

December 19, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Christmas Break; Ecumenical Prayer Service; Run with the Saints; Divine Auction; 529 Plans; Used Uniform Sale; Free Hand Wipes; and Covid Children's Vaccinations.

Thoughts for the week: Be blessed by our most precious Christmas gift, and then pass on that blessing to those you encounter.

Christmas Break: There will be no Sunday Notes on December 26th. The school will be closed from 12noon December 17th through Monday, January 3rd. The teachers and staff will have a workday on Monday, January 3rd. Classes will resume at 8am on Tuesday, January 4th.

Annual Ecumenical Service: If you attend a church or synagogue other than St. Joseph Church, please complete the following form so that we can invite your pastor or rabbi to our Annual Ecumenical Service which will be held on January 19 at 9:00 a.m. <https://forms.office.com/r/K8eFVES6Nj>

Run with the Saints: With the new year fast approaching, now is a great time to sign up for our 7th Annual Run with the Saints 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, January 29th! This event is a Midlands favorite and one of SJCS largest fundraisers. Please sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpuilreg-8l.asp?uRaceId=3719> and remember to include your \$5 coupon code, SAINT5. Sign up early so you can guarantee one of our coveted long-sleeve race shirts!

Divine Auction: It's BACK! Mark your calendars for the 2022 Divine Auction - Friday, February 4th at Carolina Park! There will be Live & Silent Auction items, food, drinks and entertainment! Are you interested in being a Host Family for the event? [HERE](#) for more information. You may also check out the ticket section of the auction website at <https://Divine22.givesmart.com>

529 Plans: A 529 plan is a savings plan that encourages education savings for qualified education expenses: college, vocational, or other post-secondary learning. South Carolina 529 plans can also be used to pay tuition at K-12 private schools up to \$10,000 annually.

Funds can be deposited and then withdrawn for qualified school tuition after 60 days. Start planning now and you could pay March's tuition with your 529 account.

Unlike a traditional savings account or bank account, your money grows tax-deferred in a 529 account and qualified distributions are federal tax and state tax-free. **South Carolina has two state plans to choose from: the Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan and the Future Scholar 529 Advisor Plan.**

You can find more information about both college savings programs at www.futurescholar.com or by consulting a financial advisor. South Carolina taxpayers can claim a tax deduction on the full amount of their 529 plan contribution. And for many, a 529 plan can be used to transfer wealth. Contributing to a 529 plan lets grandparents or other contributors reduce the size of their taxable estate while helping them fund a grandchild's or family member's education. It's even possible to make five years' worth of contributions in a single year, up to \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for married couples) and still get the gift tax exclusion.

Used Uniform Sale: The PTO is sponsoring a uniform sale on January 3, 2022 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the cafeteria. We are still accepting donations and consignments, which can be dropped off from 8:00 a.m. until noon on January 3, 2022. The PTO also needs volunteers to work the sale, and volunteers can shop the sale early. Please sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A49AF2AAAF58-january> . Additional information [HERE](#).

Free Hand Wipes: We have been gifted 25 pallets of Wet Ones antibacterial hand wipes and they are free to anyone who can use some. If you or any organization you are connected with could use any amount, please let the front office know and we will gladly help you load up your vehicle with as many as you can use. They make great Christmas gifts!

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. 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. To date, we have 134 students who have either started and or completed the vaccination process. That is 50% of our student population is either fully vaccinated or started the process.

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
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