

February 28, 2020

Dear Families,

Happy Leap Year! I am writing this newsletter to inform you about the current events at St. James Parochial School. The newsletter is also found on our website.

- The students who participated in instructional basketball will have no more practices for the year. Mrs. Beach sends a special thank you to everyone who participated in the program. Thank you.
- Reminder: The deadline for the Catholic Foundation Scholarship through Facts is approaching its deadline of March 5<sup>th</sup>. No late entries will be accepted. Decisions are done through a committee from the Diocese. St. James has no input into the application process.
- Students received ashes at the 9 AM Mass on Wednesday. The Stations of the Cross were held on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 P.M. Mrs. LaPointe's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students prepared the student body for the Stations of the Cross on Friday. Thank you, Mrs. LaPointe.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> is the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester. Report cards will be distributed on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please check to make sure that your child's work has been completed and if absent any make-up work completed as well. Due to illness, many students haven't made-up assignments. Students are given one day of make-up for each day absent. If assignments aren't completed, this will alter your child's grades. Please check the Portal for an update of grades and assignments.
- The awards assembly has been scheduled for Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. in the gymnasium. All are invited to attend the assembly.
- Reminder: Re-registration forms went home on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please return the forms by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the present time, we have started a waiting list in several classes. We have accepted new families already for the next school year in several grades. Also, your registration fee is also due at the same time. The scholarship form for tuition assistance has also been distributed. Father John will be giving the school \$125,000 in scholarship monies for tuition assistance. In addition, we received a check from a parishioner for \$1,000 to be used for a needy family for tuition assistance. So, please return your forms to the main office. Thank you.
- **Good news! You will notice on the registration forms for next year that the tuition amount for families has remained the same. There is no tuition increase for next year. Mrs. Benoit and I have worked diligently to analyze every account, billing, expenses, utilities, instructional supplies, salaries, tuition, fundraising and curtailed our expenses throughout the year. Four years ago, we weren't in good standing with many of our accounts. We have a handle on those accounts and question every bill/invoice that we receive. As a result, we were able to**

**present a budget to Father John and Deacon Rene that would be feasible for us to continue to provide a good education for all students and to keep the reputation of St. James as the 'best' school in the Diocese of Norwich.**

- Grade 5 students won the dress down day for selling the most Cash Calendar Holiday Raffle Tickets. Congratulations!
- There is no school on March 6<sup>th</sup> for professional development. Faculty and staff will attend a workshop on Active Shooter Training beginning at 9 A.M. This is sponsored by the Connecticut State Police. The workshop has also included members of our Safety Committee.
- The Northeast District Department of Health continues to work in alignment with local, state, and national efforts to prepare for and respond to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. Please visit [www.nddh.org](http://www.nddh.org) for links to reliable, up-to-date information. Click on the COVID-19 icon under "Prevention & Partnerships." Thank you.
- The Connecticut Catholic Spelling Bee Regional Competition will be held on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary St. Joseph in Willimantic. The host for this event will be Mike Russo, Grand Knight of K of C Council 14 in Willimantic. Registration is at 5:30 P.M. Competition will follow at 6:00 P.M. Students have received the word lists to study.
- The State Championships will be held on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mary's Parish Center, 5 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, CT. Registration will begin at 1:30 P.M. and competition will begin at 2:00 P.M. This is adjoining St. Mary's Church, where the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney.
- The Thanksgiving Food Drive was a huge success. Thanksgiving boxes of food went to 400 families. This includes 1,089 clients, 646 adults, 382 children and 61 seniors. The Friends of Assisi Food Pantry appreciated our donation of 90 pounds of food, hats and mittens on November 1<sup>st</sup> and socks on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The food pantry appreciates our generosity, kindness and words of comfort. Thank you for all the families who have donated food, hats, mittens and socks!
- We had a brief power outage on Thursday morning. Students were in their classrooms and the teachers were teaching in their respective classrooms. As soon as we were able to have power restored, Mrs. Benoit hastily sent out a message to all families. Thank you for your support in this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the main office. [c.benoit@stjamesdanielson.org](mailto:c.benoit@stjamesdanielson.org) or [l.joyal@stjamesdanielson.org](mailto:l.joyal@stjamesdanielson.org). Have a great weekend!

Blessings,

Linda M. Joyal/Principal