



A+ For America CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Families,

As we race through January, I would like to bring you up to speed on a few events coming up for the remainder of the month and for Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year for the week is: Catholic Schools: A+ (a plus) for America. This theme celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value ("a plus") for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to American society. Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally the last week in January. For 2011 the dates are Jan. 30 through Feb. 5. The 7,094 Catholic elementary and secondary schools make up 44.4 percent of all private schools in the United States. We are proud to be one of their number.

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

Wednesday, January 26 – Blue Jean/snack Day

Thursday, January 27 – First Reconciliation for 2nd grade

Education Commission 6:00 PM in staff lounge

5th & 6th grade basketball @ St. Johns Middle School 6:00&7:15

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Sunday, January 30 – 12:00 Mass – Celebration of Catholic Schools Week

Monday, January 31 – 6th graders attend Mass at the Cathedral

Service project for "ASA Adopt a Unit" support program kick-off
(details below)

Tuesday, February 1 – Spirit Day

Students may wear red, white and blue to honor our service men and women. (Pants should be dress code.)

Wednesday, February 2 – Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Lunch treat for students

Thursday, February 3 – St. Joe Palooza 2:30 – gym

Friday, February 4 – Hat Day (after 9:05 Mass)

Saturday, February 5 – Parent Night Out 6:00-10:00 in school

Evening at the Emerald for Parents

As you can see from above, we will be adopting a military unit for the week of Catholic Schools Week. Each classroom will be doing a special project; artwork, cards, letters, prayer promises, etc. to send to troops in the 101st who are in Afghanistan, under the leadership of Captain Juan Garcia. In addition to the class projects, we would like to send a care package. The following items are needed by the troops, so we have done a break down by grade level.

Kindergarten – batteries AA &AAA and gum

1st – baby wipes with aloe, tuna or chicken in a pouch, powdered drink mixes.

2nd – lip balm and meals in a can with pull tops

3rd – q-tips and small canned or packaged nuts

4th – visine and jerky (all kinds)

5th – magazines and Ramen Noodles

6th – games (cards, small games) and packaged cookies

All – snacks in individual packages (candy, bars, popcorn, etc.)

All items will be packaged and sent to the 101st in Afghanistan through our contact at America Supporting Americans (ASA) adopt-a-unit.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for Saturday, February 26th. Our guest speaker, Chris Johnson, is a nationally recognized author and inspirational speaker. Thousands of people of all ages and life stages have attended Chris Johnson's On Target Living seminars. As a result, a better understanding of simple nutrition has not only improved their health, but changed their life. At the core of On Target Living is the Food Target, an easy-to-use device to help make better choices. He has graciously agreed to present here at St. Joe for the entire St. Johns community and is donating all proceeds back to our school. This is open to everyone!! Please... we need your help to get the word out by sharing information with family and co-workers. If you would like to post flyers at your work place or send an electronic copy to your email contacts, please contact Stacie Smith at coachstacie@ontargetliving.com or Angi Bunn at angibunn@gmail.com.

OUR WINTER FUNDRAISER will begin on February 1. In trying to meet the desires of those who have asked us to do something other than a food sale, we will be selling Yankee Candles. This seems to have a lot of potential to meet our needs. Many people have told me that this is the only kind of candle they buy and these are priced either at, or within \$1.00 of retail price. **IF EACH FAMILY SELLS AT LEAST 7 CANDLES, WE WILL REACH OUR GOAL.** So, please, do your part. I believe you will like the selection of gifts in the catalogue. Plan ahead. They will make great Easter and Mothers Day gifts. If you do not wish to participate in the sale, a donation of \$37.00 per student can be made to the school.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN THE LIBRARY. If you can donate a few hours each week, it would be greatly appreciated. Besides working in the library, we need someone who would be willing to help with book repairs. This is a job that can be done from home if this is easier for you. Please call the school office if you can help out.

Thank you to all who have come together to offer prayer and other kinds of support to our parish families who are suffering from illness, grief, and unemployment. It warms my heart and fills me with pride and gratitude to be a part of such a beautiful community of people.

Sincerely,

Tomi Ann Schultheiss