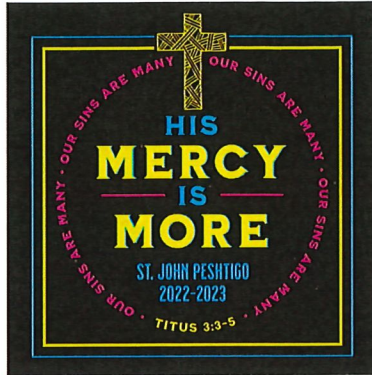
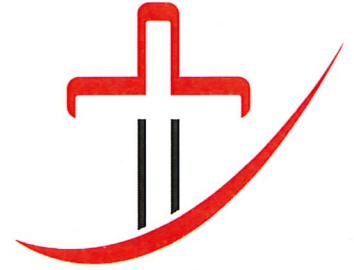


St. John Lutheran School

The Cardinal Chronicle

January 18, 2023



CEA Meeting

This Sunday, January 22, the CEA will have a meeting at school starting around 11:00 am, following our church service. The agenda for this meeting is attached and was also emailed to you last week. All our school parents are part of the CEA and we strongly encourage you to attend these valuable meetings.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 18 - Report Cards go home TODAY
- Jan. 18 - Lutheran Pioneers meeting at Zion, Peshtigo - 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Jan. 20 - Grownups, Goodies and GOD! - 7:45 am
- Jan. 20 - Chapel devotion - 8:15 am
- Jan. 20 - Hot Lunch
- Jan. 21 - Boys' Basketball vs Zion, Egg Harbor at St. Mark's, Green Bay - 11:00 am
- Jan. 22 - CEA meeting - 11:00 am at school following church service
- Jan. 27 - Record children singing for church on Jan. 29
- Feb. 3 - Social Studies Fair - 2:15 - 2:45 pm
- Feb. 5 - Social Studies project display - 11:00 - 11:30 am at school

Grownups, Goodies and God

Grownups, please join us this Friday, January 20, for a special morning of breakfast **goodies** starting at 7:45 am and then head over to church for our chapel devotion at 8:15 am where we will hear **God's Word**.

Hot Lunch

Hot lunch this week will be sloppy joes provided by the McClain family. The cost is \$2 per person. We still have two spots open for someone to serve hot lunch, now on March 31 and April 21. Please go to our Sign Up Genius on our school website if you could help us on those dates.

Heart to Heart

This month's *Heart to heart: Parent Conversations* featured in a previous issue of our WELS publication **Forward in Christ** article is entitled: *How can we support a child who is struggling?* Please take a moment to read this valuable article.

Social Studies Fair

Our Social Studies fair will be on February 3. Friends and family of the students are invited to come to view the projects from 2:15 - 2:45 pm that day. School will also be open to those who would like to see the projects on Sunday, February 5, from 11:00 - 11:30 am, following St. John's church service.

School Choice Update

The open enrollment to apply for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program begins Wednesday, February 1. Please see the note from last week's newsletter for more information. You can address any questions you may have about the program to Hannah Langebartels, our School Choice Administrator, at choiceadmin@stjohnpeshtigo.org or phone (414) 758-8607.

Recording Song for Church

On Friday, January 27, we will be recording the children in Grades K - 8 singing the song **Blest Are They**, which will be shown in church on Sunday, January 29. We ask that all the children please wear their **black** school themed T-shirts to school that day for the recording, which will be shared with our area Lutheran churches.

Mission Offering



Mission offerings will be collected during our chapel service on Fridays. Our last mission offering for the first semester that we collected for the Thai Village, Inc, was **\$42.10**, bringing the amount we will be sending to TVI to **\$414.70**. This amount, along with the offering we sent in September for their matching funds drive, brings the first semester total offering amount to **\$608.65**. Thank you for your heartfelt, generous gifts. We will choose a new mission project for our second semester and announce it at chapel this Friday.

2 Corinthians 9:11 – You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Heart to heart: Parent conversations: How can we support a child who is struggling?

 wels.net/heart-to-heart-parent-conversations-how-can-we-support-a-child-who-is-struggling



How can we support a child who is struggling?

What's the best way to support our kids when they're not the best at something? Do we reward effort and encourage them to keep trying? Steer them toward areas in which they excel? Praise mediocrity? Offer honest feedback? As with so much of parenting, the answer probably changes depending on the child and the circumstances.

This month's authors give us some go-to options when our children are struggling with the very real feelings that go along with realizing that they are not going to be the best at everything, that some things are hard. If you don't have time to read all three articles, I'd encourage you to at least read the last paragraph of each one. A wealth of godly wisdom is found in those final paragraphs.

Nicole Balza

My husband and I have raised three boys who are incredibly different from one another and have very different gifts, despite their shared DNA. It has made parenting them interesting . . . and challenging. What came so easily to one was a struggle for another. One lived for the grade school science fair and eagerly cultivated bacteria in petri dishes for weeks. The other started his project the night before it was due.

Sound familiar? As parents, how do we support our kids when they don't excel in a certain area?

First of all, remind your kids (and yourself!) not to believe everything they see on social media. A scroll through your Facebook feed will convince you that everyone else's kids are destined to be doctors, pro athletes, rocket scientists, etc. Don't buy into the lie! Discuss with your kids how social media can be about sharing "mountaintop" experiences—the perfect facade people present to the world. In reality, all kids fail, feel excluded, and struggle with self-doubt. They just might not show it.

Help your kids realize that struggles in this sinful world are inevitable. Satan has made sure of that. The important thing is what we do with those struggles. We don't let them define us; we let them teach us. Sometimes our kids' struggles will lead them down a path they never would have chosen for themselves. Help them identify the valuable life lessons that can be learned from struggles.

Remind your kids that struggles are in God's perfect plan for their lives. Wise King Solomon reminds us, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps" (Proverbs 16:9). Remember that God knows what our kids need better than we do. In our time-bound, earthly thinking, we cannot comprehend how all the disparate pieces of our kids' lives—their successes and struggles—are part of God's divine plan for them and fulfill his purposes.

Gently help your kids deal with failure. Kids no longer know how to fail! This sounds odd, but think about our society. It rewards kids with medals and trophies just for participating. Our attempts not to let any child's feelings get hurt are doing kids a disservice. When they get older, they will not always be #1 or #2 but might be #27 or #1,127. Kids need to learn how to deal with failure and how to work through the depression and anxiety they might feel when they realize they aren't #1 at everything they do. At the same time, remind your kids that the "place" or "rank" the world has assigned to them in no way changes the way you, or their heavenly Father, love and cherish them.

Help your kids identify and cultivate their God-given gifts and areas where they excel. Think about what motivates them. What makes them come alive? What can they do for hours without looking at the clock? Sometimes it's easier for us, as parents and observers, to see where our kids' gifts lie. It is our job to help them discover and use those gifts for God's glory. Remind them that God gives everyone different gifts (Romans 12:6-8) and that they shouldn't compare their gifts to the gifts of others. Assure them that God's love does not depend on their success and neither does your love for them.

Ultimately, let's pray for God's guidance in teaching our kids that their most important status is that of redeemed child of God, purchased with Jesus' blood on the cross.

Ann Jahns and her husband, Thad, have three sons and a recently emptied nest

My three teenagers experience a fair amount of worldly success in academics, sports, and music. This is not a bragging moment; it is simply an acknowledgement that God has given my kids a range of abilities, which are gifts they can't take credit for in the same way they can't take credit for their natural hair color. (Curious about this? Check out Letter 14 in *Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis.)

So, for those who are used to consistent success, what happens when they encounter something they're not naturally good at?

Well, first, we simply accept those weaknesses. Society, in the name of well-rounded kiddos, places an awful lot of pressure on them to do everything. In reality, it's refreshing to say, "We're not even going to worry about that." Not pressuring them to strive for things that aren't in their wheelhouse gives them a chance to celebrate others' success and gifts.

Then, after our kids accept their weaknesses, we encourage them not to completely accept their weaknesses(and not just because we're trying to mess with them!). The parenting cliché "You don't have to be the best, but you need to do your best" is a good one to use here.

Kids can't just blow off math or English because it's not their gift. Certain skills do need to be learned. Plus, with so many things, kids are accountable to a team or a group, so they need to work on their portion of the robotics project or practice free throws or rehearse their music. People are counting on them to contribute. This is where character is built. As kids struggle, they learn perseverance, determination, empathy, and humility. They learn that there is often a greater sense of satisfaction that comes along with hard work than from accomplishments that came easy.

Mainly, it boils down to giving thanks. We give thanks for the natural gifts God has given our kids. Then we give thanks for the lessons they learn as they work through their struggles.

Linda Buxa and her husband, Greg, have two daughters and a son.

"I'm no good at anything!"

"Sam is the best. Why can't I be like him."

"Everyone else can do it but me!"

Do these words activate your parent panic alarm? These phrases and others like them are a common and normal part of the growing process. However, as a parent I feel the need to spring into action and do something. My child feels like he/she is not good at anything. No

way! This can't happen! My natural instinct is to argue, "You are good at many things." Enter kid response: "No, I'm not." Followed by my educated, all-knowing parental response, "Yes, you are."

Perhaps in my panic of seeing my child hurting in some way, this "No, you aren't/yes you are" approach could turn into more of an argument than anything else. I have found it a little (maybe a lot) more challenging for me to take a more unnatural approach during times like this. In fact, **I have had to tell myself to STOP—and just listen.** An expression of feelings associated with not excelling in a certain area can first be acknowledged—then argued with (kidding about the arguing). Here's my secret template.

"Sounds like you felt a little (insert feeling word here) when (insert event here) happened."

It feels a bit unnatural to me, but I have found that if I do not give our kids an understanding of how they feel, nothing else I say seems to be heard. It makes me think of the accounts in Scripture when Jesus sat with the woman at the well or walked along the road to Emmaus with the disciples. He seemed to join them and express his understanding before teaching them a new way.

So what's next? I've joined my child and expressed an understanding of how he feels about not excelling in a certain area. Now it's time to debate, right? Set this child straight and tell him what he is good at and he will walk away with new confidence, right?

Maybe sometimes that approach is needed. Maybe it helps at times to minimize a mistake or encourage hard work and practice. Maybe sometimes it is an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and not the end result. Lots of helpful approaches can be used at different times and special situations. As I keep my radar up for a teachable moment, **one thing I tend to be on guard for in my kids is the sense that Mom and Dad will only love me if I am the best.** Wrong! I think there may be a sense of that conditional acceptance in all of us at times. This becomes a great opportunity for a reminder of God's unconditional love. He loves us all with our successes and failures. That's how we as parents try to use that as our guide. While we were still sinners (failures, broken, not good at anything), Christ died for us. There was nothing we had to do to earn God's love. It is unconditional.

As parents, we can remain watchful for opportunities like this to express understanding when our kids experience disappointments and do not excel in a certain area. Let's ask for the Lord's guidance to help us use the best tool of redirection at the right time and always be aware of the moments we are given to remind them of God's unconditional love.

Dan Nommensen and his wife, Kelly, have a teenage daughter and a pre-teen son.

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St. John Evangelical Lutheran School
CEA Meeting Agenda
Sunday Jan 22nd 2023 11:00 A.M.

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. School News - Principal
- V. Classroom News - Teachers
- VI. Pastor's Report
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Fundraising
 - B.
 - C.
- VIII. New Business
 - A. school choice updates
 - B. New officers
 - C. Winter outing
 - D. Family night
 - E. Serogy's
- IX. Other Business
- X. Closing Prayer

CEA Meeting 9.11.2022 Minutes

Opening prayer: Led by Pastor

Approval of 5.23.22 minutes- Minutes were sent ahead of the meeting for review. Approved Wes, 2nd Hanna M, all approved.

Treasurer's Report-

\$ 6105.87 current balance. No transactions since last meeting.

Will be writing a check for \$3500 to cover the flooring.

Approved Katie, 2nd Ella, all approved.

School News-Principal/Pastor's Report

- We are planning an accreditation site visit in March, 2023 where we hope to attain WELSSA accreditation. This is part of the WPCP (Choice) requirements. There have already been two meetings related to church and school working together.
- There will be two Christmas Eve services. The 1st service will be 12/10 at 3:00 for the school kids. The 2nd service will be with the St. John Sunday school and the school kids if they wish to participate in two services.

Classroom News-Teachers

- Mrs. Rohde- 20 children this year. Eight 3K and Twelve 4K. Super thankful for having a bathroom in the classroom, great timesaver. She has three helpers this year. Nicole Olson is helping on Mondays and Wednesdays, Diane Loll helps on Fridays and Patti Bornick helps on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Planning a field trip to Berryland Pumpkin Patch and Badger Park with Mrs. Myslik's classroom.
- Mrs. Myslik- 12 children this year. Six K, two 1st graders, four 2nd graders. So far going well. They are planning to do singing in church with the PreK children this year. This is intentional to help get the PreK children/families connected in an effort to get them to consider staying with the school as the years go on and not leave after PreK.
- Mr. Aguilar- 8 students this year, smaller class but is allowing more individual attention. They added STEM this year and so far the kids are enjoying it.
- Mrs. Aguilar –13 students this year, so far so good. She learned a new classroom management, engagement technique over the year that seems to be going well. Planning a field trip for the end of September, is a field day where the whole class is able to participate. They received smart boards over the summer that are working great!

New Business:

- Fundraising: will plan to do Seroogy sales and family entertainment night this year as they have both been successful in the past. Nicole mentioned looking into Amazon Smile. Hannah L will look into this for us as an option. Discussed having the teachers get a list of items they would like us to use the fundraising dollars for in addition to the events. Asked to consider Mrs. Aguilar's flooring next.
- School Choice updates: Our numbers are down this year. We had the big audit in August and it went well, so this coming year should go smoothly as well. We are positioned well to meet any requirements and changes need to be made related to school choice.
- Carpet/Flooring- seeking approval for \$3500. Becky 1st, Kim 2nd. All approved
- New Officers- Dawn is stepping off as secretary, this is her last meeting. Jody stepped off as Vice President. Both positions are open for the upcoming year. Will look to put together a "job description" and time commitment expectation and send out to parents asking for volunteers for these positions. Cody is on as President, but will be stepping away after this year. The CEA meets about 3-4 times a year, plans family outings and opportunities for fellowship.
- Charapata Seed Sales Open House Event: Thank you to those that volunteered to participate in this event. We need a point person to connect with Kris to get the details. He is providing the food, we just need to grill and serve it. We can then take any donations made during the event to support the CEA events. Hannah L has agreed to be the point person. We will also have a few radio spots during the event, Pastor and Wes will do the talking to promote our school.
- Fall Outing: Pizza at Badger park pavilion. Date options 10/2 or 10/9. Sue will call the city to see if we can reserve for either date. \$75 to rent the pavilion. Motion to approve \$400 for pizza and pavilion for the event. 1st Becky, 2nd Katie all approved. Will ask families to bring a side item/dessert.
- Parade: September 24th. Will ask kids/families to wear theme shirts if they are in. Cody will provide a truck and trailer. Will get a line spot soon and get it out to students so they know where to meet. Those helping to create the float/trailer will be asked to meet at Zion at 9:00. Motion to approve \$200 for candy 1st. Becky, 2nd Lisa, all approved. Decided to just go with candy and not spend time on stickers and marketing type materials as they get thrown out. Discussed that the purpose of the parade participation is to spread our message "His Mercy is More" will look at options to do this, potential to sing a song or chant during the parade, depending on where we are at in line up.

Next Meeting: To be determined

Closing prayer: led by Pastor.