



St. James School

Giving children WINGS to fly!

400 W. Lisbon Street in Waynesburg, OH 44688

330-866-9556

Website: stjameschoolwaynesburg.com

Email: stjameselem@youngstowndiocese.org

Parent News - April 2021

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

This has been a challenging year for families, schools, businesses, elderly folks living alone, people with health issues – basically everyone. We have weathered the pandemic because we have an awesome team working together to keep everyone safe. It is the dedication of everyone on our team that has carried us safely through this year.

Committed Teachers: Our teachers are committed to the success of every child. This year they worked with children in the classroom, prepared lessons for remote students, prepared work for students who were absent or quarantined, graded late assignments and kept accurate records, sanitized their classrooms, and worried about meeting the needs of every child. Their dedication is inspiring and deserves our greatest admiration!

Compassionate Aides and Support Staff: We are blessed to have wonderful aides and support staff. Ms. Alex, Ms Janelle, Ms Bendina, Ms. Janessa, and Grandma Karen patiently work with individual children to help them learn concepts that need extra support. Our lunch crew serves healthy meals along with friendly smiles and positive compliments. Natalie Ross, our custodian, takes the sanitation requirements of COVID very seriously, cleaning all surfaces vigorously every day.

Outstanding Service: Kayla Fredericks, Occupational Therapist; Tori Bradley, Speech Therapist; and Dr. Richard Kuendig, Clinical Psychologist each provide expert services for students needing special assistance. The kids love spending time with each of these experienced specialists.

Model of Kindness: Ms. Tina models and shares kindness, respect, graciousness, courtesy, and warmth with everyone who is lucky enough to spend time with her. She could also be dubbed "Chaos Coordinator" because she handles situations with common sense, expertise, and a calm attitude.

Models of Faith: We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of leaders who have devoted their lives to religious life. Fr. Joe, Deacon Dave, Sr. Clara and Sr. Judith share their faith in their daily teaching and actions. Their example makes a difference in our school and guides us to live in communion with God.

Caring Parents: We are blessed to have parents and guardians who care deeply for their children. We thank you for your support, cooperation and understanding through the year as we have worked to manage the challenges the pandemic has thrown at us. You are incredible!

Be sure to read the results of the parent survey included in this newsletter.
Peace be with you, Kathy Kettler

Dates to Remember:

4/26 **All students K-6 in school return to school**

4/30 Flower orders due

5/1 First Communion practice
9-11am

5/7 Pickup hanging baskets 1-4pm

5/8 First Communion 11am

5/14 Pick up flower flats and pots

5/24-28 Right to Read Week

6/4 Last Day of School



SCHOOL NEWS

THIRD QUARTER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

HONOR ROLL

Fourth Grade

Dakota Broad
Parker Capurso
Jon Casto
Carter Mockerman

Fifth Grade

Leo Friedman
Bray Jones

Sixth Grade

Lauren Jones
Owen Mucci
Angelo Rossi

MERIT ROLL

Emilio Gonzales
Eli Higgs
Domonic Huffman

Irvin Roman
Jayden Leasure

Logan Tullos

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Add color to your patio or garden with vibrant, healthy flowers and plants from Hillcrest Garden Center. **Orders and payment are due Friday, April 30.** Hanging baskets will be ready for pick-up Friday, May 7 at 1-4pm in the pavilion. Pick up flats & pots on Friday, May 14 at 1-4pm. Order forms are attached to this email. Paper copies will be sent home on Monday, April 26.



RITE AID / RxFundraising



We are excited to announce a new fundraiser that will help generate funds for our school and students.

RXfundraising and Rite Aid are willing to give us back a portion of the dollars spent on prescriptions and purchases made at Rite Aid. Join us in this effort by being among the first to register with RXfundraising to support our school.

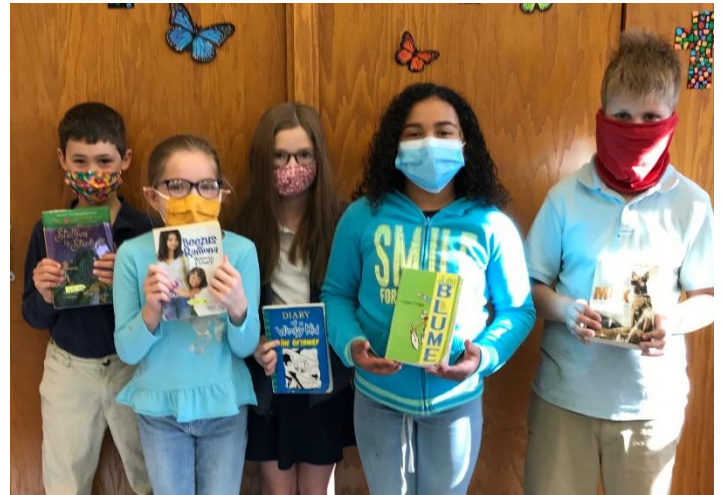
Go to: support.rxfundraising.com/StJamesSchool to register with RXfundraising and then follow through to Rite Aid. At Rite

Aid's website you'll need to sign up for a Wellness+ Rewards Number if you don't have one (top right under sign in). The entire process only takes a couple minutes. Every time you make a purchase at Rite Aid, the school will receive a percentage of the sale

Thanks in advance for your support!

THIRD GRADE SURPASSES THEIR GOAL

Miss Boggs challenged her third graders to read 400 books this year on Epic books, an online book resource. She is happy to report that they more than achieved their goal. To date the class has read 444 books! Miss Boggs is SO proud of their achievement. To celebrate, they are having a class pizza party on Friday, April 30th, with the help of a very generous parent donation. Studies have shown that being a “reader” leads to greater lifelong learning, greater career success, and better financial stability. Congratulations to our third grade Super Readers!



COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: HALLMARKS OF ST. JAMES SCHOOL

In spite of the restrictions placed on us by the corona virus this year, our students have been busy reaching out to the less fortunate in the community and expressing gratitude to those who support us. Examples of projects the children in K-6 have participated in include:

- Cards for veterans in our local area (We received many letters of appreciation from the veterans who received cards)
- Hat & Mitten Tree (The tree was covered with hats and mittens for Waynesburg Helping Hands Organization)
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Thanksgiving and Christmas placemats for nursing home residents
- Cards to express admiration and gratitude for Fr. Joe, Deacon Dave, Sr. Clara, and Sr. Judith
- Cards for people in the community who are sick or injured
- Posters thanking local businesses for their support



The children always do their best artwork and write beautiful notes on each of the cards. We are proud of the compassion and gratitude they express in their messages. Pictured are fourth graders displaying the cards they made for a local person who is in the hospital.

PARENT SURVEY COMMENTS

We received surveys from 40% of our families. Our sincere thanks to all who participated. Your opinions will guide us in our future planning.

According to the surveys, parents strongly agree that the school:

- Carries out its mission and integrates Catholic values throughout the curriculum,
- The academic program is challenging.
- Administrators respond to parent concerns and provide competent leadership
- Teachers are qualified and competent. They are responsive to student and parent needs. They maintain positive classroom environments.
- The staff is courteous, responsive and helpful.
- Financial policies are clearly communicated. Adequate financial assistance is available.
- The school provides a safe learning environment.
- Adequate and up to date technology is available.

Parents added comments to the following questions on the survey.

What does our school do well?

- Everything – 3
- Very happy with St. James. Proud and confident with children attending St. James
- The staff loves all the children and always treats them well.
- The school treats everyone like family.
- No child is left behind
- Catholic teaching
- Treating every child as an individual
- Teaching the children morals and values
- Keeping children safe during COVID. Love the health protocols
- Great handling the children
- Communication and the family atmosphere are absolutely amazing.
- Communication with parents - 2
- Religious education
- Excellent teachers. Friendly/helpful staff

What could we do better?

- Nothing - 8
- Add 7th & 8th grade
- Enforce dress code for all students
- Provide consistent design of weekly plans/upcoming tests per teacher/grade level for easier reading & understanding.
- Provide more opportunities for community service learning programs
- Provide more electives and student leadership opportunities

What single improvement could we make immediately?

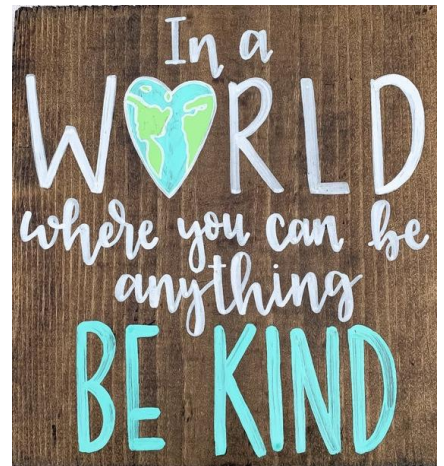
- Keep same holidays as Sandy Valley

What is your favorite thing about our school?

- My kids feel safe and “at home”. They love the kids and the friendly environment! Keep up the great work!
- The staff
- The school goes to church together and they develop close relationships
- Kindness to children – with discipline
- Great staff
- Small class size - 3
- Everyone
- The teachers and staff
- The staff and their dedication to the students and families of St. James
- Catholic values
- It’s small with more one-on-one support for kids
- Encourages kindness and love for the Lord
- The family atmosphere

What could we do to exceed your expectations?

- Add 7th and 8th grade
- You already do – 3
- Nothing - 9
- Everything’s perfect!



HAPPY EARTH DAY FROM SECOND AND THIRD GRADE!

