



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*"St. Joseph School, following the Mission of Christ,  
Where we Learn Our Faith, Live our Faith and Prepare for the Future"  
~ St. Joseph Mission Statement*

September 2016

## **Dear St. Joseph Families,**

The halls of St. Joseph School came to life on Saturday, August 20th as we began our school year with St. Joseph Fellowship Night. It was wonderful to see all the families enjoying their evening together. Thank you to the St. Joseph Parents' Club for organizing this wonderful event.

On Wednesday, August 24th, we welcomed 134 students from 89 families to school for the beginning of our 2016 – 2017 school year. Thank you all for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren). Catholic education, at its best, illuminates and enriches a student's experience of God, life and culture. We at St. Joseph's strive for this every day, as we educate our students intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically.

Please take a moment to read each newsletter as they are filled with exciting and informational news that is happening within our school.

### ***Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus***

Our annual fundraiser at St. Joseph is the Walk-a-thon that will be held on Friday, October 7th. Everyone is welcome to join us at 10:15 am at James Field to walk following 9:00 am Mass. All families are asked to donate or raise \$125 for this event. Be watching for more information to come home as we finalize plans for this wonderful event. Please remember we will be dismissing at 12:30 pm on this day and each child needs to bring a sack lunch.

### ***New Faces at SJS***

The SJS staff welcomes our new staff member for the 2016-2017 school year! Mrs. Julie McArdle is our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Mrs. McArdle is a graduate from Illinois State University with B.S. Elementary Education and an M.A. Educational Administration and Leadership from Bradley University. Mrs. McArdle has been in education for over 25 years and we are fortunate to have her. Mr. Gregory Zobac will be joining our SJS Family as our band director. Mr. Zobac is a graduate from the University of Illinois in music education and holds a theology degree from Trinity International University. Mr. Zobac worked as Music/Band Instructor at Harrison Learning Center from 2011-2015 and has retired. Mrs. Christine Hawkinson is our new cafeteria member. She graduated from Glendale Community College with a CNA degree. We are thrilled to have them join our SJS family!

## **Parent Communication Going Green for Communication**

St. Joseph School is continuing its efforts to help our environment by becoming a paperless school. We are going to utilize RenWeb as our main communication between home and school. We will continue to send the blue folders home on a weekly basis for those announcements that cannot be uploaded into RenWeb. Also, please check us out on Facebook as we update our page to keep parents informed on upcoming events along with great accomplishments by our students!

### ***"RenWeb"***

RenWeb is our school management software that totally integrates all your child(ren)'s information. St. Joseph School will share your child(ren)'s lesson plans, homework, grades, newsletters, special announcements, calendar events, and lunch menu all under a password protected program that can be accessed from any location via the web. If you have any questions regarding logging in, please contact the school office and we will be glad to assist you.

### ***"The Blue Folders"***

The blue folders are designed as one way to communicate between the school and home. Inside the folder you will notice one section is designated for information to be read and returned to school while the other is information for you to keep at home. Please note that the blue folder must be returned to school or you will not be able to receive necessary information in the future. If you happen to lose your "Blue Folder" it can be replaced by submitting \$5.00 to the office with a written request.

### ***7th Annual Run with the Saints Marigold Festival Weekend***

Please come join us for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Run with the Saints on Saturday, September 10, 2016. The run will take place at Coal Miners' Park in Pekin at 7:30 am. If you would like an entry form or more information, please contact Coach Myers. Hope to see you for a Saturday morning stroll.



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*"St. Joseph School, following the Mission of Christ,  
Where we Learn Our Faith, Live our Faith and Prepare for the Future"  
~ St. Joseph Mission Statement*

September 2016

## **Pre / After Care Information**

Pre/After Care hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and then from 3:25 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Rates are \$6.00 per hour for one child, \$8.00 per hour for two or more children. Please remember that fees are to be prepaid every Monday. Please see Mrs. King for more information.

## **Parents' Club Updates**

### **Scrip News**

We had a very successful year! Thank you to all of the school staff and families for making this the 2nd highest tuition rebates in SCRIP history. You will see the tuition credit at registration when you make your payments. Our school families received a total of \$4,136 in tuition credit! This means our school received a matching amount. The SCRIP program overall profit for the school year is not available yet, but will be reported soon. Thank you again for supporting this "No-Selling Fundraiser" for our school!

### **Thank you**

Thank you to all the families who joined us for the Back to School Family Night Cookout and Unpack your Sack.

## **Picture Day**

Mark your calendar...picture day is Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Your child(ren) will have free dress on this day, but please remember the free dress rules still apply. Also, don't forget your picture envelopes!

## **Dental/Physical/Eye Forms**

This is just a reminder that kindergarten, second and sixth graders must have dental exam forms turned in by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Kindergarten students also need to have a physical and eye exam turned in by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **School Uniforms**

As the weather is changing, please make sure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather. The mornings are cool, but it warms up by the afternoon. As your child(ren) are dressing, please make sure they are wearing an appropriate school uniform. An example is wearing a St. Joseph sweatshirt verses a non-school related sweatshirt or coat during the school day. If you are unsure of our dress code, please refer to your parent handbook. Also, this is a reminder that young ladies are to be wearing plaid skirts and jumpers only and no colored socks. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Parent/Student Handbook Updates**

Thank you to all parents who have returned their parent/student handbook sign off form. If you have not signed and returned your form, please do by Friday, September 2<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

## **School Website Address and Staff Emails**

Just wanted to let you know that St. Joseph School has a website address that you might want to add to your favorites. The address is:  
<http://www.stjosephschoolpekin.com>

Please take a moment and visit our page. Please remember all staff members have a school email address. It is the staff member's first initial and last name @stjosephschoolpekin.com. Please see the example below:  
Sue Coyer: [scoyer@stjosephschoolpekin.com](mailto:scoyer@stjosephschoolpekin.com)

Also, our classroom teachers are developing web pages to help with parent communication. Please check out the following webpages:

Kindergarten –

1<sup>st</sup> - [mrsmcconnellsfirstgrade.weebly.com](http://mrsmcconnellsfirstgrade.weebly.com)

2<sup>nd</sup>: [www.missoberlessecondgrade.weebly.com](http://www.missoberlessecondgrade.weebly.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> – [www.missstickelmaierthirdgrade.weebly.com](http://www.missstickelmaierthirdgrade.weebly.com)

4<sup>th</sup>: [www.missmillburgsfourthgrade.weebly.com](http://www.missmillburgsfourthgrade.weebly.com)

5<sup>th</sup>: [missbogner.weebly.com](http://missbogner.weebly.com)

6<sup>th</sup>: <http://stjosephsixthgrade.weebly.com/index.html>

7<sup>th</sup>: [missmooresseventhgrade.weebly.com](http://missmooresseventhgrade.weebly.com)

8<sup>th</sup>: [sjsgrade8.weebly.com](http://sjsgrade8.weebly.com)

Music: [www.stjosephmusicprogram.weebly.com](http://www.stjosephmusicprogram.weebly.com)

## **Extra-Curricular Committee**

The Extra-Curricular Committee is looking for new members to join our extra-curricular committee for the 2016-2017 school year. The committee meets every month and they are responsible for fundraising, running the home basketball/volleyball games, extra-curricular banquet, and recruiting of coaches. Also the committee is looking for someone to be the co-athletic director. If you are interested in serving on the committee or being the co-athletic director, please let Mrs. Rogers know by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*"St. Joseph School, following the Mission of Christ,  
Where we Learn Our Faith, Live our Faith and Prepare for the Future"*

*~ St. Joseph Mission Statement*

September 2016

## **Whole School 40 Days of Life Celebration**

From September 24 through November 2, our community will be uniting with many others from coast to coast – and internationally – for a major simultaneous pro-life mobilization – the 40 Days of Life campaign. Faithful believers across America are praying that these efforts will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America. One of the strengths of 40 Days for Life is its simplicity. The campaign is made up of three key components: prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach.

In our school, the 6th, 7th and 8th grade religion classes will be coordinating efforts to focus on the sanctity of life. We will continue our baby shower collection in January for our spiritually adopted child by helping out babies whose mothers chose life and we will recite a Pro-Life Rosary for our Living Rosary in October.

## **Simple Fundraisers each Family Can Help... In case you didn't know!**

Here are the items we have purchased with your help in collecting Box Tops, Campbell Soup Labels for Education, and Coca-Cola Rewards:

**Campbell's Soup Labels** - We were able to purchase **ALL** of the playground equipment plus extra and received **\$750** in a Visa Debit card for classroom supplies!!

**Box Tops and Coca-Cola** go back into the general supply line to help offset textbooks costs. We receive two checks per school year totaling \$1,276.70. Coca-Cola donation was \$38.05.

We also collect labels from participating **Tyson** products as part of their **Tyson Project A+** promotion! We haven't received enough labels (we need 100) to mail those in. We get .24 per label!

You may also send in to your child's classroom, not the office, **Sunny Delight** labels. Once the teacher receives 20 labels by the end of November they may mail them in and receive 20 free books for their class!

Please help us to continue to raise money for our school, by turning in your box tops, Coca-Cola tabs, Tyson Project A+ and Sunny Delight each month in your blue folder. **THANK YOU!**

## **St. Joseph Drop Off and Dismissal**

As we have been in school for a couple of weeks, we have noticed we need to remind parents the procedures for drop off in the morning and dismissal at the end of the day to ensure all students are safe.

As you drop your child(ren) off in the morning, **please make sure you have them exit the car on the sidewalk side, not on the road side.**

If you pick up your child(ren) after school, you need to park in the school parking lot. **Please do not park on the street across from the fence as the City of Pekin is ticketing during the no parking zones.** Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

## **Junior High Team-Building Activities!**

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders started off the new school year with a major goal in mind: working hard to unite together by participating in cooperative team-building activities. Junior high teachers, Mrs. Dare and Miss Moore designed activities so that students could learn to work more collectively. The students needed to develop strategies together to solve a variety of tasks, work cooperatively to create architectural structures, and complete a variety of physical challenges. As a result of team-building activities, they have developed into a cohesive junior high unit strengthened by shared experiences and opportunities. It is very obvious that they had fun, worked together as a team and are now more prepared than ever to take on the challenges the year has in store.



September 2016

### **Volunteer Requirements**

The Diocese of Peoria has many policies in place in order to provide safety for all the children in our care. If you want to volunteer or help out in the school setting, even just one time, you must complete the four components listed below:

1) Attend a "Safe Environment" workshop held with the St. Joseph Community. Below are listings of Safe Environment sessions that you are able to attend and the contact person:

St. Joseph School, Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00pm –  
Contact Debbie Bruner 347-7194.

St. Phil School, Peoria on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm.  
Please call ahead and reserve a spot. (309)685-1208.

("Safe Environment" used to be called "Protecting God's Children". If you participated in "Protecting God's Children" you will not have to take "Safe Environment")

2) Complete a form to have the Department of Children and Family Services do a background check. Just stop in the office and we will give you the form to complete and return to the office. The forms must be sent in from the office and returned to the office to be valid. There is no cost for this section.

3) Be fingerprinted by the Illinois State Police. Part of your registration fee pays for this process. You may schedule an appointment with the Tazewell County Police Station for any Thursday evening. Please make sure you take the form from the office to the appointment.

4) Complete the three driving courses on the Catholic Mutual website and turn in the certificates to the school office. There is no cost for this section.

Before you can volunteer or help in any capacity this school year, you must first have all components. We go through this whole process because the children are our most valuable assets in the school. Thank you for volunteering your time!

### **Quote of the Month**

***If you judge people, you have no time to love them.***  
~ Mother Teresa

### **Hot Lunch Program and SJS Snack Program**

St. Joseph School participates in the federally funded hot lunch program. The cost of the meals is \$2.35 for children in grades K – 8. Milk purchased by students with cold lunch and/or students purchasing extra milk are 50 cents per carton. For all 5-8 graders, an extra main item may be purchased for \$1.25. (Example: a slice of pizza; a taco; chicken sandwich, etc.)

Please note all student lunches are expected to be PREPAID on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. In the event a family balance exceeds \$20.00, the child(ren) will receive a carton of milk and a cheese sandwich for lunch instead of the scheduled meal for the day. Also, no snack will be allowed until the balance is paid in full. You may pay for all your children in one sum - the right amount of currency or check is acceptable. Please send lunch money in a sealed envelope with the following information: **Student name, grade, amount of lunch money, date.** Parents are strongly encouraged to check lunch balance on the RenWeb to remain current on account. If any questions should arise, please contact Toni Burks.

St. Joseph School will offer an optional snack program for grades 1 - 8. All snacks will follow the healthy regulation guidelines. Each student may purchase a snack for 50 cents. Grades 1 – 3 will be offered milk only in the morning while grade 4 – 8 will be offered a healthy snack in the afternoon. The free/reduce guidelines do not apply to the snack program. If you wish your children not to receive a snack, please send a written notice to the school. Otherwise, all students will be offered a snack.

St. Joseph School will offer an optional breakfast program for grades K-8. All breakfast meals will follow the healthy regulations guidelines. Each student may purchase a breakfast for \$1.35 from 8:15am – 8:40am. The free/reduce guidelines do not apply to the breakfast program.

Students may bring their own lunch from home rather than eating hot lunch. Students may leave for lunch with their parent/guardian who must sign the student out in the office. On special person lunch, parents will need to bring a sack lunch or carry out from a restaurant for their meal and their child's meal. On regular school days, outside food is prohibited due to Health Code Regulations.



September 2016

### **Notification of Asbestos Inspections**

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), in the fall of 1988, we performed an initial inspection of our school building for asbestos-containing materials. The inspection findings and asbestos management plan have been on file in the school office since that time.

The EPA requires us to perform periodic inspections of the asbestos-containing materials (ACM) every six months. These inspections closely monitor the condition of ACM in the school and provide for remediation should any conditions change.

The results of all inspections are on file in the asbestos management plan in the school office. You are welcome to view these anytime during normal school hours. The asbestos designated person for St. Joseph School, Shannon Rogers, can be reached at 347 – 7194 and is available to answer any questions you may have about the presence of asbestos in our building.

### **Security System**

For our new families...St. Joseph School is locked down during the school day for the protection of our children. We have a security system that allows us to screen all people wanting access to the building. All entries to the school are made through the playground door at the back of the building. (The only exceptions are Pre/After Care when you will buzz in on the playground/cafeteria door.) To enter the school building, press the buzzer button. When the office answers, please identify yourself so they will know to admit you into the building. For example...this is Mary Smith, I am Terry Smith's mother. Please understand that staff members, who may be standing by the door, cannot let you in if they do not know who you are. This will get easier for the staff as the year continues and they get to know you. Once you have been buzzed in, please proceed to the office to formally check in and receive a visitor's badge. Please be patient if your buzz is not answered right away since it gets very busy in the office from time to time. Thank you for your understanding in helping to keep our children safe!

### **Parent's Corner**

#### **25 Ways to Ask Your Kids 'So How Was School Today?' Without Asking Them 'So How Was School Today?'**

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. If you could choose, who would you like to sit by in class? (Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
6. If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?
7. How did you help somebody today?
8. How did somebody help you today?
9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
10. When were you the happiest today?
11. When were you bored today?
12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed someone up, who would you want them to take?
13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?
14. Tell me something good that happened today.
15. What word did your teacher say most today?
16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
19. Where do you play the most at recess?
20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
21. What was your favorite part of lunch?
22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?
23. Is there anyone in your class who needs a time-out?
24. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class, who would you trade with? Why?
25. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.



September 2016

**Iowa Test of Basic Skills**

As a school in grades 3, 5, and 7, we take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. We will review these results along with information from our local assessments to help us improve our school program. In addition, you will receive information about your child's performance on the state test that he or she took.

You can help your child do his/her best on the test by:

1. Make sure that your child attends school on the days of testing. Please schedule any appointments and/or vacations during another part of the month. Please avoid the two weeks of testing.
2. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before testing.
3. Provide breakfast on the mornings of testing.
4. Remind your child to ask the teacher questions if he/she does not understand the test directions.
5. Let your child know that you have confidence in his/her ability to do his/her best.
6. Advise your child not to worry about the test - just do the best he/she can.

Please call your child's teacher if you want additional information or have further questions about these tests.

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Collection and Sponsorship Update**

Each 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month we will collect money for our sponsored friends around the world to help with their care and support. We have promised to raise \$33.00 each for our two sponsored friends for a total of \$66.00 per month. Through your generosity and Christian caring, we have always been able to meet our goal each month. We would like to introduce you to our sponsor friends for the 2016-2017 school year: Elmer Erasmo Rivera is 21 years old and lives with his mother, three brothers and one sister in a one-bedroom home in Managua, Nicaragua. His father works as a farmer in another country and sends money back to the family. They have no electricity, an outdoor pump and an outhouse on their small property where they grow beans and corn to eat. His favorite subject is Spanish. He is a good student who enjoys singing and dancing. He loves to play soccer and baseball. He wants to go to school to be an

agricultural engineer and help his family with expenses.

Benefits Elmer will now receive from our sponsorship:

- Medical attention(medical, dental, optical)
- Hospitalization & medicine, when needed
- Prayers, friendships and visits from C.F.C.A.
- Food & clothing
- Christian formation: moral formation
- Education: schooling, supplies, housing
- Birthday and Christmas celebrations
- Sports festivals with soccer and baseball

Placida Benedicto is 74 years old and lives with her husband and many relatives in Antipolo, Phillipines. She is supported by her relatives and husband whose income is generated making various clothing products to sell at local markets. Her home land has been hit by typhoons several times and they are working on rebuilding their homes and replanting seeds for food. This seems to be an ongoing experience for them every few years.

Benefits Placida receives from our sponsorship:

- Medical attention(medical, dental, optical)
- Hospitalization & medicine, when needed
- Prayers, friendships and visits from C.F.C.A.
- Food & clothing
- Recreational activities
- Help with selling items made at local shops
- Family services for positive personal growth
- Materials for housing and home repairs

We really can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters when we all work together. Thanks to our efforts, our sponsor friend from last year, Erik, was able to graduate and join the work force. He is helping his family to earn a living and raise the standards of their lives in Mexico. Thanks to you, we have another success story on the books from SJS contributions!



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*"St. Joseph School, following the Mission of Christ,  
Where we Learn Our Faith, Live our Faith and Prepare for the Future"  
~ St. Joseph Mission Statement*

September 2016

## September Calendar of Important Dates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	31	1	2	3
<b>Snack begins Sept. 8th</b> <b>Prices: 50 cents per item</b>	Preschool Open House	Preschool Open House  Baseball @ Morton 4:15pm	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Field Trip  Baseball @ Home against Rankin 4:15pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Recognition  Alumni Meeting 6:00pm  CCD begins	Baseball @ Limestone Walters 4:00pm  Parents' Club Meeting 6:00pm	Mass – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade  7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Field Trip  Adoration 2:00pm	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	No School – Labor Day	Cross Country @ El Paso 4:30pm	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Field Trip  CCD	Cross Country @ Metamora Middle School 4:00pm	Mass – 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade  7 <sup>th</sup> grade Angel's Kitchen	SJS Marigold Run  Baseball @ Delavan 10:00am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
IOWA Testing Begins on Monday	Baseball @ home against Monroe 4:15pm  Alumni meeting 6:30pm	Baseball Regionals TBA	Confessions –8th  CCD	GBB @ St. Mark  Education Commission mtg. 5:30pm	Mass – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
IOWA Testing Continues  Catechetical Sunday Mass 9:00am	Extra-Curricular Meeting 5:15pm  Alumni Meeting 6:30pm	Night Out Against Crime 5:00pm-8:00pm  GBB @ St. Jude	Confessions – 8th  CCD	Midterms Posted on RenWeb  Confirmation 7:00pm	No School – Teacher's Institute Cross Country @ Dunlap 4:00pm  Alumni Weekend Casino Night	Alumni Weekend
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Alumni Weekend Mass with donuts	GBB @ Home against Blessed Sacrament	Cross Country @ Eureka 4:15  GBB @ St. Vincent	Cross Country @ Limestone 4:00  CCD	GBB @ home against St. Phil	Mass – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Cross Country @ Delavan 9:00 a.m. 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition