



"Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." - Henry Ford

October 11, 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The 2021-2022 school year requires us all - students, families, and teachers - to continue to be **adaptable**. Our focus on Clearfield Street continues to teaching and learning. Face to face relationships between students and staff are being reestablished and we are seeing many, many examples of student leadership - in the classroom, under the tent, at recess, in church, and at Tune Up Philly. At Lower School and Upper School Awards ceremonies, we celebrated students who worked hard and excelled in the month of September. Students received awards for Student of the Month, Perfect Attendance, REACH/AGAPE, and more!

Episcopal Schools Week:

"Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily." (Isaiah 58:8)

This past week we celebrated Episcopal Schools Week. As an Episcopal school, we are committed to living out the values and principles of our Episcopal Identity in all areas of our common life together. Episcopalians, like all Christians, believe that our life is founded on the life of Jesus, and that as a Church we are called to offer the redeeming love of God in Christ to all people. We are a concrete expression of the Church's care for people of all ages, and of the belief that God calls us to love all God's children. This love empowers us to be lights that "break forth like the dawn" and to offer and experience healing. Each of you are a part of our Episcopal school. May God bless you as you shine your light into the world.

Enrichments: Enrichments happening now between 3:15-5:00pm are Choir, Tune Up Philly, and 8th Grade ISEE test prep. As COVID improves in our area, we are planning to increase the # of enrichments in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for information about your child's individual schedule.

Ms. Parker-Watson is leaving St. James School to begin a new job. We wish Ms. Parker-Watson the best of luck in her new career. A search is underway for a new Social Studies teacher.

FLU and COVID 19 Vaccinations: We encourage vaccination against FLU and COVID 19. Pfizer COVID vaccine is approved for ages 12 and above. Approval for ages 6-11 is expected by November 2021. Vaccinations reduce severity of COVID infections, hospitalization, death and lingering health issues. Insurance covers pediatric and adult vaccinations.

Please sign up for Flu & COVID at school! Sign up information coming to *Black Excellence* folders soon!

Neighborhood sites offering COVID 19 vaccines:

- Vaccine sites are listed at www.phila.org, and www.blackdoctorsconsortium.com , which offers a calendar of walk-in clinics.
- Sayre Community Health Clinic (215) 474-4444, CVS and Rite Aid also provide vaccinations.
- There is a walk-in clinic for Covid Vaccinations at the Widener University Library, 10 am to 4 pm, every Monday, at 2808 Lehigh Avenue, 19132.

OCTOBER DENTAL CARE UPDATE This year, RMDDC program launched an online sign up process for dental care at school. The sign up process didn't work well for us at St James! We will be returning to the hard copy sign up application/consent sheets! The forms will be sent home October 11, 2021, in the *Black Excellence* folders. Please return the yellow dental form for your student(s), and we will see them on October 20, 2021. Another date will be scheduled for any additional needs.

There is an October note from Nurse Ayton in Jupiter- Please read the note and call the Wellness Center for any assistance needed! 215-226-1276, ext 118.

Uniforms: Students will receive their school ties next Friday. Ties become a part of the full uniform beginning Monday, Oct 18. There is no charge for the first tie. Replacement ties cost \$10.

- Please make sure your child comes to school each day wearing a mask.
- Uniforms can be requested on **Tuesday** and **Thursdays**. Each article of clothing is **\$10 each** and we accept only **money orders** or **checks** (no cash, please). Please allow **> 24 hours** for your request to be completed.

Student Breakfast: Student breakfast is served under the tent from 7:30-7:50 daily. Please make sure your student arrives in that window if they are in need of breakfast.

Welcome Table - Saturday from 9am-12pm and by appointment. Contact the school at 215.226.1276.

St. James School 5K on November 6th at 8:30am Students and families are invited to join and participate. See flyer in the upcoming *Black Excellence* Folder.

Tik Tok Challenge: There is a concerning national trend on Tik Tok called the 'Devious Licks Challenge', which encourages children to show off recordings of themselves damaging or stealing items in school. There are various challenges each month - they are all inappropriate and many are dangerous. These challenges disrupt our school community and I expect that no St. James student will participate in them at our school or anywhere. St. James is a community. Please talk with your child about these Tik Tok challenges and reinforce that this behavior is absolutely unacceptable at St. James. Thank you for your commitment to the St. James community and entrusting us with your child's education.

Contact me at any time with suggestions or questions. Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Mr. McDonough
215-226-1276