

Big Steps...Little Feet

St. John's School Good News Newsletter

Back To School Edition September, 2010

Welcome to SJCS!

Please extend a warm
welcome to our twenty-one
new families:

The Vacha Family
The Allen Family
The Carey Family
The Kolecki Family
The Selcuk Family
The Seidman Family
The Hoppe Family
The Bonaventuras
The Wang/Luan Family
The Adenusi Family
The Kurchan Family
The Farabaugh Family
The Tagliaterra Family
The Faggioli Family
The Nangle Family
The Corey Family
The Montague Family
The Benel Family
The Romanowskis
The Luo/Hao Family
The Crescenzo Family

May God bless all of you
throughout the coming
year!



Seventh graders (above) & fifth graders (below) on the first day of school.



www. wow! what a website!

Getting organized for back to school was certainly made easier because of the school's new & improved website.

Our home page is full of important happenings and even has the lunch menu for the current week. Need to e-mail a teacher? Check out the *Contact Us* tab and the faculty's e-mail addresses are at your fingertips. Curious about the school's special programming? Click on *About Us* and be impressed with all the unique and diverse facets of our curriculum. **One** awesome new feature of the website is the *Newsflash*. Late breaking school news can be sent to you directly via e-mail or cell phone text message. You do need to sign on to receive this service. Simply hit the **Subscribe Now** button on the News Flash page. We are most grateful to school parent, Mrs. Sara O'Reilly, for the excellent job she did in revamping our website - enhancing the content and making it more user friendly. Thank you, Sara, for your time and talent! Our web address is <http://teacherweb.com/PA/StJohnChrysostomSchool/SchoolHomePage/SDHP1.stm>



Principal's Corner

As I begin my fourth year here at St. John Chrysostom School, I am very grateful.

It seems that despite all obstacles, those of us involved in the endeavor, truly believe in the importance of supporting our parish Catholic school. We recognize the commitment of parents, teachers, students and parishioners in maintaining our fine school.

Each day we enter our school building dedicated to helping children reach their highest academic potential. Students are encouraged to "never settle for less than their best" and to meet the demands of a challenging curriculum. Our day is interspersed with prayer and we create an atmosphere that is focused on the presence of God in our lives. This school year our theme is "First Do No Harm," and it is our hope that through the knowledge and practice of this idea we will learn to do no harm to the environment, no harm to endangered animals or places and no harm to one another.

*We welcome **Ms. Antoinette Talone**, third grade teacher,*

***Mrs. Marge Baker**, PreK three teacher and*

***Mrs. Diane Coffin**, PreK four aide.*

Ms. Talone has worked with Rose Tree Media School District, Mrs. Baker has taught in Holy Child in Drexel Hill and Mrs. Coffin has worked with the Philadelphia School District. We feel fortunate to have these fine professionals join our staff. Mrs. Ruth Bachman will continue teaching Honors Math and Mrs. Elisabeth Dorsey will be teaching sixth grade and sharing subjects with Miss Diana Salvati, seventh grade. WE SALUTE OUR SUPER SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS (7) and thank them for their commitment to their school!

See the glass as half full....the Lord will fill the other half.

We look forward to a wonderful, rewarding school year.

Miss Kay Kelly

Spirit Store has a Grand Opening

The official opening of the SJC school store was a great way to kick off a new school year. School supplies, spirit gear and other merchandise were flying off the shelves at Thursday evening's social event. The store is located in the back of the gym to the right of the main entrance. This once multi-purpose room (nurse's office, teacher's prep room, storage room) is now devoted to commercial enterprise all to benefit the school. The store will be open for business during the lunch hour on Fridays. Our *Super Seven* seventh graders will be responsible for running the store and sixth grade will also provide assistance. Our community is very grateful to school parents Kelly Munsell, Terri Maguire, and Bernadette Shaughnessy for spearheading this terrific project. The splash of color in the store is the handiwork of painters Maura, Erin & Sean Maguire, Maddy Munsell and Ashley & Mrs. Karen Rodgers. Artistic touches were added by Devon, Marissa and Mr. Ken Moyer and Mrs. Anne Marie Fisher. Mr. Bob Munsell and Mr. Tom Waters helped put it all together. Designing women, Mrs. Sara O'Reilly, Mrs. Kim Galante and Mrs. Anne Marie Bodi, created hair accessory merchandise and Jen & Katie Rodgers stocked the shelves. Thanks also to all who offered helping hands on opening night!

Gardening Angels - The pretty garden along the walkway to the school office recently had a face lift due to the landscaping talents of Dr. Marianne Forbes, Grace (grade 4) and Maggie (grade 2). Thank you to the fabulous Forbes crew for their hard work!



Smart Board Madness

Thanks to the efforts of the Home & School Association, two new smart boards will soon be purchased for use in our primary unit. The installation date is set for the first weekend in November. Our primary unit teachers are counting down the days as they are very excited about the new hands on technology as a way to enhance instruction. The Home & School's Lottery Madness Fund raisers, including the one set to begin shortly, will provide the funding for the one smart board. Funds from the Paul Rodgers Tournament will be used to purchase board number two.

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Biz Town workers fly business class



Andrew & Quinn meet customers with smiles

Timely lessons in economics for St. John's students

After a brief hiatus St. John's School renewed its partnership with Junior Achievement last spring. Junior Achievement has several highly effective programs for middle grades students that reinforce the value of workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Last year's fourth, fifth, and sixth grades spent several weeks in the class room learning basic economic principles while teachers

and parents attended on-site training workshops to make the experiential learning program a success. The culminating activity of the program is a visit to *Biz Town*, a simulated business center in the city of Chester. In this hands-on learning laboratory SJCS students served as entrepreneurs seeking venture capital, paying taxes, and meeting payroll... as employees in the local sports shop, setting prices for new merchandise... as designers creating signs for JA Biz Town businesses... as reporters hustling to meet story deadlines for the local newspaper, and as service providers delivering mail and serving snacks and beverages and so much more. We look forward to continuing our participation in this unique and extremely popular program.

SJCS students on the run

Back to school means it's time to tie those laces and hit the trails for many of our school students running CYO cross country. First graders through eighth graders practiced three times per week at Smedley Park during

August and practices continue throughout the fall season. Hundreds of runners from throughout the archdiocese compete on Sunday afternoons at Belmont Plateau in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. The meets attract hundreds of spectators. Be a part of the XC phenomenon and come and cheer on your favorite SJCS runners while enjoying the autumn beauty of the park. Running this year for St. John's are SJCS students, Joseph Leonard, Hugh McConnell, Robbie O'Reilly, Tyler Shaughnessy, Hailey Blum, Tara Bodi, Tara Clifton, and Grace Forbes in the Novice division. In the Minor Boys division John Harrar, Patrick O'Kane, Zach Politarios, Chris Rosini, and Tommy White are running. In the Majors Division Katsuki Clevenger leads the

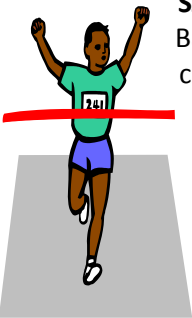
pack. Finally, in the subnovice division are first graders, Kevin Bodi & Brian Forbes, second graders, Monica Cummings Maggie Forbes, and Amanda & Laura Shaughnessy and third graders Alaina McConnell, Grace Raup, Katie Rosini, & Ricky Raup. Heartfelt thanks to the coaching staff especially to head coaches Glenn Venturini and Steve Balmer.

SJCS Grads finish on top

What do the graduating classes from Cardinal O'Hara High School in 2008, 2009, and 2010 have in common? Perhaps many things, but one common fact is nothing short of phenomenal. The commencement speakers the last three years have all been graduates of St. John's. Julia Quindlen ranked first among the 448 members of the class of 2008 and was valedictorian. Andrew Glace followed in her footsteps and gave the valedictory address to the class of 2009. This past May, Dana Giacobello, ranked second in her class of 425 and gave the salutatory address. In addition, Strath Haven graduate Richard Scott, member of the SJCS class of 2006 and a scholar athlete at Strath Haven addressed his classmates at commencement this past June. These scholars are now attending the University of Pennsylvania, Bucknell University, Penn State University and Swarthmore College.

Home & School Offers Tuition Discounts

SCRIP turns everyday purchases into tuition credits for you. When you buy grocery store gift cards from our H&S Scrip coordinator, Mrs. Tina Leonard, 2.5% of your purchase will be credited toward your tuition bill. Check it out under the SCRIP tab on our school website. Scrip is a no brainer - you pay less and the school gets a benefit as well.





Thomas, Monica and Kathleen are full of hot air

SJCS Little Learners' Camp - Summer Fun and How!

They say you just can't get enough of a good thing. The dynamic and talented teaching team of Marianne Perry, Lori Henry and Tricia O'Kane are so good that children who benefitted from their instruction during the school year came back for more during summer vacation. Over 108 spots were filled with eager campers aged 4 through 7 throughout the six week camp. Some of the fun highlights included:

- milking a cow
 - dressing as pirates and digging for buried treasure
 - playing royalty and designing crowns and castles
 - eating astronaut food with Bob from outer space
 - celebrating birthdays with ice cream sundaes, party games and a pinata
- But let's face it...a photo tells it all. Enjoy the smiles!



May the force be with you! Take me to your leader!



Camp counselor, Maura Maguire, hangs out with her 18 best buddies

Drama Club - Organization Meeting Thursday, September 23 , 7:30 pm

The curtain may not be rising until the spring, but the behind the scenes work for our next musical production begins now. Saint John's has eleven show stopping productions under her belt and each one has been extraordinarily gratifying for those on stage, in the audience, and behind the scenes. The Drama Club is so very grateful for all who have supported us in the past and we need your help again now. There will be a meeting on Thursday evening, September 23 in the school library to discuss the possible plays we could produce and the volunteer positions which need to be filled. All newcomers are encouraged to come and learn more about this extraordinary program! All children enrolled in Kindergarten through 7th grade are welcomed to join the drama club. Once the title of the play is chosen and the productions staff assembled, we can move forward for another successful year.

In Brief and Reminders

Bring **vitamins, ibuprofen, tylenol, travel sized toiletries, athletic socks and razors** to Mass **this weekend** to benefit the Catholic Worker Clinic in Kensington...these good people need our help to serve the poor of Philadelphia....Don't forget the Home & School's **Prayer and Pasta** event slated for Saturday, Sept 26th. **RSVP! and look for details in your e-vite** It's not a party if nobody comes! Call Michelle O'Hanlon 610-891-9756 or Mary Beth McMahan 610-876-1917 to volunteerSJCS grads, Sarah Boylan '05 and Kelly Boylan '06, are now college students. Please help support these two wonderful young women by attending the **3rd Annual Bill Boylan Memorial Golf Outing on October 15th** and/or the social afterwards at the Doghouse in Eddystone. For details call Bob Webb 610-506-1543/Paul Woods 610-876-1505...Thank you to all of our **students who served as greeters at the church doors** this past Sunday as we celebrated the feast of Saint John Chrysostom. You did a wonderful job!