

October Newsletter 2011

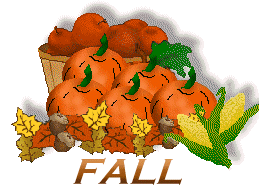
Saint John the Evangelist School - Hydes

Dear Parents,

Let's start this month with a little poetry, reminding us of the beauty of Fall!

*"Just before the death of flowers,
And before they are buried in snow,
There comes a festival season
When nature is all aglow."*

- Author Unknown



Besides being a month in the Fall, October is the month of the rosary. During this month, the classes will devote some time to teaching and praying the Rosary. You may want to talk with the students about what they are talking about in Religion class.

Faculty Update:

I am sure many parents have already heard, through the student grapevine, that we have a new teacher in the Middle School. Mr. Nicholas Tolerton is teaching Math to grades 7 and 8 and Social Studies to grade 8.

Our new PK 3 Aide is not a new face around school - we welcome Mrs. Renee Banashak. Renee has children in grades 3 and 5 and is excited about joining our faculty.

Ms. Katherine Taylor, has been the Kindergarten Aide for the past year. She came to me a few weeks ago to tell me that as much as she loves working with our children, the reality of the situation is that she needs to get a job whose compensation is more doable for her. Her last day with us will be this Friday, September 30. We will miss her and wish her only good things for her future.

This past week, Alyson Zankowitz, daughter of Mrs. Zankowitz, our grade 3 teacher, has been shadowing Ms. Taylor and will take over as Kindergarten Aide on Monday, October 3. Please make her feel welcome as she begins her time with us.

Reaccreditation:

As you know, our school is an accredited school with the Southern States Association of Schools and Colleges. Although it is not time to be reaccredited for us, the Archdiocese is going through a process so that most Catholic Schools, system wide, will be reaccredited at the same time. This will save individual schools money and keep all schools looking to the future.

Thank You:

The turnout for "Back to School" night was wonderful. Thanks to you for making the effort to be with us, and to our faculty for their time in putting together the presentations. What a wonderful way to begin a new school year.

Please feel free to contact the teachers or myself if you need clarification, if you have concerns, or if you need to share something with us that may be affecting your child. Email will most likely be the preferred method. The school address is school@stjohnhydes.org and my personal address is jdelcher@stjohnhydes.org. Every teacher has email: use their first name initial and their last name @stjohnhydes.org This will most likely have the quickest response time.

Lunch Time:

My yearly request: As you know, the students eat lunch at their desks. Many students use their napkins as a placemat, leaving them without a napkin for their hands or mouth. I am suggesting that each student bring in a foldable cloth placemat that will fit in his/her lunch box which leaves the napkin to be used as is intended. If the cloth placemat becomes soiled, it can be washed.

Weather Reminder:

Fall has officially arrived, although you wouldn't guess it by the temperatures of the past week or so. I continue to ask for your cooperation in seeing that your child/children come to school dressed for the weather: jackets, raincoats, umbrellas, etc. when needed. There are times when we must walk across the parking lot for Mass, Hot Lunch, or PE class. We also have outdoor recess every day we can. We ask that you **please label your child's/children's clothing, backpacks, lunch containers**, etc. so that they may be promptly returned if misplaced. Every year, we have many items in our "Lost and Found" which cannot be identified.

Uniforms:

Once again, I remind you that school uniforms are required for students in Kindergarten through grade 8. If a sweater is needed, the official school sweaters from Flynn & O'Hara may be worn in the classroom. On gym days, only the official sweatshirts may be worn in and around campus. All other coats, jackets, and sweats may be worn to recess and to and from school.

Although several students have been wearing the winter uniform, the official day to begin wearing them, as explained in the Handbook, will be November 1. At that time no summer uniforms should be worn. The gym wear includes sweatpants and sweatshirt. Students may wear the summer gym shirt with the sweatpants.

Interims/PowerSchool:

Just a reminder, grades 1 and 2 will receive Interim Reports on October 12. Grades 3 through 8 will not be receiving Interim Reports. PowerSchool Parent Access will open for parents on, or about, October 1, 2011.

STAND for the Protection of Children and Youth:

Part of the certification process for STAND is to complete the online training. In addition to the video presentation, an application and consent form should be completed and returned to the office. Upon completion, a Certification Card will be given which is valid for five years. All parents are asked to complete this training, but **it is mandatory for parents who would like to help in the classrooms or to attend parties and field trips to be STAND certified.**

The new STAND Online Training link is:

<http://childsafeducation.com/baltimore-archdiocese.html>

From this website, enter the username (stjohntheevangelisthydes) and password (archbalt).

Halloween:

We will be celebrating this fun day on Monday, October 31. Since this is a noon dismissal day, our parade will be at 10:00 AM. Students may wear their costumes to school on that day. We ask that masks not be worn during the day, but will be allowed if students can see clearly enough to walk in the parade. Some classes will have parties in their rooms after the parade. All are invited to watch the parade. We walk from the school to the Parish Center for "Trick or Treat." If it rains, our parade will be inside the school. PK 3 will celebrate on Thursday, October 27th.

Pictures:

Individual pictures for grades PK 3 through 8 will be taken on Wednesday, October 26. Since these are school pictures, we suggest the students wear their uniforms. Envelopes will be sent home. Please complete the order form and enclose payment. (Make checks payable to F. Paul Galeone.) Students must have their envelope on picture day to give to the photographer.

Volunteers:

Thanks to all who replied to our call for volunteers. Class parents were selected for each grade. They have received a list of all others who also volunteered and will, most likely, be calling on you for help this year. Some classes only had one volunteer. If you would be able to help your individual class parent, it would be appreciated.

In order to volunteer at Saint John the Evangelist School, in any capacity, you must be STAND certified.

Lunch/Recess:

Thanks to the 8th and 7th grade parents who started this year's recess duty. Please know that we appreciate this generous gift of your time. We depend on you to have enough supervision on the playground. You are sorely missed if you cannot make it. Please make arrangements to switch with someone if you are unable to come, or call the office as early as possible so we can have additional teachers ready to go outside. Again this year, the class parents will organize the yard duty schedules. You will be receiving a list of email addresses of the class moms. They would like you to email them and let them know the best way to reach you. I ask that you be courteous to these parents who ask for your help. The safety of the children is our concern and without proper supervision that safety may be compromised. We need you to help in this important volunteer work. Grade 3, 4, and 5 are the first out to recess and are ready at 11:45 AM. We ask that you check in at the office prior to that time, so that all students have their complete recess.

Dismissal:

If, on rare occasions, your child has to leave school early, we ask that you send a note to the homeroom teacher. Please park in the safety zone where you will wait for your child to be dismissed. You will need to be off the lot before the full school dismissal.

After-School Activities:

We are starting the first of our after-school activities. Karate classes will be held on Thursdays after school. More activities will follow, and we will keep you informed as to what, where, and when. Thanks to Mrs. Suehle for organizing this first one!

Applause, Applause:

Many of our students took part in the Baltimore County and Harford County Public Libraries' Summer Reading Programs and received Certificates of Completion. We are very proud of our students for their commitment and accomplishments.

Genevieve Simmons, grade 7, and Margaret Simmons, grade 3, received Certificates of Appreciation from the "Locks of Love" Foundation. This summer, the girls, along with their Mom, Marti, decided to give their support to help children suffering from long-term or permanent medical hair loss by donating their hair for this very worthy cause.

High School Open House:

October and November are traditionally the months that our Catholic High Schools host their "Open Houses." We urge not only 8th grade parents and students to attend, but, even more importantly, the parents and students of grades 6 and 7. When your student is in the 8th grade, the fall will be busy scheduling "shadow days" for the students, so check out the schools early. Another way is to attend the Regional Fair at Saint Margaret School on October 6, beginning at 6:30 PM. Many of the local high schools will give short presentations on their school.

Student Council:

This year we changed the timing for Council elections from the spring to the fall. The inauguration will be after the 8:45 AM Mass on October 6.

The results of the election are as follows:

- President - (Parent request no name in News)
- Vice-President - Andrew Brannon
- Secretary - Genevieve Simmons
- Public Relations - Spencer Blair and - (Parent request no name in News)

Class Representatives:

- Grade 8 – Jeffrey Brady and Matthew Jones
- Grade 7 – Brian North and - (Parent request no name in News)
- Grade 6 – Alec Jara and - (Parent request no name in News)

Social Action Club:

Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 12, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Permission slips will be coming soon. The club will meet once a month. Mrs. Donohue, Ms. Creamer, and Mrs. Macek are looking forward to a wonderful year of reaching out to others.

Drama Club:

Auditions are underway for the 2011-2012 production of *Robin Hood*. We are looking forward to a successful year. Parts are limited and we hope that anyone who does not get a part will try again next year

H.A.S.A.: (Home and School Association)

Innisbrook Gift Wrap:

Thanks to Mrs. Bressler for chairing the first fundraiser of the year. Once again, everyone did a wonderful job. As a school, we sold over \$15,000.00 in wrapping paper and gifts.

The top sellers, along with lucky drawn winners, and myself will be enjoying a trip to Pizza Hut in a Limo! The lucky students are: Tara Tabassi - grade 8, Haley Wehberg - grade 3, Ty Schumacher - grade 5, Rachel Parr - grade 5, Sarah Lynch - grade 4, Allyson Sears - grade 4, Cameron Carrigan - grade 3, Nicholas Basilio - grade 4, and Ella Wilson - grade 6. The top selling classrooms are Grade 5 – Movie Party, and Grade 3 – Donut Party. The teacher basket goes to Mrs. Brannon. Congratulations to all and a big thanks to everyone who participated.

Innisbrook pick-up day will be Wednesday, October 19th. If you have questions about your order or would be available to help sort the incoming orders, please contact Mary Beth Bressler at (410) 592-6180.

H.A.S.A. Dues:

Each family is a H.A.S.A. member; an envelope was sent out in September asking for volunteers and payment of dues. If you haven't returned yours, please do so at your earliest convenience. Sherrie Suehle, H.A.S.A. Treasurer, is collecting dues.

B I N G O Thank You!

Another fun-filled night of bingo was held last Friday, and everyone had a rousing time! Thanks to Laura Kozak Canoles and her group of volunteers for all of their work, especially John who did another excellent job of number calling! Thanks to the McFaul family for their donation to defray the cost of the refreshments.

Market Day:

Remember Market Day! This monthly fundraiser is a great way to keep the "fridge" stocked while helping the school earn money. If you have any questions, contact Diane or Bob Elliott at (443) 299-8220. Thanks to Bob and Diane for taking this on!

Fathers' Club:

The Fathers' Club is hosting a Trunk'n-Treat on Friday, October 29th, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Bring your own candy to hand out trunk'n-treat style. There will be a costume contest, crafts, games, prizes, a trunk decoration contest, and more!!! More information will be forthcoming soon. If you would like to help, please contact Eliot Latchaw at emlatch@aol.com.

Have a Great Month,

Jean Delcher



Parents make the difference!

Early Childhood – October 2011

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Talking & Listening

What you say and how you say it influences kids' development

As your child's parent, you are the most important person in his life. His views of himself will be shaped in large part by what he hears from you.

It is important to communicate with your child in a positive manner. Even when you must discipline your child, use words that will teach him what to do the next time, not words to shame him.

When having a conversation with your child:

- Use words that validate your child's feelings. Young children have big emotions. These feelings are perfectly okay--it is the actions that go with them that may not be okay. For example, you could say: "Tommy, I see that you are very excited because Jimmy is coming to play. That will be fun! But beds are not for jumping on, even when you are excited."
- Use words that tell your child you are listening. This also encourages him to tell you more. For example, say things like: "Wow, I didn't know that!" or "Oh, that is interesting!"
- Avoid the word don't whenever possible. Young children tend not to hear this word, and often will do the opposite. Instead of, "Don't throw your coat on the floor," try, "Please pick up your coat and hang it on the hook."

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Building Motor Skills

Incorporate physical activities into your preschooler's day

Next time you're exhausted from chasing your preschooler, remember that kids need all that energy. They use it to build muscles, bones, confidence and brain power. (Exercise "feeds" the brain glucose, oxygen and water.) The best physical activities are both fun and beneficial.

Try to make physical activity a daily part of your preschooler's routine. Here are some ideas:

- Navigate an obstacle course. Create a safe layout that requires crawling, jumping and more. Use descriptive words like over, under, high and low.
- Blow bubbles. Send bubbles soaring and challenge your child to catch them. He'll enjoy running, reaching and jumping.
- Follow the leader. Take turns leading big movements, such as waving arms, stomping feet and hopping.
- Be a stoplight. Stand at a distance from your child. When you say, "Green light," he should run toward you. When you say, "Red light," he should stop.
- Play tag. Chase each other around a limited space. This ensures that your child will not only run, but also use his body to duck.
- "Hula hop." Suggest your child hop in and out of a hula hoop. He can do it with two feet--or one, when he's ready--all the way around the circle.

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Review your kindergartner's schedule to maintain balance



It's natural to want to structure your child's life so she's on a path to success. But if almost every minute of your child's waking hours is scheduled with schoolwork, chores or extracurricular activities, your child is overscheduled.

Overscheduled children become exhausted and overwhelmed. They get anxious, discouraged and ultimately unmotivated.

To ensure your kindergartner isn't overscheduled:

- Help your child select one or two structured activities that match her interests and abilities.
- Schedule one to two hours of free time a day for your child. Make sure she has access to art supplies, games, books, etc.
- Expect some boredom. Boredom can motivate kids to listen to their inner voice. They tinker, write, draw and create.
- Plan for "unrushed family time." Have days that are completely open to just putter around the house and yard together. Listen to music. Take a walk. Do anything you both enjoy that has no particular goal.

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Wellness

Research shows that sleep boosts academic performance

Everyone knows how great it feels to get a good night's sleep, and studies show it boosts school performance, too. Growing evidence suggests if kids don't get enough sleep, thinking skills--along with physical and emotional well-being--can suffer. Experts say:

- 25 percent of kids have trouble with sleep. This number is even higher in elementary school. It's helpful for families to maintain good sleep habits and relaxing bedtime routines.
- Most kids who don't get enough rest are going to bed too late, getting up too early or both. Set consistent tuck-in and wake-up times that provide enough sleep.
- The earlier kids develop good sleep habits, the better. But it's never too late! If your child is groggy in the morning, sunlight may help. You don't have to throw open the curtains, but try to serve breakfast in a bright, pleasant location.

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

Parents make the difference!

Elementary – October 2011

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Building Character

Parents play an important role in building children's character

If parents are committed to developing their child's good character, they'll get results. It takes dedication and constant watchfulness to raise a child with good morals. But it's worth it. Your child will grow up with a strong moral compass that will serve him well in school and in life.

To build your child's character:

- Keep a strong focus on good morals in daily activities. Incorporate the ideals of honesty and respect into dinner and car conversations with your child.
- Explain to your child why you make certain decisions. Talk about the values--such as tolerance and generosity--that guide your decisions.
- Watch TV with your child. When a character does something wrong, ask why it's wrong. When the character makes a good moral decision--such as returning something lost--discuss why that's the right thing to do.
- Catch your child showing good character. Tell him you're proud of him for telling the truth or working hard to finish a task.
- Evaluate how your efforts are working. If you need help, turn to friends, family and books about character and morals.

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Building Math Skills

Research shows parents influence children's views on math, science

Look at any list of the best-paying jobs. You are likely to see they have one thing in common: they require a knowledge of math and science. People who prepare to become engineers, computer specialists, and doctors find great jobs when they graduate.

So why don't more students--especially girls--prepare for these careers? The answer is found as far back as elementary school. That's when students' attitudes toward math and science seem to be set.

Researchers took a look at how parents influence their children's views on math and science. The study found that, in general, parents are more likely to encourage boys rather than girls to take an interest in science. As a result, girls tend to lose interest in math by high school--even though they may continue to get good grades.

So what can parents do to make sure their sons and their daughters stay interested in math and science? Here are some suggestions:

- Play games that encourage math and science. If you're in the car, see who can add the numbers on the license plate in front of you. If you're at the store, see if your child can figure the change.
- Help your child see herself as someone who is good in math. Teach her that brains, like muscles, get stronger with practice. Remind her that "smart is something you get, not something you are."
- Look for role models. Look for TV shows or news stories featuring a wide diversity of people who are doctors, engineers and scientists.

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Reinforcing Learning

Teachers offer strategies for helping kids do better in school

The National PTA asked teachers what they wished parents would do to help their children in school. Here's what teachers said:

- Ask your child about school every day. Check homework and ask him questions about his assignments.
- Set a learning example. When you spend time reading, you show your child that reading is enjoyable and useful. Play games together that build thinking skills. Talk about current events.
- Emphasize academics. Talk about how everyday experiences relate to what your child is learning in school.
- Follow daily routines that encourage healthy sleeping and eating habits.
- Encourage your child to do his best. Show you believe that education is important.
- Take advantage of community learning opportunities. Take your child to the library, museums, concerts, etc. Encourage your child to join community programs such as clubs, scouts and after-school sports.

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Discipline

Use 'house rules' to make discipline easy

If you are a stickler for rules, but your spouse lets things slide, your kids may not be sure of what's expected of them.

Create a set of "house rules" that everyone knows will always be enforced. These should be rules and consequences that govern the things that are your biggest concerns. In one house, it might be behavior toward siblings. In another, it might be pitching in to meet responsibilities.

Come up with a catchy phrase that sums up both the rule and the consequence:

- If you hit, you sit. Any physical action toward a sibling will result in a time out.
- If you partake, you take part. Every family member has responsibility for meal time-- from setting the table to clearing the dishes.
- Pick up or pay up. If your child doesn't keep track of belongings, put them in a closet. Once a week, she can redeem them for a small fee.

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

Parents still make the difference!

Middle School – October 2011

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Do you know how to handle your child's difficult behavior?



Part of early adolescence involves leaving childhood behind and separating from parents. Another part involves answering questions such as: Who am I? What do I believe? As your child goes through this she may display some difficult and defiant behavior, even if she has never done so in the past.

For many middle school children, this means talking back to parents. Here are some guidelines for handling this behavior:

- Resist the urge to argue back. Instead, show your child who the adult is. Practice calm kindness in the face of her rudeness. For example, say "You sound pretty upset. I'm sorry to hear this. When you calm down, I'll be happy to help if I can."
- Continue to set limits. Some back talk is developmental. But there are some things you should never tolerate, such as profanity directed at you or another person. If this happens, give your child a choice: She may go to a quiet place to think until she is ready to apologize. Or she may lose a privilege.
- Enjoy the flip side of your child's arguing. When she is calm and happy you can have great conversations. Your child's new ability to argue actually reflects a growth in her ability to reason. She can now discuss things at a higher level than she could in elementary school.

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Spending Time Together

Connect with your middle schooler by sharing downtime

The most important thing to remember about "quality time" is that it's not the most important thing. Instead, focus on "quantity time." In other words, commit to spending downtime with your child every day. It's during those unplanned moments that you'll catch glimpses of who he really is. To build more "quantity time" into your life:

- Make it a priority. Everyone's busy, but your child must still come first. Make time for family time every day. During those hours, put away the cell phone, log off the computer and be available to your child.
- Be creative. If a must-complete chore is interfering with family time, have your child pitch in. He may not love the thought of a marathon laundry session. But if he gets to chat with you about his day while you make your way through piles of clothing, it might sweeten the deal.
- Relax. Don't feel compelled to constantly entertain your child. You don't need to take him out to lunch or go to the movies. Just hang out together. That's what "quantity time" is all about.

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Making Decisions

Show your child how to make better decisions with SODAS

Want your child to become more responsible? Teach him good decision-making skills by encouraging him to rely on the SODAS Method whenever he's faced with a dilemma.

Here's what it looks like:

S Situation. Your child can't make a wise decision if the issue at hand seems murky. So remind him to define the situation clearly by asking himself, "What's the main thing I'm concerned about?"

O Options. What are some ways your child could handle the problem? Have him make a mental list. Now narrow it down to the three most sensible choices. This list-making step is critical because it illustrates that there's more than one available option.

D Disadvantages. Have your child think about the cons of each of his top three ideas. If a certain option has a particularly serious consequence, this is a good time to rule out that option.

A Advantages. Now ask your child to figure out the pros of his top choices. Are there major advantages to one option vs. the others? Then that may be the winner.

S Solution. Now that he's weighed the pros and cons of each possible option, your child can make his decision with confidence.

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Working With Your School

Involvement in middle school is still essential

Middle school is not just a big change for your child. It is a big change for you. That's especially true if you were actively involved in your child's elementary school. Things you might have done in elementary school--reading in the classroom, talking with the teacher, sending in items from home--usually happen less often when a child goes to middle school.

Now you'll need to take a different approach to help your child be as successful as he can. Here's how:

- Tell your child that his education is important. Say, "It's a high priority for our family that our children get a good education."
- Relate education to "real life." Hundreds of jobs, from being a cashier to being an engineer or physicist, require some kind of math knowledge.
- Have your child set realistic goals every quarter. Include a plan for reaching the goal.
- Encourage independence. If your child can't find an answer, encourage him to look in his book or notes before asking you.
- Remind your child that you are still paying attention. Get to know his teachers. Have an idea of what he is expected to do. Assume a greater role any time you see your child struggling.

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MS Fall Parent Pointers Calendars**