

The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

Bennington, Vermont

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF INFORMATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.



THANK YOU

A special note of gratitude to our local Knights of Columbus—Council 307 for their very generous gift to the school in the amount of \$50,000. This will be used toward the replacement of the school's boiler.



This Issue

Staying Safe	P. 1
Calendar Notes	P. 2
Fundraising	P. 2
Halloween	P. 2
From the Principal	P. 3

Safety Protocols Working

Thank you for all your patience as we continue following all the necessary protocols for keeping our school community safe. We totally understand that some of these changes have not been easy, but things have been going considerably well and we definitely seem to be falling into a nice routine.

The students have been doing great with their masks, however social distancing still seems to be somewhat of a challenge despite continual reminders.

Drop off and pick up have definitely improved. You have been amazing and we must say, it's nice to be able to greet you on a daily basis. Let's hope the weather continues to cooperate for as long as it can.

The school has been informed of a sizable allocation of funds through the ESSER funds of the federal funded CARES Act. We have submitted an order for a number of items that will continue to provide for a safe and healthy environment. Classroom air purifiers are on the

list as these will be needed once we cannot open windows due to the colder temperatures. We have also requested additional cleaning supplies and equipment.

Please check with your older children to see how their hand sanitizer is holding up and if their bottles need to be replenished. They have been keeping them on their desks using them as needed.

We also continue to receive updates weekly from the Department of Health and the Agency of Education. We will notify you if there any significant changes that would have an effect on our school community.

Continue to monitor the health of your children. If they are not feeling well, by all means, keep them at home. We want to avoid any unnecessary germs whenever possible.

This situation looks like it will the new normal for a while longer. Please bear with us as we all try to make the best of the situation.



CALENDAR NOTES FOR OCTOBER



PRAYER FOR CREATION

God our Father, you created the world and sent your own Son to live among us, breathing the same air, marveling at sunrise and sunset just as we do. Help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life, as you living in us and we living in you and in each other. God of love and life, restore us to your peace, renew us through your power and teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home.

Amen

We have several dates in affecting the month calendar. They are noted below:

Monday, October 5

This is a Diocesan In-Service Day. All Catholic Schools in Vermont are participating. Schools will be closed today.

October 1—19

Gifts 'N' Things Fundraiser Brochures are included with this week's notes.

Monday, October 12

This is "Indigenous Peoples' Day" and schools will be closed.

October 15—20

Bags2School Clothing Drive (Drop off at the church on West Main Street) Anything made of cloth is acceptable. That includes household linens as well.

Friday, October 30

This is an early release day and students will dismissed at noon.

With all the changes that are currently in place, it is going to change some of our fundraising plans for the school year. These are essential in order to have funds to meet our expenses and continue to provide for financial assistance.

This week we will kick off our hybrid GIFTS 'N' THINGS fundraiser. Brochures will be sent home, orders can be entered on line or brought to school. We encourage you to reach out to family members and close friends

Halloween plans will have to be curtailed this year with all the changes in place. Unfortunately, there will be No Trunk or Treat, no parties, etc.

We were thinking of trying something a little different, but still accomplish the same goal.

FALL FUNDRAISING

so there is less contact being made. Once orders have been placed, your total order will be shipped to your home so you can arrange for delivery. Donations are also accepted if you don't feel you are able to participate. More details are being sent home today.

In the middle of the month, we will be collecting clothing for a fundraiser called BAG2SCHOOL. Families are asked to drop off clothes that you no longer need at a

designated place on the church grounds and we will receive money depending on how many pounds of clothes we collect. Start cleaning out those closets! It could be a win/win for both you and the school. More information will be coming soon.

There will not be a Harvest Bazaar this fall due to COVID, but we will still have a HARVEST/HOLIDAY Big Money Raffle sometime in November. Tickets will be sent home closer to the time of the drawing.

HALLOWEEN

If each family would donate a bag of candy, we could make treat bags for all of the students to be handed out when they go home on Friday, October 30. (That's an early dismissal day.) At Home Learners will get their treat bags on Monday, November 2.

We could collect the bags of candy during morning drop off the week of October 19. That would give us a week or so to put everything together. You supply the candy and we will take care of the rest.

This would be a safe way of giving treats to all the students.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

One of the greatest gifts you can give to your child is an understanding of the value of respect. Too often we hear stories of people who do not have self-respect and who do not show respect for others. It is our responsibility to create a peaceful community that begins with mutual respect and a large dose of tolerance. Certainly, Jesus provides the most powerful model of respect for us. We recall countless stories in the Bible demonstrating Christ's respect both for himself

and for all of God's creation. Christ treated everyone with respect, whether the lowliest among us or the greatest. The sinner, the leper, Mary Magdalene, Zachaeus the tax collector - all were treated with complete respect by Jesus.

The best tool for teaching your child the value of respect is to model it yourself. You may not realize how your every word and action may be observed by your child. Think of it this way: By remaining highly conscious of the things we do and

say, we not only model respect for our children but are likely to improve our own adult behavior. Our actions as adults are seldom lost on children. So it is most important that we objectively view our own behavior to ensure it provides the kind of example we wish to set.

One thing that hurts the peace of a school community is gossip. Maybe we should post a sign with large letters that reads, all teachers, students, parents, and administration, and staff do not want to hear

or see anyone bad mouthing or gossiping about anyone else. This can take place on social media platforms as well, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instant Messenger.

Children who live in homes where respect is an important value are secure and find a much easier and happier path through life. Make respect for self and others a top priority in your home and in our school.

**THE SCHOOL OF
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