June 2, 2016

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

Thank you for all you have done to make this a successful school year. Your generous spirit and commitment to education have helped us create a school of excellence. We see your support in so many places. Your volunteer hours number in the thousands. But more than that, you value the mission of Catholic education – to call forth the unique potential of the whole child … body, mind, and spirit.

This year we have continued to focus faith formation for all students on the Beatitudes. In addition to the grade level curriculum that exists for all classes in Religion, teachers, working together, have helped students understand the meaning and application of the Beatitudes, 2000 years after Jesus spoke them as the Sermon on the Mount.

For the poor in spirit teachers spoke of sacrifice, generosity, and kindness. For those who mourn, they modeled trust, prayer, and faith. For the meek, they spoke of humility and for those who seek righteousness, they taught about knowledge and holiness. When teachers explained Blessed are the Merciful and the Pure of Heart, they taught of forgiveness, prayer, and love. The last two beatitudes bless the peacemaker and the persecuted. With those, just as Jesus did, we teach of love, sacrifice, selflessness, and hope. In the 2016 – 2017 school year, our focus will narrow to a deeper understanding of the first Beatitude … Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Sacrifice, generosity, and kindness is the message of this Beatitude. “Kindness Matters” and next year students will focus on spreading a message of inclusion and kindness.

**Changes in Faculty and Staff.** It is always with regret that we say goodbye to faculty and staff members as they retire or move on to other pursuits. Leaving St. Joseph School this year are the following staff members who are retiring:

- Mrs. Janet Secrest - Grade 2 Teacher
- Mrs. Rebecca Puffenberger – Grade 2 Teacher Assistant
- Mrs. Mary Ann Wisniewski – Librarian

In addition, Mrs. Georganne McHugh and her family are moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mrs. Therese Siebeneck is relocating to southern Ohio to be nearer her parents. Mrs. Siebeneck is our Extended Day Director and Health Clinic nurse in the middle school. Lastly, Mrs. Kelly Maaraba, our Title I Reading Teacher, has accepted a position at Emmanuel Christian School.

We wish them the very best and truly thank them for their dedicated service to the children of St. Joseph School.

**Student Council.** Student Council leaders were selected recently for the 2016–2017 school year. We thank all those who offered their talents and look forward to working with these new leaders next year.

- President – Reece DiSalle
- 8th Grade Representatives – Emma Hoyt, Evan Carroll, Kelsey Leamy
- 7th Grade Representatives – Owen Lonsway, Lauren O’Brien, Raphael Yazji
- 6th Grade Representative – Cooper Hoyt, Devyn Riley, Aiden Carroll
Graduations.

- Congratulations and our very best wishes to our graduating eighth grade students. Liturgy and awarding of diplomas will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3.
- Kindergarten. As eighth grade students leave St. Joseph to go on to high school, kindergarten students will celebrate the completion of their first year with us on Friday, June 3, at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

Report Cards will be mailed for all students on Friday, June 10, 2016.

The New School Year.

- The 2016 – 2017 school year begins on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. Faculty and staff orientation and meeting dates are August 15 and 16.
- Back-to-School information will be sent to each family in early August and will be posted on-line.
- The extended calendar for the 2016 – 2017 school year will be posted in a few days.

Diabetic Alert Dog. We are anticipating the arrival of a Diabetic Alert Dog at St. Joseph School for the 2016 – 2017 school year. His name is Maximus and he will assist one of our incoming fourth grade students to manage her Type 1 Diabetes. Addysen Tabb was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of four. She wears an insulin pump 24 hours a day and sticks her finger eight to fifteen times a day to check her blood sugars. Addysen’s physician and family have decided she would benefit greatly from a Diabetic Alert Dog (DAD). A DAD can smell the changes in blood sugars and are trained to alert if Addysen has low or high blood sugar levels. Addysen’s DAD has been in training for several months now and we anticipate that he will be ready to assist Addysen at the beginning of the school year. As an Alert Dog, Addysen’s DAD is not a pet. He has been trained with specific duties/jobs. The school children will be instructed to refrain from looking, touching, or talking to him because these actions could distract her DAD from doing his job. We welcome Maximus to St. Joseph School and his important role in assisting one of our students. There will be an assembly on the first day of school to introduce students to Maximus, his role in caring for Addysen, and their own responsibilities.

Summer Hours. The school office is open all summer, though hours are adjusted. If you need to contact us after office hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

For the 2016-2017 school year, we will be implementing SchoolSpeak. SchoolSpeak will allow you to view Thursday envelope information, teacher messages, homework, it will allow you to order and pay for lunch, and eventually view student progress. As the summer moves along and we move into the month of August, you will receive an announcement from SchoolSpeak to check your email for log in credentials. SchoolSpeak will take the place of Thursday envelope emails and Moodle. Our back to school parent letter and important class information will be included via this system.

Please watch your email in early August for your log in credentials to our new student and school information system.

Until August, any updates or news items will be available through our Thursday envelope items on our website and email alert.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we pray that your summer will be safe and happy.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal
KINDERGARTEN (LABEL EACH INDIV. ITEM*)
- 8 or 16 count Crayola TWISTABLE crayons - (no erasables; MUST include 8 classic colors)
- Washable markers (thick) 8 or 10 count CLASSIC COLORS ONLY
- 2 MEDIUM point (not thick) BLACK ink dry erase markers
- 4 Elmer’s white glue sticks – labeled in a zip lock bag
- Fiskar’s scissors-child’s metal-blunt tip
- 1 sturdy supply box (No larger than 5” x 8”; no metal types)
- 2 heavy laminated folders, solid color (bottom pockets only; NO PLASTIC FOLDERS)
- 1 zippered pencil pouch
- 1 large pink eraser
- Headphones (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 roll of paper towels
- Girls; bottle of hand sanitizer
- Boys; container of Lysol wipes
- Small bag for gym clothes
- Gym shirt with name on BOTH the front and back
- Art shirt (old T-shirt) with name on front, put in gallon size zip lock plastic bag with name on the bag (This shirt will stay at school)
- 1 backpack (Larger than their folders) NO WHEELS
**Pencils will be provided for each student by the classroom teacher
*Suggestion: Label ALL items w/ masking tape or white label*

1ST GRADE (LABEL ALL ITEMS)
-1 sturdy PLASTIC supply box – NO handles or locks- (NO LARGER THAN 9 in X 6 in)
- Fiskar’s scissors – child’s small, pointed, metal
- Headphones (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- 1 backpack (Larger than their folders) NO WHEELS
- 1 paint shirt (labeled in gallon size zip lock bag)
- Crayon box/ sturdy plastic box w/unhinged lid (Must fit 24 crayons)
The following items will need to be replaced as needed:
- CRAYOLA crayons, no more than 24 count (NO twistables)
- 1 ELMER’S WHITE glue – 4 oz. (NO gel)
- 4 Elmer’s glue sticks
-(2) 2 pocket sturdy folders (BOTTOM POCKETS ONLY)
- 1 eraser – CHUNKY (Pink Pearl)
- Pencils – Will be provided by classroom teacher
- 1 large box of tissues (does not need to be labeled)
- 1 roll of paper towels (does not need to be labeled)
- 1 small bag for gym clothes (optional)

2nd GRADE (LABEL ALL ITEMS)
- CRAYOLA regular crayons (24 count)
- 1 paint shirt (labeled in gallon size zip lock bag)
- 2 LARGE glue sticks
- 2 Pink Pearl erasers
- Headphones (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- 8 #2 pencils w/erasers, sharpened
- 2 spiral notebooks - wide ruled

2nd GRADE (Cont’d) LABEL ALL ITEMS
- 5 (2 pocket) folders (bottom pockets only)
- Child’s scissors - small, pointed
- 1” binder with clear cover
- 1 sturdy supply box or large pencil pouch
- 1 backpack
- 3 black dry erase markers
- highlighters: 2 YELLOW

3rd GRADE
- 4 spiral 1 subject notebooks-WIDE Ruled
- 3 (2-pocket) folders, any design
- 1 (2-pocket) folder with prongs
- ruler-12” w/metric (plastic; not bendable)
- 1 paint shirt (labeled in gallon size zip lock bag)
- Ear buds OR Headphones (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- Elmer’s white glue 4 oz
- 1 large glue stick
- 2 erasers, chunky (Pink Pearl)
- 1 dz SHARPENED #2 pencils w/erasers (regular; no fancy)
- 2 red pens
- Colored pencils; 8 or 12 pack
- Small pencil sharpeners with a lid
- 1 package thick markers
- 4 highlighters; assorted colors
- 2 BLACK dry erase markers
- Fiskar’s scissors-youth size
- Art shirt
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 1 sturdy supply box
*Because 3rd grade uses lockers, we are requesting backpacks without wheels; if this is not possible, the largest size the lockers can hold with wheels would be 10” wide and 11” deep. Duffle bags are needed on gym day.
*NO LOCKER DECORATIONS

4th GRADE
- 4 large glue sticks
- Ear buds OR Headphones (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- Wireless mouse
- 1 LARGE pencil pouch or supply box (must be large enough to hold all supplies)
- 1 protractor – keep at home until needed
- 1 doz #2 pencils w/erasers, sharpened
- 1 pkg RED pens
- highlighters: 1 YELLOW, 1 PINK, 1 GREEN
- 1 pkg of colored pencils, sharpened (12 or 24 pack)
- 1 small pencil sharpener with lid
- 1 pkg of noted book paper-WIDE RULED
- (6) 1 subject spiral notebooks-wide ruled
- (2) 2 pocket Mead, 5 Star folders (measures 12.5” x 9.5”)
- (1) 2 pocket folder, any design
- durable, expandable letter-size file folder with at least 7 pockets
- Fiskar’s metal scissors-youth size

(4th GRADE Continued on back side)
4th GRADE (cont’d)
- Girls - 1 bottle of hand sanitizer, with pump
- Boys – 1 container of bleach-free Lysol wipes
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 2 large boxes of tissues
- 1 paint shirt (labeled in gallon size zip lock bag) OPTIONAL
*Due to the size of classroom lockers and lack of storage space, we are requesting backpacks without wheels; if this is not possible, the largest size the lockers can hold with wheels would be 10” wide and 11” deep. Duffle bags are needed on gym day.
*NO LOCKER DECORATIONS

5th GRADE
- ruler-12” w/metric
- 1 pkg colored pencils, sharpened
- Elmer’s WHITE glue, 4 oz
- (1) 1 subject spiral notebook (wide ruled)
- 1 pencil pouch (NO boxes)
- 1 dozen #2 pencils w/erasers, sharpened
- 6 RED pens (NO flairs or gels)
- Notebook paper - WIDE RULED-loose leaf, 200 sheets
- 6 blue or black pens (reg. or erasable) NO GEL
- 2 glue sticks
- Highlighters: 1 YELLOW, 1 PINK, 1 GREEN
- 1 clear plastic shoe box w/unhinged lid
- durable, expandable file folder w/at least 8 pockets and divider labels
- (4) 2 pocket Mead, 5 Star folder (measures 12.5” x 9.5”)
- 1 package THICK markers
- Fiskar’s scissors-youth size
- 2 dry erase markers, black
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 2 large boxes of tissues (200+ count)
- Bible-New American
- Wireless mouse AND Ear buds labeled in a Ziploc bag
- (1) pump-style bottle of hand sanitizer (8 oz, non-scented)
- 1 paint shirt (labeled in gallon size zip lock bag) OPTIONAL
*Calculator for home use - ALL calculators MUST be able to divide & give remainders – NOT just a decimal; EX: TI-34)
OR the App “Remainders”

6th GRADE
- ruler-12” w/metric
- 1 pkg colored pencils, sharpened
- 4 glue sticks
- Ear buds (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- wireless mouse
- 1 pencil pouch (NO boxes)
- 1 doz. #2 pencils w/erasers, sharpened
- 4 RED pens (NO flairs)
- notebook paper - wide ruled-loose leaf, 200 sheets
- 4 pens, blue or black (NO gel)
- 3 wide ruled composition notebooks
- 1 multi-subject spiral notebook for math (at least a 3-subject)
- 3 (2 pocket) folders w/prongs (bottom pockets)
- (1) 1” soft sided 3-ring binder for math
- (1) 1” 3-ring binder with 2 inside pockets (Spanish)
- 1 protractor
- 1 pkg thick OR thin markers (do not need both)
- 2 highlighters (any color)
- Fiskar’s scissors-youth size
- 3 rolls of paper towels (bring all 3 in at start of year)
- 4 boxes of tissues

6th GRADE (cont’d)
- Bible-New American
- 2 Dry Erase Marker (black)
- calculator (TI-34 multi-view or comparable)
- 1 pkg of index cards

7th GRADE
- ruler-12” w/metric
- #2 pencils w/erasers, sharpened
- Elmer’s white glue
- notebook paper - loose leaf
- pens, blue or black
- red pens
- 1 spiral notebook
- (1) 3-subject spiral notebook with folder pockets for math
- Earbuds
- wireless mouse
- 1 protractor
- Calculator (Scientific or TI83-83+, 84, or 84+)
- 1 pkg thick markers* 
- 1 pkg colored pencils*
- scissors*
- (3) 1” 3-ring binders with 2 inside pockets (Spanish, Science & LA)
- highlighters*
- 1 set of divider tabs for 3-ring binder
- 2 large boxes tissues
- 3 rolls of paper towels
- Bible-New American
- 3 x 5 index cards* 
- 1Composition notebook
- (1) 8-pocket Poly Organizer OPTIONAL
* These items are required supplies for class each day.

8th GRADE
- (4) spiral notebooks – 1-subject
- (1) 3 subject spiral notebook (optional for Social Studies; can also use the chromebook as an option)
- (1) 1 ½” 3-ring binder
- (1) 1” 3-ring binder
- (1) 1” 3-ring binder w/2 inside pockets (Spanish)
- Ear buds (labeled in a zip lock bag)
- Accordion file folder (minimum 6 sections) OPTIONAL
- 3 x 5 index cards (5 packs for the year) (optional for Social Studies; can also use the chromebook as an option)
- 3 x 5 index card case/holder (optional for Social Studies; can also use the chromebook as an option)
- New American Bible
- 1 pkg graph paper – ¼” grid lines
- 1 protractor
- calculator (T183-83+, 84, or 84+) OPTIONAL
- ruler-12” w/metric
- 1 pkg colored pencils, sharpened
- (2) glue sticks
- clear tape (2 small rolls)
- 1 pencil pouch (NO boxes)
- Pencils, red pens, and blue or black pens
- 1 pkg wide-ruled loose-leaf notebook paper, 200 sheets
- 4 highlighters – various colors
- scissors
- 2 large boxes of tissues
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- wireless mouse

Revised: 6/2/2016
What is “Summer Slide”? “Summer Slide” is a term used to describe the decline in reading and math achievement children suffer just from being away from school. Unless children read and practice math in the summer months, they can lose skills learned during the school year. Like playing a sport or musical instrument, math and reading skills can be enhanced by practice.

Research shows that reading over the summer helps keep children on track with reading. Be sure the books are just right, however. Not too hard and not too easy.

**Remember: Kids who read, succeed!**

In addition, practicing math during the summer will help keep your student on track for the fall.

The teachers of St. Joseph School have come up with some ideas to help your child stay engaged and excited about summer reading and math practice. Here are some suggestions:

- **Be a part of St. Joseph Summer Reading Club.** Have your K-4th grade child read **six books**, and your 5th-7th grade child read **three books**, fill out the reading form, and return it to his/her new teacher in the fall. **If submitted by August 26, 2016, your child will receive a pass for a jeans day** of their choice during the first quarter! (The Summer Reading Club form is on the back of this sheet and on-line for your convenience.)

- **Check out one or more of the other reading programs available:**
  - The University of Toledo Rocket Football Reading Program (UTRockets.com)
  - Toledo Lucas County Public Library Summer Reading Challenge
  - Scholastic’s Summer Reading Challenge ([www.scholastic.com/summer](http://www.scholastic.com/summer))

- **Prodigy offers a free math program that will provide your child with access to summer math practice.** Prodigy has been used in some classrooms this year with great success. Students love it, as it provides math practice in a video-game format. If your child does not already have a sign-on for Prodigy, you can go to [https://www.prodigygame.com](https://www.prodigygame.com) to register.

- **Set a time to practice math facts during the week.** It could be as little as 10 minutes a day, 3 times a week. Remember, the more you practice, the better you get!

Have a wonderful summer!!
Do you want to earn a JEANS DAY that can be used any day in the first quarter?

Simply read **6 books** (K-4) or **3 books** (5-7) during the summer months. Fill out this form. Get a parent signature to verify reading was completed. Turn the form into your homeroom teacher.

That's it!

Reading Forms are due by: 8/26/16

1. Author: Title:
2. Author: Title:
3. Author: Title:
4. Author: Title:
5. Author: Title:
6. Author: Title:

Student's Name: Homeroom: Parent Signature:
The following students donated books to our school library in celebration of their birthdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthday</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Book</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/08/16</td>
<td>Kayla Parker</td>
<td>1J</td>
<td>The Thank You Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/16</td>
<td>Xunmei Zhu</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>This Little Piggy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/04/16</td>
<td>Heidi Forgach</td>
<td>5H</td>
<td>Auggie &amp; Me: Three Wonder Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/07/16</td>
<td>Camryn Rachko</td>
<td>1J</td>
<td>Mooseltoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/10/16</td>
<td>Owen Little</td>
<td>3H</td>
<td>The Year of Billy Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/11/16</td>
<td>Ethan Bubp</td>
<td>KL</td>
<td>A Trip to the Zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/16</td>
<td>Sophia Kunkel</td>
<td>2Z</td>
<td>Owl Diaries: Eva and the New Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/19/16</td>
<td>Tyler Rachko</td>
<td>2Z</td>
<td>You Can Save the Planet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/20/16</td>
<td>Apolo Timperley</td>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Bad Kitty: Drawn to Trouble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cam Jansen and the Mystery of Flight 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>File Under: 13 Suspicious Incidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/27/16</td>
<td>Gracie Timperley</td>
<td>5H</td>
<td>Next Top Villain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>My Brother is a Big, Fat Liar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/02/16</td>
<td>R. J. Brock</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Star Wars: Ships of the Galaxy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/06/16</td>
<td>Ethan Little</td>
<td>5K</td>
<td>Face to Face With Whales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/10/16</td>
<td>Grace Garn</td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>Amelia Bedelia Means Business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would also like to thank Anna Martin in 5P, Nick Barkhimer in 3F, Emilee Hignight in 1W and the Jones Family for their generous donations to our school library this past month. Any further donations to our library will be acknowledged in the fall.

Don't forget to sign up for the summer reading programs at your public library, join the St. Joseph Reading Club and the Barnes and Noble Club and then log all those reading minutes onto Scholastic.com

Have a wonderful reading summer!

Thank you for helping our library to grow!

Mrs. Wisniewski, Librarian
Fun Times for St. Joseph Parish
Festirama 2016

By Joseph Suwinski

On May 20-22, St. Joseph’s Parish held its annual parish festival, Festirama, on the east campus of St. Joseph Parish. This festival is a fundraiser for the parish. It also builds relationships among the church community. Countless volunteers and donations make this weekend event possible.

Many rides, games, and food vendors line the grounds of the east campus. “My favorite ride is the Roundup,” says first grader Aiden Britt. Ethan Little, a SJS fifth grader said, “I normally go with my family, and mostly on Saturday.”

Preparation for the festival begins months before it opens. Volunteer chairman and face painting co-chair, Mrs. Elaine Dickendasher, said, “We begin preparing as early as October to contact entertainment, gain raffle items, and set the planning calendar. I also help update documents, promote publicity, and assist the business manager.

This is the main fundraiser for the parish. The money goes into the general fund for the parish. The event is also to promote community among parishioners.”

Set up for the event begins early in the week. St. Joseph Pastor, Msgr. Dennis Metzger said, “When Festirama begins on Friday, many of the workers gather at the flagpole on the east campus, and I lead them in a prayer, asking God to bless our efforts and keep everyone safe,” he stated. “Then for the rest of the weekend, I walk the entire grounds, inside and out, and sell my 7-course dinner raffle tickets.” The amount of work put into this event is tremendous, however, it definitely pays off.

The tents and rides have all come down but mark your calendar — Festirama always takes place the 3rd weekend in May!

Break A Positive Direction Sweat!
PD Week Ends with the Best Foot Forward Challenge

By Katie Holmes

St. Joseph Middle School wrapped up the 2016 Positive Direction program May 11-13 with many special events. These events included a “God Opens Many Doors” spiritual retreat, the traditional “Day of Caring” community service effort, and the 3K/5K Best Foot Forward Challenge. Students have trained since February for the much anticipated three/five-kilometer race!

Positive Direction began under the guidance of our own principal, Mrs. Sally Koppinger, about thirty years ago. First known as Positive Addiction, it’s name changed to Positive Direction in order to indicate the overall goal of the program—helping students live healthy, happy, and positive lives.

“Positive Direction has inspired me to reach for my goals,” says seventh grader, Grace Slomka and Melia Wahl. Seventh and eighth graders are anxious and determined to grasp hold of their future and enjoy the ride.

A Friday Fun Day carnival was the very last event of Positive Direction Week. After running the race, students were able to shower and come back to school for an afternoon of fun! Activities included a bounce house, photo booths, tug-of-war, and even a snow cone machine! It was a great way to bring students together for a final celebration of their success.
A Friendly Farewell

By Jayna Lonsway

Three teachers will be retiring this year from St. Joseph School. We wish a kind farewell to Mrs. Secrest, Mrs. Puffenberger, and Mrs. Wisniewski. They have shared with us their plans for retirement, and facts about their time here.

Mrs. Janet Secrest has taught at St. Joe’s for 33 years. She also taught at St. Clement for three years and St. Catherine of Siena for two years. She thought about retiring and her future plans for a while, and now she is looking forward to retirement. Mrs. Secrest says that preparing for retirement takes a lot of “soul searching.” During her retirement, she plans to spend time with her granddaughters, volunteer at her home parish, Blessed Sacrament, and be a substitute teacher at St. Joe’s. Mrs. Secrest describes what she will miss the most as “the many students I’ve taught, and the teachers and staff who have become like family.”

Mrs. Becky Puffenberger has taught at St. Joe’s for 18 years. She has been very gradually preparing for retirement, and she plans to spend more time with her grandchildren. She will also be volunteering in the community. Mrs. Puffenberger says she will miss all of the children at St. Joe’s the most.

Mrs. Wisniewski has been teaching for 30 years. Twenty five of those years have been as the SJS librarian. She says she will be upset in August when she doesn’t have to come back to school, and she won’t forget to take her name off the Honeywell Alert System! During her retirement she will also visit her grandchildren and read lots of books. She hopes to have more time to “read Arthur and Curious George!” She will dearly miss all the friends from St. Joe’s, and hopes to see students this year at the public library. She was glad to have the opportunity to instill a love for reading in students at St. Joseph.

We hope everyone has a chance to say goodbye to these teachers who have been a big part of St. Joseph School. We also wish them a comfortable and happy retirement.

A New Opportunity

By: Alexa Brown

On June 1, 2016, a new “Buddy Bench” will be dedicated and blessed on the west campus playground in memory of Miss Terrie Raymond, former teacher and Assistant Principal at St. Joseph School. Raymond was an influential part of SJS for nearly 40 years. This new Buddy Bench serves two purposes -- to honor the memory of Raymond and give students a spot to hang out together and have fun or to go when they are feeling left out and need support from their classmates.

Mrs. Knapp, the school’s former school counselor, first came to Assistant Principal, Mrs. Carol Lindsley, with the idea, “We had a former SJS student, Nate Oblizajek, design and build the Buddy Bench as his Eagle Scout project,” said Lindsley. The Buddy Bench will hopefully, “bring awareness to all the students who, at one time or another, need a friend or playmate,” stated Mrs. Lindsley. “It should be a constant reminder that the Spirit lives within each of us and we need to treat others as Jesus taught.”

The Reality of Student Bullying

By Jayna Lonsway

Many students are bullied each year at every school for countless reasons. This can all be easily prevented. The truth is that bullying happens in every school, whether it is seen or unseen. Bullying can be prevented with few easy steps.

Some people like to think that bullying doesn’t exist, but the worst thing to do is ignore it. There are many trained people at St. Joseph School to help students who are being bullied. Mrs. Kelly O’Brien and Monsignor Dennis Metzger, as well as the faculty members are trained to help any students in distress. If any student has problems with bullying at SJS, it is recommended to go directly to the homeroom teacher. Some students may feel uncomfortable talking to adults, and they may confide in friends or other students. It is best to report any case of bullying directly to an adult, because chances are they will help the best.

It is important for parents to be aware of what is going on in their student’s school life. Many children are too afraid to tell their parents. Children think that parents will pass on the conversation, and only make the situation worse. Bullying
8th Grade Farewell
SJS Says Goodbye to the Class of 2016

By Madeyln Piscopo

St. Joseph School’s Class of 2016 is preparing to graduate on Friday, June 3. The eighth grade year is full of exciting experiences. The favorites among students are the Cedar Point trip, as well as Positive Direction. However, eighth grader, Sage Gibson, said, “Hanging out and being with my friends is what I’m going to miss most.” Gibson also stated that the Mime Stations of the Cross was one of the most “moving” experiences this year.

As the middle school journey comes to a close for eighth grade students, the teachers and staff at SJS will never forget this group. “They are a very well behaved group, as well as kind and funny,” said eighth grade teacher, Miss Lynn Heintschel. As for advice for their high school journey, Heintschel advised, “Take one day at a time, make good choices, and always look into the future.”

Graduation day has almost arrived, and the entire SJS community hopes that graduating students have been taught lifelong lessons so that in high school perspective sometimes!” said Ms. Marianne Lazar, kindergarten teacher. Many students have fond memories of their kindergarten year. Some of the older students’ favorites included Gust Brother’s Farm and the family picnic. This year’s kindergartners were asked and art class, eating in the cafeteria, and center time were their top picks. “Oh, and the new playground!” recalled Lazar. Congratulations to the SJS class of 2024!

Celebrating the Class of 2024

By Madison Bell

The kindergartners at St. Joseph School have been busy working all year. On Friday, June 3, the youngest students of the school will graduate. A celebration of a successful year will follow in the Banquet Hall. Prior to graduation, a family picnic was planned at Secor Metropark, celebrating their first year of important work in the SJS community. “I love seeing the ‘light’ that goes on when a student gets it. That never gets old for me; teaching the little ones to read is always exciting. I also love the things they say - they help me look at life with a different perspective sometimes!” said Ms. Marianne Lazar, kindergarten teacher. Many students have fond memories of their kindergarten year. Some of the older students’ favorites included Gust Brother’s Farm and the family picnic. This year’s kindergartners were asked and art class, eating in the cafeteria, and center time were their top picks. “Oh, and the new playground!” recalled Lazar. Congratulations to the SJS class of 2024!

D.A.R.E. Graduation

By Mollie Malone, Katie Holmes and Natalie Suwinski

On April 27 fifth grade students graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. Offered by the Sylvania Police Department, the program teaches students how to resist drugs and alcohol. Fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Janice Korhumel, said, “I am very proud of all the fifth grade. They loved the D.A.R.E. Program.” The officers showed the fifth graders examples of what it was like to be intoxicated, or severely affected by drugs. Students were asked to throw a ball into a bin while wearing the “drunk” goggles. They also learned of the importance of staying away of drugs and alcohol — even when there is temptation from peers.

As part of the graduation ceremony, one student from each classroom was awarded for the most inspiring essay about D.A.R.E. The winners were Ethan Little (5K), Heidi Forcagh (5H), and Samantha Koesters (5P). The essay winners were added to official D.A.R.E. plaque that is on display in the school office on the west campus.

A Tribute to 3rd Grade Moms

By Natalie Suwinski

The third grade students of St. Joseph School performed many songs honoring their moms for Mother’s Day on Friday, May 6. A special “Mom and Me” picnic followed the program. The students practiced these songs in their classrooms as well as during music. Not only did the third graders prepare for the performance, they also created a number of mementos to give to their moms. One of the most coveted creations is the fused glass flower pin that each student made especially for his/her mom. Seventh grade student Katie Holmes remembers the program and picnic fondly, “It was a way for us to give back to our moms for the day.”
Penny Wars for a Great Cause

By Dina Angel

After months of preparation, St. Joseph School second graders received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time the weekend of April 22. Second grader, Zachary Hoffman, was “excited to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.” Hoffman felt closer to God after receiving his First Communion. Mrs. Joan Zunk has been teaching 2nd grade since 2011. Zunk’s favorite part of the school year is preparing her students to for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Practices began in March and continued through all of April. The second graders also participated in a retreat on March 19. Receiving First Communion as a class is a long standing tradition at SJS. The students are forever bonded because of this special day.

Summer Running

By Angelique Douglas

Summer Running Club (SRC), is a fun-conditioning program created by former SJS parent Mr. Sean Savage many years ago. SRC has been a Jaguar running tradition for many years. The club is open to all members of the parish. Savage wanted to see the cross country program become more than just a CYO sport. He wanted to foster students’ love for running. Coach Dave McGranahan took over the Cross Country program in 2005. At the time, only about 30 to 50 kids joined all summer, but participation increased when the t-shirt contest began. To earn a SRC t-shirt, a runner must attend a minimum of eight SRC sessions. Last year, SJS had over 140 runners in the running club and about 100 runners earned a shirt.

The summer program is modeled after many high school programs which prepare runners for the season. The SJS cross country program has produced many outstanding high school runners! In fact, one of McGranahan’s former runners, Stephanie Sherman, invited him to her signing to run for the University of Toledo. Current eighth grader and Coach McGranahans’ son, Jack McGranahan, has participated in SRC for nine years. Jack said, “The program helped me run better during the running season. The coaches have taught me that hard work pays off if you try and they have taught me to keep trying, and never give up.”

A 7th grader, Elizabeth Newsom, has also been in the summer running club for five years. She joined the program to stay in shape for the fall cross country season. Her coaches and family inspire her to keep running and the SRC has taught her that a small amount of extra effort can go a long way.

Summer Running Club 2016 begins in early June. A schedule will be posted online very soon. All are welcome to attend!

A Race Against Time

By Angelique Douglas

Minute-To-Win-It (MTWI) is a fun activity that started this year at St. Joseph Middle School to bring 6th, 7th and 8th grade students together for some friendly competition. MTWI are challenge competitions to be completed under a minute. Challenges are scheduled once a month during lunch time because that’s when the whole school is together. On MTWI days, students get to wear a St. Joe’s shirt to show our school spirit. Mrs. Shelly Perna, St. Joseph’s middle school secretary, had the idea to start this fun activity because her own kids did it in high school. Mrs. Perna thought SJS students would enjoy it too!

Some challenges that the students have faced include the Hungry-Hungry Hippos, Free Throw Contest, Oreo Face, Tissue Challenge, Cup Stacking and Jelly Bean Toss. A survey was taken and the students voted that Hungry-Hungry Hippos was their favorite activity this year. In the survey, students also recommended activities that they would like to see happen next year like Tug-A-War and an Egg-Spoon Race.

This year’s MTWI has been very successful and the students really enjoy it. St. Joe’s hopes to continue this fun activity and make it something that the elementary kids can look forward to as they transition to the middle school. Leaving the west campus is a big change and it helps that there’s an activity at school to bring students closer together and make students feel welcomed and included.
The school year is coming to an end, but the Summer Running Club is just beginning!!

- All ages/grades are welcome to participate - parents and grandparents too!!
- Each run will last approximately 45 min
- Runners will be grouped according to age and experience - first timers welcome!!
- No commitment to run cross country in the fall
- Excellent way to get in shape for any fall sport
- Specially designed club T-shirt to all runners who attend 7 times!
- No cost to participate and no registration needed - just show up and run!!
- Questions? Contact Coach Riley at bryanriley33@gmail.com or 330-703-9761

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Stranahan Elementary - meet at Shelter Area by playground in back of the school
Secor Metropark – meet at Nature Photography Center
Olander Park – meet at Shelter Area on West side of the lake
Harroun Park – meet at Shelter Area near the parking lot