



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the month of February. I saw a headline that stated "February is the shortest month of the year, with only 40,320 minutes. So let's make everyone count." With that in mind, let's make a conscious effort to be aware of God's unconditional love and share it wherever we go.

Registration for new families will open Thursday, February 1, 9:30-11:00 am and 6:30-7:30 pm. We are looking forward to meeting our new disciples. Thank you for promoting SJA School to your family members, neighbors and friends. If someone says "I can't afford it" you could respond, "Can you afford not to?" We truly believe we offer a strong academic curriculum rooted in our Catholic Identity. Our graduates continue to bring about God's kingdom through their fields of study.



Grandparent Day/Special Person Day is Friday, February 2. That is one of our favorite days. We welcome them with open minds and hearts. **WE ASK THAT ALL CHILDREN GO HOME AS THEY NORMALLY DO MEETING THEIR GRANDPARENT/SPECIAL PERSON AT HOME. THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.** Our elevator is available if any of our visitors have special needs.



Group pictures (teams, helpers, etc.) Along with make ups will be taken on Wednesday, February 7 beginning at 8:35 AM.

The 100th day of school will be Friday, February 9. Children may come to school in clothes representing 100. We encourage children to come in creative outfits.

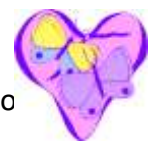


February 9, is also our 7th annual Night at the Races sponsored by our PTA. As in the past it promises to be a wonderful evening. Tickets can be purchased through school. Come out for super company, great food and tons of fun. This is one of our major fundraisers. Thanks for attending. There will be a preview of baskets on Thursday, February 8, from 1:00-6:00 pm in the school gym. Special thanks to all who are working to make this event a success. February 9, will be a BROWN BAG LUNCH day. The cafeteria will be closed due to set up for the Night at the Races.



Because February 14 is Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 13. Children may dress down in school appropriate red, white or pink clothing.

Our Lenten focus will be an extension of our school theme. We are going to Embrace Sacred Space. Hopefully, we will deepen our awareness and need to build in Sacred Space throughout our day. Children will have quiet minutes scheduled throughout their day at various times. Hopefully this practice will instill in them the importance of taking time to remember they are always in God's presence.



St. Joan of Arc Parish is also providing small group opportunities to discuss the scriptures and their importance in our lives. Please check the church bulletin for details.

School will be closed on Monday, February 19, in honor of President's Day. We encourage you to take time to remember all government leaders past and present in your prayers.

Spaghetti Dinner for 2nd Grade is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, at 6:15 pm. Hope you are able to make it. Special thanks to all who make this night possible.

Many thanks to all who attended our financial meeting in January. Your presence indicates your commitment to all that St. Joan's is and does, for you and your children. Thank you for being responsible for your tuition payments. Your tuition, PTA fundraisers, and Parish Subsidy help us maintain a reasonable tuition. Each child will receive a scholarship of \$2,643. as your tuition does not cover the actual cost to educate your child. Thanks to all the parents who contribute to the tuition account above and beyond the cost. Your generosity helps families experiencing financial hardship. Anyone seeking assistance needs to complete paperwork sent home in the blue folder by February 16. Your registration fee of \$100.00 per child for next year is due February 16.



As was presented at the financial meeting and from information in the brown envelopes we need EVERY family to participate in buying Grocery Gift Cards. Hopefully, being able to use PAYPAL and being able to pick up at our rectory Monday to Friday will increase sales. Unfortunately, only 14% of our families use Grocery Gift Cards at the present time. If every family purchased \$100.00 a week we would have a fundraiser making \$64,000.00 a year. Imagine what that would do for tuition!!! NOTE: Every child receives a scholarship from PTA. We are hopeful every family will rethink this program and support it weekly.



Believe it or not we are in the beginning stages of preparing for Carnival. Our chair people this year are Dubravka Cortese and Bob Craig. Mark your calendars for August 20-August 25. More information to follow. WE NEED ALL FAMILIES TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT.

You will receive the Kick Off packet for Race for Education on February 28. Please start thinking of potential sponsors.

We are in the middle of our 2nd trimester. Report cards will be issued in March. February is a great time to review the importance of sticking to academic procedures. Sleep, nutrition, hydration, work done completely and neatly, etc. will have positive rewards.

Once again, we ask that you review appropriate use of technology with your child. It is extremely important that you consistently check their phone, messages, photos, etc. We want to do everything possible to keep our children safe and help them make right decisions.



IMPORTANT INFO FOR MORNING CAR RIDERS

- Drivers pull up to the sign that says **CAR LINE STOP HERE.**
- Have children ready to exit the car and into the building. If you must assist your child to exit the car, please park and walk them to the door.
- Be aware that many drivers are on their way to work or scheduled appointments.
- All children are expected to be in the building by 8:15 AM. It is very frustrating to parents and children to wait in the car line for five minutes or more because of time it takes children to get out of their car. No one wants to be marked late after sitting in the line prior to the arrival bell.

Special thanks to all who assist us with cafeteria, classroom and weather permitting - school yard duty. Your presence makes it possible for our homeroom teachers to have an approximately twenty-five minute lunch. We are deeply grateful. While on duty we ask that you circulate around the area you are supervising. It is very important that you are able to have a broad vision of all areas. First and foremost, we want every child to be safe. If you see any possible concerns please bring them to the attention of the teacher in charge. Both volunteers and students are to be respected at all times. When watching children in the classroom during inside recess, remind the children that classroom rules apply.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Donna Marquart, our Kindergarten aide, on the death of her sister-in-law, Denise. Please keep the Marquart family in your prayers.

Special thanks to our Alumni for speaking at our liturgies for the opening of Catholic Schools Week: Danielle Hummel, Molly Ridgeway (Whipkey), Dominic Decker, Kelly Fritzsche, and Meredith Thomas. Their testimony certainly gave witness to all that St. Joan of Arc School has done for them and the Kingdom of God.

FYI- There is a weekly Sunday Night meeting in the cafeteria, 7:00 pm for all families and individuals dealing with addiction concerns.

In the February issue of *Take Out* there is a Lenten poster for your family. It would look great hanging in a communal area in your home and a super reminder for creating Sacred Space moments for each other. e.g. before dinner, after dinner, before homework, few minutes in car, etc.

Before we know it February will be winding down and we will be invited to embrace another new month. May your Lenten days be filled with moments, minutes, and hopefully hours where you experience God's presence, peace, and mercy in your sacred space. How will you make those 40,320 minutes count? How many of them will be designated to your sacred space? Enjoy experiencing God's unconditional love.

God's Blessings,



Sister Pat

