

**NEWS FROM THE HIGH HEAVENS
NO. 1**

Thursday, August 25, 2016

“A CATHOLIC LEARNING COMMUNITY”

“Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, virtuous, or worthy of praise.”

Philippians 4:8

Dear Jaguar Parents,

The start of a new school year is always a very special and exciting time for me. I am positive it is for your child/ren as well, probably even more so for the parents. I always enjoy watching the children arrive with their new uniforms, backpacks, and smiles. These past two weeks have gone very smoothly. Parents, students, and teachers share the hope that the year will bring outstanding achievement in education, in community spirit, and in affirming our faith in God.

Once again we welcome you to a unique partnership. With you we share an important goal – to provide for your children an education devoted to academic excellence and committed to Catholic values and ideals.

I recognize the sacrifices you have made to send your child/ren to a Catholic school. You have shown your determination to give your child more than a purely secular, relativistic outlook on learning and life. You have chosen a faith-based education in an atmosphere warmed by the powerful presence of our loving God.

Now, may I ask even more of you? I urge you to share with us your time, your talent, your TREASURE, and your prayers. There are many ways your efforts can enrich our school, whether for a few hours or on a regular basis. I hope that you will give prayerful considerations to the idea of becoming one of our volunteers. The need is great, and you will find your own life enriched as you share in the life of our school community. The close ties between family and school reinforce moral values and nurture our faith tradition. We plan our curriculum to meet the high standards, which characterize Catholic education. Our goals focus on areas of knowledge to be studied, skills to be acquired, and habits/attitudes to be developed. Also, if you are Catholic, I ask you to please ATTEND MASS EVERY WEEKEND. It is very important. Why have children attend a Catholic school if the parents and children don't attend Mass on weekends? Please make this your number one spiritual commitment in raising your children.

One key area we hope you will actively reinforce at home is the development of a sense of individual responsibility. The increasing tendency to blame other people or life situations for individual actions can lead to a complete breakdown in morals. Let us work together to help our young people realize that they make choices and must accept responsibility for those choices. Their sense of self-esteem should come from adherence to such values as compassion, honor, decency, loyalty, and generosity.

At this time I want to **THANK** the following for volunteering their time for St. James Catholic School. Recognition is always important. So, I want to recognize some individuals for their awesome **STEWARDSHIP** for St. James Catholic School. I know I will miss a few names. Please forgive me. If I left anyone off, let me know and I'll recognize you in our next newsletter.

PTO OFFICERS –ANDEE KANT, KATHLEEN FLEMING, JEN MCCLURE, KELLY MCCLURE – Setting-up and selling used uniforms, and preparing toolboxes the Wednesday before school started.
MICHELLE BERGKAMP – Organizing and producing the Video Board in the school hallway.
AMANDA GILLIAND – Providing stewardship for the St. James Hot Lunch Program – starting her 1st year.

Some of our silent volunteers that parents don't see very often are: **MIKE HUGHES** who does maintenance repairs in our school throughout the week. **PAT BRADEN –** for shelving books in the library as well as organizing the books according to the Dewey Decimal System. **PAT LOWRANCE** who works with the readers for Mass weekly.

You are all very much appreciated. You are very special people. You are truly the **ANGELS** of St. James Catholic School. Again, **THANK YOU** for all you do!

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri. August 26 th	Baptismal Celebration for July and August
Wed. August 30 th	American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary flag presentation – 2:40pm – School Community Room
Tues. September 1 st	Parish Council Meeting – 6:30pm
Fri. September 2 nd	Labor Day Presentation by Mrs. Clark (4 th grade teacher) – 3:00pm – School Community Room
Mon. September 5 th	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tues. September 6 th	Parish/School Auction Meeting – 6:00pm
Wed. September 7 th	School Council Training at St. Catherine of Sienna – 7:00pm
Thurs. September 8 th	Papa John's Pizza Day - orders are due by 9:00am Thurs. Sept. 8th
Mon. September 12 th	White Heart Rosary - Church
	NUT Day
Tues. September 13 th	School Council Meeting - 5:30pm School Conference Room
Thurs. September 15th	VIRTUS Training – 6:30pm – School Community Room
Wed. September 21 st	Lifetouch Classroom and Individual Pictures Pre2/3 thru6th grade 8:00am-12:30pm
	PTO Meeting – 3:30pm in School Conference room
Tues. September 24 th	Papa John's Pizza day – orders are due by 9:00am
Fri. September 30 th	September Baptismal Celebration – 8:00am Mass
	Teacher's Lunch Off
	Dismiss at 12:30pm for Spirit Day Parade
	Last day to wear Uniform Shorts!!

USED UNIFORMS

If any parent has any used uniforms to donate – just bring them into the school office. As always, you may come anytime to purchase used uniforms. Please come to the school office and we will direct you to the School Community Room where the uniforms are located. **THANK YOU** to the families that donated used uniforms. Proceeds go to the St. James PTO fund. We do have more used uniforms at this time due to another Catholic school in Hays, KS that donated their nice clothes to us during the summer. We have one of the largest stock of used uniforms that I have seen in years.

UNIFORM SHORTS

Uniform shorts may be worn through Friday, September 30th. Shorts may be worn again during the full month of May.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

On the first day of school, we had an enrollment of 114 students.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW ST. JAMES 1ST GRADE TEACHER

Name: Mrs. Caroline Lavin

Grade Taught: 1st grade

Where did you get your degree(s): BS – Pittsburg State University

Do you have any children/grandchildren: 3 Boys – John, Paul, and Michael

How do you spend your spare time: Reading, exercise, and playing with my dogs

What quality do you most like about yourself: That I am friendly.

What quality do you least like about yourself: I am very sensitive.

What kind of music do you listen to: Country, Pop, Gospel

What is your all-time favorite movie: The Robe

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

What are you reading now: Me Before You

Name your favorite place in the world: The beach

When I was little, I wanted to be...an Archeologist

What has surprised you the most about your adult life: No surprises – I wouldn't change a thing.

What's the most important lesson you have ever learned: How important family and friends are to have.

What is your guiltiest pleasure: Eating candy

What is your life's motto: To never give up.

OUR NEW 4th GRADE TEACHER WILL BE IN OUR NEXT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER!

LUNCH FEES

Children and Adult - \$2.50

Reduced Fees if you qualify - \$1.50

WHITE HEART ROSARY

White Heart Rosary will be recited every first Monday morning during each month at 8:00 a.m. However, since Labor Day falls on the first Monday, the rosary will be said on the 12th of September. We are lead by Therese Allen and the students. Everyone is invited to attend the rosary. Feel free to sit with your child's class. Last Monday, we held our first White Heart Rosary led by the 5th/6th graders, Kindergarteners, and Therese Allen.

"NUT DAY"

NO UNIFORM TODAY: "NUT Day" will be on the second Monday of the month. Occasionally a "NUT Day" may be authorized by the principal. Parents will be notified in advance of these special dress days. **On "NUT Day" students may wear plain blue jeans (in good condition) and their St. James T-shirt, St. James sweatshirt, or their uniform shirt.** Shorts, capris, and culottes, may not be worn in lieu of jeans. Students need to wear a belt with their jeans. Our first "NUT Day" will be Monday, September 12th.

In order to wear jeans a \$2.00 donation per child is required.

Money received goes toward a mission. Parents do have the option to pay up front for the full school year of regularly schedule "NUT Days" the cost is \$18.00 per student!

DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP STUDENTS

When picking up your children after school please park in a stall. Do not wait in the entryway for your child to come to you. It has been brought to my attention that it is hard to see the children in-between the vehicles.

Regarding morning drop off...Please do not remain in the drive in front of school while you children are gathering up their things ~ keep traffic flowing. Thank you for your consideration. Please

share this information with others who are transporting your children such as daycare providers, grandparents, etc.

VIRTUS PROGRAM – PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

What does it mean to be *Virtus* certified? This is a guarantee that all priests, religious, and lay people who work or volunteer in a Church apostolate involving contact with children and young people have participated in a live training session about the sin and crime of child sexual abuse, as well as how they can help to prevent it and respond appropriately to it. The program also provides periodic bulletins for ongoing formation in these areas.

In addition, inspired by the same care for the well-being of children and young people, a presentation on safe environment is integrated into the religious education curriculum for each grade level. This is not sex education; rather, it is an age-appropriate effort to help students to recognize when adults behave in an improper manner towards them, as well as how to defend themselves and report such behavior.

There will be a VIRTUS training Thursday, September 15th from 6:30-9:30pm in the School Community Room. If you plan on volunteering in the office, classroom, be a field trip driver, room parent, participate at classroom parties, or serve in the lunchroom you will need to attend.

This is one way that you can learn more about child abuse and ensures us that our Diocese is taking the precautions to be one of the safest school systems in the nation.

If you are unable to make it to the September training session here at St. James, there is another session scheduled for St. James on Tuesday, October 13th from 6:30-9:30pm in the School Community Room there are also several other dates throughout the diocese that you can attend. Please read the Catholic Advance for future times and different locations.

SPECIAL NOTE: THE SCHOOL COUNCIL SEVERAL YEARS AGO PASSED A NEW POLICY THAT ALL K-1ST GRADE PARENTS NEED TO ATTEND VIRTUS. LETTERS WILL BE SENT HOME TO THOSE PARENTS (MOMS AND DADS) TO ATTEND, WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO AS OF YET.

ST. JAMES PTO

The St. James PTO will meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:30pm in the School Conference room.

CAMPBELL’S LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

One of our school service projects for the year is collecting, cutting, and counting labels from Campbell’s Labels and 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. **We are also collecting pop tabs (those little aluminum tabs that help open aluminum pop cans) to help the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita.** Please help out our school and others by saving what you can!

WORLD’S FINEST CHOCOLATE BARS

We want to THANK the Biehler, Lichlyter, and Joe and Clair Pennycuff families for taking a box of candy bars to sell. We ONLY have 10 boxes left. If you would consider selling one box, we would be most appreciative. Please contact the school office.

SECURITY SYSTEM

Just a reminder that the front entry door opens at 7:30am. Please be aware of the elements of weather (cold, snow, rain, etc.) if your child/ren walk to school, ride their bike, or are dropped off early. A teacher is on duty beginning at 7:30am in the school gym. **The front doors will lock again at 7:50am. Parent(s) need to come INTO the building to sign your child(ren) in if they arrive after the front door has been locked. Children are not to sign in for their parents.**

REQUIRED PARENT MEETING LAST THURSDAY

I want to THANK the parents that attended the parent meeting last week. You are all wonderful and the teachers and I look forward to working with you during this school year. There were 47 out of 55 families that were present for a 86% attendance rate.

When we have over 80% turnout it speaks volumes of your commitment to be an active participant of our school. Thank you for your attendance.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

During the next month the school office will be working on the school directory. In the past, every family received one. In the family directory that goes out to every family in the school, we put in addresses, home phone numbers, cell phone numbers and email addresses. Please call the school office if you **choose not** to have your numbers or email listed in the directory. You still need to notify us again even if you didn't want personal information in last year's directory. We will make this notice twice with this being the first one.

FROM THE WELLNESS (HEALTH) COMMITTEE

7 Quick-slim Tips for Kids

1. **Start every day with a nutritious breakfast.** A scrambled egg on a whole-wheat muffin or string cheese with an apple are some quick ideas.
2. **Make sure healthy school lunches and other food choices are available,** such as apples and bottled water in vending machines. Replace sugary cupcakes and candy at classroom parties with fruits and veggies, and apple, carrot, or banana muffins.
3. **See that your kids get at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day,** either through physical education classes or after-school activities. If walking to school is an option that would be a good way to start the day.
4. **Limit television,** video games, and surfing the web to two hours total per day.
5. **Eat dinner together,** whenever you can, and devote one evening a week to a physical activity you can enjoy as a family.
6. **Get serious about shuteye.** Studies of preschool and middle-school age children have found that getting enough sleep (at least 10.5 hours per night for children ages 3-5, about 10 hours for ages 5-12, and about 9 hours for teenagers) helps prevent childhood obesity.
7. **Be a good role model** with your own eating and activity choices.

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CORRECTIONS

Bridget Yates 5316 S. Hydraulic Wichita, KS 67216
Emily Inkelaar 2320 E. MacArthur Wichita, KS 67216
Caroline Lavin 316-214-7833, 2510 Baytree Wichita, KS 67205
Jaime Riveria is our new Speech teacher.

STUDENTS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

It is stated in the Parent/Student Handbook that **“when a student is going to be missing from classes, parents are requested to make a phone call to the school office (775-5721) to inform the school of the absence.”** Please do not rely on the student's siblings, etc. to notify the office. **Parents should be the ones to call in and excuse the student.** If you have a Dr. appointment and will be back to school in time for lunch, please notify the school office and let Cathy know if the child will need a Hot Lunch before 9:00am...otherwise, it will be assumed that the student is bringing a Cold Lunch and a Hot Lunch **will not** be ordered for them. Thank you for your cooperation!

CATHOLIC MUTUAL'S ONLINE DEFENSIVE DRIVER COURSE

The School/Church's Insurance Company is providing a defensive driving course for our school parents that drive children on field trips. This is NOT a requirement...only a service provided to help protect our children and to keep them as safe as we can.

Listed below are the steps to follow if you choose to go through the course:

- 1) Go to www.catholicmutual.org
- 2) Scroll down to lower right-hand corner. Click on "Be Smart – Drive Safe"
- 3) Select English or Spanish
- 4) Enter in login data – Note: email results to rguy@sjcsks.org
- 5) Video lasts approximately 18 min. 26 sec.
- 6) There will be an 8 question quiz to answer afterward.

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

If there is a grandparent or senior citizen that would like to come to St. James and work with children, teacher(s), or in the school office, please let the school office know. Hours and days can be flexible. Basically, you tell us when you can volunteer. Some activities, working with the children, would be listening to them read a book, helping with AR, studying math facts, spelling words, and handwriting. For teachers it could be running copies off, working on bulletin boards, cutting, and sorting. For the school office, you will just be doing regular filing, copying, and database entry.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE:

When God calls us to existence, He gives us the blessings we need in order to make our living. Among those blessings is our own life, everything I am, everything I do, and everything I own. He gives me a family, people I can love and people who love me. He gives me a community to live with; a church to give me, and a Catholic school to give me, and to whom I can give life. The gift of GRATITUDE...is what STEWARDSHIP is all about.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CON OTTO

St. James Catholic School wishes to thank and acknowledge CON OTTO for serving as the Director of Food Service for last year. This is a volunteer position that she took seriously. She did a wonderful job and she was a true role-model of what Stewardship is all about. St. James Catholic School wishes her well for all her future endeavors.

NEW DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICE – AMANDA GILLIAND

A special welcome and thank you to AMANDA GILLIAND for being our new Director of Food Service. This position is very demanding and takes a strong love, passion, and belief in STEWARDSHIP and St. James Catholic School and Parish. Amanda is married to Matthew and together they have two beautiful children: Lizzie – 1st grade and Vedah – 16 months old. St. James Catholic School and I are very GRATEFUL for your STEWARDSHIP.

FINAL THOUGHT!

As teachers and parents, we know that our words, our actions, and our attitudes are constantly on display. If we want children to care about kindness, compassion, and justice, we demonstrate those qualities. If we want them to appreciate beauty in art and nature, we show that we do also. Being our children's role models is both a great responsibility and a momentous challenge. As we begin another school year, we have the opportunity by working together to realize the goals you envisioned when you chose a Catholic education for your child/ren.

When we can meet, exchange ideas, and work on projects of common values, we grow as human beings and as people of faith. When such friendship is living and active, it is the doorway to working together on the questions which divide us.

When emotions run high – decisions may not always be the best decision that could have been made. When we have calmed down and start reflecting on the events that occurred and led up to the final decision, we sometimes learn we didn't act properly or make the right decision. Just like natural disasters (such as tornados, wild fires, and earthquakes) large fallout, devastation, and

horrendous thoughts, emotions, and even depression may occur. But – good always comes through – rebuilding, and hope and faith in God is at a higher level than ever before.

When people of good will are all concerned about the best interests and the good of the child is at the heart of the matter and we're working together – chances are a proper and objective decision can usually be made mutually with all individuals involved.

When trust has been or can be established, we can face other issues that challenge us to think with vision and hope for a resolution that will be mutually beneficial and uplifting. In small yet important, humble yet gratifying ways, the unifying work of God goes forward. *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* (Where charity and love prevail, God is there).

One way to make sure we keep our relationships positive and productive is by making sure we as educators never speak badly about parents and students, especially when they are around. As well as, parents never criticizing school staff in public especially when children are present or where they can overhear their parent(s) and friend(s) are nearby. When children hear what is respectful they too will learn to be respectful as they continue to mature and grow into adolescence and adulthood. When they have learned not to be respectful – oh my goodness – look out!

I sincerely hope you always feel welcome and comfortable coming to St. James Catholic School. I appreciate your constructive input and feedback and hope together we can make SJCS a model for educational excellence. Please feel free to give me your feedback and ideas concerning any situation at SJCS that you believe should be encouraged or improved.

May God continue to bless all of us in our efforts at St. James Catholic School.

Have a nice day.

Yours In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Richard Guy, Principal
St. James Catholic School