CRUSADER CHRONICLE

Catholic Schools Week – Thank you to all of our families that participated in our CSW activities. Our chairperson, Mrs. Blankenship, PTO and her committee did a wonderful job highlighting St. James the Apostle School.

It was wonderful to see all of the families at our Masses and a special thank you to everyone that volunteered to help in any way at the Masses. I was thrilled to see the number of families that joined us for our Chicago Acrobat Boyz Assembly. I was so nervous every time they jumped, but I enjoyed seeing all the kids laugh and smile. The week continued with out-of-uniform days and activities. Wednesday was a real treat with a special luncheon for the faculty and staff and a Cold Blooded Reptile Assembly for the kids. These great animals landed SJA on the cover of the Suburban Life Newspaper. What a great experience! The school week ended with an energy filled Pep Rally! The excitement continued into the evening with the Fun Fair!

Throughout the week we were able to support the West Suburban Humane Society with all of your generous donations. THANK YOU!

Holiday Highlights – I feel like Christmas was so long ago, but I want to recognize the activities our students participated in through the holiday season. Throughout Advent, students that went to Mass on Sunday, received a star to decorate for our 'Light the Way for Jesus" campaign. Our front foyer was filled with beautiful stars. Thank you for encouraging your child to attend weekend Mass. The last week before break, the students highlighted their Christmas Spirit with participating in the Holiday Extravaganza. It was fun to see all the festive socks, hats, accessories and stickers. I would also like to recognize the hard work of our Music teacher, Mrs. Schmitt and the rest of the staff that worked hard to put together such a wonderful Christmas Program. The students sang beautifully and the evening was filled with a wonderful spirit.

Welcome to the Cliff – The area below the back stairwell has been transformed into a Phonics and Reading Cliff. Students are pulled in small groups to work on a variety of activities and skills. This new learning area is filled with manipulatives, a bulletin board and a new white board.

Registration – St. James the Apostle opened enrollment for the 2016 – 2017 school year in February. We are very pleased with our progress and our enrollment numbers. If you have not completed your registration, please submit it to the school office.

In our foyer, we are "Wel 'GUM' ing Registrations". Our gumball machine is looking quite full but we are always willing to add more.

New Website – Be sure to check out our new and improved website. The website committee has worked very hard to give St. James the Apostle a fresh new look. The information and pictures are being updated frequently.

www.stjamesge-school.org

Catechetical Institute – 1/4/16

Our staff met with all of the Diocesan schools on Monday, January 4th, to learn about a new Religion lesson plan format. This format is intended to bring in additional resources for Religion lessons. The teachers also were given an opportunity to create a Google Docs template of their lesson to share with all teachers of the same grade or content area. This allows teachers to have a network database of lessons. Having these additional resources available at their fingertips assists our staff in differentiating their lessons and bringing in new material.

CRUSADER CHRONICLE CONTINUED...

Project of Love – During Spanish, Senora Simandl has been educating our students on the Project of Love which is a service project that supports families in Peru in need of assistance. Our students have participated in this project since 2009. It is our very own "International Service Project".

In the past, our school families along with the generosity of the parish community, have raised enough monies in order to support four families per year. Two of our previous supported families are no longer in the program because they have successfully reached a point in their life in which they are independently thriving. SJA is so proud of these families for working so hard and accomplishing so much. This project is a great way to share the blessings we have at St. James the Apostle with others.

Ozzie's Reading Club – Every student is participating in the Ozzie's Reading Club Program sponsored by the Kane County Cougars. The students are busy counting the number of picture books they are reading, total number of chapters read or the total number of pages. As a school, we are promoting reading for fun and the encouragement of reading different genres, authors and topics.

As a celebration of this program, we will be attending a Kane County Cougar's baseball game on Tuesday, April 12th, as a school. The day has been changed from a full day of school to an 11am dismissal. Information regarding this day and the request for additional tickets has been sent home and is on School Speak.

We are very excited about this great opportunity to spend time as a school community!

Science Fair and Academic Fair – On Saturday, January 30th, our seventh and eighth grade students participated in the Science and Academic Fair. They worked very hard on their papers, boards and presentations. The seventh grade students worked through the steps of the scientific method while the eighth grade students focused their academic papers on a variety of topics that interested them. Students who received a blue ribbon on their science project will be advancing to the Regional Science Fair on Friday, March 11th, at the University of St. Francis. Students are competing at the regional level in hopes of advancing to the State Science Fair held at Milliken University.

Good Luck to all of our students competing on March 11th.

Pick up and Drop Off – Thank you for parking your car in the lot and walking over when doing pickup and drop off. I also appreciate families that switched the car seat placement to accommodate their child exiting on the passenger side. The little things is what helps keep our students safe!

High School Entrance Exam

Congratulations to our 8th graders that took their HS Exam on Saturday January 9th. Good luck as you make your decisions for next year.

Emergency Closings Information

In the event that St. James the Apostle School should need to be closed, School Speak and the Emergency Closing Center are the two formats in which information will be delivered.

As soon as decisions are made, an email will be sent out via School Speak. Please sign your cell phone up to receive text alerts from School Speak. Your family will receive a text message when the email goes out regarding school closings. On the Emergency Closing Center's website, our school's information will be listed. You can also sign up to receive emails regarding any change made to St. James the Apostle School.

These alerts will help keep you in the loop regarding any closings or changes to the day for the school.

www.emergencyclosings.com

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