

# Saint James Newsletter

March 2019



Thank you to all who helped out on our play, *Seussical, The Musical, Junior, the Saint James Version!* Miss Beauchesne did a fantastic job with the help of many parents and staff members. We had seventy five per cent of our student body participating in the play and it was a job well done! Thank you to everyone who helped out and made this such a tremendous success!

I went to my first New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) meeting as a commissioner in early February. I learned that NEASC was very impressed with our school. I was told it is rather unusual for a school to go through their first accreditation without having a focused visit, a special progress report or some big issue that needed to be addressed. I was told they saw our school as a veteran school that sailed through the accreditation process. It made me very proud and I wanted to pass that along. It is because of our dedicated and caring staff and the partnership that we have with parents as we work together to ensure that our students get what they need at Saint James School.

We are trying to schedule some work to be done at the school over April vacation. Efficiency Maine has a rebate program that will reimburse for the cost of changing our fluorescent lights to LED lights in the school and in the hall. Good Shepherd Parish recently changed their lighting out to LED lights so perhaps you have noticed the difference? We are using the same contractor that Good Shepherd Parish used. Our school will pay for the labor and we have received word that we can take that money out of the savings account from the sale of Notre Dame School. We have a 10% asbestos paint on some ceilings. We will have the asbestos company come in to drill and seal any holes that are made through these ceilings. The cost of the lights will be fully reimbursed. We will be paying for the labor, the asbestos removal and the disposal of the fluorescent fixtures. This is a great opportunity for Saint James School to reduce its electrical bill and save money. The money we put into the lights will pay for itself over five years and then we will see the gains. We will put the rebate back into the savings account. It is another way Saint James School is looking towards the future!

We have an upcoming open house on March 26th from 9-1. Please spread the word, post a good word on social media, post a positive review on Saint James School, share the open house on social media, personally invite a family to come and see the Saint James difference. You are our greatest advertising and you help us to spread the word. If a person attends Saint James School and writes your name on their application, you will receive \$200 off your tuition!

The school finance council has approved the budget and a tuition increase. Tuition will be \$4,505 for a parishioner and \$5,990 for a non-parishioner next year for one child. Our health insurance has increased and the school portion is about \$20,000 a month which necessitated the tuition increase. Reenrollment is open online on RenWeb. If you would like a paper form, please call the office and we can send one home.

We have a shortage of substitute teachers. If you would like to substitute or you know of someone that might be able to substitute, please come in and fill out an application. You can let us know grade or day preferences. Thank you.

Our second trimester report card will be available after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15th. Grades K-three do not have A,B,C's but instead tell you how your child is progressing towards the standards based on where they should be at this time of year. Grades four through eight do have A,B,C's and they also let you know how your child is progressing towards the standards at this time of year. I received some feedback after the first report card from the younger grades who wanted to have A,B,C's and were happy to know that students will have them beginning in grade four. Our hope is that you get a better snapshot about how your child is progressing. Remember, you can always ask to meet with a teacher to talk to them. We are also acknowledging students through our SAFE Club. We have a lot of teacher meetings with parents and students to talk about progress and what we can do. Having a parent and teachers as partners is a recipe for success for your child.

Maine Robotics has been the sponsor of First LEGO League for the last twenty years or so. They are not going to sponsor this event in Maine this next year and are looking for a sponsor should you know of anyone.

We have not had any new cases of influenza since the February break. The school was aired out and disinfected over the break. I have never been so ill before so I am glad that is out of our building and we can look forward to spring! Can you believe that we are two thirds of the way through the school year? Daylight savings time is on the 10th of March. It will feel more like spring when it stays lighter longer! As always, please contact me should you have any concerns or suggestions.

Peace, Nancy Naimey