

# ***April Newsletter 2012***

**SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL - HYDES**

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Dear Parents,

Our Lenten journey continues, and our liturgical year reaches its pinnacle during the Easter Triduum. The Triduum literally means “Three Days.” Beginning on Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper-- the last meal Jesus shared with His Apostles before His death. In the gospel, we read that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. This is reenacted during that Mass. It is also a special celebration as we remember Jesus giving us His body and blood. This liturgy, which begins in celebration, ends on a solemn note of what is to be.



On Good Friday, there is no Mass, but the liturgy is divided into three parts: The Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. Once again, the somber service makes us recall the passion and death of Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, all depart in silence.

On Holy Saturday evening, we have the Easter Vigil, which is marked with the symbol of light, the light of Christ among us. The celebration of Christ’s Paschal Mystery, the joy of the Resurrection continues into the masses of Easter Sunday.

## **Communication:**

Just a reminder: If you change your email address, your phone number or street address, please contact the school office. Thanks in advance for keeping us informed.

## **Yard Duty:**

Just a reminder that yard duty begins at 11:40 AM. This gives you a few minutes to check in with the office and will let us know if we need to find more teachers for duty. The students in Grades three, four, and five have recess from 11:45 AM to 12:05 PM, Grades six, seven, and eight from 12:15 PM to 12:30 PM and Grades one and two from 12:30 PM to 12:50 PM.

## **Uniforms:**

In accordance with our School Handbook, summer uniform shorts and golf shirts may be worn from April 15 through the end of the school year. Regular white socks (no short, athletic socks), regular school shoes, and a belt must be worn with this uniform. Students may also wear the winter uniform with white socks. The golf shirt is not interchangeable with the white shirt or blouse worn with the winter uniforms.

## **April Installment:**

April installment, tuition rates, and FACTS information packets were distributed on March 19. We thank those who have forwarded to school the April Payment (due April 2) and urge those who have forgotten, to please remit the payment as soon as you can.

## **Snow Days and the End of Year:**

As was mentioned in the Update of March 21<sup>st</sup>, many parents have been asking about the date for the last day of school! We have been sent a directive from the Superintendent’s office that

we cannot “give back unused snow days.” But because we had planned to only have Mass on Friday, June 8, we have moved the Mass to Thursday, June 7. This will be our last day of school. I will let you know the time for Mass after I speak to Monsignor. If there are any other changes that can be made, they would be in the form of noon dismissal days. I will communicate those in a timely manner if we can do that.

**Grandparents’/Grandfriends’ Day:**

We will be inviting our Grandparents, or our Grandfriends if our grandparents are not able to visit, on Friday, April 27, from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. We always look forward to our Grandparents’ visits and sharing present and past life experiences. It is scheduled as a noon dismissal so that grandparents/friends can have the opportunity to take the children to lunch if they choose. Grandparents/friends of our three and four year olds may visit on Thursday, April 26, from 9:00 AM to 11:10 AM.

**Drama Club:**

This year, the fourteenth year of our Middle School Drama Club, our students once again did a wonderful job of entertaining their audience. Under the direction of Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Donohue, and Mrs. Brannon, the Club performed “*Robin Hood*.” Many thanks go to them for helping our Middle Schoolers present a wonderful performance. We would also like to thank Mrs. Moxey, Mrs. Rowan, and Tommy Rowan for their help with the set and costumes. Thanks also to the young Thespians of our Drama Club who gave up many hours after school to rehearse. Your hard work proved worthwhile the moment the curtain opened. The dress rehearsal on Friday was attended by Kindergarten through Grade 8, and many parents attended the evening performance. For the eighth year in a row, the Club performed at the Parish Family Fun Night on Saturday. Thanks to the Home and School Association, dinner was provided for all prior to the show.

We are most grateful to those who deposited donations each evening. We collected over \$1,100.00. It will be added to last year’s proceeds and be used to purchase additional microphones, as well as to help alleviate the cost of next year’s play. We are already looking forward to another great show next year!

**Catholic Bee:**

As you may remember, we hosted our own “Catholic Bee” during Catholic Schools Week. The winners, Eugene Bressler, Alexandra Ozazewski, and Makaila Alcarese, were asked to represent our school in the annual Knights of Columbus Bee on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Since Makaila could not attend, Julia Banashak, the runner up, was asked to attend. We are proud of their knowledge of Catholic facts and wish them good luck!

**Applause, Applause:**

Congratulations to another 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Mary Cochran. Mary decided to apply to boarding schools out of state. As you can well imagine, the costs of room and board as well as tuition is very expensive. We are so proud of Mary, she applied to about six schools and she received over \$50,000 in scholarships and financial Aid to five of those schools. Unfortunately, she did not get accepted into the school that was her number one choice. What is she going to do? She and her family have decided to spend a year at Fallston High School and reapply to the first-choice school again next year. We wish her well and know she will be a credit to any school she chooses to attend.

**HASA:**

Play Dinner:

Thanks to everyone who helped with the serving the food for the Drama Club dinner night.

Planning:

We are in need of several new Executive Committee members. If you would like to be a part of the Committee, or know someone who may be interested, please contact Mrs. Delcher or one of the current Committee members. Look for nomination forms after Easter break, with elections at the beginning of May.

Planning will soon be underway for next year's events. Again, if you have any ideas, please contact one of the current Committee members.

Have a great month!



*Jean Delcher*

# Parents make the difference!

Early Childhood – April 2012

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## Celebrate National Library Week with your preschooler

This month is the perfect time to emphasize the value of the library to your preschooler. After all, National Library Week begins on April 8. This year's theme is, "You belong @ your library." The @ is a reminder that your library is not just a place to explore books, but also the Internet.



Here are some ways you and your child can belong "@ the library":

- Visit your library weekly. Nothing prepares your child better for a successful education than reading. Encourage your child to check out several books. Old favorites are great. But mixing in some different books teaches your child new vocabulary and ideas.
- Participate in children's activities. Most libraries try hard to build a lifelong relationship with readers. This often begins with story hour. Many libraries have programs for toddlers. Check your library's schedule. Take your child to a story hour, craft time or puppet theater at your library.
- Browse the Internet. It is nearly impossible to work and learn today without the Internet. And, your child must know how to do it safely. Your librarian can give you and your child tips on safe navigation of the Internet. She can also suggest great sites for young children. If you can't make it to your local library, check out its website. Look for e-books and more!

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### Discipline

## Effective praise must be specific and genuine

Compliments are an important part of discipline because they teach children what they're doing right. But not all compliments are equal. The best compliments, experts say, are:

- Genuine. Only give a compliment when you really mean it. And then be specific. "You practiced buttoning your shirt so many times. And now you can do it all by yourself! I'm so proud!" That's more specific than, "Great job!"
- Focused on effort. Compliment your child's hard work, even if she doesn't reach an ultimate goal. Perseverance and improvement are accomplishments!
- Chosen carefully. When parents praise constantly and insincerely, kids may tune out or feel too much pressure to perform. Instead, look for opportunities to praise special, new and important behaviors. Make your compliments really count.

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## Learning Through Art

# Make letters pop for your child with a tape and paint project

Your preschooler has made letters out of everything--yarn, clay, pasta, cookie dough, glitter glue and more. What's left? Tape! To make this fun:

1. Collect supplies, including paper, paint, a paintbrush and tape that can be removed from paper. Try masking tape, drafting tape (from an office supply store) or Scotch tape that pulls up easily.
2. Have your child use the tape to "spell" his name on paper. Help him cut or tear the right-sized pieces. The letter "A" will need two long pieces and one short one. Curvy letters, such as "S" and "P" may look boxy or pointy, but that's okay.
3. Let your child paint a design around the tape, keeping in mind that the tape will be removed. The more he paints, the better! Then help him carefully lift the tape, and watch his name stand out!
4. Think of other ways to use this technique. Your child could spell other words or use tape to make designs, such as a fence in front of a flower garden. When the tape is pulled up, the picture's background becomes the focus.

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## Talking & Listening

# Encourage your preschooler to speak politely & listen patiently

Most young children know how to talk. But many need lots of practice in speaking politely. Your preschooler should not be expected to speak like an adult. But she can, and should, be kind and courteous.

To help your preschooler learn the language of courtesy:

- Make saying please and thank you mandatory. Your child should not ask for anything without saying please. Nor should she receive anything without saying thank you. Prompt her often. And most importantly, use these words yourself. Your preschooler will do what you do.
- Discourage the use of mean words. Do not allow your child to call people names, or order other children around. If she does, say, "Those words are hurtful," and then remove her briefly from the situation.
- Teach patience. Your child has a lot to say. Waiting to say it can be hard! But not interrupting is a necessary skill for school and life. Hold up your hand when your child interrupts. Say, "Please wait. I am speaking. As soon as I am finished, I would like to hear what you have to say."

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**Click here to view the  
EC Spring Activity Calendars**

# Parents make the difference!

Elementary – April 2012

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## Encourage respectful behavior with five simple strategies

There are days that parents feel like Aretha Franklin. All they're asking for is a little R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

But in today's society, where disrespect is common, it's even more of a challenge to raise respectful kids. Fortunately, there are still some things that work.



Here are five ways to encourage respect in your child:

1. Be a good role model. Respect, like most values, is caught, not taught. When your child sees you treating everyone with respect--from the clerk in the store to the homeless person on the street--with respect, he'll figure that's the way to behave.
2. Name it when you see it. When you see other people behaving in respectful ways, make a positive comment. No lecture is necessary. Your kids will get the message. "Did you see how that man on the bus gave up his seat so that elderly woman could sit down? What a respectful thing to do."
3. Praise it when they demonstrate it. "Zack, I felt so proud of your respectful behavior when you held the door for Mrs. Jones."
4. Correct it. When your child slips up (and he will), help him make a course correction. "Is that the way we greet guests?"
5. Report what you hear. If a neighbor or teacher tells you your child greeted her politely, let your child know how proud you are of his respectful behavior.

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### Building Responsibility

## Teaching responsibility yields lifelong rewards for your child

Parents hope their children will grow into responsible adults. Thankfully, parents have more influence on this than anyone else! You can build responsibility if you:

- Use rules and consequences. Enforce a few consistent, important rules and consequences. State them in easy-to-understand language so your child knows exactly how to behave.
- Trust your child with tasks. School-age kids are capable of handling a few responsibilities, such as putting away toys or matching socks in the laundry. Often these "jobs" feel more like proud accomplishments!
- Give your child age-appropriate choices. For example, "Which pants would you like to wear? Blue or red?" Or "Would you like an apple or a pear in your lunch?" Making decisions will build her confidence.
- Teach about financial responsibility. Many kids receive an allowance or are paid for extra chores. These are perfect opportunities to teach about budgeting, spending, saving and giving.
- Find ways to help others. Discuss what it means to be responsible to yourself, your family and your community. Choose meaningful ways to contribute, such as planting flowers in the school garden or donating clothes to charity.
- Adjust rules and responsibilities. As your child matures, her abilities will change. Perhaps she can take on a more grown-up chore. Or maybe she can make new, exciting decisions. Talk about how responsibility feels great!

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## Screen Time

# Use technology wisely to boost kids' learning

Computers fascinate most elementary school students. And they intimidate many parents! You may wonder, "Will computers help my child learn?" "Is my child safe online?" "What rules should I make about computer use?" These are all important questions.

Experts recommend that parents:

- Look for children's software, which doesn't require going online. Ask your local librarian about the programs they have installed on their computers designed for kids.
- Be on the lookout for more than games. If your child likes volcanoes, you might look online for articles about volcanoes, print out a volcano coloring page, listen to a story about volcanoes and even find instructions for building a volcano! The key is to stay involved and avoid inappropriate information.
- Supervise your child's computer use. Computer time should be "together time." Give your child some control, though, by letting her type and use the mouse. Install programs that protect your child online. And review safety rules, such as keeping personal information private. (More tips are available at [www.netSmartz.org](http://www.netSmartz.org).) Also remember that screen time shouldn't exceed two hours per day.

## Computers & Internet

# Choose appropriate websites for your child ahead of time

"Can I go online?" your child asks. You want to say yes, but you're not sure which sites are appropriate.

It's a good idea to visit educational sites when your child isn't nearby. Then note the ones you've approved and visit them together. Some to consider include:

- Funbrain.com. Here you'll find games that can be sorted by grade (K-8) and subject. You can choose from math, language arts, history, science and geography. Still haven't found the right game? Use the site's "game finder" feature.
- Scholastic.com. Parents can sort activities on this site, too. Simply enter your child's grade, a subject that interests him, and what he'd like to do (such as "listen and read" or "online learning").
- Starfall.com. Phonics is fun when it involves play! Whether your child likes comics, tongue twisters, plays, fables or other reading materials, there is something on Starfall for everyone.
- PBSKIDS.com. Your child will probably recognize many characters on PBS's respected site for kids. "Between the Lions" games are especially focused on reading.

**Click here to view the  
EL Spring Activity Calendars**

# Parents still make the difference!

Middle School – April 2012

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## Online activities help your child celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22nd. Help your child find eco-friendly ways to celebrate the planet by logging onto:

- The WWF Footprint Calculator, [www.footprint.wwf.org.uk](http://www.footprint.wwf.org.uk). Even if your family is small, your "carbon footprint" may be big. Have your child figure out just how big with this calculator. After she answers a few questions about your food, travel and buying habits, she'll receive an eye-opening score indicating how "green" your lifestyle really is.
- Beyond the Barrel, <http://azstarnet.com/app/images/flash/garbage/>. What happens to your family's trash and recycling after your child hauls it to the curb? This site spells it out for her. Although focused on Arizona, the site's videos and information apply pretty much everywhere.
- Biomes of the World, [www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/biomes](http://www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/biomes). An online research project, this site is terrific for seriously studious kids. Using its outline and resources, your child can discover how ecosystems depend on one another. She'll also find suggestions for cool ways to present the data she gathers. (Keep that in mind during science-fair season!)
- Ecovoyageurs, [www.ecovoyageurs.ca](http://www.ecovoyageurs.ca). What do green schools look like? How do your child's everyday actions impact the planet? What can she do about it? Ecovoyageurs explains it all with straightforward language and splashy graphics.



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### Making Decisions

## Help your child understand what makes a good decision

Many children want to make the right choice, but do not know how to think it through. When your child is faced with a decision, she should:

- Consider the consequences. Your child should ask herself, "After I make this decision, what could be the next thing to happen?"
- Remember that a good decision is usually consistent with a person's character. If your child is usually trustworthy, it would be out of character for her to make a decision to sneak around behind your back. She should ask herself, "Does this decision fit with the person I am?"
- Think of others. Almost always, good decisions do not hurt others. That doesn't mean everyone else must be happy with your child's decision. A friend might not be happy that your child decides not to go to a party because she has to study for a test. That is different from hurting someone personally or causing destruction.

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## Building Respect

# Middle school students often need a refresher course in respect

A child with a sense of fairness, kindness and responsibility is a child who respects others. However, these qualities don't always come naturally. And even when they do, a child may have to recommit to them in middle school, where negative peer pressure sometimes makes it hard to do the right thing.

To reinforce respect in your home:

- Emphasize empathy. Middle school students are going through many changes. As a result, they are pretty wrapped up in themselves. So remind your child that his actions can affect others, too. Example: "You walked right past Grandma and Grandpa without even saying hello. How do you think that made them feel?"
- Work on solving problems. Not everyone is going to agree with your child. Teach that the first response should be: "Okay, how can we cooperate?" This is a tough one. Middle school students like to have their way. But keep at it.
- Make clear you don't approve of media and games that seem to glamorize disrespectful speech or behavior. You can't police your child every moment. But you can label such media offensive and not allow them in your home.
- Don't tolerate disrespect. Your child should have consequences for disrespectful talk and behavior. Letting it go sends the wrong message--your child will interpret it as not being a big deal. But remember that discipline must be done respectfully too. Do not insult or ever use physical punishment. That can undo in an instant all the good lessons you have been trying to teach for months.

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# Know where to find websites for your middle schooler

The Internet is now a necessary part of your child's academic life. Students go online daily at school. Most go online each afternoon or evening for homework, too. But it's a challenge to figure out which sites are appropriate for 12- to 14-year-olds. It helps when someone has done the research for you.



You can suggest your child visit the Virtual Middle School Library ([www.sldirectory.com/virtual.html](http://www.sldirectory.com/virtual.html)). This site was founded by a retired school librarian in Philadelphia. She maintains the site and checks links often to make sure they work.

The website features include:

- The Reading Room--a collection of sites and suggestions for good books on any topic.
- Educational sites for students on every subject. This includes links to sites on writing research papers and doing science fairs.
- Resources for parents. This includes information on learning English as a second language.
- Information on how to design a website.

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