

# SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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

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*Mrs. Susan Pollick, Financial Administrator*  
*Mrs. Tina Wendt, Office Administrator*  
*Mrs. Carol Fisher, Pre-Kindergarten*  
*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*  
*Mrs. Millie Watson, Head Cook*  
*Mr. Mark Schnars, Physical Plant*



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Jan. 29 – Feb 3:**

**Catholic Schools Week**

**Jan. 30:** Kindergarten and Pre-K  
Registration begins

**Feb. 3:** Snow Ball Dance

**Feb. 15:** Tuition Contracts Due

**Feb. 17:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spaghetti Dinner

**Feb. 20:** NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day

**Feb. 22:** Ash Wednesday

**Feb. 25:** Family Bowling @ Bellefonte  
Lanes from 2 -4 p.m. (FREE)

**Feb. 29:** Spelling Bee (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Gr.)

**Mar. 9:** NO SCHOOL Inservice Day

**Mar. 17:** St. John Pot O' Gold

**Mar. 31:** Reading Competition  
(4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. team members)

<http://www.saintjohnsch.com>

This month we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School! This is a day that not only commemorates the fact that we have reached the mid-point of the school year and are now on the fast-paced roller coaster ride to June, but gives us pause to celebrate the 100's of accomplishments our children have achieved so far this year. Talk with your child about the things that they have improved upon, or even mastered, since starting school 100 days ago. What have they learned? What has sparked their interest and lit a fire of inquiry? Maybe they have progressed beautifully in the penmanship of their name, decreased the amount of time it takes to accurately complete 50 addition facts, written their first real research paper or faced a fear head on – and won. Maybe they stumbled in their attempt, but didn't let it deter them and tried again.

Celebrate the first 100 days of school and what it has meant to your child, but don't forget that you, too, have had 100 days of school. 100 days of listening to stories, helping with homework, watching them grow and letting them go. Thank you for letting us be a part of all of your child's school days.

*In God's Love,  
Mrs. Tice*

## Lent

It is hard to believe but Lent is approaching quickly. Last year we asked students to give up their Jeans Days. This year, after an interesting conversation with students about the simple life of the Amish community, I've been inspired to suggest a new type of fast. This year, I encourage each family to choose one day of each Lenten week to go on a **MEDIA FAST**. That's right - no television, no cell phones, no laptops, Kindles or (gasp!) iPod Touch's! I am the first to admit that this will be a difficult challenge, but it is one I am willing to embrace. Just think of what can happen once we all 'unplug' together for quality family time and quiet time to spend with God!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please be sure that students have appropriate outerwear for recess. Students will not be permitted to go outside if they do not have jackets, hats or gloves on cold weather days.**
- **Kindergarten Registration for 2012-2013** – Intent to Enroll Forms will be accepted beginning on January 30 through February 15. Children must be five years old before September 1, 2012 to be eligible for Kindergarten. You must bring birth certificate, social security card, baptismal certificate, all immunization records and \$75 registration fee with you to register. Any interested parents are welcome to call the Principal to arrange a school tour.
- **Pre-K Registration** will also be held from January 30 through February 15. Children must be three or four years old before September 1, 2012 to be eligible for the 3-year and 4-year-old Pre-K Program, respectively. Please be sure to bring birth certificate, social security card, immunization records and \$35 registration fee with you to register.
- The e-mail sent home in January regarding the **Second Century Scholarship** encouraged parents to apply online at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com) or to obtain a paper application in our office. There are still paper applications available in the school office. **The application deadline for our diocese is March 15, 2012.**
- **Giant A+ Program** – We recently earned \$404.57 from Giant for the month of December. This brings our three-month total to \$1,482.08. Thank you to those who have registered their Giant Bonuscards so that we are able to earn cash for our school.
- We have received a check for \$295.00 from General Mills for participation in their **Box Tops for Education Program**. Thank you to all of you who continue to save box tops for us.
- Please join us on Saturday, February 25 from 2 – 4 p.m. for an afternoon of **St. John Family Fun at Bellefonte Lanes**. This event is **FREE** to all St. John families, thanks to the Home & School Association.
- If you would like to place an order for a personalized paver in the **Patron Pathway**, please contact Chris Kirkpatrick at [stjohn.kateridev@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohn.kateridev@yahoo.com) or by calling the office. The next installment of pavers will occur this spring.
- Mark your calendars for a fun new Home and School fundraiser that is strictly for adults. On **Saturday, March 17** at the Nittany Country Club, the H&SA will host their first ever **St. John Pot O' Gold**. This will be a fun night of dinner, music and prizes. Lots of prizes! Stay tuned for more information regarding tickets, prizes and how you can help.

## FUNDRAISERS...

As promised, I want to provide you with an overview of what you can expect in terms of fundraisers and similar activities for the remainder of the school year. As mentioned in the Wednesday Email, we never expect every family to participate in every fundraiser. We understand that, for various reasons, different fundraisers are easier or more difficult for a family to participate.

- Annual Gardner's Easter Candy sale for general fund : Feb. 8 - Mar. 1
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spaghetti Dinner for Gettysburg trip: Feb. 17
- St. John Catholic School Pot O'Gold for new Language Arts Curriculum: Mar. 17
- Spring Mixed Bag Fundraiser for new Language Arts Curriculum: Mar/Apr
- Calendary Lotto Tix for summer expenses: Apr/May

Activities like those described above are vital to both our day-to-day operations and helping to provide 'extras' that we may not otherwise be able to provide. For example, due to our successful Mixed Bag Designs fundraiser in the fall, I am pleased to tell you that four new security cameras were able to be installed. Also adding to the safety of our students, new doorbells were installed to be used for After School, allowing for us to keep the doors locked. This spring we will be installing new auditorium doors as a result of your fundraising efforts.

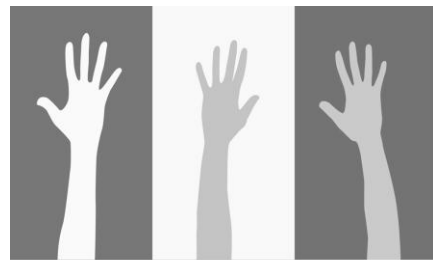
Currently, we are looking to raise funds for a new Language Arts Curriculum. The faculty has been hard at work researching various programs and is close to making a final decision. It is our desire to implement the new program in every grade next school year. Doing so costs more initially, but is to the advantage of the faculty and the students due to inservicing opportunities and support.

**Thank you all for ALL that you do to support our school!**

# May God Bless our volunteers!

## THANK YOU

Chances are that you are reading this while Catholic Schools Week is still going strong. A lot of "behind the scenes" hard work has gone into this weeklong event and I want to thank Liz Dechow and her fabulous committee and team of volunteers for taking on the daunting task! Thank you to: Kelly Berkey, Amy Clark, Susan Gay, Zach Gay, Ann Grove, Emily Janoscrat, Jason Long, Vickie McMurtrie, Sara Nagel, Michelle Russell, Rita Russell, Christy Smith, Natalie Stanton, Crystal Weirbowski and Cara Wehler-Bloom. To all of you that I missed by name, (and I'm sure there are a few) I apologize. I am continually overwhelmed by the generosity and compassion of our parents and volunteers. Thank you to each and every one of you for all that you do!



*Fill us at day break  
with your love that all  
our days we may sing  
for Joy. John 15:13*



## MARDI GRAS and PREPARING FOR LENT

This year, Mardi Gras falls on Tuesday, February 21. Here are some fun ideas that I found on my new favorite website, [www.catholicicing.com](http://www.catholicicing.com).

- Bury the "Alleluia" - During Lent, Catholics don't say "Alleluia". As a family, make a festive banner with the word "Alleluia", talk about how this word is used to praise and give thanks to God and how Lent is a somber time of the church year, preparing us for Jesus' death. Sing songs with "Alleluia" in them, make a big deal of it, then become quiet and together bury the banner somewhere in your house (a drawer or box will work fine) to take back out on Easter morning when we celebrate His resurrection.
- Mardi Gras is also known as "Pancake Tuesday". It was originally tradition to eat pancakes on Fat Tuesday because making them used up a lot of ingredients you weren't allowed to eat during lent, such as fat. Consider making a big breakfast of brightly colored pancakes (using food coloring) in the traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, yellow and green.
- Merciful Cross - Sometimes a visual aid is very helpful in conveying the realities of our faith. Start with a large cross on the wall, simply made by taping together sheets of brown construction paper. The idea is to cover the brown cross with colorful flowers representing your works of mercy and sacrifices. Everyone writes their offerings on the flowers and glues them on the cross. Sometimes blank flowers are added if a person wishes to keep the sacrifice private. You can print out lists of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and put them on the wall near the cross. You can also add the Scripture verse, *Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me Matthew 25:40*, either somewhere on or near the cross. (This one comes from [www.ponderedinmyheart.com](http://www.ponderedinmyheart.com).)
- Sacrifice Garland – A cute way to remind yourself of your sacrifice, and those of your family, consider making a Sacrifice Garland. Trace and cut out each family member's hand from construction paper. In the palm of the hand glue a red heart with their Lenten sacrifice written in the middle. String the hands with ribbon and hang them in a prominent location in your home. If you choose to take on the Media Challenge, posting the day of the week would be a great visual reminder!

The application for Second Century Scholarships will be available from the school office starting January 3, 2012. This is an income based scholarship with the limits being \$60,000 adjusted gross income plus \$12,000 per dependent child. For example, if your family has 2 children, your adjusted gross income cannot be over \$84,000.

**The Deadline for this scholarship is March 15, 2012**

Any questions, please contact Mrs. Pollick, [spollick@saintjohnsch.com](mailto:spollick@saintjohnsch.com).