who are suffering from starvation. Our goal was to fill 100 boxes. Each box has 36 bags of food in it. We had a lot of parent volunteers who helped us reach our goal by sealing the bags and making sure everything went smoothly. The workers there also made it a lot of fun by playing music in the background and making a few jokes here and there. At the end, we filled 152 boxes! That is enough to feed 92 kids for a whole year! That means each student in our grade fed AT LEAST one child for a year. It was a great opportunity for our class to come together and bond and help the people who really need it! We all had a lot of fun and hope we can visit again!

Maddy, grade 8

Marathon Pie Throwing - Fun was had by all

Last Friday St. John's students gathered in the Atrium for a pie throwing contest. The middle school was rewarded for their excellence in raising over their goal of \$20,000. As the students came together, and waited for the contestants to be revealed, they grew anxious and excited. Mr. Smalley, Mrs. Behnke, Mrs. Diwi, and Mrs. Piquette were the winners for having pies thrown at them. The kids were enthusiastically cheering the teachers on. Mr. Smalley, Mrs. Behnke, Mrs. Diwi and Mrs. Piquette were covered in whip cream by the end of the contest. It was a fun event. Let's hope that the middle school will make their goal next year so we can have the contest again.

Corie, grade 7



Faith Community News



ADVENT-ure into the Season!

Everyone is invited to celebrate the Season of Advent from 7 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, 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/family. Pre-registration is required; a minimum of 10 families is required for this event to occur. Registration forms are available online at www.stjohns-savage.org and in the atrium, 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, internationally known Catholic Christian musician, songwriter and witness, will be in concert at NET Ministries LIFELINE on Saturday, Dec. 5. Meet at St. John's auditorium door #1 at 4 pm. (LIFELINE doors open at 5:30 pm) with an anticipated return to St. John's at 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 November 23 is \$10/person; after November 23 cost is \$20/person. Depending on the number of people attending, a bus may be reserved at an additional cost of \$5/person; otherwise, transportation to and from West St. Paul will be by **car***.

Everyone (adults, teens -- families!) is welcome to join in what promises to be one a meaningful -- and rockin' -- evening! Registration materials are available on line at www.stjohns-savage.org and in the education office. To learn more, contact Lori Taormina at taormina@stjohns-savage.org or (952)890-9434.

**Drivers who have passed both a background check and drivers' check -- and who have attended VIRTUS training -- will be needed if carpools are used. To check on your status -- or to get background check materials, contact Tracy Tredinnick at ttredinnick@stjohns-savage.org or call (952)890-9465.*