

# Wednesday eFolder

November 16, 2011

As we ponder the true value of Thanksgiving, we pray with gratitude for all that the Lord has bestowed upon us. With this thought in mind, the following prayer is offered as a reminder to the real meaning of this special holiday:

## How to Observe Thanksgiving

*Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses.  
Count your joys instead of your woes;  
Count your friends instead of your foes.  
Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears.  
Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.  
Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Count on God instead of yourself.*

## Educational Grant Awards

St. Francis de Sales was recently awarded two separate educational grants. We are grateful for the financial generosity of *The Community Foundation* and *Exxon Mobil-Ocean Petroleum* for their collective support.

## Brax Spirit Cup Fundraiser

As previously reported, the HSA is sponsoring the Brax Spirit Cup fundraiser. The due date for orders has now been changed to Monday, November 21st. Please feel free to visit [www.spiritcups.com](http://www.spiritcups.com). At the bottom of the main page you will notice the option to post the *Facebook* link to your page. This option will allow your friends to click on the link and check out those cups which might be of interest.

## Emergency Preparedness Drill

This Thursday morning, November 17th, each grade will participate in a scheduled emergency preparedness drill. The focus of this lock down procedure drill is to familiarize each classroom on how best to protect them should an unwanted visitor arrive to campus. Our teachers are especially mindful of the uneasy feelings that may arise during the practice of such a drill and have prepared accordingly.

## Jeans for JA Day: November 22<sup>nd</sup>

“Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating youth, grades K-12 both public and private, on financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. Our hands on, age appropriate programs inspire youth to live within their means, prepare for the world of work and understand the free enterprise system. Our programs

are brought to life by local business members from the community. We are an enhancement to what kids learn in school and a direct link to real life applications, making school relevant and increasing student's engagement in the classroom".

Junior Achievement is 100% FREE to the schools. This means that the program does not receive any government funding. They rely 100% on the support of local businesses and individuals and from fundraisers. One of school our fundraisers is called ***Jeans for JA***. The money raised from this fundraiser goes directly towards the cost of classes at OUR school.

St. Francis is blessed to have volunteers come into our school and teach our children financial literacy. In support of this wonderful program, we will have a ***JEANS FOR JA*** day on **Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Students are asked to donate \$1 and they will be allowed to wear jeans with their St. Francis polo shirt, gym shirt or spirit wear. Thank you in advance for your support!

### **Thanksgiving Vacation**

School will be dismissed at 12:10pm on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lunch will **NOT** be provided on this day. In addition, after care services will **NOT** be available on this date. For your reference, the school office will close at 1pm on 11-22 and will re-open at 7:45am on 11-28.

### **Middle School Bowling Social**

We will hold the third of our Middle School social events on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1pm. Students in grades, 6, 7 and 8 are invited to celebrate the start of Thanksgiving vacation with enjoyable afternoon at the Cherokee Bowling Lanes at 1524 S. Salisbury Blvd. The cost to participate in this event is \$7 per student (payable at the door). This fee will include two games of bowling and the rental of required shoe wear. Students may bring a lunch or purchase food items from the snack bar. Transportation to and from the lanes is expected to be arranged by the parents of each student who chooses to attend. Parent assistance at the bowling lanes is also requested for those who might be available to volunteer as chaperones. Therefore, if you are interested in chaperoning, please let Rob know. Each MS student has been given a permission form to complete which requires your signature for participation.

### **Report Cards**

The First Trimester is scheduled to end on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Accordingly, report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

In preparation for the calculation of report card grades, parent access to **Power School** for grades 3-8 will be unavailable beginning at 4:00pm on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Access will then be reactivated at 4:00pm on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Milk Carton Campaign**

Each family, via the youngest child, was provided on Monday with a *Salvation Army* milk carton. The purpose of the milk carton program is to set aside spare change that can then be donated to the Salvation Army organization. These thoughtful contributions are intended to support the needs of those less fortunate in our community.

In addition to their youth and sports programs, each year the *Salvation Army* meets the needs of area families through the provision of meals, monetary assistance and gifts for children at Christmas. As well, this wonderful organization provides immeasurable support to various sports and other developmental programs for the youth of our area. All this is accomplished through donations collected from community groups like ours.

Your family is asked to return the collected funds from the milk carton program no later than December 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your support the important work they do.

### **Ping-Pong Club**

The Ping-Pong club is in full swing! Here is the current schedule for those upper grade students who have registered to participate:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students play on Tuesdays.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students play on Wednesdays.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been divided into two groups and play on alternate Thursdays & Fridays. For specific details regarding the assigned dates, students should refer to the bulletin board located outside of the art room.

### **Maryland Catholic Conference**

The Maryland Catholic Conference is an organization that has been developed to offer a voice to our Catholic community. As a continual objective, the Conference has been advocating for legislation in the Maryland General Assembly including, but not limited to, that which will provide Catholic school families and students access to affordable educational opportunities.

To properly inform and update our school community on their advocacy efforts, as well as to encourage St. Francis de Sales families to sign up and participate in the online Catholic Advocacy network, the Conference has sent informational documents for our review. If you are interested in learning more about this valuable program, please [CLICK HERE](#). In addition, to learn more about how to participate in the on-line network please [CLICK HERE](#).

Should you choose to participate in the online network; your family will be able to automatically communicate with our elected officials on legislation and other matters of importance to Catholic schools. Members' involvement is especially vital during the legislative session from Jan-April 2012.

### **Grandparent Information Form**

As we prepare for the publication of the refashioned *Busy Beak* periodical, we are in the process of updating our distribution list. To accurately include the wonderful grandparents of our students on this list, we have sent home a form for to be completed by the family of each new student. In addition, if you do not recall completing such a form in the past or possibly need to update the address of one or more of your child's grandparents, please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the form. Once completed, please send the form into school with your child.

### **Volunteer Opportunity Available**

If you are interested in using some of your parent volunteer hours to help spruce up our campus community, then please contact our Maintenance Director, Mr. Ed Weirick at

[patedo1@comcast.net](mailto:patedo1@comcast.net). We have a number of small painting jobs that need some attention. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

### **Weekly Mass**

On Tuesday, November 22, we will gather at 11:00am in the church for our weekly mass. This event replaces the previously scheduled prayer service.

As always, parents and other guests are invited to attend all of these Eucharistic celebrations.

In the case of rainy weather, we will continue to participate in school liturgies. Although, we ask that each child be prepared to walk to church during such rainy weather. Raincoats or umbrellas are helpful in such cases.

### **Homework Help!**

Fall sports have come to end, so this means there is a change in teacher rotation for homework help. Homework help on Monday will be with Mr. Bosies in his room. **Miss** Phillips has homework help in her room on Tuesdays. On Wednesday, homework help will be with **Mrs.** Phillips. Last but not least, homework help on Thursday will be with Miss Smith in her room. Hope to see you all at homework help!

### **Scrip**

There is additional information relating to the Scrip program that is important to review. To learn more about the recent additions, please [CLICK HERE](#).