

*He comforts us every time we have trouble, so when others have trouble, we can comfort them.*

**My child's feelings are hurt. I tell her she's special.**

**My child is injured. I do whatever it takes to make her feel better.**

**My child is afraid. I won't go to sleep until she is secure.**

**I'm not a hero...I'm a parent. When a child hurts, a parent does what comes naturally.**

**He helps...**

**Why don't I let my Father do for me what I am more than willing to do for my own children?**

**I'm learning...Being a father is teaching me that when I am criticized, injured, or afraid, there is a Father who is ready to comfort me. There is a Father who will hold me until I'm better, help me until I can live with the hurt, and who won't go to sleep when I'm afraid of waking up and seeing the dark.**

**Ever.**

*Welcome to the new school year.* The first few days have been hectic but extremely enjoyable. Our new students are adjusting nicely and our returning students have made them feel welcome and very much at home at St. Joseph High School.

Many of you have noticed the new landscaping around our building. A group of parents spent many hours during the week and on the weekends weeding, planting, and installing picnic tables and benches for students and faculty. An alumnus donated the money for the project and Dana DiSantis, Kathy Chiaretto, Joyce and John Marchisio and Tracie Shelsey, along with Gary Bianchi and members of football team did the rest. Plenty of work was also done inside our building by parent volunteers. The furniture in the lobby was refinished, the bulletin boards received a make over and new banners will be installed shortly. Please stop by and see all the changes.

## **MEDIA ROOM**

Thank you to the Gladden Family. They made a generous donation to the school for a media room. Mrs. Hamilton's room has been designated as the media room and has been repainted and updated. There are 16 new Dell Laptop computers that teachers may sign out for classroom use, along with several new DVD players, a new LCD projector and a new printer. Two new SMART boards have been purchased for Mr. Coudert and Mrs. Callaghan's rooms. Three digital cameras and a video camera have also been purchased for use by the teachers and students. We are currently in the process now of converting the old "Bingo Room" into a music room and converting Mr. Coudert's room into a computer lab/classroom.

As you can see much has been done and there are still more plans for the future.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS/STAFF/STUDENTS**

St. Joseph is very happy to welcome several new teachers this year. The English department is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Daniel Seseske, Grade 10, Ms. Halley Sutherland, Grade 11, and Mrs. Gayle Norton, Grades 8 & 9. Many of you know Mrs. Norton from St. Mark. Mr. Nicholas Harden, Grades 8 & 9, joins the Religion department and Dr. Meridydd Cooper, Biology, joins the Science department. Mr. Michael Sheehan, Grades 8 & 9, is back from Arizona and rejoins the Social Studies department. Mr. Peter Ellsworth is our new Athletic Director and Mrs. Dana DiSantis has joined the Marketing/Development office.

We also extend a very special welcome to our 14 international students. Students have traveled from Brazil, Korea, Poland, Spain and the Ivory Coast to join the St. Joe family. A special thank you to all the students for making the teachers and new students feel welcome.

## **SCHOOL STORE**

Our school store has reopened! Vickie Castellani has stocked the shelves with school supplies, school shirts and sweatshirts, as well as many new school spirit items. She will be carrying sweatpants, flannel pants, tee shirts, crusader banners, umbrellas, water bottles and much more. The hours now are Monday morning and Thursday lunch hours. If you have some time to volunteer in the school please contact us at 447-9121.

## **BOOKS**

All the books are finally in. Thank you for your patience. Most of the book credits from last year have been issued. If you have not received a check or used the credit for this year's books please contact Lori in the business office at 443-9686.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE**

When many families registered for school last year they were affiliated with a parish slated to close. At that time many were unsure of where they were going. In order to receive the affiliated rate you must be registered with an existing parish. Please call the business office as soon as possible to let us know what parish you have joined. Student names will be sent to the parishes for verification shortly and we want to make sure you are not left off a parish list.

Several families have not yet selected a payment plan for tuition payments.

Tuition must be paid in full by June 1, 2009 unless other arrangements have been made. If you have not selected a payment plan or paid in full, please contact the business office immediately.

## **ATHLETICS**

Just a reminder: all students participating in athletics this year must have an up-to-date physical and paid the \$100 athletic fee. If you have any questions please contact Peter Ellsworth at 997-2507.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

We are completing our Magazine Drive on Monday September 24. Thank you to all the families and students that participated. This money goes right back to the students to support field trips, teaching supplies and capital improvements. Thank you to Mr. Matt Ward who has headed up this drive.

All families received our Football Tickets the week of September 15. This is a school fundraiser NOT a football team fundraiser. All money should be turned in as soon as possible. If you need more tickets contact the main office at 447-9121. Remember that you must turn in any unsold tickets. Families that do not sell the tickets or return them will be billed \$10 per ticket. We want to do a lot this year with the students and the only way we can is to raise money through these fundraisers. Please help us by selling as many of the tickets as you can. Thank you to Tracie Shelsey for chairing this fundraiser.

## **CLASS NEWS/NOTES**

Two weeks and two class trips!

- The *freshman* class made their annual trip to Chimney Corners. Mr. Maaia, Mr. Sheehan, Ms. Ely and Ms. Cote accompanied the class to Becket on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the *senior* class went on a retreat at the Pittsfield State Forest. This gave the class a chance to spend time reflecting on their past years at St. Joe and the very important upcoming one. Senior teachers, Ms. Ely, Mrs. Callaghan, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Maaia chaperoned the trip. Seniors read letters from last year's graduating class that gave them advice and several 'words of wisdom' to reflect on. The class of 2009 then drafted letters to this year's freshmen telling them things they 'wished' they had known.

Ms. Walton and Mrs. Dunham from the Guidance Office did a presentation for all seniors to begin planning senior year. Information was presented about SATs, college visits, applications, college fairs, recommendation letters, and much more. An outline of this presentation is available at the St. Joe website, [www.stjoehigh.org](http://www.stjoehigh.org), click on the Guidance button from there.

Several new clubs have been formed this year and are beginning to meet. The Student Council under the direction of Mr. Sheehan, had their first meeting on September 15 to begin planning their projects for the upcoming year. The Leadership Committee that began last year will once again work with the DA's Office on several internet safety programs. Mrs. Norton is the advisor this year. The Ambassadors club had an organization meeting and broke into several committees. Recycling, volunteering at St. Mark, and tour guides are just a few of the activities students can get involved in. Dr. Cooper is beginning a Young Professional's Club. Look for more information in the upcoming weeks. Our Chorus, directed by Mrs. Marilyn Kirby and Mrs. Karen Auge will get underway in October. Newspaper, Photo Club, Quiz Team, Yearbook and Music for Liturgies have already begun meeting. Students may join any of these clubs during the year.

The JETS Club and the AP Calculus class took a trip to the Boston Museum of Science on Thursday September 14 to participate in a symposium presented by NASA.

Mrs. Hamilton and our Community Service projects are going strong. Students have signed up to participate in the Jolly Jaunt, Sun Ducky Derby and the Berkshire Botanical Garden fundraiser already. The community knows that when you need help and responsible students just call St. Joe!

Our homework website will be up and running by the end of September. If your child is absent, or you simply want to monitor work being assigned, you can access homework assignments at [www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com), teachers are listed alphabetically.

A very special thank you to all our Crusader families. You have given us the chance to know and teach your child. Our mission is to give your child the best education, both morally and academically, possible. I was with the seniors on their retreat and saw how much thought they put into their letters to the freshmen. I have watched them make our new students feel welcome. Sports team captains have given guidance and direction to new players. Respect, honesty, kindness, service and generosity are not just words to our faculty and students, they are our mission. God Bless each and everyone of you. I look forward to a great year.

