

January 13, 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.

- Rebecca Zachow and Alison Fabiano came to discuss the Wine Tasting event which has been scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-9 p.m. at Allen Hill Tree Farm. The price of the tickets will be \$75.00 per person. A letter has been sent home asking for donations for the event. We are also looking for approximately 20 volunteers for the evening. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Rebecca or Alison. More information will be forthcoming!
- Sterling Oil Company will be cleaning our boilers on January 16, 2017. It is Martin Luther King Day and school will be closed.
- Progress Reports will be going home on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Grade 6- 8 students will be having a Winter Ball on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00. Raffles will be held. Students are excited for this event. There is only one problem. One female student said, ' The boys won't dance,' Mrs. Joyal.
- There has been an issue concerning car line that was brought to my attention during our Safety Committee Meeting on Monday. Please make 5 car lines and pull up to the orange cones. Once you are in a car line, do not change lanes. This is a safety issue. Thank You for your cooperation.
- There was an athletic meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like information, please contact Terry O'Brien (athletic director) and Kerri and Joe Beaudreault. The gym floor is off limits this weekend due to the varnishing of the floor.
- Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. We begin our week with a 9 AM mass. We are hoping that students and families make an effort to attend the mass since we are a faith community. Father John is aware that the students will be involved with the mass. Ann Aulerich has volunteered to prepare the students' for speaking and singing the mass. A list of activities and events will be forthcoming and are on the school website.
- January 27<sup>th</sup> is also a dress down Friday for faculty and students. We will be collecting cat and dog food for the St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry.
- Mr. Henry Fiore sent all principals the following important message concerning: School Green Cleaning Products law Compliance Resource. It was sent from the Department of Health and Mr. Fiore urges all of us to comply with the law. He indicated that the Failure to comply with the law could result in a major liability for our schools. The Departments of Public Health and Energy and Environmental protection are working together to encourage CT school districts to post a link on their web to the Waste Busters Green Cleaning Myths video. The video was produced by CT DEEP, in conjunction with their agency. They are requesting that all staff, parents and students to view the video. The main purpose of the video is to getting staff and parents to comply with the 2009 CT School Green Cleaning Products Law (Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 10-220[a], 10-231 [g] which clearly state 'No parent, guardian, teacher or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect.'" All teachers and other staff members will have access to the

general green cleaner used by the custodial staff. Reducing exposure to traditional cleaners is part of efforts to reduce asthma triggers in schools. The custodian staff will have a fact sheet on the Green Cleaning products Law.

Here are some options for linking to or embedding the video:

1. Windows version on CT state website: Waste Busters Green Cleaning Video.
  2. You Tube version: Waste Busters Green Cleaning Video-You Tube .
- Student Council will visit the Food pantry on Tuesdays from 9-10 AM. There will be 2 students assigned each day and Mrs. Gonzalez has volunteered to take the students each week for an hour. Thank you.
  - Reminder: The Catholic Foundation makes tuition assistance grants to elementary schools each year at the Annual Awards Dinner which will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, Norwich. The Foundation determines each applicant's need based on the FACTS application and the supporting documents that you file online. Last year, the Foundation awarded 193 students a total of \$99,750.00. This year, the online applications will be accepted beginning on January 1, 2017 through March 6, 2017. Please submit all the information required from FACTS because if the applications are not fully complete FACTS cannot verify the information. This information has been provided by Mary Ellen Mahoney from the Norwich Development office.
  - We had another budget meeting on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. There is another budget meeting scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>. The budget needs school board approval and review of finances. Following school board approval, Deacon Rene and I will hold a parent meeting to review the budget and its impact on families. We were hoping to hold a parent meeting prior to Catholic Schools Week, but will be unable to hold a meeting without board approval. The board meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>. No date has been set for the parent meeting.
  - Bishop Cote visited St. James on Thursday. He visited all classrooms and met with the teachers. Bishop Cote was extremely pleased with his visit. While visiting classrooms, he talked about monasteries, social studies, spelling, playing the piano, Sacraments, Love of Jesus, writing letters to him, and prayers. Mrs. Brown's class recited a prayer and sang 'The Hail Mary' to him. Bishop Cote watched a student playing an educational game on the computer. In Mrs. Barrette's class students were telling Bishop Cote about George Washington. Bishop Cote asked the students in Mrs. Hanley's class about volcanoes. Bishop Cote enjoyed his visit with us!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Hope you all have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Linda Marie Joyal/Principal