

St. James School  
 73 Park Street  
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 (860)643-5088  
 www.SaintJamesSchool.net

# Saber Stories



February 2012 Newsletter

Patricia Kanute, Principal

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- ! RE-REGISTRATION PAPERWORK FOR 2012-2013 WAS SENT HOME JAN 30 (see below) AND IS DUE FEB 17TH
- ! CALENDAR DETAILS AND CHANGES
- ! NO SCHOOL - FEB 20-24
- ! GALA DATE - FEB 11

### REGISTRATION

#### FOR '12-'13 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration for new students started Jan. 24, 2012.

Re-registration for current students starts Jan 30, with registration form, tuition contract, parish affiliation form (for registered Catholics), and a \$100 non-refundable registration fee due by Feb 17, 2012. In order for your registration form to be accepted, your 2011-2012 tuition must be paid or current.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO WILL BE A NEW STUDENT AT ST. JAMES IN THE FALL AND HE/SHE IS NOT ENROLLED IN ST. JAMES PRE-KINDERGARTEN, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION AND TO SET UP A KINDERGARTEN SCREENING OR GRADE 1-8 PLACEMENT TEST. APPOINTMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE END OF FEBRUARY.

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb 1	H.S.A. Meeting, 6:30 PM, Convent
Feb 3	Report Cards Distributed Gr. 6-8 Dance, 7 PM, St. James Gym
Feb 4	Virtus Training, 10 AM, St. James School
Feb 7	Ski Club, Mt. Southington
Feb 8	Rosary Prayed, 8:20 AM, Gym
Feb 9	Ident-A-Kid, 9 AM, Gym
Feb 11	Annual Gala & Auction
Feb 14	 Happy Valentine's Day!
Feb 15	All-State Jazz Band Rehearsal, 6-9 PM, Gym
Feb 16	Staff Meeting, 2:20 PM
Feb 17	"Read to Achieve" Program Ends Re-Registration Forms Due to School Office
<b>Feb 20-24</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL - MID-WINTER RECESS</b>
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Feb 27	Kindergarten Screening School Board Meeting, 7PM, Convent
Feb 29	Kindergarten Screening All-State Jazz Band Rehearsal, 6-9 PM, Gym Catholic Schools Day at Legislative Office Building, 9 AM - 12 Noon



### DRAMA CLUB REHEARSAL DATES

LOCATION: GYM      TIME: 3:15 - 4:30 PM

#### Rehearsals

- Friday, February 3
- Friday, February 10
- Friday, February 17

## LATE TO SCHOOL

Many students are late to school each day. BEING ON TIME or PUNCTUAL is an important aspect of a student's training. The teachers and administration request that every effort be made to have the students at St. James School on time, before 7:55 AM.

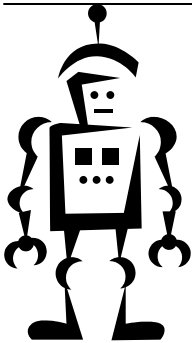


When a student is tardy, he or she disrupts the entire class instruction and activity that begins the school day. This is not fair to the teacher, classmates, and late student. Therefore, please make sure to have all students at school and walking in with their class on time!

Here is a three step plan to help students be on time:

1. Make a morning plan WITH your children - plan how mornings can be better.
2. Take time for training - allow children to do those things they can do for themselves.
3. Plan for the inevitable roadblock - build a buffer into your schedule to allow for unexpected bumps such as traffic, a uniform issue, items left at home, or oversleeping.

The key is recognizing that students have as much responsibility as do adults in getting themselves ready. So, get to bed early, rise on time, and be at school to start the day on time!



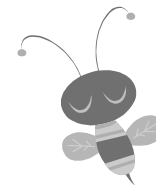
### ROBOTICS CLUB

We are happy to announce that Lego Mindstorm Robotics has finally arrived at Saint James School. We had our first meeting on Thursday, January 5th. We had two 7th and two 8th grade students. We made it through the assembly of our first kit. Next week we will attempt our first programming project where we will make our robot move around, spin in a circle and maybe say a few things. Of course these ambitious students won't stop at that, so who knows what this little robot will be doing by the end of our session. Maybe it'll be clearing lost kickballs off of the breezeway roof. I am looking forward to programming the robot with the smart board. This will be a great venue for working together as a team on a discipline that is quite typically a solitary endeavor.

The Robotics Club meets every other Friday after school. The club is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Feel free to sign your child up for the club. If you would like to do so, please email me at Michael.reilly@ngc.com. There is a \$35 activity fee and this should be accompanied with a short essay explaining their interest.

*Mike Reilly*

### Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee Candidates



The following students from our fourth, fifth, and sixth grades will represent St. James School in the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee Contest:

#### **Grade 4 Winner: Clarice Jayawickrema**

Alternate: Kevin Connolly

#### **Grade 5 Winner: Edgar Dias**

Alternate: Grace Imondi

#### **Grade 6 Winner: Nicholas Truong**

Alternate: Madisen Crowley

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL!**



**SAFETY FOR PICK-UP TIME**

Mrs. Kanute requests that those who pick up students after school in the church parking lot to please get out of their car and meet the students in the lot. This is especially necessary for Kindergarten through Grade 4 students. As always, please wait until all students are in their cars before attempting to leave the lot. Safety is our main concern. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office at 860-643-5088.

**EXTENDED DAY NEWS**

Please be sure your child's name is on all articles of clothing. We are finding many items left behind. Also, please be sure to look through our lost and found box. At the end of each week, any unclaimed items will be brought to the school's lost and found box in Mr. Green's office.

The staff of Extended Day accepts and appreciates donations of scrap paper for coloring, glue sticks, playing cards (all assorted card games), Barbie clothes, and toy cars.

Reminder - Any student who wishes to serve community service hours with Extended Day must make arrangements with Miss Jean prior to the day of service. Service hours are limited to three students per day.

**GALA NEWS**



Save the date of Feb 11th for this year's Gala fundraiser! It will be held at A Villa Louisa in Bolton from 6PM-11PM. If you want to volunteer, or if you want to donate an auction item, contact Paul Munns @ 860-214-4249 or paulmunns@yahoo.com. Examples of donations: use of vacation home, a service, baskets of goods, anything of value.

**DRESS CODE REMINDERS**



- Uniforms should be clean, fit properly, and be in good condition.
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Nail polish is not allowed.
- Students' hair must be clean, neat, and well-cut. Boys' hair should not extend below the ear lobe or touch the shirt collar. The coloration of hair is not permitted.
- Students may not wear make-up during the school day.
- Only one earring in each ear is allowed for girls.
- Shoes should be black or brown tie dress shoes or Mary-Jane style buckle shoes for girls.

**These are school policies, please do not make exceptions for your children.**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE INFORMATION**

Students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Middle School Dances. The next dance will be hosted by St. James on Friday February 3, 2012. Please go to the St. James School website for the permission slip for the February dance. **At the February dance, St. James students are welcome to invite a friend.** A signed permission slip and the \$5 "cover charge" will also apply to the friend. At this **Bring-A-Friend** dance, St. James students who bring a guest will receive five raffle tickets and their guest will, too!

If you are interested in volunteering to chaperone and to help clean up after the St. James dance, please contact Beth Holcomb ([bah.cats@cox.net](mailto:bah.cats@cox.net)) or Nancy Brennan([nd.brennan@snet.net](mailto:nd.brennan@snet.net)).

The dances begin at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 10:00 p.m. Parents are required to sign their children in and out of the dance. **Since St. James is hosting, we request that 6<sup>th</sup> graders bring prepackaged snacks and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders bring jugs of water.** Your help is appreciated.

The March dance will be hosted by St. Chris on Friday, March 30, 2012.

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES



**Please note that some of these are changes from the original school calendar**

If you have not already done so, please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- February 20-24 - No School (Mid-Winter Recess)
- March 15 - Full Day of School
- March 29 - No School (Catholic Educator's Faith Formation Conference)
- April 6 - No School (Good Friday)
- April 12 - No School (National Catholic Educational Association Convention and Expo, Boston)
- April 16-20 - No School (Spring Recess)
- May 1 - Full Day of School
- May 28 - No School (Memorial Day)
- June 12 - Full Day of School
- June 13, 14 - Four-Hour Days (12:05 Dismissal)
- June 15 - Last Day of School (12:05 Dismissal)

**Any snow days will be made up during Spring Recess in April.**



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

Mr. Corcoran thanks St. James School for hosting the 2012 All-State auditions this past January 20th and 28th. The results of the auditions will be published in the March Newsletter.

All of the St. James Bands are now working hard for their next performance. Our Spring Concert will be held on Wed, May 2, at 6:30 PM. Please mark this date on your calendars. Students will wear black and white to the evening concert. Any alumni or parents who play wind instruments are welcome to sit in the Advanced Band. Please contact Mr. Corcoran if you wish to perform.



## NOTES FROM THE NURSE



### GRADE 5-8 PARENTS:

A letter will be sent home with your child regarding scoliosis screening. Please review the information and contact the nurse ASAP if you have any questions. If you do not want your child screened, please submit a separate note to the school nurse. Screenings will begin soon!

### ALL CURRENT GRADE 6 STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

The State of Connecticut mandates that all students entering Grade 7 in September 2012 have an updated Physical Examination and Immunization Record on file with the school nurse. These blue health forms are available in the school nurse's office or from your child's physician. Students who have not submitted an updated health form will not be allowed to enter grade 7 in September. Please contact Mrs. Vignati if you have any questions.

### NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

On January 23rd, we kicked off our “Read to Achieve” reading challenge, sponsored by the Springfield Armor. The students are excited and everyone is reading! Each class has made motivational posters to support our challenge and remind us to READ! We are all working towards winning a free ticket to the Springfield Armor Basketball Game on Saturday, March 24th at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



I am still looking for book donations for our Spring Book Sale. Spring is coming, time to clear off the shelves, empty the closets and see what your children have outgrown. All proceeds go to the St. James School Library to buy new books. Please support our school library!

*Barbara Alexander*



### ST. JAMES SCHOOL FOUNDATION

The St. James School Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors recently held their 36th annual meeting to approve its annual allocation to St. James School. This year, \$119,000 was earmarked to fund the tuition assistance program and the Margin of Excellence Program, including tutorial programs, computer lab support, development and other needs identified by the Administration. The St. James School Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1975 with the goal of accumulating and investing donations to provide a safeguard that would assist the school through difficult times. The Foundation was so successful that, in 1987, it was able to shift its focus from safeguarding against hard times to taking a proactive role in providing regular financial assistance to the school. To date, the St. James School Foundation, Inc. has contributed more than \$1,000,000 to the school.

### SAVE THE DATE

**SAINT JAMES SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
18TH ANNUAL SPRING SCRAMBLE GOLF CLASSIC AND DINNER**

**WEDNESDAY, May 16, 2012**

**Manchester Country Club**

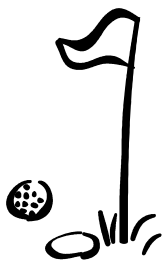
305 South Main Street, Manchester, CT

Everyone is welcome to participate!

More details to follow...

**For information, please call Bill O’Neill at (860)614-5368**

**or e-mail him at [billoneillgreenways@cox.net](mailto:billoneillgreenways@cox.net)**





## SNOW DAYS, DELAYED OPENINGS, AND EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

During the season with inclement weather, the decision to have a delayed opening, snow day, or early dismissal is made by the Manchester School system. The announcement, “Manchester Public Schools”, is made on radio stations WTIC 1080AM & WTIC 96.5FM, TV stations WVIT (NBC “Channel 30”) and WFSB (CBS “Channel 3”), and websites [www.nbcconnecticut.com](http://www.nbcconnecticut.com), and [www.wfsb.com](http://www.wfsb.com). **Please sign up for automatic email or text notification at either of these websites.** If you do not have email or texting capabilities, please listen and watch for these announcements on the radio, computer, or TV and have plans in place between you and your child/ren for early dismissals. If a delayed opening is announced, continue to check for updates in case a later announcement cancels school.

The schedule for a **90-minute delayed opening** is as follows:

Half-day Kindergarten students will attend school from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

Full-day K – Grade 8 students will attend school from 9:30 AM to 2:05 PM

Pre-K Morning Session & Full Day Session starts at 9:45 A.M.

Pre-K Afternoon Session starts at 11:15 A.M.

There is no before school care if there is a late opening

The schedule for an early dismissal is as follows:

K-8 will operate on a 4-hour day schedule, with dismissal at 12:05 PM.

Pre-K Morning Session dismisses at 10:45 A.M.

Pre-K Full Day Session dismisses at 12:00 Noon.

Pre-K Afternoon Session is cancelled.

It is the responsibility of parents to make arrangements for their children and to be sure that the children are aware of the arrangements. **If the weather forecast indicates that an early dismissal is possible, parents should discuss the plan for an early dismissal in the morning before school.** The school is unable to call parents to inform them of an early dismissal. **The extended day program is cancelled on early dismissal days, and all students must be picked up from extended day no later than 1:00 PM.**