



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph School 2009



Lessons we can learn from a five year old...

The room was filled with little people, busy with a flurry of activities; scissors cutting, crayons coloring, glue glueing. In the midst of this hive of busyness, one of the children accidentally cut his picture in half. 'No big deal,' you might think, except for this particular student, it was a very big deal indeed. He began to melt down; agitated, panicky, shaking. A little classmate sitting next to him, reached out to him and said, "Don't worry. That could happen to anyone." Then she proceeded to take her scissors and deliberately cut her own paper in half. "See?" she said, and went on to show him how he could glue each half to the paper.

When Mrs. Glowacki relayed this story to me, I was touched and amazed by the simple beauty of that moment. I have thought of it many times since. This little person already knows about acceptance and compassion and sensitivity. She knows what it means to reach out to another and to give of herself, even to the point of damaging her own project. She is five years old! Imagine what kind of an adult she will be. This is what we are called to. This is the heart of Christ alive in our world. Without even knowing it, this child challenges us to live with empathy, kindness, and concern. Pretty remarkable, don't you think?

Please put the following dates on your calendar:

Wednesday, October 28 - Halloween Parade 3:15

Thursday & Friday, October 29 & 30 - Michigan Association of Non-public Schools (MANS) conference. NO SCHOOL for St. Joe students only.

Monday, November 2 - Spelldown - grades 4, 5, & 6 in gym @ 10:45

Wednesday, November 4 - Raffle tickets due

Friday, November 6 - Carnival Assembly - 2:30 in gym

Saturday, November 7 - The quintessential family event of the year!!

St. Joe Carnival 4:00-8:30

Monday, November 9 - Parent School council meeting - 6:30 PM - Teacher's Lounge

Monday, November 23 - Shoeboxes for Appalachia due

Tuesday, November 24 - Blue jean/cupcake Day

Wednesday, November 25 - Mass @ 9:05

Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28 - Thanksgiving Recess

Monday, November 30 - End of 1st trimester - Records day - NO SCHOOL for students

**A reminder that our school Masses are on Fridays unless otherwise noted.

CARNIVAL AND MINI RAFFLE TICKETS will be available for sale at school next week starting on Monday, November 2. The advantage for pre-purchasing the tickets is that the game tickets are 5 for a \$1 instead of 4/\$1 at the door. Mini raffle tickets are also for sale during the carnival, but if you buy ahead of time, your tickets will be in the drawing from the very beginning of the event.

THANK YOU to all who have been selling the money raffle tickets. This is the major fund raiser for the Parent School Council and finances the majority of our budget for the school year. Tickets are still available from the office and we encourage you to try to sell more.

AS WE MOVE TOWARD THE WINTER MONTHS, please be aware of the erratic weather temperatures when you dress your children for school. Trying to keep the building at a comfortable level is very challenging. Along with the varying temperatures, we are also trying to be good stewards of our finances. As you know, heating costs have skyrocketed and are certainly impacting our budget here at school. We will be trying to strike a balance between keeping the school comfortable and not wasting resources. A key component of this will be dressing your students appropriately for the weather. I strongly suggest dressing in layers so the cooler mornings will not be uncomfortable for them. Sweatshirts and sweaters are useful in these circumstances, but *they should meet dress code requirements*. They can even be left at school if that helps.

CONGRATULATIONS to our girls' basketball teams as they finish their regular season play. Our 6th grade team finished with a 4 and 4 season, and 5th grade was 7 and 1. They are now getting ready for tournament play. A big thank you to all the coaches, workers, and parents who have volunteered their time to make this a successful experience for our girls.

It was great seeing all of our parents at conferences. We know that we have the most success as a school when we work in partnership with all of you. Thank you for being so invested in your child's education. Remember that we are on 'trimesters' now, so report cards will not be coming until early December.

AND FINALLY....enjoy these crisp fall days and the colors of the season. Remember to love tenderly those with whom we surround ourselves, and those who are more difficult to love. Practice compassion, pray for the ability to forgive, and learn from the lessons our children have to teach us.

Sincerely,

Tomi Ann Schultheiss