

January 17, 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy Thursday! I apologize for the length of this letter, but so much is taking place at SJB, I want to make sure I share the highlights with you. (Honestly, I could have added more!) Please see the attachments for complete information.

Have you heard about the terrific act of service our sixth graders performed during November and December? Their book drive collected 1,094 books to be used by children in Catholic Charities programs. The drive was student led and directed...they organized everything from announcements to sorting and counting the books. Last week, a representative from Catholic Charities came and the sixth grade learned about the mission of Catholic Charities and how they help in the community. Thank you to Mr. Valenta's sixth grade class, Mrs. Brennan, and your generosity for making this collection happen!

The faculty and I are thankful for the relationship we have with Aspire, which was established four years ago. Yesterday, during our professional development time our teachers learned about executive functioning. Quite simply put, executive functions are a set of processes (such as flexible thinking, planning, and organization) that have to do with managing one's skills and strategies in order to achieve a goal. Ultimately they help us self-regulate. Greg Ward was here and helped us learn about how to support the capacity in our students with executive functions and how to enable or strengthen acquisition. Aspire also offers workshops for students and for parents. We hope to bring the workshop to our seventh and eighth grade students as well as have a parent workshop. More information about these two possibilities will be shared when all the details have been worked out.

Thank you to third grade student, Henry Weitz, and his parents for representing St. John the Baptist School today at Breakfast with the Bishop this morning at University of St. Francis. We were asked to send a third grade boy to this annual diocesan event and Henry did so with SJB pride.

As a reminder, part two of the application process for the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship through Empower Illinois begins tomorrow, Friday, January 18. Directions to assist with the process can be found in the posting and our computer lab will be open throughout the day until 4:30 PM. If planning on attending, please use our main entrance, to gain access to the school. We were pleased to welcome two prospective families to our computer lab on Tuesday as they completed part one of the application. Please pray for donations to the program so that all those that applied and qualify for the scholarship are funded. We are excited about the possibilities of what the tax credit scholarship has to offer our school. I have heard that Tuesday night's reservation launch was a huge success! Over 30,000 students are in line for an Empower Illinois tax credit scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year.

Saturday is a special day for the second grade students in our school and parish as they will be making their First Reconciliation. Please say a prayer for them on Saturday at 10:00 AM as they receive God's grace and make this sacrament of God's mercy and forgiveness.

As we get closer to Catholic Schools Week, members of our school community will be speaking at local Catholic Churches which don't have parish schools. Thank you to our volunteers for speaking at Masses this weekend. At this time, we are in need of four more volunteers for Masses at St. John the Baptist next weekend. Your donation of time may have a great impact for SJB as parents are the best ambassadors. A speaking prompt will be provided to assist you. If you are available to speak at a Mass, please contact me at Jpolicht@stjohnwinfield.org or 630-668-2625, extension 617.

The annual Winter Carnival provided by the Parents Club is fast approaching and takes place next Saturday, January 26 in Sebahar Hall following the 5:00 PM Mass. Admission price is \$10 per family and covers the cost of food and games. To participate in the Cake Walk, an additional \$1.00 fee is charged. Please come and join the kick-off to Catholic Schools Week. On Sunday, January 27, The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a pancake breakfast in St. Cecilia Hall, from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. Come enjoy breakfast and visit the classrooms and see what the children have been learning and working on at school! Our Open House will take place from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. It is the perfect time to bring any friends who might be interested in attending our school. Student ambassadors will be available to provide tours.

The Gala committee has been hard at work. The 80s themed event will be held on Saturday, February 9 in our school gym. To register for the Gala, an event not to be missed as well as our biggest fundraiser of the year, please click on this link: [80's Gala Registration Page](#) . (I had to right click to open the hyperlink). The link should take you directly to the 80 Gala Registration and Sponsorship Page. You will also find the Item Donation Page and how Online Bidding Works on tabs at the top of the page.

Is your child interested in taking part in the Spring Musical, Mrs. Bucaro, Mrs. Garlic, and Mrs. Scala have been busy preparing for auditions and the play, The Little Mermaid. Please save the date Saturday, February 2nd for auditions. More information about auditions can be found in the attachments today.

In closing, I wish you a wonderful four day weekend. Please remember that we will not have school on Monday, January 21, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and on Tuesday, January 22, for a teacher institute. On Tuesday, our teachers will be engaged in learning about asthma from Dr. Cieslak at Northwestern Medicine, faith formation, and data digging & school improvement activities. If you are here and available on Saturday, come see our talented and undefeated 7th/8th grade girls' basketball team play against Sacred Heart in our gym at 1:00 PM.

Have a blessed week,

Mrs. Policht

