



Saint James
Elementary School

30 Peters Place
Red Bank, NJ 07701

January 1, 2015

Dear Saint James Families, Teachers and Staff:

Welcome 2015! As we begin a New Year, thank you doesn't even begin to show the depth of our appreciation for all you do to make Saint James Elementary School the amazing place we have chosen to send our children for their education. This is a daily group effort, and each of us plays a very important role.

The list of people to thank is long – PTA Officers and Executive Board, SJAA Board, our Royal Dads, Grade Parents, every volunteer at every school function and sporting event including coaches and event chairs, our parent volunteers showing up daily during school hours, our business office staff, our Administration, our wonderful teachers, our school nurses, our cafeteria staff, our maintenance staff, and, of course, Monsignor Lowery, Father Ariel and Father Mark.

We entered the 2014-2015 School Year with major changes, and we prayed and asked for guidance to help us carry out these plans. We are truly grateful with the progress so far, and we look forward to evolving and growing in the future.

On behalf of the Saint James Elementary School PTA Officers and Executive Board, I wish all a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Paula Pangilinan
PTA President

p.s. Please take a moment to thank those who made our Christmas events the huge successes they were – Breakfast with Santa, Grandparents Tea, Book Fair, Secret Santa Shop, Christmas Caroling, Operation Christmas Child and the Stocking Stuffers.

Book Fair

Meghan Lupo ran a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair the week we returned from Thanksgiving break, staying open on our Breakfast with Santa and Grandparents Tea weekend. Our proceeds will be used toward purchasing new Social Studies textbooks. Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted at the Book Fair during the school day and on the weekend: Emily Massel, Collette Westor, Beth Miro, Flora Zavoles, Kim Vowteras, Laurie Williams, Cassie Mahoney and Dymphna Murrer.

Secret Santa Shop

There is no greater joy than watching our students come to the Secret Santa Shop to purchase gifts for family and friends. Their hearts are huge, their generosity unmatched. Although not a fundraiser, we raised over \$400 that will be placed into the PTA general fund and used for future programs. Thank you to Maria Rimmele, Meghan Lupo, Kim Vowteras, Dymphna Murrer, Ann Mazza, Flora Zavoles and Jessica Remolina for all their hard work to make the event a huge success.

Christmas Stocking Stuffers

Thank you to Maria Rimmele for offering this wonderful fundraiser. Our children love to receive a little goodie in their stockings on Christmas morning, and all proceeds benefit the facilities improvement fund at Saint James Elementary School.

Christmas Caroling at The Chelsea in Tinton Falls

Thank you Elaine Goumas, Lisa Goga and Dulce Arce for organizing this annual event. It was a great success with the best attendance ever. The children sang their hearts out, and we are so proud of our Saint James families. We thank all for their support as we work to spread the love of Christ in our community!

Operation Christmas Child Box Drive

Our third annual Operation Christmas Child Box Drive was a huge success thanks to Elaine Goumas, Lisa Goga and Dulce Arce. This year Fillie Duchaine, Coordinator of Religious Education for Saint James Parish, involved the CCD students as well, and this drive was our largest drive to date. Because of the thoughtfulness and generosity of our students and families, 200 children received more than just a "red box." They received the gift of caring this Christmas.

Breakfast with Santa & Grandparents Tea

This year's event was a true match of past and future at Saint James. A big huge thank you to Mrs. DeFazio for organizing the décor, calling Santa and Mrs. Clause personally to attend, and bringing back lots of small details and inspirations from when she was a parent and PTA volunteer at Saint James Elementary School.

Our event chairs Jane McLoughlin and Theresa Crespo for Breakfast with Santa and Cassie Mahoney and Shari Gagliardo for Grandparents Tea all worked diligently to bring a winter wonderland to our students and families. We thank them for the numerous hours before, during and after the event.

Thank you to all those who set-up and cleaned-up for the weekend festivities: Thom Freeman, Terry Bolan, Pat Redmond, Jon Franznick, Kevin Kenney, Jason Corrigan, Brian Traynor, Brendan McLoughlin, Craig Seba, Tiffany Harvard, Linda Farrell, Mary Asfendis, Lauren Gallagher, Marion Corrigan, Lori and Mike Dougherty, Maureen and Craig Dolan, Mrs. DeFazio, Mrs. Fallon, Miss Nelson and Mrs. Giordano.

The weekend couldn't have gone smoothly without those who were present during to keep all running smoothly: Marian Cahill Corrigan and her gracious mother Barbara Cahill, Georgina Pugliese, Jane McLoughlin, Kristen Timpy, Maureen Dolan, Lori Dougherty, Mrs. DeFazio and Mrs. Giambatissta.

The food donations from both families and local area businesses made it possible to keep the event low cost and top-notch.

A huge thank you to all our Saint James families who donated food, including Laurie Williams, Jane McLoughlin, Tiffany Harvard, Cassie Mahoney, Lauren Gallagher, Linda Farrell, Marion Corrigan, Mary Asfendis, Danka Fretta, Melissa Terranova, Emily Massell, Heddy Pierson, Maureen Dolan, Georgina Pugliese, Jessica Meer-Reyes and many more with a wonderful additional donation of platters, cookies and turkey sandwiches from Chef Vincent Mezzapella of Facebook NYO chefmess@aol.com, 908.216.3654. Plus thank you to Starbucks for donating coffee.

Our Student Volunteers were amazing, and they reflect all that makes Saint James Elementary School so special. We thank them for all they did!

Finally, to our Administration, Business Office Staff and Teachers – you helped us every step of the way, from decorating the event magnificently, holding our hands with every little step (where many times we couldn't have done anything without your help), engaging the students so they could shop during the school day and helping them to invite their family to our weekend events. You are the unsung heroes who help us shine!

If we have inadvertently missed anyone, we sincerely apologize but thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Happy New Year!