



May Newsletter 2010

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL - HYDES

Dear Parents,

May...one of my favorite months of the year!

This is the beautiful month of Mary, the mother of Jesus and our heavenly mother. A month we celebrate our own dear mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and all the special women in our lives. Our prayer is that we follow their lead and be the women that through our example lead others to God.

May Procession:

The school May Procession will take place on Tuesday, May 4, at 9:00 AM. The crowning will include our May Queen and her court. We are asking students in Grade 2 to dress in their Communion outfits. Those who have not received by that date are asked to wear their "Sunday Best." All other students will wear their school uniforms. The procession will begin at the school. We will process over to the church where we begin the service. Weather permitting; we will then process to the outside Mary statue to continue our service. In the event of inclement weather, we will stay in the church for the entire service. Parents and friends are invited to join us.



The parish has requested that instead of fresh cut flowers, students bring one flowering plant that could then be planted around the Mary statue. We will have vases available for those who still wish to bring fresh cut flowers.

Retreat Day:

Once again, Deacon Fred will moderate a retreat for our eighth graders. The retreat, entitled "Freshman Survival Skills", will take place on Wednesday, May 26. Thanks to Deacon Fred for giving his time each year.

Exams:

Please see the May calendar for the exact schedule for the Middle School exams. Students in the lower grades may also be taking end-of-year tests. Teachers will inform them when they will be scheduled.

April Installment:

The first tuition installment for the 2010-2011 school year was due on April 20. Thanks to all who have remitted their payment on time. Those who paid in cash or by credit card last year were asked to complete a yellow Preference sheet as well as the blue April Installment paper and return both to school. If you have not completed those forms and remitted payment, we ask you to do so as soon as possible. Remember, those who use FACTS will begin their 10 monthly payments in June. Those who choose credit card option for payment will also begin in June. Those who choose to pay in cash will be sent a reminder in mid-May as to payment due in June.

Summer Work:

As always, the students will be given Summer Work Packets during the last few days of school and are asked to return them when school resumes. Once again this year the teachers in grades Kindergarten through 7th Grade have decided to use the Summer Math Skills Sharpener Books. May 5th is the deadline to order these books through the school. If you miss the deadline, parents will need to order books on their own at a cost of \$19 per book. If this happens, please request a separate home order form. The order form includes other titles you may order through school. We are only asking you to purchase the Math Skills Book.

Earth Day Activities:

Thanks to Mrs. Plume, we received a grant for purchasing plants. Thanks to the parish, they added to the grant and we were able to purchase enough plants so that every student was able to participate. A big thanks to the parents who helped the students during the day. Thanks to Mrs. Plume, Mrs. Ruzala, Mrs. Klecka, Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Basilio, Mrs. Alcarese, and Mr. Dodson. Without their help, we could not have had all the planting done so quickly and orderly. We planted on either side of the Saint John statue in the prayer garden, a small bed near the school and in front of the chapel.

Other activities included weighing lunch trash the week prior to Earth Day. Then each teacher taught a lesson on helping the environment by limiting our trash and the week of Earth Day, we again weighed the lunch trash. On every grade level, K through 8, we reduced the amount of trash generated at lunch.

Rain caused us to postpone our Kite Day, but on Thursday, the students of the Middle School enjoyed the afternoon flying their kites on the upper field. Students in the lower grades walked up to the field to watch and much fun was had by all!

Parishioner/Non-Parishioner:

Just a reminder, the School Board policy is: If you are a registered parishioner at another Catholic Church, each year you must have your pastor write a letter to the principal, Mrs. Delcher, stating that you are a parishioner. You will be granted Parishioner rate for tuition for the 2010-2011 school year.

Reminder:

Don't forget if you bring a new family to Saint John School for the 2010-2011 school year, you will receive a \$500 tuition credit toward your child's tuition. Last year we had one family that brought in a new family and received the credit.

Parish Planning Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wimmer are the new chairs for the Parish Planning Committee. They would like to have a representative of the school families on their committee. The committee meets monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month, September through May. If you would be willing to serve, please contact Paul or Jean Wimmer at pcwimmer@comcast.net or call them at (410) 592-5943.

PK:

The PK 3 class will end their year on Thursday, May 27, with an outside fun gathering from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

PK 4 will end their school year on Friday, May 28. They will celebrate the completion of their year with a fun gathering from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

June Happenings:

This year, Graduation will be on Thursday, June 3, at 3 PM. There will be a Mass, awarding of graduation certificates and subject awards, followed by a reception in the Church Hall given by the 7th Grade parents. **Students in Grades K through 7 will dismiss at Noon on June 3.**

Our Kindergarten students will celebrate their year of growing at their closing on Friday, June 4. Festivities will begin with a Prayer Service in the Chapel at 10:00 AM. Following the service, students and their parents will head outside for muffins and bagels, before being dismissed at 11:30 AM. (Church Hall will be used in case of inclement weather.)

Call for Help:

Each year, the class moms/dads recruit parent volunteers to help during the recess period from 11:45 AM until about 1:00 PM. We have asked each parent to volunteer for three days during the year for each student. In September, we started with 8th Grade and have worked our way down to Grade 1. Although on paper we have enough parents to cover all school days, this year we have come up short. We have days in May and June that have little or no coverage. If you can give us an extra day or make up a day that you missed, please call the office. Thanks!

Open House:

The last "Open House" of the school year will take place on Tuesday, May 11, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This will be in conjunction with our annual "Fine Arts Night" and prior to the General H.A.S.A. meeting beginning at 7:00 PM.

Applause, Applause:

Each year we participate in the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee. Our preliminary class Spelling Bees took place during April. Congratulations to the 15 class winners from Grades 4, 5, and 6.

Grade 4 Winners:

Jeremy Scheuerman, Courtney Mohn, McKenna Rukowicz, and Isabella Wilson

Grade 5 Winners:

Erin Dodson, Ryan Jones, Skylar Ohl, Genevieve Simmons, and Ali Stahl

Grade 6 Winners:

Andrew Brannon, Lauren Abrecht, Parker Day, Luke Rothenheber, and Tony Schultz

In our school competition, these fifteen vied for title of #1. Second and third place winners were Lauren Abrecht and Parker Day, respectively. First place honors went to Genevieve Simmons. Genevieve will represent our school at the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee on May 13th at Saint Pius School. Good luck to Genevieve, and thanks to all participants and to Mrs. Macek, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Helwig for coordinating the Bee.

Band:

Saint John Band performed at the Band Festival at Archbishop Curley High School on Sunday, April 18, and received a rating of "Excellent." Thanks to the students for their hard work and a special thanks to Annie Lewis, their teacher.

A special acknowledgement to Reese Jones, Grade 8; he was selected as a member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Representational Band which performed in concert at NDP in mid-April. Congratulations, Reese, we are proud of you.

Thank You:

Campbell's Labels:

A special thanks to Mrs. Hutson who has coordinated Campbell's labels for many years. Under her leadership, we have earned many points to be able to purchase merchandise through Campbell's. We are still in need of someone to take over for next year. Please contact the school office or Mrs. Hutson.

Box Tops for Education:

Thanks also to Mrs. Deuber; she continues to coordinate the Box Tops for Education Program. This year we have received checks in the amount of \$625. As of this writing we have not spent this money, but know that with the new computer lab and the addition of some interactive "Smart" boards, we will have the need for a few incidentals that are not part of the school budget.

Thanks to all for collecting and sending in those box tops and labels! Keep up the great work!

Fine Arts:

Art:

The Art Department, under the leadership of Martha Spangler, will have a collection of student art on display on Tuesday, May 11, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the school. This is prior to the H.A.S.A. General Meeting scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

Table displays in the Art/Music Room will only be exhibited this one night. All other artwork throughout the halls of the school will remain for the week.

Music:

At the H.A.S.A. General Meeting, the Band, conducted by Annie Lewis, will hold the spring band concert.

Textbook Money:

Again this year, we are able to order textbooks for our students through the State of Maryland. We are receiving about \$10,000.00. Each allotment helps to keep our tuition costs at bay. Books are the third most expensive part of the school budget. One textbook for an intermediate grade is about \$50 and the cost rises as the grade level rises. In the middle school, a textbook could cost as high as \$70. Cost for consumable workbooks range from \$7.00 to as high as \$18.00.

HASA:

The last meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday, May 11. Parents are asked to visit the school to view the student artwork and come to the meeting to hear our band.

Executive Committee:

The new H.A.S.A. Executive Committee for next year will be Michelle Carrigan, Sherri Suehle, John Canoles, Laura Basilio, Julie Plume, Renee Banashak, Kristen Wilson, and Deb Golumbek. Officers will stay the same as last year. Since there were not enough nominees for new positions, the Committee voted to extend the terms of President and Vice President for one more year.

2010-2011 H.A.S.A. Planning:

We are beginning to plan our events and fundraisers for next year. If you would like to help out with any H.A.S.A. fundraisers or events for next year, please let one of us know. We can use any additional assistance that is available. We will, hopefully, have a schedule to release in the Summer Newsletter.

Thank You:

Although I will probably miss someone, I would like to take a minute and thank the parents who worked on fundraisers throughout the year: Diane and Bob Elliott, Laura Kozak, John Canoles, Yvonne Latchaw, Mary Beth Bressler, Martha Schumacher, Kristen Wilson, Renee Banashak and the Mardi Gras Committee, and Sherry Rukowicz and the Race for Education Committee. We appreciate your work!

Have a wonderful Month of May!

Jean Delcher



Parents *make the difference!*

Early Childhood – May 2010

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Building Respect

Research shows that building respect in early years is effective

Over time, kids become respectful not just because it's right, but because they understand how others feel. They realize that it feels good to be asked politely, thanked and treated nicely. But they need parents' help with this.

A recent study of moms and preschoolers published by The Economic and Social Research Council shows that:

- Talking to preschoolers often about people's thoughts and feelings makes a difference. For example, "That little boy is crying. Why do you think he's upset?" Or, "Grandpa is frowning. How do you think he's feeling?" These conversations give your child a better chance of being understanding.
- Discussions about feelings have long-term benefits. Talking with your preschooler now may help him for many years to come--well into elementary school, when good social skills will help him get along with classmates and teachers.
- Being a positive role model is important. When talking about other people's emotions, use a warm tone. Research suggests this increases kids' cooperation. Keep in mind that in addition to discussing real-life emotions, it helps to address how characters in books, movies and TV shows might be feeling.

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Developing Thinking Skills

Teach your preschooler how to behave according to the setting

The concept of setting can be difficult for a young child. Teach your child to use reason so that she can tailor her behavior to different situations. Here's how:

- Ask questions before entering a quiet place. Don't lecture your child on behavior. Instead, ask, "Is the library the right place to run around and yell?" Hopefully your child

will say no! Then say, "Can you think of a place where that would be okay?" If your child can't, say, "How about the park?"

- Emphasize safety. Help your child see why some activities might be safe in some places but not others. "What's a great place to play hide and seek?" Your child may say, "At home." Then say, "Right! But what would be a bad place for hide and seek?" Offer a suggestion: "How about the store? Why is it a bad idea to play hide and seek in the store?" Make a suggestion if she can't. "I could lose you! You need to stay near me when we're out."

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Encouraging Writing

Help your preschooler build a strong foundation for writing

Imagine that learning to write is a tower, and that during preschool, your child is building the foundation. What tools and materials will she need?

Together, you and the teacher can provide necessities, such as:

- Vocabulary. Introduce new words and practice using familiar ones. This happens naturally while talking and reading with your child. But also make a point to use new words repeatedly--in ways that make them easy to understand.
- Word recognition. Help your child see the connection between spoken and written words. Teach short, common terms she'll see often, such as and, the, stop and dog. Sound out bigger words together.
- Muscle skills. Encourage your child to do writing activities, such as drawing, painting and adding her name to papers. Admire her efforts to write, even if you can't quite figure out what she wrote. "Oooh, look what you wrote! Will you read it to me?"
- Spelling. At first your child will probably spell things according to how they sound, such as "bk" for book. It helps to talk about patterns (such as the sounds that "oo" can make) and words that are spelled unusually, such as "buy."

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Maintain your child's routines this summer to yield fall success

Summer is almost here, and even though your schedule is about to change, your priorities aren't. That means certain habits should stay the same.



By maintaining these key routines, your child will have the best chance of school success in the fall:

- Stick to a regular bedtime. You may adjust your child's bedtime for summer fun, but enforce it consistently.
- Start on the right foot. Everything your child does on school mornings should stay the same: Getting dressed, brushing teeth, combing hair and having a nutritious breakfast.
- Visit the library regularly. At most schools, students make regular trips to the library. Keep this up so your child is used to checking out, reading and returning books.
- Limit screen time. No matter how much free time your child has, time in front of the TV and computer should be limited to fewer than 10 hours per week.
- Plan learning activities. Read together, use fun math concepts (such as counting and measuring) and take "field trips" to historic locations. Ask the teacher for more suggestions.

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May EC Activity Calendar**

Parents *make the difference!*

Elementary School - May 2010

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Talk over lessons learned with your elementary schooler

It's the end of a busy school year. Your child has learned a lot. He's read new books. He's mastered new skills. Now is a good time for the two of you to talk about the lessons he's learned.

Find a time when the two of you can have a relaxing chat about school. You might even plan something special--going out for ice cream or making pizza or some other favorite meal.



Take time to look back--and to look forward:

- Take a look back. What was your child's favorite project this year? In what subject did he improve the most? Which book that the class read was his favorite? What goals did he accomplish? As he talks about these positive things, help him see the ways he has grown. "You really worked hard to master division this year. You can do hard things when you put your mind to it!"
- Take a look forward. What is he looking forward to this summer? What is he excited about next year? Is there a grade or a subject he'd like to improve next year? Are there books he wants to read?
- Talk about how learning doesn't stop at the end of the school year. One of the great things about summer, however, is the chance to learn something that isn't related to school. Help him think about something he'd like to learn during the summer. Then together, make a plan to help him achieve that goal.

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Building Responsibility

Boost your child's independence, responsibility over the summer

One of the best ways to help your child become more responsible is by helping her develop independence. Summer is a great time to help her learn how to do things for herself. Here are a few ideas:

- Don't be afraid of unstructured time. Today's families often think that children need to have a planned activity every minute of the day. But all those structured activities keep your child from making decisions for herself. During the summer, try to see that your child has regular blocks of unstructured time. If she says she's bored, tell her you're sure she can figure out something to do. (And she will.)
- Teach your child adult skills. The summer months offer good opportunities to practice doing laundry or preparing a meal. The more adult skills your child learns, the more responsible she can be.
- Back off this summer if you've been doing too much for your child. First graders can make their own beds (maybe not perfectly). Second graders can fold laundry. Yes, they will take longer to do these tasks than you would. Let them practice over the summer.

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Discipline

Be clear, strong and quiet to avoid arguments with your child

Effective discipline begins when parents set clear expectations. The best way to do that, experts say, is to make your request clear, strong and quiet. Your requests need to be:

- Clear because your child needs to know what you want him to do.
- Strong because he needs to know you mean it. ?
- Quiet so that your child listens to the message and not to your underlying frustration.

In the past, you've probably walked by your child's room and said, "Clean up that mess." Instead, try saying: "I want you to hang up your clothes and put away the toys on the floor before dinner."

This same approach works with other requests. You might say, "Once you have read for 20 minutes, you may watch 30 minutes of television. If you don't get your reading finished before dinner, there will be no TV today."

The more clearly you state your expectations, the less room there is for argument. That means less frustration for you and your child.

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Reinforcing Learning

Make organization a top priority for your elementary schooler

Disorganization is a common problem among students. Kids may lose papers, forget to study or mismanage their time. Thankfully, most solutions are simple, and the benefits are immediate! To help your child get organized:

- Start at night. Pick an outfit and make sure it's ready for the next day. Prepare school supplies and put them by the door. Stick to a reasonable, set bedtime.
- Wake up early. Choose a wake-up time that allows "wiggle room" (15 minutes) for unexpected delays. Put the alarm clock far enough away that turning it off requires getting up.
- Avoid clutter. Have your child clean out her backpack daily. It helps to have folders at home, for "Notes for Mom and Dad," "Study Sheets" and "Graded Papers." Clean them out often, too.
- Use to-do lists. Some schools give students planners for writing down homework. If your child doesn't have one, show her how to use daily assignment sheets.
- Schedule homework time. It should be at the same time, in the same place, each day. Suggest that your child start with the toughest assignments first.
- Put studying first. Extracurricular activities shouldn't interfere with family and school success. Put all obligations on one calendar, and add new commitments only if your child has time for them.
- Encourage success. Stay nearby during homework time in case your child has questions. This will reduce her temptation to give up or procrastinate.

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May EL Activity Calendar**

Parents still make the difference!

Middle School - May 2010

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Motivating Your Child

Motivate your child to remain focused the last weeks of school

The calendar says "May." Chances are, though, your child is already lapsing into "summer vacation mode." But the last few weeks of school are just as essential as the first few, so it's critical that she stay focused and take them seriously.

To keep her motivated to succeed through the end of the year:

- Make school the priority. Talk to your child every night about what she's doing in class. Continue reading any handouts she brings home and keep on top of upcoming tests and quizzes. Show her that her education matters to you. It might just make it matter more to her.
- Stick to routines. Have you slacked off on enforcing a regular study time and bedtime now that the weather is warmer and the nights longer? Stop! Routines are vital when it comes to keeping your preteen focused on school, so stay with them. Summer will be here soon enough.
- Head outside. Who says your child can't enjoy the balmy weather and get her homework done at the same time? If it's a too-perfect-to-stay-inside evening, let her take her books out back and study there. Even better, grab the newspaper and join her!
- Plan an activity. Celebrate the end of school by doing something special. It may be all the motivation your child needs to keep working hard these last weeks!

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Homework/Study Skills

Teach your middle schooler how to set realistic academic goals

Your child may be a whiz when it comes to completing assignments on time. But how well does she actually study? That is, how good is she at reading and absorbing material when there's nothing to hand in?

Studying isn't the same as "doing homework," because there's no particular task to complete. Instead, a successful study session hinges on your child's ability to go over text or materials and retain the information for later.

To help your child study more effectively, encourage her to:

- Take notes on what she's reading. It'll help her distill the material down to its most important parts.
- Make flashcards or other aids. She may be more apt to use study tools she's created herself.
- Pay attention to illustrations and charts. These textbook "extras" often contain valuable data that may appear later on a test.
- Describe what she's just read in her own words. If she can't, it's very likely she didn't understand the material in the first place.

Of course, even the best study habits won't pack much punch unless they're used regularly--and in the right environment. To ensure your preteen gets the most out of her study sessions:

- Have her hit the books at the same time every night.
- Limit distractions. But that doesn't have to mean total silence. If she works well while listening to music, that's fine.
- Keep a dictionary out in the open. Yes, it's bulky and old-fashioned. It's also priceless. So get it down off the shelf!

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Spending Time Together

Establish, maintain positive family connections this summer

Soon your child will have an extended break from the regular routine. With school out for the summer, she will likely spend more time at home.

This is an opportunity for the two of you to spend some quality time together. Here are some ideas:

- Increase the number of family meals. With a looser schedule, your child should be more available not just to eat with you, but also to assist you.
- Get active. If summer days are too hot for exercising outside, take advantage of the long, warm, summer evenings. If you both like a sport, such as tennis, play together. Or just walk and enjoy each other's company--as well as the conversation that happens more naturally at these times.
- Celebrate the weekend. Summer weekends are precious and few. Never let them go to waste. Have your child make a (reasonable) list of what she'd like to do together.

- Make memories. Take photos to record your summer with your child. Spend an evening together placing them in an album or making a scrapbook.

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Screen Time

Be firm about limits on screen time this summer

Many kids watch more than twice the TV in the summer as they do during the school year. And that doesn't count the time spent in front of the computer or with a cell phone.

As a parent, you need to monitor this. On the one hand, your child deserves time to relax. For most kids in middle school, this includes the TV, computer and phone. But on the other, moderation and limits are very important.

Here are some reasons why:

- Too much screen time can affect your child's maturity. A middle school child should use part of the summer to take on new responsibilities, learn new hobbies and try new interests. Staring at a screen won't get him too far on that journey.
- Research shows that time in front of a screen can be the difference between a child being overweight or not overweight. Not surprisingly, the overweight children used more screen time.
- Students in middle school socialize with friends on the computer and cell phone. But too much of this might replace "face time." Your child needs to spend "real life" time with friends and family, too.
- Time in front of a screen is time your child is not spending in more healthy pursuits, such as exercise and reading.

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