

∞ S M S J WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ∞  
SAINT MARY – SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL - WILLIMANTIC, CT  
**A MAGNET SCHOOL FOR VALUES!**  
**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE**

February 8, 2012

St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita

Vol. XLIV, No. 23

Dear Boys and Girls: I would like to follow up on our “chat” during Monday morning’s prayer service, where we listened to Sunday’s Gospel and learned that Jesus took time to pray to His Father in spite of His busy day. I would like to add to that reflection with the following poem. So read and heed as you grow closer to the Lord:

*The Difference*

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day,  
I had so much to accomplish, that I didn’t take time to pray.  
Problems just tumbling about me, and heavier came each task;  
“Why doesn’t God help me?” I wondered. He answered, “You didn’t ask.”  
I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn’t show me; He said, “But you didn’t seek.”  
I tried to come into God’s presence; I used all my keys in the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided: “M child, you didn’t knock.”  
I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

Enclosures (8): Gala letter and information sheet, New uniform decision letter, PreK Program Survey, Valentine’s Grams, Munson’s Fundraiser flyer, Scrip Orders, Activity Night (gr. 6-8)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL YOU NY GIANT FANS—a fantastic game!**

**School Vacation week** begins February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 dismissal. There will be latchkey available on that day. Classes resume on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Re-enrollment for next year** will begin after the February break. Will we be able to make it 200 this coming year? We encourage everyone to be a recruiter. We especially ask parents who know families that have children in the fourth grade to consider sending their children to our fifth grade even though the middle school in Windham will only begin in sixth grade next year. That transition year before leaping into our departmental program (gr. 6-8) is so important for students coming into our school in order to adjust to our academic and behavioral standards. Also, check out the PreK proposal survey enclosed in today’s folder and let us know your thoughts. You like SMSJ? Tell the world! If you don’t, tell us.

**Open House for prospective students and their families** will take place the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. with Wednesday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup> open from 6 – 8 p.m. Please spread the word. Look for our ad in the *Chronicle* and the *Four County Catholic*.

**“Change for Change”**, our Haitian Health Foundation outreach ends this Friday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Which class will win the pizza party? Thank you all for your generosity thus far. The thermometer keeps going up! up ! up!

**A big thank you** to all who supported our Catholic Schools Week activities. Your help and participation were greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of the students who were the school ambassadors at the parish Masses last weekend. A special thank you to Mrs. Jennifer Bennett who organized the events and to Chef Ed for providing a great luncheon. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Tilley for selling yo-yo's. Thank you to all who sent flowers to the staff. It's great to be appreciated.

**February Winners of the 50/50 Club:** Regina Puleo, #52 and Deirdre McPadden, #74. Congratulations to both of you and thank you for your support. It's never too late to join the club—no meetings, no dues, just a one time fee and monthly chances to win. Call Roland Huard at 860-423-8479.

**Basketball news:** Tonight's game, JV Girls, 5:30 p.m.; 2/9, 6:00 p.m., JV & V Boys vs. St. Joseph, Baltic, combo. team games (2); 2/15, last girls' games, JV at 6:30 p.m., St. Pat's, 7:30 Varsity girls; 2/15 Boys JV at 5:30 p.m. vs. Windham Rec.; 2/16 Boys Varsity, 6 p.m. vs. Willington, last game of the season. **All games on schedule are home games.** **Tickets for parents attending the basketball end of season dinner** can be purchased in the office. Adults \$5 ea., players and siblings, free.

**Scrip Orders** due on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Square One Art**—an opportunity for you to order a product with your child's own art creation printed onto it—cups, plates and more. Students have been working on their designs during art classes. If a family would like to create a design together, sheets on which to create your family art project will be provided by calling the school office as soon as possible. All family designs are due **before the February break**. More information as to how and what you can order from the "Square One" company will be forthcoming.

**Only 25 more families owe for the \$10 Art Fee.** Please take care of this yesterday. Thank you in advance.

**Special thanks to** Brenda Suchomel for arranging the clothes closet once again.

**Lost and Found** is piling up in the basement. Parents, there are some very expensive clothes items there, e.g., snow pants, boots, jackets, etc. Please claim.

**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. Bring'em on!

*Thought for the Week*  
*A day hemmed in by prayer will not come unraveled.*