

The Royal Reporter

January 2011

Volume I, Issue I

A Note From The Principal *Mrs. Janet Dolan*

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Royal Notes

Wednesday, January 26

School Board Meeting
7:00 pm Library

Friday, January 28

Kids' Game Night from
7:00 - 9:00 pm Cafeteria

January 30 - February 4

Catholic Schools Week

February 1

Open House Prospective Families
9:00 - 11:00 am

February 4

Parent Visitation 9:00 - 11:00am

February 5

First Reconciliation 1:00 & 3:00 pm

February 8

8th Grade Parent Meeting 7:00 pm
Cafeteria

The first stroke of the pen of paper, the touch of paint to canvas, the opening of a door, the extension of a hand, all hold a certain amount of excitement, anticipation, surprise, wonder, promise, and trepidation. The beginning of a new year takes a certain leap of faith as well. It is an opportunity for reflection on many things. As I get older, I think about time.

When I was little, I couldn't wait until the sixth month after my birthday so I could add the halfway mark to my age. I was always so anxious for one stage to be over and the next to begin. My mother would admonish me for wishing my life away. But, how happy I was to be nine or ten and a half! I felt I was getting somewhere. Not so anymore. My mother was right.

Age teaches us to be wiser. I know I'm getting somewhere now. I'm just not in such a rush!

We live in an area of the country where nature keeps us cognizant of time as it moves us through the seasons. For some, time is mounted in tradition steeped or treasure accumulated. For others, time is measured in change and transformation—whether intentional, deliberate, natural, or accidental. Time can be slowed down by the wonders of chemistry and science, but it can not be stopped. Youth extols there is all the time in the world. Age mourns the passing of it.

There are countless rewards for those of us who chose education as a life's career. Counted among them is the awareness of time. Watching the continuous awe of children in discovery, witnessing them growing from stage to stage, watching them develop from little children to young adults, certainly reminds us that time moves on as we prepare our students to take their places in society.

But on the other hand, these very same experiences let time stand still. Educators enjoy the sweet innocence of early childhood and revel in the joy of seeing students reach their goals and potentials knowing they may just have had a part in that achievement. Time moves us forward in our journey. Loving every minute of it where you are and what you're doing is priceless.

One of the subtle themes that runs through the instructional days at St. James School is the appreciation of the time we have been given and how well we use it. What we do, why we do it, and how we well we use it transcends across Religion lessons, to literary and historical character analysis, to scientific experiments and mathematical problems. The most important instruction of all, however, is learning how to take time, to have time, to spend time with who and on what are truly the most meaningful in our lives.

Thanks for Freezin' for a Reason *by Jerry Doherty*

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the **polar plunge**. It was an amazingly cold day and although I was told the water this year was warmer than last year, it didn't feel like it. This year's event was highlighted by the participation and support of the Bishop. More than 400 people went in the water, raising over \$100k for participating schools.

This event is becoming a significant fundraiser for SJS. We topped last year's total and raised over \$12k. Over the last three years we have raised more than \$30k for the school.

Shortly, I will have the list of students who earned dress down passes and the two classes that won the pizza party.

Also, I would like to put to-

gether a book of memories for the school and would appreciate any pictures, videos or stories from the day. Please email them to me: jdoherty40@comcast.net

Below is a link to view this year's polar plunge:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLA7WHb6P9Y&hd=1>

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PTA News *Mary Jane Manners and Denise Burke Co-Presidents*

“To all our volunteers: thank you so much for all your time and effort. We appreciate and value your generosity.”

What a busy few months we have had! In November, St. James had several professionals from Middle States observing our teachers and students. Mrs. Dolan spent many months of planning and preparation, and it paid off! St. James passed the evaluation with flying colors and the PTA would like to congratulate Mrs. Dolan, all the teachers and our students. Great job to all!

December is always a busy month starting with **Breakfast with Santa** on December 4 followed by **Grandparents Tea** on December 5. The cafeteria looked beautiful for both events and most importantly the children, parents and

grandparents enjoyed their time spent at St. James that weekend.

The kids were also able to do some Christmas shopping at the **Secret Santa Shop**. The store was very busy on both days! Great job to Tina Catapano for organizing the shopping event. Adrienne Lammanno, Yvonne Ciccone, Kim Cottell and Jackie Mazzucco did a great job planning and executing a fun-filled weekend.

Sandy Thuel and Elaine Gumas took **Care Steps** over to Asbury Towers to sing Christmas Carols to the seniors. It is always a grand program! Care Steps also sponsored the

Pajama Program— new pajamas and books were donated and delivered to a chapter of Poricy Park.

The **Book Fair** also ran during the first week on the month. Rita Apostolides was diligent about keeping the shelves stocked with the most popular books.

To all our volunteers: thank you so much for all your time and effort. We appreciate and value your generosity.

January is turning out to be an exciting and busy month, please look on the website for information about the **Skating Party** and **Royals Game Night!**

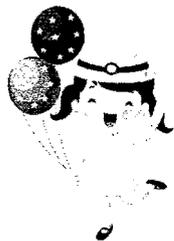
Saint James Kindergarten Social & Grandparents' Tea

The annual **Kindergarten Social** took place on Saturday, January 8, 2011. It was a fun-filled morning including games, crafts, socializing, and yummy treats. This was great opportunity to meet the parents and children from all the kindergarten classes.

Grandparents Tea—Who says Grandparent's Day has to be in September? At St James the first Sunday of December is the annual Grandparent's Tea. If you do not have a grandparent that is available no worries just bring a significant elderly aunt, uncle or

a family friend. This is a chance to show someone other than your parent's your school. Over 200 plus attended the second half of the St James holiday weekend activities. With holiday music piping through the speakers and a scrumptious buffet spread to feed the attendees a great time was had by all. We had foam picture frames to make so that special photo taken at the tea could be saved and shared for future memories to come. With the help of our student volunteers, ornaments were decorated and a letter to Santa was writ-

ten. For the adventurous elder a hike up the stairs to the classroom and book fair could be explored. Those folks that wanted to stay on one level could browse the Santa shop. Our many thanks go out to the student and adult volunteers that made this event possible. Also, thanks to the SJ bakers and local retailers for supplying the endless culinary choices. The leftovers were given to the nuns, teacher's lounge as well as to Lunch Break.



Hey Mom, Take Me Out To the Ball Game!

Save the date: Sunday April 10th, 2011 For: St. James Mother & Son Outing

Another fun filled day planned for all you moms and sons at the ballpark to see a Lakewood Blueclaws baseball game and have a BBQ picnic!

The festivities will start at noon on our private BBQ picnic seating area located at third base. Great food, great game, great seats and most of

all great memories to share. Information will be sent home in January.

Development News

The Development Committee would like to thank all St. James families for their generosity this school year. Whether you supported the Tuition Raffle, the Park Lane Jewelry Sales event, the Stocking Stuffers, a current PTA Fundraiser or donated your time and energies, we just can't do this without your help and support. It's been a year of many new events and programs. We thank you for allowing us to try different ideas and providing us with your valuable feedback. We hope we find one or two programs that our families enjoy and support that also bring value. We always welcome your thoughts and feedback. Here's what's still to come for the remainder of our 2010/2011 School Year:

Progressive Raffle—Kicking off soon and running through mid-March, the Progressive Raffle offers ticket buyers a chance to win cash. St. James keeps 50% of the overall cash raised, and the other 50% is split among four winners. Each family receives 2 books (20 tickets) in hopes they'll be able to sell them to other friends and families. Sales incentives including prizes (*iPods, Wii and digital cameras are some of our previous prizes*) as well as dress down passes are available to all who participate. Watch the WIN folder during Catholic Schools Week.

Box Tops for Education—Collection contests are still going strong. For our World Series Contest held for the Kindergarten through 4th Grade students, the students in Mrs. Burke 3A & Ms. Mondello, KA won a Munchkin Party. The raffle winner was Riley O'Connor in 4B. She won a

\$5 gift card to Ricky's and some candy. Our next dress down contest is now in progress, and the classroom with the most collections during this time period will win a class dress down. The students in Ms. Rhodes, 3B are in the lead to win the end-of-year Pizza Party.

For complete details on the Box Tops for Education program and all the other items we collect, please visit the Support our School section of the website or contact Tina Catapano (atcatapano@verizon.net).

Easter Basket Stuffers—Always a favorite of the students, Development will again offer for \$10 a Dress Down Pass, Sneaker or Ugg Pass & a Nail polish or Sweat-shirt pass. Watch the WIN folder in advance of Easter.

Shopping Partners for Mother's Day, First Holy Communion & Barnes & Noble Day—A guide of retailers who partner with St. James and return a percentage of sales back to our school will be distributed during upcoming high-volume shopping times. Plus Barnes & Noble Day is set for June 16, 2011.

Congratulations to our Tuition Raffle Winners the Mucerino Family. The winner will receive a tuition payment of \$4,800 payable directly to the educational institution of their choice.

We thank everyone for all their wonderful feedback during our first year of offering this raffle. Everyone's excellent comments and suggestions will help us to improve this in future years.



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Donations to the Art Program in Memory of Joyce Befarah

Donations totaling \$265.00 have been received from family members and friends in memory of Joyce Befarah, the mother of Pamela Befarah Vocaturo and grandmother of Josef Vocaturo in 7-B.

Mrs. Vocaturo has requested that the monies be used for the art program. We are very grateful for these donations and have purchased the supplies for the after school Art Club.

Mrs. Vocaturo has written the following loving words about her mother.

“My Mom was a very loving, kind and spiritual person, and although she is now in heaven, whenever I think of her, I can feel her love.

“ My mother, Joyce Befarah, was a portrait painter, but she enjoyed every aspect of the art world. My mother was almost

40 years old when she and her sister sat down to try and sketch something, and this is when art became my mother’s passion. It was a gift that was given to her and it brought her immense joy.

“My mother was a big part of my children’s lives. Although they were not walking yet, they were painting. I would come home from work and there would be little pictures all over. I would look and see scribbles, she saw beauty.

She would point out to me the different colors they preferred, and how they held the brush. As a parent sometimes when you children want to paint, or do crafts, we can only think of the big mess, so we try to find something else for them to do. For Mom it was not work, it was pure joy.

“She owned and worked as an

artist in Befarah Gallery in Asbury Park and then in Ocean Grove for many years. She gave private classes and also taught art at the Neptune Senior Center.

“When my mother passed away in January, I thought that it would be nice in lieu of flowers to give the money to a child who may also love the arts. I am grateful to have had her in my life, but I am more grateful my children will carry the same love with them for the rest of their lives.

“As a parent sometimes when your children want to paint, or do crafts, we can only think of the big mess, so we try to find something else for them to do. For Mom it was not work, it was pure joy. “

My Thoughts *by Ann Mazza*

Advent Wreaths were a beautiful success. Twenty St. James families took advantage of our opportunity to offer advent candles and/or Angel display wreath, but most importantly heard the call to pray together this Christmas Season.

The Good Shepard Christian Bookstore offered them to St James at a discounted rate of almost half of retail price. We are so happy that we can continue

this service to St. James families and hope that the prayers helped to develop strength and grace to prepare for Jesus’ coming on Christmas and in the New Year.

Please save the date for the Women’s Retreat which will take place on the shore of the Stella Maris Retreat House, on Saturday March 26th, 2011. It will be a wonderful way to jour-

ney within the Lenten season and take some time to mature your soul. We are looking for any mother’s of St James students that would like to volunteer for planning the liturgy, reading, music and program services. Please contact Ann Mazza at: anno719@verizon.net or 732-673-4353.

Have Happy Healthy New Year!
