

December 20, 2018

Dear Parents,

Yesterday's Christmas in the Community was a joy to behold. To hear and see our students sharing Christmas joy throughout Winfield was a real gift. The caroling certainly brought smiles, applause, and the warmth and light of the season to patrons and members of the community in businesses from the library to Caliendos to Gnarly Knots.

Related to our commitment and desire to serve is the generosity of our families. Yesterday, our Preschool children and Kindergarteners presented a check for \$401 to John Otto from the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Annia Blasi, Bridget Jakabcsin, Claudia Cortez, and Lily Gonzalez from our Student Council had the opportunity to "Pie Mr. Valenta and Ms. Ludvik in the face." Why you might ask? This is because our school collection goal of \$800 was exceeded for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients drive. (In fact, \$1,924.67 was collected.) It was a great time, and Ms. Ludvik and Mr. Valenta were wonderful sports.

Recently, students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades took part in the Catholic Math League Contest through an in-class test. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performance in the contest:

Grade 5 - Test 2:

1st place –Mia McCall

2nd place – Samantha Moesch

3rd place – Abby Goddard

Grade 6 - Test 2:

1st place – Elizabeth Weitz

2nd place – Nathan Moesch

3rd place – Christopher Momot and Leo Positano

Grade 7 – Pre-Algebra Test 2 :

1st place – Mia Gravina

2nd place – Lily Gonzalez

3rd place –Sadie Smith

We end the calendar year tomorrow at SJB with a school Mass, culminating in a simple presentation of the Nativity story by our first grade children. Upon the conclusion, all are welcome to join them in St. Cecilia Hall to enjoy light breakfast refreshments. What a beautiful way to begin the celebration of Christmas and our break. This is just a reminder that we will dismiss at 11:30 AM and the extended day program will not be open afterschool. School will resume on Monday, January 7th and the tradition of blessing our school for the New Year and chalking our classroom doors will take place by Father Matt and Father Keith.

Speaking of the calendar, it has been confirmed that there will be a Teacher Institute Day on Tuesday, January 22, following the School Holiday in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on Monday, January 21. Please note school will be in session for three days the week of January 21 – Wednesday (1/23), Thursday (1/24), and Friday (1/25).

The Illinois state tax credit scholarship program affords us an opportunity to build our enrollment through the generosity of local donors. Donors who give to Empower Illinois receive a 75% state tax credit for their gift. There is still time to donate to the program for the 2018 tax year. For more information, please visit empower.il.org

Please be aware that the window for submitting tax credit scholarship applications opens on January 15th at 7:00 PM. Our computer lab will be open on that night and assistance will be available to begin the process. More information will be forthcoming about this event. To apply, there is a financial formula for eligibility and priority is given to those residing in a focus district. Families who reside within the boundaries of District 34 in West Chicago qualify. See the list of focus districts by clicking this link: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/sos-focus-schools-fy16.pdf> Please visit empower.illinois.org for more information.

As we get closer to Catholic Schools Week (January 27 –February 1), we are looking for volunteers to speak at Mass and share about the wonderful experiences at our school. Parents are our best ambassadors. Talking points have been prepared and a choice of Masses is available. Please consider volunteering. Your hour of time may have a great impact for SJB. If you are interested or want more information, please contact me at Jpolicht@stjohnwinfield.org or Patt Zagotta at PZagotta@stjohnwinfield.org.

I am pleased to share some alumni news from St. Francis High School. The following graduates of SJB received awards/achievements recently:

Sean Conley (Class of 2019): Illinois State Scholar, Kane County Chronicle All-Area Soccer Team, 2018 Metro Suburban All-Conference Soccer. World Languages Student of the Month (November)

Gabriella Johnson (Class of 2019): Illinois State Scholar

Emma Joseph (Class of 2019): Illinois Sate Scholar, All-Conference Tennis, Tennis Conference Championship Silver Medal –Doubles

Vincenzo Rendina (Class of 2020): DuPage County Student Art Contest – Top 12

It is rewarding to know that the foundation that is set by parents and our school helps to promote success after graduation from SJB.

As we draw closer to Christmas, with the fourth Sunday of Advent upon us followed by Christmas Eve, I close with a quote from Pope Francis. “The Birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely and uniquely by God, and he not only enables us to know this love, he also gives it to us, he communicates it to us!” How precious it is to know that our Emmanuel, God, is with us. I pray that this Christmas you and yours are enveloped in our Lord’s love, blessed by time with family and friends, and have a joyous New Year.

With thanksgiving and joy,