

NEWS YOU COULD USE

November 19, 2015

Reminders:

Friday, Nov. 19: 8:15 a.m. All school liturgy.

7:30 p.m. "Rock Around the Block" musical

Monday, Nov. 23: Parent/Teacher Conferences **NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday, Nov. 24: Teacher Staff Development Day **NO SCHOOL**

Wednesday, Nov. 25 to Sunday, Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Holidays **NO SCHOOL**

Monday, Nov. 30: School Resumes

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

As you are aware, Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Monday, November 23. Below are suggestions for successful conferences.

Talk to Your Child

Ask your child if there is anything that he would like you to discuss with the teacher.
Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.

Be on Time

Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.

Start Off on the Right Foot

Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.

Listen to What the Teacher has to Say

Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.

Stay Calm

Keep your emotions under control.

Stay on Track

Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.

Stay Within Your Conference Time

Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

Show Gratitude

Express appreciation for the conference.

Tell Your Child About What You Discussed

Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.





SHOP Corner



There will be **no SHOP the week of November 23** as there is no school next week. However, remember you can still use the Manna eScript option anytime as long as you have completed the MannaPay verification process, if necessary. In addition, **all orders and payments MUST be in on Mondays rather than Tuesdays beginning the week of November 30** until Christmas break. This change is a result of the Manna Group's holiday ordering schedule which requires the SHOP team to have the order processed and submitted earlier than the regular schedule. Also, keep in mind that **the last SHOP order for December will be placed on December 15**. Please take advantage of this convenient way to Christmas shop! Orders can be placed online at www.mannaorders.net and gift cards can also be purchased using the Manna eScript option.

Thank you,
Your SHOP Team



EIGHTH GRADE PORTRAYAL OF SAINTS

Recently our cafeteria underwent a miraculous transformation as the eighth graders simulated a wax figure museum of Saints. Under the direction of Mrs. Bruno, the eighth grade teacher, each eighth grader dressed up to represent their chosen Confirmation Saint and posed beside a stained glass window backdrop that they had created. The “stained glass windows” were filled with rich symbolism important to their Saint’s story. Complete with candle light and hushed voices, the setting became a very holy place and a spectacular way to honor All Saints Day. The younger grades were welcomed in and gathered in small groups at each Saint to hear the story of their life. The young children listened with rapt attention as the eighth grade Saints revealed details about the faith and life of the inspiring person they represented. As the young students left the museum, they were able to choose two artifacts or holy cards that the eighth graders had made to remind others of their Saint. This experience really helped make the Saints come alive not only for the eighth grade Confirmandi, but to our whole school community. We are so fortunate to be able to provide these experiences both for those creating them and for those praying with them. When our faith life is woven in such a beautiful way with our other learning, we recognize and feel our Catholic identity deeply. Great job Eighth Grade!



GETTING TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SPECIFIED JURISDICTION (BSJ)



Jane Doyle is a Senior Vice President and Partner at First Trust Portfolios, located in Wheaton, IL. She manages the Marketing area at the firm responsible for National Accounts and works with several of the firm's top accounts. Jane has been at First Trust since 1986 after graduating from St. Francis University. Prior to St. Francis, she graduated from Providence High School.

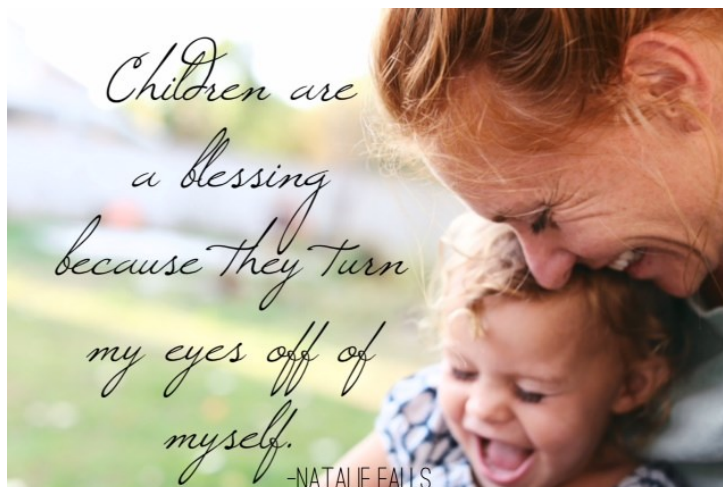
Jane created the firm's charity arm, the FT Cares Foundation, and serves as its President. She has traveled nationally and abroad on behalf of the Foundation, including most recently to Rwanda and Guatemala.

Jane lived in Lemont for 24 years before moving to Wheaton. She was a parishioner at St. Patrick Parish during the time she lived in Lemont and served as a Eucharistic Minister and a Minister of Care. She has been the President of the BSJ since it was formed in 2011.

Dear St. Al/St. Pat's Parents:

It is with great pleasure that I announce that one of our own, Ms. Shari Wenzel, has accepted the part-time position of Marketing & PR Coordinator for our school. The Board of Specified Jurisdiction has been considering this position for nearly a year as we work to spread the good word about our school to neighboring towns (and other parishes without schools) to help increase enrollment. Ms. Wenzel has a very strong marketing background and much experience with this kind of work, and we couldn't be happier to have her join our efforts. She will be concentrating on marketing and PR for the school, and will also be working with the BSJ and parent volunteers on fundraising efforts and alumni outreach. The BSJ took this step now because our school has much to offer, including next year's 5-day preschool, and we want to ensure that we are doing all we can to draw families to our strong faith community. Because the BSJ has been fiscally conservative for many years, we were able to budget for this part-time position, and we look forward to getting tremendous benefits for this added marketing & PR role. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Wenzel. I know she'll work hard for us!

Jane Doyle
President, BSJ



Full Day Preschool
2016 School Year
St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School

630-783-2220
www.stals-stpats.org

Now being held 5 wonderful days a week!



Dear St. Al/St. Pat's Parents:

I'm very pleased to announce that one of the things the Board of Specified Jurisdiction and our school have been working toward will begin next year! The **St. Al/St. Pat's 5-Day Preschool Program** will open with the 2016 school year, and we couldn't be more excited.

The BSJ has long believed that adding a 5-day preschool program will enhance the school's appeal for young families in the area, and will also benefit the school through the added revenue. Of course we are most excited about introducing young children to the benefits of the strong faith community we have at St. Al/St. Pat's and the tremendous opportunity afforded by a Catholic School education.

As with our current three day program, it will be aligned to the Illinois Early Learning Standards and the Archdiocese curriculum. Our five day full day preschool program will allow us the opportunity enhance the curriculum that is already part of our preschool program. Students will get to learn through play, as well as more structured small and large group lessons. (Research indicates that meaningful play helps young children learn best.) Students will learn pre-reading skills, math skills, writing skills, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills and much more. The five day program will allow for the opportunity to further enhance the children's skills and will allow more time for the children to experience activities that challenge them at different levels. (More information to come.)

The program will:

- begin and end at the same time as the regular school day: 7:45a.m.-2:15 p.m.
- Morning care: 7:00-7:30 a.m. will be offered, as well as, after school care known as Extended Day from 2:15-6:00 p.m.
- Preschoolers who have siblings that ride the bus will be able to join them on the bus. Due to their age, preschoolers who don't have an older sibling to assist them will not have access to bus services.

We hope you will let your families, friends and neighbors with preschool children know about this new enhancement to our school. Many thanks to Ms. Payne for her hard work and dedication in getting this project off the ground and helping us make it happen!

Jane Doyle
President, BSJ

FSA News! *The corner of eThursday where you can keep up with everything going on in our Family School Association.*

Our fundraiser was easy as pie... Thanks to all of our school families, staff, faculty and parishes who purchased pies! With a week to go, it did not look like we would even come close to our goal. But in the last week, sales went through the roof! Final numbers (and an announcement of the class that sold the most) will be coming soon! If you want to pick up a last-minute pie, we have extended the sale through Friday at noon. All pie certificates not delivered in this eThursday can be picked up at parent-teacher conferences next week.



Something new: FSA has made available a new method of payment. In the upper left corner of the website home page (and the same spot on the FSA page) you will find a link for the [Online Store](#). If you click on this link you will be directed to a secured website contracted through PayPal where you can easily pay for items purchased. Big thanks go to Mrs. Sara Ward for pointing us in this direction. Right now you can still purchase pies (extended through Friday at noon) or tickets to the upcoming Pancake Breakfast with Santa! Give it a try. And speaking of Santa...

Save the Date! Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 13
8am-1:30pm
St. Patrick Parish



See the eThursday flyer: pancakes and Santa are in just 3 weeks!

Please contact any FSA Board Member with questions or concerns.

Have a blessed week!!

