

February 12, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; RWTS T-shirts; Used Uniform Program; MAP Scores; Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences; No School; Yearbook Update; Financial Aid 2023-2024; Personal Electronic Devices; Staffing Update; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: Isaiah 49:15 - *Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.* At its very core, the Bible is about the depth of God's love for us, which is far beyond our understanding. We cannot even imagine how a mother could ever turn her back on her own child. Isaiah invites us to imagine that even deeper than the love between a mother and an infant is God's love for us. God's love is so deep that we can count on its power to embrace us even in our sinfulness. Speak to Jesus this week using these words or your own this week: *Loving and merciful God, help me recognize the truth of my sinfulness and come to you assured of your love and mercy.* Amen ~ Make a difference today with your actions, words, and thoughts.

RWTS T-shirts: Did you miss out on getting a "Run with the Saints" shirt? Here's your chance – order forms went home in last week's Monday folders. Orders are due Wednesday, February 15th.

Used Uniform Program: Save the date! Come shop St. Joe's Clothes' first Sales Day on Friday, February 24th! No appointments necessary. Details to follow.

MAP Scores: Your child's Winter MAP scores will be in tomorrow's Monday folder. The scores will be in an envelope addressed to the parents. Don't hesitate to contact your homeroom teacher if you have questions.

Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences: The school will host optional parent-teacher conferences 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 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.

Yearbook Update: We have made the difficult decision not to create a yearbook this school year. In the past, we have had volunteers able to lead the lengthy process of making the yearbook, and have been able to absorb the cost of the books in our annual budget. This year, the cost of the books has increased to \$40 each, and we did not have anyone able to head up the effort, therefore we will only be creating a memory book for our 6th grade. If you would like a remembrance of your child's class this year, please consider ordering your student's class photo at www.strawbridge.net using the following code FM386667.

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

Personal Electronic Devices: Please talk with your student(s) and be mindful of the following Essential Rule on page 20 of the Parent-Student Handbook. *“Students are expected to keep non-school related electronic devices, such as games and toys at home. Cell phones, handheld games, etc., are NOT permitted on campus. Students may not wear smart electronic devices that connect to the internet via cellular or Wi-Fi during the school day and/or at Extended Care. This policy includes, but is not limited to, devices such as watches that receive and transmit text or email, Fitbits, and digital eye-wear. Students may wear Fitbits if the sole function is to monitor the wearer’s health and fitness. Health/fitness monitoring devices may not transmit warnings, alerts, or acknowledgements. Violations will be handled as a cell phone violation.”*

Staffing Update: Elizabeth Comer will be the 5th and 6th-grade instructional assistant. Cooper McBurney will be the 3rd and 4th-grade instructional assistant and the Director of Extended Care.

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

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 24 th	State-wide Rosary for a peaceful end to the conflict in Ukraine - 10:00 am
February 28 th	Financial Aid deadline
March 3 rd	Diocese of Charleston – Teacher Education Conference - No school for students.

March 6th

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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