



Saint John the Baptist School  
11156 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530-2196  
510.234-2244  
Fax 510.234.3726  
www.StJohnEC.org

## --TUESDAY ,OCTOBER 27, 2009 MEMO--

### **TARGET DATES:**

Thursday, October 28	Harvest Festival grades 5 – 8th <b>Free Dress for October Birthdays or Earned Pass (changed from Calendar)</b>
Friday, October 30	Halloween Parade 2:00 pm Liturgy in church 9:30AM( <b>changed from Calendar</b> )
Sunday, November 1	Liturgy in church 9:30AM( <b>changed from Calendar</b> )
Tuesday, November 3	PTG Meeting 6pm
Wednesday, November 4	2pm Dismissal, Free Dress for Everyone Athletic Club Meeting 7pm
Friday, November 6	<b>No School</b> , Student Holiday, Elementary Staff Day
Tuesday, November 10	St. Josephs High School to visit 8th grade @ 10:30 Candy Sale Kick-off 2p.m. in Gym
Wednesday, November 11	No School, Veterans Day Holiday
Thursday, November 12	8th Grade Graduation Pictures 9AM Scoliosis Screening 9:30 AM
Friday, November 13	1st Annual Pajama-Rama 6PM – 10PM in Gym
Saturday, November 14	Kindergarten Information Day 11AM – 12PM
Monday, November 16	1st Trimester Report Cards go home

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Friday November 20th through Wednesday, November 25th  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Daycare available for those students who are registered  
w/daycare**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

During the first week of November Catholic Christians celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day. All Saints Day is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The word saint refers to someone who is a holy person. It comes from the Latin word "Sanctus" which means "holy" or consecrated. It was first used in the New Testament and referred to people who lived a holy and sanctified life. Over the years, the term has grown to be used and accepted in other Christian, religious, and even secular contexts. It is used to describe people who are exceptionally virtuous or glorified in heaven. A saint is usually a deceased person whose life is regarded by a community as a good example, and their life story is remembered for sake of inspiring others. It is important to note that saints are not worshipped. They are people who are venerated, respected, and viewed as role models. In celebration of All Saints Day, we will attend a school liturgy prepared by the 3rd grade class. Much planning and preparation have gone into their liturgy on October the 30th, which highlights a skit depicting the meaning of sainthood. Their liturgy will also be repeated on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

During the month of November, we focus our attention on the lives of the many saints who inspire us to live holy and faithful lives.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Catholics celebrate All Soul's Day. It is a day of remembrance for friends, and loved ones who have passed away. The Christian holiday of All Soul's Day pays respect and remembers the souls of all friends and loved ones who have died and gone to heaven. The traditions of the Feast of All Souls began in the seventh century. Many customs are associated with the Day of the Dead celebration. In some homes an altar is made with an offering of food upon it. It is believed that the dead partake of the food in spirit. Often, the food is eaten later by members of the household. Flowers and candles are also arranged on the altar. All Soul's Day lives on today, particularly in Mexico, where All

Saint's Day and All Soul Day are collectively observed as "Los Dias de los Muertos", or "The days of the Dead". First and foremost, the Days of the Dead is a time when families fondly remember the deceased.

In remembrance of "El Dia de los Muertos", an altar has been set up in the hallway, near the office. Everyone is invited to bring in pictures of those they wish to remember. The altar is decorated with decorations and artifacts from the Mexican tradition, including papel picado, food, and herbs.

November is a special month for us. As we study the lives of the saints, we will also highlight "saintly" and Christian acts of our students with Student of the Month certificates. Continue to talk to your children about Christian Leadership within your families and discuss ways your children can be Christian Leaders in the home.

God bless you for all you do for the children.

Sincerely,  
Terry Barber, Principal

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

This year the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will sponsor a Harvest Festival for children in grades K through 5 on Thursday morning, October 29th. Each class will have a turn to visit the haunted house and play a few games. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been working very hard to put this all together for the younger students of the school. A much appreciated thank you to Mr. Walton and all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders for doing such a lovely activity for the younger students.

### **HALLOWEEN PARADE**

The Halloween Parade will take place on Friday, October 30th. Children are to come to school in their uniforms and change into their costumes before the Halloween Parade at 2:00 PM. The parade will take place on the schoolyard. PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY WEAPONS OF ANY KIND!

### **DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

We will be celebrating the Day of the Dead or Dia de los Muertos, November 2nd. An altar will be set up in the hallway with pictures and mementos of our deceased relatives and friends. Students may bring photos or artifacts of their deceased relatives to school beginning on October 27th. Please label your photo or article with your students name and grade.

### **EXTENDED CARE REMINDER**

Daycare payments need to be taken to the school office by the 10th of each month. After the 10th a late charge will be added. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Caramagno (510) 234-1797.

### **EXTENDED CARE**

For the safety of the children, **all students who are not picked up by 3:00 p.m. will be taken to Extended Care.** It is unsafe to have students alone outside the locked gates waiting for parents to pick them up. If you arrive after 3:00 p.m., please go to Extended Care to pick up your children as all gates and doors will be locked at that time. **Parents need to get out of their cars and personally sign their children out of Extended Care.** Please also remember the rules of safety and respect for others when picking up or dropping off your children in the parking lot. Please remember, if you arrive in the morning after 8:05, the gate will be locked in the back of the school. You must bring your child to the front of the school and check him/her in at the office. **The gate gets locked at 8:05 after morning assembly. If you arrive after 8:05 you can drive your child to the front of the school to come through the front or we now have the same security system on the back door. You can now ring the doorbell and the office can see who it is and let you in from the back. Please wait to make sure your child gets in the building if you use the back door system. Please do not double park on San Pablo or block the flow of traffic. Please park and let your child out. San Pablo is a very busy street and when you block the flow of traffic it is very dangerous for you and your children and also illegal.** Drive slowly and carefully and obey the rules and procedures for dropping off and picking up children found in the St. John the Baptist School handbook. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration in these safety issues

## **SALESIANS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND MATH CONTEST**

Salesian High School cordially invites prospective students and their families  
to the Salesian High School

### **OPEN HOUSE & MATH CONTEST FOR ALL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

**Sunday, November 8, 2008**

1:30pm – Math Contest Registration

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Math Contest and Open House

Tour our Campus, Preview our Curriculum, Meet our Faculty and Staff

#### **MATH CONTEST PRIZES INCLUDE:**

##### **6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students**

\$200 – 1<sup>st</sup> place winner

\$100 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner

\$50 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner

##### **8<sup>th</sup> grade students**

\$3,000 scholarship to Salesian or \$500 cash – 1<sup>st</sup> place winner

\$250 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner

\$100 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner

Registration forms for the math contest are available online at: [www.salesian.com](http://www.salesian.com)

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Our Christmas Fair will be Sunday, December 6th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you are a vendor and would like to participate in our Fair, please call Gesell Grant at (510) 235-5859 for more information.

### **GIFT WRAP SALES**

Although gift wrap has shipped, it's never too late to help our school by sending your orders online. GO to [www.gafundraising.com](http://www.gafundraising.com) and **enter our school pin# 1061647**, register your student to get your personal pin#, send emails to friends and family to help our school. Free shipping for purchases \$60.00 and more except for personalized items and candy.

### **T-SHIRT SALES**

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER:** Green T-Shirts are now on sale for \$12.00 each any size. White T-Shirts go for \$15.00 each any size. ORDERS ARE ALWAYS PREPAID. Order forms are available at the PTG Bulletin Board and School Office. Please make the check payable to St. John PTG. Please email [stjohnschool@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschool@gmail.com) or call Lisa Lee at 510.799.9155 for all inquiries.

### **PAJAMA RAMA-SAVE THE DATE!**

Join us for some family fun on **Friday, November 13** for our first ever Pajama Rama. It will be at the school gym from 6:30 PM. to 10:30 PM. **ATTENDANCE IS FREE.** Attire will be PJs and slippers. Bring your pillow, money for snacks, and your operatic voice to sing karaoke. There will also be movies, story time and a slipper contest.

### **Need PPP hours?**

The Agape Committee and Endowment Committee need your help to stuff envelopes and make phone calls. Please contact Frances Renty Williams at 510-384-8203 or Rachel Epperson at 510-223-3956.

### **GOT PINE CONES?**

The Agape Committee is looking for pine cones. If you happen **to** live by a pine tree we would **love** to have a couple of bags of pine cones. Please drop them off at the office or with Frances Renty Williams. Questions? Feel free to give her a call 510-384-8203.

## **Remember Safe Environment for Children**

All volunteers in a school must take the on-line Safe Environment for Children course every two years. If you are a new parent to the school you must take the on-line course before volunteering in the classroom, go on a field trip. Please go to [www.shieldthevulnerable.org](http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org) to complete the course. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may use the computers in the lab. Please call the office at 234-2244 to make an appointment.

### **ALTAR SERVICES FOR NEXT WEEKEND ARE:**

<b>Saturday, October 31</b>	5:00 PM Mass ~ Eric Pena
<b>Sunday, November 1</b>	8:00 AM Mass ~ Devin Virassammy / Peter Sekona
	9:30 AM Mass ~ Francisco Fernandez/ Gabrielle DeLa Torre
	11:00 AM Mass ~ Shawna Barrios
	12:30 PM Mass ~ Ariana Alonzo

**If you cannot serve, please get a substitute, thanks.**