

# From the Desk of Mrs. Jaster

October 5, 2016

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**APPLE OF MY EYE:** Congratulations to the "Apple of My Eye" winners for the week! These children are celebrated for being "caught doing something good": Lauren Dachowski, Samantha Waltrich, Julia Yogis, Nellie Brookreson and John Adams.



**PARENT CONFERENCES:** Parent Conferences for students in Pre-K through Grade 6 will be held on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Information about these conferences is found in today's communication.



## HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Bingo Bonanza Baskets:** Baskets will be displayed at St. Robert's after the Masses this weekend. Stop by and purchase a chance on some of the many wonderful baskets!
  - **The Bingo itself is sold out!** Thank you for your support!
  - **Redners and ShopRite Receipts:** Please send your receipts into school. The school will receive 1% of the total.

**Trunk or Treat:** Save the date! Friday October 28th is Trunk or Treat. It's an SJR Halloween Party. It's open to all SJR students and their families. See this week's communication for more information and look for registration/sign-up info in the days and weeks to come. Also, go to SJR Home and School Association page on Facebook for additional info.

**Halloween Dance:** 5th and 6th grade goblins and ghouls, please RSVP ASAP for the Halloween Costume Party! We need a head(less) count of all zombies attending. See flyer in this week's communication.

**YOUNG REMBRANDTS:** New sessions beginning in November. See flyer in this week's e-folder.

**SERVICE CORPS NEWS:** We are grateful to the following students who will be serving as homeroom representatives for the 2016 – 2017 academic year:

**Pre-K: Hailey Jacobsen and Lauren Scott**

**Kindergarten (100): Ryan Landry and Tom Christie**

**Kindergarten (102): Grace Moffett and Samantha Waltrich**

**First Grade: Carly Kimball and Julianna Schweizer**

**Second Grade: Mairead McDermott and Julia Fellmeth**

**Third Grade: Gianna Anzideo and Hailey McDevitt**

**Fourth Grade: Juliana Tulio and Alyssa Wade**

**Fifth Grade: Ethan Edwards and Jake Zook**

**Sixth Grade: Hailey Stefanik and Jackson Kiss**

**Seventh Grade: Mairin Dulin and William Horan**



These Student Leaders will be formally installed during our First Friday Mass on Friday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9AM.

For complete information about Service Corps events, please go to the moderator, Mrs. Julie McReynolds' website!



**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY:** The First Friday in October is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Traditionally, we install our Service Corps Officers and Classroom Representatives at the conclusion of the Mass. This year, we have invited family members who are police officers, firefighters, or EMTs to join us for this celebration of prayer and service.

Prior to Mass, at 8:45AM, we will gather before the Blessed Mother statue in the newly completed prayer garden. There, the Mary shrine will be blessed.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

## FROM OUR ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR:

### “Open Gym & Play” – Resuming in October - Join the Fun

“Open Gym & Play”, a playgroup for young children to come together to play, and make new friends will begin October 17th. All children ages 6 and under are welcome, accompanied by an adult. Families do not have to be members of the school or parish to participate. Last year the group averaged 20-25 children and 15-20 adults each week. The playgroup will gather on Mondays from 12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm at St. Robert Bellarmine Gym, on October 17th and 24th. Please see the flyer in this week's communication for additional details. Please spread the word and share the flyer with friends.



**GENTLY USED CLOTHING DRIVE:** The Service Corps is collecting gently-used items of clothing until October 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have several bags to donate, could you please send them/drop them off on Wednesdays? Service Corps members will be available to assist you and then move them to their storage spot. Thank you in advance!

**SJR PRIDE IS SHOWING!:** Last week, the Student Council representatives were installed at Archbishop Wood High School. Afterwards, a parent shared some wonderful information with me. She noticed that our "small, but strong SJR School" had alums chosen as representatives among the Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores. We are proud of the following graduates on their selection by the peers as school leaders: Theresa Corkery, Danielle Trodden, Andrew Funk, Emily Traae, and Richard Welte.



**A GENTLE REMINDER:** There is no school for the children on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> due to a faculty professional development day. No CARES will be available that day.

**JUST A THOUGHT:** During the Confirmation talk during Sacrament Sunday last weekend, Dr. Lou DeAngelo made some wonderful comments. He spoke of the interrelatedness of Formation, Education, and Transformation in our faith lives. When speaking of Formation, he told the parents in attendance, that their presence was part of the children's Formation in the faith. They had made Sacrament Sunday a priority. He reminded all of us that our children watch and learn from our actions as much – perhaps more? – than our words. I wonder what our actions have taught our children in the recent days? What lessons do we want them to learn?



***SJR SCHOOL:***  
***Focused on Faith and Learning!***





# St. Joseph/St. Robert School

850 Euclid Avenue  
Warrington, Pennsylvania 18976  
*Telephone:* 215.343.5100  
*Facsimile:* 215.343.7434

*Mrs. Deborah Jaster, Principal*

October, 2016

Dear Parents,

While it seems that school just began, we are already making plans for our parent conferences! Parent Conferences are scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

In order to have sufficient time for the conferences, the children will dismiss at noon on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and no classes will be held on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents of students in grades 7 & 8 have already received information detailing the conference format for those students. **No seventh or eighth grade students need to be scheduled on this form.**

If you are unable to attend a conference on these days, please contact your child's teacher to set up a mutually convenient day/time. Too, if you would like to meet with a teacher other than your child's homeroom teacher, please contact them directly.

Would you please complete the form below and return it to school by Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Once the forms are received, you will receive a slip with your scheduled days/times.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Deborah R. Jaster  
Principal

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your first and second choice of preferred time/date.

Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>:                 1:00pm – 5:00pm \_\_\_\_\_  
   6:00 pm – 8:00pm \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>                 8:00 am – 11:30am \_\_\_\_\_

**Student name(s)     Grade     Appointment time(completed by teacher)**

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Use just a few coupons and save more than the \$25 cost of the book!

POST! TWEET! EMAIL! Family, friends and co-workers will ♥ saving with KidStuff...Great for gifts too!  
KidStuff offers 26 valuable editions!

**HOP TO IT!!!**

KidStuff book orders & payment are due by:

Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>

**OUR SCHOOL EARNS 50% OR MORE PROFIT...THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!**

**October 2016**

***St. Joseph/St. Robert School***

***“OPEN GYM & PLAY”***

\*All children ages 6 & under are welcome, accompanied by an adult

\* Adults and kids can play, socialize, and make new friends

\*Play equipment provided

\*Free & no registration required

**Time:**

\* **Mondays, 12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm**

**Dates:**

**October 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Place:**

**St. Robert Bellarmine Gym  
856 Euclid Avenue  
Warrington, PA 18976**

**Questions:**

Call Kathy Williamson at St. Joseph/St. Robert School – 215.343.5100, ext. 209  
or email – [kwilliamson@stjstr.org](mailto:kwilliamson@stjstr.org)





Please return completed form & money or check payable to SJR HSA by Friday, **October 7th**  
Attention: Kathleen Sigda c/o Kaitlin Sigda 5th grade

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we love to attend!

No, sorry....can't make it.

Name of Children(s):

Grade(s):

Food Allergies?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

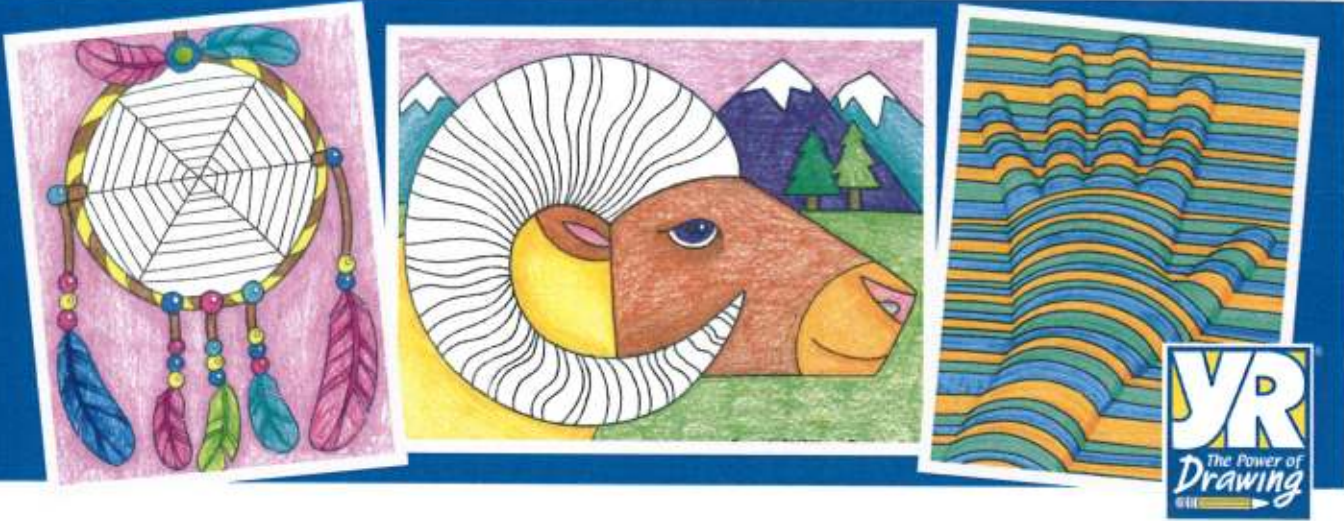
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EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Included are drinks. snacks. games and prizes



For ages 5-14

# Drawing Classes for kids

at St Joseph/St Robert

### Our Students Can Expect

- A new exciting lesson every week
- Improved core art skills
- To have fun!

### Our Parents Can Expect

- Increased attention to detail
- Improved fine motor skills
- Discipline, persistence, and patience

Classes Held

**Thursday**

**3:15 PM - 4:15 PM**

**11/3/2016 - 12/15/2016**

**(No class 11/24, 12/8)**



Tuition

**\$65**

**for a 5 Week Session**



Payment Options

**MAIL IN ENROLLMENT or  
ENROLL ONLINE at**

[www.youngrembrandts.com/buxmont-pa](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/buxmont-pa)

**Young Rembrandts**  
412 Goodwin Rd  
Hatboro, Pa. 19040  
Ph: 215-675-8878  
Fax: 215-394-5752

**TO ENROLL:** Submit your completed registration form to Young Rembrandts, 412 Goodwin Rd., Hatboro, PA 19040. Once submitted your child is automatically enrolled unless you are notified otherwise. Save your time and a stamp. **ENROLL ONLINE at:** [www.youngrembrandts.com/buxmont-pa](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/buxmont-pa). Young Rembrandts provides all classroom supplies and a trained instructor. Classes are held immediately after school. Parents are responsible for transportation at class end.

Student Name First _____ Last _____	School <b>St Joseph/St Robert</b> Start Date <b>11/3/2016</b>
Parent Name _____	Class Day <b>Thursday</b> Class Time <b>3:15 PM - 4:15 PM</b>
Address _____	May we use your child's drawing in our promotional materials? [ ] Yes [ ] No
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	May we photograph/video your child in class? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Email Address _____	<i>I also understand all personal absences are forfeited.</i>
Grade _____ Birth Date _____ Teacher _____	Signature _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____	I would like information about being a Parent Volunteer (FREE tuition!) [ ] Yes [ ] No
Cell Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____	<b>Make check payable to Young Rembrandts and include your child's name and</b>
My child will: [ ] be picked up [ ] walk home [ ] other _____	<b>school on the check. We accept MasterCard and Visa.</b>
Credit Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____	Card Expiration _____ [ ] MC [ ] Visa Security code _____
Name _____	Signature _____ Date _____
(as it appears on the card)	[ ] Charge my account in full [ ] Charge my account monthly Amount: _____





# AOP TECH PARENTS

## Tools for Better Study Habits

It's back to school and back to studying! While studying may come naturally to some students, it can be a real struggle for many. Here are three digital tools to make for a better studying experience for kids...and parents!

- ✦ StayFocusd (Google Chrome Extension) - This nifty extension blocks out websites (like social media) so you or your child can work distraction free!
- ✦ Todoist (Web tool, Chrome Extension, Android/iOS app) - The ultimate in 'to do list' apps! Todoist promotes time management and can easily sync across devices.
- ✦ Quizlet (Web tool, Android/iOS app) - A teacher favorite, Quizlet allows your children to create and practice with digital flashcards. There's even pre-made quiz on just about everything!

## Developing a Growth Mindset Attitude at Home

Have you heard about Growth Mindset lately? Popular with educators and online parenting resources, Growth Mindset has become a prominent conversation in child development.

Growth Mindset, as developed by Carol Dweck, is the principle that our most basic abilities and intelligence can be developed over time. This is in opposition to have a 'fixed mindset', wherein we develop that we can not impact our intelligence over time.

Though this idea may sound simple, it impacts our view ourselves, our work ethic, resiliency, and ability to handle every day failures. In fact, embracing and learning from failure is a hallmark of fostering a growth mindset.

First and foremost, this impacts our children. Children who develop their growth mindset are better problem solvers, communicate clearly, take on challenges, and view failure as learning opportunities. They are resilient, bouncing back from struggles rather than crumbling under pressure. Studies have shown this impacts their attitude to learning both in and out of the classroom.

However, as adults, we have to look at our own mindsets as well. Do we believe in our own growth potential? Do we model that for our children? A common example of this is when we say to our children, "Oh I'm not good at math." This models for kids that even with effort, they may never achieve or feel confident in their own skills. We can instead model our own growth mindset by saying, "I have to work extra hard on math, but I can take the challenge."

Next month, in a continuation of Growth Mindset, AoP Tech will look at simple language shifts that can promote a growth mindset in the whole family!

Popova, Maria. "Fixed vs. Growth: The Two Basic Mindsets That Shape Our Lives." Brain Pickings. N.p., 29 Jan. 2014. Web.  
Dweck, Carol. "What is MINDSET?" Mindset. Carol Dweck, 2010. Web.

# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Title I Non Public Services  
Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

## Ask your child's teacher for help with setting reading goals

When it comes to reading, it can be hard to set goals. You may not be sure what or how much your child should be reading. Consult the teacher about your child's:

- **Reading level.** Is your child meeting expectations for her grade? What kinds of materials are best for her? How can you tell if a book or magazine is too hard, too easy or just right for your child? How can you help her improve?
- **Reading habits.** Many teachers expect students to read for a certain number of minutes each day. By working as a team (perhaps by making a plan to communicate weekly about your child's progress), you and your child's teacher can support habits that make a big difference.



*"The only way to do all the things you'd like to is to read."*

—Tom Clancy

## Provide plenty of book report support

Book reports provide an opportunity for students to explore a variety of books—and practice writing as well. To help your child make progress on his report:

- **Suggest a book** that interests him. As he reads, encourage him to use sticky notes as bookmarks. He can jot down key points on the notes, such as, "Here's where the conflict begins."
- **Discuss the book.** Ask questions that help your child think. For example, "Where is the story set?" "Who are the main characters?" "What happens to them?" "What do you like and dislike about the book?"
- **Offer to proofread.** Give your child a chance to find and fix mistakes before you point them out. When you look over the rough draft, make sure it meets the teacher's guidelines. And be sure to compliment all of his hard work!

Source: "Helping Your Child Write a Book Report," Kids.gov, niswc.com/bookreports.

## Have fall fun with word games

Play a fall-themed version of a classic word game. To start, have your child think of any fall word—but not say it out loud! Then he should:



1. **Draw an outline of a pumpkin.** Under it, have him write a blank for each letter of his mystery word.
2. **Ask other players** to take turns guessing letters in the word. Your child should write the correct letters in their spaces. For each incorrect guess, add an eye, nose or mouth to the pumpkin until it's a jack-o'-lantern!

## Listening to stories is always important

No matter how well your child reads, she can benefit from listening to stories.



Choose books with some challenging words. Hearing them in a story is a great way for her to boost her vocabulary!

## Learning sight words makes reading easier

*Sight words* are words your child should be able to recognize on sight. Some sight words are used so frequently that it is helpful to memorize them. Others are difficult to sound out.

To speed up your child's reading, ask her teacher for a list of sight words and then make flash cards together. Have your child write the words on the cards, and go through them together often.



## Reading doesn't have to be a solo activity

One of the keys to encouraging your child to read is to make reading appealing! One way to do this is to make it something you do together. You can:

- **Browse together.** Walk through a library with your child and get an idea of what he likes. Suggest books related to those topics.
- **Join the fun.** Take turns reading aloud, especially if a book is challenging.
- **Keep track of progress.** Keep a list of how much your child reads. Praise him for reaching milestones. Show that you're proud!
- **Attend library events together.** Ask about special activities and reading programs.
- **Be inspired by books.** After your child reads a book, do something related to it. For example, you might research or visit a place the author mentioned.



Source: "Fun Ways to Read With Your Child," Great Schools, [niswc.com/lovereadingtogether](http://niswc.com/lovereadingtogether).

## Make comprehension a key reading goal

To succeed in school, your child must understand the materials she reads. Here are some simple ways to boost your child's comprehension whether she's reading a comic book or a textbook:

- **Remind your child** to sound out tough words. Review common words so she can recognize them instantly.
- **Build your child's vocabulary.** Introduce new words through experiences, instruction and reading itself.
- **Ask questions** to get your child thinking about how the information relates to what she already knows.
- **Encourage your child** to think about what she reads. She can also make predictions



about what will happen next or summarize a section she has read.

Source: M. Pressley, "Comprehension Instruction: What Works," Reading Rockets, [niswc.com/comprehensioncomponents](http://niswc.com/comprehensioncomponents).



**Q:** Even though school just started, I'm worried about my child's reading skills. Is it too soon to contact his teacher?

**A:** No—the sooner reading struggles are identified, the better. The teacher is still getting to know your child, so your perspective is especially important. Working together gives your child his best chance for success. Be sure to ask the teacher what you can do to help at home.

Do you have a question about reading? Email [readingadvisor@parent-institute.com](mailto:readingadvisor@parent-institute.com).

## Create a cozy reading area

Help your child create a special place at home to be her reading nook. You don't need a lot of space—just be sure to include:



- **A selection of appealing materials,** such as a shelf or small basket of books.
- **Comfortable surroundings.** Consider a soft chair or a pile of pillows. Don't forget good lighting!

## For lower elementary readers:

- *The Worst Princess* by Anna Kemp (Random House). Princess Sue is not your ordinary princess. She'd much rather fight dragons than sit alone in a tower!



- *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art* by Barb Rosenstock (Alfred A. Knopf). When Vasya Kandinsky first got his set of paints, he painted along to the music and sounds of the city.

## For upper elementary readers:

- *Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty* by Linda Glaser (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children). Learn about Emma Lazarus' inspiration to write the inscription—a beautiful poem welcoming all to the United States—on the Statue of Liberty.
- *For the Love of Autumn* by Patricia Polacco (Philomel Books). Danielle has a kitten named Autumn. When Autumn runs away during a storm, Danielle's students work together to help her find her beloved cat.

### Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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