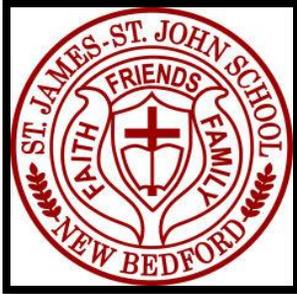


St James-St John School Newsletter

January 2016

Ms. Cristina Raposo
Principal



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome all of you back. We hope everyone experienced a wonderful Christmas break and pray for God's blessings in the New Year.

Happy ALMOST Catholic Schools Week! From an administrative point of view, the most important event of Catholic Schools Week is to begin registration of our current families. All PreK-grade 7 families are receiving a "paper" registration form and a letter in your Wednesday (1/06/16) envelope to begin this process. It is my hope that you will be able to return these preliminary registration materials on / before February 2nd to reserve your child's place for next year.

We did our best to not increase tuition greatly and hold costs to a minimum. Although we continue to be fiscally responsible, our costs at school – like your costs at home – continue to rise. In addition, if we don't continue to draw more children to our school, we have fewer families over which to divide our school expenses and thereby create a larger per pupil

cost. I always feel very concerned about a tuition increase, as I know so many of you are already at your financial limit. PLEASE don't consider leaving SJSJ for financial reasons without speaking to me first. I'm not the bookkeeper/tuition manager, but I'll do my best to suggest what may be available for assistance.

So what can we all do? In my not-so-scientific research, most families who attend SJSJ either came here as a kid, or heard about our school from another parent who had talked to them about our school. As parents, you are our most credible witnesses to what our Catholic school has to offer your children and family. Encourage your friends and family to contact me for more information, or to attend upcoming Open Houses/Parent Information Nights. Know that the teachers, staff and I greatly appreciate everything you do to promote and support our school. We feel extremely blessed to work in partnership with you, and hope to continue that partnership for many years to come!

Love,
Ms. Raposo

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Nurse Anna's Corner

5 New Year's Resolutions to Promote Children's Health

Many families will be creating New Year's Resolutions to help promote the health and well-being of their children. Here are five realistic resolutions to help promote your child's health for the New Year.

1. Limit sodas and other sugary treats to the weekends. Explain to the children the downfalls of eating and drinking too much sugar and why these treats will be limited to the weekends. By doing this, the child won't feel like they are being punished and they will realize that they don't really need those sugary treats all the time.
2. Prepare healthy meals together as a family. Children can help with writing the shopping list, grocery shopping, helping prepare the meals and setting the table.
3. Get involved in sports or other activities that will get them off the couch and active.
4. Start a garden together, whether it be in the backyard, windowsill or inside the home.
5. Involve your child in the preparing and packing of their lunches. Have them help out with choosing more healthy options such as fresh fruit over sugary treats.

Computer News

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful time over Christmas break. The students enjoyed working on their holiday projects last month. Grades 4 and 5 researched how Christmas is celebrated in different countries, and grades 6-8 did research on whether we would have a white Christmas. This month we will be working on a Martin Luther King project using Google Slides.

Pre-Kindergarten News

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! This month we will be learning all about winter. We will be reading stories and creating some beautiful art work to display in the classroom for anyone that visits during Catholic Schools Week. We will continue learning to recognize and write the letters of the alphabet and numbers. We will be listening to a story about Martin Luther King and discussing why we celebrate Monday, January 18th. The children are keeping track of the number of days we have been in school and look forward to the hundredth day, which we will celebrate in February. Progress reports come out on January 27th. I am pleased to see the growth and successes being made by the children.

Kindergarten News

Welcome back to a new year! It is always nice to start fresh and work toward new goals. As your child begins reading more and more, we would like to offer you these suggestions that you can use to help at home. Encourage your child to read at home. If he or she gets stuck on a word, try not to say "Sound it out", but try one of these suggestions: 1. Get your mouth ready to say the sound of the first letter. 2. Think about what makes sense. 2. Look at the pictures. 3. Reread and think what would make sense and match the letters in the word. 4. If they still can't get it, tell them the word. Then have them go back and read it with the correct word in context. The goal is have your child enjoy reading and feeling successful so he or she wants to read more because the more they read the better they will get!

As a school rule, students will be going outside during the winter months unless the playground conditions warrant having inside recess, or if the wind chill or normal outside temperature is below 32 degrees. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Please label all clothing items.

First Grade News

Welcome Back

Hoping everyone had a wonderful and restful Christmas.

As the song goes "Let It Snow", we will be learning about our weather beginning with snow. We will be incorporating it into our snow stories, snow writings, snow art, and other winter activities. We will also be taking a look at the night sky and stars. We continue on with our addition and subtraction math facts, estimations, and place value. We will also be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous speech, "I Have a Dream" and his message of equality and peace.

Peace,
Mrs. M

Second Grade News

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! During the month of January our stories in reading will look at how things change and how things stay the same. Math will focus on 2-digit subtraction with regrouping. We are still working on memorizing addition and subtraction math facts. In geography we will begin using our map skills book. In science we will identify the characteristics of living things. Lessons in religion will help prepare us for the Sacrament of Penance. This month we will begin to learn cursive writing. We wish everyone a Happy New Year!!

Portuguese News

Feliz ano novo! This month Pre-K-2nd grade will continue learning/ adding new words to their "Portuguese dictionary". 3rd grade has been learning the days of the week, months of the year and Portuguese holidays' traditions. In 4th-5th grades they will continue to practice their unit vocabulary and learning simple conjugations of different verbs. 6th grade has also been practicing learned conjugations of verbs and will be learning some culture facts about the Portuguese speaking countries. 7th-8th grades will be reviewing the current unit and preparing for the unit test.

Third Grade News

Happy New Year everyone from Grade 3! It is good to be back! We have a lot to learn and we are excited to get back to work. We will begin by writing our New Year's Resolutions. It is always fun to see if we can keep them! We will be starting our second book in Reading. The stories we will focus on in this new unit will be very interesting. We will read autobiographies and learn about some unique traits and interests that people have. In Math we will return back to our multiplication facts and learn the tables 6-12! Please practice these at home or while driving in the car! The more we practice, the better we will know them. In Science we will continue with our animal chapter and begin our research paper on an assigned animal. These projects will also involve making a diorama that will show the animal's habitat. These projects are always fun and interesting. We will also be decorating our classroom with wintery scenes and snowmen. We are in for a busy month!

Fourth Grade News

Happy 2016 to all! It is hard to believe that another year has begun, hope it is a great one for everybody! Grade 4 students are moving along in all academic areas. We are very busy working on our Social Studies projects, and they are becoming packed with interesting information. In Science class we are learning about ecosystems, food chains, and food webs, they are quite complicated. Using our conscience to help us make good decisions is a topic we are covering in Religion class; we hope to do a good job putting this knowledge into action. Division has begun in Math class, and soon we will be working on long division! Those multiplication tables are still being put to good use for division! Looks like January is going to be very busy for Grade 4 students!

Fifth Grade News

Welcome to 2016! 5th Grade will yet again have a busy month! We are kicking off the New Year month in 4th and 5th grade with a writing piece on their intent, rather than resolution, for the year. It will be fostered by the message found on MyIntent.org, which is to live with purpose and have meaningful conversations with those you meet. We will also start our discussion on Black History seeing as how we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in January. We will read and host a class book talk on the book, I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King. In Social Studies, we will also start our exploration in African studies towards the middle to end of the month. Lastly, the Unit 2 Reading test can be expected the week of January 18th.

Art

Happy New Year and I look forward to a great 2016 in Art at St. James St. John School. January is here and there are always so many fun winter art projects to do. We will be drawing, coloring and painting trees and snow, along with polar bears and mittens. Students will be doing self-portraits and abstract pieces. In almost all of the grades, I will be introducing Artists from Art History and teaching the students all about how these famous artists became to love Art and where and when they lived. Then we will do projects in the style of these artists. At this time in our classes, the students have had the opportunity to use most of the supplies/mediums in their art boxes. I will be introducing some new projects that will allow them to use even more of the supplies. I sometimes give them the choice of using anything in their box that they would like and it is fun to see what their favorite medium is to use.

Physical Education

Happy 2016! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year, during the month of January grades 4-8 will be playing basketball and hockey, grades Pre-K-3 will be playing hockey and soccer! Please don't forget your extras sneakers!

Middle School English/Language Arts



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Happy New Year! The New Year is always a good reason to return to school with a clean slate and a refreshed attitude. The new rules in the sixth grade will still be in effect and I can tell that everyone appreciates the structure.

The advent of the New Year will also see our chapter of the National Junior Honor Society coming alive and our PTO has generously offered to assist me with any initial costs associated with our first induction ceremony in the spring. I'm very excited about our new endeavor. There will be more news and information to come.

Middle School Math and Science

Middle School Math

In the New Year, I will begin the Financial Literacy Unit for grades 7 and 8. Students will learn about the benefits and problems of personal financial decisions in the context of career choices they make. Students will be exposed to various career choices through a process of self-reflection of interests and aptitudes. Once a student has a clear idea of finances to be managed in their chosen career they will be involved in real life financial activities. An understanding of the role of savings and investing will also be included. At the conclusion of the unit students will participate in the CU 4 Reality Financial Education Fair. At the Fair, students undergo a process of determining their personal expenses. These include housing, transportation, entertainment, and food among many others.

Middle School Science

In all science classes we have begun our curiosity challenge. In collaboration with the City of Cambridge, the Cambridge Science Festival has kicked off the 8th annual 2016 Curiosity Challenge. Last year's challenge asked kids to submit essays and artwork about their curiosity. Over 3500 entries are received and 120 are selected as winners. The winning entries are compiled into a book, and the students are honored at a brunch with their families at the Cambridge Science Festival.

I am very excited to be incorporated these 2 new programs into our school curriculum.

Middle School Religion and Social Studies

Religion

Grade 6 will resume looking at the period of the Israelites establishing their hold on Canaan and the kings of Israel.

Grade 7 the ministry of Jesus will be the focus of study during the upcoming month.

Grade 8 will focus on the history of the Church after the Nicene Council.

Social Studies

Grade 6 will begin to look at Eastern Ancient Civilizations starting with China

Grade 7 the focus will be the end of the Revolution and the New Republic Era.

Grade 8 will continue study of Progressivism and Industrialization in the 1880's to the 1920's

Music

Happy New Year Everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday break! January is here for sure, but before we ring in the New Year, I must give a HUGE shout out to all of our SJSJ students who participated in our Holiday Concert on December 16th! You were WONDERFUL and showed us what the true meaning of Christmas is all about! Now that January is here, we are going to be buckling up our seat belts as we begin our "World Culture Music Tour"! It is going to be a wonderful musical journey so get ready for fun!! Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. Wishing you all much happiness in the New Year!!!

We're on the Web!
www.sjsjschool.com

and

