

Saints News

*"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 2017

Dear St. Joseph Families,

The halls of St. Joseph School came to life on Saturday, August 19th 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 23rd, we welcomed 131 students from 89 families to school for the beginning of our 2017 – 2018 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.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to our SJS Parents Club for hosting our back to school family event. We appreciate all your hard work helping our school community come together as a faith family!

Thank you to Lisa Pallardy for putting together our "First Day of School" photos/video and everyone who submitted photos. It was wonderful to capture all the smiles for the first day of 2017 school year!

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.

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.

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.

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Dental/Physical/Eye Forms

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

Picture Day

Mark your calendar...picture day is Wednesday, October 18th. 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!

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 versus 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.

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.

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!

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, Monday, September 11th @ 6:00pm – Contact Debbie Bruner 347-7194.

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("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!

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.

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.

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Whole School 40 Days of Life Celebration

From September 25 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.

Pekin Public Library

All students living in or outside of Pekin have an opportunity to hold a Pekin Public Library card. In order for your child(ren) to obtain their card please click on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/a/pekinpubliclibrary.org/forms/d/1-YW1qHJgkkDfP01QXPj7wYvu-hHhfUhv6Ane-H30a08/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=596e3ad2 Please just follow the instructions on there, and the cards will be mailed to your home address. Also with this card you can access their online databases and Tutor.com (awesome for homework help!).

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Our annual fundraiser at St. Joseph is the Walk-a-thon that will be held on Friday, October 27th. Everyone is welcome to join us at 1:30pm at James Field. 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.

1st Friday Collection and Sponsorship Update

Each 1st 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 2017-2018 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

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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.

Junior High Team-Building Activities!

The 7th and 8th 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.

3rd Annual PND Cheerleading Fall Fashion Show

The 3rd Annual PND Cheerleading Fall Fashion Show will be on Sunday, September 10 the ballroom of the Spalding Pastoral Center located at 419 NE Madison Ave in Peoria. Doors open at 2:00pm with the show beginning at 2:30pm. Local businesses and boutiques will be showcasing women's, men's and children's clothing, as well as cash and carry cosmetics, jewelry, and skin care. Try your Irish luck at the vendor raffle table and enjoy specialty hors d'oeuvres from Triple Dipple's, as well as entertainment by Music Traxx. Boutiques and vendors include A Perfect Pear, Apricot Lane, Branded, Classy Girl Boutique, Corpo Bello Boutique, DaVinci Med Spa, dōTERRA, Hello Dolly, JamBerry, Jeffrey Alans, Jones Bros., LipSense, Lisa Smith Photography, Men's Wearhouse, Pink Sugar Boutique, Rambler, Random, Rodan + Fields, Ruby Ribbon Clothing, Stars and Stitches Boutique, Stella & Dot, The Runaway Rack, Thirty-One, Touchstone Crystal Jewelry, and Wishing Star Boutique. Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$10 for Students. During the Fashion Show, Obed & Isaac's will be offering a Pub Burger and two beverages for \$25 at their Peoria location, 321 NE Madison Avenue. Tickets must be purchased in advanced. Contact Maria Martin at 309-645-5013 or mmartin@welchsystems.com for tickets.

8th Annual Run with the Saints Marigold Festival Weekend

Please come join us for the 8th Annual Run with the Saints on Saturday, September 9, 2017. 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.

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Seeking Extra-Curricular Members

Our extra-curricular committee is looking for members who are excited about promoting St. Joseph School through all our extra-curricular activities. This committee will be responsible for overseeing and working athletic events along with looking at ways to promote and raise money for the following extra-curricular activities to enhance our students: choir, band, scholastic bowl, speech, web club, etc. Also, the extra-curricular committee is seeking a co-athletic director for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are interested in enhancing our students' well roundedness, please contact the school office or join us for our next meeting on Monday, September 25th at 5:15pm.

SCRIP Program

Our SCRIP program is still alive and active. If you are interested in participating in the SCRIP program here is how it works:

- Online orders at www.shopwithscrip.com .
- The only form of payment that will be accepted is online PrestoPay.
 - No cash or checks will be accepted, even for online orders
- Physical gift cards can still be ordered. They will be bundled into one order on Monday mornings (as needed).
 - They will be shipped to the school and delivered to the school families in the weekly Blue Folders or can be picked up in the school office.
- EScrip gift cards are also be available to order
 - Note: These are great for internet shopping and last minute purchases!
- Local Retailers are no longer available to order unless it is a special season.
 - This includes Avanti's, Culver's, Fast Dragon, Kouri's, LaGondola, Monical's Pizza, Our Inn Place, Sonic, and Sam Harris.
 - We will make arrangements to preorder local retailers for restaurant fundraiser nights. Orders will need to be made ahead of time, online and with PrestoPay.
- Families will continue to receive 50% of the rebate as tuition credit or to donate to the various options we have had in the past.

If you have any questions or need assistance setting up your online SCRIP account, PrestoPay, or using the MyScripWallet App please contact Whende Rueschhoff at scrip@stjosephschoolpekin.com or (309)370-3437.

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

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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!

Crayola ColorCycle

I'm excited to tell you about a very special program Parents Club is coordinating at our school in conjunction with Crayola. It's called Crayola ColorCycle – an amazing new program devised to turn used markers into energy! All around St. Joseph students and teachers will be collecting used markers that are ready to be discarded. The markers will be sent to a facility where they will be converted into clean fuel. This fuel can be used to power vehicles, heat homes, cook meals and more! Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers you may have around the house – even non-Crayola brands. Drop-off boxes will be located around the school for your child to deposit the markers. Thank you in advance for participating! With the help of parents like you across the country, the Crayola ColorCycle program can keep tons of plastic out of landfills each year. Remember, don't throw out that used marker—*ColorCycle it!*

Parent's Corner *Lead by Example on Social Media*

Being on social media can be a really positive experience for you, your family and the school. Here are some ways you can demonstrate positive online behavior and encourage others to do the same.

Lead by example

Learning how social media works, and engaging with it in a positive way, is a great way to show your child what is and isn't okay to do online.

- **Keep your own privacy settings up-to-date** and show your children how to stay on top of theirs
- **Think before you post.** Ask yourself if your comment is constructive before you post.
- **Don't hide behind your profile picture.** Social media is not anonymous. Your online reputation will stay with you for a long time. If you wouldn't say something to someone's face, don't say it to them online.
- **Give yourself a 'rule' about who you connect with on social media,** and who you do not. For example, if you would stop and say hi to them on the street, you will add them as a Facebook friend. This helps to demonstrate boundaries in the online world.
- **Find topics your family are interested in and talk about it.** Take the conversation online by commenting on a group or page about the topic, and show your children how to connect with others safely and respectfully on issues that they care about.
- **Demonstrate respectful conversations online.** Show your child that some people may have different opinions to you. Treat people with the same respect you would give them face-to-face and report troll-like or inappropriate behavior instead of engaging with it.

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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.

Safety Tips for Back to School

1. Have kids memorize their full name, address, your full name and your phone number
2. Don't label clothing, backpacks, etc. with names - and don't let them wear clothing with their names in large(r) print visible from a distance
3. If your child walks to school, know their route; have them walk in pairs or a group.
4. Put down phones and take off headphones when crossing streets.
5. ALWAYS use a crosswalk.
6. Stand back 3 feet from the curb when waiting for the bus or carpool.
7. No talking or texting on the phone while driving. Period. Set an example.
8. As a carpool driver, make sure there is a seat and a seat belt for each kid in your vehicle.
9. Keep computers in family areas and monitor internet activity.
10. Talk to kids about cyber-crime and cyber bullying - and about online reputations.

And as a company full of cyclists, we urge kids who bike to school to wear a properly fitted helmet, use hand signals, follow the rules of the road, wear bright clothes, and use both a reflector and blinking red light on the back of the bike.

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September Calendar of Important Dates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Mass – 8 th Adoration 2:00pm Euchre 7:00pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	No School – Labor Day	1 st Day of Preschool Regular School Day 8:50am- 3:25pm Snack begins CC @ El Paso	Baseball @ Home against South Pekin – 8 th grade Recognition CCD begins	CC @ Metamora Parents Club Mtg. 6:00pm	Mass – 7 th 7 th grade Sophia's Kitchen	SJS Marigold 5K Run/Walk Baseball @ home against Delavan (DH)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ITBS Testing Begins for 3 rd , 5 th , & 7 th grades	Baseball @ Monroe Safe Environment Training 6:00pm	Baseball – Regionals TBA CC @ Germantown Hills	Confessions CCD		Mass – 6 th	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		CC @ St. Jude	Confessions CCD	Fire Drill Confirmation 7:00pm	Mass – 4 th 8 th Field Trip – Respect for Life Mass CC @ Dunlap	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fall Extra- Curricular Recognition Mass 11:00am	Fall Extra- Curricular Recognition Shirt Day Extra-Curricular Mtg. 5:15pm	Baseball – Regionals TBA CC @ Eureka GBB @ home against St. Vincent	No Confessions	Midterms Posted to RenWeb CC @ Limestone Walters	No School Mass	