



St. Sava Academy
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Principal's Newsletter
October 2016

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our Holy St. Sava! Welcome to the month of October.

It is hard to believe that school has already been in session for more than a month. We are all well under way in our daily school routines and activities. All of our students have adjusted well to the new school year. Keep up the good work students! Thank you parents! Thank you teachers!

As is the case each October, this will be an eventful month with numerous events and activities planned. In addition to celebrating our school's 15th anniversary, the first field trip of the year and various fall themed lessons and activities, October also features the Fall Harvest Dance. This year's Fall Harvest event will not feature a student program due to students participating in the 15th anniversary celebration weekend. However, a dinner and dance will take place on October 15. Please invite all of your family and friends to this family-friendly gathering. Parent volunteers are still needed for this event. Please contact a Parent Network representative at pn@stsavaacademy.org to volunteer, or for more information. I look forward to seeing all of you!

October also features Bullying Prevention Month at St. Sava Academy. Schools across America have designated October as National Bullying Prevention Month. October is a period of time when schools and communities across the country unite to raise awareness of bullying prevention through events, outreach and educational activities. With this being Bullying Prevention Month, Wednesday, October 19 has been designated as a national "Unity Day" where the country unites against bullying. On this day we ask that students, parents and teachers wear the color orange whether it be an orange shirt, pants, hair ribbon, pinned ribbon, button, bracelet, necklace, just to name a few. Please refer to future correspondences regarding Bullying Prevention Month and "Unity Day" activities.

"Red Ribbon Week" is another important event that occurs in October. "Red Ribbon Week" is part of an alcohol, tobacco and drug awareness and violence prevention campaign observed annually in October in the United States. This year's "Red Ribbon Week" will take place during the week of October 24th. For more information on "Red Ribbon Week" please refer to future correspondences.

Many more activities are planned for the month of October. Please take note of the important dates and announcements page along with the St. Sava Academy policy on the American holiday of Halloween and "Unity Day" inserts. Please be reminded to check your e-mails at least once each school day. Likewise, if you have not done so already, please look up our school's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stsavaacademychicago>. From time to time pictures from school events and activities are posted on the school's Facebook page.

I wish you all a wonderful October. May God grant our students, parents and teachers many years!
Многостаљета!

Yours in Christ,

Marko Bojović
Principal

OCTOBER 2016
IMPORTANT DATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND-Saturday, October 1-Sunday, October 2, 2016**
- **PRESCHOOL & KG FARM FIELD TRIP-Tuesday, October 4, 2016**
All preschool and kindergarten students will be attending a field trip to Johansen's Farm in Bolingbrook, IL. Please ensure that your child arrives no later than the 8:25 a.m. morning arrival time. Students will be dismissed at the normal dismissal time (3:10/3:15 p.m.) Preschool students who are not scheduled to attend on Tuesdays are highly encouraged to attend on this day, if possible. KG students are expected to wear their red gym t-shirts/sweatshirts. All students should be dressed for a day outdoors.
- **1ST-7TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE FIELD MUSEUM-Thursday, October 6, 2016**
All 1st-7th grade students will be attending a field trip to the Field Museum in Downtown Chicago. Please ensure that your child arrives no later than the 8:25 a.m. morning arrival time. Students are expected to wear their red gym uniform t-shirts/sweatshirts. Students will be dismissed at the normal 3:15 p.m. dismissal time.
- **TEACHER INSTITUTE DAY-Friday, October 7, 2016 (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)**
- **COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY-Monday, October 10, 2016 (NO SCHOOL)**
- **OCTOBER TUITION PAYMENT DEADLINE-Tuesday, October 11, 2016**
Monthly tuition statements are distributed at the beginning of each month.
- **KG-7TH GRADE CASUAL DRESS & MONTHLY STUDENT ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER DAY**
Thursday, October 13, 2016 *NEW DATE*
- **FALL HARVEST DINNER-DANCE FUNDRAISER-Saturday, October 15, 2016 (6:00-9:00 p.m.)**
This year's Fall Harvest event will NOT feature a student program due to students participating in the 15th anniversary celebration weekend. However, a dinner and dance will take place on October 15. The annual Fall Harvest event is one of our major fundraisers, therefore please invite all of your family and friends to this family-friendly event. Everyone is most welcome!
- **"UNITY DAY" & CASUAL DRESS "WEAR ORANGE" DAY -Wednesday, October 19, 2016**
- **ST. SAVA ACADEMY "RED RIBBON WEEK"-Monday, October 24-Friday, October 28, 2016**
"Red Ribbon Week" is part of an alcohol, tobacco and drug awareness and violence prevention campaign observed annually in October in the United States. "Red Ribbon Week" activities are co-sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth (OCCHY) and St. Sava Academy.
- **PICTURE DAY-Tuesday, October 25, 2016**
All preschool-7th grade students are expected to be in attendance on this day as school pictures will take place. There will be individual student photos, whole class photos and an all school photo. If your preschool child is not normally scheduled to attend on Tuesdays, please send your child on this day.
- **FEAST DAY OF ST. PETKA PARASKEVA OF SERBIA & DIVINE LITURGY-Thursday, October 27, 2016**
- **END OF 1ST QUARTER MARKING PERIOD-Friday, October 28, 2016 (regular school day)**
- **FEAST DAY OF ST. LUKA THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST, DIVINE LITURGY & "STUDENT COMMUNION DAY"-Monday, October 31, 2016**

St. Sava Academy

Unity Day—10.19.2016

Make it orange and make it end! Unite against bullying!
Unite Against Bullying - Wear ORANGE on Unity Day,
Wednesday, October 19, 2016
(Casual Dress Day if you wear orange!)

What are your **true colors** when it comes to showing your support for students who are bullied? Show those being bullied that they are not alone, that you care, and lead the movement against bullying.

What You Can Do At Your School or Community:

- Wear the color **ORANGE**
- Write the word “**UNITY**” on your notebook, or on a poster to hang in the hallway
- Hang a banner with the word “**UNITY**” and ask everyone to sign
- Create and wear an orange “**UNITY Ribbon**”
- You decide and be creative!

What You Can Do Online:

Join the movement to make it orange and make it end! If you are being bullied, you are not alone. Unite and be a champion against bullying!

Want to Do More?

Sign PACER’s “The End of Bullying Begins With You” Petition at **PACER.org/Bullying**



SAINT SAVA ACADEMY

DUAL-LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN AN ORTHODOX-CHRISTIAN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Providing an Aligned and Faith-Based Curriculum and School Environment *Halloween in a Parochial School Environment*

Halloween is a day associated with All Saints Day in the Catholic Church, a day to remember the dead. It is also associated with ancient Celtic traditions of witchcraft. The origins of the day have to do with human and animal sacrifice which became a celebration of death. Trick or treating is associated with begging in early times and the costumes originated from Druid death rites. They were usually animal skins and heads which were worn during the dancing and jumping around fires set to ward off evil spirits. The jack-o-lanterns were a result of those who put a candle in their windows signifying their sympathy to the Satanists. It is obvious that Halloween is a pagan day rooted in the worst kind of pagan rituals and worship. The Bible urges Christians to "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Ephesians 5:1). Though Halloween is diluted somewhat there is obviously nothing about Christ honoring this day. It is a pagan sacrifice day and the Bible warns Christians "the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils." (1 Corinthians 10:20).

Over the years, it has become one of the biggest celebrations with various fests, haunted houses, etc. Lately, many of the top school districts in the State of Illinois have eliminated Halloween celebrations along with using valuable instructional time for serving birthday treats. Such celebrations have been moved to other times when they do not disrupt the regular course of a school day. Even the slightest changes can upset, confuse, or trouble children, especially the youngest ones. In a loving and safe school environment, we would be doing them a disservice.

A school founded in Holy Orthodoxy would be in great conflict with its beliefs and practices if in anyway there were school activities and memories associated with Halloween, even with the celebrations of today. Many feel parochial schools provide an environment where the school does not observe these kinds of days and where children are free from the pressures of being intrigued by scary things and wanting to trick or scare others. The fact is that children are overexposed to many such things on television and in other public venues. Participation in fall activities like Halloween, outside of the school day, is available and left to the discretion of each family. There are numerous public opportunities for children to be exposed to and participate in activities related to Halloween that the school need not take from its regularly scheduled day to give it any additional time to the great commercialism already present everywhere.

ST. SAVA ACADEMY POLICY ON HALLOWEEN:

The Holy Orthodox Church, Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Sava Academy does not recognize or celebrate the holiday of Halloween. Our Church and School strictly prohibits any reference of Halloween including the display of Halloween decorations, partaking in Halloween themed activities and the wearing of costumes on Church/School grounds. Instead, the season of fall and fall themed decorations, lessons and activities are incorporated within the school's daily teachings. We thank you for your understanding of the value of an Orthodox parochial school, a safe learning environment and a calm and regular schedule which are of utmost importance every day of the school year.