



The Cougar



Published every two weeks for SJS Parents

www.stjudebr.org

December 14th, 2017

St. Jude the Apostle School provides a Catholic family environment, dedicated to the formation of each student's relationship with Christ through faith, academics, and excellence.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Thursday, December 14th	1:05pm	CLJ Advent Prayer Service (8th Grade)
Fri., Mon., Tues. Dec. 15th, 18th 19th	8:00am-11:00am	7th & 8th Grade Exams (Dismissal from Parking Lot)
Tues., Dec 19th & Wed., Dec. 20th		NO BUS SERVICE
Wednesday, December 20th	8:15am	Christmas Liturgy – Dress Uniforms
Wednesday, December 20th	1:00pm	Christmas Sing-a-Long & Nativity Play (Activity Center)
Wednesday, December 20th	2:00pm	Class Christmas Parties
Thurs., Dec. 21st– Wed., Jan. 3rd		Christmas Break– NO SCHOOL
Thursday, January 4th		Return to School & Report Cards
Friday, January 5th	7:30am	Donuts & Devotion (8th Grade Ministry Bldg.)
Wednesday, January 10th	8:15am	4th Grade Level Liturgy
Thursday, January 11th		Science & Social Studies Fair
Friday, January 12th		PK-2nd Conf. Day– NO SCHOOL Pre-K thru 2nd!
Monday, January 15th		MLK, Jr., Holiday—NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, January 16th	6:30pm	Advisory Council Meeting (Ministry Bldg.)
Friday, January 17th		Re-Registration Packets Sent Home
Tuesday, January 23rd	9:00am	NEW STUDENT OPEN HOUSE (Activity Center)



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents/Guardians,

I would like to wish our students, parents, and staff members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy and family. It is moments like this, when we can pause, catch our breath, and can reflect on how blessed we are to be part of the St. Jude School and Church community. I would like to conclude our 2017 Cougar publication with “The St. Jude Advent Prayer”.

Lord Jesus, your power is infinite, your glory everlasting. Quietly you come, as a tiny baby. Ready my heart for the miracle of your birth.

Bring light to this dark world, waiting silently for your warmth in the coldness of the night. Waiting is itself your gift, animating my heart with anticipation.

Bless me with needed patience and faithful discipline to prayerfully prepare to welcome and greet you. St. Jude, eternal hope, let your holiness flow into me.

May Christmas joy and burning love take root in me and grow until they bloom on Christmas Day, to carry joy to the world and inspire hope to renew the face of the earth. AMEN

May God bless each and everyone in 2018,
Michelle

ATTENTION 7th & 8th GRADE PARENTS: Mid-Term exams are Friday, December 15th, Monday, December 18th and Tuesday, December 19th. All students in these grades must be picked up at 11am.

BUS REMINDER: There is no bus service on Tuesday, Dec. 19th and Wednesday, Dec. 20th due to EBR School Closure. Buses will be running when we return to school on THURSDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2018!

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MASS: Our school-wide Christmas Liturgy will be held Tuesday, December 20th, at 8:15 a.m. This liturgy will be facilitated by our service organizations. Parents are always welcome at our liturgies. Please be sure that your child is wearing dress uniform. If you are able to send a canned food item for the needy, please do so.

ATTENTION PRE K-2nd GRADE PARENTS: Pre-K, 1st, and 2nd Grade Conference Day is Friday, January 12th, 2017. Students in these grades will not attend school on this day.

MLK HOLIDAY: Please note there will not be school on Monday, January 15th (all grades) in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

NEW STUDENT/SIBLING APPLICATIONS: Please note the application for new students (including siblings!) is posted on the website, and also available [here](#). Applications are due to the school office by Friday, January 26th. Please note that siblings of currently enrolled students will receive \$100 of the \$125 application fee credited back to the family's 2018 building use fee. Children wishing to begin Pre-K next year must be 4 years old on or before September 30th of 2018.

REMINDERS ABOUT RE-REGISTRATION: As we move closer to the end of the calendar year, please remember the school policy on tuition rate levels. In order to qualify for the Identified Stewardship Giver (ISG) tuition rate for the upcoming school year, you must have met the minimum identifiable amount of \$250.00 given through the Church offertory collection. Contributions must be made by December 29, 2017 to count towards 2018-19 tuition rates. Contributions made after that date will not be counted toward the 2018-19 ISG status. As another reminder, determination of Catholic versus non-Catholic status is based upon the child's baptism in the Catholic Church.

GEOGRAPHY BEE: St. Jude School held its annual National Geographic Bee on Tuesday, December 12th in the school library. Thirty students in grades 4 through 8 qualified for the Bee. The finalists were: Tied for 2nd Place – Ben J. (4th grade); Blaise T. (4th grade); and Drew G. (5th grade). Anthony C. (8th grade) was the winner of the National Geographic Bee from St. Jude School. He will take a qualifying test in January to qualify for the state bee. Congratulations to all of these students.



BETA TOY DRIVE: Students in Beta (in conjunction with the St. Vincent De Paul Society) will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for members of our parish who are unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. Please see the flyer found [HERE](#) for a grade/homeroom list of items requested. **TOMORROW** is the last day to bring your items to school! Thank you in advance for your generosity!



COMMUNITY COUGAR NEWS: For their December service project, the Community Cougars sang Christmas Carols for the DMA Christmas luncheon in the Parish Hall and enjoyed a lunch of pizza and sweet treats. Thank you to Community Cougar mom, Andrea Blanchard, for assisting with lunch. A good time was had by all!

3rd GRADE RETREAT THANK YOU: Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with our recent 3rd grade retreat. Student ministers from St. Michael's and the following parents served as our group leaders: Debbie Belyeu, Robyn Boedefeld, Kristie Esteve, Adele Merchant and Christine Paul. The students enjoyed the afternoon learning about Advent and preparing for the coming of the Christ child. Thanks again to all who assisted in making our retreat a success!



HOME & SCHOOL

FUN RUN: If you would like to receive a charitable contribution letter for your donation to the 2017 Fun Run, please email [Starr Driesse](#).

The entire student body and faculty enjoyed delicious pizza from Rotolo's in celebration of their fund-raising efforts for the 2nd annual Fun Run. Thank you to Karalyn Cass, Tricia Fernandez, Sarah Losavio, and Bonnie Schwing for coming out and helping serve the pizza.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SUBS: Many many thanks to the moms, dads and grandparents who subbed for the teachers this holiday season! The teachers and the kids really enjoy this and we would not be able to do it without the help of our St. Jude family.

Our wonderful parent volunteers included: Suzanne Hamilton, Anne Platte, Brandi Mouledous, Vanessa Jacob, Kristi Hammatt, Holly Atkins, Jaclyn Landry, Donna Bencaz, Taylor Camp, Kristie Esteve, Monica Broggi, Bonnie Schwing, Elizabeth Martin, James Andermann, Pam Gautreaux, Chad Roberson, Brittany Copeland, Lindsey Stelly, Kimberly McDaniel, Ashley Gravois, Emily Vincent, Tammy Mire, Amy Noto, Billie Turner, Tricia Fernandez, Christine Wesley, James Dubansky, Carol Friedman, Nikki Collette, Beth Altazan, Lindsey Davidson, and Lauren Nero.

SANTA LAND: We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Santa Land Coordinators Jessica Neyland and Bonnie Schwing and their assistant "elves" Pam Gautreaux and Kynlee Cunningham for all of their hard work with Santa Land. Santa Land is a wonderful way to promote the Christmas spirit of giving with our children. The children have so much fun picking out the "perfect gifts" for their loved ones!



Thank you to our parent helpers who assisted the children while shopping: Tricia Fernandez, Natalie Romero, Renee Bordelon, Ashley Dupree, Lisa Hebert, Sheila Gordon, Kristi Hammatt, Tammy Mire, Helen Stephansson, Daisy Dunn, Cathy Maynard, Karalyn Cass, Nikki Collette, Rhonda Baird, Monica Broggi, Sharon Smith, Michelle Fontenot, Claudia Brooks, Lindsay Davidson, Paula Balkum, Staci Meares, Diana Vincent, Keith Nelson, Tippy Thomassie, and Stephanie Mayeux. And also a thank you to those parents who showed up and assisted at the last minute because we needed some extra hands. Because of these dedicated volunteers, Santa Land was once again a big hit!

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: I hope you have all had a chance to notice the Christmas decorations and flowers around the school entrance. We would like to thank Tricia Fernandez and Le Vu for their efforts to keep our school looking beautiful and festive. We would like to send out a special thank you to Mrs. Mandy Cushing for decorating the beautiful Christmas tree. What a wonderful addition to our Christmas cheer!

USED UNIFORM SALE: Parents mark your calendars!! The next Used Uniform Sale is coming up on January 28th. It will be held in the cafeteria from 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. This is a great opportunity to stock up on sweatshirts, fleeces, and other uniform items at amazing prices and support the St. Jude Home and School Association. If you have any items to donate, you can drop them off in the office or contact Ginny Anderson 225-328-0631 to make other arrangements.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN: Quarter 3 Box Top collection forms will be sent home Monday, December 18th, and will be collected Wednesday, January 10th. Classrooms with 100% participation will receive FREE DRESS on a date TBA. Keep clipping sending in those Community Coffee Labels anytime throughout the year!

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS PARTIES: Christmas parties will be held on Wednesday, December 20th. Each class will be served a salty item, sweet item and pizza or chicken fingers. Please contact your Room Mom and/or teacher if you do not receive the specific information or if you need to make alternate accommodations for your child.

As a reminder per the student handbook (page 30): "No peanut products, including peanut oil or any products containing peanuts, may be served at class parties or special events. Guidelines are provided to room mothers each year. Parents should reference The Cougar for class parties or special events for students."

CHRISTMAS WISHES: And the angel said unto them: "Fear Not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which the Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

May the Lord bless you and your family this Christmas. May your hearts rejoice always in the gift of God's only son. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our St. Jude families from Home & School!!!

COUGAR DEADLINE:

Submissions for the next issue of *The Cougar* are due by **Tuesday, Jan. 2nd** E-mail sdriesse@stjudebr.org.

School's out for Christmas!



Get your uniforms ready for 2018 with **FREE alterations!**
(School Uniforms only—any brand—new or used)

December 23rd-30th

AND **SAVE 15%**
on any purchase

Inka's
UNIFORMS

11626 Sherwood Forest Court
Baton Rouge

Shop online at: inkas-uniforms.com

1617 Hickory Avenue
Harahan