



# The Royal Reporter

March 2012

## A Lenten Note From The Principal *Mr. William Cardone*

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I have come to recognize that sometimes we lose sight of what truly is our mission as parents, teachers, and members of the St. James' school community. I believe our mission is a simple one; to teach our children within a safe, Catholic, Christian environment. We must remind our children that the lessons of the gospels and leading a life in the manner in which Jesus taught us is indeed what we must strive for and aspire to. As parents, we

are our children's first and most important teachers. We not only teach with our words, but by our actions as well.

As our Lenten journey continues, we must teach and model for our children the need to follow Jesus' example and try to become better persons in the way we lead our lives. Each year Spring brings the promise of renewal, rebirth, and new life to our world. So too, the

Easter season brings the promise of Christ's resurrection as proof of His love for us. Let us all live the Easter season all year long. Let us by our actions and the teaching of our children always do what is right as our way of demonstrating our love for Him.

May all of you enjoy all of God's blessings and His great love during this most sacred season.

Respectfully,  
William A. Cardone

## Royal Notes

### March 24

Mother's Retreat

### March 25

Open House 1-2 PM

### March 31

Royals' Cleanup

### April 4

Step Up for SJS

PTA Speaker Night 7 PM

### April 14

SJAA 5K Race

### April 23

Book Fair Begins

### April 24

Open House 9-11 AM

Used Uniform Sale 9-12

### April 27

Spring Musical

### May 9

Last PTA Meeting

### May 21

Open House 9-11 AM

### May 22

Awards Night

## St. James Happenings from Mrs. JoAnn Giordano, SJS VP

As I reflect on my time here at St. James, I marvel at all the wonderful things that are happening within our classrooms.

Our Pre-school children continue to amaze us with their ability to use technology. The children enjoy using the iPads to learn their letters, shapes and numbers. I am also always impressed by the many interesting projects the children make. Our teachers have a knack for turning learning into a fun activity.

Our kindergarteners are excited and eager to learn. In my visits to the classrooms the children eagerly share their knowledge on numbers, letter sounds, and sight words. The kindergarten teachers have a sound pedagogical understanding and know how to ready the students to experience success.

Having been a first grade teacher for some years, first grade will always be dear to my heart. I enjoy visiting the classrooms and listening to the children read stories. The small class sizes make it easier for the teachers to work one-on-one with the children and monitor their growth more closely.

Research shows that a small class size in the early grades has a positive effect on future student achievement. The newest addition to first grade is the iPad. Not only are the students excited about using them, but so are the teachers. In the months to come we plan on purchasing more iPads for use in all the classrooms.

The second grade students are so proud and willing to share their knowledge. The children have shown off to me their writing skills and their ability to navigate through activities on the Smart Board. Just like the iPad, the touch screen capability of the Smart Boards makes it user friendly. In the past few weeks I have enjoyed reading about the children's written works on their First Penance experience, bird facts and listening to their poems on winter. They are developing into great writers!

A warning to all parents of third graders; your children's persuasive writing skills are well developed. The chil-

dren wrote persuasive letters to Mr. Cardone and me. They came up with some interesting ideas and supported them with solid arguments. Well done 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teachers and students!

In the midst of all the academic learning, the children live out their Catholic values by raising money for special causes, bringing in canned foods for the needy and writing letters to those that keep our country safe. We have received feedback from individuals in the Armed Forces stating that they truly enjoy reading the cards our students make.

St. James has a lot to be proud of. We have a dedicated hard working staff, respectful students that enjoying learning, supportive parents and an administration that is excited about helping St. James continue to be the best school it can be. I look forward to working with the teachers and together developing instructional strategies to better support the school's curriculum.

# The Royal Reporter

## PTA News

Mary Jane Manners and Denise Burke Co-Presidents

As the year begins to quickly wind down the PTA would like to share with all the parents all of the great activities that have been provided for our children. In December we hosted Breakfast with Santa and Grandparents Tea. The cafeteria was festively decorated by the event's co-chairs Adrienne Lamanno, Yvonne Ciccone and with many of our students! The Matuzak family ran Grandparents Tea this year and did a great job. The children escorted their grandparents to their classroom for a brief show and tell. This by far is the highlight of the day! Rita Apostolodis ran the Book Fair during that entire week. All proceeds from our book fair go our library.



Our annual Skating Party was held in January. Lisa Swabsin took charge of this event and she hosted a full house. Once again, the children had a great time!

Thanks to Joe Deleo and all the men of the Royals for another successful Polar Plunge. These men have also painted a portion of the preschool a much needed improvement! Brian Hill of the Royals took charge of a very successful Game Night. The event was well attended and well run. Thank you Brian!

We celebrated our Teachers during Catholic Schools Week. So many families were very generous by sending in baked goods. The teachers were able to come for a little breakfast then lunch. Thanks to all of you who sent in items they were truly appreciated by the all the staff! Catholic Schools Week was full of other events such as Open House for potential students as well as Open Classroom for current families.

Our Winter Clubs are running during the month of March. Liz Rogers and Lindsay Horowitz have pulled together some really fun things for our children. The kids seem to be having a great time participating in these clubs. Thanks to all the parents who have taken the task of monitoring a club, we couldn't do it with out you!

Another successful Father/Daughter Dance was held on McCloones Pier House in Long

Branch. We had a full house once again. A great big thanks to Kathleen Robinson French and Eileen Toomey for spearheading this large event.

Our Mother/Son Outing was held at a new venue this year. Our chair Janine Benoit Vitale found the new and exciting Yestercades. A great pick in supporting a business in Red Bank!

Parents were able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the BSA on March 10. There was music, cocktails and appetizers for all to enjoy. Thanks to the sister trio of Jeanne O'Connor, Carol Guido and Patty Leister.

Next up will be Step Up for St. James run by Carolyn Polo and Lena Zazza. We will have a DJ to entertain the children during the event. Please make certain that you send you child in with an extra bottle of water that day. Step Up will be held on April 4, 2012.

Kastle Kreations (our Fall Fundraiser company) has graciously donated two bicycles to our school. One of the bikes will go towards a prize for Step Up and the other is going to the SJAA 5K. Good luck kids!

A special thank you to all of the parents who are in the school every week helping out in the lunch room, kindergarten lunch, playground monitors, nurses office, morning monitors and primary aides. Your time is invaluable to our children's experience at St. James.

The next PTA Meeting is a Speaker Meeting. This will be held on Wednesday April 4, 2012 at 7pm in the cafeteria. Our speaker will be Elaine Leschot, Esq. a retired Monmouth County Prosecutor. Her focus will be keeping our children safe. The final PTA Meeting of this school year will be held on May 9, 2012.

*Denise Burke & Mary Jane Manners*



## Mother Son Outing



Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> marked the St. James's annual Mother and Son Outing. The event took place at Red Bank's very own vintage arcade,

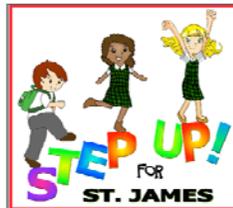
Yestercares. 80 mother and sons turned out to try their hand at Pac Man, Atari, XBOX games, pinball and billiards. A fabulous time was had by all!

Mothers and sons were seen playing side-by-side while exploring a lively game of Space Invaders or a healthy round of billiards and ping pong. The event was an opportunity for mothers and sons to spend valuable quality time together. Many of the moms commented that the party was a bit of a walk down memory lane playing with all the vintage video

games they grew up with. It was an opportunity for the moms to demonstrate their skills at these games and allow the young men to show their moms their new, cool games. Food and drink was plentiful and one of the highlights was the mother/son caricature memento that everyone left with.

## Step Up for St. James

The "Step Up" for St. James annual walkathon is expected to be a great success!!! The event will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> in the gymnasium which should set the tone for a fun, relaxing Easter Vacation!! The students plan on walking as music is playing by Jersey Girls DJs. The Theme for this year's event is "School Spirit". It's a day meant to show our pride for St. James School and it is expected to be greatly enjoyed by our St. James Students and Faculty alike!! Thank you in advance to all of our Students and Families for helping make "Step Up" for St. James such a great event!



## Spring Open House Dates for Prospective Families: April 24 & May 21

The highest compliment our parents can give us is the referral of family members, friends, or neighbors to our school. The trust and confidence that you place in us each day is paramount. Therefore, we would like to make you a part of our marketing team and ask you to spread the news regarding all our school has to offer. If there is a family, relative, or friend you know, that are planning to enroll their child for the '12 - '13 school year, please note that Saint James School is having an open house for prospective families on Tuesday, April 24 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM and Monday, May 21 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. If that time is not convenient please call the Business Office (732) 741-3363 to schedule a private tour. Visiting Saint James School is the best way to really see who we are and feel what we are all about...so come join us, invite a friend and let's show the community how proud we are to be part of the Saint James School Family!



# The Royal Reporter

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## Royal's News from Joe DeLeo, Royal's President

The Royals Club provides dads an opportunity to be involved in fun school activities with their children and earn PFE points at the various Royals Events throughout the school year for grades K-8. The Royals have had the following events for the 2011-2012 school year:

### Basketball Blowout

On Friday, January 6, 2012, the Royal's annual Basketball Blowout Event took place. I would like to thank Craig Seba, Ken Keyes and many other Royals dads who once again made this a successful and fun filled event for all! The Royal's will try to start a new winning streak next year against the Red Bank Police Department.

### Polar Plunge

On Sunday, January 8, 2012, the 6<sup>th</sup> Polar Plunge Event took place at Merri-makers at Water's Edge, Sea Bright on an unseasonably 50 degree warm winter day. I would like to thank Jerry Doherty and all Royal's plungers and their families and friends who made this a successful event again! I would like to also thank Mr. Cardone for taking the plunge! The Royals raised over \$9,600!

### Game Night

On Friday, January 27, 2012, Family Game Night IV took place. I would like to thank Brian Hill and many other Royal's dads who once again made this a successful and fun filled night for all!

There are opportunities for dads to earn PFE points at the Royal's Spring Clean-up on March 31st!

We welcome all dads to join the Royals. We need you to get involved at the school!

Please join us at our next meeting which is scheduled for April 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria.

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## St. Patrick's Day Adult Social

This year's St Patrick's Day Adult Social was held on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in the BSA. Over 100 SJS parents, parishioners, and faculty were on hand for an evening of good food, cold drinks, live entertainment, and most of all, good company. A great time was had by all. In a sea of green were SJS families getting together for a night of fun. Special thanks goes out to all who helped organize this event. A big thank you also to Chris and Tish Covert from Elsie's Sub Shop and Marisol and Charles Rooney from Stokers who generously donated food for the festivities. Even though this is not an official fundraiser, we are happy to report we raised over \$500 for the school. A pot of gold at the end of our rainbow. May the luck of the Irish be with you and we look forward to celebrating again next year!

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## Kindergarten Social

The Kindergarten Social took place on Saturday, February 11th in the cafeteria. The social was a great event with about 22 kindergarten families in attendance. The families enjoyed breakfast, and the children played games and made a Valentine's Day craft. Thank you to all that attended.

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## Mothers' Retreat 2012



The retreat will take place on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> from 8-3 on the beautiful oceanfront of the Stella Maris Retreat House. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Ariel at 8:30, where we will begin our spiritual journey by fo-

cus on Lent as well as the theme of God's Grace and the many ways it touches our lives. Sister Marge Scarpone will lead the discussions and reflections of the day. Break-

fast and lunch will be served, followed by this year's craft which will be to personalize a beach stone to place in your garden as a reminder of this spiritual break throughout the year.

## Annual Father/Daughter Dance

The sun was shining down the shore on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, as dads, special escorts, and girls gathered at McLoone's Pier House for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual St. James Father/Daughter Dance. We had 266 guests, a full house!

Everyone had a great time. As usual DJ Bob had all the girls dancing, and dads joined in for the slow ones. The lunch buffet was excellent and the cupcakes from Piece O Cake were a special treat. One of our eighth graders, Kate Mazza, shared her poem that she wrote about fathers, and her dad, Vito, read a prayer titled "Fathers and Daughters", to open the festivities. As in tradition, the eighth grade girls pulled the raffle tickets.

The co-chairs of the Father/Daughter Dance, Eileen Toomey and Kathleen Robinson, would like to take a mo-

ment to thank a few people for helping put on such a successful event. First and foremost we appreciate the support of our principal Mr. Cardone. In addition, we are grateful for all the help of the PTA, especially Mrs. Denise Burke and Mrs. Mary Jane Manners, as well as the Royals Club.

We appreciate the support of the individuals who made the dance possible:

Video DJ Bob, Main Street Productions.

Lisa Goga of Red Bank Stationery for providing the invitations.

Tom of Dean's Florist, Red Bank, who made the wristlets.

Miss Connie of Balloon-1-tics for the centerpieces.

Piece O'Cake who provided the cupcakes.

Bill Gray with Mrs.

Gale Rhodes for the photography.

McLoone's Pier House and their staff.

Lux Beauty, Yester-cades, and Ricky's all of Red Bank.

Velma Toomey who donated the American Girl Doll again this year.

This was our last year chairing this event. What a great way to earn our PTA points and meet some wonderful people. We'd like to close with a special thank you to all the girls at St. James!



*Keep on dancing!*

## Care Steps

The St. James Care Steps program helped celebrate Catholic Schools Week starting January 29 by holding a poster contest. Students of all grades were encouraged to submit a piece of artwork depicting what Faith, Academics and Service meant to them, the pillars of their Catholic education. Jennifer Portella (2A), Gianna Juliano (4A), and Gabriella Ferrigine (8B) won first prize. Sarah Coscia (KC), Gianna Piroso (4A), Amanda Crawford (7A) and Siobhan Cattel (7A) won

second prize. We had a lot of wonderful entries and thank the many the students who participated in the contest. In the spirit of outreach and service which are at the core of Care Steps, our school participated in the National SOUPer Bowl of Caring also held during Catholic School week. We collected soup and other canned goods and delivered them to the LunchBreak soup kitchen in Red Bank, very much in need of supplies.

Students from 6-8th grade then had a chance to volunteer their services at LunchBreak on Saturday, February 25th or Saturday March 10th. We commend all the students who attended for showing such enthusiasm and dedication. They cleaned the grounds, packed lunch bags, packed monthly grocery bags to be handed out to the needy, cleaned the dining room, welcomed people, helped organize the pantry and even packed dog food bags. We are very proud of how well they represented our school and really put their hearts into this outreach.

## After School Clubs - A St. James Gem!

The After School Clubs are currently underway, and are a big hit among students once again. These “winter clubs” are offered each year in the weeks just prior to Easter break and the commencement of the spring sports season. The level of student participation is down approximately 20% this year over 2011. Nevertheless, there are almost 200 students participating in the various clubs which are running from February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>. There are a total of 9 clubs: Lego, Crafts, Ceramics, Dance, Yoga, Bracelets, Puzzle, Video, and American Red Cross Babysitting. The Crafts and Dance clubs are new to the club roster this year. The Lego club continues to be the favorite with nearly 78 children from kindergarten through fifth grade participating. That’s over 300 Lego kits!

One of the many benefits of our After School Clubs program is providing kids in the primary grades the opportunity to participate in school related activities as they’re not yet eligible to join the school’s sports teams. Participants are able to spend some quality time with their peers in a fun, relaxed, collaborative envi-

ronment. Two of the clubs, Yoga and Dance, focus on fitness and gross motor skills. Both are offered to 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Five of the clubs foster creativity, abstract thinking and problem-solving skills while giving kids an opportunity to use their fine motor skills. Activities such as these are quite a departure from the passive screen time which so often occupies our kid’s time these days. No other school in our area runs a club program like this. St. James School takes great pride in offering its student this unique program to enhance their overall school experience.

While most of the clubs are targeted to the elementary students, two of our most popular clubs provide enrichment to the middle school students: The American Red Cross Babysitting Club and the Video Club: “So you want to be a Reporter?” The Video Club ran for its second year and continues to be a big hit among students. Ernabel Demillo, a SJS parent and former TV news reporter who is currently teaching a college level course at St. Peters College on this topic, generously offered her time and expertise to run this club.

Mrs. Lehman was kind enough to volunteer her services again by running the American Red Cross Babysitting club. This popular club always fills up early among the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. After the required 10 hours of baby care, first aid and CPR instruction, each participant received their certification from the American Red Cross.

There were over 20 parents who volunteered their time (and energy!) to make the clubs an enjoyable experience for our kids. A special thanks in particular to Tina Catapano, Beth Caruso and Trish McLoughlin who have always given so much of their time to ensure that the clubs run smoothly. The After School Clubs program wouldn’t be possible were it not for all the parents who volunteered over the 6 weeks.

Supervising or helping to run a club is a great way to get involved in our school’s community, meet other SJS parents, earn PFE points, spend time with your kids, and get to know your children’s classmates. We are always looking for more volunteers and more club ideas, so join the fun! Parents interested in volunteering for next year’s clubs should contact Liz Rogers or Lindsay Horowitz.



## Run With the Royals 5K Classic -- 1st Annual

On Saturday, April 14th, 2012 at 9:00 am, St. James School will be holding it's 1st Annual 5K Classic, the *Run With the Royals*. The Race will be held at Wolf Hill Recreation Area, Crescent Place, Oceanport, NJ (across from Monmouth Park Race Track). The course is cross-country: grassy, with some hills. Those who would like to walk the course are welcome. For developing runners of all ages, a Half Mile Fun Run will be held before the 5K at 8:30 sharp.

As a spring fundraising event for SJAA and with the cooperation of the Jersey Shore Running Club, the Run will attempt to reach the active running community of the Shore area. However, for our inaugural year, **we do need runners and walkers!** The sign-up of SJS students and their families for this Run will help it to grow year after year, and support the many top-level sports activities your school has available to student athletes. Whether incorporating this event into an already active lifestyle or setting a first-time goal, a 5K Run/Walk is an excellent motivation to accomplishment, and a terrific example for our children.

Entry fee is \$25, and all proceeds will go to benefit the St. James Athletic Association, which has one of the most comprehensive sports offerings for elementary schools in our area. **All early entrants will receive a Run With the Royals Shirt if they register by April 1st**, so please hurry. Prizes will be awarded and an after-race party will be held at Molly Maguire's Black Point Inn (formerly Murray MacGregor's) in Rumson. To register, please pick up an Entry Form in the back of the Church, backpack, or to register online with a credit card, go to [www.jsrc.org](http://www.jsrc.org), Run With the Royals. **Businesses and Families: Corporate/Marketing Sponsorships are available to advertise your business, or show family support for SJAA.** For further information, please contact Michaela Ferrigine at [mferrigine@gmail.com](mailto:mferrigine@gmail.com) or Paula Pangilinan at [plpangilinan@yahoo.com](mailto:plpangilinan@yahoo.com).

***“We do need runners and walkers!”***



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## It's Not Easy Being GREEN

Kermit the Frog may have something there. In our first year of going green with the WIN folder some have found it very hard not to have the WIN folder come home every week with the flyers for the week. SJS has committed to going green by eliminating as much paper as we can. Did you know to date we have released 191 flyers online? That doesn't count the numerous flyers that would have been sent for reminders. Instead we just repost the same flyer every week until it expires. We ask that you continue to be patient with us as we work through this new process and keep an eye out for your weekly eblast and check the website often for updates. If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions please email Maria Rimmele [rimmeles@aol.com](mailto:rimmeles@aol.com).

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