



November 30, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to St. Joseph School website from the Race for Education Committee members! We hope that your school year at St. Joseph's is going well. We are so glad that you and your children are here and are part of our family.

As educators and parents, we are continually striving to obtain the best quality education for our students. In order to achieve that high standard at an affordable cost for every family, each year we rely on three different programs, in addition to our tuition fee, for balancing our budget.

Several years ago, a decision was made to utilize a program called "Race for Education" as one of those fundraisers. The program was developed over 30 years ago by an educator and high school principal. Instead of having our children go door to door selling products, the Race for Education allows us to integrate language skills lessons and physical fitness with an important family fun activity at Saint Joseph School. Unlike most fundraisers, all of the profit from this event will be used to help us maintain an affordable tuition at St. Joseph School. We pay no fees to any fundraising company to run this program. It is run by a staff of dedicated volunteers who give their time and talent to make it successful.

Our school will be conducting our Eleventh Annual **Race for Education** on Friday, April 30, 2010. Last year, thanks to over 98% of our families participating, our tenth Race for Education was extremely successful and grossed over \$50,000 for our school. This year our goal is 100% participation and \$55,000. We feel confident that we can reach and even exceed this incredible amount!

How does the Race for Education fundraiser work? A small commitment of your time will result in a large benefit for our school children. Parents are asked to go through their address books, Rolodex files, or daily contact lists and supply the Race for Education Committee with names and addresses. These addresses are not used for any other solicitations. Then, during school as part of language arts class, students will fill out personal mailers to each of those potential sponsors listed on your address sheet. Each student will raise funds by asking sponsors to contribute a tax-deductible gift based on the number of laps he completes or by a flat donation. The Committee then mails out the letters and it is the sponsor's decision to participate. No pressure is placed upon the sponsor to participate. Any amount of donation can be given or a pledge per lap can be made. Matching corporate donations and corporate sponsorships also help us to meet our fundraising goal. As they did last year, students and staff will walk, jog, hop, skip, etc. around the school playground as many times as possible in a one hour time period. It is important to note that this program is not a physical running race; we are "racing" toward a fundraising goal to keep tuition affordable. Small prizes are given to students as incentive to participate, rather than compete against other students.

On Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, your child(ren) will be coming home with a packet of information about the April 30<sup>th</sup> **Race for Education**. Please review the information carefully. Your participation is critical to the success of this program! If you have any questions, please contact Pat Byrnes at the school office or Chris Pawlikowski, the Race "Prep and Planning" Coordinator, or email us at [race@sjy.org](mailto:race@sjy.org). We are looking forward to a very successful Eleventh Annual **Race for Education**. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

RACE FOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE