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SAINT MARY – SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL - WILLIMANTIC, CT  
**A MAGNET SCHOOL FOR VALUES!**  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE**

January 18, 2012

Christian Unity Octave

Vol. XLIV, No. 20

Dear Boys and Girls: Today begins a full eight days of prayers throughout the world for all Christian Churches to aim at what Jesus spoke of in St. John's Gospel account (John 17:20-23) at the Last Supper. He prayed directly to God, the Father, asking that we may all be one as He and the Father were one. This gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we, as a school family, can work toward unity within our different faith traditions. Although most of the families in our school are Roman Catholic, there are several families of other faith traditions. Without compromising our own faith and its traditions, each one of us is asked to work toward unity by respecting each other and the faith in which each has been raised. Always we need to be seeking truth and truth comes to us in many ways. As Catholics, we believe that we have the fullness of truth as taught by Jesus Christ when He established His Church and set Simon-Peter as its head. But that does not mean there are no truths in other religions. The best way to work at Christian unity is to capitalize on and nurture that which is the same in our religious beliefs. It's the same when we reflect on the richness of our school family with its many-faceted ethnicities. We are all God's children, no matter from what country our ancestors came, no matter the color of our skin or the language we speak. Let us always work to be channels of unity through respect for one another. It's what God wants of us and it is the way to true unity and real happiness.

Enclosures (6): **Pancake Breakfast Flyer**, Box Tops Collection Sheet, Silpada Jewelry reminder, Scrip order form, Haitian Health Foundation "Change for Change" event, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Carnation Order forms

**Next Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, early dismissal (12:45 p.m.)**—Lunch and Latch Key available

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATION—JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**THEME: FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE**

**Pancake breakfast: TIME IS RUNNING OUT—WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AND FOLKS TO PURCHASE THEIR TICKETS NOW. READ ON!!!!** We are going to kick off this event-filled week with a pancake breakfast at Applebee's in the Eastbrook Mall from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for this event are in the school office. Please reserve a place at this event by purchasing your tickets ahead of time. Let's make this a real FUN-raiser. **We need volunteers to help with greeting, seating, serving, and busing. Take your family out to breakfast on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Art Show at St. Bernard School in Uncasville** during Catholic Schools Week. Several of our students will have their art displayed at the Show. Times for viewing are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 30-Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Our Silpada fundraiser** is due back on Monday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Think, Valentine's Day, think Easter, think Mother's Day. Just think and buy!!!!

**A proposal is in the air to make a change to the school uniform.** This administration would like input from families, especially those who "do the laundry" in your household. There are some samples hanging in the office with other suggestions to be discussed. We are working very closely with Donnelly's Uniform Company and hope to have this resolved by the end of January. Proposals to be discussed are: white button down blouses and shirts; ties for the boys, uniform shoes, and alternatives to these. Please mark your calendar if you want to be part of this discussion. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the library (or cafeteria if numbers warrant it). If you are unable to make this meeting, but want to give your input, please submit it in writing. There will be no change in the new kindergarten uniform; all seem very pleased with it.

**Scrip Program** – Thank you to all who are supporting the school through this program. See enclosed order form.

**Art Fee:** Thank you to those who have responded to the memo regarding the \$10 art fee. Please be sure to get this in as soon as possible so we don't have to keep reminding you.

**The Spring GALA**—one of the biggest fund-raisers that SMSJ sponsors. It will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup>. It takes many hands to make this as successful as it was last year. Please attend the special Gala SFA meeting **TONIGHT** Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. It's a fund and fun time for all when many hands pitch in to work the Gala. What is the GALA? Spaghetti Supper, tons of raffle baskets, silent auction, ice cream bar, music, white ticket raffle with big prizes attached. Come and be part of this event.

**Basketball Schedule:** Jan. 19—Boys JV & V at 6 p.m. playing St. James at home (2 games)  
Jan. 24---JV Boys vs. Lebanon 6 p.m. home; Varsity practice 3-5 p.m.  
Jan. 25---No girls' practice; 5:30 JV Girls away at St. James; 6:30 Varsity Girls at St. James.  
Jan. 27—Boys JV & V vs. Sacred Heart away at 6:30 p.m.

**Recycle reminders:** We collect used cartridges from copiers and printers and receive coupons from Staples worth quite a bit of money. Also, we collect water bottles, soda cans, etc. for redemption; we also collect Box Tops for Education and juice pouches, empty glue sticks, pens, markers, empty glue bottles.

***Thought for the Week***

*Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle.*

*Thomas Jefferson*

**SNEAK PREVIEW OF EVENTS COMING UP FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:**

Wed., 1:00 p.m., Villari's Martial Arts Demonstration; Thursday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, parent/special person luncheon; NED show in the morning; Daughters of St. Paul Book Fair, Thurs. & Fri.; Pizza/Bingo Night, Friday. Details to all events next week!