**Friday, September 11th**

**Dear Parents of Spartans:**

Joseph Campbell said, “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” It is hard to believe that today marks 19 years since the 9/11 tragedy occurred in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, PA. It is hard to believe that the babies that were born following that terrible event are entering college as Freshman. Most people remember that sunny day in early September of 2001 like it was yesterday. Many people know someone who was involved directly. It is a piece of our American history that we can never forget. We must always remember the victims and their families. We must remember those who never came home. We must remember the many, many heroes who ran into the building while everyone else was running out. They gave of their lives so selflessly and without a thought. They did not know when they walked into the police station or the fire station that morning that they would be facing devastation and tragedy beyond belief. They did not know that, in many cases, this would be their last day on earth. Many of them had families, people at home that loved them. Yet, without hesitation they arrived on the scene and went right to work, tirelessly trying to save as many people as they possibly could. They ran in and out of buildings, up and down stairs and from person to person. Sadly, many of them lost their lives when the buildings suddenly, and unexpectedly, collapsed as the rest of the world watched in horror and shock.

So many people lost their lives that day. There were 265 people on the four planes. 2,753 were lost at the World Trade Center. 184 perished at the Pentagon. Of those numbers 343 were firefighters and 71 were policemen. 9/11 hits very close to home for me as my neighbor at my parents’ lake house was a firefighter on the scene during the 9/11 attacks. He does not really speak about that day but his wife has told us just how horrific it was for him and all the men that he worked with. His family did not know for three days whether he was alive or dead. After the attacks, that year he attended over two hundred funerals. His children witnessed funeral processions in their town every day for nearly a year. He is now retired and lives part time in Florida actually. I think about Pete running into those buildings. He and all the firemen and police officers running in and out, up and down fully geared but thinking only of other people.  They are true heroes.

Today is 9/11, a day of remembrance. It is also a day to thank all those who protect us, save us and who would lay down their life for a stranger. As someone once said “Heroes are the people who do what has to be done regardless of the consequences.”

Have a great weekend.

Sarah Fortier

**We are excited to announce that we are ready to begin handing out devices to our middle school students next week! It is our goal that every student in 5th through 8th grade will have a device to use this school year. Beginning next week Mrs. JC will be assigning devices to 8th grade students. Please be sure that your student has his or her technology agreement signed and returned to Mrs. JC.**

**A Bulletin from Mrs. Blenke:**

Dear Parents,

We are 3 weeks in and although our routines have changed, our students have adjusted very well. It’s amazing to watch our school family throughout the day. The learning, playing, talking with one another brings so much joy. I pray that we will continue to strive to learn, play and care for each other safely and remember that God is with us on every journey.

Mrs. Blenke

**Convo with the Counselor:**

Happy Friday! What a busy short week this turned out to be. It was great to visit classrooms and see our virtual friends. Looking forward to visiting more classes next week. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful weekend!

Youth Ministry

All teens in 6th through 12th grade are invited to attend Youth Ministry on Wednesdays 7-8pm. Join us on Wednesday, 9/23 for our Carnival Fall Kick-Off! We will have lots of games and activities. More details to come!

**A Letter from Ms. Lorenzen:**

Hello SJV Families! An important email in regards to Oktoberfest was sent out today with all the exciting event details. While Oktoberfest will look a little different than previous years our amazing Oktoberfest chair and committee have been working hard to provide a great experience for all. You will still have the opportunity to win the $10,000 grand prize as well as other additional prizes. Break out your lederhosen and remember that #SJVistheplacetobe !

**Proclamations from PIE:**

There are no announcements from PIE this week.

**A Special Note:**

 A special thanks to Celia Bickford and all those who volunteered to help her with the ordering, organizing, and distributing of the t-shirts and the masks! We appreciate you, Celia and thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

The SJV community