

Wednesday E-Folder

February 8, 2012

As our nation honors Black History month, it is only fitting that today we celebrate the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita who was born in the southern region of Sudan. Josephine was kidnapped at the age of seven and sold into slavery. She, who worked under many "masters", was finally happy to address God as "master" and carry out everything that she believed to be God's will for her. May we pray in thanksgiving for the gift of her advocacy for emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively for freedom from oppression and violence. As we honor her today, let us prayerfully reflect on the gift of true freedom:

A Prayer for Freedom in My Heart
By Austin Fleming

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord, when I feel locked up, locked in and locked down.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord, when I'm walled in by loneliness.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord, when I feel imprisoned by my past.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord, when anxiety holds me a prisoner of fear.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord,
when I'm confined by days and nights that pass too slowly.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord,
so that I can accept your word, your forgiveness, your peace and your love.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord,
so that I can share with others what you've given me.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord, so that I can become the person you made me to be.

Give me freedom in my heart, Lord, so that I can thank and praise you
for all you've given me and for all you promise me....AMEN.

Upcoming N.U.T. Day

In honor of the sweet joy of St. Valentine's Day, the students are invited to participate in a red-themed out of uniform day. Students may wear their red apparel items to school on Tuesday, February 14th. To participate, students are asked to bring in \$1 that will be used to fund the completion of the Parish Center.

2012-2013 Contracts and Required Deposit

With the recent mailing of the required contract for re-enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year, you are asked to send in your required paperwork and deposit fee. We are grateful for the invested support you offer our school community.

Letter from Fr. Aigner

As a follow-up to Fr. Aigner's recent letter, he has penned a few thoughts relating to Frequently Asked Questions. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to review this letter.

Tuition Assistance

Time is running out. As you consider your family's finances for next year, it is important to remember that all requests for tuition assistance must be submitted through the FACTS program. These applications are now being accepted by the Diocese of Wilmington for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. Families who believe they are in need of financial aid are encouraged to apply.

To be considered for assistance, parents must submit an application to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment for an evaluation of need. Each interested family with children in grades K-8 is asked to apply through FACTS online at www.factstuitionaid.com.

It is important to note, all applications and all required documentation must be received by FACTS no later than March 1, 2012. There is no exception to this deadline.

Emergency Homeless Shelter

St. Francis de Sales Parish will once again provide food and shelter for the homeless men in our community, February 18 - March 2, 2012. The school has been asked to provide hard-boiled eggs and lunch meat for sandwiches. Our school is also planning a celebration for the men's birthdays. Mrs. Katy Miller is organizing and providing birthday cards and a gift bag for each man with necessary items. The birthday party will be the weekend of Feb. 24th. We realize some families have already made a commitment through other committees for this project, or may not be able to help at this time.

School families are divided by the youngest school child in your family

Please send the food with **your youngest child** on the date listed below at morning arrival.

Thursday, February 16th - Grade K and Grade 6

- Families' Last Names beginning with B are asked to provide 3 doz. hard-boiled eggs.
- Families' Last Names beginning with C - W are asked to provide 1 lb. of lunch meat.

Tuesday, February 21st - Grade Pre-K, Grade 4, and Grade 7

- Families in Grade 7 are asked to provide 3 doz. hard-boiled eggs.
- Families in Grade Pre-K and Grade 4 are asked to provide 1 lb. of lunch meat.

Thursday, February 23rd - Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 8

- Families in Grade 8 are asked to provide 3 doz. hard-boiled eggs.
- Families' Last Names in Grade 1 and Grade 2 beginning with C - W are asked to provide 1 lb. of lunch meat.
- Families' Last Names in Grade 1 and Grade 2 beginning with A & B are asked to provide 2 doz. cupcakes.

Tuesday, February 28th - Grade 3 and Grade 5

- Families in Grade 3 and Grade 5 are asked to provide 1 lb. of lunch meat.

A reminder will be sent home in the binder/homework planner with your youngest child a few days before the food for your child's class is due. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Nancy White at nwhite@sfdscs.org.

Please remember the homeless in your prayers, and thank you for helping with the food.

This Week in Athletics

Girls Basketball – Maroon Team:

- Thursday, February 9th at St. Francis vs. Chesapeake Christian School.
 - School departure time at dismissal and a game time of 5:00pm.
- Tuesday, February 14th at St. Francis vs. Sts. Peter and Paul.
 - School departure time at dismissal and a game time of 5:00pm.

Girls Basketball – Gray Team:

- Monday, February 13th in Ocean Pines vs. Most Blessed Sacrament.
 - School departure time at 3:00pm and a game time of 4:30pm.

Boys Basketball:

- Thursday, February 9th at St. Francis vs. Chesapeake Christian School.
 - School departure time at dismissal and a game time of 4:00pm.
- Tuesday, February 14th at St. Francis vs. Sts. Peter and Paul.
 - School departure time at dismissal and a game time of 4:00pm.

School Auction Update

Were on our way! Mark your calendars for the March 24th event and prepare to travel across the USA for a great night of food, fun, music, and loud and silent auctions - all to benefit our children at SFdSCS. The Auction is our BIGGEST FUNDRAISER but we can't do it without YOUR support! Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access important information about this event. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Weekly Mass

Students in grades PK-3 are scheduled to celebrate Mass on Wednesday, February 15th at 8:30am. Parents and other guests are always invited to attend these Eucharistic celebrations.

Sweet Georgia Brown - The Globetrotters are Coming!

On Friday, February 24th, a member of the world famous Harlem Globetrotters basketball team will be meeting with our school community. In addition to showing off a few of the skills that have become synonymous with the Globetrotters, Mr. Fisher will address the students on the importance of a healthy mind and a healthy body.

Should your family be interested in attending their February 28th performance at the Wicomico Civic Center, please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information regarding discounted tickets.

Maryland State Knights of Columbus Council

This past Saturday, the Regional Free Throw Tournament was held in Ocean Pines and two of our very own won their age group:

- Samantha Miller - 13 year old girls
- Savannah Scott - 10 year old girls

These talented hoopsters have now earned the right to compete at the state tournament in early March. Congratulations girls!

Volunteer Hours

As a reminder, each family is required to complete 30 hours of volunteering for the school. With that said, there are plenty of lunch hour shifts available. Please click the following link: <http://www.stfrancisdesales.net/useful-links.cfm>. Once there, please select the Volunteer Spot icon and choose those days that are able to accommodate your schedule. There are plenty of recess and lunch room duties available. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Diocesan Update

As many may have heard during mass last weekend, “on January 20, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that almost all employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion inducing drugs, and contraception. Almost all health insurers will be forced to include those “services” and the health policies they write, and almost all individuals will be forced to buy that coverage as part of their policies” (Bishop Francis Malooly).

If you are interested in voicing your opinion on this matter, the Diocese recommends that you review the following link which can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/index.cfm>