



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

A Ministry of St. Joseph Parish

5411 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560

May 12, 2016

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

Positive Direction 2016. Friday, May 13 is final day of Positive Direction 2016. It begins with morning prayer and is followed by a slideshow of all of Positive Direction's fun experiences. At 9:00 A.M. the "3K/5K Challenge" begins in the front of the church. At that time sixth grade students are at their water stations to provide water to the runners/walkers along the course and to offer cheers and words of encouragement.

Positive Direction is a collaborative effort between committed parents, who serve as volunteers, and the Faculty and Staff of St. Joseph School. It remains one of our students' most memorable middle school experiences. I truly am grateful for the dedication of all who give their time and talent and especially, this year, to the co-moderators - Mrs. Betsy Pawlecki, Mrs. Denise Brown. All SJS students attend the start of the 3K/5K Challenge and cheer as the runners "Take their mark, Get set, and GO!" The finish line is set up behind the church and students in kindergarten through fifth grade line-up to cheer the runners as they return. If you are new to SJS or the parent of a younger student, this is an event you will want to attend. You may stand with your child and his/her class, as he/she awaits the runners' return. As you watch runners come in you will see middle school students stepping forward with empathy, encouragement, kindness, care, and friendship for all as they bring the last runners home. It is an inspiring and wonderful moment and reminds all of us of why we work so hard to bring our Catholic faith to our students. In this moment at the finish line, faculty, staff, parents, and students do see...without necessarily realizing it in the red, sweaty, dusty, and sometimes tear-stained faces of these 7th and 8th grade runners...what we have prayed all along..."In the face of every child, we see Jesus."

The rest of the day for 7th and 8th grade students includes lunch and fun activities.

Festirama 2016. Set-up for our annual Parish Festival – **Festirama**- starts early next week. Enthusiasm and excitement will begin to grow on Tuesday and Wednesday as students give their teachers a progress report on arriving festival **rides** - new **rides**, returning **rides**, best **rides** (much debate here), **rides** they are too big for, **rides** they are not tall enough for. Beside **rides** ... and there is so much more than just **rides**... Festirama 2016 offers families a chance to combine fun, food, and friends. The times and dates for Festirama 2016 are:

Friday, May 20. 6:00 P.M. – 12:00 midnight

Saturday, May 21. 2:00 P.M. – 12:00 midnight

Sunday, May 22. 11:00 A.M.– 7:00 P.M.



Important Reminder for Extended Day. Due to our Festival, on Friday, May 20, there is no Extended Day. All Extended Day students need to take the bus home or be picked up at 2:45 p.m.

Faith Formation through Curriculum. Faith formation and virtue education must be embedded in all curricular areas. If curriculum is everything that happens in the school, then each curricular area must offer the opportunity for the development of virtue. A cross-curricular approach centered on faith will have credibility and validity only if the rhetoric is lived out in reality. Our classroom teachers are Catholic and every day they teach about our Catholic faith. Even more important than that is the witness they give. Faith is lived 24 hours a day, 7 days a week... not just Sunday morning, not just the 45 minutes of instruction each day

Science and math teachers focus attention on the lives of prominent men and women in either field who exemplify living our Catholic faith and Catholic values. English classes elicit examples of a given value from the study of literature. Students may be asked to write compositions dealing with this value. History classes direct attention to specific moments when great men and women either were inspired or inspired others by their heroic faith and values. Art and music classes examine the lives of great artists and composers as models of faith and values. Students can use art and music as a means of conveying values to an audience. Physical Education teachers use the lives of exemplary sports heroes as they strive to teach principles of good sportsmanship and fair play. The Teachers' Credo for the Diocese of Toledo reminds all of us "why we do what we do." Why? Because we believe:

As Catholic School Educators,

We believe St. Joseph School is not only a school, but a community of Faith;

We believe those entrusted to us, kindergartners through eighth graders, are not only students, but children of God;

We believe we are not only educators but Ministers of the Gospel;

We believe the values we teach are not only character development, but a call to Holiness;

We believe our courses of study...Common Core or Ohio Academic Content Standards... are not only academic pursuits, but a search for Truth;

We believe the purpose of education at St. Joseph School is not only for personal gain and the development of society,

but for the Transformation of the world.

Teacher Requests. As we think about end of the year procedures, it is a good time to include a reminder about policy concerning special placement requests. The structure and climate of any classroom is very important. When teachers place students in classes, they are charged with creating balanced classrooms. They take into consideration student gender, ability, personality, special needs, and scheduling issues. Though it is always fun to be in the same class as a best friend, it does not always happen. Expanding friendships is an important part of the socializing

process in schools. There are occasionally reasons to ask that a child's special needs be considered when assigning him/her to a class. These are very rare occasions and are not the same as liking a teacher, having a previous friendship with a teacher, or responding to the community dialogue that says one teacher is better than another.

I am asking teachers to follow protocol when they request special placement for a student. Should you, as a parent, want to request special consideration for placement, the request must go to the classroom teacher. A Request Form may be given to you asking for a more in-depth explanation of your request. Completing the form means that further consideration will be given to the request; it does not mean the request is granted. Today is May 12, 2016. **Requests for special placement may be made up to but no later than Friday, June 3, 2016.**

Camp Storer. On Friday, May 20, fifth grade students will bring home a letter and a volunteer form for parents regarding cabin leaders for the sixth grade Outdoor Education Experience scheduled for September 7 - 9, 2016. Fifth grade parents are asked to complete the forms and return them to school by Thursday, May 26, 2016

PTO Uniform Sale...June 1, 2016 Please look for information about the PTO Uniform Sale that is included in today's on-line Thursday Envelope..

Recorder Concert. Our fourth grade students have been preparing for their first musical instrument performance. Under the direction of Mrs. Bess Mass, SJS Music teacher, the students will present a Recorder Concert on Thursday, May 26, at 10:00 am, in the Banquet Hall. Parents, grandparents, and other extended family members are welcome.

Registration Forms. If you have not turned in your Registration Form, please do so as soon as possible. Occasionally, applications for tuition assistance are filed before registration has been completed. We are unable to process those applications if a student is not registered.

Workbook/Technology and Activity Fees will be included in next week's Thursday Envelope.

SJS Spring Flower Sale. This is a reminder of the SJS Flower Sale at Creque's. Order your vouchers through May 17. An order form was sent home previously and it is also posted on-line.

Golden Apple Award. Many of you know that each year Catholic schools in this diocese nominate a teacher for the Golden Apple Award. The nomination must come to the school from a teacher, parent or student. Each year we have parents who nominate teachers with beautiful words of witness and admiration. After the completion of a lengthy nomination process names are forwarded to Mr. Christopher Knight, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, for consideration.

The Golden Apple Award was established through the generosity and kindness of the Jack and Rhodora Donahue Family Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The award honors outstanding individuals who devote their lives to teaching in Catholic schools. It was extended to the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Diocese of Toledo. **It is truly a lifetime award and the competition is intense.**

And so...It is with pleasure that I announce that SJS second grade teacher, Mrs. Joan Zunk, has been honored as one of the seven elementary school award recipients for the Diocese of Toledo. Congratulations Mrs. Zunk!

Salute to Education. Each year the Sylvania Chamber of Commerce honors accomplishments of all who make a contribution to the education of children through their school. Parents, teachers, staff, and volunteers are all remembered. However, each school is able to offer the names of three nominees who have made a difference in education and they are individually recognized. **Receiving special recognition were Mrs. Janet Secrest, SJS Second Grade Teacher, Mrs. Mary Ann Wisniewski, Librarian, and Sr. Judy Beaudry, First Grade Teacher. Congratulations to these wonderful educators!**

Have a wonderful weekend,

Sally A. Koppinger

Principal