

January 6, 2017

Dear Families,

Hello! I am writing this letter to inform you of the latest news at St. James School. You may also find this letter on our St. James School Website.

- On Tuesday, January 3, 2017, Mrs. Barrette's Grade 1 class didn't have any heat in the classroom. After several attempts, Siemens Mechanical Services were called and attempted to repair the heating issue. In the meantime, Mrs. Barrette's class spent the day in the Religious Education classroom which was warmer for the students and faculty. The heating issue wasn't repaired but the company returned on Wednesday and repaired the heating issue.
- Mr. Fiore, our Diocesan Superintendent, indicated that Catholic School Week will begin at the end of January. This year our theme is the following: 'Catholic Schools Week: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service'. It will begin with a 9 AM mass on Sunday, January 29, 2017 and end on Friday, February 2, 2017. A list of activities for parents, students and staff will be forthcoming.
- In addition, many families have been asking about the schools finances, tuition, financial aid and scholarship monies. I truly understand that you have been waiting for answers to your impending questions. A budget meeting was held prior to the Christmas vacation with Dan Whitely, Deacon Rene, and Cheryl Veilleux who are reviewing an item analysis of each financial category. Our next budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. We will continue to review the finances very carefully and would appreciate your patience as we prepare the 2017-2018 budget and its impact upon families. We understand that families need to plan for the future. This is not a painless task and we'll share financial information to you at a mandatory parent meeting before Catholic Schools Week. No date has been scheduled for this parent meeting.
- Mr. Jay Cyr will be providing our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with Leadership Training on January 27, 2017 beginning at 9 AM-11AM. Thank you for helping our wonderful students.
- On January 11, 2017, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will be having a fundraiser at Ninety Nine Restaurant in Dayville, CT. More information will be forthcoming with your children. Please look for the pink flyer in your child's backpack. If you need additional fliers, please let us know in the main office.
- Bishop Cote will be visiting St. James School on January 12, 2017. He will be arriving approximately 9:15 AM and will be visiting with Father John, faculty and students.
- On January 13, 2017, faculty members will be trained by Bryan Danek on our Plus Portal Software Program. It is an early dismissal day for professional development. Extended Day Program will be available in the PM.
- Our Christmas Pageant was held on December 13, 2016. Faculty and students did a terrific job and St. James Church was packed with family and friends. Deacon Rene and Father John sat with the Grade 1 students. (animals) What a beautiful evening!
- Prior to our Christmas vacation, we received numerous donations from our parishioners. The monies are going to be spent on purchasing microscopes for the science department. One microscopic cost \$300.00. In addition, we received a donation of \$5,000.00 from a former student who graduated from St. James in 1974. Monies will be utilized for Spanish materials/resources for our students.

If you have any questions, please contact the main office. Thank you.

Linda Marie Joya/Principal