St. John's Parish Day School & The Howard County Historical Society
Team up to celebrate Maryland Day!

Maryland Day was a tremendous success! Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a reality. The entire project was nothing short of brilliant! On March 25th Lower School students explored Maryland history by walking a timeline of historical events beginning with the late 1600's to present day.

St. John's students began their exploration of Maryland History by following the trail of black-eyed susans from the main lobby into the Media Center. In the Media Center, a brief introduction to Maryland history was given by a volunteer tour guide. Each student was presented with a treasure hunt booklet that correlated with the information found in the exhibits. All the children delighted in locating the people or items included in the treasure hunt. Students continued on the trail of black-eyed susans and boarded a ship sailing for Maryland. The back staircase from the media center had been transformed into a 1600’s sailing ship—WOW! Students then disembarked from the ship and landed at St. Mary’s City. A volunteer introduced the students to Native Americans living in the area. Continuing on the walking timeline, students met Sir Calvert who shared his experiences of living in the new colony, and the Revolutionary War. Exploring the Civil War included a night on the underground railroad by following quilts with sewn in messages and stars in the sky. Fast forwarding, students learned about products made in Maryland, Maryland Sports, Ocean City, Annapolis, Famous Marylanders and much, more! Everyone should celebrate Maryland Day, St. John’s style!

Special thanks to Anne Schoenhut and Liz Brunner (2nd Grade Teachers), Kim Anderson, Jenny Brown, Julia Rineman, Andy Guerin and the Howard County Historical Society for making learning so much fun!

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<th>VOLUME 2, ISSUE 26</th>
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<tr>
<td>• WorldFest, 3/31 In-school event</td>
<td>• Japan Spirit Day, 4/6</td>
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<td>• CKCS lunch orders due for April, 3/31</td>
<td>• Clean Sweep Sale, 4/8—4/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>• WorldFest, 4/1 (Family Event)</td>
<td>• Campus Clean Up, 4/9</td>
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<td>• Clean Sweep Drop Off Days, 4/3—4/6</td>
<td>• Talent Show Auditions, 4/13 &amp; 4/14</td>
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<td>• Scrips Orders Due, 4/5</td>
<td>• Dining Out, Pizzeria Uno, 4/13</td>
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<td>• Early Dismissal for EC and LS, 4/6</td>
<td>• Jr. Master Garden Club Mtg., 4/14</td>
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<td>LS dismisses at 12 pm, EC morning classes dismiss at</td>
<td>• EC Easter Parades, 4/14 &amp;4/15</td>
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<td>11:15, EC afternoon classes arrive at 1:00 pm.</td>
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Have you noticed the hearts in the school lobby? As each family contributes to the "Give From the Heart" campaign a heart will be placed with their class group and your child will be entered into a random drawing for a Build-A-Bear!

Show your confidence and support of the mission of St. John’s by making your contribution today. **We are striving for 100% participation by all of our families and staff. Your contribution of any amount will help us to achieve this goal.** Contributions can be directed to one of three specific areas: Early Childhood and K playground, Technology Improvements and/or the General Fund.

**Making a contribution is easy**—visit our website, www.stjohnspds.org and click on the Contribute tab or make your check payable to St. John’s PDS and drop your check in the lockbox outside of the Lower School office. Note your directed giving choice in the memo line.

Stop by the Annual Fund Display in the school lobby to view our wishlists for these projects.

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**Early Childhood News**

As our EC classes prepare for World Festivities, Mrs. Benzing has centered her chapels on different countries. We have learned songs and prayers from around the world. Some of our LS “buddies” have presented many interesting facts about our friends in Kenya, Germany, England and China. We look forward to hearing from Chaplain Jenni on Thursday as she shares information with us about her home land, Scotland. We’ll be visiting other countries throughout the LS classrooms on Thursday. Friday we are apart of an all school assembly featuring a group of children who form the band “Goombay”.

All children touring World Fest will travel with their “passport” as they visit the exhibits throughout the school. The passports will be stamped to indicate where children have gone.

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**Lower School News**

**Annual Talent Show**

The Annual Talent Show is on Friday, May 20 at 6:00. All Lower School students are eligible to participate. **Talent show entry forms are due April 6. Talent Show Auditions:**

Wednesday, April 13 for grades K—2 and on Thursday, April 14 for grades 3—5. Questions? Contact Kathy Dolan at kathygreg@verizon.net.

**Spirit Day: Blessings for Japan**

On Wednesday, April 6, dress in your St. John’s spirit wear or wear yellow, the color of friendship, to honor the Japanese during the difficult aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami.

At Gathering, the children will learn about a typical day of a Japanese student.

**Media Center sponsors Bookmark Contest**

In honor of National Library Week, Lower School students are invited to create a bookmark based on this year’s theme, "Create your own story @ your library". Entry forms are available from the Media Center and are due on April 1. Students will select the winner by voting for their favorite, and the winning bookmark will be distributed to students during National Library Week, April 10—16.