

March 5, 2008

Dear Families and Friends,

Today I'd like to address a topic that seems to be slipping away from every day life. If asked about the importance of Manners, we would probably affirm their value. However, if we observe society's practices, one might wonder. It is our belief that "Manners do Matter." In educating the whole child, we attempt to instill values that will carry them throughout their adult years. Good manners are not taught as much as they are caught through role models. This modeling and teaching must begin at an early age and must be consistent. Good manners will always give children an edge. People notice politeness. I read recently that there are three important ideas behind the good manners we use today: custom, consideration and common sense. Custom is the things we do out of habit, like shaking hands. Consideration, the most important element, is thinking about how the other person feels. Being rude, hurts feelings. The common sense aspect should be obvious in any given situation.

Here at school we are noticing that common courtesies are not as common as they should be. Little things such as saying good morning , holding the door for someone, offering to help another carry a load, using "Please" and "Thank You", etc. There is a lack of awareness about such things as interrupting another's conversations or barging in a room without knocking.

We have good children here at Saint John Catholic School which is indisputable. We encourage them *always* to do their best and to be their best self. With this in mind, we are launching a program, "March Manners." During this time we will be talking and walking the talk. I have a candy machine that will serve as an incentive to be "caught using good manners."

Manners can not be taught in isolation. Children must know that good manners carry over to every life situation. Parents are the first teachers and role models. Please join us as we focus on this all important subject. Make it a focus at home so that we can reinforce each other. It is said that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Let's help our children feel good about themselves by putting his/her best foot forward.

In Christ,

Carole Anne



Auction Returns

Tallies are still being totaled and there are yet some unpaid bills. We will have a grand total for you at the Home School meeting on Thursday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. We are so very grateful to all who spent countless hours and energy putting "Reach for the Stars" together. It was a wonderful evening and enjoyed by all who attended.



“Hearts for the Homeless”

Each month we have a tag day for a needy cause. This month we are giving the proceeds to a local charity, “Good Neighbor Center.” This is a center for the homeless where the residents are given basic needs and tools to get back into the work force. The fundraiser, “Hearts for the Homeless” is targeted for bus fares for residents to get where they need to go. Anyone wishing to contribute may send in a donation with your child.



Band Concerts

Members of our school band will perform this Saturday, March 8th, at James Island Christian Church. Performances begin at 5:15 p.m. and run until the 7:45 p.m. performance.

Have you Heard?

Saint John Catholic has recently welcomed a new student from Turkey. Her name is Beril. She is in the K-4 class and is adjusting well. You would never know she doesn't speak English.

Registration for 2008 -2009

Final Registration forms will be sent home next Wednesday. The registration fee remains at \$150 per child (not to exceed \$300 per family).

Post Auction Sales for students

This Friday, March 7, we will have star pens, star and lei necklaces (red, white, blue) for the children to purchase. The prices of these items range from 25 to 50 cents.