

# CRUSADER CHRONICLE

## STANDARDIZED TESTING –

The last week of September was filled with our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 7<sup>th</sup> grade students taking standardized tests called Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). These tests are used to give teachers a curriculum blueprint for the class and individual students. Parents can use the results of these tests to see areas of strengths and weaknesses for their child.

Test scores will be handed out in sealed envelopes on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>. Please take time and go over the results. If you have any questions on them, please refer to your child's homeroom teacher.

## STUDENT COUNCIL –

Student Council elections were held at the start of the school year and since then the students have been hard at work. Junior High held their Halloween Dance in October and it was very successful. Student Council has also been hosting their Out-of-Uniform days. They have made significant donations to charities as well as allowed students to enjoy fun days at school being out of uniform. Our next out of uniform is tomorrow 11/17/15 for Tye-Dye

## VIP DAY –

On Friday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> SJA hosted over 145 special visitors. Every grade really impressed our VIP's at the assembly with their performances. All of our students showed off their school and enjoyed a special lunch. SJA is so blessed to have so many people that influence and impact our students in a big way!

## FR. DAVID VISITS –

Second grade, sixth grade and eighth grade have had classroom visits from Fr. David so far this year. The students chatted about their upcoming sacraments and were given the opportunity to ask questions. They sure got the inside scoop on the life of the Pastor! Maybe your child will share some of the facts they learned!

## TEACHER IN-SERVICE MEETINGS –

The professional development meeting the staff attended on Friday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> focused on engaging the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners. The teachers left with great ideas to bring back to their classrooms. The teachers were introduced to the Virtual Learning Community. This VLC which is a Google based document allows teachers from different schools to collaborate and share ideas.

## MOVE YOUR FEET –

On Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>, St. James' students walked the neighborhood drawing attention to Catholic Education. The school community sported their uniforms proudly and walked with huge smiles on their faces. As part of this walk, students collected donations for the Catholic Education Foundation. SJA raised \$302. WAY TO GO! The foundation assists Diocesan School families in tuition assistance including St. James families. This year St. James received \$6300 in scholarship money.

## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION –

On Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, five school board members and I attended the Diocese of Joliet's Partners in Education Presentation. We heard from a principal located in the Little Rock Archdiocese, give suggestions and ideas on improving our school community and school board practices. The evening finished with breakout sessions that highlighted individual needs from our Diocese. This was a great night for professional development and networking!

## PRINCIPAL MEETINGS –

The Diocese provides new principals with leadership forum meetings once a month. These meetings for first and second year principals is a great way for me to learn initiatives the Diocese is focused on as well as get support for unique circumstances that pop up! Fr. Belmonte and his staff are dedicated to providing principals with additional resources that assist in making our school successful.



# CRUSADER CHRONICLE CONTINUED...

## AUCTION –

Wow! What an amazing night! Thank you to all of our school families, parishioners, friends, and donors for your generosity, time and hard work. Everyone played a big part in making this night so great! I was impressed with the dancing skills and enjoyed the laughter and conversations I had with so many of the parents. I am honored to be the principal of St. James the Apostle, a school that is made up of the best group of students, teachers and parents!

Keep your eyes out for the Auction Committee's news and updates regarding our successful event!

## SURVEY –

This week a short survey will be sent out. Please take the time to fill it out and return to the school. If you do, your family will receive an out of uniform pass. The survey focuses on two components – what makes SJA unique and extending the school day. Your feedback is important to me as we move forward in making decisions that affect St. James the Apostle.

## RED RIBBON WEEK –

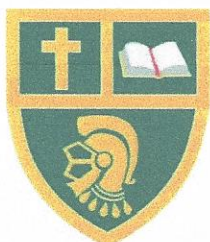
St. James the Apostle participated in the national *Red Ribbon Campaign* October 26<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>. This campaign is used to provide awareness of drug prevention to our students. SJA took this as an opportunity to promote positivity in our lives. In our front entrance, students displayed their healthy and positive choices brick by brick. Our younger students drew pictures of healthy foods, while our older students focused their writing on how to be positive with others. Red Ribbon Week allowed our students to show off their S.W.A.G. Every student, K- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, became Students Who Achieve Goals. These goals are presented in swag bags on the front bulletin board. On Wednesday, all students showed their support of positive choices and healthy living by wearing red ribbon stickers and red beaded necklaces. All in all, this week was a great reminder for all of our students to make positive choices in their thoughts, words and actions!

## DROP OFF AND PICK UP –

Thank you for having students enter and exit on the passenger side of your vehicle in the drop off and pick up lines. It has helped in keeping our kids safe as well as moving the line along quickly. Just a reminder: Please do not leave your car idling or parked in the drop off line, even just for a minute. That area needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles, funeral processions and RE drop off.

## VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK –

During the week of Nov. 2 – Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, SJA students honored the men and woman who have dedicated their life to God. Students designed cards of appreciation for our Pastor and deacons. Some students wrote cards of encouragement for women studying to become a nun including Miss Krueger's sister.



## LOOKING AHEAD...

11/24 – Parent Teacher Conferences

11/25 – 11/27 – Thanksgiving Break

12/5 – First Reconciliation

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS –

Our young Crusaders are showing off their skills in all of our extracurricular activities! Book Club read and discussed mysteries in their first meeting. They are looking forward to mythical and folktales coming up.

We have over 30 students enjoying Chess Club on Wednesday's after school. Every grade is represented in Chess Club. We even had to bring in a third instructor!

Theater Club is well underway with over 20 students. They participated in a lip sync performance. This task helped ease some stage fright and built up confidence in the students. Next month, they will have auditions for the Spring play.

Lego Club and Jr. Robotics Club will begin in January. Look in School Speak in the upcoming weeks for information!

Questions or comments contact the  
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