

October 16, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; 2:00 Dismissal; Pizza Luncheons; No School; School Attendance; Gift Card Drive for Ian; Red Ribbon Week; Parent Teacher Conferences; Fall Festival; Veteran's Day; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: You have a choice today. You can complain about things you can't control, or you can control what you can control and let go of what you can't. You can focus on your problems or focus on getting better. You can look for an excuse or look within to find your best. Important lessons about how you approach problems, take time this week to talk with your children about their choices daily.

2:00 Dismissal: We will have a 2:00 dismissal on Monday, October 17. Extended Care will be open.

Pizza Luncheons: The administration and PTO are excited to host the Kindergarten families (Monday, October 17th) and 1st Grade families (Wednesday, October 19th) for Pizza and Fellowship. Requests for RSVPs were sent to those grade levels on Wednesday, October 12th.

No School: The school will be closed for a teacher workday on Friday, October 21. Extended Care will be open.

School Attendance: Over the past few weeks, we have had an uptick in students arriving late, being picked up early, or missing school altogether for non-medical reasons. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential in developing responsible behavior habits and attitudes.

Please respect our school hours, bring your child to school on time, and refrain from picking your child up early and scheduling family trips during the school year whenever possible.

To maximize instructional time, we encourage students to arrive at school on time for each class period and be prepared to learn. Students are considered tardy if they are not seated with their class at 8:00 AM.

Please refrain from taking family vacations during the academic year. This disrupts the learning environment for your child and the class and puts additional work and stressors on the teachers. If a family trip is unavoidable, please schedule a time to meet with Mr. Yarnall a minimum of one week in advance and notify the teachers.

To reach our academic goals for your child and as a school, we need your child to be in school for as many of the 180 days as possible!

Gift Card Drive for Ian Relief: Catholic Schools of the Midlands are joining together to help support victims in the wake of Hurricane Ian. We will hold a **gift card drive from October 11-21**. The gift cards will be delivered to the Red Cross for distribution across the area by John

Daily, the mayor of Tallahassee, FL. We are asking for gift cards from CVS, Walgreens, Publix, Home Depot, Target, Walmart, Sam's Club, Amazon, and any fast food chain located in or around south Florida.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Friday, October 28th is Parent/Teacher Conference Day. There will be no school for students; however, students are encouraged to attend the conference. All parents are required to participate in a conference with their child's teacher. An email was sent on Wednesday to all families with directions on how to sign up for a conference. If you would like to meet with a teacher other than your child's homeroom teacher, please contact that teacher directly to schedule an appointment. All conferences should be scheduled between Thursday, October 27th, and Tuesday, November 1st.

Red Ribbon Week: October 24-27th. The national theme is "*Celebrate Life.*" The student council will decorate the front drive/carpool line with red ribbons. They also selected our dress-down themes and outfits for the week. On Tuesday, October 25th, the student body will "*Wake up to healthy choices*" Students can wear appropriate pajamas or school uniforms. On Thursday, October 27th, the theme is "*bullying is scary*" the student body will dress down in Halloween colors (black, brown, green, yellow, orange, purple) with no costumes.

Fall Festival: PTO will be hosting our annual Fall Festival on **Thursday, October 27th, 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm** in the back parking lot. Please note that there is no extended care that afternoon. An adult must accompany students.

We will have bounce houses, popcorn, candy treat bags, face painting, and a surprise visitor. The children will also participate in a cake walk and enjoy a cold treat from Kona Ice. Student Council will be sponsoring a free Halloween colors (black, brown, green, yellow, orange, purple) dress-down day (no costumes!).

** An insurance liability form came home recently regarding the bounce house that requires your signature for your child to jump. Please be sure to sign and return it as soon as possible.

Also, we would love for parents to join the fall fun by **volunteering** to help with activities, set-up/clean-up, and donations. Please be on the lookout for an email asking for volunteers for these events and candy donations.

As always, thank you for your support of our students and teachers. We look forward to a fun and exciting Fall Festival!

Veteran's Day: We are gathering information about our military families to better support and recognize you. If someone in your household is an active or retired member of the military, reserves, or National Guard, please click on the link below to fill out the survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/MPH7iweZQW>

We will honor our military families at Mass on November 11, 2022, and invite all active military, retired, and veteran family members to join us so we can thank you for your service.

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

October 17th – Kindergarten Pizza and Fellowship 11:30-12:30.

October 19th – 1st grade Pizza and Fellowship 12:30-1:30

October 21 - No School -The school will be closed for a teacher workday on Friday, October 21. Extended Care will be open.

October 24th – 2nd grade Pizza and Fellowship 11:30-12:30

October 26th – 3rd grade Pizza and Fellowship 11:40-12:40

October 27th- Fall Festival 3:30-6:00 (no extended care/students must be accompanied by an adult)

October 28 – Parent-Teacher Conferences: There will be no classes for students, but students are encouraged to attend the conference. There will be no Extended Care.

October 31st – 4th grade Pizza and Fellowship 11:40-12:40

November 2nd – 6th grade Pizza and Fellowship 11:45-12:25

November 7th – 5th grade Pizza and Fellowship 12:00-12:45

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
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