



March 14, 2019

Dear Families,

Thank you to **all** of you who attended the Championship game for the 7th/8th grade Lady Wildcat's team on Sunday! The support for the team was incredible and each of the girls played so hard. We are so proud of them! They placed second, with the final score 36-34. They had an amazing season, winning 12 of 13 games. Many thanks to their coaches Lisa Upham and John Jackabcsin for all of their time, commitment, and leadership with the girls during the season. Our other two teams also had a good season, and we are proud of them, too. Many thanks to our 6th grade girls' coaches: Jamie Riendeau, Reilly Kasprak, Jon Starmach, and Zachary Zielinski. Thank you also to Joe Dailey and Mike Momot, our 6th grade boys' coaches. We appreciate all of our coaches! A special thank you goes to our Athletic Director, Chuck Zydek. His support and leadership is undeniable and greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey about arrival and dismissal times. Your feedback and input is very valuable and will be used as we plan for the coming school year. It's not too late to take the survey. If your family's input hasn't been received yet, the survey will be open through tomorrow. You can access the survey by clicking [here](#).

We have so much to be proud of at St. John the Baptist School. Besides our talented athletes, we also have many academic achievements to celebrate including Regional Science Fair and Catholic Math League Contest winners.

Nine of our eighth grade students qualified for and/or participated in the Regional Science Fair last week. Mr. Valenta, SJB's sponsor, and I are pleased to announce the results of last week's fair:

Bronze

Anthony Cabrera

Gavin Hamilton

Silver

Nick Sachse

Joey Spencer

Gold

Annia Blasi

Ben Borner

Claudia Cortez

Bridget Jakabcsin

Zachary Maslona

Of special note and commendation, Annia Blasi received the Best in Category Award for Behavior Science, the best of ninety projects in the category. Congratulations, Annia, on this very special honor! She will be receiving a Texas Instrument calculator to commemorate this achievement in Mass on Tuesday. Congratulations to all our Regional Science Fair contestants! Thank you for representing St. John the Baptist School so well. We are so proud of you! Students will be presented their medals and certificates at Mass on Tuesday. We also wish Annia Blasi and Zachary Maslona well as they move onto the State Science Fair. This year state competition is optional since it will be held at Southern University in Carbondale, Illinois on May 4.

Students in grades 5-7 recently took part in the Catholic Math League Competition through an in-class test. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performance in the contest:

Grade 5 – Test 3:

1st place – Gianna DiGiovanni

2nd place – Sophia Resendez

3rd place – Eliana Mains

Mia McCall

Nora Newell

Grade 6 – Test 3:

1st place - Christopher Momot

2nd place – Elizabeth Weitz

3rd place – Nathan Moesch

Grade 7 – Pre- Algebra Test 3:

1st place – Natalie Doyle

2nd place – Lily Gonzalez

3rd place – Mia Gravina

As we continue to comply with The School Safety Drill Act, we had our annual Law Enforcement Drill to satisfy the requirement to address a school shooting incident and ensure the awareness of the proper response during a lockdown. Lockdown procedures are important and would be used in response to an internal or external incident which could be a threat to the safety of staff and children. Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, such as a reported incident or disturbance in the local community; an intruder on the site; a major fire in the vicinity of the school; or the close proximity of a dangerous dog. Our procedure aims to minimize disruption to the learning environment while ensuring the safety of all students and staff. Today we had a lockdown drill and three officers from the Winfield Police Department were here to check that everyone was safe and secure. Prior to the drill, staff discussed the importance of this procedure. Children were reminded that the drill was just a practice and that there was no danger at any time.

As I shared last week, Miss Ludwik, Mrs. Redar, Mr. Valenta, and I went to the diocese’s Tech Fest last Thursday. We learned new ways to enhance instruction and/or support what we do. At our PLC meeting yesterday, we each shared new ways to integrate technology into learning. One example is Google Expedition. It is a tool that lets the user go on Virtual Reality trips or explore with Augmented Reality, (AR) similar to the technology used for Pokémon Go, and can be used in Social Studies and Science classes. The teacher acts as a “guide” to help students experience places such as the Coliseum or go down to the atomic level. For the older students, we have enough cardboard viewers for a class to use them and their phones. Younger students will use AR with iPads. We can’t wait to use these applications with our students.

Our preschool students had a very special experience last week. They were treated with a visit from two trained registered reading assistance dogs. One of our parents, Mrs. Knutson came with her mother and two Labrador Retrievers to read with their class. After reading and discussing May I Pet your Dog? and Ben the Therapy Dog, the children met the dogs in pairs. The focus was on dog safety and proved to be a wonderful experience for all involved.

Tomorrow our fifth through eighth grade students are going on a field trip to St. Peter's Church in Geneva to see Cross and Light, a musical and video experience of Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Our fifth grade class will also be joining other fifth grade students from the diocese at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus where they will find out more about the Mother Church of the Diocese of Joliet on Tuesday.

If you are able, you are welcome to join us for Stations of the Cross at 2:00 PM on Fridays during Lent in the Chapel. Last Friday, our 7th grade class beautifully led our Stations of the Cross with Nate DeWitt, Grace Humes, and Lisa Soppi, serving as cantors and the music director, Adrienne Rose, accompanying on the organ. Tomorrow 4th grade will be assisting and 8th grade will assist next Friday.

Two items to note for this weekend are the annual celebration of the St. Joseph's Day Table and the third grade Mass. It will be held in Sebahar Hall found in the church basement on Friday from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. You can still enjoy the delicious Knights of Columbus Fish Fry as they will be contributing to the St. Joseph's Table as well. It is sure to be a spectacular feast and a time with your parish family. Can't partake tomorrow, the Knights offer Fish Fry's on Fridays in Lent. Third grade students from the school and parish will be assisting with the 5:00 PM Saturday Mass. Please join me at Mass.

May God continue to bless you this week and on your Lenten journey,

Joanne