

# St. Joseph School Newsletter

June 4, 2009

Email: [schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org)

Website: [www.stjosephwaconia.org](http://www.stjosephwaconia.org)

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Fax: 952-442-3719

Attendance Line: 952-442-3711

Dear Families,

Thank you for all you have done make this a successful year. Without you and your support, St. Joseph would not be all that it is.

Have a blessed, fun filled summer. See you at the family picnic.

Maggie

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## June 2009

4-7 – Paper Drive (school parking lot)

4 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Mass 5:30 pm

5 – **Last Day of School** – Clean Up Day – Out of Uniform

5- Kindergarten graduation 5:00 pm

5 – All School Picnic 5:30 pm – school park & cafeteria

10 – School Board Mtg – 6:30 pm

22-26 – Vacation Bible School

## July 2009

Summer Mailing

## August 2009

22-23 – Renaissance Festival

29-30 – Renaissance Festival

Open House

## September 2009

8 – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

19 – Nickle Dickle Day

19 – 3 on 3 Basketball tournament

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### Thank You – Thank You – Thank You

The staff at St. Joe's would like to thank Mr. Bob Lamkin for delivering the cans to the recycling center for the past several years.

### Thank You – Thank You – Thank You

The staff at St. Joe's would like to thank the Boogie Blast Committee: Rita Yetzer, Missy Lano, Mary Stenerson, Jackie Jager, Kim Heenie and the many, many volunteers that went above and beyond to make the event successful. We are proud to have parents & families that support our school so diligently.

### 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Please save Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, for the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.

St. Joe's athletic board sponsors this tournament that attracts hundreds of basketball players and has become an important part of Nickle Dickle Day. This event is the largest contributor of funds to our athletic department. Please sign up to volunteer at the Summer open house and help make this year's tournament a success.

### Fair Share

**REMINDER - Outstanding Fair Share** balances are due by the Friday, June 5. Please contact the school office at 442-4500 if you have concerns or questions.

### Family Picnic – June 5

Please join us for our annual St. Joseph Catholic School Family picnic. The picnic will be held on our own playground with the picnic meal being served out of the Education Center at 5:30 pm. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and/or picnic blankets.

### From the Office:

**Yearbooks:** The yearbooks are in and they look great! If you did not pre-order a yearbook there are some available in the office for \$15.00 each. First come, first serve!

**Buckets & Sponge:** Please send a bucket and sponge to school with your child on Friday. Students will do their part in cleaning their desks after a year of learning!

### Health Office

Parents, please remember to pick up your children's medications from the Health Office on or before Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school. Any meds left at the end of the school year will be discarded. Parents of incoming kindergartners and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, remember to update your children's immunizations this summer.

### **KWIK Trip**

You can support St. Joe's by purchasing KWIK trip cards. 20% of what you purchase/sell in Kwik Trip gift cards can be allocated towards one of the following:

- o St. Joseph's General Fund
- o Your family's 2009-2010 Fair Share commitment
- o Class Trip General Fund
  - 2010
  - 2011
  - 2012
- o ½ allocated to your family's Fair Share commitment and ½ to the class trip general fund for graduating year 2010, 2011 or 2012.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the school office 442-4500.

### **Marathon Planning to BEGIN!**

Now is the time we are beginning to think about the 2009 Marathon! Our former co-chairs, Katie Miller and Laura Thompson, have retired this year and we graciously thank them for their previous leadership on this large fundraiser for our school. In preparation for the 2009 event, we are looking for new leadership to help us in continuing to make this event a great success and experience for our students, families and community. The plan is to restructure the leadership needed to carry out this event and invite more parents to join us in performing small jobs to get the work done. We are looking for two co-chairs to lead a Marathon committee with our President, Mrs. Woodard. The chairs would not be doing all of the work, but instead coordinating the efforts of many committee members – each with their own smaller task to complete. We are also seeking volunteers to be committee members and take on the various tasks needed to make the event a success. Please contact Mrs. Woodard at [dwoodard@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:dwoodard@stjosephwaconia.org) or 442-3716 to offer your hand as a member of the Marathon committee. Your time and talents are much appreciated!

### **Paper Drive**

Please save your paper for our paper drive! We are collecting newspapers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, grocery bags, corrugated boxes, business papers, folding cartons (cereal, cake mix, crackers, tissue, etc), and paper egg cartons. The paper drive will take place **June 4-7**. Hours are: Thursday/Friday 2:30-6:00 pm and Saturday/Sunday 8:00 – 12:00 pm. The truck will be located in the school parking lot. Thank you for your support.

### **Saints, Inc**

BLAST OFF THIS SUMMER WITH SAINTS, INC!

Need somewhere fun for your child to go this summer? Send them to Saints, Inc! We have fun daily activities as well as weekly field trips and trips to the beach. Sign up today! All children grades Kindergarten-Grade 7 are welcome, tell your friends.

### **Schoolkidz Kits**

"Thank you" to everyone who ordered Schoolkidz kits this year. We raised \$569.45. It's down considerably from the past few years, but the service and timesaving value is Priceless to all those who participated. If you ordered a schoolkidz kit please watch in the summer mailing packet for "pre-open house pickup dates".

### **Summer Courses at St. Joe!**

I have been asked to look at offering some summer enrichment programs for our students. I am aware that this is late in the game, but I have identified a few opportunities for our students. Before I announce what is in the works, I want to ask if there are any parents out there with skills they would like to share with our students and make a little money on the side. Do you have a skill or talent that you could share with our students? If so, consider teaching a mini summer course for a day or a few days. Contact Donna Woodard, President to discuss this opportunity further. (442-3716 / [dwoodard@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:dwoodard@stjosephwaconia.org))

### **Uniforms**

When you are purchasing uniforms this summer, please remember the uniform policy rules. No tight pants, short, or shirts and no extra pockets on pants or shorts. You may purchase uniforms at Felicities, Old Navy, Sears, Land's End, or Kohls to name a few. If you have questions about the uniform policy, please see Appendix 5.2, St. Joseph School Dress Code in the Family Handbook.

Please watch your summer mailing/email for the new uniform closet that St. Joe's will have open year round for your uniform needs. You can drop off old uniforms and/or pick up gently used uniforms. What a great way to save money!

USB Trail  
Fort Footage  
Presentation Plains  
Red-Eye Cave  
iPod Dock

# Camp

All trails lead to creativity.

Sign up now ▶

**Apple Camp: Only at the Apple Retail Store.**  
Your kids could talk about what they did this summer—or just press Play. At Apple Camp, kids ages 8–12 learn how to do cool stuff on a Mac: make a movie, show off photos like a pro, write and record a song, or create a multimedia presentation. You can sign up for as many three-hour workshops as you like. But space is limited, so do it soon. Then get ready for an adventure.

[http://www.apple.com/retail/camp/?cid=CDM-US-DM-P0007896-146586&Email\\_PageName=P0007896-146586&Email\\_OID=533259&cp=146586&sr=em](http://www.apple.com/retail/camp/?cid=CDM-US-DM-P0007896-146586&Email_PageName=P0007896-146586&Email_OID=533259&cp=146586&sr=em)

**6-12th graders: Stop by St. Joe's on Tuesdays in June between 3-5pm for  
YOUTH MINISTRY SPORTS & STUFF**

**June 9** OUTDOOR SPORTS (basketball & kickball)

**June 16** BEACH SPORTS (volleyball & Frisbee)

**June 23** ICE CREAM SUNDAES & SPORTS

**June 30** INDOOR SPORTS & DECORATING  
THE YOUTH ROOM (air hockey & fuseball)

Come to play, watch or just hang out! No registration or fees required...  
Questions? Contact: Stephanie 442-3708 OR [scrowley@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:scrowley@stjosephwaconia.org)

# Summer 2009 Kwik Trip Scrip Order Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please apply to St. Joseph's General Fund.
- Please apply to my Fair Share 09-10.
- Please apply to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip general fund:  
Class of 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2012 \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Please apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  to my Fair Share and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip general fund.  
Class of 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ Class of 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Denomination:</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$20.00	_____	_____
\$50.00	_____	_____
\$100.00	_____	_____
	<b>Order Total</b>	_____

Stop by the parish office Mon-Thurs (8:30am - 4:00pm) to purchase Kwik Trip Cards

Please make checks payable to: St. Joseph School

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# Beginning to think MARATHON!

## Faith in Action 2009

We are seeking individuals and teams of parents to be a part of our Marathon committee for the 2009 event! The duties that need to be done have been divided into smaller tasks and we are inviting you to prayerfully consider where you can share your time and talents with St. Joseph. Below is a list of duties identified. If you are able to help us out in any of these areas or would like to discuss one further, please contact Donna Woodard, our school president. ([dwoodard@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:dwoodard@stjosephwaconia.org) / 442-3716)

Chair (1 year) – Committee Oversight

Co-Chair (2 year) – Weekly Communication

T-Shirts – **Katie Miller**

Raking Project

St. Joseph Coordinator

St. Boni Coordinator

St. Victoria Coordinator

Food Shelf

Classroom Project Coordinator – Home and School Room Parents

Food

Morning Snack and Drink

Lunch

Afternoon Snack and Drink

Finances

Income

Pledges

Volunteer Coordinator

Faculty Liaison

Transportation

Bussing

Permission Slips

Prizes and Incentives

Feedback and Thank you

Public Relations

Advertising / Other

Parish Outreach / Masses

Alumni Communication / Outreach

Spirit Committee

Spirit Week

Pep Rallies

Day of Opening

Day of Committee (little details)

Check In

Artwork / School Décor

June 4, 2009

Dear School Families:

Please take a look at the attached list of volunteer coordinators. If your name appears, you have graciously agreed to coordinate that event this coming 2009-10 school year. Many thanks are sent your way from the Home and School Team.

As you can see, there are some coordinator spots that have opened up and some requesting job shadows (underlined) for the next school year. If you are interested but just don't want to do it alone let us know. Maybe someone else feels that way too and you can work it out together. You just might meet other parents and make some great friends along the way.

There are a couple ways to let us know you are interested. E-mail us through the school web site ([schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org)) or complete this form and send it to the school office in an envelope marked "Home & School".

Thanks for all you have done, and all that you will do for the kids at St. Joseph School.

Sincerely,

Home & School Team Members  
Gail Heldt & Shauna Sokolis (2007-09)

**HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**  
**VOLUNTEER COORDINDATORS LIST 2009-10**

<u>Coordinator Name(s)</u>	<u>Need Job Shadow</u>
<u>Home &amp; School Team</u>	_____x2
<u>Box Tops for Education/Tyson</u>	Traci Schrempp
<u>Boogie Blast</u>	_____x2
<u>Campbell's Labels</u>	Ruth Gregoire
<u>Can Recycling</u>	_____x1
<u>Catholic Schools Week</u>	Nova Bradshaw _____x2
<u>Dishwashing Scheduler</u>	_____x2
<u>Eight Grade Graduation</u>	Nichol Kirsch, Lisa Nielsen _____x6
<u>Family Fun Nights</u>	_____x2
<u>Family Picnic</u>	Toni Van Eyll, _____x2
<u>Kemp's Give em Five</u>	Sara Leivermann
<u>Little Caesar's</u>	Dee Thew _____x2
<u>Marathon Coordinator</u>	_____x2 _____x2
<u>Media Center Volunteers</u>	Karyn Willenbring
<u>New Family Contacts</u>	Kristi Bueltel
<u>Open House Ice Cream Social</u>	Julie Klima
<u>Premier/Valu Cards</u>	Jill Flood and Nova Bradshaw
<u>Renaissance Festival</u>	Jackie Nordick
<u>Scholastic Book Fair</u>	Shanna Schiffler, Karyn Willenbring, Dee Thew
<u>School Scrapbook</u>	Jackie Nordick and Traci Schrempp
<u>School Pride Merchandise</u>	Pam Schmitt, Amy Leonard & Kari Hanson
<u>Staff Christmas Presents</u>	Jackie Nordick
<u>Teacher Meals</u>	Kathleen Schultz
<u>Uniform Exchanges</u>	Julie Palattao
<u>Uniform Sweatshirts</u>	Katie Reichenberger & Danielle Young

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Heldt or Shauna Sokolis.

# Smart Ways to Spend the Summer

## Learning Activities for Families

Brought to you by the brain-training experts at LearningRx

The “summer slide” may sound like fun, but it’s definitely something you’ll want to keep your kids far away from this summer! It’s a phenomenon teachers know all too well – the loss of knowledge and ability that typically occurs when formal education stops during the summer months.

- The U.S. Department of Education reports that, on average, children are set back by 25% in reading skills each summer.
- The average student loses approximately 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in math computation skills over the summer months.
- Research shows ALL young people experience learning losses when they don’t engage in educational activities during the summer.
- Teachers typically spend 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching or reviewing material that students have forgotten over summer break.

In many ways, the brain is like a muscle and the old adage “use it or lose it” certainly holds true. Mental training can improve the brain, just as physical exercise can improve the body. So, here are some tips to keep your kids from “losing it” over summer break.

Simply getting your child to read every day is a great way to slow the summer slide. According to Scholastic Parents Online, research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, make sure they’re the right level – not too hard and not too easy.

Many other simple, easy and fun activities can help you keep your kids off the summer slide, and possibly even make school easier for them when they return. These exercises keep the brain energized while building cognitive skills, the underlying mental abilities needed to learn. Some of these activities incorporate physical elements, some are perfect games to play in the car, and some are a great alternative to a video game when your child’s simply too hot, too tired, or too sunburned to play outside.

When playing games with kids, parents should focus on seven major learning skills: attention, working memory, processing speed, long-term memory, logic and reasoning, auditory processing, and visual processing.



# Low-cost, store-bought brain games

Many store-bought games can help improve a wide variety of cognitive skills. You may already have some of these and not know how valuable they are when it comes to growing brain skills. Many of these games are available at Toy World in Chanhassen and Wayzata.

**Tangoes** – This competitive tangrams game has varying levels of difficulty. People can race against the clock or each other. Many versions are available in travel-compatible cases. Tangrams help with visualization, memory, attention, and logic and reasoning.

**USBORNE Search Book Series** – Or any of the knock-offs in book, poster, or 3-D form can generally be adapted to any age group. These exercises build divided attention, selective attention and visual processing skills.

**Simon** – The original echo game, “Simon,” is great for auditory processing, memory and processing speed.

**Mastermind for Kids** – This new version of an old classic improves logic and reasoning.

**Stratego, Chess and Checkers** – For older kids, board games like Stratego, Chess and Checkers can grow mental tools like planning, memory, comprehension and focus.

**Phonics Flashcards** – For very young kids, phonics flashcards can be a great springboard to early reading skills, like sound analysis, sound blending and segmenting.

**Bop-It Extreme** – This is a fun tool for building many cognitive skills, including auditory processing, logic and reasoning, processing speed, planning, and selective attention.

**Legos** – They’re not exactly cheap, but chances are you already have some! Legos are excellent for deductive reasoning, planning, and problem solving.

**Slapjack** – This age-old card game helps with divided attention, processing speed, short-term memory and visual processing.

**Speed Cards** – Take a regular deck of cards and time your child as they separate it into two piles (red and black) or four piles (spades, hearts, clubs, diamonds). Time them, and as they get faster, try to distract them, or give them math problems to solve as they’re working. This will improve processing speed, divided attention, selective attention and visual processing.

For information on many more games and the brain skills they build, visit [www.unlocktheeinsteininside.com](http://www.unlocktheeinsteininside.com) and download the free Games for Skills chart.

# No-Cost, Home-Created Brain Games and Activities

Plenty of free games can also increase cognitive abilities and keep kids off the “summer slide”. The trick is to find several that are age-appropriate and that your kids find fun. Here are a few favorites from the brain-training experts at LearningRx.

**Paperless Tic-Tac-Toe:** Take the classic game of tic-tac-toe and assign each box a number. Have your child visualize this grid in her mind and call off the box number in which she wants to place her mark. Or, try playing tic-tac-toe by drawing the grid in the air and pointing to the box where you want to place your mark. The game is over when someone wins with three in a row, or when someone loses by taking an occupied spot.

***What it helps:*** Memory, visualization, planning, focus, problem solving

**20 Questions:** Think of a person or object and give your child 20 chances to narrow down what you’re thinking of by asking yes or no questions. To help them improve their logic and reasoning, teach them to strategize by using questions that will significantly narrow down the categories, such as “Are they alive?” or “Do we have one at our house?”

**What it helps:** Logic, reasoning, memory

**Rhyme Time:** Have your child choose four rhyming words and use them to create a poem. For younger kids, simply say a word, then take turns coming up with words that rhyme with it.

**What it helps:** Auditory analysis, verbal rhythm, memory

**Make a Mental Movie:** Start with a subject like a puppy and then have your child help create what the puppy looks like; his size, shape, color, etc. Have your child talk about where the puppy is; next to a doghouse, in the forest, etc. Then have your child add other details such as the weather or what the dog is saying. By developing pictures with color, size, perception, sound, and background, kids learn how to develop a more complete picture.

**What it helps:** Comprehension, memory

**The Twinkle Twinkle song:** Have your child replace the words to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” with state capitals. Want a twist for older kids? Have them include a rhyme at the end of each sentence. “Montpelier is the capital of Vermont state, and I think Phoenix, Arizona is great...”

**What it helps:** Mnemonics, memory, strategy, rhyming

**Needle in a Haystack:** Take a page from a newspaper and time your child as she circles all occurrences of a specific letter. Identify which sound symbols are more easily found than others and focus on increasing both accuracy and speed.

**What it helps:** Visual processing speed, sustained attention

# Physical Exercises that Energize the Mind and Body

No reason you can't incorporate brain training into every day activities! These exercises require a trip to the great outdoors, or at least a move off the couch. These were created by LearningRx, the brain training experts. Give them a try, and then come up with your own variations.

**Counting Counts** – Encourage your child to count by 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's etc. when they go up or down stairs. He should say the next number aloud every time his foot hits the floor. This also works while dribbling a basketball (next number every time the ball hits the floor), while swinging on a swing set (next number every time on the forward peak), and while jumping rope (new sum every time the rope hits the ground). This helps with math fluency, divided attention, and memory. Doing it on-beat to an activity will build processing speed as it forces the brain to quickly come up with the answer.

Another version involving lists creates endless possibilities. On beat to an activity, name 15 words that start with "B", nine types of sports, seven kinds of candy, etc.

**Trampoline Time** – Use this time to work on math facts, states and capitals or opposites. This should be rapid-fire. Every time your child bounces they provide an answer, then you immediately give the next prompt, which they have to answer on the following bounce. For example, you say "Montana", they respond "Helena" on the next bounce. Then you say "Alaska", and they respond "Juneau" on the next bounce. This builds the mental skills of divided attention and processing speed.

To add a memory aspect, quickly give your child five states in a row, and they give the five capitals in order on their next five bounces.

For a math variation, give a constant number to add, such as five. You say three, she says eight. You say one, she says six. This works will with multiplication too.

**Jacks** – This brain-building playground game originated hundreds of years ago and is still a winner. The old-fashioned version with a rubber-ball and 10 spiked "jacks" will help build visual processing skills, processing speed and attention. To work on divided attention, have your child count, recite a poem, or give directions while taking her turn. To build selective attention, try to distract your child while she's playing with silly questions, funny faces or obnoxious noises.

**Abstract Storytelling** – Have your child demonstrate a story, such as "Humpty Dumpty," by using objects from around the house like paper clips, cups, pillows, chairs, etc. to represent items and thoughts from the story. For older kids, make this more difficult by having your child demonstrate more abstract thoughts. Adages, clichés, or famous quotes work well, such as "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." or "No news is good news." This helps with executive thinking, comprehension, and visual processing.

# Computer Games that Count

When the lazy afternoons of summer come calling, don't waste them on brain-draining video games. Instead, turn to these free brain-building online games that entertain and help grow cognitive skills at the same time. This list has something for every interest and age group and is provided by LearningRx, the brain training experts.

1. Primary Games – [www.primarygames.com](http://www.primarygames.com)

A gold mine of fun games including sliders, swappers, tangrams and strategy puzzles, plus a teacher's key to let you know which games work best for which ages.

2. Games for the Brain – [www.gamesforthebrain.com](http://www.gamesforthebrain.com)

If your kid loves games, this is one of the best sites on the Web. A wide variety includes Mahjongg Solitaire, Chinese Checkers, trivia games and even crime scene scenarios.

3. Fun Brain – [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

This colorful site lets you search games by grade or browse by subject. Web books and comics, movies, classic fun brain games (grammar, math, reading), and bold graphics and popular cartoon characters keep kids interested.

4. Kaboose – <http://education.kaboose.com/tutoring/brain-index.html>

The tutoring section of this Web site offers educational games for kids, as well as word puzzles, language builders, online stories, musical games and mazes.

5. LearningRx – [www.learningrx.com](http://www.learningrx.com)

This site for LearningRx, the national "brain-training" franchise system, offers free downloadable copies of *Think Magazine* and *LearningRx Magazine* that contain fun brain-building games to take on the road or use at home.

6. The Kidz Page – [www.thekidzpage.com/freekidsgames/](http://www.thekidzpage.com/freekidsgames/)

You can find clip art, puzzles and games for kids of all ages including strategy, word, sports and memory games, board games, card games and more.

7. Kids Sites – [www.KidsSites.com](http://www.KidsSites.com)

This clearinghouse of Websites includes a section of games for younger kids.

8. Crayon Physics – [www.kloonigames.com](http://www.kloonigames.com)

This visual processing game uses your crayon-drawn objects to obey the laws of physics.

9. Math.com – [www.math.com/students/puzzles/puzzleapps.html](http://www.math.com/students/puzzles/puzzleapps.html)

This is touted as "A world of math online." Games like Peg Solitaire, a maze generator, and other math-based games are free, but registration is required.