

February 5, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Thank you; Divine Auction; Student Dress Down; RWTS T-shirts; Penny Wars; Protecting God's Children; Faculty Update; Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences; Faculty Update; No School; Financial Aid 2023-2024; Saints Summer Camp; Daddy Daughter Dance: and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: *"Be gentle with the young."* We live in a fast-paced, demanding world. We expect a lot from others, and they expect a lot from us. This is fine for the world of adults, but it can be a problem when we force similar high expectations onto children. While it's important to teach children how to behave properly and get along with others and keep them active and stimulated, we should never forget that they are still children, with tender hearts and minds. Today, I will make a special effort to react to them with gentleness rather than impatience. ~ The Woman's Book of Prayer: 365 Blessings, Poems, and Meditations

Thank You: A big thank you to PTO president Casey Cornwell and all the parents who donated to the teacher appreciation dinner that each staff member took home this week. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lasagna dinner and appreciated a night off from cooking.

Divine Auction: Another big thank you to Margaret Asay and her team of volunteers on another successful auction! We were so glad to come together again as a community to raise money for the school. It was a great event!

Student Dress Down: All students who attended one of the recognition Masses will have a dress down tomorrow, Monday, February 6th.

RWTS T-shirts: Did you miss out on getting a "Run with the Saints" shirt? Here's your chance – order forms will go home tomorrow in Monday folders.

Penny War: A big thank you to all the students and staff for a successful Penny Wars. The 1st grade was the winner of the Penny Wars, and the 6th grade raised the most money. As a school, we collected \$2,317 for the Cardinal Newman Dance Marathon to benefit Prisma Health Children's Hospital.

Protecting God's Children: All students K- 6th grade will participate in the class Empowering God's Children in their Religion class during the week of February 6th. This program is taught to all students in the Diocese of Charleston. This year all students will learn and participate in lesson number 1 – *Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules*. Families can view this year's introductory video by using the link <https://www.youtube.com/embed/As5weSqt9Jw> Families are also encouraged to read the Information for Educators, Parents and Caring Adults http://tncrrg.virtus.org/touchingsafety/charleston/english/TSP_Overview_English.pdf

Families can choose not to have their children participate by signing the opt-out form that is attached. Opted-out students will sit in the school office for the lessons. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Faculty Update: We are sad to announce that Mrs. Christie Cook will not be returning after March 4, 2023. We wish her the very best as she starts a new and exciting chapter in her life.

If you are interested in being a long-term sub for the last 14 weeks of the school year please contact the school office. Additionally, if you know of any qualified candidates for the 2023-2024 academic school year, please refer them to contact Mr. Yarnall at dyarnall@stjosdevine.com

We are also saddened to announce that Mr. Chapman Brown will not return after February 15th. We wish him the best in his next endeavors.

Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences: The school will host an optional parent-teacher conference on Thursday, February 16th, from 12:30-3:00. Teachers will be reaching out to those families with whom they need to conference. Families, please contact the teachers if you would like to schedule a conference. The school will dismiss at 12 noon with no Extended Care.

No School: The school will be closed on Friday, February 17th, for a teacher workday. There will be Extended Care from 8-6.

Financial Aid 2023-2024: We, as a school and parish, continue to seek ways of ensuring that the blessings of a quality Catholic education are accessible to everyone.

General School Assistance through FACTS: The school offers a tuition assistance program open to all families. ***The application must be submitted online to FACTS by Tuesday, February 28th.*** To apply, simply login to the FACTS Family Portal account of the family member who is listed as being financially responsible (this should be the person who completed the enrollment/re-enrollment and set up the FACTS tuition payment). Once logged in, choose FACTS from the menu options on the left side of the screen. You will then choose "Apply for Grant and Aid". You will be redirected to the FACTS website and will need to follow the instructions there for completing the application. You should already have a FACTS account that you created for your tuition draft so use those same login credentials. You will need the following documents to complete the application process:

- copies of your most recent Federal tax forms, including all supporting tax schedules (preferably 2022 tax documents)
- copies of your 2022 W-2 forms
- copies of supporting documentation for social security income, welfare, child support, food stamps, workers' compensation, and TANF.

Diocese of Charleston's Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Tuition Assistance Grant: This tuition assistance grant is for Catholic families in good standing with their parishes. ***The application, along with a completed FACTS financial aid application (see instructions above for completing the form through FACTS Family Portal), is due to the school by Wednesday, March 15, 2023.*** The application lists the due date as March 25, 2023. However, that is the date that the applications are due to the Diocese of Charleston and since they require your pastor's signature as well as the signature of Principal Yarnall, we need to receive them in time to obtain signatures and mail to Charleston. Please note that the application will not be accepted by the Diocese of Charleston unless you have completed the online FACTS financial aid application as well.

If the financial aspect of your child's education becomes a concern at any time, please contact the school office to discuss your situation with me (Mr. Yarnall). If you have any questions about the process, please contact me (Mr. Yarnall) at 803-254-6736 or Dyarnall@stjosdevine.com

Saints Summer Camp: We will be holding our Saints Summer Camp again this year. The summer camp will begin on June 12th and will run through August 4th. The camp will be closed the week of July 4th. We plan to get registration out soon; we are waiting for the Parish to set the VBS dates.

Daddy Daughter Dance: The PTO will host the Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday, February 10th, from 6:30-8:00 in the school gym. Look for more information in the coming days.

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

February 10 th	Class and Group Pictures
	PTO Daddy-Daughter Dance 6:00-8:30
	Film crew on campus to shoot SJS Commercial
February 16 th	12 Noon Dismissal – Optional Parent Teacher Conferences. No Extended Care.
February 17 th	No School – Teacher Workday – Extended Care open 8-6
February 20 th	No School – All Facilities are closed for Presidents Day
February 22 nd	Ash Wednesday – All School Mass 9am
February 28 th	Financial Aid deadline
March 3 rd	Diocese of Charleston – Teacher Education Conference - No school for Students.
March 6 th	Bishop's Day- No School

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
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