

May 28, 2010



May School News

Academic Support News

Encouraging Summer Reading

Summer is Coming, but Don't Forget to Read!

Summer is a busy time for families, and it's not always easy to find time to read. It is critical for children to keep reading during the summer. It is a skill that can be lost for them if they don't continue to practice. Here are a few quick tips to help keep kids reading this summer.

- Sign up for the library reading program.
- Read bedtime stories outside to enjoy the longer daylight hours.
- Have a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time each day, and don't forget to model the behavior you want by reading yourself.
- Invite the neighborhood kids for a book swap party. Have kids bring a book or two that they enjoyed but are willing to trade.

Summertime Reading

Children need to continue reading and writing over the summer to maintain their developing skills. You don't have to be sitting inside with a book to be reading. You can keep children engaged in reading by:

- Reading the directions and making bubbles to play outside.
 - Making up a new game and writing down the directions for others to play.
 - Making a list of things that would be fun to do and checking them off as you do them.
 - Starting a collection of rocks, baseball cards, etc. and reading about them.
- Reading lots of books in lots of different places.

Have a wonderful summer.

Mrs. Diemer

Thank You!

Thank you to all the 1st grade parents who helped with the beautiful 2nd grade First Communion Reception. It was so nice to be able to enjoy the brunch with our children and not have to worry about planning, hosting and cleaning up after the event. Thank you so much!

Thank you and Good Bye to Mrs. Casimir

Our School Counselor, Leeann Casimir has submitted her letter of resignation effective at the end of this school year. Her husband has accepted a new position and the Casimir family will be relocating to Waco, Texas.

Upcoming Dates

June 1
6:30 PM Home and School
Mtg at Brenda Hayko's home
6:30 Education Commission
Mtg in School Library

June 2
8:00—11:00 4-6 Grade Track
and Field Day
5:30 6th Grade Map Testing
Meeting in cafeteria

June 3
Rain Date for Track and
Field Day

June 4
8:00 Liturgy 3R
1:00 Student Recognition
Assembly and 6th grade vs.
Staff Volley Ball Game

June 7
8:30—2:15 Kdgn Field Trip
Babcock Ice Cream and Zoo

June 8
8:00 6th Grade Graduation
Reception following in
cafeteria

June 9
Last Day Of School
8:00 Liturgy
9:00 End of Year Dance and
School Picnic
12:00 Early Dismissal

**Do You Have Your
Yard Sign?**

**Show your pride in
our school and pick
up your
Yard Sign today.**

**They are available in
the school office or in
the Gathering Room
of the church.**

Student Recognition Assembly



Please plan on joining us for an afternoon of reflection and recognition as we look back over the past year. There will be a Student Recognition Assembly at 1:00 on Friday, June 4th at 1:00 PM in the school gym. Immediately following this assembly, there will be a slide show. The assembly will continue with a staff vs. 6th grade volleyball game. This is been our tradition for the past few years, and everyone looks forward to this exciting event. We hope that you can join us!

Home and School News

Are you ordering magazines? Please place your order through QSP magazine and Saint John School will receive a credit from the sale in the form of a check to benefit our school.

Please go to:
www.qsp.com

Enter school code:
425024251

Thank you!

School Picnic

The Home and School Association will once again host our annual End-of-the-Year School Picnic on Wednesday, June 9th. Here is the schedule for that day:

8:00 Liturgy
9:00 Donuts and Juice
9:30 DJ and Dance in the Gym
11:00 Picnic Lunch
12:00 Early Dismissal

Please note that there will be no bus service at 12:00 on June 9th. Please make transportation arrangements for your child if you will not be at the picnic.

Don't Forget!

- **Return your signed contract.**
- **Sign up for playground watch**

Electronic Piano Update

Our school piano is beyond its expected life and no longer can be repaired. This piano was purchased with 'Pepsi Points' several years ago. The technician who serviced it said that it was meant to be in a home, and not for institutional use (like a school).

Although it is functional at this time, we need to start raising funds to purchase a new one. We are looking to raise approximately \$6,000.00. Scoopie Night brought in a little over \$400.00. We are gladly accepting donations for a new piano—thank you for whatever help you can give.

The Sixth Grade Class of Saint John the Baptist Catholic School will celebrate their graduation on Tuesday, June 8th with a Liturgy at 8:00 AM. A reception will follow in the school cafeteria hosted by the 5th Grade Families.



Congratulations Crusaders!

Congratulations to the 5th grade volleyball team who finished in 1st place during the regular MAISL season. They also won the league tournament. We are the proud owners of our first trophy from the class of 2011.

Congratulations to the 5th/6th grade girls' softball team for winning the consolation championship during the MAISL tournament this past weekend.

The Roles and Responsibilities of an Education Commission

Michael Lancaster, Superintendent of Catholic Schools from the Diocese of Madison came to Saint John School this past Thursday, May 20th for an all parent meeting to discuss the Roles and Responsibilities of an Education Commission in our school. It was a very informative presentation with many opportunities for questions and answers. The reason this presentation was brought to Saint John's School is because we acknowledge that our current Education Commission is not performing to its full potential, and we would like to improve the function of this committee. In order to make these improvements, it is important to understand the roles and responsibilities of the Education Commission. Most parishes have a Parish Education Commission that handles school, parish, adult and religious educational topics. If a parish/school is large enough, such as in Saint John's case, parishes often have one Education Commission for the parish/religious education, and then a separate Education Commission for the school. Therefore, for purposes of this summary, we will concentrate on a School Education Commission. Below is a summary of Mr. Lancaster's presentation on how an Education Commission should operate:

Diocesan Policy – DBA 1200

Educational Authority in the Parish

The pastor of each parish has pastoral authority and concern in all facets of parish life. In educational matters, he works with the Education Commission as a nonvoting member, to develop policies. He has, however, the final authority to accept or reject these policies. The school principal implements these policies and those of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Parish Education Commissions – DBA 1210

Every parish shall establish an Education Commission whose members will recommend policy for all forms of Catholic education in the parish. Such policy shall be in accord with the general policies of the Diocesan Board of Education and the Diocesan regulations for schools.

School Boards verses Education Commissions

A School Board consists of elected members and operates under state statutes. It conducts meetings using Robert's Rules of Order. It is regulated by state statutes. They reach decisions through voting. They set policy for a school district and that policy is set forth by majority vote. School Boards do not implement policy. They report to the public.

An Education Commission consists of elected and/or appointed members and operates under a constitution and by-laws. They may or may not conduct meetings using Robert's Rules of Order. It is regulated by diocesan policy. Decisions are reached by consensus, which means that everyone may or may not agree with a recommendation made by the commission, however, they do agree to support the recommendation. They recommend educational policy for the parish. Policy is set when the pastor approves the commission's recommendation. Education Commissions also do not implement policy. They report to the Parish Council.

(continued on page 4)

Responsibilities of Education Commissions

The Education Commission engages in long-range, strategic planning, such as the school's mission statement and setting of goals and objectives for the education programs. They monitor progress toward these goals. They receive information about the education programs. This information consists of administrator's written reports, committee written reports, dialog with the pastor, parent's feedback and/or crisis information. The best way to review these reports is for all commission members to review these reports prior to meetings, so that the meeting time is not devoted to reporting.

They identify needs, and then develop and recommend policy for the educational programs. When appropriate, they review and provide input regarding education programs, such as in a school self-study and accreditation process. When asked by administration, they may offer advice based on their knowledge of the school/parish community and based on personal skills and talents. They also review their own (Education Commission's) performance on an annual basis. i.e. Effectiveness of policies, performance, achievement of goals, effectiveness of committee, etc.

The Education Commission also reviews and provides input regarding program finances and budgets, when appropriate. It also helps with advancement, development and marketing of programs, goals and objectives. In both cases, a sub-committee (finance and/or marketing) could be created. It should be noted, however, that at least one consistent member of those sub-committees is then also a member of the Education Commission.

The Education Commission does NOT develop policy regulations, develop policy procedures, nor implement policy. The program administrator (principal) develops, applies and enforces policy regulation. E.g. Policy: All students should exhibit behavior exemplifying Catholic teaching. Regulation: Respect others, no swearing, no bullying, no fighting, etc.

The Education Commission also does NOT discuss or consider cases of individual faculty members. They do not have any hiring, firing or other personnel related responsibilities. They also do not have responsibilities for the supervision of instruction. The Education Commission can make recommendations regarding salary and benefits and recommend policy ensuring the supervision of instruction.

The Education Commission does NOT discuss or consider cases involving individual students and/or parents. They are not involved in student discipline and do not hear grievances of parents or parishioners. They may recommend a policy that ensures good student discipline and/or a policy regarding how grievances are handled.

Membership

An Education Commission must include the pastor and principal. It may include a member of Parish Council, Finance Council, Home & School Association, Marketing and other school groups. The Education Commission may also include at large members such as parents and/or parishioners. The recommended size is no more than 12 members, with membership rotating on and off of the commission every three years at alternating intervals.

If you are interested in possibly serving on the Education Commission for Saint John School, or have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Monsignor Gunn or Mrs. Stark.

Thanks to Nichole Carroll for providing this informative summary!