



JGS Ram Reader



Jesus the Good Shepherd School
900 Good Shepherd Lane
Monroe, LA 71201

February 2012
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National Catholic Schools Week! January 30 - February 3

Catholic School Week will be celebrated this week, January 30th -February 3rd. We plan to have an All School Liturgy on Friday, February 3rd in the St. Frederick gym at 9:00 a.m. The Mass will include students from the three area catholic schools in Monroe as well as Bishop Duca and many area priests. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We have many fun activities planned for Catholic School Week at Jesus the Good Shepherd. It's always fun for the faculty, as well as the students to celebrate being part of the history and tradition of Catholic Schools.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| May Day | 2 |
| TADS | 3 |
| Thank You! | 4 |
| Garden Notes | 4 |

- Stop, Drop & Pray! At random times during the day, whatever class students are in, we will stop and say a prayer.
- Living Rosary - Jan. 30th 9:00 am JGS Gymnasium
- Religion Class Pillow Project - children decorate pillow cases to be sent to a children's hospital
- Hoops for Hunger - Jan. 31st - students bring canned goods for the NELA food bank as admission to a basketball shoot-out between Fr. Job and Fr. Long. 2:00 in gym
- Religion Scholars Quiz Bowl-Shreveport, Thursday, February 2
- All School Mass at St. Frederick - Feb. 3rd, 9:00am, Marsh Memorial Gym (SFHS)
- Pep Rally - Feb., 3rd, 2:05 p.m., JGS Gym

Good Luck to the following students who qualified to represent JGS at the Religion Quiz Bowl in Shreveport! Students will compete in oral and written tests and perform in a bible skit.

3rd Grade: Layton Mascagni, Audrey Livigni, Lee Randels (alternate)

4th Grade: Ely McPherson, Charlie McDuffie, Will Ellender (alternate)

5th Grade: Bella Bolayon, Lauren Petrus, Zachary Shaw (alternate)

6th Grade: Grant Johnson, Callie Ezell, Hallie Gurba (alternate)



Registration



CURRENT STUDENT REGISTRATION IS DUE FEB. 23!
More registration and tuition information will be sent home next Tuesday after the School Council meeting.

School Registration

BOOTS FOR BUCKS

Don't forget to send \$5 so that your child can wear their boots for the entire month of February! All proceeds go to the JGS Student Council.



Please return

ALL BASKETBALL UNIFORMS

to the school office!!

All uniforms **MUST** be returned prior to receiving 3rd nine weeks report cards!



PK4 Celebrates the 100th Day of School!

Pre-K 4 teachers and friends dressed up like 100 year old people to celebrate the 100th day of school. Some of the Pre-K 3 teachers even got in on the celebration by dressing up too!



AUDITIONS:

Grades 4-6
Mon., Feb. 13
3:15 p.m.
JGS Gym

TALENT SHOW:

Thurs., Feb. 16
6:00 p.m.
JGS Gym
\$1.00 Admission

JGS goes GREASE

May Day Celebration & Carnival!

May 4th, 2012

~MARK YOUR CALENDARS~

The May Day committee along with Krista and I are so excited about the 2012 May Day Celebration! All the students will be performing during the event which will end with our graduating 6th grade class wrapping the traditional May Pole. Family and friends are encouraged to attend this fun JGS tradition. This year, we have added a little something extra that goes along with the Grease theme – a carnival after the celebration (of course we can't do Grease without having a carnival at the end)! We have lots of fun activities planned which include the following: a cake walk, various carnival games, football toss, the National Guard's giant inflatable obstacle course, a putting green, jumpies for the little ones and more. We will also offer delicious "fair food" for purchase once the carnival has started. Many thanks to the following who have already begun to prepare for this event: **Tess Richardson, Ashley Hays, Kelly Clay, Missy McKenzie, Jennifer Sparks, Courtney Holyfield, Jane Gunter, Archie Brown, Ken Dickey, Vee Dickey, Waste Management, Kelly Hill, Gina Gardner and Eric Thibodeaux.**

The students will be wearing May Day/Field Day shirts which are currently being designed by the committee. We are requesting a \$5.00 donation per family to cover the costs of the celebration (costumes, sound equipment, etc.). By collecting this minimal donation, we have been able to offset the costs of costumes, etc. as well as save our parents the time and frustration of purchasing the costumes on their own. The following is a list of songs each class will be performing to during May Day:

- Pre K Tears on My Pillow
- Pre K 4 Beauty School Dropout
- Kindergarten Rock 'n' Roll Party Queen
- First Grade Hound Dogs
- Second Grade Rock'n' Roll Is Here to Stay
- Third Grade Greased Lightnin'
- Fourth Grade Hand Jive
- Fifth Grade We Go Together



If you have something you would like to donate for the carnival please contact Courtney Holyfield (323-2848) or Jane Gunter (Prek 3 teacher). There is still time to volunteer to help with this great event. If you are interested please contact Krista or me. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Beth Swanner 547-4189
Krista Faubert 348-2150

First

Communion

The date for 1st Communion is set for May 6th, 2012 during the 11:00 Mass.

Please add this date to your calendar.



Mark your calendars!

March 14, 2012
7:00 a.m.
JGS Cafeteria

If you are able to help, please contact Camille Barham at 282-9499.

See You There!

Duke TIP
TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM
Parent Informational Meeting

Wednesday, February 8
3:30 p.m.
JGS Library

Krewe of Ram

Our PreK3 & 4 Mardi Gras Parade will be held on February 16th at 2pm. The location will depend on the weather. Please mark your calendars for this adorable JGS TRADITION!



TADS Tuition Assistance and Payment Program

The schools in the Diocese of Shreveport use TADS to handle both our Tuition Assistance Program and our Tuition Payment Program. TADS has two different departments providing these services. To help clarify information regarding tuition assistance and/or tuition payment for the 2012-13 school year, we have listed below what each department handles and instructions on what you, the parent, need to do. Should you have any questions, please contact **Sheri McNeely** in the accounting office and she will be more than happy to assist you.

TADS Tuition Assistance: (For those applying for tuition aid for the 2012-13 school year).

Go to <http://www.tads.com> or click the TADS Tuition Aid link on our school website.

Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2012

There will be a cost to process tuition assistance applications.

Parent creates a unique Username and password

School ID Code: LM180110000

Print the last page with confirmation number and instructions for faxing 2011 Income Tax Form, W-2's and latest pay stubs.

TADS Fax number-612-548-3326

TADS Parent Help Line-800-477-8237

Parents should receive a letter during the summer with information about financial aid amounts.

TADS Tuition Management: Tuition Payment Account for 2012-2013 school year.

Parent agreement paperwork is completed online and not by paper copy.

Mrs. McNeely, JGS school accountant, will submit a spreadsheet in the spring to TADS Tuition Management with information for the school families returning to JGS for the 2012-13 year.

TADS will contact you by email, telephone or by mail with instructions on how to complete the Parent Agreement form. This form allows the parent to choose the payment options (Auto Debit, Checking account, Invoice by Mail, Credit Card, etc.)

Parents will be able to edit information submitted to TADS at anytime during the school year.

The Parent Agreement form must be submitted by the end of May. It should be submitted as part of the open enrollment process in February. Delaying could result in the parent being on a 9 month plan or less instead of 10 months and this would cause your monthly payment to be higher.

School Tuition & Expense State Tax Deduction

BATON ROUGE - The legislation created a deduction for private school tuition and fees, including expenses for uniforms and supplies for private school students. Parents of home school students will be allowed to deduct expenses for instructional materials. Parents of public school students will be allowed to deduct expenses for uniforms and supplies that are purchased from the school. **Taxpayers will be allowed to deduct up to half of tuition and other costs up to \$5,000 per child.** This means that for each student, the deduction allowed will be 50 percent of the actual amount paid, or \$5,000, whichever is less.

For example: If a taxpayer with two children enrolled in a private school pays \$12,000 for each child's tuition, the taxpayer can deduct 50 percent of the \$12,000 limited to \$5,000 per student for a total deduction of \$10,000 for both students. The eligible amount can be deducted from the parent's state income tax when filing their 2010 tax returns.

For more information, please contact:

Byron Henderson
Press Secretary
225.219.2156
Byron.henderson@la.gov

Tara Cunningham
Public Information Director
225.219.2158
Tara.cunningham@la.gov

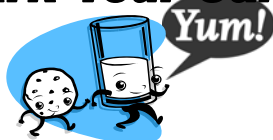
Federal Tax Law Includes Key Education Provisions

The tax-cut measure that President Obama signed into law this afternoon preserves for another two years the historic Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, which were first enacted in 2001. The accounts allow families to earn tax-exempt interest on up to \$2,000 in annual savings for specified expenses, including tuition, associated with elementary, secondary, or post-secondary education in a public or private school.

The new law also extends for two years the above-the-line deduction for certain expenses incurred by elementary and secondary school teachers. Classroom teachers and certain other personnel in public and private schools may continue to deduct up to \$250 for their out-of-pocket expenditures for books, computer equipment and software, and other materials and supplies used in the classroom.

For more information, please see the CAPE Website: www.capenet.org
CAPE (Center for American Private Education) is a non-profit organization

Cookie Dough Sales
March 5 - March 16!
~Mark Your Calendar~



ALL YEARBOOK PDA & BUSINESS CARD
AD ORDERS ARE DUE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
FINAL DEADLINE!



Principal's Notes

Mrs. Lisa Patrick

This week we celebrate Catholic School Week and give thanks for the success of our recent SACS re-accreditation as well as the 51 years of Catholic Education at Jesus the Good Shepherd School. The Daughters of the Cross left a wonderful legacy and laid a solid foundation for many children and families in the Monroe community. Their legacy is obvious in the professionalism of our faculty and staff, the enthusiasm of our students and the dedication of their parents. We continue to pray for our founders as well as all of the students, parents, and teachers of Jesus the Good Shepherd School. May God continue to bless Jesus the Good Shepherd School.

Student Council Store



The JGS student council will open their mobile store each Thursday for the next few months. Students in grades K-6 will be able to purchase supplies such as: pens, pencils, paper, erasers, sharpeners, etc. The items will be fairly inexpensive so students who wish to purchase should bring a limited amount of money to school on Thursdays. Thanks for supporting our student council!

Bumper Winter Vegetable Harvest!



Dear JGS families,

We are harvesting our late fall crops and getting ready to plant for the spring. We harvested big carrots, yummy radishes, crunchy onions and we were even able to serve our cabbage to the SACS review team. After we gather up our mustard greens, turnips, bok choy and the rest of the cabbage, we'll begin our seedlings.

The warm spring weather allows for all kinds of plants, not just vegetables. We'll be able to plant an herb garden and a flower garden along with our fruits and vegetables. Most of the crops we'll cultivate this season we'll begin at the seed stage and transplant them to the garden once they've grown strong enough. This means we'll need lots of small containers and starter soil. If you'd like to donate any of these items, we'd greatly appreciate it!

Our compost will help our seedlings grow faster, stronger and bigger once we transplant them to the garden. Keep those donations coming! Our compost piles are quickly turning into the soil-like fertilizer we need. Using the compost pile is a wonderful recycling tool but it also provides a safe environment for our children as it's free of harsh chemicals. Just a reminder of what to bring to the compost:

Good for compost:

Egg shells
Raw vegetables
Fruit, including peels, rind, and pulp
Unpopped popcorn
Spices
Stale Bread
Shredded newspaper, paper towels and napkins
Vegetable peelings
Coffee and tea grounds
Wood Chips
Grass clippings
Leaves
Pine needles
Wood ashes

Not good for compost:

meat
dairy
oil-based (greasy) products
processed foods (chips, fruit roll-ups, etc.)
sugary foods (cookies, cake)

Thank you for your enthusiasm and your donations! We're going to have a fruitful season!

Mary Margaret Edmonson
Garden Coordinator



Lost & Found

We have many sweat-shirts, shoes, jackets etc. in our school lost and

found. Please remember to write student names in all articles of clothing before sending them to school. We will have all lost and found items on display in the main hallway next week. Parents are always welcome to search the lost and found. We plan to have a spring cleaning of our lost and found box during March. All unclaimed items will be sent to Sassy Kats (resale store to benefit ARCO).

Valentine's Day Parties



The Valentine's Day Homeroom parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14th. Students will exchange valentines and have class parties during the afternoon. Please contact your child's homeroom mother if you would like to help.

THANK YOU!

Wow, what an honor to be PTO President during our SACS reaccreditation! The team was truly impressed with our precious school and it's active PTO. Thank you all for your support to make our school known for its "extraordinary" parental involvement!

We are now gearing up for spring and are looking forward to Donuts with Dad (March 14) and Muffins with Mom (April 4). Save the dates to attend these special breakfasts with your children.

Our St. Valentine's Day parties will be February 14th. Please contact your room mother if you would like to help out.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for such a great first half of school. We are so blessed to have JGS, where it is welcomed and encouraged to be involved in your child's education!

Ashley Hays, PTO President
Amy Taylor, PTO Vice President

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped us "knock the socks off" the SACS Review Team! The team mentioned the extraordinary parent volunteer network we have at JGS and it shows!

Rhonda Miller
Olga Trejo
Carol Ezell
Tess Richardson
Amy Crick
Mary K. Fontenot
Meg Hayden
Mary Beth Dickerson
Therese Nagem

Charlen Campbell
Kathryn Joyce
Ashley Manning
Sheri Jackson
Amy Hernandez
Vicki Jacola
Kelly Clay
Mimi Rutledge

Kelly Hill
Courtney Holyfield
Carrie Rocconi
Kara Platt
Misti Hajj
Peg Turnbough
Lori Spence
Mandy Pruitt

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!