

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 15

December 6, 2017

Tax Credit Scholarship Critical Information

In the coming days, please note we will be sending frequent communications regarding the Tax Credit Scholarship.

There is a lot of information coming in almost daily and we want to be sure our families and potential new families receive this information in a timely manner.

- We will also be sending this information through our email system. If you notice you are not receiving email communications, please contact the office at 773.523.6161 to update your email in our PowerSchool System so you can receive Tax Credit Scholarship information as it comes to us.

Please note there may be important dates for applications, etc. that will occur over our Christmas Break. We will be available to help, answer questions, etc. even over break. We are thrilled about how this scholarship will help our families!

Thank you!

What is Happening After School?

This is our final week of this first round of AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES! Thank you to our teachers who ran exciting clubs and to all of our students who enthusiastically participated each week! Clubs resume after Christmas Break. Mrs. Harty will be sending out the club sign-up, so check the Wednesday folder for that information!

Our Catholic Faith

The Season of Advent

Week One Theme: How Do We Wait?

All this week, our students have been thinking about WAITING at our Morning Meeting. Below are the themes we have discussed. We hope they will add to your prayer and discussion around your family Advent wreaths!

Monday:

During Advent, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ. However, we are not waiting for Jesus to be born—that event occurred over two thousand years ago. While we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus that has occurred, we also use the season of Advent to anticipate The Second Coming. When Jesus comes again, the Kingdom of God will appear in its fullness. The just will reign with Christ forever, glorified in body and soul, and the material universe will be transformed.

Tuesday:

This week, we are talking about WAITING. Advent is a time of waiting. It is often HARD to wait! Think about a time when you were waiting in line. Has this even happened to you?

First Example: Waiting in Dread- You're standing in line at the post office or the grocery store, waiting for your turn. You're tapping your foot and keep looking at your watch. You don't want to be in this line. Before long, you begin to think, "Oh, I can't wait for this to be over!" Often times, the other people in line with you feel the same way! No one speaks to anyone else. Clearly few are enjoying the experience; the impatience or irritability you feel might even be visible on your face. Such an experience of waiting in line can seem lonely. Tomorrow, we will hear another example of what it is like to wait!

Wednesday:

Second Example: Waiting in Excitement- Now think about the times when you waited in line at an amusement park, to buy tickets to see your favorite baseball team, or to hear your favorite band. In these instances, the waiting is much different. People are excited and you might even be talking to some of them about the ride you're getting ready to experience, the sports team that you love, or the band you're about to hear. This second example is the kind of waiting we are called to in Advent.

Thursday:

Waiting in Joyful Hope- At Mass, after praying the Lord's Prayer, we hear ". . . as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." This prayer reminds us that during Advent, we wait in joy, in hope, and in anticipation for the wonderful event we are about to experience—the feast of Christmas, the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. As the Church, we wait during Advent and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us. This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of the hope that God promises us as we prepare for Christ in the feast of Christmas.

Friday:

Expectation

This first week of Advent has to do with a big word: EXPECTATION. When you look carefully at the word, there is a smaller word in there- can you find it? Yes! EXPECT! When you expect something to happen, you wait for it to happen. We are waiting for Christ to come to us at Christmas. Could we have Christmas without Christ? Of course not! It is only because of Christ that we have Christmas at all. Since we know the exact time of his coming, we know how much time we have to prepare for him. When we have company coming over, we know how much time we have to prepare and we don't wait to do everything last minute. Maybe we clean part of our house one day. Then we might cook some of the food one day or do the baking on another day. We should work the same way in preparing our hearts and souls for Jesus by working on different things each day until he arrives. That way, we'll be all ready for him when he comes.



Supporting All Learners

Academic Services

PJPII is continuing its work to expand its inclusive education program, and we have more resources available this year to support our students with diverse learning needs!

Take a look at our continuing and new supports for the 2017-2018 school year, and meet our service providers.

New this Year

- A significant increase in students receiving reading & math one-on-one support
- Independent functioning support
- Speech therapy
- Applied behavior therapy

Continued from Last School Year

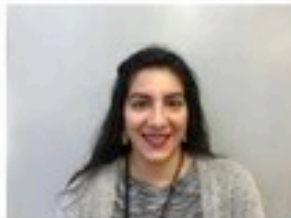
- Reading & math one-on-one support
- Aspire for Kids consults our teachers to further support diverse learners
- Aspire for Kids provides evaluation and speech/occupational therapy
- Teachers attend professional development to learn new strategies for diverse learners
- Academic coaching and counseling through United Stand



PJPII's Academic Service Providers



Ms. Bruska
Tues, Wed & Fridays
Math & Reading
teacher



Ms. Rani
Mondays
ABA therapy



Ms. Leah
Thursdays
Speech therapy



Dr. Avila
Wednesdays
United Stand
**Academic Coaching
& Counseling**

Ms. Michelle
Wed & Fridays
United Stand



Congratulations!

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!

Officer Wenta to present to Junior High

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, Officer Terry Wenta will present to the junior high on "Breaking the Code of Silence." He will present from 8-10 a.m. in the School Hall.

This program is youth training aimed at improving communities by combatting the ideas that witnesses and victims of crime are "snitching" when they tell important information to an adult and to law enforcement.

Other topics that tie-in to this presentation include reporting bullying, standing against the crowd, and respect for others.