



Dear Parents,

October 2, 2009

Saturday is our school marathon. This is a great family day to meet and visit with other school families. We have fallen short of our goal of \$80,000 and hope everyone can give one last push over the weekend. Marathon monies are vital to our school budget. We have set an individual goal of \$80 per student and ask that every family participate in whatever way they are able. The forecast indicates a cool day with possible sprinkles. Please have students dress in layers. If we would experience a heavy rain, we would use our gym and hallways. The hotdog lunch would then take place in the social hall. We ask students not to take the short cut through the park since there are several dangerous hills to navigate and the damp grass makes these areas very slippery. Students who plan to bike should do a safety check before Saturday and are reminded to ride close to the curb. Please visit with your child about biking and pedestrian safety. Plan to stay for a hotdog lunch following the marathon in the school parking lot/cafeteria. The Home and School Association is sponsoring the lunch, but goodwill donations are appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday.

School pictures are scheduled for Monday, October 12. This will be an **out-of-uniform day**. Purchase of individual pictures/group composites are always optional, but we do ask that all students be photographed for the yearbook. Preschool-age children may be brought in to have their pictures taken between 8:15-8:40 am in the Great Room. No appointments necessary. The St. Joseph's Preschool classes will have their pictures taken later in the morning.

We are doing a test run of our new e-mail system today. A "paper" copy of this letter is coming home in the Friday folder. We will also be sending the **letter out by e-mail**. If you do not receive your e-mail copy, and are sure you gave us your address and / or you want to be added to the list, please contact the school office at 457-8550. Help us "go green"!

Winter sport's sign-up is now taking place. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders received a sport's sign-up packet last week in the Friday folder. Swim Team sign-ups will

take place later in December. Deadline for Basketball and hockey sign-ups is Friday, October 9. Registrations received after that date will be put on a waiting list. Students on a waiting list does not guarantee placement on a team. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 may play either basketball or hockey and still sign up in December to be on the Swim Team.

Thank you for your attention to recent communication from our Health Office regarding the H1N1 flu. Our absentee list seems pretty normal for this time of the year. As an additional precaution regarding all kinds of contagious "bugs", we are asking that students in grades 5-8 carry their own personal sized hand sanitizer to be used before lunch, after PE, etc. All teachers will have a bottle of **hand sanitizer** available and students will be encouraged to use it before lunch. General areas such as the computer lab and lunch room are also being given attention in this area. The school will gladly accept donations in the office for bottles of sanitizer. (Teachers love the "all natural, low odor" variety.) Also see the flyer coming home from the Librarian on keeping books "healthy".

J. A G. Quest is only six weeks away! We hope you will help kick off the holiday season on November 14th. Enjoy the company of friends, feast on delicious food, and dance the night away all while supporting your children's education. Please visit our website: stjosephwsp.ejoinme.org/jagquest2009 to register online, review our wish list or make a donation. Donations are due October 9th in the school office. The J.A.G. Quest committee is hosting a new family coffee on Wednesday, October 7th at 8:45 am in the Great Room. This is your chance to learn more about this fun event. Contact Kristen Nicklawske or Genevieve Burke with questions.

Next Friday, October 9, **recruiters** from area high schools will be here to visit our eighth graders beginning at 12:40 pm in the Great Room. Parents are welcome to join us. Eighth graders who wish to visit a high school should choose a day that St. Joseph's is not in session.

Respect Life Week will be observed Oct. 19 - 23. Students will be participating in a variety of activities throughout the week. We will have a special collection during that week. Grades K-4 are asked to bring in layette items which will be donated to women in crisis pregnancy situations. Grades 5-8 are encouraged to bring items for the elderly and homebound of our parish. Suggested items include gift cards (Rainbow, Walgreens, etc.), slippers, winter hats and gloves, stationery, envelopes and stamps, etc.

The **Kindergartners** will be going to Dodge Nature Center for their Fall Orchard Hike on Tuesday, October 6. Thank you to the Home and School Assn. for sponsoring this program.

Grades 3, 4 and Kindergarten will have a presentation by the WSP Fire Dept. on Fire Safety on Thursday, October 8.

October is **Raptor Month**. To celebrate, Dakota County Library (Wentworth) has invited the Dodge Nature Center to present "Raptor", a program featuring live birds. The program will be presented at the library at 2:00 pm on Thursday, October 15. This would be a fun MEA activity for your family.

Join us for **mass** next Friday, October 9 at 9:00 am.

Jane E. Nordin, Principal