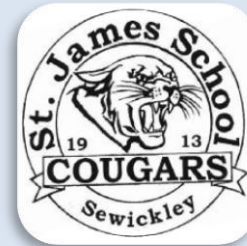




Cougar Call

201 Broad Street • Sewickley, PA 15143
Office: (412)741-5540 • Fax: (412)741-9038
stjameschool.us



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Events

9/30, 11:30 Dismissal,
no aftercare

SJS Directory

If there were any errors with your Directory information, please email Renee Pompi at pompifamily@gmail.com so it can be updated. Please note, ALL information that is in the 2009-10 Student Directory was collected last spring on an orange paper that was sent home in the Wednesday folder. For those that did not fill out the form, the previous year's information including names, address and phone # were included. Thank you!

Cougar Call

Have an Article you would like to have featured in the Cougar Call? Email it to mhcecca@verizon.net or go to the HSA page of the St. James Web site and fill out the form.

Principals' Corner

School has been in session exactly five weeks to date. With the coming of the autumn weather, it seems that things are slowing down just a bit and falling into place. Students and teachers alike (even principals) seem to be settling into new routines and more readily recognizing the many new faces at St. James School. These are welcome and comforting nuances as one day folds into the next.

Many of the changes that have taken place in school routines have been rooted in the values of respect and reverence. We have talked about respect for one group's right to a quiet learning environment while another group is moving on the stairs or in the hallway, respect for our own and others' belongings and school property, reverence for God in our place of worship, respect and reverence for all of creation -- including the child of God beside me who, like me, is created in God's image and likeness.

As adults who are dealing with these changes vicariously through our children's eyes, it is important to recognize that our children learn --- for better or for worse -- from our behaviors and attitudes as we reflect back to them our own insights into changes and transition. Can we each take a moment to examine our own behaviors and attitudes as we reflect back over this first month or so of school? Have I approached the school changes with a positive attitude? Has my behavior modeled effective coping skills? Would I be proud for my children to exhibit the same behaviors toward change that I have modeled for them these past five weeks? Would I be proud for my children to display the same attitudes toward change that I have displayed over these past five weeks?

As Catholics and as Christians it is important for us to examine our consciousness around practicing what we preach --- for our children's sake, and also for our own growth in holiness. This examine of consciousness is called discernment (or more fully, discernment of spirits.) Every one of us has strengths and areas in need of improvement. When life gets hectic or overwhelming, we know that there are times when our best selves do not shine through. This is part of the human condition. Taking the time periodically (daily even) to reflect back over behaviors and attitudes is a way to make room for God to act in our lives. It is making ourselves available to God's action in us in these ways that allows God to transform us into the holy beings we were created to be.

God bless each of you as we move from blossoming new beginnings into growth and maturity as a school community!

Thank You

The Athletic Association would like to give a Big Thanks to everyone who helped make the Oktoberfest a great success and fun time, especially Karen Grimes who orchestrated our involvement in the event!

Thanks Fr. Dan, Mrs. Riley, and Mrs. Olsen for being great sports and good swimmers! Thank you also to the 8th graders who volunteered to go into the dunk tank.

Thank you volunteers families (including all the kids who helped)! Among those helping were the Meurer, McNally, Ponticello, Jancart, McAllister, McNelis, George, Kunde, Garrison, Stasa, and Grimes families as well as the following students: Carlyle MacDonald, Becky Rodgers, Emily Veeck, Coco and Peyton Gregory, Anthony Guy, and Jordan Rheingrover.

Additionally, thanks Mr. Mike and Mr. Dan for helping us with everything!

Race for Education

We could not have had better weather for our Race last Friday! The students really worked hard at running the 1/4 mile course around the school! The classes were so creative with their themes... Crazy hats, funny socks, bizarre bandanas and super sun glasses. But what made the day a success were the over 40 parent volunteers who worked to support the kids. Thank you!!!

RACE HIGHLIGHTS

Prize Winners

Grand Prize (Kalahari Water Park Family Trip) the drawing from all the families' names who submitted over 20 mailer labels went to the Commons family!

Ice Cream Party - went to the 2nd grade for submitting the highest average number of labels per student.

Artists Prize - SJS students voted on art submitted by their peers for the thank you notes design. Each winner's art work will be the design for 1 of the 4 thank you notes mailed to donors.

Sydney McDaniels 8th Julianna Nicholas 5th Ashley Kovacs 4th Francesca Taylor 2nd

Mailer Prize

1st Mailer Returned - Ian and Miranda Roberts (K)
100th Mailer Returned - Jake Commons (3rd)

The prize for the mailer returned from the furthest distance will be awarded on 10/30/09 after the mailers that were sent to international locations have a chance to come back.

Thank You to Our Special Donors

Clearview Credit Union was the sponsor of this year's Race with a tremendous donation of \$5,000. Once again, Brueggers was also very generous by donating 16 dozen bagels!!! Walmart, Sam's Club and Penguin Bookstore also made donations for which we are grateful.

To date the Race has made \$17,000 (after expense) to fund class field trips, library collection expansion and the HSA activities (Catholic Schools' Week, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Nicholas Day, Teacher Appreciation, etc.).

It's not too late to make a donation!!

Register Now for the Apples For Students Program

St. James is participating in the Giant Eagle Apples for the Students program. Giant Eagle provides the opportunity for schools to get FREE computer and educational related equipment into our classrooms.

The Giant Eagle Apples for the Students program is easy!

Register at www.gianteagle.com (click on "Educational Support" to find link to "Apples for the Students") or call 1-800-474-4777. Remember to have your Giant Eagle Advantage card available because you will have to provide the 12-digit number printed on the back of the card.

Enter our School ID #: 1082.

Then shop with your Giant Eagle Advantage Card.

Each scan of a Giant Eagle Advantage Card will help our school earn FREE equipment.

Those supporters who registered to help St. James last year will automatically be assigned to St. James again this year.

Box Tops

Register online <http://www.boxtops4education.com> to be the first 100 shoppers at the Marketplace to earn 100 Bonus Box Tops for St. James!!

You can shop over 100 stores and earn up to 15% cash back for St. James every time you shop.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, or need assistance in registering, please contact Tammy Petty (tammiepetty@msn.com) or Kelly Haluszczak @ (khaluszczak@hotmail.com).

Cafeteria and Playground Volunteers Needed

Once again I am asking for some help both in the cafeteria and the playground. I have an opening in the cafeteria on every other Thur. that I need to fill a.s.a.p. I appreciate all the help that I have received on the playground, and I just have a couple more openings that I need to fill, so that we have 3 volunteers each day. The playground needs are every other Tues. and every other Thur. Since it is already Oct. and with all the days off, holidays etc. there are only 5 Tuesdays and 5 Thursdays from now until Christmas that need to be filled. This is a great opportunity to "dip your toe in the water" and see what playground duty is like. Sr. Diane and Sr. Christy have been working very hard to make both the playground and cafeteria run so much smoother, and that means volunteering is easier, and more organized! So, please check your schedule and let me know if you are available or if you have any questions. Thanks again parents!

Amy MacDonald 412-749-9495 mattandamy@comcast.net

Attention Volunteers:

There will be a Protecting God's Children Workshop at St. Joseph in Coraopolis on October 15, 6:30-9:30 for any volunteers who have not previously attended a session. Call Cathy Pisko at 412-264-6162 to register. This is one of the required elements that each school volunteer must have for the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Safe Environment Policy. If you have any questions regarding the Safe Environment Policy, please contact Sue Ponticello at the Rectory at 412-741-6650 ext. 315. Thank you.

Chess Club News

We have had an overwhelming response to the Chess Club—26 students representing grades Kindergarten through 8th grade have signed on to participate. The students represent a mix of experience in playing chess: many come new to the game; others have been playing chess for some time. Our first meeting is scheduled this Friday, Oct 2, 2009 in the SJS library from 2:20 to 3:30. Chess club students will be dismissed to the school library following announcements and prayer.

Although we can no longer accept additional registrants, it is our hope to initiate a second session beginning late winter. Feel free to call or email Rosemary McNelis (412.766.0716 or rosemaryhmcnelis@verizon.net) with any questions you may have.

Women's Bible Sharing Group

The Women's Bible Sharing group invites all mothers to join us on Monday mornings between 9:30 and 11am. We will be studying the "Sacred Heart of Jesus". Child care is provided. Study guides will be available at the Rectory or at our meetings and the class charge is \$20. Fr. Dan is our speaker on Oct. 5. Call Ruth 412-749-0103 if you have questions. Hope to see you Monday mornings.

Athletic Events

10/2, 7pm: JV & Varsity
Soccer Game Vs
Brookline Regional at
Seton LaSalle H.S. Field

10/4, 3:45pm:
4th Grade Soccer at
Madonna

10/7, 5pm: XC hosted
by St. James at
Youthtowne

Girls Soccer Players Needed

The Sewickley Sentinals team is now forming and is in need of players. Any St James girl in Grades 6 thru 8 who would like to play indoor Soccer should contact Edmund Brezny at alexis331@verizon.net or (412) 299-0748

Athletics

Soccer



Varsity Soccer Game Recap

This past Sunday, we played host to St. Alphonsus #2 and after a tough match the final score was 2 to 0 St. James. Our defense played an excellent game lead by Rachel Osheka, Carlyle MacDonald, Katie Indovina with Gregory Strong and Leo Hill taking turns in goal. This is our 3rd shutout of the season! On the offensive front.... Jack Matten scored our first goal with Gregory scoring our 2nd goal via a nice cross by Jack. The hustling award for the game goes to Jack and Rachel! Well done Cougars!

The JV Soccer team won its third straight game this Fall and is still undefeated. This Sunday, the Cougars took on St. Margaret of Scotland at the QV High School Field. With two quick goals from Colin Neville and Harrison Kuchtjak, the Cougars' lead was 2-0 at halftime. After giving up a tough goal, St. James settled the play down and added another goal to protect their lead. As the second half wound down, they added 2 more goals and only gave up one more. The scoring in the second half came from Harrison Kuchtjak (his second of the game) and Ian Rodgers (scoring 2 goals in the half). The final score was 5-2. Strong performances from Lauren Padalino at midfield and Gabrielle Zernich on defense contributed to the win. Congratulations Cougars!

Altar Server Schedule

October 3 - October 5

Oct 3, 5:00 PM	Oct 4, 7:30 AM	Oct 4, 9:30 AM	Oct 4, 11:30 AM
Alexis Griesacker	Jack Ciesinski	Molly DeFilippo	Micaela Becker
Meg Oczypok	Caroline Owens	Nate Lisanti	Rachel Becker
Wyatt Travis	Jacqueline Owens	Greg Strong	Alexa Collins