



St. John The Baptist Catholic School

Newsletter

October 7, 2009

Phone: 952-890-6604 Fax: 952-890-9481
St. John's website: www.stjohns-savage.org
Sycamore: <https://www.sycamoreeducation.com/index.php?schoolid=1520>

Principal, Beth Behnke, ext. 245
Assistant Principal, Mike Smalley, ext. 234
Articles due by noon Monday for Wednesday publication to Mike Smalley at mssmalley@stjohns-savage.org .

Mrs. Behnke's Corner

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS —

Have you ever thought how even one hour of your time a month can make a significant difference in the safety and supervision for all the students at St. John's? Yes, I am talking about even one hour a month. I want to recognize the parents that have stepped forward to help on our playground and at the welcome table. We thank you!!!

But, we need more help. If you or a grandparent or aunt or uncle can give an hour to the school our students will be safer each and everyday if everyone pitches in. I am personally asking each of you to please look at your calendar or call a relative to give time to our kids, then call debbyjolson@aol.com to sign up to be a playground helper or to greet people at the main door. The kids thank you!!

Archdiocese student data request...

As the Archdiocese continues to review viable and vital schools they are asking all schools to administer the SAT10 to at least all 8th grade students this fall as part of the gathering of data. Traditionally we have administered the ITBS test to our students. However, to meet the expectation of the Archdiocese we have made adjustments in our testing this year to SAT10 rather than ITBS for grade 8 only. In February - grades 2, 4, & 6 will take ITBS this year as scheduled.

The Archdiocese has also asked that we administer the ACRE test to grades 5 & 8 in both the school and parish programs. RE will be testing in October and school will test during Religion class in November. The purpose of the ACRE test is to provide schools with group data about the progress in religious education and to ascertain strengths and weaknesses in religion curriculum. Data collected will help to establish a baseline for our programs.

Upcoming Events

October

**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
- 29 - Marathon Final Pep Rally, 3pm
- 30 - Trick-or-Treat for Food Shelves
- 31 - WEE Faith, 9-11am

November

- 1 - All Saints Day
- 1 - Daylight Savings time ends
- 1 - Youth Ministry, 6:30-8:30pm
- 3 - Election Day
- 3 - Conferences, 4:30-9:30pm
- 4 - RE
- 5 - Mass 9:25am
- 5 - Conferences, 4:30-9:30pm
- 7 - H&S Mother/Son Brunch

Conferences - are scheduled for November 3rd from 4:30-9:30pm and November 5th from 4:30-9:30pm. Conference request forms will be delivered to your student(s) on Monday, October 16 after MEA break.

Inside this issue

- *Catholic High School Visits
- *Box Tops
- *Sport News
- *Pop tabs

- *Contest
- *7th grade retreat
- *Library News
- *Respect Life Campaign

- *Davanni's
- *Destination Imagination
- *5th grade Science News
- *Faith Community News

Catholic High School Visits

Representatives from four high schools came to St. John's on Wed., Sept. 24, to give our 7th and 8th grade students a taste of some of their options for secondary school. Approximately 40-60% of our students choose to attend a private high school. Each of the schools brought a few students who gave a presentation and answered any questions. High school is a difficult decision and for our eighth grade students, the due date for applications to private schools always seems to creep-up very quickly. All private schools have an open house in the fall to give prospective students and families a closer look. Please check their individual websites to confirm dates and times.

Contest

Announcing a Contest! - Were you collecting labels, box tops and milk caps all summer? We hope so! The classroom who turns in the most items will win an ice cream party. These items include Box Tops for Education, Campbells points, Milk Moola strips, caps or Glazer ovals, Kemps caps or seals and Land O'Lakes caps. All of these items represent cash to our school! Please turn in all items to your homeroom teacher by Tuesday, October 20th.

Davanni's

It's time again for Davanni's! Monday, October 12th from 4-8pm will be the next opportunity for you to eat at Davanni's and support St. John's at the same time. Last month we raised \$147 for our school.

Second graders who volunteered last month had fun washing dishes, putting together pizza boxes and clearing tables. This month Kindergarten will be the feature class. A voucher must be used but you can order in or take out and St. John's will earn 20%. Thanks for your support!

Box Tops: Helping St. Johns 10 cents at a time!



Time to clean out your drawers! Our first Box Tops submittal deadline is October 31st. Please send in your box top collections by the end of this week or soon after MEA break. This is such an easy way to help earn money for St. John's! Last year we received checks for over **\$3038**, bringing St. John's total Box Tops earnings to over **\$22,700!!** Volunteers are needed to help cut, peel, count, and bundle box tops for the **Box Tops for Education Program**. You can prepare the box tops for submittal in the comfort of your own home and even enlist the help of your kids. Better yet, helping with Box Tops counts for Middle School service hours! Please contact Maria Boutelle at 447-0605 or boutelle5@integra.net if you would like to volunteer your time. Thanks for helping St. John's School!

7th Grade Retreat with Youth Frontiers



Our 7th graders had the opportunity to spend the day in retreat with Youth Frontiers from St. Paul. The focus of the day was on living a life of positive character.

Charlie and Mikayla share their thoughts on the seventh grade retreat -Thursday, Oct. 1st, our St. John's seventh graders met in the atrium after Mass for a retreat. Charlie Nicklay and Mikayla Smalley shared their thoughts and experiences on the retreat. It was based on courage and made you feel like you were great just the way that God made you. They really enjoyed having a service where you could share your thoughts in a respectable manner. "I felt like everyone truly came together as a family during the service. Friendship is not based on popularity, but you need to be able to trust your friend," Charlie and Mikayla explained. They were re-exposed to the fact that everyone has feelings no matter who they are and you should respect that. Mikayla and Charlie felt a different, stronger person was growing within themselves. They would definitely go again and they think that St. John's should keep giving seventh graders the gift of having this great life changing experience.

Destination ImagiNation



It's Destination Imagination time! A description of the problems will be given out on October 19th and 20th to interested students. Registration will take place the week of October 19th. **Veteran participants from grades 3-8 will need to sign up at Room 103 during that week. Students new to DI from grades 3-5 will have a meeting on Thursday, October 22 at 6:30pm in Room 103.** This meeting is important for those children who have not been in DI before. If you have questions contact Mrs. Andrews by calling (952) 890-6604, ext. 207 or email man-drews@stjohns-savage.org.

Sports News

These girls just don't give up! While the ladies got down early to Our Lady of Grace, they just kept clawing back. The Chargers were peppering the opposing goalies throughout the second half. By the time the final whistle was blown the girls had the opponents running for cover. Unfortunately the clock ran out before they could complete the come-back. They'll be back!

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.

POP TABS



If you have been saving pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, please send them to school, and the Kids for Saving Earth Club (KSE) will deliver them to McDonald's. This project will continue throughout the school year to enable the families of children undergoing cancer treatment at the University of Minnesota to have a place to stay and be near their children.

Library News

The school library accepts new and "gently used" book donations. If you have book donations, please label and drop them off at either the school office or the library. Thank you to the following families who recently donated books:

The Haug Family
Andrew Kusnierek
The Younghans Family
Halle Scheer
The Williams Family

5th GRADE SCIENCE NEWS



Next week the 5th grade science classes will make a "composting landfill" in the school courtyard. Each student will bring an item such as an aluminum can, apple core, or plastic spoon and then hypothesize as to whether their item is biodegradable, recyclable, or trash. All of the items that are buried will be unearthed at the end of May to see which ones have composted and which ones are still there. The objective of this annual activity is to encourage students to be responsible consumers by rethinking and "preycling" when making purchases - to avoid unnecessary packaging and to buy items that can later be reused, recycled, or composted, rather than being added to the waste stream in a landfill or incinerator.

Respect Life Campaign

The Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a Baby Bottle campaign this October which is Respect Life month. The campaign is offered to us through Pregnancy Choices in Apple Valley. This is a place for young women, and couples to go to for guidance with a pregnancy that may be unwanted. They offer support, education, and counseling and also baby items to the women. They are currently needing funds to purchase a new ultrasound machine, which has been proven to be very helpful in changing hearts and minds about the new life beginning in the women. The CCD classes and the St. Johns classrooms will be collecting money in the Baby Bottles during the month, and will donate all the proceeds to Pregnancy Choices to help with their efforts in buying the ultrasound machine. Respect Life thanks the students and teachers for their help with this campaign. Remember as Pope Benedict XVI says, "Every Child Brings Us Gods Smile."



Faith Community News



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.



Marathon News

God at Work for 50 Years!

October 7th, 2009

Collect Your Donations by this Friday!

Another Successful Marathon!

Thanks to all who braved the weather to come out to bike, rollerblade and walk the neighborhood course! The cloudy and sometimes rainy atmosphere did not dampen our school spirit! We even had a special appearance by **MARATHON MAN** and **Spirit the mascot**, who showed up on the roof of the school to wave some encouragement at the kids! Way to go everyone! You did a **FANTASTIC** job!

Thank you Volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make Marathon Day a success! Special thanks to all parent volunteers, teachers, office staff, and custodians; Knights of Columbus and the Savage Fire Department – we could not have done it without you! It takes countless people contributing in so many ways to make this St. John's tradition a safe, fun-filled event! Thank you!

From the Marathon Food Committee

The Marathon Food Committee would like to thank Bunnie Walker, the St. John's custodial staff, Amy Comee and our many volunteers for their hard work. The day went off without a hitch with help from all of you. Thanks a bunch!

Donations and Prize Selection forms due this Friday the 9th to qualify for prizes and raffles! We have not reached our goal yet, but we are making progress everyday! Keep bringing in those donations – there is still plenty of time! Also, don't forget to fill out and return the Prize Selection form – you've earned it! The form was included in the Marathon info packet.

Let's earn those incentives!

There is great incentive if we make the \$70,400 goal! There will be a **Pie-Throwing contest** held with someone from the staff as the target! We can't miss that! Let's keep building towards our goal! We can do it!

Middle-schoolers – You also have your own goal of \$20,000 to receive your incentive of the ice cream sundae bar during lunch on 10-30-09. Yummy!

*****Taylor Swift Concert Winner*****

Congratulations to Jacque Luth, grade 8, who won the Taylor Swift Concert raffle. We hope you have a great time!



Donations and Prize Selection Forms are due this Friday, October 9th!

Money turned in after this date will still go toward the school goal, however, students will not be able to make a prize selection. Out of uniform passes will be issued for all money turned in by Friday, October 9th. The latest prizes donated include:

**Wild Tickets – Beer Family
Brian Buscher Autographed Baseball- Minnesota Twins**

Ice Cream Parties and Traveling Trophy

Congratulations to the three classrooms that brought in the most money last week! Mrs. Andrew's 2nd grade class, Mrs. Lindberg's 3rd grade class and Mrs. Smith's homeroom class each earned an ice cream party this week!

The traveling trophy will be in Mrs. Lindberg's 3rd grade class this week since they brought in the most money last week! Check out the pictures of our ice cream party winners on the posters outside the school office.