

BACKSTAGE AT THE NUTCRACKER

Saint James School K-8 classes will attend this performance by Maine State Ballet on Tuesday, November 27th at 10:00 a.m. During this performance, they will see all the props and costumes from Maine State Ballet performers with excerpts from the ballet. The story will be explained and the secrets of the ballet shared with students.

Classes will talk about the story and share the music in their classrooms. PFTA is helping with the cost so the cost to you is only \$5.00 per student. More information will be coming.



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SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

November Newsletter

NEW ENGLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

All New England Catholic schools will be celebrating a Catholic Schools Week in November. At Saint James School, it begins with our spaghetti supper and our road race.

On Monday, November 5th we will have a visit by Bishop Deeley. Please have your child(ren) wear their best uniform attire. We will begin with a prayer service, led by our sixth graders which focus on the Saints since his visit is so close to All Saint's Day. Each class has picked a Saint to research and the students will give clues to which Saint they learned about to see if either the Bishop, Monsignor Mathieu or any of the others might guess which Saint it is. Then, we will have a Town Hall format where middle schooler will ask prepared questions of the Bishop and they can hear his answer. He will visit classes and end with a lunch with faculty and staff. Thank you for those of you that volunteered to watch a class during lunch/recess.

On Tuesday, November 6th, we will have an Open House from 9:00-1:00. Please share the FaceBook post about this open house and help to spread the word!

On Wednesday, it is an early release day and students will be out of school at 12:00. We will be having parent teacher conferences. Sign up at <https://pickatime.com/client?ven=11609993&event=329656>

Thursday will be a special Casual Day and Friday will be a Casual for a Cause Day where students are asked to bring in non-perishable food items to help Good Shepherd Parish stuff the baskets for Thanksgiving. They are asking for canned beans, carrots, potatoes, peas or corn. Other items include pasta, rice, stuffing, gravy, cake mix, pie crust, pie filling, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, cake frosting, brownie mix, pudding or fruit. They also had five pound bag of potatoes on the list. The Knights of Columbus will pick up the items and bring them to Good Shepherd Parish to be distributed into baskets. Anything that you send will help those in need in this area. Thank you!

UPDATE ON AUCTION PROCEEDS

We have updated everything within Saint James School for the bandwidth increase and are still waiting for those fiber optics lines to be installed coming into the school. Ten iPads were purchased for the kindergarten and first grade classrooms so we now have twenty all together. After these orders went through, we had enough money left to purchase some ChromeBooks. Twenty ChromeBooks and licenses have been ordered for the teachers and the ones that they have now will be added to the student's carts. This has allowed middle school students to have a ChromeBook assigned to them alone.

REN WEB/FACTS MANAGEMENT

We are all learning the RenWeb/Facts Management school information program and it is a learning curve. Thank you for being patient with us. Teachers are using either RenWeb or Google classroom to post homework. This was explained at our parent information night. If you are still unclear, please check with your child's teacher. All classes should have some grades posted. Please be sure that you know how to log in to check grades and when the report card goes out before our report cards are available on 3:00 on December 3rd. A link to pickatime.com will be coming out shortly so that you can sign up for conferences next week. This will give you a chance to hear how your child is doing prior to report cards and it will give your child a chance to raise his or her grade.

We are working with RenWeb to get the lunch system online but we had a problem with our scanner. We are working on that.

I just heard my student has a gmail address, do they?

Each Catholic school student in Maine has a gmail address which is their first name.lastname@cathedme.org. It is a closed system. This is only open to other cathedme.org and portlanddiocese.org addresses. This means somebody else cannot email your student but the teacher can from either their cathedme account or their portlanddiocese.org account. Note: Even though teachers have a cathedme.org email address, we only check our portlanddiocese.org address. This is also the address that RenWeb uses so please use that address for all correspondence.

What is Google Classroom?

According to Google, "Classroom is a free web service for schools, non-profits, and anyone with a personal Google Account. Classroom makes it easy for learners and instructors to connect—inside and outside of schools."

Does Google share my student's information?

It is estimated that thirty million teachers use Google classroom. Google is very upfront and I suggest that you watch their video to understand. The Diocese of Portland is very comfortable with Google classroom but just to be sure, we only use it as a closed system for other cathedme.org accounts and portlanddiocese.org accounts.

"Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures." – Mother Teresa

CONTACT ME IF ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any questions or want to make a helpful suggestion to the school. If I do not have a previous appointment, my door is always open. nancy.naimey@portlanddiocese.org

