



St. James School Weekly News

September 20, 2007

UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday, September 25th

Thursday, September 27th

Friday, September 28th

Monday, October 1st

St. James Church Blood Drive

12:30 to 7:00 PM - Social Hall

CiCi's Pizza Night – 4:30 to 8:00 PM

No School/Professional Development

No School/Professional Development

NEW PASSWORDS FOR POWERSCHOOL

Students are being reassigned new passwords due to security concerns and the letter containing your new user ID and password will be sent home today in a sealed envelope. Remember that Powerschool is intended for parents to access their student's records and correspondence sent from teachers, along with homework assignment, and attendance records. Therefore, we are sending the password information in a sealed envelope to only allow parental access. Please dispose of your initial password information and use the newer passwords we are now issuing to successfully view your student's account.

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

On Tuesday, September 25th there will be a blood drive from 12:30 to 7:00 PM in the Social Hall, sponsored by the Community Blood Center. All donations of blood collected at this drive benefit local hospital patients. To make an appointment on-line go to www.esavealifenow.org and use the sponsor code stjames. If you have any questions about the blood drive you can contact Joseph Barry at (816)781-6411 or jbarry@kc.rr.com.

CICI'S PIZZA

Thursday, September 27th is the first school sponsored pizza night at CiCi's Pizza in Liberty. The event will run from 4:30 to 8:00 PM and we welcome you to come by and have dinner with your family during this time. A portion of the total amount of all sales during that time period will be contributed to the school. Remember that the class with the highest percentage of students attending that evening will win a pizza party compliments of CiCi's Pizza.

NO SCHOOL

Please note that there will be **no school** for students on Friday, September 28th or Monday, October 1st. St. James staff will be attending professional development training on those days and school will resume Tuesday, October 2nd.

CAKE AND PIE AUCTION

Thanks to all of you who attended or contributed to the Cake and Pie Auction this past Saturday that took place after the Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner. A special thanks to our Knights for all of their work and support. As a result of your efforts we were able to raise approximately \$1,100 for the Staff Professional Development Fund which provides funding for teachers to attend outside training courses pertaining to best practices.

We also wanted to thank the first and second grade students who performed at the auction under the direction of Mrs. Barron. They provided a wonderful accompaniment to the event and we look forward to seeing more of our students performing at future school functions.

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Antoinette Giglio who was named Artist of the Week for her self-portrait project, which involved creating a proportionately correct drawing of her facial features as part of an in-class art assignment. Perfect Portrait, Antoinette!!

PARK COLLEGE PRACTICUM STUDENTS

We are excited to introduce Park University early childhood practicum students who will be working in several classrooms for the first semester of our school year. The students are in their junior or senior year of college. Their classroom experiences will help prepare them for their student teaching experiences to follow. We are thrilled to have these future teachers in our school. Their placements are as follows: Madison Rommel & Shawna Sullivan are working with Mrs. Weir and Mrs. Walls; Alisa Yates is working with Mrs. Cissell and Mrs. Flowers; Briah Ketchum is working with Ms. Dannen; Amber McMillian is working with Mrs. Steinmetz; Amy Fulgium is working with Mrs. Venditti; Kristi Kern is working with Mrs. Cannavan; Mandy Sherer is working with Mrs. Pisciotta; and Felicia Hughes is working with Mrs. Peregrine. The students will visit their classroom assignment each Wednesday until December, and work in assisting the classroom teacher, planning activities and conducting observations. Please be helpful to welcome them and introduce yourself when you see them!

SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKES

Last week we sent home photo packages with students who ordered pictures through Lifetouch. If you were absent on photo day, or need to have your pictures retaken we have scheduled a retake day with Lifetouch on Monday, October 8th. If you want to have your photo retaken, bring your original photos to the photographer at the time your pictures are retaken. We are asking all of our Tuesday/Thursday preschool or pre-k students who need retakes to come to the Monday photo session if possible. Otherwise, the next available Tuesday/Thursday date is Thursday, October 25th. Please let the school office know if you are a Tuesday/Thursday student, who cannot make the October 8th retake, but need the October 25th retake date.

PERSONAL SAFETY CURRICULUM

The Kansas City–St. Joseph Diocese has mandated that each parochial school and religious education child receive instruction about personal safety. The course is an opt-out program, and only those students with written permission from their parent will not be able to attend the class. We feel that this is an important program that we offer to our children in pre-k through 8th grade. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Chris Venditti at 781-4428, ext. 246 or e-mail her at chris.venditti@stjames-school.org.

Following the October 9th PTO meeting, there will be a Family Education Session which lasts about 30 to 45 minutes for any adult family members that would like more information about the Personal Safety Program. At this time, you will not only be able to learn more about the program, but also learn how you can help teach your child about safety rules. If you do not want your child to participate in the Personal Safety Program, you have until Friday, October 12th to send a written notification into the school office stating that you do not want your child to attend the program.

MUSIC NEWS

Registration for the musical groups has begun and some of the classes are full, such as guitar club. The hand bell choir group has three openings remaining and 5th – 8th grade choir has a number of openings left to fill. Openings will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Registration forms can be obtained on our school web-site, www.stjames-school.org. From our home page, you can access the forms you need by going into the headings marked “classrooms” and then “music”.

The deadline for registration is Monday, September 24th, as practices for the various music groups begin shortly. Practice for guitar club begins Thursday, September 20th, handbell choir starts Monday, October 8th and middle school choir practice begins Friday, October 5th. It is important that Mrs. Barron gets confirmation from parents to confirm which student wants to register for each group. Mrs. Barron would like to get confirmation via email at cathy.barron@stjames-school.org, or voicemail message at (816)781-4428, ext. 216.

The Recorder Expectations/Contract sent home to 4th and 5th grade students needs to be returned to school as soon as possible. If you need another copy of the contract you can print another one off our school website. Thank you.

NORTHLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISPLAY

On Saturday, September 20th there will be a baby fair at Zona Rosa Shopping Center in Kansas City, MO. The fair will be held on the first floor of the Marshall’s building. At that time Northland Catholic Schools will be hosting a booth featuring information about our schools. Please come by and visit our booth.

AUCTION NEWS

Master of Ceremonies Announcement

This just in-from Sports 810 Radio.....We are thrilled to announce, that Todd Lebo, an announcer from radio 810 has confirmed that he will be our Master of Ceremonies for the Live Auction portion of the James..St. James Auction 2-0007 on November 3rd.

Auction T-Shirts

The last order of t-shirts taken at the Parent Information Night, was originally scheduled to be delivered last week. But there has been a delay in the printing, and we expect to have the t-shirts delivered to the classrooms by the end of next week. We are sorry for any inconvenience and we thank you for your patience.

Donation Ideas

Stephanie Steffensmeier, Auction section leader for the Live Auction section, has developed a "wish list" of items that she would like for her section. Her suggestions are a side of beef coupled with an upright freezer, a puppy, or Visa Gift cards that can go with other items such as travel packages, etc. These items she determined based on the popularity of similar items going for high dollar amounts at other auctions and hopefully will do the same for our event. If you have an interest in donating these types of items, please contact Stephanie at (816)415-8450.

Gift Gathering Parties

On Saturday, September 29th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM we will have an event hosted by Jennifer Janning. Items will be available for sale from "Homemade Gourmet" or "Lia Sophia" jewelry and all hostess proceeds will be contributed to the Auction. Please RSVP to Jennifer at 415-3983 if you plan to attend. On Sunday, September 30th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM we have planned a Boulevard Brewery Beer-Tasting Party as a gift gathering event. Please RSVP to angelyanez6@hotmail.com or dkemna@gmail.com. See the Auction site for more details on the parties that are scheduled for next weekend.

Operation MoneyPenny

We will have an interim count of the money collected this Friday and will post the results on the individual containers on Monday, September 21st and in the newsletter next week. Remember the class with the most money collected will win a prize!!!

Dates to Remember

Auction 2-007 is **Saturday, November 3, 2007**, which is a little over six short weeks away! Check the Auction page on the school web site for detailed information, and don't hesitate to send your questions to auction@stjames-school.org Also note that:

- All auction items are due **Friday, October 5th** .
- Auction reservations for seating are due **Friday, October 19th**, in order to have an accurate count for the caterer. You can place your table reservation by completing the Auction 2-007 order form that can be obtained off the Auction page on the school website.

CAFE NEWS

If you will be having a guest coming to have lunch, work centers, etc., with your student during the day please inform your child's teacher of the information indicating your permission, who will be coming, and if you as a parent are given your permission for that person to be at school with your child. Even if it is a grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. we need to be advised that they are coming to school and that you as a parent are granting them permission to have lunch, work centers, etc. with your child. Thank you.

PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two Art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. In 2005, groups in over 1,325 locations throughout the world were spinning pinwheels on September 21st - there were approximately 500,000 pinwheels spinning throughout the world. Last year, 2006, over 1 million pinwheels were spinning in over 2,350 locations, including the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Middle East, Africa and South America. Locally, St. James School will be coordinating the Pinwheels for Peace project this year.

This project is non-political – peace doesn't necessarily have to be associated with the conflict of war, it can be related to violence/intolerance in our daily lives, to peace of mind. To each of us peace can take on a different meaning, but in the end, it all comes down to a simple definition: "a state of calm and serenity, with no anxiety, the absence of violence, freedom from conflict or disagreement among people or groups of people."

St. James School's Family Groups created pinwheels, pinwheels of all shapes and sizes – as part of the creation process, students wrote their thoughts about "war and peace / tolerance/ living in harmony with others" on one side. On the other side, they drew, painted, collaged, etc. to visually express their feelings.

The students assembled these pinwheels on Friday, September 7th from 2:00 - 2:40 and on **International Day of Peace** they will "plant" their pinwheels at the entrance to the school and church between 8:15 AM and 8:45 AM as a public statement and art exhibit/installation.

September 21, 2007, keep a lookout for the pinwheels!! The spinning of the pinwheels in the wind will spread thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the country and the world!

