



Saint John the Baptist School
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--TUESDAY , FEBRUARY 12, 2008 MEMO--

TARGET DATES

Friday, February 15	12 Noon Dismissal, Free Dress w/purchased pass
Monday, February 18	No School, Presidents Day Holiday
Friday, February 22	Free Dress for February Birthdays or Earned Pass Spell-a-thon money due
Monday, February 25	12 Noon Dismissal, Teacher WASC Prep
Tuesday, February 26 - Thursday, February 28	WASC Visit
Thursday, February 28	African American Heritage Celebration in Gym @ 1:10
Friday, February 29	Holiday, No School

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Lent is a time we set aside to reconnect with God through prayer, fasting, and alms giving. During this special season we come closer to God by spending more time praying either with others or alone; by fasting, which means eating less or giving up something, and by giving alms, which means giving money, time, or possessions to help people in need. God only wants us to change the things we do if it will make our hearts and minds fill with love for Him and our neighbors. All our work of kindness and love during Lent leads to Easter, when we will join in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

During this Lenten Season, the children will be asked to participate in the **Stewardship for Schools Campaign** sponsored by the School Department of the Diocese of Oakland. The goal of this campaign is to ensure the long-term viability and educational excellence of our schools. All money raised by the children will be used to start an endowment fund for Catholic education in the Diocese of Oakland. We are asking each child to contribute a quarter a day during Lent for this campaign. If each school can raise \$1500, we will have \$100,000 for the endowment fund. With this seed money, we can then go out to private businesses and organizations to solicit matching gift donations. Please help your child participate in this campaign by giving him/her chores to do around the house to raise money for this campaign. Enclosed in this week's Tuesday Envelope, is a flier with more details about the Stewardship for Schools Campaign. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Terry Barber, Principal

Helping Hands Project

During Lent, we traditionally collect alms for the poor. This year, we will participate in a project with other diocesan schools to create an endowment fund for the schools of the Oakland Diocese. The name of this project is the Helping Hands Project. During Lent, each class will participate in some kind of service learning project to raise funds for Helping Hands. Watch for more details from your child's classroom teacher and support the children's efforts in being Christian Leaders and Responsible Citizens.

ENDOWMENT EVENT

On April 12, 2008, St. John the Baptist will have its annual Endowment Event. The purpose of the Endowment Event is to raise money to offset the cost of tuition, provide tuition assistance for deserving families, and fund enrichment programs in the areas of science, technology, social studies, and the arts. Last year the Endowment Event raised \$20,000 by auctioning donated items and class projects. Please help make this year's event a success by completing the short survey below.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iUSHAzWQuvTt1deL0nh14Q_3d_3d

Applications for Tuition Assistance

Applications for all diocesan and school tuition assistance are now in the office. Please pick up an application packet and **return** it to the office by **March 17, 2008** to allow us ample time to meet the application deadline of April 18th. All Tax documentation and wage information must be included with your application when turned into the office to ensure that everything is received by the deadlines. Please apply for all tuition assistance that is available: FACE, PACE (Schools), Guardsmen and Basic Fund (Application available on line @ www.basicfund.org). If you don't qualify for one, you might qualify for another. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office.

Parents earn PPP hours!

Join the Black History Month Committee

The committee is planning an assembly, your help is needed with the general coordination of the program (rehearsals and production), readers for the 7th and 8th grade essay contest, servers and cooks for the Soul Food sampler, choreographers, speech and music directors. No experience required! We also need children to participate in the assembly to recite poetry/speeches, choir members, dancers and production assistants. Contact Sonja Martin Poole (Malachi - 1st grade) sonja@berkeley.edu or (510) 741-8038.

PTG SPELL-A-THON FUNDRAISER

This is one of our most successful fundraisers of the year! Nancy Clabby will be spearheading this event. Kick-Off for the Spell-A-Thon will be Monday, February 4th. Forms will be passed out soon to start collecting pledges. Pledges are due Friday, February 22nd. Spell-a-thon participation counts towards your mandatory 5hr fundraising PPP hrs. See page 20 in your school handbook for further explanation. Help your child be a winner and a speller.

Track & Field Season Begins!!

St. John's CYO Track & Field season officially began on Tuesday February 5, 2008. All children from St. John's School and St. John's Parish are invited to join. Children in all grades are encouraged to participate (K-8). Children participating in other sports are also welcome. Practices for the month of February will be at St. John's School, in the Kearney Street play yard, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 pm-6:00 pm. Sign-ups begin Tuesday, February 5th and end Friday, February 15th. Registration fee is \$50. Please see the enclosed flyer in your Tuesday Envelopes.

Chinese New Year

Please join St. John's Parish in celebrating the Year of the Rat at a special Lunar New Year Mass on Sunday, February 24 at 12:30 PM. There will be lion dance and fire crackers to usher in the new year. Everyone is also invited to a Chinese luncheon after Mass in the Conference Room. For more information please call Olivia Wong at 510-233-1088.

Muse Performance

Our 21st annual M.U.S.E. Winter Band concert is coming up in the next few weeks. Students from all 24 M.U.S.E. Schools will be in attendance. This is an exciting event! Students perform together as one ensemble with an average of 100-150 students in the group. Beginning band students perform at 1:00 and the Intermediate and advanced bands play at 3:00. Each concert lasts about 40 minutes. Not many performing arts programs offer this type of an event. The concert is Sunday, February 10th at Bishop O'Dowd High School in the theater, 9500 Stearns Ave, Oakland, CA 94605

No Parking, Please

During track season, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4:30pm-6:00 pm our younger Track team members will be practicing in the Kearney Street play yard. For the safety of our children, parking will not be permitted during these times. We appreciate your cooperation.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

This is a reminder to parents about the Hot Lunch Program. If your child wishes to receive hot lunch from the hot lunch program, you must go on-line and register for the program, choose your lunches for the month and then pay by check or credit card. Please do not send your child with \$5.00 every day to buy hot lunch because there is no guarantee that they will have extra lunches available to purchase. The purchase of hot lunches is starting to get out of control (especially on pizza days). We also have a lot of children who have purchased lunches on an IOU basis (this is to be used only for emergencies) and have not paid their outstanding balance.

Unfortunately, these children will not be allowed to receive another hot lunch on an IOU basis until their balance is paid. We have a lot of IOU's that need to be paid (approximately 20 students). Parents, if you know your child has gotten IOU lunches in the past and have not paid, please pay your IOU balances as soon as possible.

These outstanding balances are not good to have on our records and we want to stay in good standings with the lunch program, Children's Choice.

Lost and Found Bin

The Lost and Found Bin is out of control. It is overflowing with clothes that have lost their owners. If you think you might own something in the bin, please, please, please take a look in the bin. There are all kinds of clothes in there, everything from uniforms to street clothes to lunch pails. Soon we are going to take the clothes and donate them to Goodwill or to the Rescue Mission and we do not want to give anyone's precious belongings away, so parents please come and take a look or have your children take a look to see if anything in the bin belongs to them. Thank You.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND ARE:

Saturday, February 16

5:00 PM Mass ~ Nick Maltagliati / Gabrielle DeLaTorre

Sunday, February 17

8:00 AM Mass ~ Juliane Corpus / Guy Forte

9:30 AM Mass ~ Sammy Pajuleras / Devin Virassammy

11:00 AM Mass ~ Karl Moore / David Forbes

12:30 PM Mass ~ Onalli Gunasekara / Oshani Gunasekara

If you cannot serve, please bring in a substitute. Thanks