



# Principal's Post

November 16, 2017

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## Important Dates

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
11:30 K-8/ 12:00 PK  
Dismissal  
NO After School  
Program!

Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>-Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>  
Photo Retakes & 8<sup>th</sup>  
grade ¾ poses

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
X-STREAM Games at  
St. Joe's

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>  
No School Liturgy

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>  
Report Cards  
posted/ mailed

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Solemnity of the  
Immaculate  
Conception School  
Mass

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Dear Parents,

The survey that our School Board has created has been emailed to all families. The board is seeking feedback about our school - what you view as its strengths, what might be improved, what's important to YOU! As members of our school community, your input will be used to guide strategic decisions that will impact current and future SSPP students. **Please** take a few minutes to participate in and respond to the survey questions from this email. We truly value your input.

**Many thanks to Jennifer Jakubowski and crew for all of their hard work in putting together our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meat Knight Raffle!** It was a huge success and we are so grateful to all of the volunteers and to those who came to participate. It was so much fun!

**In light of recent tragic events across the country, please be assured that your children's safety is of utmost importance to us.** Along with regular fire drills, we hold Lock Down Drills in coordination with the Amherst Police Department. The teachers and staff are all aware of our School Safety Plan and the police department has a copy of this plan as well which they review yearly. Our doors are locked throughout the day after our initial K-8 arrival in the morning and security cameras at both doors allow for visual identification of visitors to the building.

**Fr. Jerry was very impressed with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders' participation in Mass yesterday and he kept them back afterwards to tell them so.** He was particularly impressed with how well they did their readings and petitions and how they have grown. This type of public speaking is a skill we hone beginning at a very young age, as evidenced by our excellent 1<sup>st</sup> grade readers last week!

**The 8th grade class continues to seek donations for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish of non-perishable food items for local families in need during this holiday season.** The collection continues through Friday, December 8th. A box is located in each classroom as well as in the main hall.

**School photo retakes and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ¾ poses will be taken on Thurs., Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.** Photos are enclosed in this week's folder. If you would like to have them redone, just return the envelope with your child on the 30<sup>th</sup>. They may dress accordingly on this day if

they will be having retakes.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> grade ¾ poses** are taken as a courtesy to the school, but copies can be purchased through the photographer's website. We use these photos for their graduation bulletin board at the end of the year and are placed in the yearbook as well. The girls should wear dresses, skirts or dress slacks appropriate for a Catholic school and the boys should wear dress slacks, shirts and ties; jackets are optional.

**Report Cards for students in grades K-8 will be generated on Thurs., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.** Report cards for students in grades K-2 will be mailed to parents and will be posted to the eSchool Parent Portal for students in grades 3-8. **Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Fri., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30 pm and also on Mon., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 pm.** Parents can sign up for conferences with particular teachers on our school website at <http://sspps.school.com/parents/parentteacher-conference-sign-up/>.



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**Our Poinsettia Sale fundraiser continues until next Tues., Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.** The proceeds from this sale go directly to our hard-working teachers for their Christmas bonuses! The plants will be available for pick up on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Many of our STREAM Academy students will attend the X-STREAM Games and Expo held at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute on Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Competitions begin at 12:00 for Robotics, 1:00 for Science Scrimmage and the Kitchen Chem Cook-Off at 2:00. There will be demonstrations for Lego U, "You're the Balm" and "Ignite the Power of Art" among others throughout the afternoon. They're even going to have a Bills vs. Patriots viewing area in the cafeteria for interested parents and students. It's a wonderful showcasing of all that our Diocesan schools are doing to promote STREAM!

**On Wed., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, Renee DeLuke of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will host a presentation to the students on being responsible digital citizens.** The assembly will be age appropriate to particular grade levels at different times that morning. Internet safety, social media and cyberbullying will be among the topics focused upon during her presentations, which will include dialogue with the students, interactive videos, and games. I am also considering asking her to return to conduct a presentation for parents in the evening if there would be interest in this.

**Our HSA will be hosting a Scrip Contest – the family with the highest dollar sales in Scrip cards from Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> will win a Scrip card PLUS a free jean's day for their child's class!** Please see the enclosed flier. This is a great way to purchase Christmas gifts for those people on your list that you're not sure what to buy for them! Remember, you can order online through the Scrip website, order and pay online through our school website, or fill out an order form and turn into the school office. Orders received on Monday will be available for pick up on Friday.

**We also have several cards in stock for last minute gifts or purchases.** Cards for Amazon, Bed Bath and Beyond, Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, Regal Cinemas, Target, Walmart, Panera, TJ Maxx, Tim Hortons and Tops can be purchased through the main office for on the spot delivery!

**Another Christmas gift idea is purchasing Sabres vs. Predators tickets for the game on March 19<sup>th</sup>!** Tickets are being sold for \$29.00 each and a portion of these sales will go toward our school! See the enclosed flier for more details. **At this same game, we will be doubling our fundraising efforts by participating in the 50/50 Raffle!** We will need many volunteers to help sell tickets for this event – and you'll get to see the game as well! Let's try and make this a fun and successful event!

**And yet, here's another gift idea. Zetouna Olive Oils gives back to our school 40% of your purchase!** They have oils, vinegars, gift sets, tanginess, and entertaining dishes as well. See the enclosed flier!

**Next Wed., Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, the students will be dismissed at 11:30 am (K-8) and 12:00 pm (PreK) for the Thanksgiving break and there will be NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM available this day.**

*Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends; there will be no letter from me next week!*

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Lester*