

January 2012



9400 Wicker Ave.
St. John, IN 46373
www.sjeschool.org

DEAR PARENTS

of St. John the Evangelist School,

As we begin a New Year, the Home and School Association would like to welcome everyone back and wish you all a Happy New Year! This year will bring many changes to the school and this monthly newsletter will serve as the vehicle for everyone to follow along and participate in all the changes up coming. Please read this newsletter in its entirety as it has pertinent information regarding several important upcoming fundraisers, as well as several dates to mark on your calendar! The Home and School Association would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year and welcome back to a very exciting time for SJE!!!

May God bless you and your families this New Year!

Home and School Association Officers

HOT TOPICS

There have been many rumblings around the school as to what the HSA is up to this year. Many of you have heard about a new playground that might be coming to the school. This information is CORRECT! The HSA has finally agreed upon the design, company, and location of the new playground. There were many hours that went into the decisions around the new playground and many discussions as well. Here are the facts: Yes, we will be installing a new playground this year! There were three companies that were allowed to bid on the project. The HSA then voted on using NuToys as the final contractor. There were several reasons for this decision. First of all, this company is local and provided quick service when called up. They provided a very detailed and comparable bid and have done several playgrounds in the area including St. Michaels. They came with very reputable referrals including the town of Crown Point. Finally, NuToys provided the best quality and construction materials for the cost.

That brings us to the cost of the project. It was to our amazement that playgrounds are not cheap. In fact the bids ranged from \$130,000 to \$165,000. This may seem extravagant, but the hope is to build a state of the art playground that will be around for many years to come. Some of the equipment on the current playground is from the 1970's, so you can see the longevity of the equipment. The playground that was voted on from NuToys will cost roughly \$135,000. In addition, the new playground will be relocated to the back of the old church (where the basketball hoops are currently located). This will provide a safer and more secluded location off

of 41 in which the children can play every day. The new playground will also have equipment for children of all ages 5-14. All of the school children will be able to play on the equipment with something for everyone. There will also be two new basketball hoops installed. PLEASE STOP BY THE SCHOOL FOYER TO VIEW THE PROPOSED PLAYGROUND.

The next logical question would be is how are we going to pay for this? Here is the breakdown. The HSA currently has \$60,000 for the project which means we need to raise an addition \$75,000. Sounds like a daunting task, but we have identified some key fundraisers that will help to raise these funds. The three main fundraisers that we hoping will raise the funds are a spaghetti dinner (Feb. 24), Spring Fling (April 21), and a Phone-a-thon to be conducted on January 29th.

That leaves us with the timeline for the project. The HSA is hoping to have all funds raised by May 1st of 2012. The new playground will then be ordered, only after all funds are in hand. It will take 3-4 weeks for the equipment to come in and another 3-4 weeks to be installed. The project will be completed by the end of June 2012. The current location of the playground will be cleared (some pieces donated and some pieces given to the preschool) and then seeded for a nice grassy area. I am sure that there will be many questions that arise throughout the course of this project. Please always feel free to contact any HSA member with any question. Finally, we need your help! We need volunteers for the fundraising events that are coming up. Please see below and contact the chair people listed to help out!

Save the Date!

- **January 29, 2012-Phone a Thon**
This event will take place from 12-5 and we need volunteers to call and to send out letters that day.
- **February 24, 2012-Spaghetti Dinner**
We need volunteers to work and help throughout the night. Eighth grades will also be allowed to earn service hours for this event.
- **April 21, 2012-Spring Fling**
We need help with donations for silent auction, working the night of and working before the event.

If you can help in any way please contact any individual listed below. Remember many hands make light work! So please if your are short on hours or simply want to ensure the success of the fundraisers, contact someone from below to help out!

Rose Kennedy (219) 712-5641
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