

**ST. JANE DE CHANTAL SCHOOL  
FEBRUARY 2012**

Dear Parent:

How can we best prepare today's young students to thrive in the future they will face? With new discoveries in areas such as medicine and technology being made all the time, today's children will be part of a world that we really can't imagine. We hear about the need for teaching children 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. What are they?

Children must become lifelong learners. They need to "learn how to learn." Since many of the jobs today's children will hold have not been developed yet, children must learn how to deal with uncertainty and change. The basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics will still be essential. Science will also play an important role. In addition, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking will be key. Since our children will grow up in a global economy, they will benefit from knowing other languages as well as being skilled in information, media, and technology skills. Finally, communication and collaboration skills will be critical in a world in which we work together to make a positive difference.

This appears to be a very long list; yet your children have the benefit of being part of a Catholic school. The strong school community—grounded in faith and the support of high expectations of parents, teachers, and the larger community—offers your children a foundation for facing the rapidly changing world around them. By sharing this belief in God's goodness and living out their faith every day, your children are blessed with a clear advantage in living and growing in our ever-changing world. Faith provides an anchor whose value can never be underestimated. It provides a compass and a touchstone that will serve your children well in the future.

May God continue to bless you and your family each day.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ann Andrasco

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**—The 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during a ceremony which is being held **Thursday, January 26**, at 7:00. Please keep these children in your prayers during this special time of preparation.

**LENT**—The Season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, with a Mass at 9:30. During which ashes are to be distributed. Age-appropriate Lenten classroom activities are being planned by the teachers. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class is also looking forward to their performance of the Living Stations Friday, March 30, at 1:00 and 6:30.

**FAMILY MASS**—The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class is being highlighted during the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, February 26. All families are encouraged to attend this Lenten Liturgy.

**PRE-SCHOOL**—Anyone who is interested in sending their 3 or 4 year old to the St. Jane Pre-School for the 2012-2013 School Year should contact the office during the month of February to state their intent. In order to be eligible for Pre-School, the child must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2012. A Full-Day Option is available for 3 & 4 year olds for the coming year. A Half-Day Option (8:00-11:00) is also available daily for both groups. More information will be given to interested parents. Registration forms are being sent to those who respond to the survey.

**PRE-SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**—Registration for prospective Pre-School or Kindergarten students is being held on **Tuesday, February 21, and Wednesday, February 22**, 9:00-11:00, in the school office. Registration packets are being sent home to those who responded to the November Survey. If you did not respond to the survey but wish to enroll your child in Pre-School or Kindergarten, please contact the office for registration information. Those children who presently are enrolled in the St. Jane Pre-School need not register as this was completed last year. However, another physical is necessary. Medical Forms are being sent home with current students later this year.

**UNIFORMS**—A few reminders concerning uniforms seem to be necessary. Boots are not to be worn in school. When they are worn to school, they must be taken off upon entering the classroom. An oxford style shoe or loafer are considered acceptable school shoes. Striped and patterned socks are also not part of the uniform code. Only solid colors please! Colored shirts should not be worn underneath the uniform blouses or shirts. Also the length of some of the older girls' skirts is of some concern. Please consult the handbook for further information.

**UNIFORM EXCHANGE**—Currently, the Uniform Exchange has a good supply of boys' pants and shirts, which are in good condition. So, if your boys have outgrown their pants or have perhaps gone through the knees, please consider utilizing the Uniform Exchange. There is also a good supply of jumpers. However, we are in need of skirts and vests. So if you have any which you are no longer wearing, please donate them to the Uniform Exchange. There is no charge as all of the items are donated by the school families. Please contact

Laurie Mackert at 586-6792 if you are interested in girls' items or Maria Flores at 585-9229 for boys' items for further information.

**GYM ATTIRE**—Proper gym attire includes gray sweatpants, sweatshirt, and T-shirt which bear the St. Jane insignia. **ONLY** these items are to be worn on Gym Days. Those who need to order gym uniforms at this time should write a note to the school office stating the sizes of the items you would like to order.

**SUPPLIES**—If anyone has misplaced his/her planner, there are a few available for \$3.00. New pencil cases are also available for \$3.00. As the second half of the school year begins, it is a good time to check on school supplies. Additional or replacement items may need to be purchased at this time.

**REMINDER**-- No classes are being held on **Friday, February 17**, as it is a Professional Development Day for the teachers and **Monday, February 20**, as it is a school holiday to celebrate President's Day. Have a great long weekend!

**MAGAZINE DRIVE**—Our annual magazine drive is being held during the month of February. A Magazine Drive Kick-Off is being held **Wednesday, February 8**. Packets containing information regarding subscriptions as well as prizes are being sent home **Wednesday, February 8**. Renew current subscriptions or order new ones at this time. Since 40% of the total order is the schools' profit, this amount can be put towards your family fund raising commitment.

**LOST AND FOUND BOX**—There are many items in the Lost and Found box, which is located in the Mail Room across from the office. If your children are missing gloves, sweatshirts, sweaters, etc., please check this box.

**LUNCH REMINDER**—Please check to make sure your child has a lunch everyday. More children seem to be coming to school without lunches. Possibly the hot lunch orders could be placed in a visible spot, so that you are reminded daily. No child goes hungry if a lunch is forgotten as there is always something on hand in the Lunchroom. Please help us by doing your part and checking your menus everyday.

**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**—Each year in May new School Board members are elected for a 3-year term. Please consider becoming a member of the School Board as there are going to be four vacancies. This is a wonderful way to become involved in your child's education.

**ILLINOIS EDUCATION TAX CREDIT**—Each family should have received a Receipt for Qualified Education Expenses on Wednesday, January 18. Tuition and book fees which were paid between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011 are included in this receipt. Other expenses such as uniforms, lunch, fund raising, and field trips do not qualify. See your Illinois tax form for further information.

**RECYCLING**—A word of thanks is extended to those who have participated in our paper recycling project. Only newspapers, magazines, and copy paper like mail are to be placed in these containers. No cardboard boxes are acceptable. We receive \$5 for each ton of paper received.

**MONTHLY TUITION RAFFLE**—January marked the fourth month of the tuition raffle, which is now being offered to St. Jane families. 28 families participated this month. 7 families purchased one ticket, 14 families purchased two tickets, 5 families purchased four tickets, 1 family purchased six tickets, and 1 family purchased eight tickets. This tuition raffle brought in \$300 this month. Joe Rodriguez (Gr. 8.) is January's winner. February's winner will be announced in next month's newsletter.

**SUPER BINGO**—The second Super Bingo of the season is fast approaching. It is to be held on Sunday, **February 12, 2012. Doors open at 1:00 and Bingo begins at 3:00.** Tickets are \$20 and are available at the rectory or school office. Your support is important to us as this is the major fund raiser which defrays the expenses of the Sports Program, which provides athletic activities for every age group.

**DONATIONS**—Thanks to the following families for remembering when they had extra paper or office supplies: Kent and Zebrowski Families. We are grateful for these donations as they help us to stretch our budget. So, if you or your company has paper or office supplies which they no longer need, please consider donating them to St. Jane.

**STORY HOUR**—We are looking forward to welcoming another group of 2 & 3 year olds for the 6-week Story Hour Program which begins Monday, January 30. This has become very popular with this age group and it is enjoyable to have them in the building in the building. Another session is also being offered in the spring. Please contact the school office at (773) 767-1130 for further information.