

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

"We are a holy people working diligently to become more and more like Jesus each day." (From *Good News Ministries*)



Gratitude Corner

Development BBQ

THANK YOU to the 2nd grade Brownie Troop and 8th grade Troop #12254 for donating baked goods and working the dessert booth. They donated \$186.41 to Development. THANK YOU to the Boy Scouts for coming to sell beverages at the BBQ. A special THANK YOU to all the alumni, students, parents, and friends of St. Joseph who spent hours preparing, cooking, selling, and setting up for the Development BBQ. It was wonderful to see such a great turn out!

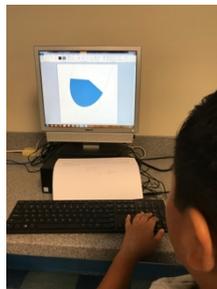
THANK YOU to Mr. & Mrs. Garcia for the fabulous new drinking fountain next to the Art Room. It has a water

bottle feature for students to refill their reusable bottles. It's just another way we are encouraging our students to be Responsible Citizens of God's Creation!

Thank you to our 8th grade families for putting on a beautiful faculty luncheon on October 6th.

Pictures Help Tell Our Story

I do believe a picture is worth more than a thousand words. For this newsletter, I wanted to share visual images of what one would witness at St. Joseph School. Visiting classrooms is always the highlight of my day. While I could spend all my time documenting the wonder and awe I encounter on the faces of children as they make sense of new information during classroom walkthroughs, I am grateful for the times I had technology readily available to capture some of these moments for you. What is not portrayed in the images are the countless questions and engaging conversations about current events, faith, history, mathematical practices, science inquiries, and literature that are shared amongst classmates and teachers daily. I hope you enjoy this visual journey as much as I do!



Here is a student learning 21st century skills in computer class. Some of what our students learn includes how to create PowerPoint presentations, format images, conduct research, publish written drafts, and basic coding! We also emphasize digital citizenship and how to use technology responsibly.

Have you ever wondered what owls eat? One way to find out is to dig through owl pellets and find the skeletal remains of animals they consume! That is exactly what our 4th grade students did for their last science inquiry.



Our students work collaboratively and independently to demonstrate what they learn. We believe in giving students varied strategies and opportunities to pursue questions and communicate their understandings of the lesson objectives set out by teachers and aligned to diocesan and state curriculum

Prayer Life

Do you have a few moments for prayer? I love resources that help me integrate varied moments for reflection and prayer throughout the day. One of my favorites is a 3-minute meditation from the *Loyola Press. A Jesuit Ministry* website. If you would like to try it, visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer>



Helping Hands

So many children and families are suffering from various natural disasters and hardships in their lives. Students at St. Joseph School look for opportunities to live out our SLEs by raising money for good causes. Last week we learned the school of a principal who served on our WCEA Accreditation Team last year suffered severe damages in the Northern California Fires. The Superintendent asked students to write letters and cards of hope to send to the students and families. We will also donate half of the proceeds from the Parent Pumpkin Contest to the Diocese of Santa Rosa to help their recovery efforts. Whether your family is giving to the Missions, or class service projects, conversations about the joy of giving and God's call to serve others are so important. Thank you for your continued generosity with all our efforts to serve others in local and distant communities around the world.

standards. Sometimes advanced objectives are pursued as students become ready for more, enabled and supported by the Accelerated Math and Reading programs. The Next Generation Science standards also emphasize the importance of understanding the inquiry model for learning rather than just a set body of knowledge prescribed by grade level content standards. A deeper understanding of how the *process of learning* works lays the foundation for future discovery and self-directed learning on any given topic across all academic areas.

Now that is the smile of a Life-long Learner and Effective Communicator after providing a "smart-sounding" math definition for a concept learned in class. Way to go!



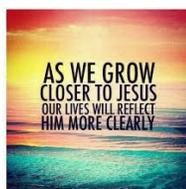
Communicating mathematical understanding through writing, picture models, and problem-solving are important skills as well!



The use of Chromebooks and Digital Learning Paths included in our curriculum places each student in the driver's seat of their learning. No longer can students rely solely on a text, teacher, or peer to get information. Rather we must be an institution that develops skills for future problem solvers, researchers, critical thinkers, and seekers of knowledge who will utilize various tools to design their own path for learning and advancement towards success.

What is truly amazing is how we accomplish all this in a Christ-centered environment, passing on the traditions of our Catholic faith and nurturing a sense of service, mercy, love, and respect in all our students.

During school Masses and when we pray the Rosary together, I often find myself giving thanks to God for the opportunity to work in a Catholic School because it allows me to share prayer with others during the work day, something I missed while working in public schools. Other times when I find myself walking around with a large box or stack of books, it is often a student that offers to lend a helping hand. This is the perfect place to return to the quote at the start of this newsletter, "We are a holy people working diligently to become more like Jesus each day." Yes, we are! And the best part of doing it together is when we fall, we are there to lift one another up and keep moving closer to Jesus one step at a time.



Many blessings,
Mrs. Alamo-Ng

Safety Drills

Each month, we run through fire, earthquake, or lock-down drills to practice how to respond during emergency situations. This month we registered for the ShakeOut Earthquake drill for 10/19 but postponed it to 10/24 due to the use of the field for the parish festival. We will practice basic Drop, Cover, and Hold positions, review what to do if we are outdoors during an earthquake, and practice how emergency response teams will respond if we remain outside for a prolonged period of time. We encourage families to practice similar drills in their home. You may go to shakeout.org for more information.

We appreciate all the parents who continue to follow safety guidelines, from the drop-off routines in the morning to signing in at the office EVERY time you visit the campus. Your cooperation is a great model for students.

PTG Fundraising

Do you love reading? How about Yankee Candles? If you do, there is a fundraiser for you! There are some great ways to help pay down your obligation, get some of your Christmas shopping done early and all from your smartphone. Look for information in school emails and your child's folder. Or ask one of our fabulous PTG parents today!



Upcoming Events...

Our annual Senior Citizens' Thanksgiving Dinner will take place on **Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 12:00pm** in the Parish Hall. The 7th graders coordinate donations and serve the meal with the help of their families. This St. Joseph tradition is modeled after the beautiful example Nano Nagle gave us when she prepared a holiday meal for the poor and elderly in her community over 300 years ago.



We invite all the Veterans who are part of our school community to join us for Mass on **Friday, November 10th at 8:30am**. The Boy Scouts will lead a flag raising ceremony immediately after Mass outside our school office.

**Please read school reminders sent via email and text for information regarding all upcoming school events, fundraisers, and deadlines.*

St. Joseph Parish Events

The St. Joseph Parish is honoring all the Presentation Sisters who have served the community since 1955 on **Saturday, November 4th**. Please join us for Mass at **5:00pm**. Fr. Tim will bless the Nano Nagle school mural after Mass and a dinner reception will be held in the parish hall immediately following with a special dedication. 24 Presentation Sisters who have served our parish will be in attendance. Come celebrate with all of us and see familiar faces from the past and present!



St. Joseph Church Family Pumpkin Bash Costume Party will be **Saturday, October 28th at 6:00pm** in the Parish Hall.

The St. Joseph Church Christmas Boutique is **Saturday, November 12th from 8:00am-3:00pm**.



Got Robotics?

We are still in need of a coach for the Damien Robotics Competition. If you are interested, please let us know. Our students look forward to this opportunity, but we need a coach to help prepare them.

Don't forget to check our website for current events and updated school information at www.stjosephupland.org. Photos from our after-school clubs have been uploaded.