February 21, 2019

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that the last trimester of the year has commenced. There is so much spiritual, academic, social, and physical growth yet to take place. As we move forward and hopefully out of flu season, I want to remind everyone about the importance of attendance and being on time to school. To stay on track, students need to be in school. Students with more regular attendance tend to be more engaged in school and feel better about themselves. Of course, if your child is sick, please keep him/her home, we want to keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Don't forget to return your registration forms. As a reminder, February 28 is the due date. A fee is assessed for those registrations turned in after Thursday, February 28. Please continue to share the word about our outstanding school. Remember that there is a $500 tuition credit for those that refer a family and their child (ren) register and attend our school. Additionally, there is a $1,000 tuition transfer grant for new students who transfer to SJB from a public school. Are you on Facebook and happy with our school? If you haven't liked or reviewed our school, I encourage you to do so. Your positive praise may be just the words needed for a family who is deciding where to send their children. It was shared at a workshop yesterday that word of mouth is the number one way that brings new students to schools. If you haven't viewed our FB page lately, recent postings include pictures from Valentine's Day and our undefeated 8th grade girls' basketball team.   FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment is accepting online applications through Friday, March 1. The application can be accessed here. Please see the posting for more information.

Our partnership with the Winfield Police continues. As you know last week, Officer McIntyre spoke to our students in sixth through eighth grade about internet and phone safety. We are happy to once again offer the DARE program in fifth grade. Chief Schar kicked-off his weekly visits last Wednesday with an introduction to the program, history, purpose, and guidelines and criteria for the May DARE graduation. Our fifth graders are excited about the program as evidenced by their thoughtful questions. We are indeed fortunate to have the support of the local police.

Blessed are we to have seminarian Kyle Langen, here for the remainder of the school year. He will be visiting each class, (if he hasn't already done so), to introduce himself and share about vocations. He has also started teaching religion last Thursday and will be teaching every week in eighth grade.

This week we joined the other schools in the Joliet Diocese in a novena of prayer and devotion to obtain graces through the intercession of the venerable servant of God, Antonietta Meo, affectionately called "Nennolina." At the age of six, she had her leg amputated because of an osteosarcoma and handled the pain and suffering associated with it as well as the metastasis to other body parts with grace. On December 17, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI declared her "Venerable." Her life has been a witness of sanctity for children who suffer. We will conclude the novena next week. Children are welcome to share intentions for healing as the novena is prayed.

Best of luck is wished to our basketball teams as they move into playoffs. Our fifth/sixth grade girls' team will be playing St. Dominic on Saturday, February 23 at 2:00 PM at St. James School in Glen Ellyn. Our sixth grade boys' team will be playing St. Raphael at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 24 at St. Michael's in Wheaton. Our undefeated seventh/eighth grade girls' team will play next weekend. More details about their playoff games will be shared next week.   Thank you to all who took part in the Pal-Joey's fundraiser for our Athletic department last night. I had my first Pal-Joey's pizza, and it was so good! On a related note, we will have a Pizza Now pizza day on Monday, February 25. Proceeds will benefit our spring musical, Little Mermaid.

Blessings to you in the coming weekend and week,

 Joanne