

EAGLE EVENTS



ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL - COLUMBIA, SC

A SUCCESSFUL 80'S AUCTION & FIRST ANNUAL SJN 5K RUN



A SPECIAL THANKS TO STEPHANIE LAUBACKER, ERINA FLOWERS & ERIN GALLOWAY !!!



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A Word From Our Principal

The Gift of Giving

We are truly blessed in many ways everyday. We have not only the necessities of life: food in our cabinets, a bed to sleep in, a warm house to come home to on a cold day. and clothes. We also have the love of our family and the freedom to pray whenever we want or have the need. Although they may not realize it, our children may have many “wants” but very few, if any, “needs.” What can you give them for Christmas that truly reflects this time of giving?

There are several “gifts” that you can give to your children that are priceless. One gift is to teach them, through modeling, the gift of time to others. There may be a time in everyone’s life that they will not have the money to “buy” gifts for everyone at Christmas; this is a way that everyone can always give to others. Giving of time is something that everyone can do, no matter what your financial situation may be at any time.



Another “gift” is teaching your child amends. Is there a family member or friend that you haven’t had contact with for some time because of hurtful words or actions that may have come between the two of you? Jesus taught us to forgive. How many times have we done something wrong, yet we know that we are always forgiven? Take a few minutes and call that person, asking or giving forgiveness, making amends. What a great way to start the new year.

Finally, remember to tell your children that you love them everyday. Even if they are at the age that they roll their eyes when you say it to them, in their heart it means so much. Our God is a forgiving God who offers us unconditional love. Make sure that your children know that your love is also unconditional. Let them know that there may be times that you do not agree with their actions, but you will always love them. Within the closeness of your family unit is the time for them to learn right from wrong, unconditional love, and that their family will always be there for them, no matter what happens.

Thank you for sharing your most valuable gifts with us everyday: your children. At St. John Neumann School, we know that we are truly blessed to have the love and support of all of you. May you have a beautiful Christmas, and may the new year bring many blessing to you and your family.

Barbara Cote
Principal

Honor Roll



Principal’s Honors

- 4th Donya Farzam
- Rence Fernandez
- Emma Robinson
- Brennan Schmidt
- 5th Chloe Cobb
- Alexa Cooper
- Kaitlyn Cote
- Kathryn Gervasi
- Lauren Grimmer
- Luke Marazzo
- Nicholas Orr
- Sanjay Ravindra
- 6th McCarley Maddock
- Katie Solomon

First Honors

- 4th Victoria Collins
- Maya Duffy
- Paige Miller
- Isabelle Parks

- 5th Khanhnie Fleshman
- Drew Gustafson
- Katherine Kimbrough
- Mary Catharine Mauney
- Hayden Schmidt
- Edoardo Tremolada
- Abbey Winslow

Second Honors

- 4th Hector Alcantara
- Alec Beach
- Loren Brown
- Kimberly Curlee
- Jasmine Flora
- Lauren Frierson
- Will Galloway
- Joshua Green
- Alex Gregg
- Joseph Harris
- Johnanthony Hurley
- Fulton Jones
- Ashley Maddock
- Baylor McCrary

- Cameron Pankau
- Logan Randall
- Ryan Rescigno
- Bradley Shuford
- 5th Sydney Collins
- Meredith Fuller
- Bethany Hamm
- Robert Hogue
- Alex Lacson
- Katie LaPorte
- Patrick Moorner
- Thomas Palevich
- Rochelle Tuazon
- McKenna Trogdon
- Timothy Whiddon
- Alexandra Younan
- 6th Olivia Brown
- Haley Chishom
- Nicky Egan
- Vi Fleshman
- Connor Kreeze
- Angelica Littlefield
- Molly Phillips
- Stephanie Six

School Advisory Board & PSA



Saint John Neumann

George Kreese, School Advisory Board President

We all know that our parish's patron saint is John Neumann, but do we know why he is among the few American saints? He was born in 1811, in Prachatice, Bohemia. He completed his theology studies in 1835 and intended to be ordained in Europe. His bishop decided there would be no more ordinations because Bohemia had such a high number of priests. He received the same response from the numerous bishops he wrote across Europe. Having an interest in missionary work, he turned to America. Arriving in 1836, he was ordained and assigned by the bishop of the NY diocese to work with German immigrants in the Niagara Falls area. He tirelessly visited the sick, taught catechism and trained teachers to continue his work when he left. In 1842, he entered the order of the Redemptorists. Because he spoke eight languages, he was sent to serve in many different areas – so many that he wondered if his superiors really wanted him! He was made the superior of the American branch of the order and served as a parish priest on Baltimore before becoming the bishop of Philadelphia in 1852.



The influential Catholics in Philadelphia opposed his consecration because this short, blocky, heavily-accented man did not offer the polished image they felt was needed in their diocese. An anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant group was bent on burning the schools and churches he built. He became discouraged and nearly transferred to a smaller diocese. The Vatican had great regard for his abilities and expressed their support. By the time a stroke took his life at only 48, he was credited for being the first bishop in the US to organize a Catholic diocesan school system. He increased the schools in his diocese from one to two hundred. His construction campaign extended to churches as well, completing one within the diocese nearly every month.

How appropriate that our school and parish are named for such an extraordinary man! I'm certain that he is smiling at our school's achievements and our church's ministry to today's immigrants. With our school and church capital campaigns, we are uniquely positioned to continue the work Saint John Neumann began over 150 years ago. Please consider these opportunities to make a fitting tribute to a man of God who gave everything to establish schools and churches!



Auction ... A HUGE Success

Jhoanna Pineda-Kim, PSA President



The 80's Auction was a huge success! The final numbers are still being tallied, but already we have reached \$215,000! The addition to the school is almost within our reach. We are still short approximately \$72,815 in order to break ground this January. Please consider donating at least \$250 for the brick campaign. We only need 292 bricks to meet our goal, and donations greater than \$250 will surely be appreciated. Your generosity toward SJN is what keeps our school in the forefront of the most sought out schools in the

Midlands, "Where Children Experience Success."

Thank you to our chairs, Stephanie Laubacker and Erina Flowers, for this year's auction. I want to thank all the committee chairs for working hard to achieve such a successful auction. In addition, thank you to our parent volunteers, teachers, and the administrative staff who all pitched in to help. It is always a collaborative effort to make our school auction as successful as it is. We are looking for auction chairs to head next year's auction. Anyone interested, please contact me or Mrs. Cole. I know there is someone out there who is good at organizing and leading an event such as this.....

Christmas Break is around the corner. I hope everyone enjoys their time off to relax and spend quality time with their families. Two and a half weeks without homework...WOW! Don't forget, the children need to keep up with reading everyday. The semester ends on January 14, and all their AR books are due by then. From the Kim family, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let us remember the real reason for Christmas; the Christ child was born to bring us salvation. Let us prepare our hearts by helping the less fortunate and praying that we are ready when He comes. I hope everyone has a safe and restful holiday, and we will see you in 2010!



Library Literacy

New Christmas Books For All Ages

Karen Zimmerman

The holiday season is a great time for the family to get together and read! Enjoy as a family or encourage your children to read some of the following new Christmas books!

- *The Christmas Genie* by Dan Gutman – On the day before Christmas vacation, a meteorite crashes into the 5th grade classroom of Mrs. Walters. Students have only one hour to make a wish, and learn that “you must be careful what you wish for!” A humorous story for students in grades 3-6!
- *Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas* by Jane O’Connor – Fancy Nancy decides to decorate her house and tree in typical “Fancy Nancy” style, which is splendiferous! A great read-a-loud for grades K4-2!
- *A Season of Gifts* by Richard Peck – Grandma Dowdel (the star of *A Long Way From Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*) is back in this book that takes place in southern Illinois in 1958. The new family who moves in next to Grandma Dowdel discovers the true meaning of giving during their first Christmas in Decatur. Great for 4th – 6th graders!
- *The Spirit of Christmas* by Nancy Tillman – A perfect book to share with everyone in the family! Children of all ages will enjoy the artwork and message that the best Christmas gift is being with our loved ones!
- *The True Gift: A Christmas Story* by Patricia MacLachlan – This book is another classic written by the author of *Sarah Plain and Tall*. In this holiday tale, a young brother and sister discover the true meaning of giving at Christmas-time. All ages will enjoy this as a read aloud, while second and third graders can read it on their own!

Birthday Books

Ashley Maddock, October 28, with love from Mom & Dad for her 10th birthday



McCarley Maddock, November 5, with love from Mom & Dad for her 12th birthday

John Maddock, December 18, with love from Mom & Dad for his 7th birthday



Memory

Penny & Jack Nieri in memory of Mrs. Eleanor Tunnel

Mrs. Geddings First Grade Class in memory of Mrs. Brenda Farrell, Aunt of Lauren & Will Frierson

Brianna Christmon in memory of Mrs. Brenda Farrell, Aunt of Lauren & Will Frierson

SJN Students & Faculty in memory of Mrs. Brenda Farrell, Aunt of Lauren & Will Frierson

SJN Students & Faculty in memory of the Grandfather of Blakeley & Dawson Yandle



Other

- Father Masad**
- Karah & Erin Barry**
- The Hurlbert Family**
- Mac O’Neil**
- The Rescigno Family**
- The Whidden Family**
- The Widener Family**





PreSchool & Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

Ellie Boger & Whitney Lyman

The PreSchool Indians gathered for a delicious feast on November 24. Dressed in their colorful Indian t-shirts, headbands, and necklaces the students entertained their parents with songs and a Brave Little Indian finger play. After their presentation, the students enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast prepared by their parents.



The kindergartners prepared for their annual Thanksgiving Feast by reflecting on things they are thankful for including their families, friends, special pets, and other aspects of God's creation. They incorporated these in the celebration along with plenty of food, singing, and even a drum to help keep a steady beat. Both parents and children enjoyed this memorable time together.



Differentiated Instruction

Alison Levitt

This month I would like to share with you some of the ways technology is used to help our teachers differentiate instruction. We are very blessed to be in a school where we have access to so many technological tools to aid in our teaching. From Smartboards to Alpha Smarts, our students' skills in technology go far beyond what any of us were exposed to in school. Our teachers, too, are blessed to have so many tools to assist them in planning differentiated lessons.

- **Math:** Some of our grade-level teachers use Accelerated Math to individualize student practice and to diagnose areas of strength and weakness. Computer programs that go along with our textbooks allow us to prepare tests according to differentiated lessons taught. Assessments can be customized to suit each child's ability level.
- **Other Subjects:** In other subjects teachers use Quia (Quintessential Instructional Archive), which provides a wide variety of tools, including templates for activities and online testing tools. Our teachers can create quizzes, grade them with computer assistance, and receive detailed reports on student performance. Another beneficial tool is the Classroom Performance System (Clickers). Using "Clickers," our teachers can assess student knowledge in a fun way. This educational system is designed to engage all students, provide instant feedback to teachers and students, and collect all objective student performance results. With "Clickers," students respond to questions projected on the Smartboard using individual response pads that resemble a remote control. All students are engaged in a non-threatening manner; therefore, no student is embarrassed if he/she answers incorrectly. "Clickers" make learning fun and keep students on task.

Finally, our teachers and students use Nettekker, an online, safe search engine to access information. Teachers use Nettekker to search for lessons using features that allow them to access individualized lessons for students. For example, some students may benefit from interactive lessons on a particular skill, while another may need information that contains a readability level that differs from other students in his/her class. Nettekker aids our students, as well. Using Nettekker, we can be assured that no student will gain access to information that is unsuitable for young viewers. Only safe, educationally appropriate information is obtained using Nettekker.

We have expressed many times how blessed we are to have our students in such a warm, loving environment with teachers who are dedicated to each child in our school. Our teachers strive continuously to provide learning environments suitable for all levels of learners. Using technological tools like the ones mentioned is just one more way our teachers supply opportunities for our students to "Experience Success" each day at St. John Neumann School.



Teacher Focus

Getting to Know Our SJN Teachers

Marti Schottelkotte



Anna Wunderlich – Did you know Mrs. Wunderlich has walked through a mile long lava tube near Mt St. Helens with only a flashlight and no guide? She’s also hiked the Alps in Germany over snow, and kayaked with dolphins in Hawaii! Her parents immigrated from the Ukraine after WWII, and she has a rich history to share. After having her own children, she realized what a great impact she could have on younger students by helping them reach their potential and instilling a desire to succeed.

Freedra Wood – Did you know Mrs. Wood believes the effects of her work with our kids will last a lifetime so “joy must reign above all!” Wow, our kids’ futures are in good hands.



Janet Timmerman – Did you know Mrs. Timmerman can’t jump rope? If she could go anywhere, she’d love to spend half of the year in Scotland and the other in the Bahamas! Yesssss! One of her favorite things is for former students to come back and tell her how their education at SJN influenced their careers.

Liz Baughman – Did you know Ms. Baughman saved all her money after her first year of teaching and spent a month backpacking through Europe? If she could, she would spend a summer in Uganda working to protect child soldiers. One of her favorite things is sharing that “ah-ha” moment with her students.



Bridget Zelachowski – Did you know Mrs. Zelachowski took belly dancing lessons back in her 20’s...just a few years ago. She was a teacher for 17yrs and after having her husband transferred to S.C., saw a notice for a first grade teacher in the church bulletin. Boy, are we lucky!

Susie Stafford – Did you know Ms. Stafford knew she wanted to be a Kindergarten teacher at an early age because she planned plays, activities and crafts for all the younger children in her neighborhood? She used to be shy but had to get over that when she was a camp counselor at a girls’ camp in N.C. during the summers. She had to perform crazy skits for the kids, and there was no room for timidity! Ms. Stafford rejoices in having a wonderful and loving group of siblings, nieces and nephews and, of course, the children of SJN.



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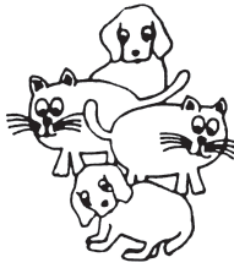
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Mission Possible

Victoria White

Earlier this month, eight St. John Neumann students competed in the First LEGO regional qualifying tournament. Their task was to examine a real-world transportation problem, conduct research, find an innovative solution, create a presentation, build a LEGO robot, and program the robot to accomplish 22 unique tasks. All of this was completed in 10 weeks!

Dean Kamen, inventor and founder of the First LEGO program, created this program to both inspire children to pursue science and technology and to teach students leadership skills and good sportsmanship.

Although we have only participated in this competition for two years, we were honored to receive The Judges Award - our first award - which is given to acknowledge the team that displays the most gracious professionalism throughout the eight-hour day.

By winning this award, we not only fulfill Dean Kamen's vision, but also the vision of our school. The students once again showed that they do not leave what they learn in the classroom. They share it with the world.

