



The Cougar



Published every two weeks for SJS Parents

www.stjudebr.org

September 15, 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

Thursday, September 15	6:30p.m	Men's Club Meeting-Parish Hall
Friday, September 16	2:30p.m.	Pep Rally (Spirit Attire)
Friday, September 16		Gift Wrap Sale Ends
Monday, September 19	8:45a.m.	8th Grade Level Liturgy (Chapel)
Wednesday, September 21	1-3p.m.	5th Grade Retreat (Parish Hall)
Wednesday, September 21		FAMILY NIGHT
Monday, September 26	8:45a.m.	School Liturgy (7A)- DRESS UNIFORMS



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Last year at NCEA, I, and many of the teachers, attended a special presentation called Rachel's challenge. Rachel Scott was the first victim of the Columbine shooting in 1999. Rachel's challenge is a non-profit organization formed by Darrell Scott, Rachel's father, to fight bullying, hatred and prejudice. Please visit the website: www.rachelschallenge.org. The professional speakers from this organization travel around the country visiting schools and promoting an age appropriate message of love, acceptance and forgiveness. This presentation was a very inspirational program used as a tool to fight bullying and promote Christian values in a school setting. All of us who attended agreed that it could be an invaluable tool for our school students. One of our SACS goals for the next 4 years is to decrease instances of unkind behavior and promote more Christian behavior among our students. This particular program challenges the students to be instrumental in promoting a culture of change on their school campus. It promotes leadership and seeks to embolden students to speak out for all in reaching out to others.

Through the generosity of our Home and School Association, church parish, and some annual giving donations, we have been fortunate to be able to schedule this organization to work with our school faculty, student body and parents. A nationally trained presenter from Colorado will come and spend 1 day on our campus on October 17th, presenting (at an age appropriate level) to grades 1-4 and presenting a separate assembly for grades 5-8, as well as leadership training for older students and a special parent event/presentation the same evening at 6:00 PM. We feel that it is paramount to the success of the program to have students, teachers, and parents working together. **Therefore all parents are asked to attend this event to help make this program a success.. Please mark your calendars for 10/17 at 6:00 PM.** This night will be a family night for the month of October so no activities, tests, or homework will be scheduled. We look forward to working with you to promote this positive message to all of our children.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Karen Jakuback

COUGAR DEADLINE:

Submissions for the next issue of *The Cougar* are due by **Tuesday, Sept 27**. E-mail sdriesse@stjudebr.org.

SPIRIT DAY/PEP RALLY: Our first Pep Rally will be held in the Activity Center at 2:30pm on Friday September 16th. As a reminder, students may wear their “Cougar Pride” t-shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms for spirit day. Students may also accessorize with Cougar merchandise (bracelets and tattoo’s) that have been purchased through the Home and School Association. Click [here](#) for full spirit day attire guidelines. Parents are welcome to attend.

TEACHER COMMUNICATION: Please note that all e-mail and phone communication to teachers should go through the school email/phone numbers and will be replied to within 24 hours. Please allow for this response time.

SCHOOL REACH: The “SchoolReach” calling system is used for special reminders and also used in the event of school closings or other unplanned occurrences. Please make sure you update your phone number if any number (home or cell) has changed. Also, when a call is sent, it may take 5-15 minutes for all recipients to receive the call. Please wait and check your voicemail before phoning the school office. A voice message will be left on your phone. Please do not call to have the message repeated verbally to you without waiting and checking your voicemail. The unnecessary calls tie up the school phone lines when an emergency situation could be occurring.

FIRST IN CARPOOL: Please note that the “First in Carpool” spot is auctioned by the Parish Fair each spring. Please do not park in the space with the sign “RESERVED-FIRST IN CARPOOL” nearest the gym and yellow gates/rope. The DeJean family was the auction winner this year and the spot is reserved for them through the end of the school year, May 2012.

NO PARKING AREAS: Please do not park in the spaces by the gym that are designated as no parking areas during school hours.

AM CARPOOL/TARDIES: Our morning carpool begins at 8:00am and ends at 8:18am. Students who have not entered the school building prior to the 8:23 bell are counted tardy. You should plan to be in the carpool line no later than 8:10am to ensure that your child is in line prior to the tardy bell. The time is the same each day of the week regardless of prayer being indoor or outdoor. All students will be counted tardy if they are not with their class (on outdoor prayer days) or in the building at 8:23am.

GYM DOORS: The doors into the gym remain locked during the school day to prevent parents and visitors from interrupting classes. All people who visit campus, including all parents and all volunteers, need to enter the school office and be checked in. No one is to be anywhere on campus without signing in at the front office.

BETA CLUB: The 2011 Induction to Beta Club will be Monday, Sept. 26th following the school liturgy. Information packets will be sent home prior; parents are invited to attend. Congratulations to the following officers elected: **President: Daylon J, Vice-President: Jake S, Treasurer: Leslie C P, Secretary: Allie D, Sergeant-At-Arms: Matthew B, Miles M, Zach M, Dean J.**

COMMUNITY COUGARS: Congratulations to newly elected officers: **President: Khoury I, Vice President: Cierra B, Secretary: Sarah F, Chaplain: Chandler H.** Community Cougars is a service organization of 7th and 8th graders. This group meets to perform service for the school and the community. Earlier this month, Khoury I. and Najib M. attended an event at the Baton Rouge Food Bank to kick off “Hunger Action Month” with the First Lady of Louisiana, Mrs. Supriya Jindal. One of the ongoing projects of the Community Cougars is to collect canned goods and non-perishable food items from the entire student body at each school Mass held throughout the year.



FORGOTTEN ITEMS: Returning to the school building to retrieve a forgotten book or assignment is not permitted. Part of your child learning to become a responsible person entails their packing up their books to go home, and returning with the proper materials needed for their day from home each morning. Teachers do spend time especially at the beginning of the year reviewing what should be taken home each day. Please support this part of the learning process by not asking staff to open a classroom to pick up a forgotten belonging, and likewise note that students are not allowed to come to the school office to collect items (such as homework, tests, planners and conduct cards) left at home.

FAMILY NIGHT: Our first family night has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 21. As a reminder, family night is a designated evening where students are not assigned homework and no Thursday tests are scheduled. Please enjoy this time with your children!

MEET YOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL: We'd like to introduce to you the 2011-12 members of the School Advisory Council:

President: **Chad Reynolds**

Vice President: **Wayne Losavio**

Treasurer: **Chris Hufft**

Secretary: **Melissa Henderson**

Past President: **Stephanie Manson**

Members-At-Large: **Lauren Brown, Nancy Jolly, Sean Kennedy, Renee Areng, Lyndon Darenbourg, Cleve Brown, Chris Elliott and Bernie Braun.**

Mrs. Karen Jakuback, Mrs. Starr Driesse, Mrs. Vicky Driesse, and a H&S representative also serve on the Advisory Council.

The Mission Statement of the Advisory Council is: *"St. Jude the Apostle School Advisory Council acknowledges that schools are an integral part of the teaching mission of the Catholic Church. We recognize that valuable role Council members play, and always acting in an advisory capacity and supporting that school administration in carrying out the mission of St. Jude the Apostle School.*

As a council, we strive to define school policies and ensure that they are in accordance with the Diocese of Baton Rouge and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We oversee the financial solvency of St. Jude the Apostle School to ensure that it can maintain its mission for current and future generations. We oversee the physical plants and structures and ensure a safe learning environment academically, spiritually, and socially for all students."

The council aims to be a representative body of SJS parents. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns which fall under the mission statement of the advisory council with one of the above listed members.

ATTN: 7th & 8th PARENTS: We are searching for 4-5 more parent volunteers to help at Junior Achievement Finance Park on Tuesday, September 27th. Training for parents will begin at 7:45am; students arrive at 9am. This simulation takes place at Cortana Mall– Entrance #1 between Dillard's and JCPenny. The event will conclude at 1:45pm, and lunch will be provided. Attire is casual, but no jeans please. For more information or to participate, please contact Paula Bradley at: pbradley@jabatonrouge.com or 928-7008.

ADMISSIONS POLICY: The schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge admit students without regard to sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of policies, scholarship or loan programs, admission policies or other school-administered programs. All students are admitted to school with the understanding and the condition that they will be able to meet the rigors and requirements of school life. A child's physical, mental or emotional condition will be considered in the admissions decision if it is thought to impact the effectiveness of teaching personnel.

THANK YOU: Many thanks to Dana Altazan, Tammy Brown, Lisa Chustz and Anamaria Cuadra for volunteering to help with school picture day last week!



SCHOOL SUPPLY UPDATE: Innisbrook is aware of the problem some students have experienced with the poly folders. Innisbrook stands by their products and will be shipping new folders to school to replace defective folders. Thank you for patience!

FOR SALE: Beat the heat on the soccer field, football field or anywhere else you will be outside this weekend.... St Jude Umbrellas and hats will offer some shade during those long ball games. Hats and Umbrellas will be on sale this Friday at the pep rally. Hats are \$15 and Umbrellas are \$25. Stay shaded and dry and help support our Cougars!!!

GIFT WRAP: Innisbrook sales are going great. We really appreciate all of your hard work and time. All orders must be entered online by Friday, September 16; checks made payable to St. Jude School along with the order voucher must be sent to school with your child tomorrow. Please visit www.innisbrook.com and follow the EZ steps to enter orders. St. Jude School's number is **104328**. Remember that all children in families that sell 10 or more items attending St. Jude school will get to attend an ice cream party in October as appreciation. Again, thank you for all your efforts to make this a successful year!