

Dear Parents,

Next week is **Catholic Schools Week** and the theme this year is:

“Catholic Schools: A+ For America”

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. The effectiveness of our schools has been a consistent finding of educational research and coverage in the media for more than a quarter of a century. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social values in their students. Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life — it is education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S.

Here at SSJ, the students, faculty and staff will gather every morning (beginning this Friday) for prayer. Following prayer and announcements, various members of our school community will be “spinning the wheel” to determine which event/activity we will be enjoying the next day. We realize that you may not have as much notice as we normally like to give you for free dress days or special events, but we hope you will understand and support our endeavors. As always, parents are most welcome to join us each morning for prayer, announcements and the wheel-spinning results! ☺

FREE DRESS THIS FRIDAY

Congratulations to all of the Dolphins of SSJ for winning and bringing back to our school the highly coveted SPIRIT AWARD! I am sure that our basketball team truly appreciated your support and enthusiasm at the recent Mater Dei tournament. As a token of this appreciation, and to thank you for your unbridled school spirit, ALL of the students may have FREE DRESS this Friday, January 28th. Please make sure that students adhere to the free dress guidelines in our School Handbook.

SSJ GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNER!

Congratulations to **Noah Cortez**, 6B, this year's Geography Bee champion at SSJ. Noah emerged victorious after successfully answering a plethora of geography-based questions while facing some tough competition from fellow students. I probably speak for many of us when I say that we cannot find our way around the city without the assistance of Mapquest or some other navigational system. But, Noah seemed to know it all...cities, states, countries, continents and all that is contained within their boundaries. He will now advance and take another test to qualify and represent SSJ at the state level in Sacramento. Good luck, Noah! We will all be rooting for you!

JODEE BLANCO NIGHT!

This Thursday, January 27, **Jodee Blanco** will be on the campus of Sts. Simon & Jude to share her wisdom and expertise about bullying with all of us. She will speak to the students during the school day, and she will have a separate presentation for parents at 7:00 P.M. in the church.

Please note that babysitting will be provided in Colman Hall for parents who want to attend the evening program, and will be in need of childcare. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for what will be a highly informative and powerful evening. ***Parents who attend Jodee's presentation will earn DOUBLE SERVICE HOURS!***

TYKE/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The information meeting regarding our full-day TYKE/Kindergarten enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year will be held next **Tuesday, February 1, at 6:30 P.M.** in Colman Hall. Copies of the daily schedule will be distributed, and the teachers will be present to address parent questions or concerns regarding the full-day programs. Students must be 5 years of age by September 1st to be admitted into the one-year academic program, or 5 years of age by December 1st to be admitted into the TYKE (Two-Year-Kindergarten-Experience) Program. Please bring a COPY of your child's baptismal and birth certificates. A date/time for the readiness assessment will be scheduled at the conclusion of the meeting. \$35 screening fee will also be due at that time. If you have any questions regarding registration please contact the school office at 714-962-4451.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN NIGHT

Let's celebrate Catholic Schools Week with an entire day of food, fun and friends at California Pizza Kitchen located in the Bella Terra shopping center. On Tuesday, February 1, from lunch until dinner (11:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M.), CPK will donate 20% of the day's proceeds to SSJ if you present the enclosed flyer when you order. They will even honor the flyer for take-out orders. Don't miss out on the chance to come and feast with your "SSJ family"!

MAGAZINE DRIVE/COOKIE DOUGH

It's time for our annual magazine/cookie dough drive! The information packets will be sent home with the students next Tuesday, February 1st. This is a great way to fulfill your fundraising obligation. Families will be credited with 46% of their total magazine/cookie dough orders. What could be better than enjoying some delicious, warm, fresh-baked cookies while you relax with your favorite magazine? If you have any questions or would like to help for service hours, please call Cathy Bird at 714-540-0724, or Deanna Lambert at 714-641-4772.

SSJ PAPER DRIVE

January is almost gone and that means there are only four more months left for you to fulfill all of your service hours obligation. Please consider volunteering to help us at our next paper drive on Saturday, February 12, and/or Sunday, February 13. Call Marcelle Capps at 714-421-2976 or you can send her an email at mcapps2338@aol.com if you wish to volunteer in February or any future paper drives.

STUDY FOR SUCCESS

Study for Success, our after-school tutoring program, is being held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. Students who attend sign in at the beginning of the session and are required to stay the entire hour. The cost is \$10 per session, and parents are billed at the end of the month. Students who participate in the program must report to room 8B to sign in. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Dale at (714) 962-4451 or you can stop by classroom 8B after school.

***In faith, pride and spirit,
Crystal Smith & Faculty***