

March 5, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

**Items in this newsletter:** Thoughts for the week; No School; New School Commercial; Safety Concerns; Read Across America Week; National Child Identification Program; Pi Day; New School Commercial; Safety Concern; Feast of Saint Joseph; Food Truck Friday; Saint Patrick's Day Parade; Lent; and Important Upcoming Dates.

**Thoughts for the week:** "He was lost and has been found." Luke 15:32 Lost keys, lost eyeglasses, lost papers. Finding these things brings a moment's relief. Lost direction, lost passion, lost relationship. Finding these things is a lifelong task. We lose, we find, and we lose again. But do not fear; even when we are lost to ourselves, we are always in God's sight. This week, talk with your families about things you are hanging on to that are no longer worth keeping. What in your life is not worth losing? Together pray: You seek me constantly, O God. Grace me with a heart that can hold on to your will for me and discard my self-agenda. Amen. The thoughts for the week come from Loyola Press.

**No School:** There will be no school on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> for the Bishop's Holiday. There is no Extended Care on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**New School Commercial:** We have a new tool to share the message of our school with potential St. Joe's families – a commercial! You may catch it on streaming video services and can always see it on our website [HERE](#).

**Safety Concern:** It has been brought to our attention that cars are waiting in line for both morning and afternoon carpool and blocking the crosswalk at the corner of Devine and Bonham. Several families walk to school from the Heathwood area, and we need to ensure their safety while crossing the street. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

**Read Across America Week:** The school will celebrate Read Across America week from March 7th to March 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating the importance of reading with fun-themed days and activities.

Activities are as follows:

**Tuesday:** Teacher Reading Relay: Teachers will visit another classroom and share their favorite book!

**Wednesday:** Share Your Love of Reading Day: Students can bring a book from their home collection to read/share with their class.

**Thursday:** Character Day: Dress as your favorite book character.

**Friday:** Favorite Book Day: Students will create a bookmark representing their favorite book.

**National Child Identification Program:** In tomorrow's Monday folder, you will find an envelope with information to gather information authorities need should your child ever go missing. In 2022, the South Carolina General Assembly unanimously passed S.1103. The legislation codified the South Carolina Child ID Program as a partnership to protect children between the Attorney General and the Department of Education. As a result, you will be receiving an inkless, at-home child ID kit. This kit should take less than 2 minutes to complete, and should be stored solely by you, as a parent or guardian, in a cool, dry, safe place at home. This kit is intended to ensure you have over 90% of the information authorities need should your child ever go missing. Across America, 1,000 children go missing on average every day. In 2021, 419 children were

reported missing in South Carolina, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Please understand there is no obligation to fill out the kit, however, it will allow you to have your child's vital information, fingerprints, and DNA in a safe place should the unthinkable happen. These kits are to be **STORED AT HOME** and should only be given to law enforcement in case of an emergency.

**Pi Day:** Mark your calendars and practice your best "Pi"rate voice to join your child for "Pi Day Palooza," a fun, math-themed, one-day experience at St. Joseph on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Math teachers and students will explore a variety of standards-based math problems and activities. They will learn about the most famous irrational number, Pi, and participate in creating some Pi Day make-and-take crafts. We will continue to collect canned goods for Saint Vincent de Paul all this week. More information [here](#): The culminating activity will be a "Pi" in Mr. Yarnall's face by the class, which collects the most canned goods! This will be a school-wide event at the end of the day. **STAY TUNED!** Teachers will be in touch with further information if parents want to join their child(ren)'s, class.

**Feast of Saint Joseph:** The school will celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is not a full dress-down day. Students are asked to wear any appropriate red shirt with uniform bottoms. PTO will treat the students and staff to a pizza luncheon.

**Food Truck Friday:** Please join us for Food Truck Friday on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm! We will gather as a school and church community for fellowship and celebrate St. Joseph's feast! Bishop Fabre-Jeune and Monsignor Harris have graciously granted dispensation from our Lenten obligation to abstain from meat that Friday in celebration of St. Joseph. We look forward to seeing everyone there! More information to follow!

**Saint Patrick's Day Parade:** Save the date and please join SJCS for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18, 2023, at 9:30 am. We need students and families to help represent the school in the parade. Students should wear their dress uniform (ties optional), and the PTO will provide fun St. Pat's accessories. Our start location is still to be determined, so please be on the lookout for an email with where to meet our group. Please use this link to sign up, so we know how many families to expect. You are welcome to join us for some of the parade and leave early if needed. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4baaa723a4f58-stpats/> Contact Cheryl Munro ([cheryl.munro2@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.munro2@gmail.com)) with any questions."

**Lent:** During the Lenten season, the school will offer Mary's Children daily for students and parents 7:25-7:45 am. Make plans to join us to pray the Rosary. Additionally, during the Lenten season, the school will gather at 8:00 am in the gym for the Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Parents are always welcome to join.

**Important Upcoming Dates:** Below are some important events to be aware of in the coming days:

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bishop's Holiday- No school – No EC
March 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Read Across America Week
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Transfiguration Catholic Church Fish Fry. 5:30-8 – <a href="#">fish-fry-announcement</a>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pi Day Palooza – Math day at SJCS
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dress Down Day 6-Students
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Feast of St. Joseph's -School Mass

Student red shirt dress down – uniform bottoms

Pizza luncheon for the student body

End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

March 18<sup>th</sup>

Saint Patrick's Day Parade 9:30

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us – *"Serve one another with the gifts you have received"*.

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S

Principal

[dyarnall@stjosdevine.com](mailto:dyarnall@stjosdevine.com)