

# THE ROYAL REPORTER

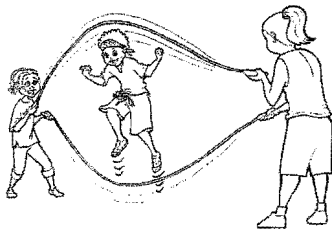
St. James Elementary School, Red Bank, New Jersey

May 2010

## Note from the Principal

Going back into my childhood, whenever my friends or I felt a game lost was unfair, the cry would always be for a “do over, do over”! A “do over” wasn’t the same as a “redo.” Redo simply meant do it again. A “do over” was the challenge to do it better than the first time and reach greater success.

Beyond child’s play, the concept of “do over” can be profound when you think about it. Throughout the year, be it the turn of the calendar or the turn of the season, we have opportunities to start again. New Year resolutions and Lenten



promises renew our hope to be better persons. The rebirth process of spring is a gradual process that cannot be rushed or urged.

It calls us from the monotony of winter to look with new eyes and appreciate the world around us. We witness in nature itself an annual “do over” when life is restored and color fills the world once again.

“Do overs” are not easy. The expectation is high and the stakes even higher. It takes effort, energy, and hard work to reach the bar set by others or ourselves. We teach our children early in life about “do overs” through our reactions to their choices and how to do better the next time. The Church teaches us about “do overs” through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the understanding of forgiveness and firm purpose of amendment. We remind our children of this everyday at morning prayers when we pray *Understanding and forgiving are you, Lord, slow to anger rich in kindness, may we live this day with understanding hearts and forgiving spirits.* We stress our forgiving

Father and the chance he gives us to do it over and do it better. But, they, in turn, must remember to be forgivers to each other and all that responsibility incurs.

There are lots of opportunities for “do overs” *throughout* life. Minor or major...it is crucial not to miss any. Ultimately, however, there is one experience that won’t come again. There are no “do overs” *for life itself*. Once lived, there’s

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no going back, no second chances. We need to make everyday a “do over” day, make every day count...and teach that to our children.

## Presidents’ Postings

We celebrated Catholic Schools Week (Jan

31st thru February 6th) to show our appreciation for our Catholic School Educators and staff alike. We treated the students to an ice cream treat and the staff to a special lunch at the end of the workweek. We also hosted an open house for prospective families and our current St. James families so they could observe a typical day in the Catholic School environment they chose for their children.

Highlights since our last report include some of the children's favorites such as Crazy Dress Down Day, an ice skating party with record St. James Skaters attendance, our second annual Games Night which drew in excess of 80 contestants, four weeks of after school clubs, the second book fair of the school year, Career Day for students on the third floor, a very well attended St. James Adult Social with a St. Patrick's Day theme, Mother and Son and Father and Daughter events, an offsite Mothers' Retreat which allowed our moms to relax and reflect, and our second annual Step Up for St. James fundraiser.

... but we're not done yet! Currently we are looking ahead to Awards Night (May 18) where our students will be recognized for various

accomplishments for the school year, Field Day (June 14<sup>th</sup>) that has an Olympic theme this year, our end of the year staff appreciation luncheon hosted by the PTA, and our farewell dinner dance for our graduating eighth grade class (June 9<sup>th</sup>).

We'd like to thank the following event chairs and their volunteers for all of their hard work:

Our **Royals Dads** for organizing the Polar Plunge and Games Night, both of which were a huge success again this year, **Eileen Donahue** for the skating party at the Armory, **Shannon Craney** for heading up the baking committee, **Kate Niesz** for overseeing Children's Programs, **Rita Nahas-Apostilides** for her efforts with the Book Fair, **Christine Hanlon** for organizing Career Day, **Liz Rodgers, Meeghan Perri,** and **Lindsay Horowitz** for organizing and overseeing After School Clubs, **Jeanne O'Connor** and **Carol Guido** for organizing our St. Patrick's Day Adult Social, **Kirsten Rennard** for her hospitality, **Denise Burke & Mary Jane Manners** for their efforts with the Mother Son Outing, **Kathleen Robinson** and **Eileen Toomey** for the

Father Daughter Mardi Gras Dinner Dance, **Ann Mazza** for handling the offsite Mothers' Retreat at Stella Maris Retreat House, **Stephanie Murray and Theresa Lawson** for "stepping up" and handling our Step Up for St. James fundraiser and **Elke Merz and Jodi Farello** for Field Day.

At this time, we would like to formally announce our new co presidents for the upcoming school year ... Denise Burke and Mary Jane Manners. We count ourselves blessed to have been able to serve in the capacity of co presidents for the last three years but are glad to pass on the positions to these two volunteers who we know will do a fantastic job!

Thank you to all for your support over the last few years. Serving on the PTA has truly been a wonderful experience!

Beth and Linda

## Development News

### Progressive Raffle

The Progressive Raffle was another great success as we raised over \$10,000!!! Thank you to all the families who bought and sold raffle tickets, we

couldn't do this without you.

We congratulate our raffle winners:

**1st Place**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Waldron, St. James parishioners who also graciously donated a portion of their winnings back to St. James Elementary School and St. James Church.

**2nd Place**

Mrs. Elizabeth Young, St. James Elementary School grandparent to Ellie Young in 3rd Grade.

**3rd Place**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Kirsten Sullivan, St. James Elementary School parents to Brett, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and Bryce 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**4th Place**

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Debbie Manganello, St. James Elementary School parents to Christina, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

And a huge thank you to our top-selling families:

The Guido Family – Owen, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Lucas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

The Doherty Family – Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

The Abadir Family – Jonathan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and Gabriella, Kindergarten.

A final thank you to all within the Development Committee who helped run and manage the Progressive Raffle and the School and Rectory office staff for assisting us with every step. We couldn't run this wonderful fundraiser without your guidance and help.

## School News

### Saint James Students Excel in WordMasters Challenge

A 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, Sarah Hough, recently won highest honors in this year's WordMasters Challenge by earning a perfect score in this year's second meet of the competition. The WordMasters Challenge is a national language arts competition entered by over 220,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. In the entire country only 128 other 6<sup>th</sup> grade students achieved perfect results. Others students at the school who achieved outstanding results in the meet included 5<sup>th</sup> graders Abigail Becker, Kelly Carlino, Lauren Cleary, Bella Murrer, and Catherine Escueta; 6th graders Tommy Cleary, Megan Cronk, Andrew Goumas, Jessica James,

David Thuel, and Claire Toomey; and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Joseph Montano; and 8<sup>th</sup> graders Grace Fallon and Riley O'Connell.

We salute all of our students on their special achievement!

### Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students!

We are very proud to announce that six of our students were accepted into the highly competitive public high school career academies. A certain amount of seats are allotted for each town. Each town receives a different allotment based on the student population. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who apply must take an extremely difficult entrance exam, have high 90<sup>th</sup> percentile standardize testing, and excellent grades.

**Amanda Bae** Academy of Allied Health & Science  
**Gabriel Rubano** Academy of Allied Health & Science  
**Maritess Escueta** Marine Academy of Science and Technology  
**Sarah Thuel** Marine Academy of Science and Technology  
**Suzanne Riegelman** Biotechnology High School  
**Gina Marcus McNair** Academic High School

### Helping Those in Need

One of our many goals is to raise up other-

centered, empathetic individuals...people who look around and really see. One of our themes several years ago was *Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve.* Our children are serving before they are leaving and we are delighted!

The spirit is moving...the Spirit of Giving and Compassion is moving in abundance among our students of all ages. They are extremely mission-minded and empathetic. If there is a cause, they are trying to help. Bake sales, bracelet sales, dress downs, all kinds of collections! There is no stopping them and why would we!

Our students have raised \$4200 for various causes in recent months and they are still planning. High on their list in their monetary efforts have been Haiti, Lunch Break, Habitat for Humanity, St. Jude's Hospital, and fire victims. We delivered five large cardboard boxes of shoes participating in Soles for Souls. St. James had joined the Borough of Red Bank for this campaign that ultimately collected over 7500 pairs of shoes for the people of Haiti.

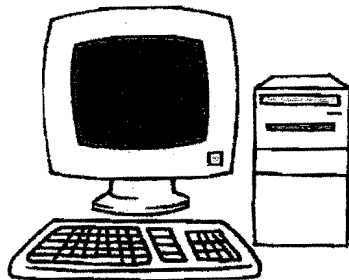
Baby clothes for Birthright, gently used or new books, can products for Souper Bowl, toiletries for soldiers, encouragement

cards for the sick children of Haiti, Thanksgiving food collections, sandwiches for the hungry of New York City have gone through the doors of St. James to bring comfort to others. We thank you, their parents, for your support, encouragement, and example. Your sense of generosity and compassion is taking root in your children.

## Activities

### PTA SPEAKER NIGHT

This world has become so connected through the use of the Internet, cell phones, webcams, even the Xbox Live! Unfortunately, there are dangers to our children lurking on the other end of these connections. One in five children, aged 10-17 years, will receive some sort of unsolicited sexual solicitation through technology. One in 17 will receive some type of threat or harassment!



The PTA was pleased to present Detective Robert M. Angelini, Sr., of the

Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, Computer Crimes Unit, who described some of the dangers lurking online. Det. Angelini began his career almost 25 years ago with the Long Branch Police Department, where he co-developed the city's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. He is a member of the NJ State Police High Technology Crime Unit and Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce.

Det. Angelini explained that the majority of threats begin in chat rooms, since people want to make friends and think that sharing information and events of their lives is harmless. There is no way to tell for sure if the person one is chatting with is who they say they are. People, and in particular teenagers, do not recognize the dangers of providing too much information or they feel that they are not vulnerable to these risks. Information about and pictures of our children can be obtained through many sources on the Internet if a predator is savvy enough: social networking sites, school team rosters, club websites and from the children themselves. Some of these sites can share personal details on an

instant real-time basis! A smart predator will use all information available to create a feeling of trust and concern for our kids, playing upon their common feelings of misunderstanding and need for acceptance.

Det. Angelini advised parents that we need to remain vigilant when protecting our kids. We should be aware of whatever information is available about them on the Internet or other technology, and insist that it be removed if appropriate. Information exchanged in chat rooms should be monitored. Computers should not be used by our children in rooms with closed doors. Text messages should be checked as often as necessary. He stated that if we feel that there may be a problem, unfortunately there probably is. It is critical that the police be made aware of any threats or cyber bullying.

We would like to thank the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and Detective Angelini in particular for this insightful and informative presentation.

If you have a topic that you would like addressed in a future Speaker Night, please contact Maryanne

Riegelman at 732-842-1655 or [megsuzjake@aol.com](mailto:megsuzjake@aol.com).  
2010-2011 Saint James Directory

If you would like to be included in the 2010-2011 Directory, please check your inbox for an email confirming your current information. If you did not receive an email, please contact Carolyn Gallagher [CAGAL617@yahoo.com](mailto:CAGAL617@yahoo.com) or 732-747-5257.

Be sure to check future WIN folders for an order form to reserve your copy of the directory.

### Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat: Relax, Reflect, and Relate took place on March 6, 2010 at the Stella Maris Retreat House in West End, NJ. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day to pray near the ocean. Eighteen women were in attendance. We began the day with mass said by our school chaplain Father Daison. Locals and other retreaters joined in, as Sandy Thuel played the guitar, and Mary Jane Manners and Michelle Bezzone were our readers. Mary Newman and Kim Convery brought up the gifts. We enjoyed coffee and muffins and then Sister Marge Scarpone began the activities of the day. There

were group activities, time to walk the beach, and Father Daison remained on sight for confessions. We had a delicious lunch and came together again to enjoy more of Sister Marge and her wonderful humor as well as reflections on our heart's desire, the circle of the trinity and how we can relate it to our lives with friends, relatives and God.

The overall feeling was that the day was a success and that the ladies felt fortunate to have taken the time away to focus on their spirituality. We would like to extend a special thank you to all that participated, and most especially Sister Marge and Father Daison.

### Care Steps for Catholic Schools Week

The first week of February honors Catholic Schools across our area. Once again, Care Steps sponsored two traditional events that the school has participated in for the last many years.

We held our annual "Souper Bowl" drive, asking students to bring in canned soups during the week. It is such a blessing to see those boxes fill up! At the end of the week, students helped sort and pack up the cans to be delivered to the Monmouth County Food Bank. We thank everyone for their

generosity in supporting this important effort.

Care Steps was also busy with our Care-A-Thon. The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was centered on **faith, morals, discipline, and knowledge**, four important character traits needed to be a person grounded in truth and love. Grades K-1 were given simple activities to demonstrate these traits throughout the week, recording them in a journal. Grades K-8 was also given an opportunity to participate in an Essay Contest. Each grade was assigned one of the four character traits. Each student wrote, in his/her own words, what that trait means to him/her, why it is important, and what he/she can do to foster that trait in one's heart. Our teachers reviewed the essays and picked two winners for each assigned trait. Winners received a one-week dress down pass and first place winners also received a gift card! We enjoyed seeing what our students had to say about the benefits of being in a Catholic school environment where we learn that these traits are

just as important as our grades.

### A Worthwhile Bumper Sticker

To remember WHOM we honor at Christmas, St. James sponsored a fundraiser, selling car magnets with the message KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS. Care Steps headed this effort, selling the magnets at the Grandparents Tea, through the WIN folders to individual St. James families, and to individual churches in the area. We were most encouraged to see such a positive response to people wanting to get the message out about why this season is about holiness and not about commercialism. The monies raised from this effort will benefit the Madonna House, located in Neptune, an organization that reaches out mostly to single mothers and children. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this worthwhile cause.

### The Wearin' of the Green

The PTA hosted a St. Patrick's Day Adult Social on Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>

from 7:30 pm until midnight in the Broad Street Auditorium (BSA). There was food, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes and of course, plenty of FUN was had by all! Once again this year, the Development Committee held a live drawing of the Progressive Raffle at this event (for list of winners see page 2). It was an awesome opportunity to socialize with other SJS parents, join the fun and get your Irish Up, St. James style!

### Hey, Mom: take me out to the ball game!

This year's Mother & Son Outing on Sunday April 18th was a fun-filled day to see a Lakewood Blue Claws baseball game. We started at 12 noon with an awesome picnic/BBQ--all you could eat & drink. We had seats behind the Blue Claws dugout so the boys were close to the players. The little ones had access to the super playground. It was a day of wonderful memories for the St. James moms and their sons.