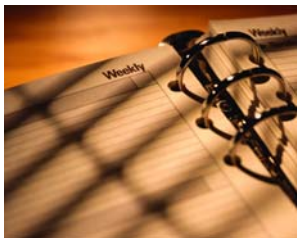




SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Board Members

Christopher Smith - Chair
Tania Yee - Vice Chair
Stephanie Pruitt - Secretary
Father Phil O'Kennedy
Sherry Lewis
Susan Abell
Greg Arnold
Irma Tudor
Tony Concurso
Jennifer English



Upcoming Events

- 2/23 Diocesan Religion Scholars Bowl
- 2/26 St. John's Benefit Gala—VBC
- 2/26 Diocesan Art Fair
- 3/7 School Board Meeting
- 3/8 PTO Meeting
- 3/9 Ash Wednesday
- 3/27 Standardized Testing Week : Grades 3, 5, 7

Mission Statement

St. John the Baptist Catholic School is committed to Catholic Formation and academic excellence, preparing students to be productive citizens and faith-filled servants of God.

www.stjohnb.com

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK... SHERRY LEWIS

January was a busy month at St. John's! Taste of Kindergarten was held on Friday, January 21st, and 26 rising Kindergarteners gathered in the classrooms to read a story, complete a craft and learn a math concept, while parents heard more about St. John's school. In addition, the Pre-K program hosted an informational evening for 17 families on Thursday, January 20th. Open House kicked off Catholic Schools Week, with the theme of A+ For America! During



Catholic Schools Week, 6th graders attended a Mass with Bishop Baker in Birmingham. In addition, community services such as the library, police, fire and the Mayor were treated to goodie baskets, and students,

parents, teachers and our Pastor were all celebrated on special appreciation days. On Thursday, February 3rd, the St. John's community was honored to have Mr. Frank Savage provide a presentation on Catholicity and the role that parents play in reinforcing Catholicity in the home. Friday ended with a rousing Pep Rally to close out another successful Catholic Schools Week. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make these events a success.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent and is a day of fasting, abstinence from meat and repentance. Ashes are made by burning the blessed palms from the prior Palm Sunday; these ashes serve as a sign of reflection and humility. In contrast to Advent, a time of expectant waiting for the birth of Christ, Lent is a time of reflecting on our own spiritual life and setting specific goals to improve our Catholic faith.

Traditionally, as a sign of sacrifice, many Catholics opt to give up a favorite food, drink or activity as a way to symbolize Jesus giving up his life for us on Good Friday. Others focus on virtuous behavior such as sustaining from gossip and complaining or losing their temper easily. However, consider this—take something on during Lent this year. Go to church often, go to confession, perform charitable deeds, attend an

adult religious education event, pray more yourself and as a family. There is no better time to reflect on challenges and build a strong faith foundation. Many experts say that it takes six weeks to establish a new habit. Why not try 40 days? The 40 days of Lent give rise to the Resurrection of our Lord and the new life that comes with Spring. Perhaps Lent should be not only about what we sacrifice, but what we gain.

BOARD OPENINGS

The School Board is actively seeking two potential board members to service a single three-year term. To be eligible as a School Board candidate, one must be a practicing Catholic and an active member of St. John's Parish. The

School Board provides an advisory role to the Pastor and Principal and helps to lead the financial, public relations, development and strategic planning aspects of the school. Those who are considering applying for an

open position must attend the Monday, March 7th Board meeting at 6pm. The Board will provide an informational presentation. Come join us and learn more about the School Board!

PLANNING COMMITTEE: CHAIRS GREG ARNOLD

An area of responsibility for the Strategic Planning committee is the financial and physical planning of the school structure and developing long-range goals to achieve these needs. The committee has

focused its work this year on analyzing the age of our school building versus what predictive and preventive maintenance needs are evident or anticipated. Their goal is to assist our Principal

in identification and prioritization of projects to ensure that our school structure maintains its beauty, while considering improvements to the structure and landscape.