

NEWS FROM THE HIGH HEAVENS - NO. 7
Friday, February 20, 2015

“A CATHOLIC LEARNING COMMUNITY”

“THE BEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN THE WORLD CANNOT BE SEEN OR EVEN TOUCHED. THEY MUST BE FELT WITH THE HEART.” -Helen Keller

Dear Jaguar Parents:

ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH. THIS IS TWO WEEKS AWAY. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR PARISH/SCHOOL AUCTION.

TICKETS FOR THE ANNUAL ST. JAMES AUCTION

This year's Patriotic-themed event , "*SHOW YOUR STRIPES, ST. JAMES*" is scheduled for Saturday, March 7TH. The silent auction begins at 5:00pm, with dinner at 7:00pm and live auction immediately following. The ticket includes appetizers, a full meal and open bar, plus the opportunity to bid on a lot of new and different auction items. Mass will be held at 4:00pm that evening.

GET YOUR TICKETS "NOW" IN THE SCHOOL OR CHURCH OFFICE FOR \$35.00 (\$70.00 A COUPLE OR \$280.00 FOR A TABLE OF 8)! DON'T MISS OUT!!!!

RECRUITMENT TIME IS NOW!!!

Education in Catholic schools is better education. We have high standards, effective discipline and a caring atmosphere, all of which encourage student achievement. Our students have freedom to learn cognitively, and to grow emotionally and spiritually. Individual needs receive the attention they deserve. This should not be news to you. When you enrolled your child in a Catholic school, you showed your desire to provide that child with the best education possible. You demonstrated your faith in our school community. We ask you to go one step further. As parents, you are public relations representatives of our school. Let other parents know what our school offers to students. When public education in America is criticized for its shortcomings, let your friends know that there is an alternative, a school committed to the mental, moral, and spiritual growth of every student. Brag a little about your participation in our school community. Show your pride in your child's achievements and in the school that helps to make them possible.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

St. James Catholic School will soon be making contacts for kindergarten age children to attend St. James School during the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Sally Korte should be getting with you soon. We use the current registration list from St. James to make parent contacts. If you're interested in sending your child/ren to SJCS for kindergarten and you have not currently registered at St. James Catholic Church this year please contact the school office. Children must be 5 years of age by August 31st, before they can attend kindergarten.

SPECIAL NOTE: Preschool classes are filled up for the next school year. We currently have a waiting list. However, between now and the first day of school there may be a family that will move or dropout because of a circumstance. You may still want to turn in your registration forms anyway.

Kindergarten Parents Night Out (for families who will have a kindergartner in 2015-2016) will be held Tuesday, March 10th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the School Gymnasium. The candle light dinner is served by the St. James PTO. There is no cost. **Reservations need to be called into the school office as soon as possible. Babysitting will be provided as well. Please turn into the school office the number of family members who will be at the dinner and the number of children that will need childcare.**

While there is no tuition for your children to attend St. James, you must be registered, be an active steward of time, treasure, and talent, and attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten parents may register for the 2015-2016 school year **any time prior to or on** Wednesday, March 11th **in the school office**. On Wednesday March 11th from 7:30am-4:00pm registration will be open to the public. Please make sure you have copies of your **child's Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, and Baptismal Certificate** when you register...we will need the physical form and immunization sheet filled out before school starts in August.

PRE-ENROLLMENT NOW TAKING PLACE

2015-2016 Pre-Registration forms are being sent home in last week's Family Folders for those currently in Kindergarten through 6th grade. The pre-registration form is pre-printed with information that is currently entered into Powerschool. **PLEASE LOOK THESE OVER CAREFULLY AND MAKE ANY CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE**...some of the information has changed and we need the updates. **REGISTRATION FEES FOR NEXT YEAR HAVE INCREASED FROM LAST YEARS: \$150.00 PER STUDENT K-4TH AND \$175.00 PER STUDENT 5TH-6TH, AND A \$5.00 PTO FEE PER STUDENT.** Final registration information will go out in early April with all paperwork and fees due before the end of May. If *you choose* to make payments in advance prior to end of May you may do so. Send the payments to the school office.

THERE WILL BE A LATE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$50.00 PER STUDENT IF REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOT IN BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH FOR CHILDREN CURRENTLY ENROLLED. FEES DO NOT NEED TO BE PAID AT THIS TIME, BUT THE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM NEEDS TO BE TURNED IN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

The reason we're doing this is because of the reordering costs involved. Thus, it's very important that you state your intention as soon as possible. All fees need to be paid prior to the first day of school in order for your child/ren to attend. The first day of school hasn't been set yet. We will work on the new school calendar in March. **IF YOU AREN'T FOR SURE LET MR. GUY KNOW IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE SO YOU WON'T BE CHARGED A LATE FEE IN AUGUST.**

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

There is some running off of copies needed in the school office. Please contact Mr. Guy or Cathy if you can run off copies.

FOOD DRIVE

We have a family that attends St. James Catholic School that is in dire need of food or gift/gas cards. If you are willing to help out please bring the food items and put them in the empty boxes off to the side of the electronic bulletin board in the hallway. Gift/gas cards can be given to Mr. Guy or Cathy in the School Office. We will keep the FOOD DRIVE going till Thursday, March 12th, 2015.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Joyce Standfast will work with those 4th, 5th, & 6th graders who are interested in being on the Battle of the Books team every Wednesday and Thursday (we are in school) from 3:15-4:00pm. Their first Battle of the Books competition will be the last Wednesday in March.

AUCTION NEWS

St. James Parish School Auction 2015 is nearly here. "Show Your Stripes St. James!!" will begin with mass at 4pm on Saturday March 7th. Tickets are available for \$35 a person in the School or Church Office or by calling 775-5721 during business hours. This annual event includes something for everyone:

AUCTION NEWS CONTINUED

a silent auction, live auction, open bar, and Baron of Beef and Chicken with Rice dinner.
"Like" us on **Facebook** at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAINTJAMESAUCTION for pictures of items, updates and full information on event.

There are lots of stewardship opportunities during the auction week. Decorating will take place Monday through Friday March 2nd-6th from 6-8pm. Babysitting is available for 0-8 year olds, care of school parent volunteers. **More volunteers are needed on Sunday mornings at the school after 8:00am Mass. Please come join us!!** Contact Alicia Craft at 680-4850 or the school office at 775-5721 if you would like to help or have questions.

Desserts Needed! If you are a baker, your skills are needed. The annual St. James Parish School Auction is in need of 20-30 baked goods to be donated for this year's silent auction. If you would like to help, please contact Jeri Biehler at 644-3585 or djbiehler@sbcglobal.net.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

- Fri. February 20th Stations of the Cross – 2:30pm and 6:30pm - Church
STUCO Meeting – 3:20-4:00pm
Knights of Columbus FISH FRY – 5:30pm – School Gymnasium
- Sun. February 22nd "He Heals" Lenten Mission – 6:30pm – Church – School Families Requested to come!
- Mon. February 23rd "He Heals" Lenten Mission – 6:30pm – Church – School Families Requested to come!
- Tues. February 24th Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 5th Grade Team – 7:25-7:50am – Library
- Wed. February 25th Battle of the Books Practice – 3:15pm – Music Room
Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 6th Grade Team – 3:25-3:45pm - Library
- Thurs. February 26th Battle of the Books Practice – 3:15pm – Music Room
- Fri. February 27th February Baptismal Celebration – 8:00 Mass – Church
Stations of the Cross – 2:30pm and 6:30pm - Church
- Mon. March 2nd -
Fri. March 6th Set-up for St. James Parish School Auction – All welcome to come and help!!!
- Mon. March 2nd White Heart Rosary – 8:00am - Church
- Tues. March 3rd Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 5th Grade Team – 7:25-7:50am – Library
- Wed. March 4th Battle of the Books Practice – 3:15pm – Music Room
Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 6th Grade Team – 3:25-3:45pm - Library
- Thurs. March 5th Battle of the Books Practice – 3:15pm – Music Room
- Fri. March 6th 6th Grade Vocations Fair – Magdalen Catholic School – Wichita
Early Dismissal – 12:30pm – Lunch served at 11:00am (K-2nd) and 11:45am (3rd-5th)
Parent/Teacher Conferences (Parent or Teacher Request ONLY) – 12:45-3:45pm
- Sat. March 7th ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL AUCTION – ALL WELCOME TO COME & ENJOY!!!**
Mass – 4:00pm – Church
Silent Auction – 5:00-7:00pm – School Hallway/School Community Room
Auction Dinner – 7:00-8:00pm – School Gymnasium
Live Auction – 8:00-9:30pm – School Gymnasium
- Mon. March 9th NUT Day – Wear Jeans & St. James T-shirt, Sweatshirt, or Uniform Shirt - \$2.00
Little Flower Girls Club – 3:15-4:30pm – School Community Room
- Tues. March 10th Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 5th Grade Team – 7:25-7:50am – Library
Kindergarten Parents Night Out – 6:00pm – School Gymnasium
School Council Meeting – After Kindergarten Parents Night Out
- Wed. March 11th **Pre-registration forms due without penalty**
Kindergarten Registration – Open to the Public – 7:30am – 4:00pm –
School Office (You may take care of anytime previous in the School Office)
Battle of the Books Practice – 3:15pm – Music Room
Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 6th Grade Team – 3:25-3:45pm - Library
St. James PTO Meeting – 3:30pm – School Conference Room

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

Thurs. March 12 th	End of 3 rd Quarter DINO DAYS – K-6 th – 8:45-11:00am Early Dismissal – 12:30pm – SPRING BREAK – Lunch at 11:00am (K-2 nd) and 11:45am (3 rd -6 th)
Fri. March 13th – Fri. March 20th	SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL
Mon. March 23 rd	School Resumes
Tues. March 24 th	Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 5 th Grade Team – 7:25-7:50am – Library Friends of Augusta Student of the Month Luncheon – Augusta High School – Noon
Wed. March 25 th	Battle of the Books Competition Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 6 th Grade Team – 3:25-3:45pm - Library 1 st Communion Parents Meeting – 7:00pm - Church
Thurs. March 26 th	Battle of the Books Practice – 3:15pm – Music Room Report Cards Going Home in Family Folders
Fri. March 28 th	March Baptismal Celebration – 8:00am Mass - Church Stations of the Cross - 2:30pm & 6:30pm – Church
Tues. March 31 st	Religion Quiz Bowl Practice – 5 th Grade Team – 7:25-7:50am – Library AR Store – Afternoon – Community Room – Thank you to Con Otto!!!

"WALK IN SISTER'S SHOES" PENNY COMPETITION

The month of January, the children at St. James Catholic School started a competition to raise money for the St. Katherine Drexel Fund. Each classroom had a boot in which to collect pennies and other change in. The pennies would make the dollar amounts rise, while the silver coins and dollar bills would make the dollar amount fall. The children were able to put money in their boot or any other classroom boot. The competition was to see who had the highest positive amount or least negative amount by the end of Catholic Schools Week. The children had a blast competing against each other and loved adding silver coins and dollar bills to other classrooms boots. **Congratulations to the 1st Graders for winning the "Walk in Sister's Shoes" Penny Competition!** They came through on the last day to leave the rest of the classes in the dust. The competition was fierce and the classes placed as follows: 1st Grade with (+ \$113.23...the highest score in history of the boot competition); 4th Grade with (+ \$0.67); 5th/6th Grade with (- \$21.07); Kindergarten with (- \$21.72), Pre3 with (- \$43.21); 2nd Grade with (- \$45.89) they were in first place going into the last day...sometimes it doesn't pay; 3rd Grade with (- \$48.50); and Pre4 with (- \$69.76). 1st Grade also was the class who made the largest total dollar amount in their boot with a grand total of \$255.83! Kindergarten was in second with \$181.98. **A BIG HAND** goes out to **ALL** of the students who participated for raising a grand total of \$1170.87 (we were \$450.00 short for what was made last year). We will send a check to the Catholic Schools Office in Wichita for the St. Katharine Drexel Fund which will include this amount, and the amounts from Special Jeans Days and December and January NUT Days for a **Grand Total of \$2,730.22**. This is an average of \$27.86 per student. **This is a total increase of \$484.84 from last year. What an AWESOME job our St. James family has done to help out those catholic schools in need.**

WHY PARENTS CHOOSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

- Offer an education that combines Catholic tradition with academic excellence
 - Partner with parents in the faith formation of their children
- Set high standards for student achievement and work closely with them to help them succeed
 - Provide a balanced curriculum that includes art, music, and fitness
 - Use technology effectively to enhance education
 - Instill in students the value of service to others
 - Emphasize moral development and self-discipline
 - Prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders
- Have a 99 percent graduation rate and have 85 percent of graduates go to college
- Cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring, and effective
 - Provide a safe and welcoming environment for all



ST. JAMES SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Congratulations to **Sophia Otto (left)** for winning the school spelling bee held January 19th. **Malori Renville** (middle) was runner-up and **Brodie Phillips (right)** came in third place. They respectively earned 75 AR points for 1st place, 50 AR points for 2nd place, and 25 AR points for 3rd place. **Sophia** represented St. James well at the Diocesan Spelling Bee on Monday, February 9th by making it to the 4th round. Job well done!

COUNCIL OF EDUCATION

The School Council will meet after the Kindergarten Parents' Night Out on Thursday, March 10th. It will start approximately 7:30-7:45pm. Anyone is invited to attend.



FEBRUARY FRIENDS OF AUGUSTA STUDENT OF THE MONTH

The February Friends of Augusta Student of the Month is **EMILY WEBSTER**. **Emily** is a dedicated student who works diligently to complete her work on time and well. She is always willing to lend a hand to help in the classroom. **Emily** enjoys working with her peers in the classroom on projects. **Emily** is a wonderful child of God, who strives to serve God through her actions. **Emily** is a great student and we are blessed to have her here at St. James.

SOUTHERN PLAINS HONOR BAND

Congratulations to our 5th grade band members, **David Ebenkamp, Allie Kavalasukas, Malori Renville, Tommie Schaffner, and Emily Webster**. They represented St. James Catholic School at the Southern Plains Honor Band on Saturday, February 7th in Andover. There were two or three fifth grade bands made up of students from around the area. The bands were directed by various band directors from the tri-state area. They spent the day practicing 4-5 songs and then played them for an auditorium full of parents and relatives later in the afternoon. Congratulations to David, Allie, Malori, Tommie, and Emily for representing St. James with their dedication and talent!

SPECIAL THANK YOUS TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED OUT DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Chili/Chicken Noodle Dinner: Chad Barringer, Dan & Jeri Biehler, Andee Kant, Bridget Kappelmann, Josh & Christi Kirkpatrick, Kelly McClure, Don & Con Otto, Justin Phillips, and Shawn & Cindy Speere.

Donuts 4 Parents: Jeri Biehler, Andee Kant, Justin Phillips, Katie Schauf, and Shawn & Cindy Speere.

Balloon Launch: Kim Cervantes, Kathleen Fleming, Melody Kuhlmann, Monica Lichlyter, and Sheryl Litton.

Popcorn: Leah Brown, Kim Cervantes, Andee Kant, Jen McClure, and Kelly McClure.

Mass Reception: Leah Brown, Sharon Hoffmann, Kelly McClure, and all those silent volunteers who brought cookies to help out.

Friday Lunch: Kim Cervantes, Kathleen Fleming, Andee Kant, Jen McClure, Kelly McClure, Justin Phillips, and Cindy Speere.

Bread Making for Kansas Day: Geneva Demel and Joyce Standfast.

Kansas Flag Presentation: Joyce Standfast

Scholastic Book Fair: Sharon Hoffmann, Christi Kirkpatrick, Jen McClure, Kelly McClure, Darcie Phillips, Cindy Speere, and Joyce Standfast.

Living Rosary: Therese Allen and Karen Hughes

Hot Lunch Program: Debbie Weaver.

Talent Show: Sally Korte and Amy Wooten.

You ALL helped make Catholic Schools Week a BIG success!!!!



Cheyenne Becker (6th grade) travelled to Las Vegas, NV. February 14th-16th to compete in the CRN Irish Dance Nationals. This is a national Irish dancing competition with dancers from across the United States and Ireland coming to compete. This year Cheyenne danced in the Meanghrad level and brought home four 1st place medals, two 3rd place medals, and an Award sash. Congratulations and great job, Cheyenne!!!!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PARISH MISSION "HE HEALS"

In partnership with Via Christi Health, St. James is proud to introduce He Heals, a ministry focused on healing the hurts of body, soul and spirit through the sacraments, prayer and stewardship. In recognizing that true healing involves more than curing physical ailments parishioners will be provided opportunities to experience healing as patients, clinicians and caregivers through He Heals. The He Heals retreat is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22 and Monday, Feb. 23. The first evening will include a presentation on healing by Fr. Billinger, former priest at St. James, followed by a Eucharistic adoration healing service. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. In celebration of Jesus' ministry of healing through the sacraments, those assembled for the service will be invited to touch the veil of The Blessed Sacrament.

Following the service will be the opportunity to participate in individual prayer and connect with fellow parishioners. The second evening will include a parishioner testimony of faith in the healing journey and a special healing mass. All parishioners will be invited and encouraged to attend He Heals.



PANCAKE RACE

On Shrove Tuesday, February 17th, some of our St. James 5th grade students participated in the annual Pancake Race at Ewalt. The course of the race was Greyhound Drive (the street that passes in front of Ewalt Elementary). It began at the entrance of the high school soccer field parking lot and ends at Belmont Avenue. Students raced with light weight frying pans with pancakes in them. Our own Adrian Walker won 1st place. This is the second time that a student from St. James Catholic School has won the event. Her time was 50.86 seconds. CONGRATULATIONS to ADRIAN for representing St. James Catholic School so well.

Have a nice day!

Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

Richard Guy, Principal
St. James Catholic School

**Please see the attached page from
the Swellness Committee**