

November 14, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

**Items in this newsletter:** Thoughts for the week; IGiveCatholic; Parent Survey; Staff Openings; Covid Children's Vaccinations; SJCS Saint Socks; Weekly Academic Highlight; Makeup Pictures; Help Spread the Word; Thanksgiving Holidays; Cardinal Cadence Crew Poinsettia Sale; and Reopening Taskforce Committee Members.

**Thoughts for the week:** Imagine opening a bag of jellybeans and discovering they are all exactly the same. It wouldn't seem right. We expect differences. *"There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given all of you by your call"* Ephesians 4:4. In this passage from Saint Paul, he stresses the point that we are one in unity with Christ and one another. This unity does not mean that we are like the identical jellybeans. The Holy Spirit calls each of us in a unique way to serve the community. The members of the Church serve God through different vocations, but the purpose is the same-to serve the Kingdom of God. ~ Your 3-Minute Retreat

**IGiveCatholic:** Mark your calendars! Saint Joseph Catholic School will be participating in the **#iGiveCatholic 24-hour Giving Day on Tuesday, November 30, 2021** #iGiveCatholic, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, is a Catholic crowdfunding event that offers an *excellent* opportunity for the Catholic Community to come together to give thanks, give back, and give Catholic!

All monies raised during this event will go to our Saints Fund. The Saints Fund is our annual fund, an ongoing campaign that allows families, grandparents, faculty, alumni, friends, and parishioners the opportunity to financially assist in the school's operational well-being. Each year, the school applies the Saints Fund monies to the area(s) of greatest need within Saint Joseph Catholic School. This year, we are hoping to raise enough to begin a major overhaul of our "big kid" playground equipment. The minimum donation is \$20, and every gift helps. Please make plans to go to <https://charleston.igivecatholic.org/organizations/st-joseph-catholic-school-charleston> on November 30<sup>th</sup> to support our saints on #iGiveCatholic day! You may also make your donation using the same link during the Advance Giving period from November 15-November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Parent Survey:** As part of our AdvancEd accreditation, the school is required to survey our stakeholders annually. This year's survey is to help us determine our Catholic Identity characteristics. Our goal is to have 70% of our parents complete the survey. We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete one survey per adult **by Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 11:59p**. To complete the survey, please go to: <https://eprovesurveys.advanced.org/surveys/#/action/178795/p883> please select Saint Joseph – Columbia from the pulldown menu.

Be assured, your response to this survey is anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

**Staff Openings:** We are sad to announce that after 10 years as an Instructional Assistant, Mrs. Michelle Wendell will not be returning after December 10<sup>th</sup>. She is moving to Pickens with her husband. We will miss her, and we wish her the very best as she starts a new and exciting chapter in her life.

The school is looking for a 5K Instructional Assistant. If you know of any qualified candidates, please refer them to the school office.

The school is also searching for a shadow for a special needs student. Please contact the school office if you know of any qualified candidates.

**Covid Children's Vaccinations:** The decision to give the Covid vaccination is a parental choice. If you decide to vaccinate your child, please share that information with our School Nurse, Jessica Eadon [Jeadon@stjosdevine.com](mailto:Jeadon@stjosdevine.com). The school will be tracking those who are vaccinated for the purpose of quarantining. Students who are fully vaccinated or have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days and do not have symptoms will not be required to quarantine.

**SJCS Saint Socks:** PTO is hosting a new fundraiser this year offering Saint Joseph's spirit socks. Each pair is \$15, and the socks will be allowed to be worn with students' daily uniforms and during basketball games. Pre-order is now open using the link below and will be available through December 5<sup>th</sup>. Help support our school with Saints Socks!  
<https://stjosephschoolsocks.itemorder.com/>

**Weekly Academic Highlight:** This week I visited a 4K classroom for a lesson on Tom the Turkey. It was great to see how our teachers were using different educational modalities to help the students grow: watching the students engage with the Smartboard to practice counting; working with the teachers to practice number recognition; and exercising fine motor skills while making Tom the Turkey. Great things are happening in the SJCS classrooms!

**Makeup Pictures:** The school will host Strawbridge Studios on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for students who were absent on October 15<sup>th</sup> or for students/parents who were not happy with original school pictures.

**Help Spread the Word:** Saint Joseph Catholic School is trying to build our social presence on Niche, a popular school search tool. Please take a minute to write a positive review of our great school. Your review will help us recruit new families and their students to our school. Please follow the link below to our schools' Niche page: <https://www.niche.com/k12/st-joseph-school-columbia-sc/>

**Thanksgiving Holidays:** The school will dismiss for Thanksgiving Break at 12Noon on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00a.

**Cardinal Cadence Crew Poinsettia Sale:** The Cardinal Cadence Crew (the music booster organization at Cardinal Newman) is selling poinsettias to help support the growing music program at CN. Use this link to order online <https://www.cnhs.org/apps/form/form.CARNWS.sMcYaxG.1tf> or print the online form to order with a check. Paper orders/checks can be dropped off at Cardinal Newman or send them to Mrs. Seezen in our front office and she will make sure they get there. The deadline for orders is November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Reopening Task Force Committee Members:** The following are the members of the 2021-2022 Reopening Task Force.

Aaron Dupree	Former Advisory Council
Diane Ford	Teacher
Donavan Yarnall, Ed.S	Principal
Dr. Michael Horan	Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Prisma Childrens
Dr. Phillip Mubarak	Pediatric Specialist
Dr. Amanda Dargush	Pharmacy
Dr. Duke Dargush	Pharmacy
Dr. Lauren Barron	Physician, Child and Adult Psychiatry
Jessica Eadon, RN BSN	School Nurse
Jordan Horan, RN, PNP	Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Karen Tucker	Teacher
Kerry Reedy	Office Manager
Kevin Kaminski	Advisory Council
Madison Henry, RN BSN	Pediatric Nurse
Mary Claire Cox	Teacher
Nancy Sexton	Business Manager
Rebecca Seezen	Communications Director
Sophie Gorrin	Teacher
Taje Davis	Advisory Council President
Tawfiq Hodaly	Director of Facilities

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Blessed are we". Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S

Principal

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