



Saint James Catholic School Knightly News

December 1, 2017

Vol. V-----No. 13

BUSY DECEMBER AHEAD

It seems absolutely unbelievable that 2017 is coming to a close before long!!! The year is flying by as will the month of December with all that is going on!!

ADVENT

Sunday marked the beginning of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. Encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas, Advent is full of beautiful, meaningful traditions. Among these is the lighting of the wreath, which we will be doing at prayers every morning in addition to special Advent lessons and prayers. While December marks the end of our calendar year, Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Please join us anytime for morning prayers at 8:15 a.m. in Tobin Hall.

JABARA THE CAMEL

We are excited to have a camel visiting us next Friday, December 8th. Jabara is one of the "performers" in the Marion Avenue Baptist Live Animal Christmas Play. Jabara will be here around 2 p.m. We will be hosting him(?) on the north church parking lot as we have a strict "no indoor camels" rule at school! ;-)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Saint James School Christmas Program is rapidly approaching on Wednesday, December 13th! The Washington Community Center is such a great auditorium and our students are so fortunate to be able to perform there. The students will be practicing at the following times:

Preschool	Monday, December 11 th	8:30-9:15 a.m.
K-5 th Grades	Monday, December 11 th	9:30-11:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, December 13 th	9:30-11:30 p.m.
Prelude Music	Wednesday, December 13 th	8:30-9:15 a.m.

As noted above, we will be having some of our students provide prelude entertainment prior to the program's beginning. This is a long-standing SJS tradition for those students who are taking lessons on an instrument. **Those students who are interested in playing prelude music should sign up in the school office.** Prelude music will begin at 6:30 p.m. Students are welcome to sit with their families to hear the prelude music but should not be sent backstage until 6:45 p.m.

The use of the community center is made possible through the generosity of Home & School as they pay the rental fee for this and our spring concert. This makes it possible for parents to attend free of charge! This is just one of the many ways that Home & School supports our school community! **THANK YOU!!**

THEME THURSDAYS

Once again we are going to have some special school-wide holiday dress-up days as some extra fun over these next few weeks. We are scheduling these for Thursdays beginning next week:

December 7	Hats Off for the Holidays	Wear holiday head wear...antlers, festive headbands, Santa hats, or ANY appropriate hat, etc.
December 14	Deck the Halls	Dress up like your favorite Christmas decoration OR song!
December 21	Long Winters' Nap	Wear your favorite, snuggly, jammies!

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the second weekend in December. Be sure to include attending this parish-wide celebration beginning with 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 10th. A performance by Danza will follow Mass and a Mexican meal will follow the performance.

POSADAS

In Mexico, the Posadas takes place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas. The word *posada* means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish, and in this tradition, Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. Saint James will be celebrating the Posadas beginning at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 16th through Saturday, December 23rd. Each evening will include refreshments and a treat bag for the children. On the last day of La Posada, an Authentic Mexican meal will be served for everyone.

1st Annual Turkey Wing-Ding

The day before Thanksgiving students and staff engaged in some multi-aged family activities at our **SJS Turkey Wing-Ding!** Hopefully, your children came home enthusiastic about the time they spent with one another and the activities in which they were involved.

When I was explaining to a family member at Thanksgiving dinner what we did at school, she said, "So, you played all day". If by "play" she means we had a good time, then yes, we "played". However, the benefits our children glean from these multi-age events are beyond anything we can measure on a standardized test. Having spent time at each activity (or station) I had a front row seat to an older student taking the initiative to help guide a younger one with fine motor skills in the snack craft they were making or problem solving when trying to find a lost game piece. Our "littles" look up to their older role models and learn so much from watching how they conduct themselves. In addition, our older students learn patience and leadership skills when working with their younger family members. Within these special family events we have a precious, unique opportunity to provide our students with educational and growth experiences that extend beyond the confines of a textbook or curriculum.

I am sharing a schedule of our day last Wednesday with some pictures of the students on a third page of the newsletter. ENJOY!! And...the next time we have a family day, please feel free to join in the fun!

TIME	STRUT YOUR STUFF(ING) (Tobin Hall)	GOBBLE GAMES (Library)	SHAKE YOUR TAILFEATHERS (Gym)	DRUMSTICK DESIGN (3 y.o. PreK rm)
9:30-9:55	Arbogast, Kling	Baumert, Sheetz	Eichelberger, Sines	Fritz, Clarahan/Marek
10:00-10:25	Fritz, Clarahan/Marek	Arbogast, Kling	Baumert, Sheetz	Eichelberger, Sines
10:30-10:55	Eichelberger, Sines	Fritz, Clarahan/Marek	Arbogast, Kling	Baumert, Sheetz
11:00-11:25	Baumert, Sheetz	Eichelberger, Sines	Fritz, Clarahan/Marek	Arbogast, Kling

SESSION LEADERS & ACTIVITIES:

Strut Your Stuff(ing):	Ms. Lamb
A Turkey Dance	
Turkey Dance Freeze	
Turkey Hokey Pokey	
Get Funky with Tommy the Turkey	
Gobble Games:	Mrs. Love-Smith
Turkey Roll	
Thanksgiving Mad-Lib	
Shake Your Tailfeathers:	Mrs. Moeller
Shake Your Tailfeathers	
Traffic Yam	
Drumsticks:	Mrs. Chalupa
Tootsie Pop Turkey Cracker Snack Turkey	
Love-Smith Moeller Chalupa	

Winter Weather Wear!!!



We have had such warm temps lately that it is hard to think about winter wear...BUT this IS Iowa so it's not going to last long! Please, get your children in the habit of always having the appropriate clothing to wear outside for recess or any time they are outside; mittens/gloves, hats, scarves and coats designed for cold temperatures and (when the time comes) winter boots!!

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS!

Mark Your Calendars

December 8

8:30 a.m. MASS

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Mrs. Sheetz's Family

Servers: Ana Mata,
Logan McDole, Izzy Reed

December 13

12:55 Dismissal

Professional Development

SJS Christmas Concert
Washington Community Center
7 p.m.

December 15

8:30 a.m. MASS

Ms. Sines' Family

Servers: Mia Schrock,
Jade Sheetz, Melissa Stakland

December 22

8:30 a.m. MASS

Mrs. Clarahan's/Mrs. Marek's Family

Servers: Trevin Sulentich,
Tess Berdo, Kate Flannery

Christmas Parties---Times TBA

12:55 Dismissal

December 23-January 2

Christmas Vacation

January 3

Classes resume

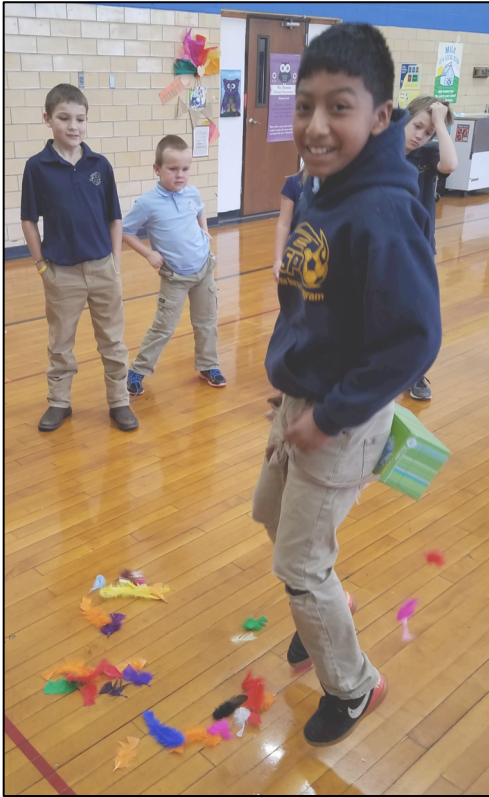


"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope".

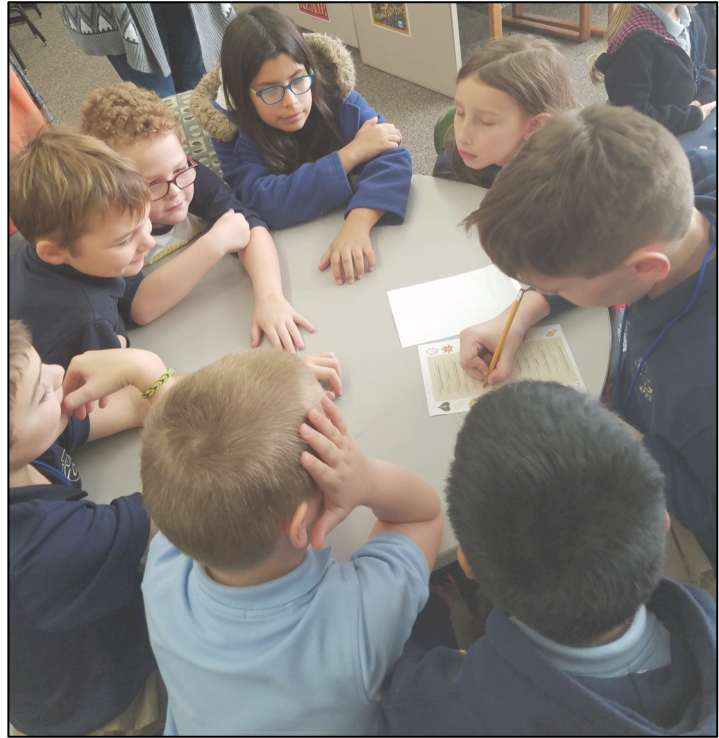
---Pope Benedict XVI

TURKEY WING-DING FAMILY FUN

5th grader, Kevin Marcelino, tries to “shake” his team to a victory as members of the other team look on.



Mrs. Kling’s family collaborates on a Thanksgiving Mad-Lib.

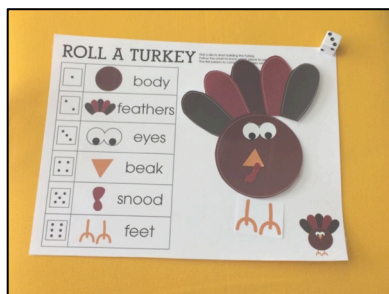


Mrs. Eichelberger and some of her “family” members make turkey treats out of Tootsie Pops and crackers and cheese packets.



BONUS PICTURE:

Annual kindergarten Thanksgiving Play!!



Turkey Dice Game...
It's all about taking turns!