Dear SJRCS Parents,

As I am writing this, I know that everyone’s minds are on the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. As we indicated in the letter last week from SJRCS and the Department of Catholic Schools, we are following the guidelines that have been suggested by the Center for Disease Control that include: encouraging students to wash hands for at least 20 seconds; covering your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing; and if you are sick, stay home from school. We will also work with Frederick County health officials to help protect the whole school community if any other precautions need to be implemented.

You will also see some changes in our local parishes this weekend. Archbishop Lori has asked the clergy to suspend the sign of peace at Masses and to stop offering consecrated wine. Archbishop Lori also said that holy water fonts may be drained and remain empty at the discretion of each pastor.

Here are some resources that parents might find helpful when talking to your children about the virus. NBC News has a link on “How to talk to kids about the Coronavirus” [https://www.nbcnews.com/better/lifestyle/how-talk-your-kids-about-coronavirus-ease-their-fears-ncna1129851]. And NPR has a Comic that Explores the Coronavirus: [https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus]

On another note, there is an old saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But that does not seem to be holding true this year. We are already experiencing temperatures in the 50s and 60s. But morning temperatures are still a bit chilly, so students should remember to come to school wearing jackets or sweatshirts. This weather will be perfect for our sixth graders who will be going to North Bay Environmental Camp next week.

Congratulations to Ms. Geri Gramil, Grade 4 teacher, who recently welcomed a new grandson, Henrik Ford Strobel, who weighed in at 9 pounds!

Some of our staff members have recently lost loved ones. Mrs. Peggy Frazier whose dad was called by God. Mrs. Carol Keenan who recently lost her stepdad. Please keep them in your prayers.

Peace and all good things!
Mrs. Karen Smith

**Advocacy Day in Annapolis**

On Wednesday, March 4th, Mrs. Smith joined principals from across the Archdiocese of Baltimore and leaders from the Archdiocese of Washington and other non-public school leaders by attending the annual Advocacy Day in Annapolis. The purpose of this day is to bring to the forefront the need for the continued support from the Maryland legislature to support non-public schools. This support comes in the form of BOOST scholarships and annual textbook funding. SJRCS is very fortunate to receive about $30,000 each year to help purchase new textbooks. The state also provides funding for aging schools and security. So, it was very important to make sure that our voices were heard during this legislative session. Students in grades 5-8 wrote letters to our representatives asking that they continue to support our schools and pointed out the excellent education they are receiving at SJRCS; as well as, mentioning some of our innovative programs like the MakerSpace and our 1:1 computing initiative.

**Issue 12, March 6, 2020**

**MARCH**

9 StoryTime Tots, 8:30am
9-13 Gr. 6 North Bay
9-10 Vision & Hearing
13 Progress reports sent home
Stations of the Cross, K-3
14 STEM FAIR
17 WEAR GREEN!
19 Pay $1 to dress down to support the Garden Committee
20 BoxTop dress down
21 Garden Clean-up, 9am-2pm
Mother/Son Event
23-27 Standardized Testing, Gr. 2-8
27 NOON DISMISSAL

**APRIL**

3 Stations of the Cross, Gr. 4-8
6-15 NO SCHOOL, Easter Break
16 Summer Uniforms begin
24 Interims T3
BoxTop Dress Down
25 GALA!
29 H.S.A Meeting

**MAY**

1 10 am Mass & May Crowning
11 Story Time Tots
13 NJHS Dinner & Induction Ceremony
15 Volunteer Luncheon

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**DON'T MISS OUT!**

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK BY FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH

$28.00

THEY MUST BE PRE-ORDERED
School Spirit Store is always open for your purchases. Statewide Sale: 15% off any order of $85 or more.  
Code: MARCH20 Deal ends 3/31/20 11:59pm EST  
https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/maryland/frederick/st.-john-regional-catholic-school

Go Wildcats!  
Congratulations to ALL Basketball Players that have finished their VERY SUCCESSFUL season! SJRCS had 5 Wildcat teams that went into the final games in various grade levels this weekend. Although we didn’t bring home the championship, you all gave it your best and we are very proud of your positive sportsmanship! Thank you for playing with integrity! THANK YOU to all the parents, parent volunteers, team parent volunteers, parent coach volunteers, and sports committee, for making sacrifices in order to provide a sports program at SJRCS! See you next year on the court, and hopefully on the field for the upcoming Lacrosse season!

Invite your friends & family to a free performance featuring Mr. Jon & Friends, March 27, 2020. Doors open at 8:45a.m. All are welcome.

Mr. Jon & Friends makes music for kids and their families that inspire fun, laughter, and dancing. The music of Mr. Jon & Friends is sure to bring a smile to your face! Mr. Jon is a Parents’ Choice Award winner, and he now plays over 100 shows a year.

Then, join us for the Early Education Open House (pre-k-1st grade) at 10a.m. Take the opportunity to tour the school, visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, and see what St. John has to offer your child. If your guests like our school, enrolls, is accepted, and begins school, you will receive a $350 referral fee. Contact Kathy Kinsey for more information at: kkinsey@sjrscs.org or 301-662-6722.

Story Time Tots March 9th, from 8:30a.m. to 9:30a.m. at SJRCS. “Donut Dance” Story-Time will be complete with craft, STEM activity, and snack. Free to all, please bring a friend. RSVP to Sheila Evers 301-662-6722 or severs@sjrscs.org.

Spring has Sprung! “Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.” —Henry David Thoreau

REMINDER: Hearing and Vision Screening will take place 3/9/2020-3/10/2020 for all students in Pre-K 4, kindergarten (if not previously screened in Pre-K within the last year), 1st grade, 8th grade and any students new to the school. Maryland State Law mandates this screening. Parents/guardians who have an objection to this screening based on the tenets and/or practice of their church or religion must notify the school prior to the screening date. Please make sure if your child wears glasses or contacts that they have them on the screening days. If your student attends Pre-K and is not normally at school on the day of screening, and you would like to have them screened please bring them to the school on the day of the screening. All student that have been screened will have a notification letter sent home.

PLEASE DONATE: Mr. Dan Wagner traveled to Colombia in October 2019, to a remote area that has been severely impacted by the immigration crisis from Venezuela. He has been providing educational support such as books and uniforms to young students between 4-7 years old. These students attend school in some very primitive locations and some are unable to attend school without shoes. Teachers and parents make do with what limited means at their disposal but the resources simply do not exist. We are asking parents of SJRCS students, from Kindergarten to third grade, to find old but usable shoes to donate to the school children in Villadupar, Colombia. Please place these shoes in the boxes in the front hall on the following Fridays: 6 March, 13 March, and March 20. Mr. Wagner will pay all shipping expenses of the boxes he mails to Colombia. He will travel to Villadupar, Colombia between 25-29 March 2020 and will meet with the children and their teachers to validate the receipt and use of the shoes for the children.

CONGRATULATIONS! Ian Parsons (5A) has earned the Dr. Charles Townes Supernova Award. (This is actually his 2nd Supernova as he earned a different one two years ago). Ian was presented with the plaque and medal last Thursday, right before he bridged from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.
Gala and Auction

Auction Donation Request  The auction committee needs your help to secure **donations** for the upcoming gala. See the link below for ideas of auction items needed, and sign up to donate today at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-gala](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-gala)

The Auction Committee is collecting **wine & crown royal bottles** for decorating purposes. If you have any empty bottles, please turn them into the office.

**Roar into the 20’s Gala as a Great 4 Business Sponsor**

Every dollar raised directly impacts YOUR student at SJRCS by creating more opportunities, supporting the teachers, and adding enriched programs!

**Class Projects**- Don’t miss your chance to purchase these priceless class projects at the Gala this year!

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