



# SAINT JOHN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 22, 2011

WEBSITE: [www.saintjohnschool.net](http://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 Billiard focusing on joy, respect and kindness.

*Saint Julie Billiard says: "Let us do what the good God shows us moment by moment."*

**PRINCIPAL POSTING:** Thanksgiving is a time for reflection and gratitude for the many gifts that have blessed our lives. Today, I would like to share my gratitude for Mrs. Suzanne Stevens who is a talented teacher of students from Kindergarten through Grade Six. This year she was a teaching assistant in our Preschool/Yie three mornings a week. We thank her for years of dedication and service to the students of Saint John School. Due to pension changes, Mrs. Stevens will be retiring as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will miss her full time presence in the school.

This week the third grade shared wonderful dioramas and reports on many well-known and obscure Native American tribes with students and parents. The Preschool and Pre-K are busy preparing for a feast with some of the foods eaten on that first Thanksgiving Day. Our service Committee is collecting foods for the Dorchester Care and Concern Food Pantry. The culmination of sharing, service and gratitude will be celebrated by our Kindergarten at the Prayer Service tomorrow at 9:00. It is a wonderful time for us to pause in prayer and appreciation for all our blessings. ***"Let us go on day by day. Our life will never be long enough to thank the good God because He is good and His mercy is eternal."*** Saint Julie Billiard

This is a time to remember the gifts of yesterday, to be grateful for the blessings of today and to look forward in hope and anticipation for all the tomorrows that are yet to be. May you travel safely, welcome guests warmly and may the good God bless you and yours during this Thanksgiving holiday.

**BUS STUDENTS:** Tomorrow is an early release day for all the Wellesley Public Schools. Therefore, our bus dismissal will be at 11:10 AM tomorrow, NOVEMBER 23.

### **LUNCH DUTY ASSIGNMENTS:**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 – Early Dismissal (11:30 AM)  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 – NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 – NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving vacation)  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28 – NO SCHOOL (Parent/Teacher Conferences)  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – Bannon, Calcio, Mungovan (Jennifer)  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – Early Dismissal (11:30 AM)  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 – Blomberg, Kapples, Morris  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 – Boucher, Cardin, Racette  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 – Fantozzi, Nesser, Murphy  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 – Laird, Morris, Murray  
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

**(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.

**NEWSLETTER:** The next newsletter will be posted on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6**. Please submit all entries for the newsletter to the office by Monday morning, December 5.

**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](mailto:mmurphy@rackemann.com) to schedule your shift or to let her know that you are opting out.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE:** The Community Service Group will be sponsoring a food drive for Project Care and Concern in Dorchester. Project Care and Concern is a food pantry and community ministry run by Sr. Joyce, a Sister of Notre Dame. The majority of the inner city people she serves are immigrants. During these difficult economic times, Sr. Joyce is only able to keep the food pantry open 4 days a week instead of 5. All donations should be nonperishable, shelf stable goods packaged in plastic or cardboard. (No glass please!) Some suggested donations are cereal, individual meal (such as raviolis or soup), pasta, canned sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, vegetables... **The Community Service group will be collecting donations through tomorrow November 23.** All food can be left in their bags downstairs in the kitchen. During this time of year when we reflect upon our blessings, please consider helping another family with a food donation. On behalf of Sr. Joyce and the Community Service Group, we thank you for your support. Any questions, please contact Terry Clark [tmclark@comcast.net](mailto:tmclark@comcast.net).

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE:** Our Kindergarten class will lead us in a Thanksgiving Prayer Service on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 at 9:00 AM** in Philbin Hall. All are most welcome to join in this special service.

**AFTER SCHOOL REMINDER:** **No after school classes are scheduled for TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 23** (the day before Thanksgiving). Please make a note on your calendars.

**NO SCHOOL:** Reminder – There will be no school on the following dates:

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 (Thanksgiving Day)**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 (Vacation Day)**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28 (Parent Conferences)**

**LIFETOUCH STUDENT PICTURES:** Your picture package was sent with your child yesterday.

**PICTURE RETAKES:** Lifetouch will be at School for a retake/make-up day on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**. **If you would like to have your child's picture retaken, you must return your complete package to the photographer on that date.** Your child will be re-photographed and a new portrait package will be printed. If your child was absent, a picture form is necessary for retake day (forms are available in the office).

**All children in Mrs. Yie's Preschool Class will be photographed on that date; please remember to bring in the picture form and payment.**

**LITURGY:** You are welcome to join us on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, at 9:00 AM** for our monthly liturgy. Grade 2 will assist. **Reminder: Full Dress Uniforms (including sweaters) are required for Grades 1-5. (Grade 6 will be helping at T&T and therefore will not be in uniform.) A second grade reception will follow the Mass.**

**LOST AND FOUND:** Please write your child's name inside sweatshirts jackets and sweaters. It will be much easier to identify these items when they are lost. Don't forget to look in our lost and found box periodically – we have accumulated many sweatshirts, etc. already!

If you are missing an item or two, be sure to stop by. **The lost and found box will be emptied on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 and the contents will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.**

**HOT DOG LUNCH:** Our next hot dog lunch is scheduled for **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6** for those who have prepaid.

**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:

Girls: Dress clothes (skirts or dresses) and shoes (no sneakers)

Boys: Shirt, tie, pants (jacket optional) and shoes (no sneakers)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you on December 13<sup>th</sup>!

~ Ms. Engel and Mrs. Bradley

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS**

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

**BOX TOPS ARE BACK:** The holidays are upon us, and that means extra trips to the grocery store. This is a great time of year to add to (or start) your Box Tops for Education collection. Please send your cut out Box Tops into school with your children. The class who collects the most box tops per student by January 18, 2012, will receive a dress down pass from Mrs. Aldridge (Pre-school/Pre-K will receive a special prize). Friends and family members can add to your collection too! Having grandparents collect Box Tops is a great way for them to help our school. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact Traci Sievenpiper at [tabst53@hotmail.com](mailto:tabst53@hotmail.com).

## **TREES & TRIMMINGS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **SET-UP HELP!! NEXT WEEK DROP IN OPPORTUNITIES:**

TUESDAY, 11/29 7-9PM Set Up Night is a big night for Dads with Power Tools!

WEDNESDAY, 11/30 8AM-2PM and 7-9PM Philbin Hall decorating and Boxwood Decorating

THURSDAY, 12/1 8AM-2PM and 7-9PM Philbin Hall decorating and Boxwood Decorating

FRIDAY, 12/2 8AM-2PM Bake Shop and Kids Corner set-up and Last Minute Everything!!

No need to call. Just come anytime you are available and we will put you to work!!

**STAFFING NEWS:** Our on-line staffing is now officially open! Volunteering for shifts is so easy – just go to [mysignup.com/treesandtrimmings](http://mysignup.com/treesandtrimmings). Block off portions of your weekend and join together to make T&T a success. We need every family to volunteer! Please contact Sara Bavaro at [sicio@yahoo.com](mailto:sicio@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or cannot get to [mysignup.com](http://mysignup.com). Thanks for your enthusiastic participation!! Remember, you must be CORI'd.

**TOY RAFFLE:** We have an awesome Toy Raffle this year! SOME of the items up for grabs include a HUGE Pillow Pet, Huffy Green Machine, an American Girl Doll, Hunter Boots, an ipod - itouch, an XBOX 360 Kinect, Little Bits Gift Certificate, Coach Wristlet, a Kindle, and a Lego VW TI Camper. Tickets can be purchased the day of T&T - \$1 a ticket or 15 for \$10!

**SANTA'S BAKESHOP:** CALLING ALL BAKERS!!! Santa's Bakeshop needs many elves to fill the shelves! PLEASE don't forget to drop off your delicious goodies anytime between 7:30am and 3pm on Friday, December 2nd. Please donate! ps – We will gladly accept goodies on Saturday as well!

**SILENT AUCTION:** We are still accepting donations for the Trees & Trimmings Silent Auction and are looking for donations of all kinds: tickets to a show or game, autographed sports memorabilia, etc. In the meantime, you can look forward to bidding on some great items! Sharpen your pencil and prepare to bid on Front Row Seats to the Saint John School Christmas Concert, 4 tickets to Boston's Radio City Christmas Spectacular Show (starring the Rockettes), a package of 4 Dress Down Passes, 2 tickets to the Mix Lounge, Round of Golf for 4 (3 plus member) at The Country Club in Brookline, 2012 Framed Fontaine Print of The Public Garden/Swan Boats (11 1/2 x 13 1/2). To donate an item to our Silent Auction, or if you have a question, please contact Laurel Mullen at [jay.mullen@comcast.net](mailto:jay.mullen@comcast.net). Many thanks to all of our Saint John families for the wonderful donations we've received so far!

**2011 FONTAINE RAFFLE:** Raffle tickets were sent home last week for this year's Fontaine Raffle prize: "Summer Bouquet". Don't forget to send in your tickets and payment to have a chance to win this beautiful signed print by E. Joseph Fontaine. Need more tickets? Please contact Heather Shanahan at [heather@rjshanahan.com](mailto:heather@rjshanahan.com). Tickets are also available for sale at Trees & Trimmings on December 3.

**KID'S CORNER** will once again offer a boutique filled with Christmas gifts for parents, siblings, and grandparents. These items will be priced so that kids can afford to buy them. Don't forget to bring all of

those saved quarters and loose change. There will also be craft projects, and....Santa is coming to Trees & Trimmings!

**THE TREES ARE COMING!!!** Do you love to get up early and get your exercise in before the day really gets started?? Then we have an opportunity for you! The truck arrives on THURSDAY, December 1st at 6:00am to be unloaded. Mrs. Aldridge will provide coffee and donuts! What more could you ask for!! Please contact Norm Boucher at [boucher@massmed.org](mailto:boucher@massmed.org) and tell him you will be there! We also invite our early rising 3rd through 6th graders to join their parent to help with this all important job. For safety reasons, however, we must request that all children be accompanied by their parent.

**SCRIP GIFT CARDS ARE BACK!** This is an easy way to help the school in its fundraising efforts. For those of you unfamiliar with "Scrip," the school receives a percentage of the value of each gift card (the cards are purchased at a discount, and the savings is passed on to the school). Starbucks, Amazon, iTunes, Eddie Bauer, Land's End, LL Bean, Best Buy, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dunkin Donuts, CVS, Staples, Toys R Us, Barnes & Noble, Roche Brothers, Stop & Shop are just a small sampling of local and national stores that are available for gift card purchases in various denominations (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more). This is a great idea, whether for personal use or as gifts to others. To order gift cards, please look for order forms sent home today -- they can be returned (along with a check payable to St. John School) to Michael Racette k/o Caroline Murphy Racette, Grade 6, no later than Tuesday, Nov. 29. Gift cards will be distributed via your child's backpack at school on Friday, December 2. Any questions, please e-mail Mike Racette at [mracette@morrisonmahoney.com](mailto:mracette@morrisonmahoney.com).

Contact Kira Nelson ([kira.nelson@verizon.net](mailto:kira.nelson@verizon.net)) or Susana Fantozzi ([ssfantozzi@hotmail.com](mailto:ssfantozzi@hotmail.com)) if you have any questions or suggestions.