



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

Jet Gazette Newsletter

February 26, 2021

News and Views from Mr. Schmit

Greetings,

I want to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to Catholic education. This school year continues to be an exciting adventure but now we are in full swing in preparation for the 2021-22 school year. Scattered on my desk is a draft calendar, next to the current re-enrollment figures, next to a budget, next to my draft staffing plan. Although we have to be looking to the future we cannot lose sight of the task at hand and that is to keep our students engaged in their faith learning, to keep them engaged in their academics, and to keep them engaged with their school community here at St. John, all while ensuring a safe and welcoming environment.

I am going to break from my end of the week rundown routine to talk about one of the present day tasks at hand; ensuring a safe and welcoming environment. I want to peel back that phrase because there are multiple layers to creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment in the school setting. Right now I want us to focus on how we can help our students learn how they can talk to and treat others to help create a safe and welcoming environment for all students here at St. John School.

As our students grow and learn about their environments they naturally want to test their boundaries. These dynamics change as the students go from one grade to the next. Our intermediate students (4th and 5th grades) and middle school students are exploring those boundaries and it becomes increasingly difficult for us adults (here at school and at outside of school) to remain attentive to their every word and action. When it comes to the peer dynamic, sometimes the kids' words and actions start to become personal and hurtful. When repeated often, we can begin to describe that behavior as "bullying." Again, at this age, it becomes more and more difficult to monitor this because these words and actions are done in the shadows, so to speak.

As I have jumped into this topic, utilizing Catholic and non Catholic resources alike (Catholic Education Resource Center, and the book "Unselfie" to name two references) the best way to combat mean and even bullying behavior is to create learning communities filled with empathetic students who will support each other and stand up for one another with moral courage. This has to be one of our goals as parents; to create empathetic kids who stand up for one another, especially when adults are not within earshot.

I have been able to begin these types of learning conversations over recent weeks with some of our older students, giving them tools to work with like, "We don't talk that way here," or "Be better than that." These conversations go a long way if approached with love, compassion, and mercy. Also to help our students learn how to be more empathetic, we are bringing in national Catholic speaker, Mr. Peace, for a presentation on kindness and moral courage (4th to 8th grade).

In this weekend's second reading we will hear the passage from Romans, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" We are called to children of God. Let's work to help out one another. Let's continue to raise up one another in prayer so to become the best versions of ourselves day in and day out.

Thank you to all who have already re-enrolled for next year. Nearly seventy percent of our current students (current preschool to 7th grade) have registered for next year. Congratulations to the Stratton Family for winning the "free registration" drawing!

One hundred and ten days of in-person learning are in the books! God bless you all!

Andrew Schmit

PARENT CALENDAR



February

Sun 28 Powers Catholic High School Open House 12 PM-3 PM



March

Mon 1 March is Reading Month begins

Wed 3 Happy Birthday Ms. Adams!

Thurs 4 **Half-Day for students-11:30 AM Dismissal
Parent-Teacher Conferences (by request only)**

Thurs 4 Spring into Reading with a colorful outfit

Fri 5 **No School for students-Staff PD**

Sun 7 Happy Birthday Mrs. Boyle!

Tues 9 Happy Birthday Mrs. Cislo!

Wed 10 Happy Birthday Mrs. Anderson!

The deadline to submit your FACTS application for Tuition Assistance for the 2021-2022 school year is March 1, 2021. Application fee is \$35.

Please use this link: <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS



We are looking for donations of wire hangers and plastic milk cartons for an upcoming STEAM project. Additionally, we can always use donations of cardboard tubes from paper towel or toilet paper. If you have any of these items, please send them in to school with your child. THANK YOU!!!



March Jeans Day

During the month of March, students may pay \$1 for the privilege of wearing jeans on certain days. All proceeds from this collection will go towards our Lenten Appeal. Jeans must be free of rips and tears. Dennis Uniform shirts are still required. Students do not need to pay on Fridays which are already regular Spiritwear days. Students may pay \$1 daily or pay for all days in advance (\$15).

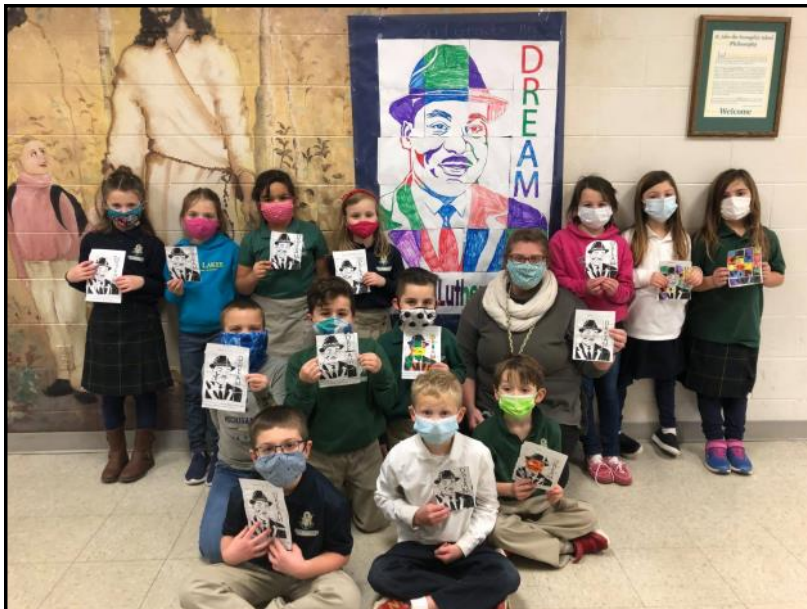
COLD WEATHER REMINDER

Colder weather is upon us!! Please be sure students come to school everyday prepared to go outside. Our policy is to have outside recess everyday as long as temperatures are 10 degrees or above (factoring in the wind chill). Please be sure your children bring warm coats, hats, and gloves.



Please be sure your students are prepared for recess everyday even if it looks like the temperatures might be too low. We all know Michigan weather changes rapidly and we try to get our students out each day if possible, even if it is only for a quick mask break. With recent weather, hats, gloves, and boots are a MUST!

PLEASE BE SURE TO LABEL ALL ITEMS!



Celebrating Black History Month





PSA Auction Update



Ask and you shall receive! We have our first 2021 St. John the Evangelist Catholic School auction sponsor!! A BIG and SINCERE THANK YOU goes out to the Mulligan Family and Mulligan Heating, Inc. for their support!! We truly appreciate their kindness and generosity.

Visit <https://www.mulliganheating.com/> for all your heating and cooling needs.

#MakingADifference
#ForOurStudentsAndStaff
#HeartfeltAppreciation

We are still looking for volunteers to assist in many different areas.

- **Are you savvy with a computer and possess awesome technology skills? WE NEED YOU!**
- **Are you more of the creative type and like to think 'outside the box'? WE NEED YOU!**
- **Are you a 'people person' who is comfortable with meeting new people and chatting in any environment? WE NEED YOU!**
- **Do NONE of these characteristics apply to you, but you'd still like to lend a hand to the success of St John School? WE STILL NEED YOU and want you to join our team of volunteers!**

For volunteer opportunities, please contact **Kelly Ahn** at **313.300.8841** or **kahn@stout.com**.



Sponsorship Opportunities still available. There are lots of perks to sponsoring the SJS auction.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE



Thank You:

- To the families who have already donated STEAM supplies.

Prayers:

- For Mrs. Forsleff who has health complications.

Congratulations:

- To the Stratton family for winning the early registration drawing to waive your registration fee!

Support the K of C Fish
Fry on Lenten Fridays.
See attachment for
details.



SJS is
"snow"
much fun!



Today's #microchallenge from bustedhalo.com



DRIVE-IN MASS

Available during all weekend mass times

How it works:

- + Park in the designated parking area in the north parking lot during any of our weekend Masses
- + Tune your car's radio to 88.3 FM
- + Watch the Mass on our outdoor screen as it is happening live in the Church
- + During communion, Extraordinary Ministers will come to your vehicle to distribute Holy Communion.

To stay up to date with parish events, click [here](#) for a link to the weekly parish bulletin .

Reading Is Fun!



Staff Spotlight

As we kick off March is Reading Month, what is a good book that you have recently read for fun and not for work?

Ms. Adams: Cat Skeleton by Kristyn Crow.

Mr. Garbutt: I recently finished reading "The Obstacle Is the Way" by Ryan Holiday. It was a fantastic read, full of a lot of great insight.

Mrs. Whitney: *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong

Mrs. Dawes: I love historical fiction and the book I last read and loved was *Dragonfly* by Leila Meacham. It take place during World War II.

Mrs. Wright: For fun I am reading *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey and I am listening to the Bible being read in the Bible in a Year podcast by Fr. Mike Schmitz.

Mrs. Roche: One of my recent favorites is *28 Summers* by Elin Hilderbrand. I also really like *The Chain* by Adrian McKinty. They couldn't possibly be more different! :)

Mrs. Haiss: I just finished reading *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah. I wanted to read it before watching the series on Netflix.

Mrs. Adams: I am trying to get the chance to read *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, but it is to see if my 7th grade Reading class would enjoy it. No pleasure reading at this time. Maybe on Spring Break!

Ms. Wharff: I am currently re-reading *The Lord of the Rings*. It's a favorite, and I love to revisit the story every few years.