

St. John's Messenger

Volume 13, Issue 8

St. John the Evangelist School, 8912 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland 20735

April 15, 2011

Important Calendar Updates & Reminders

April

- 15 8th Grade Living Stations, 7:00pm
- 16 Market Day pick-up
- 17 Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9:45am
- 20 8th Grade Living Stations, 10:00am
- 12:30 Dismissal - NO AFTERCARE**
- 21-29 **EASTER HOLIDAY ENJOY YOUR BREAK!**

May

- 2 RETURN TO SCHOOL
- 6 Mission Dress **UP** Day
May Crowning, 10:00am
TUITION DUE
- 7 First Eucharist
- 8 Mother's Day
- 13 Family Friday
- 14 HSA Gala & Silent Auction
- 15 50th Anniversary Celebration
Mass, 11:30am
- 16 **NO SCHOOL,**
Pastor's Holiday
- 21 Market Day Pick-up
- 22 Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9:45am
- 27 Living Rosary, 10:00am
- 30 **NO SCHOOL,** Memorial Day
- 31 **BOGO Book Fair** begins

From the Principal's Desk...

Editors Note: Due to the short turn around, this months Principal's letter is a reflection from a previous newsletter. Please enjoy your Easter Celebrations and look forward to the month of May, when we will be honoring Mary, continuing to follow in the IHM Sisters foot-steps and celebrate our 50th Year Anniversary.

Dear Parents/ Guardian,

As the Easter Triduum approaches next week, our focus should be looking to celebrate these holy days. In addition to celebrating Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter vigil at church, what will you do at home?

I have heard many children say they are looking forward to "Spring Break" and they are going on vacation. And yes, it is spring and we will be on a break from school, but the reason behind this vacation is our faith. During our time apart over our "Easter Holidays", I ask that you reinforce with the children that we don't forget about our faith life. When we take a vacation, it doesn't mean that your faith should wait at school for your return. Incorporating our Catholic faith into your holidays can be easy and fulfilling. It is also a wonderful way to make sure you children know that God is a part of everything we do. While you are on vacations you can still go to church, say your morning and evening prayers, or even visit historical religious sites.

Regardless of your family's plans for the Easter break, I hope it is a blessed time. Hopefully your will enjoy some springtime activities that will boost your family's spirits.

Sincerely in Christ,
Susan G. Scott

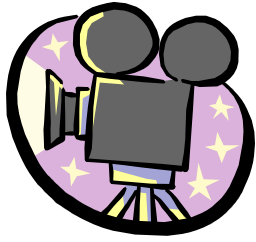
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Send questions or comments to:
principal@saintjohnsschool.org

The mission of St. John the Evangelist Parish School is to be a respectful Catholic environment where the invitation to become citizen-disciples of Jesus Christ is manifested in its learners and teachers. Animated by a spirit of trust and cooperation, we are dedicated to religious formation, academic achievement, and appropriate social development. In all we do we celebrate the unique gift of God in each person and strive to capture the dream of God for all who make up the community of St. John's School.



In the Spotlight.....

This month our spotlight shines on articles written in past years by a few of our eighth graders and former students.

Lent

by Wayne Johnson, Class of 2009

The season of Lent is the time of preparation for Holy Week, leading up to Easter. For many, it is a time to give up something like candy or smoking. Lent owes much of its spirit to the forty days Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry. In Noah's day, forty days of flooding washed away the evil that had infected the world. For the Easter Season, we "wipe our feet," in a sense during, before entering into the celebration of Easter. In Lent, we abstain from meat on Fridays, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Many people perform acts of penance, such as giving up sweets and TV or attending daily mass. During Lent, we use abstinence from meat and acts of penance as symbols or metaphors. They help us to focus on what we truly need, who we are, who God is and the important role He plays in our daily lives. We must remember that through all of this, God is with us. He may not offer comfort now, but He promises that He will never give us a burden too great for us to handle.

Holy Thursday

by Anneke Heimlich & Samantha Uy

Holy Thursday (or Maundy Thursday) is the Thursday of Holy Week, and the last Thursday before Easter. It was the day Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples by sharing a meal with them. We also call this event the Last Supper. The night of Holy Thursday was the night when Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. This mass is special because it was when the priest does the washing of the feet. On Holy Thursday, we remember the command Jesus gave to his disciples to love each other, and the establishment of the ceremony of the Eucharist.



Earth Day

by Danielle Plummer, Class of 2011

Earth Day is celebrated in April every year. It started with a senator who was worried about our planet. He said that if we didn't start caring for the earth better, things would only get worse. He went to the president and asked him to create a special day that would focus on ways we could make our earth better. The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970. Everyone started talking about ways to keep the earth clean, and recycling. We continue to celebrate Earth Day by coming up with new ideas about how we can make the world better to live in.

by Jennifer Beach, Class of 2011

Earth day is a day to celebrate the beautiful earth God put us on. Some special things we can do to save the planet are carpool, reduce, reuse, recycle, and turn off your lights. This year some have scientist created a time called Earth Hour. On Earth Day between 8:30-9:30pm many places around the world will turn off unnecessary electricity. The scientist will then record information to see how much electricity we as a planet can save. You can participate by turning off all of the lights in your house along with other unnecessary electronic devices like televisions and radios. Many people think that Earth Day is a joke but it is not. It is a day to be kind to the earth and for people to change the way they think about the Earth.



Easter Sunday

by Stephanie Dorn and Kelli Bell

Easter Sunday is when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Easter vernal equinox, which marks the first day of the season of spring. Easter comes after Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Around the world all churches will be celebrating Easter.



Easter: Sacred and Secular

by Franklin Howard, Class of 2011
Ajani Roberts, Class of 2011
& Amanda Wilson, Class of 2009

For many people, Easter is celebrated as both a sacred and secular holiday. Easter is the Christian celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It was and still is considered the most important day of Christian religions. But Easter is also a time of celebrating the coming of spring and new life to the world. The secular celebration can be traced back even before the time of Christ.

There are many symbols of Easter. In the church, candles are one of these symbols. Special candles were lit by Roman Catholics on Good Friday and again with the Paschal candle. Another symbol is Easter eggs. Eggs were thought to represent new life and were given to others as a symbol of new life in the church. The exchange of Easter eggs was a springtime tradition in ancient cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in goldleaf, or if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them in the leaves or petals of certain flowers. The tradition of dyeing eggs is thought to have started with the Egyptians and the Persians. They used to dye eggs because they thought it would protect the world from evil spirits. Each color represented something different. Ancient Christians used the color red to symbolize the Resurrection.

Easter baskets and bonnets are also symbols of Easter. Baskets were created in the shape of an egg and were used to give gifts of flowers and eggs to others. Bonnets symbolized going from the long, cold winter into a bright, warm and fresh new spring. Most people today don't wear Easter bonnets, but instead purchase new Easter outfits.

Probably the most well known symbol of all is the Easter Bunny. He is related to Easter in the same way Santa Claus is related to Christmas. No one is sure exactly when the Easter Bunny started bringing gifts to children on Easter Sunday, however, he started being seen widely in America after the Civil War. The first recorded evidence of him can be found in Germany where he is known as "Oschter Haws". He brings chocolate and other candies to millions of children throughout the world.



Fascinating Facts about...

April and Easter

contributions by Alisha Brown, Class of 2011



- ✦ April's birthstone is the Diamond
- ✦ The flower for April is the Sweet-pea which means "I think of thee."
- ✦ April is National Frog Month, National Humor Month, and Keep America Beautiful Month
- ✦ In the early 19th century, the 1st chocolate eggs were made in Europe and given as gifts at Easter.
- ✦ April 23 is Take Your Daughter and Sons to Work Day
- ✦ One of the flowers that blooms around Easter is the Easter lily. However, it doesn't do this naturally. Gardeners began forcing the plants to produce flowers at Easter because the white ones symbolized the rebirth of spring and the new life in the Church.
- ✦ Arbor Day a.k.a. Earth Day is when we try to protect the Earth. It is held on April 22nd every year.
- ✦ On April 1st, a.k.a. April Fools Day traditionally is a time when funny pranks and jokes are played on others.

Living Stations 2008

by Madison Hudson

The Living Stations were presented on Friday, March 14, 2008. The 8th grade worked very hard with their religion teacher, Mrs. Donovan.

This was a silent musical performance. Readers Dallas Magee and Anthony Brown were telling the story followed by music playing and the performers acting out the scenes to help us understand what was happening. After each station, everyone responded "You are the Savior of the world." It was a wonderful presentation and it has been a tradition at St. John's for several years since it was started by Mr. Steve Milmoie, a former faculty member. The stations were presented in order, and songs were chosen by the 8th grade to represent each scene. Songs covering such a diverse group that included everything from The Who to the Jonas Brothers; from Bob Marley to Celine Dion. 8th grade certainly did an excellent job presenting the stations.

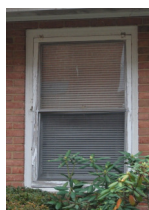
News from the Development Office

- Easter Tuition can be mailed to the rectory at 8908 Old Branch Avenue or delivered to the Rectory Tuesday – Friday of Easter Week from 10 to 2. Payments will be checked to make sure that students can attend classes on Monday, 5/2/11.
- Outstanding Tardy Fees are a major concern. Tardy Bills are mailed to the home address. This is a financial obligation to the school and should not be taken lightly.
- No transcript for a transfer will be obtained if school accounts are not current or Home and School fees are not current. Remember, there is a \$10.00 per transcript fee and a 14 day wait period. Proper forms can be obtained from the Main Office.
- An Update Service Hour Sheet is enclosed for each family. Payments can be sent now or by no later than May 31, 2011. Keep in mind the bill will accrue with any additional missed meetings or fundraiser participation. Mandatory Hours cannot be made up and the fee must be paid. Service Hours will include Field Day for 2011. For those families that have not attended any meetings, participated in fundraising or contributed volunteer hours, a fee of \$300.00 will be expected before final report cards or transcripts will be released. This is a part of your financial obligation to St. John's School. Final Bills will be sent in May.
- No payment will be accepted through the Before/Aftercare program.

Feel free to e-mail the Development Office with any questions or concerns, development@saintjohnsschool.org. Thank you.

MaryJane Fratantuono-Harris, Development Director

Sponsor a Window for IHM Sisters Project



The Sponsor a Window Project for the Sister of IHM has been a great success. The Community of St. John's has donated 15 windows and the Community of St. Phillips has donated 10 windows. The windows are expected to be installed in May. Donations are still being accepted.

The convent has one lonely window that needs to be added to the total but there is no funding. It would be great if a family would volunteer to pay for the last window. The cost is \$385.00. Please contact the Development Office if you can help out. Thanks.

Home and School News

The final Home and School Meeting was attended by 99 families out of a total of 166 families which is a 60% attendance. A big thank you to Uriah Roberts (father of Ajani in the 8th grade) for his generous donation of his 50/50 winnings of \$89.00. This donation was used to buy jump drives to download 50 years of photos for the 50th Celebration.

**The Home and School Association Board would like to apologize for an over-sight at the meeting the evening of April 7th. The raffle for one month free tuition for a family that has attended all four meetings was not drawn. That drawing was conducted the morning of April 13, 2011 and the winner is the Schlosser/Ramos Family. Again, we apologize for this over-sight and congratulations Ms. Schlosser

GALA 2011 - Family Packages for the 50th Anniversary Celebration are on sale. Also, the VISA Raffle and the Tuition Raffle are also on sale until May 6th. The event is on May 14th and is a family celebration from 12 to 7. It will be a day full of fun, games, crafts, great food, Bingo, Auction items, Band Concert, Talent Show and more! As this is our **second mandatory fundraiser**, auction items, time shares, gift certificates, etc., are greatly appreciated. Please contact the Development Office for further details.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - First grade was the winning class for the second month in a row! They are now in the lead for the end of year pizza party, surpassing 4th grade by \$.70! The school total is now \$1,039.60 - more than double our goal! As the year winds down, please continue to send in those box tops. Remember to put them in a Ziploc bag or sealed envelope with your child's name and grade clearly marked so proper credit can be given.

50th Anniversary Recycle Grocery Bags

are available for sale in the Development Office. They are \$2.00 per bag. Those plastic bags will be extinct very soon so make sure you stock up on your St. John's Bags while they last.



EARN THOSE HOURS the easy way! - Check out the Giving Tree for an easy way to earn service hours and keep an eye out for signs on the Main Door and Aftercare Door for more needed donations. Purchase the items during a regular shopping trip, turn in the donations along with a receipt and you will get credit. For every \$10 donation, you receive one service hour. Ten (10) volunteer service hours are required for the entire year.