

NEWS FROM THE HIGH HEAVENS

NO. 2

Thursday, September 24th, 2015

"A CATHOLIC LEARNING COMMUNITY"

"THE GREATEST GOOD YOU CAN DO FOR ANOTHER IS NOT JUST TO SHARE YOUR RICHES, BUT TO REVEAL TO HIM HIS OWN."

Dear Jaguar Parents,

At St. James, the faculty and I are exploring ways to enhance our GRATITUDE for St. James Catholic School and we are discussing ways to teach your child(ren) to develop a grateful heart. Father Ken Van Haverbeke presented a couple of activities to our teachers two weeks ago on Stewardship with a slight focus on GRATITUDE. GRATITUDE is one of the four concepts that makes up Stewardship; the other three being recognizing, receiving, and sharing God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Gratitude means counting your blessings, noticing simple pleasures, and acknowledging everything you receive. Studies have shown that practicing gratitude can increase happiness levels by around 25 percent, and that those who express gratitude daily have reported higher levels of alertness, enthusiasm, determination, optimism, and energy. During the school year, rather than letting life's challenges burden you, practice gratitude and appreciate the abundance that is present in your life.

We believe your child's life will be enriched as we teach, enhance, and model countless ways by developing a grateful heart. This is the most precious gift you can give your child(ren) and your family.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING SESSIONS

All new Altar Server training (current 4th graders and older children who are first time servers) will be on Sunday, September 27th and Tuesday, September 29th starting at 6:30pm in the Church. All NEW Altar Servers need to attend ALL training sessions.

CAMPBELL'S AND GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS

One of our school service projects for the year is collecting, cutting, and counting labels from Campbell's, and General Mills Box Tops for Education! If you have been saving them, there are collection bins in front of the school office and in the church foyer. Box Tops are worth 10 cents each, and we get points for Campbell's labels. Please help out our school by saving what you can! We are also saving pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Wichita...please make sure to save your pop tabs and bring them in to the school also. These are all great ways to help out your school and others who need it.

The St. James Mission Statement is....

**SAVE THE DATE!!!! Kindergarten & 5th/6th Grade – Pumpkin Patch –
Friday, October 23rd – After mass til 12:30pm –
DRIVERS WILL BE NEEDED!**

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We had a tremendous success with the attendance of our parents in the Pre4-6 program. We always expect to have 100% attendance rate for our fall conferences. Families that have not scheduled conferences with their teachers, please do so. Thank you to the St. James PTO for providing dinner and desserts for the faculty Thursday evening. Your stewardship is greatly appreciated!

YEAR OF THE FAMILY SURVEYS

The Diocese of Wichita is requesting all parents (both husband and wife) to fill out an online survey this fall. Parents will need to fill out two if you have children in both elementary and high school. As of Tuesday 9/22, we have had 12% of our Pre-6th grade families fill out the survey. We're trying to get good information and your views to help assist in planning and improving our parish school.

You may look or take the surveys using the links below:
Elementary Parent Survey: <http://www.quia.com/sv/698856.html>
High School Parent Survey: <http://www.quia.com/sv/705254.html>
These surveys are available NOW through October 30th.

If you don't have access to a computer, you may use one here at school. Call Cathy or Mr. Guy to make arrangements. If you would like a hard copy, come to the school office and we will give you one. Again, we encourage everyone Catholic or not; preschool through sixth grades; single, married, or divorced to take the survey.

AUCTION COMMITTEE HELPERS NEEDED – CAN BE DONE AT HOME

St. James Catholic School Auction Committee is looking for individuals to go through state, city, travel booklets/brochures/handouts that have been gathered and collected during this past summer. What we need is for someone to make a list of addresses and phone numbers from the brochures, etc. This can be done during the day at school or be done at home anytime. Please contact the school office @ 775-5721 if you can assist us.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri. September 25 th	September Baptismal Celebration – 8:00am Mass - Church
Sun. September 27 th	New Altar Server Training – 4th grade and new servers – 6:30pm
Mon. September 28 th	Discovering Christ Series – 6:00-8:30pm
Tue. September 29 th	New Altar Server Training – 4th grade and new servers – 6:30pm
Thurs. October 1 st	St. James PTO Coat & Mitten Drive Begins Ag Day Field Trip for 3 rd /4 th grades
Fri. October 2 nd	5 th /6 th grade Spiritual Retreat – Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Sun. October 4 th	Life Chain – 2:00-3:30pm – 7 th Avenue (Highway 54) between Cliff Drive and Lulu on the North side of the street Blessing of the Animals – 5:00pm – Outside Church Main Entrance

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED

Mon. October 5 th	White Heart Rosary – 8:00am – Church Discovering Christ Series – 6:00-8:30pm – School Community Room
Tues. October 6 th	Parish Council Meeting – 6:30pm – Church Classroom
Wed. October 7 th	Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers Practice – 3:15-4:00pm – School Community Room
Fri. October 9 th	End of 1 st Quarter – 40.5 days Parade Day – School Dismisses at 1:00pm Teacher Lunch Off
Mon. October 12 th	No Buses Running – please plan accordingly NUT Day White Heart Rosary – 8:00am – Church Little Flower Girls Club – 3:20-4:30pm – School Art Room Discovering Christ Series – 6:00-8:30pm – School Community Room
Tues. October 13 th	Friends of Augusta Student of the Month Luncheon – Noon – AHS School Council Meeting – 5:30pm – School Conference Room VIRTUS Training – 6:30pm – School Community Room
Wed. October 14 th	Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers Practice – 3:15-4:00pm – School Community Room
Thurs. October 15 th	Fall Fundraiser Pick-up – 3:00-5:00pm – School Foyer Report Cards Going Home
Mon. October 19 th	White Heart Rosary – 8:00am – Church
Wed. October 21 st	Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers Practice – 3:15-4:00pm – School Community Room
Fri. October 23 rd	October Baptismal Celebration – Church – 8:00am Mass Pumpkin Patch – Kindergarten/5th/6th – After mass-12:30p
Mon. October 26 th	White Heart Rosary – 8:00am – Church
Wed. October 28 th	Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers Practice – 3:15-4:00pm – School Community Room
Fri. October 30 th	Last Day for the St. James PTO Coat & Mitten Drive! Fall Parties – 1:30p – start changing into costumes/2:00p – start parade to Lakepoint

SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special “Thank you” to **MRS. CON OTTO** and **MRS. ANDREA PLETCHER** for helping out during the Lifetouch Fall Portrait Session this week. They did a wonderful job making sure all of our children looked handsome and gorgeous for their pictures.

Thank you to both for their stewardship!

A special “Thank you” to **MRS. ALICIA CRAFT** and **MRS. LEAH BROWN** for providing their stewardship by offering their services coordinating the Little Flower Girls Club that is a wonderful faith-filled program for the young ladies of our school. They both do a tremendous job!

Thank you to all the other moms that help out during the meetings.

Your stewardship is greatly appreciated.

A special “Thank you” to the helpers during the Kindergarten Grandparent Day:

Thank you to **CHAD BARRINGER, ALICIA CRAFT, BETH HALL, CHRISTINE & MIKE HAZARD, CON OTTO,** and **KATI RENVILLE** for helping with Grandparent's day for Kindergarten on Friday, September 11th. Also, thank you to the **KAPPELMANN, HALL,** and

SPECIAL THANK YOU CONTINUED

JEFFERIS' FAMILIES for donating Bingo prizes. We are grateful for your responses of time, talent, and treasure towards our Kindergarten friends!

MRS. PAT LOWRANCE for working with the students with their Mass Readings, Responsorial Psalms, and Petitions.

MRS. CON OTTO, MRS. AMANDA GILLIAND, MRS. CHRISTI KIRKPATRICK, AND MRS. MONICA LICHLYTER, for volunteering to help for the LUNCH PROGRAM.

VIRTUS PROGRAM – PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

Upcoming VIRTUS training session: **Monday, October 13th, 6:30-9:30pm** – School Community Room. All St. James Catholic School parents (both parents) are expected to attend a VIRTUS training session this year if they have not attended one in the past. Any parent/grandparent/guardian/relative wanting to help out with Fall Parties or be a Field Trip Driver will also need to attend training if they have not already.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD IN THE FOYER

A special “Thank you” to **MRS. ANDREA PLETCHER** who has done a wonderful job in organizing the Electronic Bulletin Board in the school foyer. Birthdays and Baptismal Days will stay up for the month. Thank you **ANDREA** for your Stewardship of time and talent.

WHITE HEART ROSARY

As we reflect on the many gifts of our faith, the image of Mary comes to mind as the perfect model of Christianity. Our church and faith tradition teaches us not only to pray through the intercession of Mary for spiritual help from the Father, but to see her as an example of how to lead a holy life. The month of October is an opportunity to heighten our awareness of the roll of Mary in God’s divine plan of salvation. In prayer and in action we need to model our lives after her humble service but also the steadfast faith of the life of Mary from her Immaculate Conception through her sorrow of the cross to her Assumption into Heaven. St. James Catholic School will honor Mary with White Heart Rosary being recited every Monday morning during the month of October at 8:00 a.m. We are led by Therese Allen and the students. Everyone is invited to attend the rosary. Feel free to sit with your child’s class. A tremendous

“Thank you” to **MRS. THERESE ALLEN** for continuing the tradition of saying the White Heart Rosary at St. James Catholic School

SCHEDULING CONFERENCES WITH TEACHERS

We all know there are times that you need to talk with your students teachers. The teachers are available for morning or after school conferences with parents on a one day advanced notice. You can reach them by email or by calling the school office. Please do not try to talk to the teacher that is on morning or afternoon duty. They are there to keep an eye on our children and keep them safe. All of our teachers would prefer not to have an impromptu meeting during the morning or afternoon which is normally their planning time for class or time to help a student if they need to. Thank you for your cooperation.

AUGUSTA’S 21ST ANNUAL LIFE CHAIN

Augusta’s 21st Annual Life Chain is being held Sunday, October 4th from 2:00-3:30pm along 7th Avenue (Highway 54) between Cliff Drive & Lulu streets on the North side of the street. Please remain prayerful and respectful and keep driveway entrances clear and watch your children closely. We would love to see you out to support the unborn babies.

EMERGENCY DRILLS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

During the months of August/September we held 3 drills that are listed below:

Fire Drill: August - 1 minute, 20 seconds; September – 1 minute, 10 seconds

Tornado Drill: August - 3 minutes, 50 seconds

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

To honor the feast day of St. Francis, who was known for his love of all of God's creatures, Father will be offering a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4th, at 5:00pm. This blessing is for any animal that you might have as a pet and would like to have blessed. They will gather in front of the Church main entrance at 5:00pm. Please make sure that all animals are on leashes and secured in animal crates. NO pets are allowed inside the church.

SEPTEMBER FRIENDS OF AUGUSTA STUDENT OF THE MONTH



MORGAN CURRY has been chosen as the September Friends of Augusta Student of the Month recipient. **Morgan** has not only been an excellent student academically, but a true and absolute delight to have in our school. She provides service in her classroom by lifting heavy items for Mrs. Lary – who is pregnant at this time. **Morgan** always has a smile and is a very pleasant student to have in our school. **Morgan** is a wonderful child of God, who strives to serve God through every action during the day. St. James Catholic School is GRATEFUL and PROUD to have **Morgan** as a student here at St. James Catholic School and to select her as the St. James Student of the Month for September.



COAT & MITTEN DRIVE

Mark your calendars.....October 1st–October 31st



It is time to clean out those closets and check to see if those coats and mittens still fit! Please bring clean, outgrown outerwear (i.e. gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, coats, sweaters, etc.) to the box that is located in the school entryway. **All items will be donated to the Augusta Community Caring Center.** Sponsored by **St. James PTO.** If you have any questions, call the school office at 775-5721.



Pull Tabs in the Heartland

Each year Ronald McDonald House Charities Wichita sponsors a state wide Pull Tab Program. We collect the metal piece located on the top of a soda can. These pieces are known as pop tabs or pull tabs. This activity not only helps save the earth but it also raises much-needed awareness about how one individual's contribution can make a substantial difference for a family staying at one of the Ronald McDonald Houses (housing for families while their child is in the hospital) or using our Ronald McDonald Family Room at Wesley (this is a wonderful place for families to go, relax, get snacks, coffee, drinks, etc while the child is in the hospital). Collecting pull tabs is fun and easy. It is also a great way for children, families, schools and companies to get involved!

St. James Catholic School is sponsoring the Pull Tabs in the Heartland Competition by collecting pull tabs (those little aluminum tabs that help open aluminum beverage cans) to help the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita. Please help out our school and others by saving what you can between now and May 1st, 2016!!!!



Katie Anderson and Morgan Curry have both made substantial contributions to our pull tab collection for this year. Way to go girls!!!

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION: PLAYGROUND MULCH DONATION

Four semi-truck loads of high quality mulch were hauled in from Derby, Kansas last Monday, September 21st for both playgrounds. The **JAKE and NICK MCCLURE FAMILIES** donated the mulch which was just under \$3,000.00 total. It looks beautiful! The playground hasn't looked this nice since it was completed approximately 13 years ago. Many families don't realize that the playground equipment, mulch, fencing, borders, etc. were all donated through the memorial funds of Alan McClure. St. James Catholic School is very grateful for their continued donations that will serve our students for many years to come.

A special thank you to **CHAD BARRINGER, MIKE** and **STEVEN HUGHES**, and **ROBERT REED** who worked during the day spreading the mulch throughout the playground.

ST. JAMES SCHOOL COUNCIL

The August School Council minutes are attached to the school newsletter. Anyone may attend a School Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th at 5:30pm in the School Conference Room. The right on non-members to address the Council itself shall be limited to the first ten minutes of each meeting. Constituents addressing the Council must:

1. Have stated to the Principal and Council Chairperson in writing their concerns.
2. Be on the agenda or be added to the agenda by the Pastor and/or Principal.
3. Understand that the Council cannot take immediate action.
4. Speak no longer than five minutes

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECTS

“Place your gifts at the service of one another.” (1 Peter 4:10) Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of neighbor.

TIME + TALENT + TREASURE + PRAYER EQUALS TRUE STEWARDSHIP.

The value of service is essential and very integral part to the Catholic education of our children at St. James Catholic School. Jesus was a man for others. In imitation of Him, a true Catholic Christian is a person for others. Our Catholic school does respond to challenges by developing in our students a commitment to service.

Service can take many forms, but its essence lies in performing works to reduce innate selfishness. We emphasize to our students to give help to others without receiving anything in return as well as to accept help from others (while being respectful) which are both means of serving others.

St. James Catholic School provides countless opportunities for service within and without the school community. Service projects provide opportunities for the practice of faith and witness of the children in their own faith development shown throughout the school, church, and community.

For many years now each grade has been responsible for a class service project.

This year’s class service projects are listed below:

Preschool – Collect Peanut Butter for Catholic Charities

Kindergarten – Visit and buddy up with Lakepoint residents

First grade – Cards/pictures for senior citizens from the parish

Second grade – Write letters and draw pictures to the Seminarians

Third grade – Cut General Mills Box Tops, Campbell’s Labels, and additional labels to raise money for the school.

Fourth grade and Fifth/Sixth grade – Collect coins to help the One Spark Foundation to feed the homeless

Additional service projects:

Teachers routinely allow students to volunteer for a variety of tasks such as working with other students with reading and AR; setting up and putting away tables and chairs; helping out with Kindergarten Parents Night Out; and service in the gym after lunch by emptying trash cans, sweeping and mopping the floors, and cleaning tables. Children also do readings, responses, and serving at Mass; Jump Rope for Heart; collecting food for the poor; Coat and Mitten Drive; soliciting and volunteering with various Parish School Auction tasks; contributing money from “NUT Day” to an array of organizations and charities; and adopting 1-2 families during the Christmas season. At St. James Catholic School, we will always consider other service projects as they come to us.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW ST. JAMES 5th/6th GRADE TEACHER

Name: Jennie Lary

Grade Taught: At St. James 4th/5th/6th

Where did you get your degree(s): Wichita State University

Where is your hometown: Augusta, KS

Do you have any children/grandchildren: A little boy due in November ☺

How do you spend your spare time: Preparing for baby, spending time with family and friends

What quality do you most like about yourself: I think I am easy to talk to

What quality do you least like about yourself: I worry too much!

What kind of music do you listen to: Country, Alternative

What is your all-time favorite movie: Anything funny!

What is your all-time favorite TV show: Family shows like The Middle

What are you reading now: What to Expect.... books

Name your favorite place in the world: The beach

When I was little, I wanted to be...a writer.

What has surprised you the most about your adult life: How expensive bills are!

What's the most important lesson you have ever learned: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

What is your guiltiest pleasure: Chocolate and coffee

What is your life's motto: Be happy! God knows what he's doing.

BULLY FREE SCHOOL

Our children are having new experiences, learning different lessons, and facing diverse challenges every day, both in and outside of school. Our role as teachers, parents, and mentors is to help them through their successes, curiosities, and struggles. Bullying is one of the current challenges facing children. It is important to educate ourselves and our children about bullying and how to treat others appropriately. Teaching and modeling appropriate social skills is a key component of social development.

Here are a couple of tips to help raise awareness of bullying and help prevent it:

- Model compassionate, appropriate relationships at home. If your child(ren) see how to interact and react with others appropriately at home, they will be less likely to participate in or tolerate bullying. They also may be able to recognize bullying and intervene to prevent it from happening to others.
- Teach your child respectful self-assertion. Teach your child(ren) how to appropriately react to challenging situations. If your child knows how to stick up for him/herself early on, he/she will be less likely to become a victim. Teach them phrases like, "Please stop that," "It's not okay to hurt," "I don't like being called that." Also let your child know that he/she should tell an adult if they are uncomfortable or feel that they or someone else is being bullied.

Teaching self-respect and respect for others is a strong foundation for healthy relationships that will serve your child well throughout life.

St. James Catholic School is currently using Alan Bean's Bullying Prevention for School Program – 2nd year. This program was highly recommended by the Diocese of Wichita. There are approximately 30 lessons that teachers review and teach with the children over a three year period. Teachers go over approximately ten lessons each year.

BULLY FREE SCHOOL CONTINUED

The program reviews the philosophy, targets, structures, and effective elements and components of a superior researched-based Bully Free Program. We as a staff send a clear message to students that bullying will not be tolerated.

Last year, we attached to the walls in the gymnasium and classroom hallways, black vinyl lettering stating our school definition of bullying.

We are creating a school culture and social environment in a way that teachers and students take action and expect immediate intervention, investigation, and confrontation of students engaged in bullying behavior. Whenever a student is sent to my office, the parent is always notified.

HEALTH ROOM

Remember that if your child has a temperature of 100.0 degrees or greater, he/she must remain at home until fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF FEVER-REDUCING MEDICATION. The same rule applies to vomiting or diarrhea; the student should be kept home until the vomiting or diarrhea has been gone for 24 hours **WITHOUT THE AIDE OF EDICATION.** **If your child has a rash of any type, it must be covered and documented by a physician whether or not the rash is contagious.** These rules come to us from State regulations. We would greatly appreciate everyone following the above rules, with everything that is going around, it is best to keep a sick child home than to spread it to other students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, remember that the nursing staff here at St. James cannot give your child any prescription or over-the-counter medication unless we have signed authority from your child's physician that it is okay. This goes for Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Neosporin, cold medication, cough drops, etc. If a child comes in with a scrape or cut, all we can do for them is have them wash it out with soap and water and put a band-aid on. If they come in with a headache or sore throat...all we can do is take a temperature, and have them lay down for a while. We cannot give them any medication (even with your approval) without the doctor's consent. This is a Diocesan Policy, so we have to follow it. Please...before the severe cold season starts...we will need the medication form filled out before we can give any medications. We may give them a peppermint to help with a headache or stomach ache or use Vaseline or lotion if they have an itch, etc. If you would prefer us not to do this for your child, please let us know by calling the school office.

4TH-6TH GRADE CONFERENCES

Since this was our first year of having a departmental program in 4th-6th grades, I sat in on several conferences. I was very happy to listen to the positive comments from the parents this year. I asked the teachers to specifically ask parents certain questions pertaining to their children. Mrs. Lary and Ms. Inkelaar asked all the parents what the level of homework was like for the students at home according to their parents. They were asked to answer the question on a scale of 1-3; 1 being my son or daughter never has homework, 2 being I think they have a manageable amount, and 3 meaning all they do is homework. A majority of the parents said, "I believe the answer would be a 2, a MANAGEABLE amount." Here are some other notes and comments from parents at the September 2015 conference:

"I was relieved to know that my daughters were bringing home homework that they could actually work on by themselves."

"This has been the best school year for my son. He actually gets up wanting to go to school each day."

"I think it's going to be a great year!"

"I like that the packets go out on Monday and are due Thursday. It helps the students learn time management skills."

I am really proud of the success of our 4th-6th grade departmental structure. Both teachers really work very well with each other and when that occurs your child will succeed even more.



MAGGIE PENNYCUFF has been selected as the October Friends of Augusta Student of the Month. She is extremely deserving. **Maggie** has made magnitudes of improvement since the beginning of her 4th grade year at St. James Catholic School. **Maggie** listens well and is always promoting good behavior in the classroom. She knows the right time to express a joke and add a wonderful smile to her class. **Maggie** is a delight to have in class and a fantastic representative of what students should be at St. James Catholic School. It's no wonder why she was chosen as the St. James October Student of the Month. Congratulations Maggie!



K-6th students who wore a tie for picture day were treated to a donut Wednesday afternoon by Mr. Guy.



Don't Miss a Minute of the Papal Visit!
Live streams of all the Pope's events at
<http://usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/papal-visit-2015/papal-visit-2015-live-stream.cfm>



Mr. Guy, Destiny Hughes, Lauren Sims, and Leonardo Miranda

These three students are proudly displaying their perfect Math Fluency papers with Mr. Guy on Wednesday afternoon.

SERVER REMINDER:

The following students or siblings of students here at St. James Catholic School are scheduled to serve during Holy Week Masses, if you are unable to make it for your time, please call and find a sub.

Please do not depend on there being another server at Mass to take your place... thank you for taking responsibility and finding a sub when you are unable to make it ☺ Saturday - September 26th 8:00am - Gabe Kant; Saturday - September 26th 5:00pm - Michael & Solomon Korte; Sunday - September 27th 8:00am - Grace, Marie, and Jason Standfast; and Sunday - September 27th 10:30am - Kolbe, John, and Anne Mosier.

Have a nice day. ☺

Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

Richard Guy, Elementary Principal
St. James Catholic School