



SAINT JOHN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 6, 2011
WEBSITE: www.saintjohnschool.net

Saint John the Evangelist School educates children from pre-kindergarten through grade six offering a strong academic program enriched by the arts and deeply rooted in Catholic tradition. The school reflects the ideals of Saint Julie Billiart focusing on joy, respect and kindness.

Saint Julie Billiart says: "There was only one road trodden by the saints... you don't get to heaven on wheels. You walk!"

PRINCIPAL POSTING: First of all, I would like to thank all the talented and dedicated parents who made this year's Trees & Trimmings such a wonderful event. There were many days and nights of hard work in preparation. A big thank you to the children and alums who came out in full force ready to sell, to meet and greet and to carry wreaths and parcels for busy shoppers. Mr. and Mrs. Steinberg and Mrs. Greco were lively participants in the day's events. You all were such wonderful ambassadors for Saint John School and the spirit of community that was pervasive.

All of us have opportunities, both large and small to show kindness, especially at Christmastime. We can help strangers by delivering gifts to needy children or serving homeless families at a soup kitchen. We can simply look for everyday ways to be kind, like allowing someone to go ahead of us in a lengthy line at the store, or giving that bell-ringer a little change and a few encouraging words.

Maybe it's because we're in a gift-giving mode anyway that giving to others becomes important at Christmas. We're more aware of our families and friends and communities. Maybe it's because two thousand years ago, the earth received the most perfect, most loving gift of all, helping us all to understand true kindness.

Whatever the reason, don't let Christmas pass you by without showing kindness to someone. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive. (Excerpt from **The Simple Blessings of Christmas**)



Thank you all for the blessings you are to the school and each other.

Today, Lord Jesus, we have two candles lit on our Advent wreath. Christmas Day is coming closer. We all have wishes for what gifts we will receive on Your birthday. Help us to remember that Your love is the greatest gift of all. Help us to share Your love with everyone we meet. Amen.

LUNCH DUTY ASSIGNMENTS:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 – Early Dismissal (11:30 AM)
*THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 – Kapples, Morris, Mullen
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 – Gill, Glaeser, Kelley
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 – Cronin, Morris, Murphy
TUESDAY, DECEMBER, 13 – Blomberg, Kaye, Morris
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 – Early Dismissal (11:30 AM)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 – Grela, Kapples, Morris
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 – Cronin, Gill, Glaeser
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 – Blomberg, Clark, Mungovan (Jennifer)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – Brooks, Ellms, Sievenpiper
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – Early Dismissal (11:30 AM)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 – McDonough, Mullins, Sievenpiper

***PLEASE NOTE: ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, LUNCH DUTY WILL BEGIN AFTER 12:00 LITURGY.**

(REMINDER: YOU ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN IN FOR LUNCH DUTY BY 12:00 PM. YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED.) Please note that a \$30.00 penalty is assessed to anyone who does not show up for his/her scheduled day or does not arrange for a substitute. Thank you for your cooperation.

LUNCH DUTY UPDATE: We will need everyone with children in Grades K – 6 to work 7 rather than 6 shifts of lunch duty this year. You may also opt out by paying the \$15.00 opt out fee. Please contact Maura Murphy at mmurphy@rackemann.com to schedule your shift or to let her know that you are opting out.

LITURGY: Grades 1-6 will be attending First Friday Liturgy on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8** at 12:00 Noon (Feast of the Immaculate Conception). You are welcome to join us.

PLEASE NOTE: Children will be dressed in their gym uniforms for this liturgy (NO DRESS UNIFORMS).

AFTER SCHOOL REMINDER: This week is the last week of after school classes for this term. Rock band, however, will go one extra week.

SAINT JOHN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT -- “WHEN A CHILD IS BORN”: Mark your calendars for **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 7:00 PM** in St. John’s Church. All students are asked to wear the following: All students (Pre-K – Grade 6) should be in their best clothes.

Girls: Dress clothes (skirts or dresses)
Boys: Shirt, tie and pants (jacket optional)
Girls and Boys: Shoes – NO Sneakers

All students will gather in the Church at 6:30 PM at the following locations:

Grades 2-6 will meet in the Social Hall at the Church.

Grade 1 will meet in the Chapel in the Lower Church .

Pre-K and Kindergarten will meet at the gathering center at the Glen Road entrance to the Church.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you next Tuesday, December 13th!
~ Ms. Engel and Mrs. Bradley

CHRISTMAS VACATION REMINDER: No School – Friday, DECEMBER 23 through Monday, JANUARY 2. School resumes Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

ENRICHMENT: Yesterday the a cappella group, the Tupelos, from Wellesley College delighted the Kindergarten through Sixth Grade classes with cheery renditions of holiday songs. They are all ready for the holiday concert!

COUNCIL MEETING – The next School Council meeting will take place this evening, **DECEMBER 6, at 7:00 PM** in the Library. As always, you are welcome and encouraged to join us.

TREES & TRIMMINGS: Thank you to all who volunteered many hours/days/weeks/months to make Saturday's event one of the best yet! It was a glorious day for Saint John School. Congratulations to Kira Nelson, Susana Fantozzi and Bill McNamara for their leadership and extraordinary commitment. ~ Norm Boucher, Council President

TREES & TRIMMINGS THANK YOU: Now that Trees & Trimmings has come to an official close, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your wonderful support and assistance throughout this past weekend, but also in the months leading up to the event. There was so much work and planning that so many contributed to make this a collective success. And there were so many who generously donated items, time, money, husbands and wives. No one person can do this alone and it takes our incredible community to pull it off with both big and small contributions.

The fruits of your labor will have a continuing impact on the School, tuition, and programs for the children for the next year. A wonderful gift you have given the school at this special time of year.

As Chairs of Trees & Trimmings, our job really was enjoyable because of the wonderful captains and leaders of all the areas. We especially enjoyed developing new friendships and building upon existing ones -- and hope all of you did as well.

Our sincere thanks to all of you!

With warm wishes to you and your families for a wonderful Christmas season,
Kira Nelson, Susana Fantozzi, Bill McNamara