



# St. John Catholic School

## Educational Ministry of St. John Parish

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October 21, 2015

### Letter from the Principal

Dear SJCS Families,

How exciting it was to welcome all of you to St. John Catholic School last week for **parent-student-teacher conferences**. Teachers, students, and parents were grateful for time well spent discussing student achievement and setting goals for the year. Please know that we are here to work in partnership with you so that each student can be successful. Stay in touch and let us know how we can help.

This week marks **Red Ribbon Week**, a national time set aside for drug awareness in our schools. The goal is to encourage our students to be responsible for their health and safety, and to educate them about the perils of drug and substance abuse.

On Monday, we kicked off our annual **Fall Fundraiser!** Students attended a motivating assembly on Monday, and brought home a packet with a catalog and order forms. ***This is our major fundraiser for the year, and profits from this event count toward the \$300 family fundraising commitment for the year.*** This amount is budgeted in to our operating expenses – tuition alone is not enough to cover our costs to operate a high-quality Catholic school.

Profits from this fundraiser are directly allocated to support and improve student learning, such as textbooks and curriculum supplies, technology resources, facilities maintenance, and more. We hope that you will enjoy the selection of gift items, helpful household items, festive giftwrap, and delectable edibles for you, and your friends and family.

A beautiful tradition at St. John Catholic School is our annual **Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)** altars, lovingly set up by Art Teacher Mrs. Babcock. Look for more information from your child's teacher about how you and your family can participate in this tradition.

With these colorful altars as our visual reminder, we know that **All Saints Day** and **All Souls Day** are close at hand. Earlier this month, Pope Francis canonized four new saints: **Fr. Vincenzo Grassi, Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, and Louis and Zelig Martin**, the first married couple to be canonized together. These saints are recognized for their tireless imitation of Jesus in humble service to others. These are role models we are called to emulate.

How will you and your family honor and acknowledge the faithful who have gone before us?

Blessings,  
*Mrs. Rachel Gonsalves*  
Principal



### **Red Ribbon Week**

St. John Catholic School will participate in Red Ribbon Week, a national program for drug awareness in schools. Mrs. Stalker and the SJCS Student Council have worked to create fun activities for our students this week:

**Monday:** "Band Together Against Drugs" - student council will pass out red bracelets for the students to wear all week

**Tuesday:** "Being Drug Free is No Sweat" - students wear uniform clothes but free dress sweatshirt or sweat jacket

**Wednesday:** "Put Down Drugs and Give Everyone a Hug" - give hugs

**Thursday:** "Run Away from Drugs" - wear uniform clothes but free dress athletic shoes

**Friday:** "We Have the Power to Stop Drugs" - dress as your favorite super hero

### **Attention Active Parishioners!**

#### **Altar Server Candidates Needed**

St. John the Baptist Church and St. John Catholic School are currently seeking SJCS students in grades 5-8 to become altar servers. This is an important liturgical leadership opportunity. Interested students must be in grades 5-8 and must be current with the sacraments of initiation (baptism and communion).

An application is enclosed for families with a student in Grade 5 or higher.

New server training will take place on the following dates from 6-7 p.m.

10/29/15 Introduction/Tour

11/5/15 Basic Procedure

11/12/15 Serving the Whole Mass

11/19/15 Final Review

If your family has declared Active Parishioner status at our school, this is an excellent way for you and your children to serve our school and parish communities by putting your faith and commitment into action.

### **Second Step Anti-Bullying Program at St. John Catholic School**

Our school is blessed to have Mrs. Dianne Reardon with us as our school counselor. She spends a good deal of time helping all of our students learn social skills and appropriate interpersonal behaviors through whole-class instruction, as well as individual and small group instruction.

The month of October is **National Bullying Prevention Month**, and Mrs. Reardon has been busy coordinating projects for all of our students. This week, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are creating anti-bullying posters for our halls. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade class made a book that will be passed around and read aloud to younger grades. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class worked on a play that they will present to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes this week. And students in grades 1-5 saw a short film about how to prevent bullying, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will begin their Second Step program by watching a short film and discussing the topic of bullying.

### **Handbook Reminder of the Week**

Each week, look for a gentle reminder from our 2015-2016 Parent/Student Handbook. This week we will focus on an excerpt from the St. John Catholic School **Health and Safety -**

#### **Medications:**

- St. John Catholic School may not furnish any medications to students.
- All medication administration requires parent/guardian authorization.
- All prescription medications and aspirin require physician *and* parent/guardian authorization.
- All medications must be secured in the school office. Exception: back-up

inhalers and Epi-Pens may be secured in the classroom as well as the office.

- Use of an Epi-Pen necessitates a 911 call.
- Because of the risk of students sharing medication, no student may carry their own medications. In the event that a student is seriously at risk without an Epi-Pen or inhaler, consideration will be given to a variance when the physician and parent document the following:
  - Risk of not carrying the medication
  - Student has been instructed in the indications, administration, side effects, responsibility not to share, and the responsibility to notify the teacher immediately after use
  - Glucose testing and insulin administration is coordinated by the parent/guardian in collaboration with the Principal

### **SJCS Book Fair Results**

Congratulations to our Kindergarten class for winning the Coin Wars during our book fair – this class alone donated more than \$200 for students in areas devastated by Northern California wildfires. As a school, we raised more than \$600! Wow! Congratulations to all of our students for being generous and kind to others in need.

We sold **927** books during our book fair – a lot more than last year's total. We continue to build lifelong learners who love to read!

We also wish to thank all of our parent and family volunteers who came to help set up, work during the fair, and pack up at the end. These events cannot be successful without your help. Thank you so much!



### **Catholic High School Open House Events**

Attention parents of students in grades 5-8 – It's not too early to begin learning about your Catholic high school options! Students and families are encouraged to attend Open House events in October and November at our local Catholic high schools. Find out how you can make a Catholic high school experience possible for your child! See our Calendar Reminders for dates and times.

### **Fundraising ... What's the difference?**

St. John Catholic School relies on fundraising efforts to cover operating expenses not covered by tuition alone. Tuition and fees pay for only 80% of our operating expenses, which include insurance, facility maintenance, utilities, curriculum, salaries and benefits, etc.

Each family is committed to raise \$300 in profit for the year. This is accomplished by participating in SCRIP, Fall Fundraiser, and our Fun Run this spring, for example. Any funds not raised by the May 1 deadline will be rolled over to FACTS.

In addition to the school's efforts, many of our classes also fundraise to offset the cost of science camps, Caritas, and graduation fees. *These expenses are not part of the school's operating budget, and participation in class-sponsored fundraisers does not apply to the school's \$300 annual commitment per family.*

### **SCRIP Orders**

It's not too early to start thinking about Halloween candy and treats, Thanksgiving grocery shopping, and Christmas gift giving! Order forms are available in the school office.

### **SJCS Halloween Carnival**

#### **Volunteers needed!**

Please join us to help with ghoulish games and a costume parade for our PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Earn service hours by signing up at the following link,

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e4daeac2caafb6-halloween>

For more information contact Kim Colantuono via email at [kimcatano@gmail.com](mailto:kimcatano@gmail.com)

### **Parent Coffee Chat**

Friday, October 23, Our SJCS Parent Club will be hosting their first monthly Coffee Chat. The first gathering will cover Parent Club 101, fundraising opportunities, and a round table so you can share feedback. Please join our Parent Club for coffee, donuts, and conversation at 8:05 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room!

### **SJCS School Calendar**

Our full school calendar is available on our school website. Please check it out to stay up-to-date!

[www.stjohncatholicschool.org](http://www.stjohncatholicschool.org).



### **Calendar Reminders**

#### **Red Ribbon Week**

October 19-24

#### **Fall Fundraiser – Fundraisers.org**

October 19 – Kickoff

#### **MUSE Band Lesson**

Wednesday, October 21, 2:45 p.m.

#### **Parent Coffee Chat**

Friday, October 23, 8:05 a.m.

#### **PreK, K, and 1<sup>st</sup> Gr Annual Pumpkin Patch Field Trip**

Friday, October 23

#### **CSUEB Science Festival – Discovery Days at Cal State Univ East Bay – Free Admission**

October 24, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### **SJCS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser: Spooky Movie Night @ St. John Gym**

Saturday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Open House – St. Joseph Notre Dame**

Sunday, October 25, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

#### **Noon Dismissal – Professional Development**

Wednesday, October 28

#### **Picture Make Up Day**

Thursday, October 29

#### **Scoliosis screening**

Thursday, October 29

#### **Noon Dismissal – Classroom Halloween Parties**

Friday, October 30

#### **San Lorenzo Village Halloween Party**

October 31, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.