August 2015

Dear Parents and Students,

Watch out! The summer is flying by and if you blink, you may miss it! I hope that you are all having amazing adventures! We would like to welcome all of our new families that will be joining us this year! We are excited that you will be joining our SJV family! The office is very busy! Books are being ordered, class lists are being finalized, and supplies are coming in! It is a whirlwind of activity. To date, we have 292! We are up 18 kids from last year! I wanted to give you an update on a few of the things going on.

First, we were blessed with donations of over $12,000 for our School Development Campaign. This money will be used to upgrade our network, improve our internet, and provide a much better firewall for both the school and parish. Remaining funds are going to be used to purchase interactive projectors for classrooms without SMART boards. These projectors work the same way a SMART board does, but it doesn’t need the board; rather it can use any surface. We hope to purchase at least 6 of these projectors. If we have remaining funds, then they will be used to purchase ipads, so we can add to our current inventory. You should see these by October. We are also moving well on our playground fund!! Our Rolling Stones concert crew had a blast, got the see the WHOLE concert for free, and raised over $2500!! We are looking into putting in some stand alone parts to the playground until we have enough for the rest. Our goal is to have the whole playground in by next September! We also raised over $3000 in our WALK-A-THON! This will be going towards some new gym equipment and outdoor toys for the after school care program. Great job to everyone and a huge THANK YOU to all donors for our campaigns! All of your donations are going directly to benefit the students!

Secondly, our uniform upgrades start in September, so please be sure that you have the correct embroidered shirts, pants, shorts, plaid skirts/skorts, plaid jumpers, gym shorts and t-shirts, and footwear. If you have any questions, please contact the office directly. Our fleeces are available on the gym uniform order sheet through the website. These are replacing the sweaters. Students may still wear the SJV purple sweatshirts. Our extra small t-shirts have been ordered and we are just awaiting their arrival! We will send out an email when they are in!

Thirdly, STREAM is off to a running start. We have purchased special science kits for the school to get started with a more hands-on approach to science. You will see these in grades K-5 especially. Additionally, be sure to watch announcements for our STREAM academies, which will take place both in school and as after school clubs. Teachers will be starting the year in professional development workshops to learn how to best utilize the STREAM Academies and
the ESP Science kits in their classrooms.

Fourthly, with the summer coming to an end quickly, don’t forget your required summer packets!! Each student in K-8 should have received both math and reading packets to be completed and returned the first week of school. If you have not received them, or have misplaced them, please contact the office right away!!

Fifthly, September 8th will be the day for you to bring your supplies into school early, if you would like. This allows students the chance to see where their locker is, where their seat is, and to drop off all the supplies so they are not dragging in bags the following day, September 9th, which is the first full day of school. We will be forwarding along the orientation dates for Kindergarten and PK3 and PK4 as soon as they are confirmed.

Finally, though I don’t like ending on sad news, we do have some staff changes. Ms. Hudack is currently on her way to Florida! She was offered another position (ironically at another SJV) and she is taking a chance on living out some of her dreams including getting to know her Disney side even better! We wish her much love and blessings! Mrs. Bonk has decided to take some time to enjoy her grandkids! She knows how important the memories are and wants to enjoy every moment! She has offered to help wherever needed, so she won’t be far away! We wish her stress free days filled with smiles and laughter! We will be interviewing for both positions in the coming weeks. Miss Schnorr, our 6th and 7th grade ELA teacher, has also been given an opportunity that she cannot pass up. She will be incredibly missed. Her ability to connect with middle school students was wonderful. However, we did not have to look far to find her replacement. Mrs. Kubiak will be taking over for Miss Schnorr. She is very excited, and already has a working relationship with our middle school students. As our part time resource teacher, Mrs. Kubiak was able to co-teach with the middle school teachers regularly, and worked one on one, and in small and large groups with the students. She is positive, encouraging, and does all she can to help her students succeed. She is very excited for this opportunity. Our fifth grade team needed a new member, as the fourth graders moving up need two homerooms. Mrs. Maloney will be the other fifth grade teacher. She has experience teaching at all grade levels, and she is very excited to work with Mrs. Kwitowski. They will be team teaching, so the students will be moving between both teachers throughout the day. The kids will be well prepared for middle school! Students in 5th grade will be receiving their room assignments in the next week. Miss O’Dell, our long term substitute for Mrs. McCabe, will be taking over Mrs. Kubiak’s position as our part time resource teacher. This is right up her ally, as she is a trained literacy specialist. We are excited to keep her on staff! As you all know Father Jeff left at the end of the school year. We have been blessed with his replacement – Father Lukasz Kopla. He is VERY excited to be at a parish with a school and he can’t wait to meet the children!

As to your principal for next year.....
.....I am staying put! We have all worked so hard to make this school a family, adding an Educational Advisory Council, updating policies, procedures, etc. that I can’t leave now! I want
to see it all come together. Besides, I really love the kiddos! :)

We will be in touch!
Peace,
Mrs. P