



# ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

*A Ministry of St. Joseph Parish*

5411 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560

October 13, 2016

Dear Parent,

As we close our first quarter of the 2016 – 2017 school year, we want to take a moment to remember what we do as Catholic school educators and more importantly why we do it.

*Because...*

*We believe our Catholic School is not only a school but a community of Faith;*

*We believe those entrusted to us are not only students, but children of God;*

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

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

*We believe our courses of study are not only academic pursuits, but a search for Truth;*

*We believe the purpose of education is not only for personal gain and the development of society, but for the Transformation of the world...*

*...and because in the face of every child, we see Jesus.*

**First Quarter Ends.** Friday, October 14 is the last day of the first quarter. The first quarter of the school year is followed by Intersession Week. There is no school for students the week of October 17. School will resume on Monday, October 24. Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, October 26 and will also be electronically posted on the same day. This first year of electronic report cards for the students of SJS is a pilot year. We will be sending a hard copy of each report card in the traditional Signature Envelope at the end of each quarter. Please sign the envelope and return only the



envelope to us (homeroom teachers). It is important that you review both - the on-line report card and the hard copy report card. Please report any inconsistencies between the two documents to your child's homeroom teacher. They should be identical.

### ***Kindness Matters***

On Monday, October 24, we will begin a program whose goal is to shine a light on kindness. Kindness Coaches (SJS Moms) will visit each K-5 classroom to introduce themselves, distribute a *Kindness Matters* t-shirt to each student, and ask students to commit to kindness for the entire school year. By working together—school and home—we hope to reinforce for students how their words, actions and choices DO make a difference in their lives and the lives of their peers! Thank you to our *Kindness Matters* Coaches and volunteers and to our PTO!

**New Playground Equipment!** The much anticipated addition of a new Ga-Ga Pit has arrived and been installed for students in grades 6 – 8 on the east campus. Thank you to the many within our school community and parish for their support of our fundraising efforts. Are you asking silently, 'What are GaGa Ball and a GaGa Pit?' **Gaga is a fast paced, high energy sport played in an octagonal pit.** The game is played with a soft or foam ball and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Players need to keep moving to avoid getting hit by the ball. Fun and easy, everyone gets a serious workout. The size (diameter) of the pit determines the number of players. The SJS pit would allow for 30 players to begin the game. However, that is fairly crowded and we'll start with 15. The last one in the pit wins. Then, everyone hops back in for the next round. Games last no more than five minutes. It's fast, it's fun, and it's safe. Once students are instructed in game rules through Physical Education classes, the GaGa Pit will be open for play. The game requires a referee/monitor (one of our recess supervisors) at all times.

### **October Parades**

- On Sunday, October 16, St. Joseph School will participate in the **City of Sylvania's Fall Festival Parade**. The parade is scheduled from 1:00 – 2:00 pm beginning at Northview High School, travelling east on Monroe Street, north on Main Street, west on Erie Street, and ending at Maplewood Elementary School. Our parade float has been the work of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in this quarter's art elective class. Our sincere thanks to: the **Forgach family** for lending us their trailer, **Father Charlie** for building the framework around the trailer, **Mrs. Juli Snyder**, whose work with and for us is invaluable, and **Mrs. Mary Kay Culver** middle school art teacher, whose design, direction, and creative touch have made our float something special. We hope many families come to see the parade this Sunday!
- **Halloween Parade.** Our annual Halloween Parade will take place on Monday, October 31, at 1:30 p.m. Children should bring their costumes to school in the morning. They will be given time to put them on after lunch. All students in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate. Parents are welcome to come. The parade route begins at the school doors of the west campus, crosses

the parking lot behind the church, proceeds to and along the driveway at Rosary Hall on the Lourdes University campus, and then returns to the St. Joseph west campus, past the front of the church and back to the elementary school. Students from the middle school will join K – 5 students at the start of the parade. There are many places to stand and take pictures or just enjoy the varied and creative costumes that children wear. All visitors should park across the street from the elementary building in order to keep the school parking lot open for students as they parade.

**Halloween Costume Guidelines:** Please help your child choose a costume that is St. Joseph School appropriate.

- Costumes that are a little scary are usually all right, but gory costumes are not.
- Some middle school students like to dress as television/film personalities. In our experience, most of the time, that has been fine. However, they need to be cautious. The content of many reality TV shows is not intended for a middle school audience. Representation of those associated personalities would be unacceptable.
- Students **may not bring to school look-alike weapons** that go with their costume. **Look-alike weapons** include costume items such as swords, knives, bows/arrows, rifles, spears, guns of any type or size.
- Students are allowed to wear their costumes home. If their costume includes a mask, it will need to be carried or placed in their back-pack.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences.** Thank you! Thank you! You are doing so very well in signing up on-line for a Parent/Teacher Conference time. However, if you have not had a chance to do that as yet, please take a few minutes to log into SchoolSpeak to select a date and time.

**The Middle School Halloween Social for Grades 6, 7, and 8** follows the Halloween Parade. It begins at 2:00 pm and is over at 3:30 pm. Additional information will be sent to middle school students and parents the week of October 24.

**Save the Date!** All St. Joseph preschool, elementary, and middle school families are invited to attend the **Fall Family Fun Night** on Friday, November 18 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Fr. Wurzel Family Center. This year, families are invited to a square dance immediately following the annual **Italian Dinner** which will be held the same night on the west campus. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Enjoy the coming weekend,

Sally A. Koppinger  
Principal