



# St. Joseph Catholic School

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March 5, 2018

From the Principal's Desk

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in Catholic faith, and committed to academic excellence, St. Joseph Catholic School develops personal responsibility, character, service, and leadership.

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## ITBS Testing

ITBS National Testing will begin on Monday, March 5th. Testing will conclude by Friday, March 9th. Only students in grade two through eight will be taking the tests. These tests cover all areas of language arts, math computation and concepts, science, social studies, and research skills.

### HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills is used by the Diocese of Venice. The testing data from the ITBS is used to review our current curriculum and plan for future growth and improvement. What your student is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests.

We recommend that you talk with your child about the importance of giving his/her best effort during testing. The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready to give the test his or her all.

The night before:

- Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- Mention the test to show you're interested, but don't dwell on it.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The morning of the test:

- **Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.**
- Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard and that they're designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. The important thing is to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.

After the test:

- Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, making sure you acknowledge the effort such a task requires.
- Discuss what was easy and what was hard; discuss what your child learned from the test.

- Discuss what changes your child would make if he or she were to retake the test.
- Explain that performance on a test is not a condition for you to love your child.

Please keep this as low stress for your children as possible. There will be no homework assigned during testing week for grades 2 through 8.

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#### STEP UP FOR STUDENTS AND AAA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

**CURRENT FAMILIES - DO NOT DELAY:** Please make sure your renewal is completed this week. If you are waiting for any documentation, start the process online and add the needed paperwork later. Because of changes in the system, new applications will be accepted in early March and renewals may not be granted after that date.

**FAMILIES PLANNING TO APPLY FOR 2018-2019 –** Please watch for an announcement this week or next indicating applications are open for new families.

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### Safe Environment Class – March 13th

Last week, we had to sadly tell a few parents that they could not participate in our campus activities. Please make sure you have completed Safe Environment Training and a background check to be able to join us for future events. As we move into Spring, many of our classes have field trips and special events planned for their classes. If you plan to volunteer and help with any of these events, you must complete Safe Environment Training and a background check.

Mrs. Smith has scheduled a Safe Environment Class for March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, in Room 621. There is no charge for this class. You will need to register by using the link:

[https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg\\_2.cfm?theme=0&org=35244](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_2.cfm?theme=0&org=35244)

Please have your fingerprints completed before taking the class. Mrs. Smith will meet you at the South Main Gate at 6:00 pm. Don't miss this opportunity if you have not taken this class!

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### Sports Announcement – Soccer and Tennis

- Please make sure to return your washed soccer uniforms to Coach Kolbe next week.
  - Tennis tryouts will begin on March 13, 14, and 15 at the 17th Ave. West park in between 22nd Street West and 29th Street West (there is no specific address). The tennis courts are located under the water tower, next to the park. We will begin after dismissal, so you will need a ride or carpool with someone. Tennis will end around 4:30pm each day.
  - In order to tryout there are few things you need to know/have:
    - A ride to and from practice
    - 2) A tennis racket
    - 3) Knowledge of the game (how to score, keep track of points, how to serve, rules of the game).
  - If you would like to tryout, please contact Coach Kolbe.
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## Weekly Activities

### Monday, March 5

- ITBS Testing
- 3:00 pm Fiddler on the Roof Practice
- 3:00 pm Intermediate Guitar
- 3:00 pm Garden Club
- 3:00 pm Jr. Legion of Mary

### Tuesday, March 6

- ITBS Testing
- Kindergarten Field Trip
- 3:00 pm Choir (Grades 2+)
- 3:45 pm Church Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, March 7

- ITBS Testing
- 3:00 pm Beginning Guitar

### Thursday, March 8

- ITBS Testing
- 3:00 pm Irish Dance
- 3:00 pm Intermediate Guitar

### Friday, March 9

- ITBS Testing

### Saturday

- 4:00 pm Children's Choir – Mass at St. Joseph Church
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Join Us and Support Our School  
March 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Parish Center  
The Paul Todd & Friends Show  
Tickets Available in the School Office



SPREAD THE WORD – BENEFIT FOR SJCS!

The Paul Todd Foundation has been a strong supporter of St. Joseph Catholic School for several years! On Monday evening, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Paul Todd will be performing a special benefit concert for St. Joseph Catholic School. For those who have attended his shows in the past, this is an incredible program!

All proceeds from the evening will benefit our Window Replacement project, "Windows to the Future".

Spread the word and invite your family and friends for this wonderful evening celebration.

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## VPK and Chinese New Year

Last week, our little ones in VPK enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, using chop sticks, exploring Chinese costumes, painting a mural, and many other activities.



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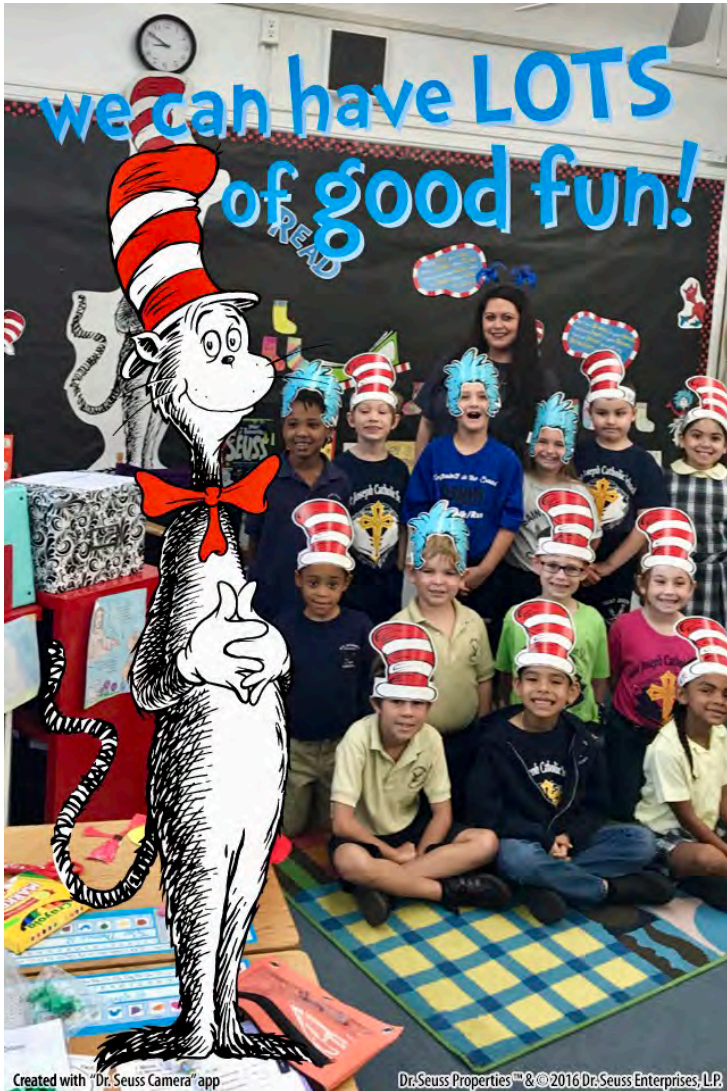
## Little Caesar's Pizza on Friday

Little Caesar's Pizza will be providing personal sized pizzas for SJCS beginning this Friday. We are going to pilot this program to see if it works for our school to determine if we will continue pizza Fridays. Students may order a two piece or four piece personal pizza. The cost remains the same. Please send your order with your child by Thursday morning.

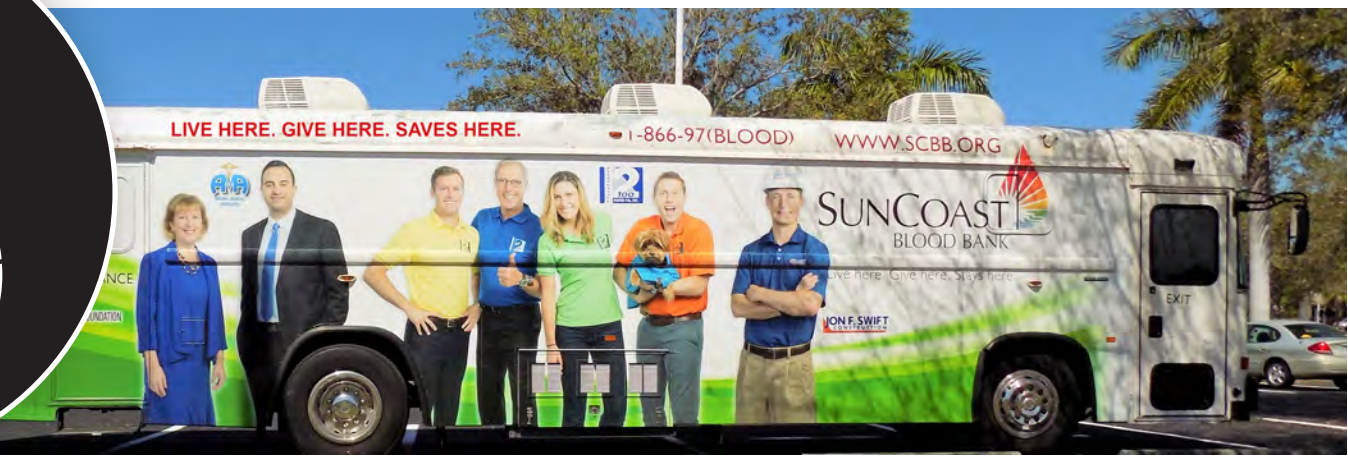
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## Read Across America

Our students celebrated Dr. Seuss and Read Across America Week by enjoying books, listening to guest readers, eating Green Eggs and Ham, and many other activities.



GIVE BLOOD.  
SAVE LIVES.



Live here. Give here. Saves here.

# BLOOD DRIVE!

St. Joseph Catholic School  
Tuesday, March 13th  
2:00pm - 5:00pm

*Every donor receives a coupon for a FREE pint of Culver's Frozen Custard.*

Reserve your preferred donation time online: [Click Here!](#)  
Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome!

## ALL DONORS RECEIVE A WELLNESS CHECK INCLUDING:

- Blood Pressure
- Iron Count
- Pulse
- Cholesterol Screening
- Temperature



**1-866-97-BLOOD**

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