

St. James' News, April 16, 2010

Dear Parent:

Attached to this week's message are two letters, one from me and one from Board Co-chairs Michael Russell and Marilyn Wells, which announce that the 2010-2011 academic year will be my last as Head of St. James'.

When I met with the faculty and staff Wednesday afternoon to talk about this announcement, I made a pledge to them, which I also make to you: I will make my best effort to ensure that each and every St. James' student, from Preschooler to Sixth Grader, has an exemplary educational experience next year. I will also do my best to help St. James' find a new Head of School worthy of leading our School.

Fran and I treasure our time at St. James', and we remain committed to its success, which is measured only by the success of each of its graduates.

Stephen L. Bowers

Head of School

Here is an update on Haiti from Mrs. Beeks:

Dear Friends at St. James':

Thank you so much for your support of Haiti and your partner school, St-Jacques Terre Cassee, since the earthquake. Although I was not able to visit St-Jacques on this trip, I was able to see to the delivery of more than 450 packages of vegetable seeds for the students there, thanks to the students at St. James' and St. Mark's, Upland, and the people of All Saints', Highland Park, just in time for the planting season as the rains begin. There had also been several monetary donations which I was able to deliver as well, amounting to more than \$3000.

The news from St-Jacques, like all news in Haiti, is good and bad. The good news is that the well is now nearly complete, as is the latrine. Work had just resumed as the earthquake hit at the beginning of the dry season, and the workers were called away to Port-au-Prince to help search for family members and friends. They are now back at work at St-Jacques and were hoping to finish before the rains started up again in earnest -- usually around the end of March, but at the time of my visit at the beginning of April, there had only been a couple of heavy rainfalls so far, and not every day. The combination of a clean water source and a latrine located far away from the water source will bring a very positive change to the overall health of the families in the Terre Cassee area.

The bad news is that they have not been able to have school this year at St-Jacques as there has been no money available to pay teachers -- funds sent from St. James' last year covered last year's salaries, but not this year's. Families have now been impacted by an influx of relatives coming from Port-au-Prince in search of shelter and food, so money will continue to be scarce for quite a while. The funds you sent this year will be used to begin to construct a pole and roof structure so that classes can be held during the rainy season (the current structure, as you may have seen from our pictures, consists of palm fronds and a blue tarp), and some will be set aside in the hopes of being able to pay teachers for the next school year.

The funds you collected immediately after the earthquake were sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. Their primary work so far has been to provide temporary shelter -- first relatively sturdy tents which could be transported and assembled quickly. Now they are working on more permanent (and rainproof) solutions for housing the approximately 1 million homeless of Port-au-Prince, about half of whom are estimated to have relocated temporarily to stay with families and friends in other parts of Haiti. ER-D and the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti are directly responsible for about 25,000 people currently living in tents, in addition to running various medical facilities and trying to re-open schools.

It was heartening to see the people of Port-au-Prince, what is left of the Haitian government, and the various aid agencies working hard to clear rubble and take care of the basic necessities for such a large city. It was disheartening to see the vast amount of destruction -- news photographs did not do it justice. I was impressed yet again with the resilience and the determination of the Haitian people. "Haiti will rise again" was the saying of the moment, and if prayer and hard work can do it, it will be done.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Yours,

Serena Beeks
Executive Director, Commission on Schools for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCIENCE FAIR

Thank you to Ms. Yu, Mr. and Mrs. Youd, our students, and all other members of the St. James' community who helped organize our Science Fair Wednesday night. We are very proud of our students for demonstrating the depth of their scientific knowledge through such awe-inspiring projects.

MISSING IPOD

One of our Science Fair projects included an iPod which has gone missing. Please respond to this email or talk to Ms. Chong or Mrs. Rodriguez in the front office if you know of its whereabouts.

SUMMER AT ST. JAMES'

Today is the deadline for enrolling in our summer enrichment program, which will run from Monday, June 14, through Friday, July 23. Scroll down to the Summer at St. James' section on the [Academics](#) page of our website for more information. Please note that the class, Talking Hands: Signing 101, has been cancelled. We will notify you of any further cancellations by May 14.

ERB TESTING FOR GRADES TWO THROUGH SIX

ERB Testing will take place April 19 - 23 from 8:15 to 11:00 a.m. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time, after a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast, and help us to maintain a quiet campus during these hours. Please see the attached letter for further information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP FOR FOURTH & FIFTH GRADE FAMILIES

Fourth and Fifth Grade families are encouraged to attend a workshop in Mrs. Dummett's classroom Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. We'll provide an overview of the matriculation and application process and answer any questions you may have. RSVP to Ms. Arrington at aarrington@sjsla.org.

COFFEE WITH THE HEAD

Our last Coffee with the Head meeting of this school year will be Friday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, RSVP to Ms. Chong at 213-382-2315 x278 or kchong@sjsla.org.

ST. JAMES' CARNIVAL

St. James' Church is hosting a family carnival on the playing field of St. James' School Sunday, April 25 from noon until 3:00 p.m. There will be a moon bouncer, live entertainment, face painting, games, food, and much more. Entry is free, and activities are \$1 - \$5 per ticket. Proceeds will support the youth formation program at St. James' Church.

EARLY DISMISSAL APRIL 28

We will have early dismissal Wednesday, April 28 for professional development for our faculty and staff. Your child may stay at school to participate in our "Movie Night" in St. James' Hall or to take advantage of

the supervised activities on our playing field. The Simple Supper in the Parish Hall will be served as usual from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

SCIENCE CENTER EVENT

Remember to RSVP for our exclusive event at the California Science Center Sunday, May 2 from 2:00 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, see the "Student Life" page of our website at http://www.sjsla.org/student_life.html and contact the event chairs with any questions.

ST. JAMES' COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT MAY 1

As part of Big Sunday Weekend, the largest regional community service event in the country, we are sponsoring a day of "helping out and hanging out" at New Directions, a facility for military veterans with emotional and substance abuse disorders. Starting at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1, our volunteers will join a team of vets to paint two common rooms at the Veterans Administration campus in Brentwood, 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Building 257. At noon, while the painting progresses, the fun begins with a picnic, game day, and music concert for the entire New Directions community. Our youngest volunteers will make papier-mache flowers to brighten the rooms. People of all ages will enjoy the day!

If your family would like to join us or if you are able to donate food, supplies or financial support to this event, please contact St. James' Episcopal School Board Member Corie Brown at corie@coriebrown.com or 323-965-0523. To learn more about Big Sunday, go to www.bigsunday.org. Our event is #39.

SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS

For the 2010-2011 school year, there are openings for two St. James' Church parishioners on the St. James' School Board. Candidates must be members of the Church in good standing. The School Board meets five to nine times per year, and committees of the Board meet as required. In selecting nominees for Board vacancies, the Board tries to recruit persons with skill-sets and backgrounds that will broaden the expertise and experience of the Board as a whole. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or wish to nominate someone, please call or e-mail Joy McManus, 323-939-4050, joy_mcmanus@adp.com. Nominations should be submitted no later than May 2, 2010.

ART SHOW

Save the date! Our annual Art Show opening will be Wednesday, May 19 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in St. James' Hall. Each student will have one or

more samples of their work on display. We need additional parent volunteers to help matte and label artwork and set up the displays. Please contact Faith Foss, mother of Ty Mahar, at faith.foss@yahoo.com if you can help out.

SCHOOL WEBSITE TIP

Have you read the winning entries from the Husky Highlights short story contest, as announced today? If not, go to the Academics page of our website at <http://www.sjsla.org/academics.html> and the "Children's Art and Writing" section to read Soojean Han and Lynn Kim's wonderful stories.

Congratulations, Soojean and Lynn!

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these announcements.

With best regards,

Julie Lovelock
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