

August 30, 2019

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to an exciting new year 2019-2020! I am writing a brief newsletter to inform you about the recent events at St. James Parochial School.

- We have hired Gabriella Costello to teach Pre-K 3. Mrs. Farrow decided not to return to St. James in order to spend time with her daughter before she begins school in the fall. Gabby is a recent graduate with an Elementary School Degree. She has a younger brother Jake who is in 4th grade and looking forward to her 1st teaching assignment. We are pleased to have her join our faculty and she is eager to begin with her students. Gabby will also be coaching soccer. Welcome!
- Amy Bellerose is our new Art teacher. Mrs. Boudreau was here only to June last year and spending time with her children since she lost her husband in the spring. Amy also teaches at St. Joseph in North Grosvenordale. Amy comes with an array of teaching experiences and has been at St. James over the summer months preparing for her classes.
- Cheryl Rucki continues to be our Computer teacher and I have expanded her position to 3 days per week. Due to the demand of our new reading program, Open Court, Cheryl was able to set teacher and student passwords for grades K-5. There is a digital component to the reading series and all students need to have access to the program. This is an exciting program with so many positive features to the program which will enhance our students in K-5 in so many areas. Cheryl will also be working with faculty on Monday with the new reading series and with implementing newsletters on line.
- Mr. Costello has a brand new volleyball net which weighs 145 pounds. This will enhance the PE curriculum for our students.
- Mr. Brian has washed the school building which was extremely filthy and moldy. He has also painted exit doors and bathroom doors. A special thanks for making our school beautiful.
- We had family members who did weeding around the building and on the side of the Pre-K3 and Pre-K 4 classrooms especially the 2 playground areas which were so full of weeds. Mrs. Atchinson watered the flowers in the front of the building throughout the summer.
- Our ceilings in the main hallway cracked in 17 places since June. A contractor was hired to repair the cracks and repaint the ceiling. No rhyme or reason for those cracks. Deacon Rene was notified and hired a local contractor to fix the problems.
- The Safety Committee recommended tinting the cafeteria windows for safety. We hired Gagne and Sign Company to tint the windows. If you're standing in the cafeteria, you can see out, but if you're outside it blocks any visibility inside the cafeteria. Great job!

- Mr. Costello will conduct his Pacer Test for students during the physical education classes. Gym uniforms will be required.
- A special thanks to Mr. Sanchez for delivering the double-grounded wood chips for our school. The front of our building never looked so good with the flowers, bird bath and the cutting of the shrubs. Thank you.
- Mrs. Litke and her children Alex and Zachary implemented the plastic interlock pieces to our fence advertising St. James School. It looks great! They also added the black tarp on the back fence for privacy. This was a recommendation from the Safety Committee. Great job!
- We have also added 'No Trespassing' signs and 'Private Property' signs around the playground. Again, this was a recommendation by the Safety Committee.
- A special thanks to the families who donated the playground equipment for the Pre-K3, 4 and Kindergarten side of the building. Children couldn't wait to have recess on the 1st day of school. Thank you.
- We have new steps leading to and from the church with a black rail. This was certainly needed since we had broken steps for such a long time. This was another safety issue with broken steps.
- The school and church parking lots are going to be sealed and swept on October 12, 13, and 14th. More information will be forthcoming.
- Dress Code: It has been brought to my attention that several students are not following the dress code. I have addressed several students this past week on their attire. Please review the dress code policy. As parents, you sign the Family Handbook which addresses the dress code. So, please adhere to the code.
- Teachers in Grades 5-8 attended professional development on MAP at St. Bernard's High School. The Diocesan Office is implementing online assessments in math, reading and language usage. MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that measures each student's performance and growth. The reports will provide essential information that can be used to improve both teaching and learning. A letter was sent home explaining the MAP Growth to families in Grades 5-8.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the main office c.benoit@stjamesdanielson.org or l.joyal@stjamesdanielson.org. Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

Blessings,

Linda Marie Joyal/Principal