

The Royal Reporter

June 2011

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A Farewell Note From The Principal Mrs. Janet Dolan

It has been my pleasure to have served the school community of St. James School for so long—twenty-two years— that's a long time. My youngest child was six when I entered Room 11 as a third grade teacher. Now he is 28 and engaged to be married!

Where did the time go? As I've been weighing the very difficult decision of leaving St. James, my thoughts keep returning to one theme: *Time*.

During my tenure here, my children received their sacraments, graduated from grammar school, high school and college. They launched their careers, three were married.

We buried my parents the same year our grandchildren were born. As I look back now, too

many times I tucked my family in between the folds of school life. For that, I will always be sorry. They never complained—they just somehow understood. I will be forever grateful to them and for them.

I am grateful to the families at St. James for allowing me into your lives and affording me the opportunity to spend so much time with your children. My hope has always been that student don't just *go through* St. James School but that St. James School *goes through* them—and that they are better people for it.

I am grateful to Monsignor Lowery for allowing me to explore my creativity in so many ways and for so many years. I have worked with wonderful teachers

who have inspired me and supported me for more than two decades.

And now it's time for a new beginning. I do not consider myself retiring, simply redirecting my energies to new areas. And who knows what wonderful things the next decades will bring?

One thing is for certain: the experiences I have had here, the folks I have met, the children I have come to love over the many years at St. James will always be in my heart.

Thank you all for your presence in my life. I am fortunate to have been so blessed.

God Bless,

Janet Dolan

Royal Notes

Friday June 10

Kindergarten Frolics

Graduation

Monday June 13

Fun Day

Wednesday June 15

PTA Luncheon

Friday June 17

Last Day of School

ST. James Seventh Grade Brings Easter Joy to the Troops

Each year the seventh grade holds an Easter Egg hunt for their Kindergarten "buddies."

The seventh graders collect candy and eggs and then hide them for an egg hunt in the afternoon. This always provides great fun for both grade levels. Many times there is extra candy left over after the eggs are prepared. Although eating "the extras" sounds like a great idea,

the seventh graders instead wrap up bags of candy in Easter decorations and send them to our troops fighting in Afghanistan.

This year we received a wonderful thank-you letter from a Colonel in the USMC (whose name we cannot mention.) The Colonel explained, "I was able to walk around with my Sergeant Major and hand out bags to the young Marines, sailors, sol-

diers and airmen. You would not believe the smiles on their faces both young and old."

This is a small token of gratitude on behalf of our seventh graders toward our military serving far away from home. Yet it is a large lesson in appreciation of the risk our military personnel are taking to help us live in peace and freedom.

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

"We would like to thank our principal Mrs. Janet Dolan for her 22 years of dedicated service to our school. We wish her the best of luck and may God continue to bless her in all she does!"

We started the New Year celebrating Catholic Schools Week (Jan 30—February 4) to show our appreciation for our Catholic School educators and staff alike. We had a teacher appreciation day lunch at the end of the work week to let them know how much we appreciate their dedication. We hosted an open house for prospective families and our current St. James families so they could observe a typical day in the Catholic School environment they chose for their children.

Highlights since our last report include some of the children's favorites such as Crazy Dress Down Day, Royals Family Game Night, ice skating party, after school clubs, Spring Book Fair, Father Daughter Dinner Dance, Mother and Son outing, an off-site Mothers Retreat, Step Up for St. James Fundraiser. We celebrated Awards Night (May 24) where our students were recognized for various accomplishments for the school year. Dr. Henry G. Cram, President of

Middle States was in attendance to present the certificate to Mrs. Dolan.

But we're not done yet! We are looking forward to Fun Day June 13. Formally known as Field Day, which has the Amazing Race theme this year.

We are also looking forward to our end of the year staff appreciation luncheon hosted by the PTA, and our farewell dinner dance for our graduating eighth grade class June 10.

We would like to thank the following chairs and their volunteers for all their hard work:

- Our Royals Dads for organizing the Polar Plunge and Games Night, both of which where a huge success again this year
- Lisa Swabsin for the skating party at the Red Bank Armory,
- Shannon Craney for heading up the baking committee,
- Kate Niesz for overseeing Children's Programs,
- Rita Apostilides for her efforts with the Book Fair,
- Liz Rodgers, Meegan Perri and Lindsay Horowitz for organizing and overseeing After School Clubs,
- Kirsten Rennard for her hospitality, Kathleen Robinson and Eileen Toomey for the Father Daughter Broadway Dinner Dance,
- Ann Mazza for handling the offsite Mothers Retreat at Stella Maris Retreat House,
- Carolyn Polo and Lena Zazza for "stepping up" and handling our Step of for St. James fundraiser and
- Christine Hanlon for taking on Fun Day (Field Day).

At this time, we would like to thank our principal Mrs. Janet Dolan for her 22 years of dedicated service to our school. We wish her the best of luck and may God continue to bless her in all she does!



St. James Girl Scouts Help Those in Need

We are proud of our 3rd grade Girl Scout Brownies "Giving Back to Our Community and Those in Need" this school year.

The girls generously donated supplies to our American Troops overseas, pajamas and holiday

dinner baskets to the needy, Girl Scout Cookies to both Lunch Break and the US Soldiers overseas, pantry items to local food banks and money to "Japan Relief." On May 1st some donated their time to Red Bank's "Paint

the town Pink" at Riverview Hospital and this week our troop planted flowers outside Red Bank's Public Library. Congratulations to Troop #1653 as they prepare to bridge from Brownies to Juniors.

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8th Grade Events...The Road to High School

The Class of 2011 has been busy enjoying their last few months at St. James.

The **pin ceremony kicked off the graduation season on March 2.** All students participated in the service and the event was followed by a dessert reception in the cafeteria.

Class of 2011 Day followed on April 14th and the students, decked out in their class t-shirts,

were treated to a special snack and lunch.

The class also participated in a **meditative retreat at St. Catherine's Church in Holmdel on May 10th** where activities included writing a letter to themselves to be opened at a later date.

The Science Scavenger Hunt at Sandy Hook took place on May 23rd and the **Great Ad-**

venture trip, has been rescheduled to June 6th.

The trip begins the busy week of graduation activities and is followed by the **Dinner Dance on June 8th, the Graduation Breakfast on June 9th** and culminates with **Graduation on June 10th.**

We wish our graduates much success as they move to high school. They will be missed.

Family Referral Program Pays Off

The highest compliment St. James parents can pay our school is to encourage friends and loved ones to become part of our school family.

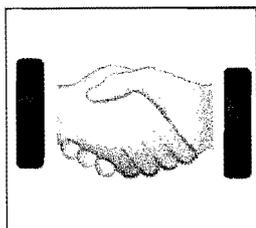
And to show our thanks, the St. James Parent Referral Program pays you back—a little. When a family you have referred to us

successfully enrolls a child in our school, you will receive a \$250 credit to your child's tuition. Please make sure that the enrolling family submits your name as the reference when they apply to the school.

We value our partnership with you and hope many families will

participate in this effort.

While on the beaches, on the fields, at the playgrounds and summer barbecues, spread the good news of St. James School to those you know, so their children, too, will have the chance to become individuals of *faith, honor and excellence!*



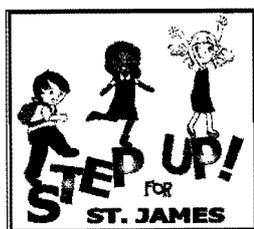
Step Up For St. James Annual Walkathon

The "Step Up" For St. James Annual Walkathon was a great Success!!! The event was held on May 4th in the gymnasium.

The students walked as music was played by Jersey Girl's

D.J.'s. It was a great day, with fantastic posters made by our students on display. It's a day meant to show our school spirit, and is greatly enjoyed by our St. James students and faculty alike.

Thank you to all of our students, families, and sponsors for making Step Up For St. James such a great event. More than \$7500.00 was raised in pledges, and fabulous prizes were donated by our favorite sponsors.



Kindergarten and Preschool Places Still Available

A few spaces are still available in Saint James's highly regarded preschool program and kindergarten class.

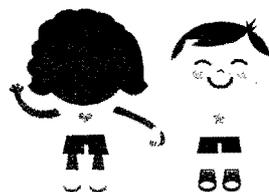
***NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**
For the 2011–2012 school year, in our 4 year old preschool class we are also offering in addition to our 3 day class, a 5 day program Monday thru Friday.

Early education programs have long been regarded as an important step in preparing children for primary school. St. James School offers a wonderful and nurturing preschool and kindergarten program that provides children with the knowledge and skills needed to be academically successful within a nurturing,

faith-based environment.

We also offer an after school care program in a child-centered, safe, and happy atmosphere staffed by our own experienced teachers.

More information about our superb programs is available on our website.



Graduation News



As graduation bells ring we have to say good bye to another eighth grade.

This year 50 of our graduates head to Catholic high schools, eight to public schools, three to the county career academies, with one yet to be decided.

Not only are 62 of our students

leaving, for some families this was their final year at St. James School. So, we send our good wishes and gratitude for years of support to the following families: Acampora, Aldarelli, Balacco, Barile, Barney, Bender, Boetius, Bouchard, Brinson, Brown, Byrd, Casola, Coyle, Doobay, Doyle, Duggan,

Gallo, Gimotea, Guarillioi, Hennessey, Indelicato, Knoerdel, Mancini, Mancuso, Mayer, McDermott, McKenna, McLearn, Montano, Mucerino, Natunen, O'Neill, Pace, Rosario, Sedlak, Smith, Sullivan Thomas, Vera, Wade. It's been great!!

Development News

Past, Present & Future *By Paula Pangilinan, Chair, Development Committee*

It is with great pleasure I announce Sandy Abadir and Lynn Doherty will take the reigns of Development effective immediately. Sandy and Lynn have been extremely active in Development since their children first started at St. James in September 2007. They've always stepped up and volunteered, took on any task and learned every aspect of every program.

I will be there to assist Lynn and Sandy whenever they ask, but I have a sneaking suspicion they are already so far ahead of the game, that I'll be learning from them. I hope all will support them and learn about Development as they reach out in the coming months.

Progressive Raffle A Great Success

Thanks to the combined efforts of Sandy Abadir and Lynn Doherty, the Progressive Raffle was another great success for St. James Fundraising. We thank every family who sold and purchased tickets—these are the people who truly make this event successful every year.

Congratulations to our winners: The Castellano Family \$4,599.25; The McNamara Family \$2,299.63; The Gleason Family (friends of an SJS Family) \$\$1,379.78 and The Moore Family \$919.85.

Our school raised \$9,198.50 (after expenses). Monies earned from

this important fundraiser are used toward capital improvements and school programs.

Box Tops & Other Collection Programs

Thank you to every SJS Family who has taken the time to cut out their Box Tops, collect used toner cartridges, clip their Campbell and Tyson labels, recycle their old cell phones and register for our new online program to sell old electronics. These seemingly small efforts really add up and make a significant contribution to Development's Fundraising efforts.

Thanks to Tina Catapano for running this incredible program.

Easter Basket Stuffers A Big Hit

The Easter Basket Stuffers were again a huge hit for all. For \$10 per student, families were able to purchase a Dress Down pass, Sneaker or Ugg pass and a Sweat-shirt or Nail Polish pass. The kids love to receive these small incentives.

Thank you to Marianne Hennesey for running this and the Christmas Stocking Stuffer for the past several years. We will miss her next year as she *graduates* from St. James Elementary School.

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After School Clubs Were a Big Hit—Again!

“The After School Clubs foster creativity, problem-solving and the opportunity to use their fine-motor skills to create and build on an idea—quite a departure from the passive screen time that so often occupies our kids’ these days.”

After School Clubs were a big hit once again. Student participation and the number of clubs being offered, increased significantly this year.

More than 200 students took part in eight clubs, which ran from March 22nd through April 14th. Students could chose Lego, Ceramics, Yoga, Friendship Bracelets, Puzzles, Video Shooting & Editing, and American Red Cross Babysitting.

The Lego Club was again the favorite with nearly 100 children from K- 5th grade participating. (That’s 400 Lego kits!)

Kids in the After School Clubs spend quality time with their peers in a fun, relaxed, collaborative environment. The clubs foster creativity, problem-solving and the opportunity to use their fine-motor skills to create and build on an idea—quite a departure from the passive screen time that so often

occupies our kids’ these days.

And it’s a special treat for the students in the primary grades—the clubs allow them to participate in school-related activities, which they normally wouldn’t be able to do until middle school when they become eligible to join the school’s sports teams.

While most of the clubs cater to the primary students, two of our most popular clubs provide enrichment to middle school students: The American Red Cross Babysitting Club and the Video Shooting & Editing Club.

New this year, the Video Club was run by Ernabel Demillo, a St. James parent who teaches at St. Peters College on this topic. Enrollment closed on the first day due to the overwhelming response by students!

Mrs. Lehman kindly volunteered to the American Red Cross Babysitting club again. This popular

club always fills up early with our 6th and 7th grade girls. Each participant received their American Red Cross certification after 10 hours instruction on baby care, first aid and CPR.

The After School Clubs were such an enjoyable experience thanks to the time and energy of more than 25 parents. Special thanks in particular go to Tina Catapano and Beth Caruso who have always gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the clubs run smoothly.

Helping run a club is a great way to get involved in our school’s community, meet other parents, earn PFE points, spend time with your kids and get to know your children’s classmates. More volunteers and club ideas are always welcome, so join the fun! Parents interested in volunteering for next year’s clubs should contact Liz Rogers at erogers14@optonline.net

My Thoughts by Ann Mazza

“We had laughter and some tears during discussions centered on putting all the fragments of our lives together.”

The Mother’s Retreat was held Saturday March 26th at the beautiful Stella Maris Retreat House oceanfront. It was a day of quiet reflection, thought-filled discussion, and the loving support of 18 St. James moms for one another.

We began with Mass on the ocean, celebrated by Father Daison with the musicianship of Sandy Thuel. We offered the Liturgy in honor of Rose and her family. Christian Buckman and Deb Tambouri read the Gospel.

The theme was unconditional love and forgiveness.

After a delicious breakfast, we had group activities led by Sister Marge. The ladies got to know one another and learned how much we had in common.

We had laughter and some tears during discussions centered on putting all the fragments of our lives together. Sister Marge highlighted three Gospel readings where disciples were fragmented and Jesus made them whole

again through His words and the Holy Spirit. We walked the beach, had lunch, and made mosaic crosses—a fun and beautiful Lenten keepsake.

Father Daison was available for Confession all day and we could take advantage of the Sacrament while enjoying the peace.

I hope more mothers will join us next time—it’s a great opportunity to come together so that we may all realize that we are one in Christ.

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Mother & Son Outing 2011 *Co-Chairs Denise Burke and Mary Jane Manners*

This year's St. James Mother and Son Outing took place at the Lakewood Blue Claws Stadium Sunday April 10th. We had 113 in attendance to enjoy a fun game and a delicious all-you-can-eat BBQ, in our private 3rd base pic-

nic area. The kids had a fun time in the Play Zone running around and doing the bounce challenges. It was exciting for the boys to see the players up close and get a chance to talk with them and get their autographs.

We lucked out too—a double header game! It's always a special time for moms and their boys to share. We look forward to creating more fun memories next year!



Father/Daughter Dance *Eileen Toomey and Kathleen Robinson Co-chairs*

It was storming the day of the father/daughter dance this year, but the rain subsided just long enough to allow the girls to enter the building with dresses and hair intact. Everyone looked beautiful and arrived relatively dry!

The dance was held at McLoone's Pier House again this year on March 6th. Broadway was the theme and each girl was a star! Over 270 girls and escorts attended and a good time was had by all.

VJ Bob brought his video supplies and the girls had a blast

watching their moves on the screen in real time! Plus, he made sure to play all the songs the girls requested in advance of the dance. Mike from the Image Shot as usual was our photographer. As always, the food was great, and the view, even in the rain, couldn't be beat.

Eighth grader Hannah Mayer read the opening poem and her father, Dave, led in an opening prayer. The eighth grade girls also assisted in pulling the raffle tickets. We had many great baskets: Broadway tickets, photo basket, the American Girl doll of the year, a colorful nail basket,

and a yearly favorite, the Red Bank gift card basket. With so many to choose from, the ticket sales were brisk.

Thank you to Mrs. Dolan and the administration for allowing us to host this event, and to the Royals who support us. We also want to extend our gratitude to all who donated prizes and gift certificates. As always, thank you to all our great volunteers who helped make this day so special. But we especially want to thank all the girls and their escorts who together make the St. James community so strong!

Festival Disney

On May 5th two members of the St James School Band traveled with Fundamental Music Instruction (an organization dedicated to providing music education in local schools, both public and private), to compete at Fes-

tival Disney. More than 50 students from schools around the state participated in this ensemble. Our band achieved the highest score for grammar schools and tied for sixth place in the overall competition of more than

20 bands from grammar to high school. Participating students from St. James were Sarah Hough and Brendon Bennett - Congratulations!

