

# St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

## Family Newsletter

Week of October 29- November 2, 2018



### NEWS & NOTES

#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Parents/Guardians need to schedule appointments electronically using the links below. The sign-up links can also be found on the school website under For Parents/PT Conferences. **For students in Grades 5-8, please schedule an appointment with your child's homeroom teacher.**

<a href="#">Kindergarten</a>	<a href="#">Grade 3</a>	<a href="#">Grade 6</a>
<a href="#">Grade 1</a>	<a href="#">Grade 4</a>	<a href="#">Grade 7</a>
<a href="#">Grade 2</a>	<a href="#">Grade 5</a>	<a href="#">Grade 8</a>

#### EDUCATE Parent Portal Closes this Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

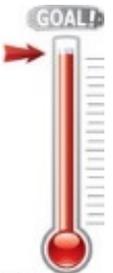
As you prepare for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences, please take a moment to review your child's academic progress. The portal can be accessed from the School App or under the "For Parents" Tab on the school website. Questions or need a password reset? Contact Mrs. Marrero at 845-227-7777 or [bmarrero@stcolumba.net](mailto:bmarrero@stcolumba.net). **The Parent Portal will close this Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> so that teachers may begin to prepare the First Quarter Report Cards.** Remember that all tuition and After School Program accounts must be current by November 15<sup>th</sup> in order to receive Report Cards.

#### SDSC Annual Walk-a-thon – ALMOST THERE!!



We have raised \$10,263 so far through the SDSC Annual Walk-a-thon! Thank you! We have reached **98%** of our goal of **\$10,500!** Remember if we reach our school-wide goal of \$10,500, the entire school will receive a week's worth of NUT Awards.

Plus, each class that has 100% participation will participate in the legendary SDSC Summer Ice Cream Party! **No donation is too little.** If you have not contributed all ready, **can you chip in \$1, \$5 or \$10 to help us reach our goal?** If we collect just a little over \$1 per student right now, we will reach or target. **Please return all Walk-a-Thon contributions by this Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Individual NUT Awards will be distributed the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>.**



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### Feast of All Saints - Wednesday, November 1

We will celebrate the Feast of All Saints as a School community with a special Mass at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1. Remember this is a holy day of obligation. All are welcome! Thank you Mrs. Sheridan and the seventh grade class for coordinating the Liturgy.



##### Grade 8 TACHS Exam –Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Our Grade 8 students will be out this Friday for the Test for Admission to Catholic High Schools ("TACHS"). This test, in addition to their grades at SDSC, determines eligibility for admission to Catholic High Schools and academic scholarships. Please remember them in your prayers and wish them well! All students *who take the exam* are to meet at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in **full winter school uniform** and will be excused for their absence from SDSC.

##### Altar Rosary Society Craft Fair – Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>



The Altar Rosary Society's 45<sup>th</sup> annual HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR will be held at SDSC on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be over 50 tables of handcrafted items. Also there will be numerous raffles, a baked goods table, a treasure chest table, and much more! The Altar Rosary Society generously supports SDSC every year, so please consider attending the craft fair.

## “Ryan’Story” Student Bullying Assembly - Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

St. Denis-Columba School has implemented a comprehensive bullying prevention program. We are committed to taking serious, proactive steps to curb a problem that is found in schools everywhere. Our efforts this year have focused on raising awareness about bullying and cyber bullying with students and parents. We will be hosting an assembly for Grades 5-8. Please refer to the attached letter from Sr. Kathleen that provides details about the Assembly. This Assembly has been made possible through funds raised by the SDSC PSA. Thank you!

## Anti-Bullying Parent Assembly – Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

Few people ever suspect their child is a bully or is being bullied. Worse, no one ever believes that their child might deal with the challenges of growing up through suicide. Sadly, these tragedies **do** happen, and they have happened **in our local community**. **ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD ATTEND THIS ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY FOR PARENTS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.** **For every family who attends this assembly, the child(ren) in that family will receive a NUT Award (No Uniform Today) to be used on a day of their choice.** With the explosion of electronic media, cyberbullying often begins at a very early age. This information is important for parents of ALL students, regardless of the child’s age. We need to take a stand as a school and faith community and together work to put an end to bullying and its devastating effects – for our children!

## Thanksgiving Food Drive –November 5-16

The SDSC PSA Outreach Committee will again host the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for our St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. In addition to food, the Pantry always needs toiletries and personal care items. Thank You!

## No Busing –Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

There will be **NO BUSING** for students next Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Please use the bus lane and pull forward to the Religious Education entrance to drop off students. *If you would like to get out of the car to assist your children with back packs, etc., please park your car in the parking lot so that traffic is not held up in the drop off lane.* Carpooling is also encouraged to reduce traffic congestion.



## LifeTouch Pictures

Representatives from Life Touch School Pictures will be here next Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> to take individual pictures of the students in Grades K-8. **ALL students must wear their complete winter school uniform for both their individual pictures.**



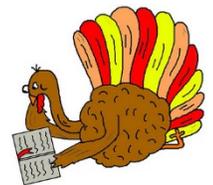
## Family BINGO and Pasta Dinner – Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>

The SDSC PSA will be hosting a Family Dinner & Bingo Night on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for an enjoyable evening and take a night off from cooking! The cost is \$15 per adult; \$10 per child or \$50 for an immediate family. Dinner will be catered by Tiramisu Ristorante and will include salad, bread, pasta, meatballs, chicken fingers, dessert and beverage. Each ticket includes a 5-game Bingo sheet. Additional Bingo cards will be available for purchase. See the school website or the attached form.



## Storytime – November 10<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Fisher and the SDSC Storytellers will present a Thanksgiving edition of Storytime to children in Pre-K through Grade 2 on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. here at SDSC. Storytime features puppet shows, storytelling, interactive music, singing and dancing. Storytime is free and is open to all, so bring a friend!



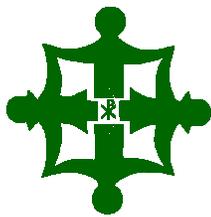
## No School – November 12<sup>th</sup>

There will be no school next Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran’s Day. Please remember in your prayers all of those who have served our country in the Armed Forces.

## Turn Your Black Friday and Cyber Monday Shopping into Big Bucks for SDSC!

Did you know you can raise money for SDSC every time you shop at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)? Simply use the Amazon link on the school website or SDSC App every time you shop. If you are an Amazon Prime Member, all of your Prime benefits still apply! SDSC receives up to 10% of every purchase you make! Please remember to use the SDSC link as you begin your Christmas Shopping. SDSC does not receive your individual purchase data, just bonuses for your purchases!





*A Holy Ground of  
Loving and Learning*

# *Saint Denis-Saint Columba School*

*849 Route 82 PO Box 368 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533  
Tel: 845-227-7777 Fax: 845-226-8470 Website: [www.stcolumba.net](http://www.stcolumba.net)*

October 24, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know St. Denis-Columba School has implemented a comprehensive bullying prevention program. We are committed to taking serious, proactive steps to curb a problem that is found in schools everywhere. Our efforts this year have focused on raising awareness about bullying and cyber bullying with students and parents.

We have recruited Mr. John Halligan to conduct a presentation on November 5<sup>th</sup> for our students in Grades 5-8. He will relay his own tragic experience as a Dad whose 13-year old son took his own life in 2003 after incessant bullying by peers since the fifth grade, both in school and online. Mr. Halligan further shares that Ryan wrestled with underlying mental health issues and depression. These factors, too, contributed to Ryan's vulnerability and ultimate suicide. His story is riveting and powerful, and reminds students that there is a face, a person, a heart, on the other end of the screen.

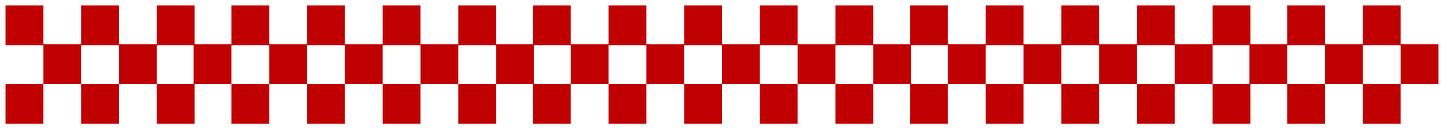
Mr. Halligan's presentation will begin with a short video collection of home movie clips and pictures of Ryan. He will then begin to tell the story of Ryan and the factors that led up to his son's suicide. The students will gain a perspective from inside the family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyber bullying. They will also gain awareness about the signs and risks of teenage suicide and how best to help a friend. As part of Mr. Halligan's presentation students will have the chance to ask him questions. We encourage you to visit a website named for his son: [www.RyansStory.org](http://www.RyansStory.org) for more information. Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, we wanted to inform you about it in advance. After the presentation we encourage you to ask your child(ren) about the presentation and discuss it together.

Mr. Halligan will be conducting a similar presentation for parents the evening of Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. **ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED.** We *strongly* recommend that you come to hear John Halligan's story. His message is that important! We need to take a stand as a school and faith community and together work to put an end to bullying and its devastating effects – for our children! Babysitting will be provided that evening, if needed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sr. Kathleen Marie, CR at the school.

Sincerely,

*Sr. Kathleen Marie, CR*

Sr. Kathleen Marie, CR  
Principal



**PSA Family Dinner &  
Bingo Night  
Friday, November 9th**



**6:00—8:00 PM**

**St. Denis- St. Columba School will be hosting a Family Dinner & Bingo Night on Friday, November 9th 2018. Come join us for an enjoyable evening and take a night off from cooking!**

**Dinner and Event**

(Includes Salad, Bread, Pasta , Meatballs, Chicken Fingers, Dessert and Beverage)  
Food is being provided by Tiramisu Restaurant

**Cost:** \$15 Adults, \$10 Child

**Family Cost:** \$50 (immediate family)

Each ticket includes a 5 game Bingo sheet. Additional Bingo cards will be available for purchase. Join in for a chance to win some of our fun prizes!

Kindly return your RSVP by Tuesday, November 6th to main office marked 'BINGO'

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

# of Adult Dinner tickets (\$15): \_\_\_\_\_

# of Child Dinner tickets (\$10): \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Family Ticket (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Purchase: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: St. Denis-St. Columba School