

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL



116 East Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355 - 7859
Father Neil Dadey, Pastor
Kristina V. Tice, Principal

August/September 2011
Volume 2. Issue 1

Welcome Back to School!

Mrs. Tina Wendt, Office Administrator
Mrs. Susan Pollick, Financial Administrator
Mrs. Carol Fisher, Pre-K Director
Mrs. Melissa Maggs, Kindergarten
Mrs. Debbi Miller, First Grade
Mrs. Michelle Davis, Second Grade
Miss Cara Marchione, Third Grade
Mrs. Denise Martin, Fourth Grade
Mrs. Mindy Stephens, Fifth Grade
Mrs. Karen Moore, Library and Music
Mrs. Susan Zellers, Art & Kindergarten Aide
Mrs. Karen Bossert, Physical Education
Mr. Mark Schnars, Physical Plant

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 1: First Day of School**
8:10 a.m. – 12 noon
Sept. 2: First Full Day of School**
**Parents responsible for
transportation.
Auditorium doors open at 7:30 a.m.
Sept. 5: No School/Labor Day
Sept. 6: First Day of After School Care
Sept. 6: First Day of Pre-K
Sept. 7: Watch for Race Packet*
Sept. 16: Candy Money Due
Sept. 21: Home & School Meg, 7 p.m.
Sept. 23: School Mass with Bishop
Sept 26: Open House, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.*
Sept. 30: No School, Diocesan Act 80
Oct. 11 & 13: Parents invited to lunch*
Oct. 12: School Picture Day*
Oct. 24: Race for Education *

It's that time of year again: time to get back to school! I want to thank you, on behalf of all of us at St. John, for choosing Catholic education. We thank you because we recognize that this is both a financial and a time commitment and we appreciate the sacrifices that your family is making to invest in your children's future. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to educate your child.

While you were off enjoying a (hopefully) fun and safe summer, we were very busy here at St. John. Much time was spent this summer interviewing candidates for our open teaching position and Father Neil and I are pleased to introduce Mrs. Mindy Stephens as our new 5th grade teacher. We welcome her and pray for God's blessing upon her as she joins our St. John family.

At Back-to-School Night you should have noticed some of the physical work that has been done this summer. Several rooms have changed (including moving the computer lab downstairs), we've gone wireless and our cafeteria and kitchen have had makeovers. Even our school logo has been cleaned up! We are ready to start the year – and it's going to be another great one!

In God's Love,
Mrs. Tice

THANK YOU!

Thank you so very much to Mr. Jason Long, Mr. Mark Schnars and PSU Intern Tara Johnson for the countless hours spent installing SMARTBoards, updating computers and weeding through the miles of wires to make St. John Catholic School wireless!

Their hard work and commitment to our school did not go unnoticed or unappreciated!

Thank you!



Looking for some easy ways to raise money for our school?

Look no further! There are many opportunities for you and your family to raise money for Saint John Catholic School that do not involve going door-to-door selling something. If all of our families and parishioners would take advantage of these, we might even be able to eliminate some of the more 'labor intensive' fundraisers. Here are just a few:

SCRIP – Buy gift cards for the stores you already shop at and have money donated directly to our school. There is no cost to you at all. By taking this one extra step, a portion of the money you are already spending will come back to Saint John.

Box Tops for Education – Clip them, save them and send them to school. The school earns money for each Box Top. Sign up at www.boxtops4education.com and enter to win 1,000,000 Box Tops for our school and to get coupons and discounts on many products. Last year we earned over \$1,000.

Office Depot –5% of your purchase will be rebated back to our school if you ask.

Giant A+ Rewards- Register your Giant card every year and a percentage of your total bill comes back to the school. (Use a SCRIP purchased gift card and the school gets even more!)

GoodSearch – Change your web browser to GoodSearch and earn 1 cent for our school every time you search the web. Online shopping? Over 1300 vendors offer donations back to our school if you go through GoodSearch. For instance, next time you are buying uniform clothes on LandsEnd.com, go to GoodSearch, find a variety of coupon codes and have 2% of your purchase come back to the school.

Our desire at Saint John Catholic School is to be distinctively Christian in attitude, action and appearance. Our dress code regarding uniform and grooming is based on biblical principles of modesty and appropriateness, taking into account neatness, affordability and personal safety.

The dress code seeks to:

- honor the Lord by de-emphasizing the outward appearance, placing importance on the need for inner beauty and character development
- ensure the type of environment in which learning can take place without distraction
- encourage school spirit by enhancing a sense of unity and purpose
- protect the students from dress-related injury, and
- demonstrate pride in ourselves, our school and our God to the community at large, by respectfully displaying the Saint John name, logo and image

DRESS CODE REMINDER:

Beginning this year, all students are required to wear a Mass Uniform on Mass days (Wednesdays) and occasional Holy Days.

- Boys are to wear solid navy or school plaid ties with long or short sleeved white oxford shirts.
- Girls are to wear solid navy or school plaid jumpers or skirts with approved white blouses.

Other reminders:

- Students must wear Saint John t-Shirts on gym days. (Shorts and sweatpants must be royal or navy, but do not need to have logo.)
- Plan ahead for colder weather: navy or white sweaters and cardigans (navy or royal sweatshirts on gym days) will be allowed.
- Kindergarten students will be allowed to wear skorts year round, as long as they are full skirts with shorts underneath.

Please review the Dress Code Policy in the handbook.

*Eternal God,
Bless Saint John Catholic School, that it may be a
lively center for sound learning, new discovery,
and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those
who teach and those who learn may find you to
be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Monthly calendar, menu and newsletter** are sent home with the oldest or only child in your family on or before the last school day of the preceding month. They are also posted on our website.
- **Lunch and Milk Prices** for this year are \$1.90 for lunch, including milk, and \$0.40 for milk only. We ask that you attempt to purchase lunch tickets for the week at the beginning of each week. Please place cash or check in an envelope, separate from other payments being sent to school.
- Applications for **Free and Reduced Price Lunches** are included in this packet or you can apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us. We strongly encourage you to apply for this assistance if you are eligible, as additional funding is made available to our school based on these numbers.
- **After School Care** is available beginning Sept. 6 at a cost of \$3.00 per any part of an hour. Family rates are available. Registration forms are included in your Back-to-School Packet or in the school office.
- Be sure to read the **Parent/Student Handbook** carefully with your child. Students in grades 2 – 5 must sign the back of the emergency card indicating they have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.
- If you've selected the **Monthly Tuition Payment Plan**, payments are due by the 15th of each month. Thank you for your commitment to Saint John Catholic School.
- The Bellefonte Police Department has requested that we remind all parents that **parking** is never allowed along areas marked with a yellow curb, as it is in front of our church. Parking regulations will be enforced and tickets could be issued. Please remember that you may always use the church parking lot across the street. Furthermore, cars must have flashers on when parking in front of the school during student arrival and dismissal, and drivers must remain with their vehicles. For the safety of the children, please use the crosswalks. Also, if age appropriate, please hold your child's hand when crossing the street.
- **Parent Open House** will be held on Monday September 26, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. This event is for parents only and is an opportunity for parents to hear from your child(ren)'s teacher(s) regarding their yearly programs and classroom plans. Open House is not the appropriate time for a conference. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher regarding your child's progress or behavior, please contact the teacher for a conference. The evening will begin in the Auditorium with Opening Prayer and Remarks by Father Neil.

Mark your calendars!

All School Mass
with Bishop Mark Bartchak

Friday, Sept. 23, 2011
9:00 a.m.

*No Wednesday school Mass that week

Thank you to our summer volunteers:

Tim Gardner, Diane & Kailee Klimek, Alex Maldonado, The Maggs Family and Kate Niemann for helping with the Summer Festival;

Mrs. Sara Nagel and her crew of weeding volunteers for taking care of the Nature Center;

Jim Surovec, Alex Maldonado and Katey Smoyer for painting the cafeteria.

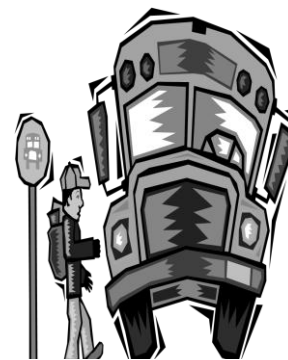
Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School Council

The School Council assists the pastor in developing and recommending policies by which the school's program is designed, implemented and evaluated. Although the council is not responsible for program implementation, it works closely with the pastor and the principal in the planning and evaluation of the education program for the school. The council collaborates with all parishes sending children to the school, as well as other councils and committees within the parish or school.

The Council members for 2011-2012 are: Franklin Berkey (Chair), David Smith (Vice-Chair), Amy Carmack, Jeff Dawson, Jim Rackoski, Rita Russell and Valerie Watson.

Home and School Association

Home and School Association is the Saint John version of the PTO. This group works hard year-round to provide for our school. Fundraising efforts, such as the Ladies Extravaganza and Gardner's candy sales, help to provide for teacher needs, pay for field trips, and many other needs that arise. Home and School organizes family and community events such as Family Bowling and Skating Nights, Fun Fair, Santa's Workshop and Book Bingo - to name a few. As with every organization, the more minds working together and hands helping, the better. Bring your ideas and suggestions to the next Home and School meeting on September 21st at 7 p.m. in the school conference room.



Home and School Officers

President ~ Tanya Packer
Vice President ~ Kelly Berkey
Secretary ~ Liz Dechow
Treasurer ~ Amy Carmack

Parent Assistance/ Student Support Program (P.A.S.S.)

St. John Catholic School and Catholic Charities are happy to have a partnership in the school again this year. The Parent Assistance/Student Support Program (P.A.S.S.) is available to all students, offering a variety of resources. Each student participates in a social skills discussion group aimed at reinforcing the Catholic teachings of the school.

Also available are individual counseling and parent consultation meetings designed to help each student be the best that they can be. Ongoing counseling is also available at the Bellefonte offices of Catholic Charities.

To find out more, please visit Mrs. Marjorie Plosky, LCSW, at the school on Wednesdays or call 353-0502 and arrange an appointment.