



SAINT JOHN
SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter

October 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

As Heralds of the Gospel, Saint John School seeks to bring light and truth to PK-12 students in Ashtabula County and beyond through its commitment to educating the whole person by developing scholarship, deepening faith and inspiring leadership in the Catholic tradition.

A Note from the President

October ushers in the autumn season, although it officially began on September 22. For those in Northeast Ohio and other places in the Midwest and Northeast it brings vibrant colors, falling leaves, crisp fall evenings and a need to pull out sweaters and jackets. For farmers, October is a time to bring in the remainder of the crops and to give thanks for the bounty of creation. It can be a very peaceful time after the business of summer and before the rush of the holiday season.

On October 4th we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis has two prayers attributed to him that are fitting for our reflections on the Beatitudes and leadership qualities. The first prayer is the Canticle of Saint Francis, a hymn of praise for all creation, conveys a vision of the way we are related to the world around us. The second is the Peace Prayer, which calls us to be instruments of God's peace.

Leaders must be able to attune themselves to the world around them; they understand the need to care for all of creation and create a culture of life with concern for all that God has created.

Leaders must also be peacemakers. *Blest are the Peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.* God's peace is more than the absence of fighting. God's peace is an inner peace that allows a person to find peace within the midst of conflict and chaos. Peace is not just within our hearts though, it is a call to action, it calls us to stand firm and readies us for the road ahead.

A peacemaker does not just go along with what everyone else is doing just to avoid conflict. A peacemaker does not impose his/her view on others even if that view is grounded in truth. A peacemaker leads others to truth, uses words of healing rather than words of antagonism and belittlement.

We find ourselves in a very divisive time. Peace is needed now more than ever. Frederick Buechner, an author, says, "Generally speaking, if you want to know who you really are, as distinct from who you like to think you are, keep an eye on where your feet take you." Buechner also says that, for Jesus, peace--shalom in Hebrew--was not so much the absence of struggle but the presence of love.

We pray that we think, think of Christ's armor, don His shoes and walk forward in the Love of peace.

We pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of peace--your shalom, a blessing of fullness and completeness, your desire that all of creation be whole. Help me to be an agent of your peace, to share in word and deed the good news of shalom and so do your will on earth as it is done in heaven. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, Amen

I See The Leader In You!

Athletic News/Booster News

Reverse Raffle

The Booster Club will be sponsoring a reverse raffle on October 14. The cost will be \$65 per couple. The ticket includes a main board ticket and two dinners. The raffle will be held in the gymnasium. Dinner, beer and wine are included in the ticket price. For tickets contact rcole@sjheralds.org.

Progressive Raffle

It's not too late to purchase a ticket for the monthly progressive raffle. Tickets are \$25 and you are eligible for 8 drawings. Contact Nick Iarocci for tickets niarocci@sjheralds.org.

Paint The Gym Orange

Although, we normally Paint the Gym Pink to raise funds and awareness for Breast cancer research, this year we will paint the Gym Orange. Orange is the color used to represent Kidney cancer awareness. On October 2, the Volleyball team plays Southington. The game will be played in honor of Bradley Mather, a 3rd grader who is undergoing treatment for Wilms cancer – a form of kidney cancer. At the game we will have a 50/50 raffle, raffles for baskets and a bake sale. T-Shirts will also be for sale. On Monday, October 2 students may dress down wearing that shirt to school or donate \$2 and wear orange as part of a dress down day. Funds from Paint the Gym Orange will be donated to the Mather family for their out of pocket medical expenses.

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

On October 4 we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. We will invite Grandparents to join us as we will pray for them in a special way.

Mass will be at 1:00 pm. In order to set up adequate seating for all of our guests we will be sending home a google form to let us know how many guests from each family will be attending. That evening at 6 pm we will have a blessing of pets. This will take place at the pavilion.

End of Quarter One

October 13 is the end of quarter 1. Report cards will be mailed the week of October 15.

Re-Take Picture Day

Picture re-take day is Thursday, October 26. This is for students who would like to have their school picture retaken because there was a problem with the original picture or he/she was absent the day of pictures. If a student is having a picture retaken, he/she needs to bring in the previous set of pictures he/she does not want.

Festival of Trees 2023

As a school we sponsor two major fundraisers – Festival of Trees and The Saint Patrick's Day Raffle. Planning for Festival of Trees begins in August. This year it will be both a virtual event and the raffle will be in person..

We are asking each family to participate in a number of ways:

1. Donate \$10 so we can purchase items for class sponsored items. Any family who donates \$10 by October 31, students will have a dress down day in November (This is in addition to any donations made in September). Send it in to your homeroom teacher marked with your child's name.
2. If you know of a business who is willing to donate an item or be a sponsor of the event, or if your family is willing to donate an item, please contact Teri Biggins at tbiggins@sjheralds.org.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences will be held on Thursday, October 5 from 2:45-7:45 pm for PK-12. Conferences will be virtual, however, if a parent wishes an in-person conference these can be scheduled on another day. Families of students in grades 1-6 will also have scheduled conferences on Friday, October 6 from 8:15 -2:15 pm.

Please look for the link in the enews to sign up for your conference time. There will be no classes for students in grades PK-6 on October 6. **There ARE CLASSES for students in grades 7-12.**

Professional Development

Monday, October 9 all of the faculty will be involved in a professional learning day regarding Assessment and the NEWA testing protocols. **There will be no classes for all grades.**

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Friday, October 20 at 6 pm. This event allows for children to enjoy an evening of pre-Halloween fun. Families are encouraged to decorate their cars and pass out goodies from their car trunks. The cars are to park in the parking lot. PTO provides food and activities. So that we can provide a safe and secure environment we ask families who will be either decorating cars or coming to enjoy the evening to complete the information forms which will be in the e-newsletter.

Look for further information in the weekly e-newsletter.

Halloween

Our Elementary Halloween Parade is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31st beginning at 1:00 pm. The parade will take place in front of the school on Depot Road. Following the parade are the Elementary Halloween Parties. If adults are planning to come into the building to attend the parties, please note that we will be using our Visitor Management System to check all visitors into the building on this day. Upon entering the building, party attendees will have their Driver License scanned by the Visitor Management software. Students in PK-6 may wear their costumes to school.

Students in grades 7-12 may dress in appropriate Halloween costumes on Thursday, October 31. We ask anyone in grades 7-12 choosing to wear a costume pay a \$5 participation fee (\$10 family fee). Funds raised from this activity and other dress down days are collected over the course of the year and then distributed to local non-profits at the discernment of the school's Philanthropy Club. Costume Guidelines for PreK-12 are:

- NO inappropriate wording
- NO bloody or gory costumes
- NO weapons or suggestive props
- NO revealing or provocative clothing
- NO HALLOWEEN MASKS**

PTO

The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm. Preceding the meeting will be a Title Parent Meeting beginning at 5:30 pm. Both meetings will take place in the school cafeteria.

New ACT Dates...

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)	
December 9, 2023	November 3, 2023	November 17, 2023	
ACT (No Writing)	\$68.00	Standby Testing	ADD \$68.00
ACT Plus Writing	\$93.00	Test Option Change	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$36.00	Change Fee:	ADD \$42.00
Visit www.actstudent.org for online registration and practice resources.			
Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.			

SAT TESTING DATES

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)
November 4, 2023	October 6, 2023	October 24, 2023

FEES

SAT Test	\$60.00	Cancel Registration	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$30.00	Late Cancel Registration	ADD \$35.00
Change Registration	ADD \$30.00		

Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.

Visit www.collegeboard.org for online registration and practice resources.

For all ACT & SAT dates, please check the website.

AP Exam Dates and Fees

All exams begin at 7:45am.

Each exam is \$89.00, please make checks payable to Saint John School. One check can be made out for multiple exams. Checks can be dropped off to the Guidance Office and be sure to write AP Exam Fee on the memo line. If you would prefer to pay in cash please make sure that you have the exact amount. The Guidance Office will not be able to make change for you. Thank you!

There is a correction in the AP Exam Dates:

English Literature May 8, 2024

Calculus AB May 13, 2023

English Language Arts May 14, 2024

TESTING

October Test - TBD, waiting for confirmation

11th grade students who signed up to take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) will be testing on a Tuesday in October. The test will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end approximately 11:30 a.m. Students are expected to report to school in uniform. All Juniors will be required to take the test, no makeup exam will be provided. Juniors will be able to leave after completing testing.

College Visits Scheduled:

College visits are being scheduled with Mrs. Steele's College and Career Readiness class. Seniors who would like information for a certain college will need to speak with Mrs. Steele before the visit.

Akron University	Thursday, October 5th	2nd period
Kent State Ashtabula	Friday, November 3rd	2nd Period
Walsh	Wednesday, November 8th	2nd Period

College Fair

Lakeland Community College and Lake Erie College are co-sponsoring **The Lake County Fall College Fair**. This event is being held on **Sunday, October 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Athletic and Fitness Center at Lakeland Community College.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP) INFORMATION MEETING

Parents and students in grades 7 - 11 who are interested in taking classes at Kent State University (Ashtabula) for the first time in the 2023 - 2024 school year is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 7, 2023** at 6:00 pm; Room TBD.

Please **RSVP** to Melissa Nooney, Guidance Counselor at mnooney@sjheralds.org or by phone at 440-997-5531 x235 **by Wednesday, October 31, 2023.**

Attendance at an informational meeting is one of the application requirements.

**** October 20th ATECH** will host a presentation at Saint John School during the day for Sophomores. Students must sign up at that time if they are interested in viewing potential programs at ATECH on November 16th.

Saint John School
7911 Depot Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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And keep up to date by visiting our website:
www.sjheralds.org
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

Wednesday October 4th, Mass for Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi at 1:00 pm in the gymnasium.

This is Grandparent's Day and a full-dress uniform day. Students may leave with their grandparents after Mass.

Wednesday October 4th, Blessing of the Pets on the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi at 6:00 pm at the pavilion.

Friday, October 13th, there will be a Mass for the football players and cheerleaders at 2:45pm in the Chapel.

The 10th graders will have their annual retreat at the school on Friday, October 27th. The events will take place here and across the street at Pastor Palo's church. Mass will be at 1:30 pm in the chapel with Fr. Dan.

Students should be watching their MobileServe app for continuing opportunities to earn service hours.

JOURNEY
OF
Faith

Scholarships

If your child is on either the Ed-Choice or Ed-Choice Expansion Scholarship and they are absent from school, a note upon return is required to excuse the absence. After 3 consecutive days, a doctor note is required. The state only allows 20 unexcused absences. **After 20 unexcused absences, the scholarship will be lost.**

When you receive your award letter for any state scholarship, please complete, sign and return to school immediately, so the scholarship can be accepted. Failure to do so may cause you to receive a tuition statement or services stopped for your child.

ACE Program

We received notification from the ACE program that the afterschool program is not qualified for use of ACE Funds. We are disappointed in this as we know many of you used the funds in 2022-2023. We attempted to re-name the program, change some of the activities etc. We will continue to seek ways we might be able to provide services that fit their criteria.

October 23-October 31 is RED Ribbon Awareness Campaign

Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, smoking, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. This year's theme is:



We will have a variety of activities at school to promote this campaign.



SCAN ME

**Booster Club
Reverse Raffle
\$65 per couple**

**Saturday, October 14
Buffet Dinner, Beer, Wine
6:00 pm Doors Open
6:30 Appetizers
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Raffle**


Includes 1 Main Board Ticket and 2 Dinners

**For Tickets Contact
Nick Iarocci: niarocci@sjheralds.org**



Activity Calendar October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Paint the Gym Orange	3 PTO Meeting 6:00 pm	4 Grandparents Day Mass—1:00 pm Pet Blessing 6:00 pm—Pavilion	5 Parent/Teacher Conferences PK-12 2:45– 7:30 pm	6 Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-6 8:15– 2:15 pm NO SCHOOL FOR PK-6	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL	10	11	12	13 End of Quarter 1	14 Athletic Booster Reverse Raffle 
15	16 Winter Cheerleading Try-outs 2:45 pm	17 Winter Cheerleading Try-outs 2:45 pm	18	19	20 Lottery Dress Down Day Trunk or Treat 6:00 pm	21
22	23	24 Class of 24 Day	25	26 Picture Re-take Day Mandatory Winter Sports Parent Meeting—6:00 pm	27 Festival of Trees Dress Down Day 10th Grade Retreat	28
29	30	31 Halloween Parade PK—6 class parties 