

St. James' News, February 5, 2010

Dear St. James' Parents:

Be mine - In honor of Valentine's Day, Mr. Danenberg has mounted an exhibition of heart-inspired art created by our Second Graders. As always our young artists have put their creative spin on this traditional project. Please come to the Front Office to enjoy the exhibition.

Best meal in town - I encourage everyone to come out for the Dads' Pancake Breakfast this Sunday from 9-10:30 in the Church Parish Hall. Aside from supporting the PSF and having a delicious breakfast, you can enjoy time with family and friends. The cuisine will earn five stars and three forks.

Parent Forum – Thanks to the thirty parents who attended our first Parent Forum. Trustees Michael Russell, Jeff Lane, Corie Brown, and Joy McManus, Upper Elementary Director Angelina Arrington, and I enjoyed hearing from and talking with a diverse group of parents. Topics ranged from tutoring to covenants, and the conversation was spirited and informative. The next Forum will be April 13 from 5:30 until 6:15 p.m. I hope to see you there.

Covenants – In the re-enrollment packet, you will find a parent covenant. At my suggestion several years ago and after reviewing the practices of several other independent schools, the Board developed separate covenants for trustees, parents, and students. The covenants outline community expectations for each group much as the employment contract does for all School employees. If you have questions about the concept of the covenant or about its contents, please write me at sbowers@sjsla.org.

Parent Education – Angelina Arrington and Kris Haines are working on a parent education session on how to deal with the impact of media on our children. Date and details will follow.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Bowers Head of School

Announcements

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 9 & 23, March 9, April 12 & 27, May 11 & 25.

NATIVE AMERICAN FAIR

Parents are invited to visit Mrs. Cregan's Third Grade class' Native American Fair in St. James' Hall Tuesday, February 10. There will be live exhibits in the hall throughout the day and additional performances from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m.

TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS DUE

Tuition Assistance applications for the 2010-2011 school year are due Thursday, February 11. Please check the "Admissions" page of our website at <http://www.sjsla.org/admissions.html> for more information.

NO SCHOOL FEBRUARY 15

There is no school Monday, February 15 in honor of Presidents' Day.

ASH WEDNESDAY CHAPEL

Parents are welcome to join our Ash Wednesday All-School Chapel with imposition of ashes February 17 at 8:45 a.m. You are encouraged to bring a donation of dried or canned food for the food pantry.

IN-N-OUT LUNCH

Our next In-N-Out Lunch will be Thursday, February 18. Parents are invited to join their child to eat a burger and support our school.

AUTHOR VISITS

Oliver Chin, author of *The Year of the Tiger* and other books in the Chinese Zodiac series, will come to St. James' to present to Kindergarten through Grade Two Friday, February 19 at 10:30 a.m. in St. James' Hall.

His books are on display in the LMC (Library/Media Center). Caroline Arnold, author of *A Polar Bear's World* and over 140 other books, will present to Kindergarten through Grade Six on March 3. To order signed copies of these authors' books, please complete and return the attached forms.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY

Parents are welcome to attend our all-school assembly in honor of African-American History Month Tuesday, February 23 from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. in St. James' Hall. The theme for the assembly will be the country and

people of Haiti.

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.

2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Attached is our School Calendar for the 2010-2011 academic year. Please contact Mr. Bowers if you have questions regarding any of the dates.

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 attached card 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.

CALLING ALL YOUNG SURFERS!

Kowabunga! Calling all young surfers and any parent surfers too! Do you want to form a St. James' Surfing Group? Let us know if you want to hang 10. Call Elizabeth White, mom of Colin in Third Grade, at 310-770-8450.

SCHOOL WEBSITE TIP

Have you seen pictures of our sister schools? Go to the "Student Life" page of our website at http://www.sjsla.org/student_life.html and click on the school name to see pictures and learn more about St. James' in Haiti and the Munui School in Korea.

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

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