

St. Joseph/St. Robert School Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. DURKIN
October 7, 2026

The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this takes place through a rich path made up of many ingredients. True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life.
— Pope Francis

Dear SJR Families,

I love our HSA meetings and the opportunities they provide for us to learn together. When parents and teachers share some of the same strategies and language for supporting children, we are better able to work together on their behalf.

Last night, we were fortunate to welcome Dr. Mary Coakley, a Licensed Clinical Developmental Psychologist with more than 25 years of experience supporting children and families. She shared her expertise on executive functioning and the many ways these skills affect a child's ability to plan, organize, manage time, get started on a task, regulate emotions, and follow through.

I appreciated the practical nature of her presentation and the reminder that these skills develop over time. What may sometimes look like a child simply "not listening" or "not trying" can actually be a sign that a particular executive-function skill is still developing. Having strategies to help children build those skills can make a real difference both at home and at school.
We've included some of the tips Dr. Coakley shared in this week's newsletter for you to review and try at home.

A special thank-you to our HSA for inviting Dr. Coakley to speak with us and for providing opportunities like this for our community. We are grateful for the time and effort they put into helping our families learn and grow together.

If you would like to continue learning about executive functioning, you may want to take a look at Smart but Scattered. One of the authors will be presenting through the Bucks County IU in January, and we are considering the possibility of forming a parent book club around the book.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey from our HSA. We'd love to hear whether there is interest in a book club, as well as your thoughts about a few other new initiatives. Your feedback will help the HSA plan opportunities that are meaningful and useful for our SJR families.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Durkin



School News







Tea with Me - Tomorrow at 9:00a.m.

You are welcome to join me for a casual conversation about any school-wide topic that is on their mind. In the past, these topics have included school safety, the Sacraments, and after school clubs. This year, if time allows, I would also love to have parents review small sections of the Family Handbook with me so that I can get your feedback before updating it in the summer.

Parent Teacher Conferences

A reminder that links will be shared on Saturday morning for you to sign up for a conference with your child's teacher. There is a noon dismissal on 10/29 and no school on 10/30 to allow time for these important conversations.

New Family Open House

We look forward to welcoming new families to tour our school and meet faculty and staff. We're especially excited to be opening applications for our new Pre-K Three Year Old Program for next year! Please share the good news of SJR.

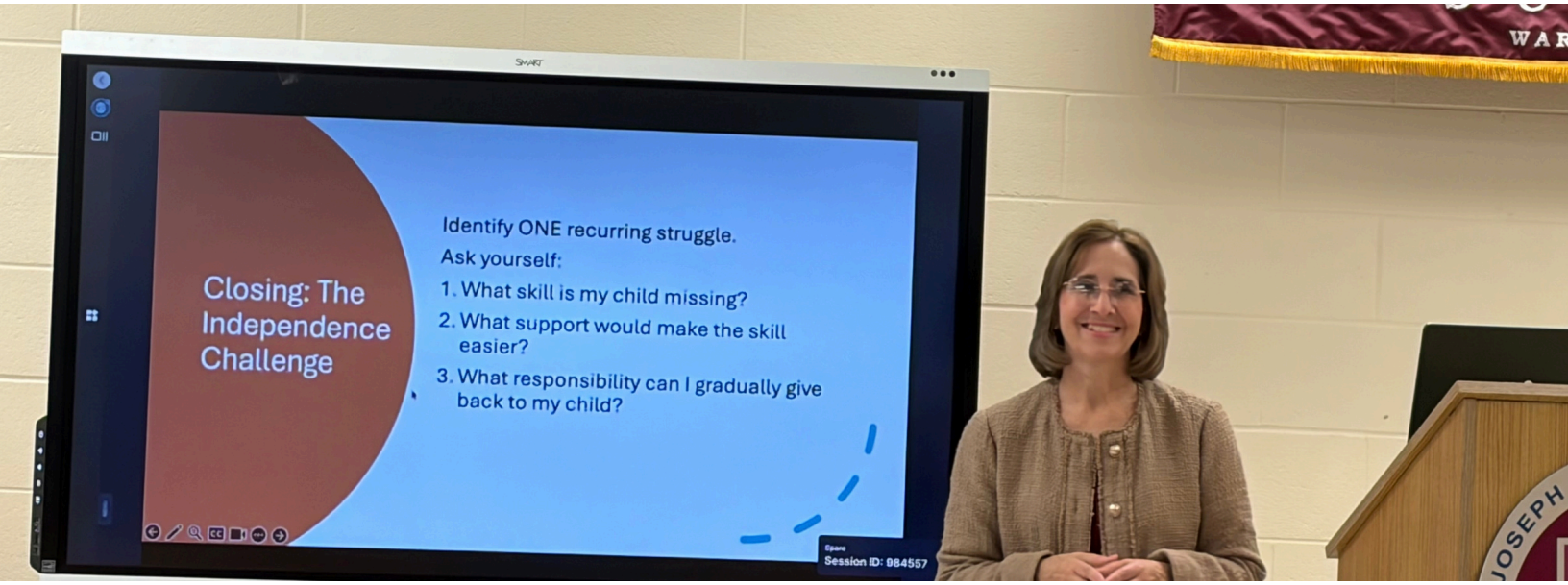
Thank You!

Due to your generosity, SJR is able to send a check for $600 to Pockets of Hope to support their work as they assist women in treatment for breast cancer. Thank you for supporting the Dress Down Day!

Service Corp

Our Service Corp is planning for their annual outreach to parishioners for the Feast of All Souls. They deliver plants to people who have lost loved ones in the past year. To raise the funds for this meaningful project, they will be having a bake sale on Thursay and Friday, Octobr 22nd and 23rd.

Thespian Club: See the flyer below to put an ad in the play program!







HSA News

Cherrydale Pickup:
Many families have their Cherrydale order being delivered directly. But, if you have any frozen items, your order will be ready for pickup from the gym/Msgr. Marley Hall on November 4th . I'll share the exact time window as soon as it's set.

Trunk or Treat: Get ready for an evening of fun, costumes, candy, and community! Check out the flyer for all the details. Decorate your trunk and join the fun, or bring your child to trick-or-treat among the creatively decorated trunks! We hope to see you there!

Halloween Dance (4th, 5th, 6th)
Hope your 4th - 6th grader can join in the fun! SJR's cafeteria is transformed for the dance. See the flyer below for details.

Haunted Hayride (7th & 8th).
October 24th from 7:00 - 10:00p.m. at Winding Brook Farm. See flyer below.

Chick-fil-a Spirit Night October 27th!

See the HSA's "October Happenings" below for everything that's plann this month!

SJR HSA Happenings

OCTOBER 2026

NEWS, EVENTS & WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

Together we support our students & school!

OCT 6 — HSA MEETING

Join us for our first HSA meeting of the year at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria!

This meeting will feature speaker Dr. Mary Coakley's presentation:
"Why Won't My Child Just DO It?"

RAFFLE — If you attend all 3 HSA meetings, you will be entered in a raffle to win **$250!**

OCT 16 — TRUNK OR TREAT



Stay tuned for a sign up to decorate a trunk or trick-or-treat!

OCT 24 — HALLOWEEN DANCE

4TH – 6TH GRADES



OCT 24 — HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE

7TH & 8TH GRADES



OCT 27 — Chick-fil-A SPIRIT NIGHT



Enjoy dinner out while supporting the SJR HSA!

BOO GRAMS ON SALE THIS MONTH!



Boo grams will be available for distribution on **10/29.**

Stay tuned for more information!

LOST & FOUND REMINDER

Help keep lost items to a minimum this school year!



Support the HSA by ordering Mabel's Labels.

campaigns.mabelslabels.com
Select SJR-HSA

Volunteer Opportunities

AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENTS!

Help make these events successful and support our SJR community!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
evite.me/DJdaVtCTYt

THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING SJR HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION!

Together, we create memorable experiences for our students and families.

Know a Family Who Should Know SJR?
Our Fall Open House is a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to see SJR! Please help us spread the word by sharing the invitation with friends, neighbors, or anyone who may be looking for a school where children are known, supported, and encouraged to grow. We'd love to welcome them to SJR!

St. Joseph/St. Robert School
New Family Open House

Sunday , OCTOBER18th
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Pre-K 3 to 8th Grade(Half&Full-DayKindergarten)









Register for a Tour Today

www.stjstr.org 850 Euclid Ave. Warrington, PA. 18976

SJR's Annual
7th & 8th Grade
HAUNTED HAYRIDE

Saturday October 24th

7:00-10:00 PM

Winding Brook Farm
3014 Bristol Rd
Warrington, PA

Wagon leaves promptly at 8:15PM
$25 per student*

*Includes Pizza, drinks, and marshmallows to roast

Discounted Rate for Cornwalk and Haymaze of Horror!
If you would like to add these attractions, please include an additional $18 to ticket price.



Please send payment to school
via Danny Rosenello Grade 8 or VENMO
@kathleen-rosenello
by Friday 10/16

SJR
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
4TH–6TH GRADE
HALLOWEEN DANCE

A NIGHT OF FUN, FRIENDS & FALL FESTIVITIES!

DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

TIME: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

LOCATION: SCHOOL CAFETERIA

ADMISSION: $20 PER STUDENT

DANCE · GAMES · MUSIC · SNACKS · COSTUME FUN

- DJ & DANCE FLOOR
- HALLOWEEN GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

PRIZES FOR:

- BEST COSTUME
- MOST CREATIVE COSTUME
- BEST GROUP COSTUME

PLEASE REMEMBER

Current students only.

Costumes must be appropriate for a Catholic school environment.

No weapons, scary masks, or inappropriate costumes.

venmo | **SJR-HSA**

PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE STUDENT IN THE VENMO CAPTION.

Payment through HSA is accepted.

RSVP BY: _____

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: _____

SPONSORED BY THE SJR CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION

Support Our Thespian Club

Purchase an ad or share well wishes in the digital play program

Full-Page Ad —	$50
Half-Page Ad —	$25
Quarter-Page Ad —	$ 15
Well Wishes	$ 5

DEADLINE:
Ad purchases must be made by October 16th

SUBMISSION:
Send through school to **Kathleen Rosenello**
c/o **Danny - 8th grade**
or email **kathleenrosenello@gmail.com**

Venmo @Kathleen-Rosenello



COACHING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING AT HOME

Practical ways to help kids plan, remember, get started, and follow through

Small supports that make a big difference

Make it visible Use checklists, pictures, calendars, timers, labels, or a "launch pad" for backpacks and shoes. Visual reminders reduce the need to hold every step in mind—and reduce repeated verbal reminders.

Build predictable routines Keep key tasks in roughly the same order and place. Try a short morning, homework, or bedtime routine. Practice when everyone is calm, not only when you're running late.

Break big tasks into small steps "Clean your room" can feel overwhelming. Try: 1) put dirty clothes in the hamper, 2) put books on the shelf, 3) clear the floor. Start with the first manageable step.

Make it collaborative Invite your child to help choose the system: "What would help you remember?" or "Would a checklist or timer work better?" Children are more likely to use a tool they helped create.

Give one direction, then pause Get your child's attention, give a brief and specific direction, and allow processing time. Repeating or adding more words can make it harder to know what to do first.

Plan for transitions Give a heads-up when possible, use a visual countdown or timer, and name the next step: "Five more minutes, then shoes." Some children need help stopping one activity and starting another.

Praise the strategy—not just the result Notice the process: "You checked your list without a reminder," "You got started with one small step," or "You figured out a way to remember." Help children notice what works.

Fade support gradually Move from doing it for your child, to doing it together, to prompting, to using a tool, to checking in. Independence develops in steps; needing support today doesn't mean a child can't learn the skill.

Trade nagging for facilitative questions

Questions can help children pause, plan, and solve problems instead of relying on an adult to direct every step. Keep your tone curious and supportive—not like a quiz. Ask one question, then give your child time to think.

Instead of…	Try asking…
"How many times do I have to tell you?"	"What could help you remember next time?"
"Get ready! We're late!"	"What do you still need before we leave?"
"Start your homework already!"	"What's the very first step?"
"Clean your room!"	"Which part will you tackle first?"
"You're not listening!"	"What did you hear as the next step?"
"Why did you forget again?"	"Where could we put a reminder so it's easier to remember?"
"You know what to do!"	"What's getting in the way of getting started?"

Questions that coach different EF skills

Getting started	**"What's one tiny step you can do first?"**
Remembering	"What could remind you without me having to tell you?"
Planning	"What will you need? What comes first, next, and last?"
Flexibility	"The plan changed. What are two things we could try now?"
Checking work	"How could you check whether you're finished?"
Problem-solving	"What worked? What might you change next time?"

Mary Coakley *Growth Opportunity Center* *mary@mcoakleyphd.com*

The Scaffolding Ladder

Small steps. Big independence.

We don't just expect kids to do it on their own —
we help them get there, step by step.

Each step builds skills, confidence, and independence!



Gradually remove support as they grow stronger!

Not a race. Just real progress.

SJR's 2026 TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us for a spooktacular evening of family fun!

Friday, October 16, 2026

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

SJR Parking Lot



Event Highlights:

- Trick-or-treating from decorated trunks
- Costume contest (prizes for best costumes!)
- Games & activities for kids
- Music & food for the whole family

Admission: $3 for one child or $5 for two or more

Bring the whole family and plenty of Halloween spirit!

RSVP: https://forms.gle/NKdNQJh1ptqyEnbR9


SJR
CYO
BASKETBALL
CLINIC
RUN BY
Joseph Sorge
DON'T BE THIS KID... SIGN UP NOW!
MISSED THE CLINIC
SPOTS FILL FAST!
SKILL DEVELOPMENT
FUN & COMPETITIVE
BUILD CONFIDENCE
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME
LAST YEAR'S CLINIC:
SOLD OUT
SJR
OCTOBER 11TH & OCTOBER 18TH
KINDERGARTEN – 3RD GRADE
BOYS & GIRLS
2:00 – 3:00 PM
$25 PER CHILD PER DAY
4TH – 8TH GRADE
BOYS & GIRLS
3:30 – 5:00 PM
$30 PER CHILD PER DAY
venmo
@SJR-CYO
TO REGISTER
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND GRADE
& DATE(S) CHILD ATTENDING