

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MEMO "SAM"
Everything You Wanted To Know
Week of October 5, 2009

Beginning Monday, October 12th through Friday, October 23rd, students in grades 3-8 will be taking the *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)*. These are standardized achievement tests that are taken by children all over the nation. The main purposes of the *ITBS* are to provide the school with information that can be used to improve instruction and to help teachers make sound educational decisions about each student's learning. These scores allow teachers to check each student's year-to-year growth and to identify some of each student's strong areas of achievement and needed areas of improvement.


The *Iowa Tests of Basic Skills* cover many of the fundamental skills your child is learning in school in the areas of reading, language, mathematics, social studies, sciences and sources of information.

The results from the *ITBS* will not be used to determine report card grades of students. Instead, teachers and I will use the results to monitor students' learning of some of the important skills taught in school. Of course, the results will also be useful to you and your child. Scores from tests like the *ITBS* cannot replace a teacher's observations and judgments, but they can provide useful supplementary information for the teacher, the parents, and the students. When test results are used in conjunction with other information from both the classroom and the home, teachers and parents can work together to identify and address the educational needs of each student.

The million dollar question from each student and parent is "How should we prepare for the standardized exams?" My recommendation is simple...get a good night's sleep and a solid breakfast. The questions on the *ITBS* are geared to cover a wide range of skill levels from below grade level to exceeding grade level. Students should be encouraged to do their best on the *ITBS*, as they should for all of their school activities. By maintaining a typical schedule and atmosphere at home during the period of time when testing occurs, you can help your child have a positive testing experience.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the *ITBS* testing.

CALENDAR REMINDERS:

- Fri. Oct. 9th – Health Day – Gr. K-8 vision only
- Fri. Oct. 9th – FT/Gr. 1 – Pumpkin Patch/9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Sun. Oct. 11th – Central Catholic Open House/1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Mon. Oct. 12th-23rd – Gr. 3-8 *ITBS* National Testing
- Mon.-Wed. Oct. 12th-14th – Parish Mission/7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Wed. Oct. 14th – No Children's Liturgy
- Thu. Oct. 15th – All Portland Ornament orders due! 
- Thu. Oct. 15th – Men's Club Mtg/7:00 p.m. (cafeteria)
- Fri. Oct. 16th – Noon Dismissal – Professional Development
- Fri. Oct. 16th – Happy Birthday, Mrs. Chapman!
- Sat. Oct. 17th – SJF Confirmation Mass/4:30 p.m.
- Sun. Oct. 18th – Jesuit High School Open House/1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Mon. Oct. 19th – SAC Mtg/5:30 p.m.
- Tue. Oct. 20th – PTC Mtg/6:00 p.m. (social) 6:30 p.m. (mtg.)
- Tue. Oct. 20th – All November lunch orders due to www.orderlunches.com





Wed. Oct. 21st – Gr. K-8 Children’s Liturgy/9:00 a.m. (led by Gr. 4)
 Thur. Oct. 22nd – Progress reports sent home
 Thur. Oct. 22nd – Happy Birthday, Ms. Bjore!
 Fri. Oct. 23rd – FT/Gr. K – Sauvie Island Pumpkin Patch/9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Sat. Oct. 24th – Men’s Club Halloween Extravaganza/6:00-9:00 p.m. (cafeteria)
 Sat. Oct. 24th – Happy Birthday, Mrs. Day!
 Sun. Oct. 25th – La Salle High School Open House/1:00-4:00 p.m.

PLAYGROUND DUTY SCHEDULE/11:30 a.m.-12:40 p.m.

Mon. Oct. 12th – Clark/Larsen
 Tue. Oct. 13th - Shaw
 Wed. Oct. 14th - Crowley
 Thur. Oct. 15th - Gianola
 Fri. Oct. 16th – Noon Dismissal

If you have a conflict with your scheduled duty, please contact Renee Huglin @ 503-244-2258.

50TH JUBILEE, THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Michelle Rafter for writing the *Catholic Sentinel* article that you will find @ <http://www.sentinel.org/node/10383> regarding our recent 50th Jubilee celebration. Also, thank you to both Rick Schafer and John LaRiviere for the photography included in the article.

MEN’S CLUB INFORMATION - Meeting Oct 15th 7:00 pm

Welcome in fall with chili and cornbread October 15. Meeting starts at 7:00pm. In addition to a cluster of important topics, come join us to plan our annual spook fest for this year’s Halloween extravaganza:

- o Halloween Carnival: Oct 23rd setup, Oct 24th event
- o Auction parties and support
- o Easel parties: Planning for some old Favorites + some new ideas you’ll want to get in on.
- o Auction Support: need strong backs to make the auction a success; see what your options are to help out.
- o Facilities upgrades and funding: make a tangible difference around the school. Men’s club is considering a variety of projects to fund and facilitate on campus. Let’s make Brian happy!

RSVP: <http://www.sjfmensclub.com/rsvp>



MEN’S CLUB HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

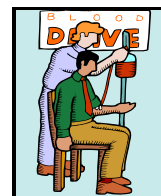
Please mark you calendar for the annual Men’s Club Halloween Carnival scheduled for Saturday, October 24th in the school’s cafeteria. Fun starts at 6:30. You will find games, prizes, and ghoulish haunted house not for the squeamish. Food will also be available.

SALLY FOSTER GIFTWRAP NEWS

The Sally Foster Giftwrap fundraiser will end on October 14th and all orders are due by this date. Remember students, if you sell \$50 or more of Sally Foster products, you’ll receive a “free dress” coupon. The date will be determined by Mrs. Holub. Please return your completed packets to the copyroom by October 14th!

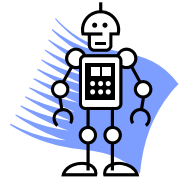
BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU!

We met our goal and collected 31 units which have the potential of helping 33 people. A special thank you to all the donors and to Mr. Albertini and Liz Lilly for organizing this event.



ROBOTICS NEWS

Robotics is coming soon! In an effort to space out school activities, our Robotics Club will begin this January. Robotics is geared for any interested student in grades 4-8 and is run by our own Robotics professional, Mrs. Joanne Grenz. If you are able to support this program with your time and talent, please contact Mrs. Grenz @ joanneg@sjfschool.org. It's a great opportunity to fulfill your Family Volunteer Hour credits! More information for the club will be coming soon.



CALL FOR AUCTION VOLUNTEERS

Families, looking for volunteer hours? You can check for open volunteer needs and SIGNUP for positions by accessing our website @ www.sjfschool.org. Click on the side link "auction" and find the Volunteer Opportunities list where open positions are indicated. We need your help and you need the hours. Please do what you can. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Williams @ 503-516-3228.

PTC NEWS

The next PTC General Meeting is fast approaching. It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th. These meetings, held 4 to 5 times a year, are a chance for all parents to learn about important activities at our school. The main topic of this upcoming meeting will be a review of the PTC budget. We will be sharing specific information about the state of our fundraising efforts, our continuing expenses, and we'll provide a detailed budget for everyone to review.

The meeting will be in the cafeteria with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. We will be providing the professional childcare services of Vermont Hills Family Life Center to watch your children during the meeting.

If you have questions, please feel free to call Rich or Kirsten Meneghello @ 503-247-3427, or email us @ Meneghello@comcast.net.

NEWS FROM THE STUDENT BOARD

Dear Students and Parents,

I am Wilder Boyden, student board secretary, and would like to tell you about our next upcoming event. At the assembly held on Tuesday, Oct. 6th, we announced our first Class of the Month theme. It is called Lifework's Halloween Baskets. Basically, all the students are asked to bring in candy and put it in a basket that will be kept in the classroom. The class bringing in the most candy wins. The candy will then go to a location in SE Portland where it will be given out to kids whose parents are struggling. For example, one might have had an alcohol or drug addiction. Also, at this assembly we announced that student reps from grades 1-8 need to be chosen. The next planned assembly is scheduled for Oct. 30th at which time we will announce the Family Halloween pumpkin carving contest winners, class costume winners, and hold a pie eating contest. We will be announcing the Lifeworks winner and present the next Class of the Month theme, Pennies for Patients.

HALLOWEEN NEWS FROM THE STUDENT BOARD

Please note that our upcoming "Family Pumpkin Carving" contest is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 30th. All SJF families are invited to participate in this fun activity that is part of our Halloween celebration. Tables will be placed outside the main entrance of school, so plan on dropping off your masterpiece by 8:10 a.m. The Student Board will be sponsoring a Halloween assembly beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 30th in the cafeteria. Pumpkin carving winners will be announced at the assembly. Students may wear their costumes to school. Absolutely **NO MASKS ARE ALLOWED!!!** Wigs OK & face paint. If a student will not be wearing a costume then they must wear their SJF school uniform.



NOTE:

This year the following pumpkin themes will be judged:

- ✚ Creative
- ✚ Original
- ✚ Scariest

Pumpkins must be picked up by 3:15 p.m. on Oct. 30th.

CALLING ALL ORNAMENT BUYERS!

The final day to submit your orders for the “Portland Ornament” is **Monday, October 12th**. Ornaments will be delivered to school during the 1st week of November for your holiday gift-giving.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK 2009

The 2009 Entertainment Books are now available through the office. Hard to believe, but the cost is still only **\$20.00**. Help support SJF by purchasing your book today and begin enjoying all the many discount offers. If you are interested in ordering, please fill out the form found on our website @ www.sjfschool.org and return to the office with your check made payable to St. John Fisher. You can either pickup your book(s) or have them sent home with your child/ren. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Vancil @ chriv@sjfschool.org or @ 503-246-3234. **Last chance to order books is Nov. 6th**.



CALLING ALL MOVIE LOVERS!

Tickets for the Valley Cinema Fall Matinee Program are now available. The movie series is a terrific entertainment bargain and each series ticket purchased earns \$3 for the school. Ticket order form is available @ www.sjfschool.org. Click on “forms” and download a copy and get your movie tickets now! If you have any questions, please call Laura Joyce at 503-245-1050.

Please look for the following information that is included in today’s electronic email:

***SAM – Week of October 5th
Vermont Hills Family Life flyer
Archdiocese Called to Protect training schedule
Auction Volunteer Opportunities flyer***