

WE BELIEVE IN...

Our Catholic Faith ✝ *The Pope John Paul II School Community* 🌿 *Helping Others* 💡 *Excellence*

The weekly PJPII Newsletter is your source for information about upcoming events, what has happened in the classrooms at PJPII, and how we are working to help each other and the community. Visit www.pjpiischool.com for more information and for an online copy of the newsletter.

PJPII News

Week 16

December 13, 2017

Christmas Around the World- Join Us!

TOMORROW NIGHT- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00PM

Our students have been hard at work researching their countries and learning their parts in their class presentations!

Students should wear their Sunday best and arrive by 6:45pm to head to the cafeteria!

All students are performing with their classes, the PJPII band begins their concert at 6:50pm, the Posada begins at 7:00pm! See you there!

Warrior Care

Warrior Care is off to a great start! Thanks to our students who are following the new schedule and procedures, and thanks to the parents who are using the new entry way through Door 11.

It's never too late to join Warrior Care! Your child can simply go to the cafeteria after school. Please contact Mrs. Maria Moreno ([773-523-6161](tel:773-523-6161) / mmoreno@pjpiischool.org) if you would like to sign up for the monthly or weekly billing plan. (Rates: \$75 monthly, \$20 weekly, \$5 daily.) You can join or change your plan at any time!

Our Catholic Faith

The Season of Advent

Week Two Theme: Waiting with HOPE!

Monday:

This second week of Advent has to do with hope. We are still waiting for and preparing for Jesus' coming and **hoping** to make Jesus a part of our lives, not just at Christmas but all year long. We can prepare ourselves for Jesus through prayer and turning ourselves to love, hope, faith, justice (treating people right), and kindness. Prayer opens our hearts to let God, love, and faith in, and lets out our hate and fear. Prayer is like a window through which the light of God shines. Let us, this week, continue in hope and prayer to keep this window open.

Tuesday:

The thing about the Christian year is that it keeps coming around. Over and over again, we get to try again to prepare our hearts and minds and hands at Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. We get to dust off the liturgies and speak or sing them all over again. We get to try old prayers in new ways—or try new prayers on old themes. We get to pick up our symbols and phrases and turn them slowly and look at them and listen to them repeatedly and allow their many layers and nuances to speak to us.

This is called spiritual practice. So, yes, it's Advent again. But that is how it should be. We have a season ahead of us in which to rehearse and reenact the sacred story of God Is on the Way! God Will Soon Be with Us in the Most Extraordinary Way! Hope is coming; love is coming. A shining realm of peace and wholeness is, truly, coming.

We have a season in which to give our faith a workout, in which to exercise our hope muscles. Some years make that exercise more difficult than others. But it's Advent now, and, as people of faith, we are called upon to exercise our hope.

Wednesday:

If hope isn't created for times such as these—when countries are divided, when civil war annihilates whole communities and sends refugees fleeing, when hungry children are ignored because their interests are of no interest to powerful entities, when industry and wealth win over the health of the planet and all its creatures and the global community—if hope isn't created for times such as these, then why have hope at all?

So let's try Advent once again. Let's practice a hopeful way of being in the world.

Sing the songs. Ring the bells. Put up the decorations. Don't give up prayer because life feels hard and scary.

Don't hurry through Advent because you're not terribly good at living it; just let it live in the real life you have. Don't forget that God loves you. And please don't forget that God loves everybody else too. He came for us all. Together, we wait for the holy child.

Thursday:

In 2013, Pope Francis created a new word in Spanish—*misericordiano*. “Mercy-ing” in English.

This is a challenge to all of us by the Pope that mercy be not just something we personally FEEL, but an ACTION. Mercy-ing is a way of proceeding, a way of being in the world. Mercy-ing calls us not just to be merciful, but to be mercy. Mercy-ing calls us to be Christ for others.

Mercy is a gift and not something we should expect to be repaid or given back to us- it is probably not something that will be “fair.”

Mercy-ing calls us to forgive when someone has done something unforgivable, to understand things that are troublesome, to be compassionate to those who are ungrateful. It demands that we give again and again for those who cannot hope to repay us. It asks us to open our hands and hearts, not because we expect mercy in return, but because of the kind and respectful people we are.

For in the end, none of us is worthy of the mercy God has shown to us through his Son, the Christ, who shows us the ultimate example of mercy each day.

Friday:

Advent is a time when you can seek for opportunities to give yourselves to others. Part of this giving can be done in secret by having a secret friend and by giving to that person. Whether you are giving to others in secret or they know you are working to help them, it is very important that you are giving without asking for anything in return.

Let's try to practice how to be in the world by thinking first of others.



Excellence

Conversaciones sobre la escuela

¿Sabías? Los niños que regularmente comen con sus familias tienden a mejorar en la escuela y evitan las conductas de riesgo porque se sienten apoyados en su educación.

Cenar juntos es genial, ¡pero las otras comidas también cuentan! Si trabaja por la noche, tal vez podría dedicar tiempo para un desayuno familiar o un almuerzo regular de fin de semana.

Aquí hay excelentes iniciadores de conversación que te ayudarán a escuchar **más que solo quejas** sobre el día escolar o **cuentos** sobre amigos, recreo, almuerzo o gimnasio:

"Vamos a ver lo que trajiste a casa". Mire el trabajo completo para encontrar lo que su hijo está aprendiendo y lo bien que lo está haciendo. Podrías comentar sobre su trabajo de matemáticas o religión. Además, responde a las notas de su maestro y firme el planificador diario para una excelente comunicación con el maestro.

"Pretende que eres el maestro. ¿Cómo describirías el día?" Esta es una gran manera para que los estudiantes reflexionen sobre su propio comportamiento durante el día escolar. Si escucha quejas sobre la disciplina, o si los estudiantes estaban aburridos o si el trabajo era difícil, guiar a su hijo para que piense de manera diferente acerca del día promueve la empatía y dará lugar a conversaciones interesantes.

"¿Cómo has sido útil o amable hoy? ¿Alguien fue amable o servicial con usted?" Aquí hay una gran oportunidad para aprender sobre los momentos en su día escolar cuando sus hijos se sintieron bien cuidados. ¡Hacen mucho para ayudar a los demás cada día y esperamos celebrar su bondad y hermosos espíritus!

"Dime lo que aprendiste sobre lo que te gustaría saber más?" Use sus intereses como puntos de partida para compartir actividades. Si le gusta la geometría, puede buscar formas juntas. Si está fascinada con la forma en que los animales se adaptan al invierno, llévala a la biblioteca para investigar el tema o al zoológico para ver animales vivos.

¡Disfruta aprendiendo más sobre el día de tu hijo con algunas de estas emocionantes preguntas!

Conversations about school

Did you Know? Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior because they feel supported in their education.

Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too! If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast or a regular weekend lunch.

Here are excellent conversation starters that will help you to hear **more than just complaints** about the school day or **stories** about friends, recess, lunch, or gym:

"Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math or religion work. Also, respond to notes from his teacher, and sign the daily planner for great communication with the teacher.

"Pretend you are the teacher. How would you describe the day?"

This is a great way for students to reflect on their own behavior during the school day. If you hear complaints about discipline, or that students were bored or work was hard, guiding your child to think in a different way about the day promotes empathy and will lead to interesting conversations!

"How were you helpful or kind today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?"

Here is a great opportunity to learn about times in their school day when your children felt cared for. They do so much to help others each day and we look forward to celebrating their kindness and beautiful spirits!

"Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about?"

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take her to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals.

Enjoy learning more about your child's day with some of these exciting questions!



ONE DAY LEFT TO VOTE!!!!

Pope John Paul II is a finalist in ComEd's KidVid Contest! Please cast a vote.

Congratulations to **Pope John Paul II Catholic School!** **PJPII** submitted a video for ComEd's KidVid Contest, and we are excited to announce that the 5th graders' video is a finalist in the **It's So Easy Being GREEN** category! Mrs. Linda Burk, science teacher, "is very proud of all of their hard work and all the students learned through the process."

The winning submission in the contest will earn a \$2,500 donation to the school and a VIP party for the class. Please submit your vote by "liking" the YouTube video on our website: www.pjpiischool.com. Thank you for helping us spread the word!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, PJPII STUDENTS!

Pope John Paul II Catholic School participated in the **Baby Bottle Project** for **The Women's Center** this year throughout October when the church celebrated **Respect Life Month**.

THIS YEAR, OUR SCHOOL RAISED \$860.56

The Women's Center works with women who are in a crisis pregnancy and are deciding whether they should choose life for their unborn baby. Many women come in to The Women's Center distraught and confused about what they should do when they are pregnant and find they have no support. They are worried about how they can care for a new little baby and they simply don't see how it will be possible.

The Women's Center's counselors work with these soon-to-be mothers offering spiritual and emotional guidance as well as offering material goods such as diapers, formula, clothing, cribs, strollers, car seats, high chairs, and more. The Women's Center works with them until their baby is one year old. Everything offered to these women is *free of charge*. The Women's Center also works with women who have had abortions who are now seeking emotional and spiritual healing. *This service is free as well.*

The Women's Center needs help to continue this mission of service to mother in crisis and this is what the Baby Bottle Project is all about. Thank you, again!

Dear Pope John Paul II Catholic School Families,

Molly Mahru, Director of Marketing and Development, will no longer be working at the school. In the coming weeks, I will work with Father Tom Boharic to hire a new marketing director for the school. If you were working on volunteer projects with Molly, please reach out via the enrollment@pjpiischool.org email and we will be sure those tasks and opportunities continue. Thank you.