



The Cougar



Published every two weeks for SJS Parents


www.stjudebr.org

December 1, 2011

St. Jude the Apostle School, as a Catholic faith community, recognizes the need to create a family environment which will lead to the formation of a well-rounded individual. Through its philosophy, the school hopes to instill in each child an understanding of his/her relationship with Christ, thus enabling him/her to think, judge and act in a Christ-like manner.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Saturday, December 3	8:00am	HS Placement Exam (8th Grade Only)
Monday, December 5	6:30pm	Christmas Concert (Activity Center)
Monday, Dec. 5– Friday, Dec. 9		Christ Child Toy Drive
Tuesday, December 6		Family Night
Tuesday, December 6	7:00pm	First Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 7	1:00-3:00pm	3rd Grade Retreat (Parish Hall)
Thursday, December 8	9:00am	Parish Mass- DRESS UNIFORMS
Monday, December 12	8:45am	Level Liturgy– 5th Grade (Chapel)
Tuesday, Dec. 13-Thursday, Dec. 15	8:40-11:30am	7th & 8th Grade Exams
Friday, December 16	8:45am	School Mass– Dress Uniforms
Friday, December 16	2:30pm	Class Christmas Parties
Monday, Dec. 19-Wednesday, Jan 4		Christmas Holidays



SCHOOL NEWS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CALENDAR & BUS SCHEDULE: We would like to remind all parents that our last day of school prior to the Christmas holiday is Friday, December 16. Unlike years past, this will be a **FULL DAY OF SCHOOL**, and buses will run morning and afternoon. Christmas break is December 19-January 4. Our first day back to school will be Thursday, Jan. 5. Please note: **We will NOT have bus service on Thursday, Jan. 5 and Friday, Jan. 6.**

THE ADVENT SEASON: We are in the first week of Advent. Please try to find time each day during this wonderful Advent season to reflect on preparing for the Lord’s coming – His coming on Christmas as a baby in Bethlehem, his coming to you each day in words and through prayer, and his promise to come again at the close of the age. Use your prayer time to make straight the path of your life and prepare a place in your heart for the Prince of peace to come and abide. Advent can be a beautiful time for prayer and preparation for the coming of the Lord! Prayer is a great step toward establishing and maintaining one’s unique relationship with God. Make the most of it!

BIG THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Drive and the Turkey Dime Day. \$1257.31 was collected in turkey dimes! Student participation was great! The generosity of all of our students allowed many families to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving! We also collected 2,594 canned food items this year. Congratulations to Mrs. Reech’s 6B homeroom for collected the most items!

LITURGY: The student body will attend the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy** for the parish on **Thursday, December 8, at 9 a.m.** We will also attend our school-wide liturgy Christmas Liturgy on Friday, December 16 at 8:45 a.m. Please be sure that your child is wearing proper dress uniform. Also, please send canned good and nonperishable items for our food collection.

GRADE LEVEL RETREAT: All third graders will participate in a retreat on the afternoon of **Wednesday, December 7.** Please keep them in your prayers during this Advent season.

COUGAR DEADLINE:

Submissions for the next issue of *The Cougar* are due by **Tuesday, Dec. 13.** E-mail sdriesse@stjudebr.org.

CHRIST CHILD PROGRAM: Each year, the students at St. Jude School, in conjunction with the parish Society of St. Vincent de Paul, sponsor a campaign to help members of our parish who are unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. As a family, you may choose one of the items of any of your children's homerooms and send it to school. The gift should be a new item, in the price range of \$5 - \$10, and UNWRAPPED. We will put all like items together and the St. Vincent de Paul Society will assemble boxes of items for each family. Please know that participation in this program is not mandatory. If you are unable to send anything to school, we understand and would appreciate your prayers for the success of this campaign. Our Jr. Beta students will assist us by collecting the gifts from the classrooms and bringing them to the Activity Center. A letter went home with your child this week. You may send these items to school from **December 5 – 9th**

UNIFORM POLICY: As we begin to experience colder days, please refer to our uniform policy with regard to winter attire. Wind pants may be worn only during the months of December through February. Sweatshirts should be the red or navy St. Jude sweatshirt with the school logo. Also note that leggings are not allowed. Full length, footed opaque white or navy tights may be worn on cold weather days. Please refer to our [Handbook](#) for a full listing of uniform regulations.

IOG TUITION STATUS: This year is coming to a close quickly. Now is the time to check your offertory amounts to make sure you are in compliance with Identified Offertory Giver Status. IOG status will be checked late December. Payments received after that will not be reflected in your re-registration packet. Payments after December 30th will be included in the next year and will not count towards 2012-2013 school year IOG status.

RE-REGISTRATION: Re-Registration paperwork will be sent home in January 25. The \$200 registration fee (per student) for the 2012-13 will be due February 1st, 2012. Having accurate enrollment projections as we begin planning for next year is critical, and our timeline will be strictly adhered to in all cases unless, due to hardship, a specific financial arrangement has been made in advance with Mrs. Jakuback. As you begin your 2012 financial planning, we would like to also publish that the student use fee will be due Feb. 29, the building use fee due March 28, and tuition due May 2nd.

ATTENDANCE: Please call or email the office (paymond@stjudebr.org) that your child will be absent or checked out early. Per the handbook: "homework should be picked up between 3:15-3:45pm. The student is responsible for making up all work missed upon returning to school. This includes make-up tests." Please communicate with your child's homeroom teacher regarding absences or check-in and check-outs. It is also a good idea to alert Ms. Peggy Aymond in the office regarding check-ins or check-outs. Absences, late check-in/early check-out are considered unexcused until a doctor's note is received.

HONOR BAND: Elizabeth S, Katherine H, Helen A and Loc P all earned positions in the EBR All-Parish Honor Band. Middle school students from around the parish audition for an opportunity to perform in concert with the top young musicians from our area. We are very proud of these three and all the members of our St. Jude band program, and also want to thank the talented Mr. Kevin "Doc" Andry for all his hard work and dedication to our the SJS bands!



GEOGRAPHY BEE: The following students have qualified for the St. Jude School competition for the National Geographic Bee: *4th Grader* - Joseph P; *5th Graders* - Thomas B, Parker D, Brennan M, Kevin O, and Julian S; *6th Graders*: David H, Evan P, and Kenny S; *7th Graders* - Benton A, James B, Michele C, Andrew F, Sidney G, Collin H, Dean J, Joseph L, Blaine L, Madeline M, Lance Michael R, and Nicholas R; *8th Graders* - Daniel H, Brian H, Emily J, Katherine O, Patrick P, Brady S, and Christian W.

The school competition will take place in the school library on December 7th. The winner will receive a medal, a trophy, and the opportunity to qualify for the state geography bee. These students are to be congratulated.

QUIZ BOWL: Congratulations to the following students, who were selected for the 2011-12 Quiz Bowl team! These students will compete in the Diocesan Quiz Bowl competition on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012!

5th Grade – Parker D, Britt McL & Patrick H

6th Grade – Noah D, Kenny S & Nicholas A

7th Grade – Andrew F, Jill A & Madeline M

8th Grade – Claire C, Brian H & Daniel H

ST. JUDE CHEERLEADER SHINES AT THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE:

A big congratulations to 8th grade Cougar cheerleader, Miss Alexis H, for marching in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Houston, Texas. Alexis represented our school and squad because she was chosen as an All Star cheerleader to perform in Houston at UCA camp this summer. Our 2011-2012 Cougar cheerleaders, Mrs. Hidalgo and our entire school are so proud of you and your hard work Alexis!!!



 **HOME & SCHOOL NEWS**

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: I would like to say, "Thank you" to all the volunteers that made Grandparents Day such a wonderful day at St. Jude! The donation of your time, service and wonderful breakfast items are greatly appreciated. Everything looked beautiful; thank you for making Grandparents Day such a special event for our students and families. Thanks so much ~ Jeanne and Rhonda

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Thank you to Susan Bean for the wonderful work in the flower beds around school they look lovely and are full of color!

DIRECTORIES: were sent home in your designated child's backpack on Monday. Please email notice of error or omissions to Kristina Funes, kristilou8@aol.com. Many thanks to Sydney Braud and Liz Bonnecaze for all their work on this project!

WINTER USED UNIFORM SALE- The SJS Home and School Association will sponsor a Winter Uniform Sale on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 from 5-6pm (prior to the General H&S Meeting). We will sell items at reduced prices!! Only our H&S uniforms will be sold. Anyone interested in volunteering your time to help set up and/or work the please contact Brenda Janocik (372-2016).

ANNUAL GIVING APPEAL: Don't forget -- Donations made before December 31, 2011 qualify as tax deductions this calendar year! Our most important goal for the campaign is to have 100% parent participation. Whether you can give \$5, \$50, or \$500 please consider making a donation. Your contributions provide a strong foundation for our children's future! Please contact [Starr Driesse](#) for more information. Donations can be made online thru the St. Jude School home web page by [clicking here!](#) Thank you!

Bill & Rhonda Baird

2011-12 Annual Appeal Chair-Couple

St. Jude the Apostle School

CHRIST CHILD PROGRAM



Dear Parents,

As the holiday season approaches, we are sometimes overwhelmed with the commercialism of the season. Although our custom of giving things to those we love is reminiscent of the Wise Men who brought the valuable presents to the Infant Jesus, we should remember that the perfect gift which Jesus gave the world, the gift of Himself, is far more precious than anything of mere monetary value.

Each year the students at St. Jude School, in conjunction with the parish Society of St. Vincent de Paul, sponsor a campaign to help members of our parish who are unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. As a family, you may choose one of the items from any of your children's homerooms and send it to school. This gift should be a new item, between the price ranges of \$5-\$10, and **UNWRAPPED**. We will put all like items together and the St. Vincent de Paul Society will assemble boxes of items for each family.

Please know that participation in this program is not mandatory. If you are unable to bring anything to school, we understand and would appreciate your prayers for the success of this campaign. Below are listed the items by grade/homeroom level that were requested by St. Vincent de Paul Society. You may send these items from **December 5-9**. Our Beta Students will assist us by collecting the gifts from the classrooms each day.

GRADE LEVEL	ITEM	GRADE LEVEL	ITEM
Pre-Kindergarten	Stuffed Animals	4 th Grade	Art Supplies
Kindergarten	Toys for a GIRL	5 th Grade	Family Games
1st Grade – 1A	Toys for a GIRL	6 th Grade	Bath Items
1st Grade – 1B	Toys for a BOY	7 th Grade - 7A	Books-Ages 9-13
2 nd Grade	Toys for a BOY	7 th Grade – 7B	Books - Birth –8 yrs.
3 rd Grade	Children's Games	8 th Grade	Accessories – gloves, wallets, scarves, etc.

May the joy of the Christmas season be in your hearts forever.

2011-2012 Annual Giving Appeal

Would like to thank the following donors:



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Please consider making a contribution...our goal is 100% parent participation!