

September 30, 2011

Dear Families,

Good morning! What a great day we had for the Fall Festival!! Thank you to all who helped in any way. You helped make it a success. I think everyone had a great time. The children sure seemed to enjoy the day. About one thousand meals were served. Let's hope we can have good weather for the marathon tomorrow. It is supposed to be warm.

Today, we celebrated Ron Sandhurst Day. It is National Custodial Workers Appreciation Day. Please thank Ron for all he does for us at SJV School the next time you see him. He is AWESOME!!!

We are practicing fire drills as part of our Crisis Management Plan. Every school must do 5 fire drills and 5 lock downs which we call Code Red. We pray that we will never have to put these into action but we need to be prepared to do so. The goal for fire drills is to be out of the building in 60 seconds.

The marathon is tomorrow. The students are excited about it. Today we had lots of envelopes brought back. Our count is \$5229 and we are counting this afternoon. The goal is \$11,000. It is always nerve wracking to see if we make our goal but we usually do in the end. **WILL I HAVE TO KISS A PIG!?!?!?**

We are sending any two way mailers sheets home if we received them back with money for the marathon. I thought you might want to know who donated money and send them a thank you note. See you Saturday for a fun morning. Final count day is Friday, October 7th.

We are getting so close to \$150,000 in HyVee receipts but we sure could use some help in tabulating the receipts. If you are willing to be of assistance, please let the office know. Of course you will get points for parents for this.

Next week is Homecoming Week. In your Friday folder is a list of the dress up days for our school. Also next week is the Baby Bottle campaign. We will be collecting money for one week for Catholic Charities Mother and Child Assistance Fund to help pregnant woman with rent, medical expenses, and parenting expenses now and when their babies are born.

We will be continuing our NWEA testing next week. The second graders will take the Math portion on Monday, fourth graders on Tuesday and fifth graders on Wednesday. Help to remind them to eat a good breakfast before testing.

I have two websites I would like to tell you about. They are free and have tutorials to help students with understanding certain subjects. This is not to replace the formal education at school but it is in addition. The first is www.khanacademy.org and has 2400 tutorials on Math, History, and many others. The second one is www.sophia.org

Next Thursday, the 4th graders are going to History Fest. It should be a very fun day for all. Pray for good weather. Kindergarteners will be going to the airport on October 7th. Preschoolers in the 4/5 year old classes will be visiting the Pumpkin Patch on Wednesday, October 19th.

The school will be serving coffee and donuts the second Sunday of each month after the 8 and 10 AM Masses. Each class does this one Sunday a year. The homeroom parents will be calling to ask for help in doing this. This service project helps to promote unity with the school/parish communities and encourages our students to interact with parishioners. Please volunteer if you can to help out when you are asked. October 9th the fifth grade class will be serving.

We are in need of several CD players. If you have an extra one that your family is not using or you would like to donate one that would be awesome. We need several in first grade and at least one in second grade. Thank you for considering this.

We are working hard to be ready for our MNSAA accreditation visit. The team will be here October 11th - 13th to visit our school. They will be calling families to see what your thoughts are about SJV School so please be willing to share your thoughts. Thank you

Just a reminder that MEA is coming soon. The students do not have school on October 20th - 24th but teachers have a workshop day on Monday, October 24th.

As I look at the 'Points for Parents' vacancies, we are in need of a Boys Basketball coach, a member of the Dinner Dance committee, concession chair, and the Talent Show chair. At this time the basketball coach for boys is the most pressing. Please consider volunteering for one of these.

We are beginning our visits to the nursing homes and assisted living centers. The 5th Grade Class is going to Goldfinch on Friday, October 14th to paint pumpkins with the residents, the 3rd and 4th graders are going to Ingleside on October 19th, and the 2nd graders will be going to the Lutz wing on October 31st. The residents just love seeing the students and it is good for our children, also.
See you tomorrow!!

God's Blessings,
Joan Schaffer
Principal