

St. Joseph School

September 2009

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year. The children seem to have quickly settled into the school routine and most seem pretty happy to be back with their friends, though they have expressed to me that they are not thrilled about getting up early☺. The staff and I are so happy to have the children back in the building. They give life to these halls. Thank you so much for sharing them with us.

Thank you also for donating food items for the food bank as our school recognized the Day of Remembrance on 9/11. Because of your generosity, 500 items were given to help the needy in our area.

Along with this letter, you will receive an updated school calendar. Please discard the one we sent at the Walk Through with the red printing and replace it with this one.

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE MANS CONFERENCE scheduled on October 29 & 30. This is a two day conference for the *Michigan Association of Non-public Schools* which is held every three years. Our staff will be attending, so there will be no school for St. Joseph students on those days. St. Johns Public will still be in session.

*You may have noticed that this year's calendar refers to 'trimesters' instead of quarter/semesters. St. Johns elementary schools have decided to use this format starting this year to coordinate with the schedule at the middle and high schools. This means that student progress reports will be issued three times per year instead of four. **Because of this, the conference schedule is also affected.** Recognizing that waiting until the twelve week mark is too long, conference times have been put in the schedule at the six week mark. This means we have to start scheduling right away. Please fill out the form which accompanies this letter ASAP and return it to us by this Friday, September 18.*

THE FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH forms, which were sent home during the walk-through, are very important to you and to our school. Please read them over to see if your family may qualify for these benefits. It has been brought to my attention that some of our families are reluctant to apply for free/reduced lunch, thinking that this costs our school extra money. It might interest you to know that it is actually helpful in several ways to have qualifying families. First of all, these lunches are paid for with government funds and in reality end up helping our lunch program. There is no extra cost to our school. Additionally, there are educational programs which are available to us as a result of our free/reduced lunch counts; the higher our count, the more dollars allocated to our school program. As always, the privacy of those students taking advantage of this is strictly respected. If you need additional forms, they are available in the school office.

Though it appears that summer has finally arrived, the trees, which have started their glorious transition, assure us that fall is indeed in the air. Enjoy all that the season has to offer and please add your prayers to mine for a successful school year for the children and the staff alike.

Sincerely,

Tommi Ann Schultheiss