



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of September 14

All School

Spirit Lunch Is Next Thursday

Our first Spirit Lunch will take place next Thursday, September 21. A few important notes pertaining to this day:

- This year, K–8 Parent Lunches will take place alongside Spirit Lunch.
- All students—from Early Childhood through eighth grade—are encouraged to wear Spirit Wear tops (with uniform bottoms for Grades K–8).
- **No Choicelunch is available on this day.**
- Burger orders **MUST** have been placed by last Thursday, September 7. **If you did NOT order your child a burger, please be sure to either pack or pick up and bring lunch for them that day.**
- Lunch times next Thursday are as follows:
 - Grades K–2 at 11:30 a.m.
 - Grades 3–5 at 12:00 p.m.
 - Grades 6–8 at 12:45 p.m.

Come Cheer on the Cardinals!

Join us on the following dates to cheer on our Cardinals Football and Volleyball teams:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- Volleyball-Valley 5/6 at Mission

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- Flag Football 5/6 at Home (St. John's) at 3:30 p.m.
- Flag Football 7/8 at Home (St. John's) at 4:30 p.m.
- Volleyball-Beach 5/6 at Laguna Beach Volleyball Club at 3:30 p.m.
- Volleyball-Beach 7/8 at Laguna Beach Volleyball Club at 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- Volleyball-Valley 5/6 at Laguna Beach Volleyball Club at 3:30 p.m.
- Volleyball-Beach 5/6 at Stoneybrooke at 3:00 p.m.
- Volleyball-Beach 7/8 at Stoneybrooke at 4:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- Flag Football 7/8 at Aliso Viejo Christian School at 3:30 p.m.

Annual SJES Golf Tournament: Ticket Sales Close September 27

St. John's annual Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, October 2, at the Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club. [Click here](#) to purchase your foursome, twosome, or single golf ticket by Wednesday, September 27.

Reminder: Updated Treat Policy

To help protect our students with food allergies, sensitivities, and health needs, the Health Office asks that families follow [this Treat Policy](#) (also provided on pages 76–77 of the *Parent and Student Handbook*) when bringing a birthday treat for your child(ren)'s class.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Sunday, September 17

- *Bishop of Los Angeles Visits St. John's Episcopal Church: 10:00 a.m. service*

Wednesday, September 20

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 20:1–16*

Thursday, September 21

- *Spirit Lunch: No Choice lunch today*

Wednesday, September 27

- *Last Day to Buy Tickets for SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy your tickets here](#)*

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 21:23–32*

Friday, September 29

- *Makeup Picture Day*

Sunday, October 1

- *Episcopal School Sunday*

Monday, October 2

- *Annual SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy tickets](#) by September 27*

Friday, October 6

- *Fall Break: No school*

Elementary Division

Thursday, September 14

- *Elementary Play Auditions: 3:10–5:00 p.m.; meet at the Cardinal Café; be sure to register your child [here](#)*
- *Elementary Division Back-to-School Night: 5:30–7:00 p.m.; meet in the Courtyard*

Sunday, September 17

- *Bishop of Los Angeles Visits St. John's Episcopal Church: 10:00 a.m. service*

Monday, September 18

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*
- *First Choir Rehearsal for Grades 3–5: 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Naulls*

Wednesday, September 20

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 20:1–16*

Thursday, September 21

- *Spirit Lunch and K–8 Parent Lunches*
 - Grades K–2 Eat at 11:30 a.m.
 - Grades 3–5 Eat at 12:00 p.m.
 - No Choice lunch today
- *Elementary Play Practice: 3:00–4:40 p.m.*

Monday, September 25

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*

Wednesday, September 27

- *Last Day to Buy Tickets for SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy your tickets here](#)*
- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 21:23–32*

Thursday, September 28

- *Elementary Play Practice: 3:00–4:40 p.m.*

Sunday, October 1

- *Episcopal School Sunday*

Monday, October 2

- *Annual SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy tickets](#) by September 27*
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*

Thursday, October 5

- *Elementary Play Practice: 3:00–4:40 p.m.*

Friday, October 6

- *Fall Break: No school*

Middle Division

Friday, September 15

- *Fall Social for Middle Division Students: 1:05–3:05 p.m.; Free Dress or Spirit Wear (No PE uniforms are required on Friday.)*
- *Middle Division Fall Play Rehearsal: 3:15–4:45 p.m.*

Sunday, September 17

- *Bishop of Los Angeles Visits St. John's Episcopal Church: 10:00 a.m. service*

Monday, September 18

- *Flag Football Games at St. John's*
 - 5/6 at 3:30 p.m.
 - 7/8 at 4:30 p.m.
- *Volleyball-Beach Games at Laguna Beach Volleyball Club*
 - 5/6 at 3:30 p.m.
 - 7/8 at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19

- *Volleyball-Valley 5/6 Game at Laguna Beach Volleyball Club: 3:30 p.m.*
- *Volleyball-Beach Games at Stoneybrooke*
 - 5/6 at 3:00 p.m.
 - 7/8 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 20

- *Flag Football 7/8 Game at Aliso Viejo Christian School: 3:30 p.m.*
- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 20:1–16*

Thursday, September 21

- *Spirit Lunch and K–8 Parent Lunches*
 - Grades 6–8 Eat at 12:45 p.m.
 - No Choice lunch today
- *Grade 8 Meeting for Washington, DC, Field Studies Trip: 6:00 p.m.*

Friday, September 22

- *Middle Division Fall Play Rehearsal: 3:15–4:45 p.m.*

Wednesday, September 27

- *Last Day to Buy Tickets for SJES Golf Tournament:* [Buy your tickets here](#)
- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin:* Art should be relevant to Matthew 21:23–32

Friday, September 29

- *Middle Division Fall Play Rehearsal:* 3:15–4:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 1

- *Episcopal School Sunday*

Monday, October 2

- *Annual SJES Golf Tournament:* [Buy tickets](#) by September 27

Friday, October 6

- *Fall Break:* No school

Early Childhood Division

From the Division Principal

Play is the ultimate integrated curriculum. Teachers use play to observe authentic developmental growth. One morning this week, students were spray-painting fabric with squirt bottles to create their own capes. The teacher called me in to observe a child who previously (last week) had not been interested in painting. He liked the result of the squirt-bottle technique and decided to add a sponge painter to his creative process. He sprayed the sponge with paint and patted it on his fabric. He continued using both tools until he was satisfied with the result.

Another classmate, watching his friend, was inspired and decided he would use the same techniques. He thought it was funny and began to giggle, which brought more attention from others.

Fortunately, these boys have a teacher who understands the importance of guiding and supporting the spontaneous need young learners have to take risks and try something different. It is the process children engage in that reveals how each child constructs knowledge—and when children are active participants in their education, they develop a lifelong love of learning!

Warmly,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

Makeup Picture Day Is September 29

If your child was unable to get his or her school pictures taken this week, please note that makeup pictures will be taken on Friday, September 29.

Enrichments Begin in October

Library, Music, and Fitness Fun enrichment classes for Preschool and Pre-K students will begin the first week in October. These classes take place in the morning, so please be sure to arrive to school on time so that your child does not miss out on these valuable classes.

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

With the end of the first five-day week of school nearly here, I trust that our Elementary Division students have fully adjusted to the routine of school. I have the pleasure of seeing our Cardinals from drop-off in the morning until students are picked up in the afternoon. It is a delight to know that, with each passing day, our students are growing in mind, body, and spirit.

Although this is, indeed, the very start of the school year, it will go by quickly. We parents know all too well that a year can pass in the blink of an eye. With that in mind, I encourage everyone to speak with their child frequently about school. Ask your child about their day, including questions not just about what they are learning, but also about what has challenged them in other ways.

The common question, "How was your day?" is often too open-ended to elicit much of a response from students. Instead, try asking more specific questions, such as:

1. Tell me one thing someone complimented you on today?
2. What is one mistake you made today?
3. What is a problem you helped fix today?
4. Name one question you asked your teacher today?
5. What is something you learned today that you can teach me?

No matter what your children share about school, I can assure you that their days are filled with many activities, rich conversations, and frequent opportunities to interact with each other. By

encouraging them to talk to you about their school life, you are also equipping them with the language to speak to their teachers.

At St. John's, our faculty members value students' ability and willingness to self-advocate and exercise agency. Remind your child to always be open with their trusted adults: ask questions, share ideas, speak up for others and, at all times, be willing to share stories. I also encourage you—the parents—to approach us with any questions and ideas you may have.

We are thrilled that you have entrusted us with your child, and we all want to continue building a strong school-family relationship.

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

Cinderella Auditions Are This Afternoon!

Students auditioning for *Cinderella* should meet at the Cardinal Café at 3:10 p.m. today (Thursday, September 14). Auditions will conclude at 5:00 p.m. If you still need to register your child, it's not too late! [Click here to register.](#)

Reminder: Back-to-School Night Is This Evening

Elementary Division Back-to-School Night is this evening (Thursday, September 14)! Please join us in the Courtyard at 5:30 p.m. for light refreshments, fellowship, and the opportunity to chat with our Enrichment Teachers. At 5:50 p.m., after some welcoming remarks, parents will be invited to their child's classroom for the teacher presentation. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Us Monday for the Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony

Elementary Division parents are welcome to join us each Monday at 8:00 a.m. for our weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony. A prayer, announcements, and—on select dates—character recognition will occur. We will notify you in advance if your child is selected to receive recognition or when it is your fifth grader's turn to serve on the Flag Team. These are memorable events, and we encourage parents to attend if you are able.

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to those of you who were able to

attend Middle Division Back-to-School Night on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see each one of you, and I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to meet St. John's amazing Middle Division faculty, experience the collaborative classroom spaces, and hear from your student's teachers about the exciting and impactful educational goals planned for this year.

Your active participation in your child's education is valuable, and I will continue to use the *Cardinal Weekly* as my main means of communication throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your student's teachers if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. I believe a strong partnership between parents, faculty, and staff is essential for the success of our students, and we are always here to support you and your child.

It hardly seems possible, but this is already our third week of school. The students are settling in wonderfully! This week, I was able to listen in as the students learned about the events of 9/11 and how kindness and resilience grew out of a tragic event. It was wonderful to hear age-appropriate conversations that involved ordinary people living out lives of service and purpose—a value we want to instill in every single Cardinal.

This week, I had the opportunity to spend some time with both the MD Room Parent Coordinators and the MD Room Parents. This is time well spent where we discuss the wonderful activities planned, share new ideas, and receive help from our amazing parent volunteers. I know I speak for the entire faculty and staff when I say how thankful we are for the countless hours you put in to make every day at SJES the best!

I look forward to a year filled with continued growth, discovery, and achievements.

Best,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

Middle Division Fall Social Is Tomorrow

Our students are eagerly anticipating the **Middle Division Fall Social tomorrow—Friday, September 15!**

- MD students will complete their academic day at 12:30 p.m.
- Following their regular lunch, they will enjoy games, snacks, and a DJ at the Fall Social on Reuland Field from 1:05 to 3:05 p.m.
- The dress code for the entire day is Free Dress or Spirit Wear. Free Dress guidelines are available on pages 91–92 of the *Parent and Student Handbook*. **(No PE uniforms are required on Friday due to Free Dress for the Fall Social.)**
- With any questions, please reach out to your student's Advisor.

Church

Bishop Taylor Visiting St. John's This Sunday

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor, Bishop of Los Angeles, will lead worship at St. John's this Sunday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to attend, and a time of fellowship will follow. **Nursery care will be available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** With questions, please [**email Rebecca Swartz**](#), Church Administrator.

Middle School Movie and Game Night Is September 30

St. John's Episcopal Church invites all middle schoolers to a movie and game night on Saturday, September 30, at 5:00 p.m. Wear your comfy clothes, and bring a pillow, a blanket, and a friend (if desired)! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Activities will be held in Ms. Naulls' music room. With questions or for more information, please [**email Ms. Naulls**](#).

'A Tribute to Motown': Annual Church Fundraiser Is October 7

The church will hold its annual fundraiser, "A Tribute to Motown," on Saturday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m. on the St. John's campus. We'll have food, drink, a wine wall, lots of great music, raffles, a silent auction, and a live auction! Tickets are \$60 per person, and may be purchased by [**emailing Rebecca Swartz**](#), Church Administrator.

Calling Student Artists! Submit Artwork for Sunday Bulletin

We invite all students to submit artwork to be featured on the Sunday bulletin. Every week, we will choose a new piece of art to feature. Artwork should be relevant to the provided Bible verses. Students should submit work to St. John's Episcopal School Art Teacher Lee Heys by Wednesday each week.

- **Bible Verses for Wednesday, September 20:** Matthew 20:1–16
- **Bible Verses for Wednesday, September 27:** Matthew 21:23–32