



# Saint Denis – Saint Columba School

... A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

**TO:** PARENTS AND GUARDIANS  
**FROM:** SR. KATHLEEN MARIE, CR  
**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY HAPPENINGS  
**DATE:** OCTOBER 31- NOVEMBER 4, 2016



*Jesus, I Trust in You  
Make our Hearts like Yours!*

**November Virtue:** MERCY

**November Saint:** SAINT AUGUSTINE

**November Reflection:** *“Go and learn the meaning of the words, “I desire mercy. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13) How have you experienced Christ’s Mercy?*

## All Saints Day Liturgy

This week we celebrate the **Feast of All Saints** and the **Feast of All Souls!** While we have information about many saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been honored specifically. We celebrate these holy men and women, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. During this month of November let us remember the many “SAINTS” who have gone before us, including our own loved ones. These holy ones were just like us– *sinners striving with God’s grace to be saints!* This **Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** we will celebrate as a faith community the **Feast of All Saints**. We will gather for mass as a school community at **10:00 a.m. in the Church**. All are welcome to join us for this celebration!

## Team Building Trip to Sharpe Reservation

On Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> the students in Grades 6-8 will participate in a team building activity at Sharpe Reservation. Students are to wear jeans and their gym shirts or sweat shirts. SDSC remains dedicated to educating our students in Christian virtues and character formation. The purpose of this activity is to build a stronger sense of community among our students and help them to better understand our interdependence upon each other, both in our school community and the community at large. On this trip, students will work together in team and to learn to see our school community beyond their close circle of friends. Thank you to the PSA for providing an Assembly Grant to cover the cost of transportation to and from Sharpe Reservation!

## Life Touch School Pictures

Representatives from *Life Touch School Pictures* will be here this Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to take pictures of the students in Grades K-8. **ALL students are to wear their complete winter school uniform.** They will have an opportunity to wear their own clothes for Spring Pictures. Your children should have brought home picture order forms already. Please be sure to send the completed order form in to school with your child on Thursday, school picture day.

## TOTAL on School Walk-a-thon

Special THANK YOU once again to all of you for your very generous contributions to SDSC and our school walk-a-thon! **To date we have collected a total of \$14,066!** *We are close to our goal of \$19,000.* If you haven’t sent in your sponsor money yet, please do so this week. It’s not too late.

We are hoping for 100% class participation. Each class who shows 100% participation – that means contributes whatever they can (*however small or large the donation*) will receive an ice cream party. It’s not about the amount as much as it is about the participation of every student! All individual N.U.T. (“No Uniform Today”) Awards will be distributed to the students in early November.

## **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You**

Once again thank you for your very generous support of St. Denis – St. Columba! We are blessed to have such dedicated and supportive families here!

**Recent Lead Testing at SDSC**

Recently much has been written about the testing in schools for lead in water. Even though New York’s water is of the highest quality in the country, meeting or exceeding all federal and state standards, and is tested over 500,000 times each year at various points throughout the system, out of an abundance of caution, the Archdiocese of New York embarked on a program of water testing in our schools. The flushing and testing of water in individual fixtures and school building pipes was done in accordance with Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protocols. **I am pleased to share that all fixtures in our school building tested clean and there is no remediation is required.** Please know that your child’s safety and well-being is always our primary concern, and is a responsibility we take seriously and a commitment we share with you.

**No School – Teacher Conference Day and Veteran’s Day**

Next Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> there will be NO SCHOOL for students. It is a Conference Day for almost 400 teachers in the Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Ulster, and Northern Westchester Regions. **Remember, too, that there will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of Veteran’s Day.**

**SDSC Outreach Harvest Coin Drive: Scaring Up Change for Good**

Through their project "Every Child Deserves a Bed," our Parish's St. Joseph's Men's Group has been building bunk beds for families and children without a bed to call their own. Since the Harvest Carnival and Dance, a Scarecrow has been "trick-or-treating" for coins in the School Lobby. This week, students are invited to fill his Jack O' Lantern with loose change. Any money collected will help offset the cost of building materials and mattresses. For more ways to help, please contact Eric Winogradoff at [stjosephsmen@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsmen@gmail.com). Thank you!

**THANK YOU to Harvest Carnival and Dance Committees**

Special thank you to all those who were involved in providing our students in Grades K-5 with a Harvest Carnival experience and our students in Grades 6-8 with a Harvest Dance! **Many hands made light work!** Special thank you to our eighth grade moms, our PSA board and the many who helped in any way to organize, coordinate, decorate, clean up, provide refreshments, etc. for both of the events! All those who participated enjoyed the celebrations of fun! I am especially grateful to each of you!

**IMPORTANT NOTE: EDUCATE (the old Cornerstone) Parent Component**

Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to access the PARENT COMPONENT OF TADS (the old CORNERSTONE) to review your children’s progress these past two months. If you remember, Progress Reports no longer go home with the students because you now have direct access to your children’s grades on this website. Please be sure to review your children’s progress this week. The 1<sup>st</sup> marking period closes next week on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The **Parent Component of Cornerstone will be closed from Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> when it will be reopened for you to view your children’s report cards.** Remember that you will receive your children’s report cards electronically. Hard copies of report cards will not be sent home. Please bring a copy to the meeting with your child’s teacher.

**Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from **6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** and on **Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Remember that all financial requirements must be met by November 15<sup>th</sup> in order for your children in Grades K-8 to conference with your children’s teachers or to receive their first quarter report cards.

**Saint Columba Confirmation Meetings**

There will be a Confirmation Parent meeting on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. and on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the school gym for parents of children making their Confirmation this year. Parents need to attend only one of these meetings.

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**To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven  
Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.**

**A TIME TO HEAL**

Anne Culkin (*mother of Cathy Martin and great grandmother of Michael O’Hearn*), Janice Prostack (*sister of Sr. Kathleen battling cancer*), Nicholas D’Alessandro (*father of Olivia and Nick D’Alessandro*), and Charlie Gray (*son-in-law of a parishioner*), and the many who are sick and suffering at this time.

**SDSC Outreach**

## **Harvest Coin Drive**

# Let's Scare Up

 **CHANGE**

# for Good!



to benefit

**"Every Child  
Deserves a Bed"**

***Help Fill the Jack O' Lantern to the Top!***

**Begins October 28 at Harvest Carnival & Dance**

**To learn more, contact [stjosephsmen@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsmen@gmail.com)**