

St. James' News, February 19, 2010

Dear St. James' Parents:

Our flag is red, white and blue, but our nation is a rainbow — red, yellow, brown, black and white — and we're all precious in God's sight. -- Jesse Jackson

Celebrating our heritage – February is African-American History month. Several St. James' activities highlight the contributions of African-Americans to the history and culture of the United States. Go to the Library/Media Center (LMC) to see a special exhibit about the childhood of Barack Obama, our country's first African-American President. You can find out his favorite hobbies and the name of his favorite book as a youngster.

Visit St. James' Hall to learn (in alphabetical order) about the achievements of African-American inventors. Did you know that African-American inventors were responsible for helping to develop the technology for blood transfusions, traffic lights, and dry cleaning?

Next Tuesday we will see an original play performed by students about the history of Haiti and the gallant fight by the Haitian people for their freedom from French colonial oppression. Join us at 1:30 p.m.

At St. James' we don't just talk about diversity, we walk the path of honoring the contributions of all the cultures that have come together to make our School such a rich and engaging institution.

Greening St. James' – Thanks to Ricardo Lopez and Jose Moreno, we have installed six flushless urinals in the boys' restrooms on the first and second floors, with three more to be installed. These ecologically friendly fixtures will save 40,000 gallons of water annually per urinal. The devices are also more sanitary than the traditional model.

Shopping St. James' -- A variety of outstanding St. James' themed items awaits you at the PSF St. James' Boutique. Handsome Husky T-shirts, beautiful St. James' picture frames, handy totes embossed with the shell motif, sturdy coffee mugs, and earth-friendly water bottles are there for the bargain hunter. Catalogs are available on the PSF page of our website at www.sjsla.org or in the rack next to the office door.

Stephen L. Bowers

Head of School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFETY IN THE CARPOOL LANE

Please help keep our school community safe by following the attached school guidelines when dropping off or picking up your child from school.

For instance, if you are north of the school and you choose to come down St. Andrews Place, please continue down to Wilshire, and then circle around the block to meet the back of the carpool lane on Sixth Street. We have received numerous complaints of parents cutting into the carpool lane as they come down St. Andrews Place.

AUTHOR VISIT

Caroline Arnold, author of *A Polar Bear's World* and over 140 other books, will present to Kindergarten through Grade Six on March 3.

PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Join other St. James' parents for a lively and animated discussion of best-selling author Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith - How We Can Be Passionate Believers Today*. We meet the following Tuesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Meeting Room (2nd Floor, Parish Building): February 23, March 9, April 12 & 27, May 11 & 25.

EARLY DISMISSAL FEBRUARY 24

There will be early dismissal Wednesday, February 24 for a Professional Development day for faculty and staff. You may pick up your child early or take advantage of our after-school programs on the playing field.

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT (ASE)

Our spring ASE session will start Monday, March 8 and continue through Monday, May 24. There are many new classes this session, as well as some old favorites. Students are invited to attend previews of these classes on Wednesday, February 24 and Thursday, February 25. You will receive a packet with more information on Monday. Please return the enrollment form with payment by Monday, March 3.

COMMUNITY GATHERING

Our next community gathering with presentation of student of the month awards will be Friday, March 5 at 8:15 a.m. in St. James' Hall. We invite parents to attend.

AROUND-THE-WORLD EVENT

We are looking for volunteer parents to bring in a dish from another country and to bring in exhibit items for our Around-the-World Event, March 10-12. Please complete and return the attached flyer if you are able to help.

KOREAN SUNDAY

Our Around-the-World Event will culminate with a festive and colorful celebration of Korean culture Sunday, March 14 from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. More information will follow soon.

SCIENCE FAIR 2010

Our annual Science Fair is Wednesday, April 14. This is an opportunity for students to do exciting experiments at home and showcase their scientific knowledge to their peers. All students are invited to participate and pursue any scientific topic that is of interest to them. Students may work individually or with a partner. Please register your project idea at www.stjamesschool.oursciencefair.com by Friday, March 19.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our School's exclusive event at the California Science Center will be Sunday, May 2 from 2:00 to 7:30 p.m. See the "Student Life" page of our website at http://www.sjsla.org/student_life.html for more information. If you'd like to donate auction items, please contact Auction Chair Amy Savagian at savagianmd@gmail.com. To volunteer at the event, contact Cara Esposito at clesposito@earthlink.net or Julie Hite at hites@earthlink.net.

ST. JAMES' LENTEN MEDITATIONS

Father Paul has created a wonderful booklet with daily meditations for the season of Lent. We encourage you to download it from the St. James' Church website at <http://www.saintjamesla.org>.

SCHOOL WEBSITE TIP

Would you like a sneak peak of our Winter 2010 *Husky Highlights* newsletter? Go to the PSF page of our school website at www.sjsla.org, scroll down to "Articles by Parents" and click on "Winter 2010". The printed version will be available next week. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these announcements.

With best regards,

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