

Dear Parents,

As we near the second week of November already, and begin the second academic quarter, we turn our attention to academics, veterans, and family. Student report cards are scheduled to be sent home no later than Monday, Nov. 13, and we begin parent/teacher conferences next week as well. This Friday, we honor our veterans with a holiday, and later this month, November 22 through November 26, we celebrate Thanksgiving.

While your child's report card is an assessment of their current academic growth and progress as a student, it does not reflect their joyful spirit of learning and playing at JSS. It does not measure the enthusiasm with which they are engaged in school, and it certainly does not adequately reflect the tremendous respect and politeness that defines their daily behavior. I share these reflections and observations because it relates to the second reason of *Why Catholic Education Still Matters* – the students in each homeroom, along with the teachers, and the entire JSS community, work and learn together in a unique way that celebrates God's love through the relationships they create.

Here's the second of ***Ten Reasons Why Catholic Education Still Matters***, by Reverend Ronald J. Nuzzi, Ph.D. Director, ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education), the University of Notre Dame.

The Value of Relationships as a Reflection of the Divine

Catholic school students learn to experience God's grace and presence in their lives through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. The loving and supportive relationships they experience are reflections of the love and life-giving dynamic of the Trinity. As a community we celebrate our successes and achievements. We share grief and downfalls. We unite together in solidarity, and even challenge each other to become better reflections of the divine. We are made for community.

Early Dismissal Tomorrow, Wednesday, Nov. 8

Tomorrow, Wednesday, Nov. 8, will be an early dismissal day. Students will be dismissed at 2:00pm. Extended care will begin at 2:00pm.

Friday, November 10, is Veteran's Day

In honor of our veterans, there will be no school this Friday, November 10.

JSS Hurricane Outreach

The JSS financial outreach to support the people of Puerto Rico has concluded, yet our outreach in the form of prayers and letters will continue. Your financial support will bring hope, relief of suffering, and foster the resiliency that is most needed in a natural disaster of this magnitude. Your prayers and letters provide the human connection of love and compassion that creates hope where there may have been despair. Another special thanks to the Walker Family for their donation -- almost \$1,900 was raised to support the people of Puerto Rico.

Gym Floor Project

Through the leadership of the JSSPA, along with the approval and support of the Parish, donations have already been received to resurface the gym floor, to paint new sports boundary lines, and to purchase a portable floor covering system.

For those parents who are relatively new to JSS, here's a little history of the Murphy Center, written by Monica Lal, JSS Parents Association President. "Monsignor Murphy, Pastor of the Carmel Mission Basilica Parish, recognizing physical education and athletic programs as key components of a well-rounded education, envisioned an athletic area for Junipero Serra School students. Aware of the careful planning process in the Carmel area, Monsignor Murphy brought his previous experience of creating a school gymnasium to this important project. He deftly contributed to help design the gym to be minimally visible from Rio Road, and fit in with the existing structures of both the school and Basilica. In 2002, under the guidance of Monsignor Murphy, and in partnership with the Carmel Mission Parish community, the Murphy Center was completed. During the final stages of construction in 2001, Coach Barry Panes joined the Junipero Serra School staff, and since his hiring, he has been the only Athletic Director to work in Murphy Gym."

Coach Panes, reflects about the importance of the JSS gym: *"From the very beginning I have taken pride in the school's prominent athletic facility. By having such a nice facility, I was able to have a small school like JSS become a member of the Mission Trail Athletic League. JSS has recently branched off and has become the main facility for both volleyball and basketball in the Independent Parochial Athletic League. The IPAL consists of eleven schools, who all at one time will compete in our great facility this year."*

I also want to thank the following families for their generous support to kick-off the fund raising for the gym floor project: The Summers and Womack families, along with an anonymous JSS family, whose combined donations of \$1,725, along with the Pizza My Heart event, which raised over \$500, gives this fund-raising project tremendous momentum.

Holiday Food Drive

The JSS Student Council is collecting nonperishable food for the Monterey Food Bank. Here's how you can help. Please bring in boxes of cereal (and other grains), nut butters, canned soups and chili, boxed side dishes, breakfast bars, canned vegetables, and other nonperishable items. There will be barrels in the classrooms to collect the food. The Food drive starts today, Monday, November 6 and goes until Monday, November 20.

Next Newsletter

An update on Parent Teacher Conferences, the Gym Floor Project, and more.

Peace and blessings to everyone for a great week.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stewart

Principal