



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of October 12, 2023

All School

We Need YOUR Help to Keep Students Safe at Carpool!

There have been some serious safety concerns during morning drop-off and afternoon pickup so far this school year, and we need your help to keep our students safe during carpool! While many of our families are making safe choices, some are not, and **it has put our students, faculty, and staff in danger.**

St. John's families, it is *essential* that we have your cooperation with the following:

- **Slow down on Via Con Dios**, especially as you approach the school.
- **Be mindful and aware at all times of possible pedestrian crossings.**
- **Stay off your phones** and **ALWAYS follow the directions of St. John's employees.** They are there to support our morning and afternoon carpool process, and some drivers have been ignoring their directions. This disregard has put our faculty and staff into near-accident situations!

We will be reaching out to specific drivers who are disregarding the rules and causing dangerous situations at carpool, but **we ask everyone to help keep our community safe!**

Please Support St. John's Greatest Need

Join us in supporting St. John's most important philanthropic effort—investing in the students, teachers, and staff who are the heart and soul of our community. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of the St. John's experience, and the Cardinal Fund bridges this gap in operational funding. In fact, **consistent year-over-year giving to the annual fund is St. John's greatest need.** Each gift to the Cardinal Fund is the purest form of giving to the School: 100% tax deductible for the donor, while St. John's receives 100% of the benefit.

This year, **our goal is to reach 100% parent participation, and we ask that every family make a gift that is meaningful for them.**

[Click Here to Give Now.](#)

Change for Change Drive Is This Month

St. John's Middle Division Student Council presents the Change for Change drive. MD student Delanie M. provides details about the drive:

*"Change for Change is happening throughout the month of October! This fall, our donations will go to the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii—specifically to Holy Innocents Episcopal Church of Lahaina. This beautiful church was sadly burnt down during the Lahaina fires, but the metal cross on the top was able to survive. As an Episcopal school ourselves, we think it's important that we should give back to this community that is going through a hard time, so if you can, during the month of October, bring your spare change and drop a few coins or dollars into the buckets in your classroom, the chapel, or the division offices. **Student Council members will also be out at morning drop-off during the month.** Anything as small as a penny can make a huge difference for this community. Thank you for your support."*

Join Us at Wine Wall!

We are so excited to invite you to St. John's annual gathering, Wine Wall, on Saturday, November 11. Paperless Post invitations were sent out yesterday. If you did not receive an invitation in your inbox or spam folder, please reach out to Advancement@StJohns-ES.org.

New Youth Arrival in the Student Store This Week

You can't hide your St. John's pride in our newest Student Store arrival! This new [youth red sweatshirt](#) will keep you warm and cozy on cool fall mornings. Remember, St. John's sweatshirts and jackets can be worn to school with your uniform every day except for on Chapel days.

Campus Closed During Emergency Drill on October 19, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Next Thursday, October 19, at 10:19 a.m., SJES will participate in **California's Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill**. This full-scale earthquake simulation drill will give our students and faculty the opportunity to practice earthquake emergency response.

- Please note that during drills—as well as during true emergencies—the school campus will be closed until the drill/emergency is complete. **St. John's—including the main office—will be closed during the drill on October 19 from approximately 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.**
- All adults on campus at the time of the drill will be expected to participate.
- The drill will begin with children “ducking” and “covering” in their classrooms, before assembling on the field with their teachers until the drill is declared over.
- **Please be assured that school staff will be responsive to the developmental sensitivity of each age group of students.** Teachers will communicate clearly to all students that the event is just a drill, and not an actual emergency. This exercise is not meant to be

intimidating; it is simply designed to prepare our community should a real earthquake occur.

- **In preparation for an actual earthquake, please:** 1) Talk to your child about your family plan for an emergency; 2) Keep your child's emergency information in Achieve updated with approved people who can pick up your child; 3) Tune your radio to KWVE 107.9 FM or 1110 AM for news reports that may have additional information during an actual emergency; and, 4) If your child requires medication, please contact the Health Office to be sure we have an adequate supply.

Wall of Saints: Submit Photos by October 20

Episcopalians believe that all who die in faith are saints. November 1 is All Saints' Day, followed on November 2 by All Souls' Day—also known as Día de los Muertos or "Day of the Dead." At St. John's, we remember all our friends and family who have died with our ofrenda, the altar set up in the columbarium of the church with traditional items such as marigolds, water, candles, and pan de muerto.

We are asking our St. John's Community members to provide photographs of loved ones who have died so the pictures can be added to our St. John's Wall of Saints.

- Photos of family members or friends are welcome, should be no larger than 4"x6", and should feature only those we are remembering.
- Photos should be brought to any division office or to Mrs. Patti's office no later than Friday, October 20.
- Photos will not be returned, as they are kept on the boards for use each year.

Come Cheer on the Cardinals!

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

Volleyball-Valley 5/6 (Away) at Mission Basilica at 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Volleyball-Valley 5/6 (Home) vs. St. Edward at 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball-Beach 5/6 (Away) at Aliso Viejo at 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball-Beach 7/8 (Away) at Aliso Viejo at 4:30 p.m.

SJES Golf Tournament Photos Now Available

Photos from the recent SJES Golf Tournament are now available! [Click here](#) to view and purchase them.

Dads, Watch the Game Together This Evening!

Calling all SJES dads! The Dad's Club will be at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse in Rancho Santa Margarita **tonight—Thursday, October 12—at 5:00 p.m.** The Dad's Club has secured a private room for this event; food and drink will be available for purchase. We hope you can join in on this fun fellowship opportunity as we watch the Kansas City Chiefs take on the Denver Broncos.

Blessing of the Animals Is Tomorrow Morning

Bring your pet with you to school for a special blessing from Fr. Jerry during the Blessing of the Animals tomorrow—Friday, October 13—at 7:30 a.m. Students, parents, siblings, and pets are invited to come early for morning prayer in honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. All pets should be on a leash or in a carrying case at all times, and they must be taken off campus by an adult when classes begin. If you don't have a pet, bring your stuffed animal!

Tomorrow Is the Deadline to Select Your Child's Yearbook Photo

The Yearbook Pose Selection option is now available for St. John's families.

- Anyone who has already placed an order will need to log back in with their key code at www.SumnerPhoto.com. The site will open to the Yearbook Selection screen, and you will be able to make your choice there. If no selection is made, the default selection will be used for both the class composite and the yearbook.
- **The deadline for ordering and/or making this selection is tomorrow—Friday, October 13.**
- If you need assistance with your key code, please contact Help@SumnerPhotography.net.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Thursday, October 12

- *Dad's Club Gathering:* 5:00 p.m. at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Friday, October 13

- *Deadline to Select Your Child's Yearbook Photo*
- *Blessing of the Animals:* 7:30 a.m.

Monday, October 16

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear red*

Tuesday, October 17

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear your favorite hat*

Wednesday, October 18

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear school-appropriate PJ's or comfy clothes*
- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 22:15–22*

Thursday, October 19

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear neon*
- *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill: Campus closed during drill (approx. 10:15–11:15 a.m.)*

Friday, October 20

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear Spirit Wear*
- *Deadline to Submit Photos for Wall of Saints*

Sunday, October 22

- *Students Invited to Sing at 10:00 a.m. Worship: Arrive to church at 9:30 a.m.; wear formal uniform*

Monday, October 23

- *Sensory Screenings for ECD Students Ages 3+: Must register to participate*

Wednesday, October 25

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 22:34–36*

Sunday, October 29

- *SJEC Trunk-or-Treat: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, October 31

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.
- *ECD Fall Festival*: 10:45–11:45 a.m.; parents and guardians welcome
- *Trick or Treat*: 12:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons; parents must accompany students

Wednesday, November 1

- *Faculty and Staff Inservice*: No school

Thursday, November 2

- *Deadline to Return Ages & Stages Questionnaire*

Saturday, November 11

- *Wine Wall*: Invitations emailed October 11

Elementary Division

Thursday, October 12

- *Elementary Play Practice*: 3:10–4:40 p.m.
- *Dad's Club Gathering*: 5:00 p.m. at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Friday, October 13

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Deadline to Select Your Child's Yearbook Photo*
- *Rising Cardinals Volleyball Practice (Grades 3–4)*: 7:20 a.m.
- *Blessing of the Animals*: 7:30 a.m.
- *Elementary Play Practice*: 3:10–4:40 p.m.

Monday, October 16

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week*: Wear red
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony*: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome
- *Instructional Eucharist for Grades 1–8*: 9:30–10:30 a.m.; parents and guardians welcome

Tuesday, October 17

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week*: Wear your favorite hat

- *Author Jennifer Chambliss Bertman Visits Grades 3–5*

Wednesday, October 18

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear school-appropriate PJ's or comfy clothes*
- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 22:15–22*
- *Rising Cardinals Volleyball Practice (Grades 3–4): 7:20 a.m.*

Thursday, October 19

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear neon*
- *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill: Campus closed during drill (approx. 10:15–11:15 a.m.)*
- *Elementary Play Practice: 3:10–4:40 p.m.*

Friday, October 20

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear Spirit Wear*
- *Deadline to Submit Photos for Wall of Saints*
- *Last Day to Claim Items From Lost & Found Before They Are Donated*
- *Rising Cardinals Volleyball Practice (Grades 3–4): 7:20 a.m.*

Sunday, October 22

- *Students Invited to Sing at 10:00 a.m. Worship: Arrive to church at 9:30 a.m.; wear formal uniform*

Monday, October 23

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*

Wednesday, October 25

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 22:34–36*
- *Grade 3 Field Trip to Modjeska Canyon*
- *Grade 4 Walk Through California*
- *Rising Cardinals Volleyball Practice (Grades 3–4): 7:20 a.m.*

Thursday, October 26

- *Grade 1 Field Trip to Ocean Institute*

- *Elementary Play Practice (Blue Cast Only): 3:10–4:40 p.m.*

Friday, October 27

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Elementary Play Practice (Red Cast Only): 3:10–4:40 p.m.*

Saturday, October 28

- *Rising Cardinals Volleyball Tournament: 9:00–10:00 a.m.*

Sunday, October 29

- *SJEC Trunk-or-Treat: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*

Monday, October 30

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony and Cardinal Character Recognition: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*
- *Elementary Play Practice (Blue Cast Only): 3:10–4:40 p.m.*

Tuesday, October 31

- *ED Halloween Parade: 8:15–8:45 a.m. on Reuland Field; parents and guardians are welcome to cheer from the [Parent Spectator Area](#)*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.*
- *Trick or Treat: 12:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons; parents must accompany students*

Wednesday, November 1

- *Faculty and Staff Inservice: No school*

Thursday, November 2

- *Elementary Play Practice (Red Cast Only): 3:10–4:40 p.m.*

Friday, November 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Second-Grade Pioneer Day: 8:30 a.m.*

Monday, November 6

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*
- *Elementary Play Practice (Blue Cast Only): 3:10–4:40 p.m.*

Saturday, November 11

- *Wine Wall: Invitations emailed October 11*

Middle Division

Thursday, October 12

- *Volleyball-Valley 5/6: 3:30 p.m. at St. John's*
- *Flag Football 7/8: 3:30 p.m. at St. John's*
- *Dad's Club Gathering: 5:00 p.m. at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse*

Friday, October 13

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Deadline to Select Your Child's Yearbook Photo*
- *Blessing of the Animals: 7:30 a.m.*
- *Middle Division Fall Play Practice: 3:15–4:45 p.m.*

Monday, October 16

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear red*
- *Instructional Eucharist for Grades 1–8: 9:30–10:30 a.m.; parents and guardians welcome*
- *Volleyball-Valley 5/6: 3:30 p.m. at Mission Basilica*

Tuesday, October 17

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear your favorite hat*
- *Author Jennifer Chambliss Bertman Visits Middle School*
- *Volleyball-Beach 5/6: 3:30 p.m. at Aliso Viejo*
- *Volleyball-Valley 5/6: 3:30 p.m. at St. John's*
- *Volleyball-Beach 7/8: 4:30 p.m. at Aliso Viejo*

Wednesday, October 18

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear school-appropriate PJ's or comfy clothes*

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 22:15–22*

Thursday, October 19

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear neon*
- *Eighth Grade Leaves for Washington, DC*
- *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill: Campus closed during drill (approx. 10:15–11:15 a.m.)*
- *High School Information Fair at The Pegasus School: 6:30–8:00 p.m.*

Friday, October 20

- *Special Dress for Red Ribbon Week: Wear Spirit Wear*
- *Service Learning for Grades 6 and 7 Through Second Harvest Food Bank*
- *Deadline to Submit Photos for Wall of Saints*
- *Last Day to Claim Items From Lost & Found Before They Are Donated*

Sunday, October 22

- *Students Invited to Sing at 10:00 a.m. Worship: Arrive to church at 9:30 a.m.; wear formal uniform*

Monday, October 23

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *Middle Division Field Studies Week*

Tuesday, October 24

- *Middle Division Field Studies Week*

Wednesday, October 25

- *Middle Division Field Studies Week*
- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin: Art should be relevant to Matthew 22:34–36*

Thursday, October 26

- *Middle Division Field Studies Week*

Friday, October 27

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

- *Middle Division Field Studies Week*

Sunday, October 29

- *SJEC Trunk-or-Treat: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*

Monday, October 30

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*

Tuesday, October 31

- *MD Students Cheer on ED Halloween Parade: 8:15–8:45 a.m. on Reuland Field; parents and guardians are welcome to cheer from the [Parent Spectator Area](#)*
- *Trick or Treat: 12:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons; parents must accompany students*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.*

Wednesday, November 1

- *Faculty and Staff Inservice: No school*
- *Deadline to Have Chapel Sweaters Monogrammed*

Friday, November 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Middle Division Fall Play Practice: 3:15–4:45 p.m.*

Monday, November 6

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *SMCHS Parent Info Night: [Click here for details](#)*

Saturday, November 11

- *Wine Wall: Invitations emailed October 11*

Early Childhood Division

From the Division Principal

It's the season for exploring pumpkins. In the preschool classrooms and on the playground, you will find numerous pumpkin-related activities—some guided by the teachers and others that are initiated by the children's curiosity.

The pumpkin is intriguing, especially for our youngest learners. Some talking points begin with simple questions: *What color is it? What shape is it? Is it smooth or bumpy?* Of course, children have many answers and theories depending on their imagination and previous experiences.

The next questions are more provoking: *What is inside? Can you eat it? Does it smell like pumpkin pie?* Children have been busy exploring to learn more. We have been watching them pound golf tees into the shell, cutting pumpkins into pieces, and pulling out the seeds. Many children love touching the slippery seeds, while others won't touch them at all.

How do they grow? As the weeks pass, children will watch to see if seeds sprout and grow best in soil; in a baggie hanging in the sun; or in a moist, dark place. Once the seeds sprout, they will begin to observe the stages of growth.

In class, you will find our young learners documenting things they know about pumpkins. They are reading books and singing *Five Little Pumpkins*. They are creating innovative drawings, and mixing red paint with yellow to make their own special shade of orange. Some children want to measure or weigh pumpkins or put them in order from small to big. Each child will find an area of fascination to pursue.

Ask your children to tell you about pumpkins, and you will learn more about their unique developmental stage of learning!

Warmly,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

ECD Fall Festival Is October 31

Please join your child in some fall-themed fun and games at our annual Early Childhood Division (ECD) Fall Festival on Tuesday, October 31, from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

- Tuesday/Thursday students are invited to attend this fun-filled event with a parent or special guest. No siblings, please.
- Non-scary Halloween costumes or accessories are encouraged.
- If you will be attending this event, please park on the street. The ECD parking lot is for drop-off and pickup only.
- This is a Minimum Day, with dismissal at 11:45 a.m. Please be sure to check your child out before leaving the ECD.

Red Ribbon Week Starts Monday + Daily Dress Themes

Red Ribbon Week is almost here! Held October 16–20, Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and

largest drug-prevention program in the nation and a way for people and communities to take a visible stance against drugs.

DAILY DRESS THEMES DURING RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week will have daily themes in which we encourage all St. John's students from Early Childhood Division to eighth grade to participate. The daily themes are listed below. Please note that the entire week is going to be considered "free dress" according to school guidelines (as long as the student is participating in the daily theme). For example, on Monday, if a student is wearing a red shirt, he or she is allowed free-dress bottoms, and vice versa. However, students who do not have any red clothing on will be expected to wear their regular St. John's uniform. Free dress will only be permitted to those who are participating in the daily themes.

- **Monday, October 16:** "I'm RED-y to make healthy choices" (Wear RED clothes to show your dedication to being healthy.)
- **Tuesday, October 17:** "Hats off to being healthy" (Wear your favorite HAT to show your commitment to being healthy.)
- **Wednesday, October 18:** "Wake up and live healthy" (Wear your school-appropriate PAJAMAS or comfortable clothing to show that you are starting each day with healthy choices. Students must wear appropriate foot coverings as stated in the *Parent and Student Handbook*. Slippers and/or UGGs are not allowed.)
- **Thursday, October 19:** "We shine bright when we make healthy choices" (Wear NEON colors to show how bright your life is when you make healthy decisions.)
- **Friday, October 20:** "St. John's teams up for healthy choices" (Wear SPIRIT WEAR to show that you are part of the St. John's Community that strives to live a healthy lifestyle.)

Ages & Stages Questionnaire Will Be Sent Home Next Week

The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) will be sent home on Tuesday, October 17, and Wednesday, October 18. The ASQ is a developmental and social-emotional screening for children between birth and age 6 that is completed by the parent. This tool is designed to pinpoint developmental progress and catch delays in young children, paving the way for meaningful next steps in learning, intervention, or monitoring. Please complete the ASQ and return it to your child's teacher **no later than Thursday, November 2.**

Sensory Screenings Are October 23 (Must Opt In)

Southern California Sensory Screening will be here Monday, October 23, to provide Preschool Health Assessments for preschool and Pre-K children, ages 3 and older. Tests include hearing screening, vision screening, speech/language screening, and gross/fine motor screening. If you would like your child to participate in this optional service, please complete and return the permission form that was sent home with your child, along with your check payable to SCSS.

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

Many thanks to those of you who attended our presentation at Tuesday's Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) meeting. It was a pleasure to be able to share some of the exciting work that is occurring in the Elementary Division.

First-Grade Teacher/Curriculum and Instructional Support Specialist Ms. McLennan and I enthusiastically embrace the work of St. John's. Your children are precious to us. Their learning—as well as all of their experiences at school—are our top priority. I hope the presentation conveyed the commitment to your child's success that our entire faculty shares.

If you weren't able to attend the PTF meeting, please feel free to view [this presentation](#) at your convenience. As always, if you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything further, I am available.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

Join Us Monday: Instructional Eucharist for Grades 1-8

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (also called the Holy Eucharist) is a central event in Episcopal worship. This Monday, October 16, at 9:30 a.m., we will take students in grades 1–8 through an Instructional Eucharist, stopping to explain the things said and done at the altar, the different parts of the service, and the various roles people play within the service. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us!

Claim Lost & Found Items by Next Friday

Our Lost & Found racks are overflowing! Within the next week, please stop by our Elementary Lost & Found, located in front of the Elementary Division Office. Items not claimed by Friday, October 20, will be donated.

Halloween Costume Guidelines for Elementary Students

As Halloween approaches, we would like to share how St. John's Elementary students may participate in this exciting time in a way that is safe, respectful, and aligned with our values. Please review the following carefully with your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to let us know.

Students will be permitted to wear costumes to school on Tuesday, October 31 (Minimum Day for students), as long as they adhere to the following Costume Guidelines:

- Absolutely no evil- or demonic-themed costumes, or inappropriately themed costumes
- Costumes must not interfere with the normal activities of the day, nor may costumes interfere with any student's learning.
- Costumes must not interfere with students' ability to go to the bathroom by themselves.
- Costumes must be comfortable.
- Makeup is not permitted.
- Students must be identifiable. Masks are NOT permitted, nor can students' identity be disguised.
- Costumes must be appropriate for ALL students, including our youngest students.
- No weapons of any sort, blood, or revealing clothing
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Props must not represent dangerous items (e.g., knives, guns, etc.) and must not be a distraction to others.
- Students are strongly encouraged to express their individuality (NO group costumes).

It is our intent to provide students with a memorable, happy experience. Please remind your child that all behavior must be appropriate and consistent with our behavior expectations, as outlined in the *Parent and Student Handbook*. Although all students are invited to wear costumes, it is not required; costumes are optional.

If any student fails to follow these regulations, parents will be notified.

Elementary Division Halloween Parade: Families Welcome!

Our Elementary students will participate in their Annual Halloween Parade at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 31.

- Parents and families are welcome to come watch this fun event in the Parent Spectator Area of Reuland Field. ([Click here for location details.](#)) For safety reasons, we ask that all parents remain in the Parent Spectator Area. With so many students on the field at one time, it is essential that everyone stays in their designated areas.
- We also ask that, for this event, every parent wear their personalized lanyard each time he or she enters campus.
- Please do not park in the St. John's lot. Street parking is available, and you may also park in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' parking lot or at the Christian Science Church next door.

Thank you! We look forward to celebrating this fun event with you!

Volunteers Needed to Help Transport Play Materials From Creative Kids Playhouse

Help! We are in need of a few parents with a truck, van, or SUV to help transport stage materials from Creative Kids Playhouse (Laguna Hills) to St. John's at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, November 6, and to help return these materials after the final performance on Thursday, November 9. If you have a large vehicle and are willing to help, please [email Ryan Bourke](#), Elementary Division Principal. Thank you!

Bestselling Author Visit for Grades 3-5: Give Books for Signing to Ms. Adair by Tomorrow

On Tuesday, October 17, *New York Times*–bestselling author Jennifer Chambliss Bertman will visit with third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students during a special presentation she has crafted for our Cardinal Community. Ms. Bertman penned the popular series *Book Scavenger*, and is also an author of one of the novels on the Battle of the Books list, *Sisterhood of Sleuths*.

- **Ms. Bertman has generously offered to sign copies of her books while she is visiting for the day!** If you and your upper elementary student are interested in this option, please purchase one of her books through a local bookstore or wherever you may buy books. **This purchased book must be given to Library and Digital Media Specialist Tiffany Adair no later than tomorrow—Friday, October 13.** It is imperative that you write your child's name on a sticky note and place it on the purchased book so that Ms. Adair and Ms. Bertman know who owns the book.
- To learn more about Ms. Bertman's books, [visit her web page here](#).
- Please feel free to [email Ms. Adair](#) with any questions.

Red Ribbon Week Starts Monday + Daily Dress Themes

Red Ribbon Week is almost here! Held October 16–20, Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug-prevention program in the nation and a way for people and communities to take a visible stance against drugs.

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- **Friday, October 20:** “St. John’s teams up for healthy choices” (Wear SPIRIT WEAR to show that you are part of the St. John’s Community that strives to live a healthy lifestyle.)

First-Grade Physical Form Due to Health Office by December 1

California law requires that a completed First-Grade Health Examination Form be on file at school within 18 months prior to the start of first grade or within 90 days after the start of first grade. This completed form is **due to the Health Office by December 1**. If you have already turned one in, please disregard this note. If you are unsure whether you have turned one in, please [email the Health Office](#).

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

Welcome to the second week in October and to the exciting events we have planned! As a STEAM school, we believe it is imperative that students have alternate activities that inspire them in a variety of ways to live lives of service and purpose.

- Today, we held the first All-School Pep Rally of the year in the newly remodeled Cardinal Gym. The Pep Rally inspired school unity as we celebrated our student-athletes and allowed everyone to show their school spirit in a fun and enjoyable way.
- Tomorrow morning, students are invited to participate in the Blessing of the Animals in honor of the feast of St. Francis Of Assisi. This service gives our students the opportunity to celebrate their furry, feathered, and otherwise special animal friends, and reminds them to be good stewards of God’s creations.
- Starting this Monday, we recognize Red Ribbon Week (a national drug-prevention program) with daily dress themes that remind students to make healthy choices in their lives. Deputy Kyle, from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, will be on campus to speak to our MD students in an age-appropriate manner about making healthy choices and living healthy lives. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and build bonds with our local sheriff, while discussing the importance of taking care of their own bodies.
- This coming Tuesday morning, we will welcome a New York Times–bestselling author to campus for a special assembly. Jennifer Chambliss Bertman will share her story as an

award-winning author and remind our students about the value of books in their lives. Reading has numerous health benefits, including relaxation, improved concentration, vocabulary expansion, stronger writing skills, and increased creativity.

- Next Friday, October 20, the sixth- and seventh-grade students will participate in service learning through Second Harvest. They will spend the morning giving back to the community by gleaning the fields to provide nutritious harvested food to those in need. The students will return to school to reflect on the hands-on experience and share how the smallest act can make the difference in the lives of others.

SJES is focused not only on academic learning, but also on character development and community engagement. To enhance life lessons, I encourage parents to engage in conversation with their students about these events. Respect is a key Cardinal Character Trait, and learning to respect and care for our school, our earth, ourselves, our books, and those in need helps all Cardinals practice kindness and concern toward the world in which we live.

Sincerely,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

Congratulations, Students of the Week!

Congratulations to our Student of the Week winners! Click on each student's name below to learn a little more about him or her:

- [Ashlyn G.](#), Eighth-Grade Student of the Week
- [Amaar B.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Athena T.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

Student Support Times in Middle Division

Each Middle Division teacher has an assigned student support time each week. ([Click here to view the schedule.](#)) This drop-in time is designated for students only, so that they may meet with teachers to converse about topics taught, to discuss an upcoming absence, to follow up after an absence, or to receive additional help. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers individually via email should they have any questions or concerns, or to request a one-on-one meeting.

Join Us Monday: Instructional Eucharist for Grades 1-8

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (also called the Holy Eucharist) is a central event in Episcopal worship. This Monday, October 16, at 9:30 a.m., we will take students in grades 1–8 through an Instructional Eucharist, stopping to explain the things said and done at the altar, the

different parts of the service, and the various roles people play within the service. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us!

Next Thursday: High School Fair Opportunity for MD Families

Middle Division parents are invited to attend a High School Information Fair next Thursday, October 19. Hosted by and held at The Pegasus School (19692 Lexington Ln., Huntington Beach), the event will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and will feature Admissions Directors from close to 50 high schools and boarding schools, both locally and nationally. For more information, please [email Patti Peebles](mailto:patti.peebles@huntingtonbeach.k12.ca.us), School Chaplain and World Ahead instructor.

Claim Lost & Found Items by October 20

Our Lost & Found racks are overflowing! Within the next week, please stop by our Middle School Lost & Found, located in the Middle Division hallway. Items not claimed by Friday, October 20, will be donated.

Important Information About Halloween Festivities

COSTUME GUIDELINES FOR MD STUDENTS

Happy Halloween! We look forward to seeing all of our Middle Division Cardinals in their Halloween costumes on Tuesday, October 31. For your student's safety and for everyone's enjoyment, please review the following Middle Division Costume Guidelines with your student:

- No evil-themed, demonic-themed, or inappropriately themed costumes
- All students should be able to easily sit at their seat/table in their costumes. Costumes cannot interfere with instruction (e.g., inflatable costumes need to be able to deflate easily, etc.).
- No masks, weapons, or makeup
- Students are strongly encouraged to express their individuality (no group costumes).
- If a student does not want to wear a costume, he or she may wear free dress with Halloween accessories (optional). Free-dress rules apply, including rules related to shoes.
- If a student fails to follow these guidelines, the student puts at risk his or her ability to participate in future dress days.

Please direct questions regarding costumes to your student's advisor.

COME CHEER ON THE HALLOWEEN PARADE!

On October 31, the Elementary Division will have a Halloween Parade on Reuland Field from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m., with Middle Division students cheering them on. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend. Please arrive early so that you have enough time to go through the check-in process.

DISMISSAL AT 12:15 P.M.

As a reminder, October 31 is a Minimum Day, with Middle Division dismissal at 12:15 p.m.

Please Ensure Chapel Sweaters Are Monogrammed by November 1

It is great to know that MD students have received their Chapel sweaters! We are asking that your student's sweater be monogrammed with his or her last name above the SJES patch by Wednesday, November 1.

St. John's approved monogramming vendors are listed below. (Please note that they currently have a 24- to 48-hour turnaround time.)

MONOGRAM MAGIC

20381 Lake Forest Dr., Ste. B-6
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949.770.5056

THE SHIRT CANNERY

25270 Marguerite Pkwy., Ste. E
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
949.768.4102

As a reminder, MD students wear their Chapel sweaters on Mondays and Wednesdays, from the start of the day through the end of Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

Sports Recap for the Week of October 2

St. John's 5/6 Flag Football team defeated OLF 32–0 to remain undefeated for the season. Our girls' 5/6 Beach and Valley Volleyball teams both won their matches last week. The Beach team defeated OLF, and the Valley team beat St. Mary's. Go Cardinals!

Make Note of These Upcoming Athletics Events

Please note that Athletics will be hosting the following upcoming events, with more details available soon:

- **Fall Sports Awards:** Date/time TBD
- **Fall Sports Team Photos:** Wednesday, November 8
- **Winter Sports Tryouts (Basketball and Lacrosse):** Week of November 13—
dates/times TBD

Bestselling Author Visit to Middle Division: Give Books for Signing to Ms. Adair by Tomorrow

This Tuesday, October 17, *New York Times*–bestselling author Jennifer Chambliss Bertman will

visit with Middle Division students during a special presentation she has crafted for our Cardinal Community. Ms. Bertman penned the popular series *Book Scavenger*, and is also an author of one of the novels on the Battle of the Books list, *Sisterhood of Sleuths*.

- **Ms. Bertman has generously offered to sign copies of her books while she is visiting for the day!** If you and your Middle Division student are interested in this option, please purchase one of her books through a local bookstore or wherever you may buy books. **This purchased book must be given to Library and Digital Media Specialist Tiffany Adair no later than tomorrow—Friday, October 13.** It is imperative that you write your child's name on a sticky note and place it on the purchased book so that Ms. Adair and Ms. Bertman know who owns the book.
- To learn more about Ms. Bertman's books, [visit her web page here](#).
- Please feel free to [email Ms. Adair](#) with any questions.

Red Ribbon Week Starts Monday + Daily Dress Themes

Red Ribbon Week is almost here! Held October 16–20, Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug-prevention program in the nation and a way for people and communities to take a visible stance against drugs.

DAILY DRESS THEMES DURING RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week will have daily themes in which we encourage all St. John's students from Early Childhood Division to eighth grade to participate. The daily themes are listed below. Please note that the entire week is going to be considered "free dress" according to school guidelines (as long as the student is participating in the daily theme). For example, on Monday, if a student is wearing a red shirt, he or she is allowed free-dress bottoms, and vice versa. However, students who do not have any red clothing on will be expected to wear their regular St. John's uniform. Free dress will only be permitted to those who are participating in the daily themes.

- **Monday, October 16:** "I'm RED-y to make healthy choices" (Wear RED clothes to show your dedication to being healthy.)
- **Tuesday, October 17:** "Hats off to being healthy" (Wear your favorite HAT to show your commitment to being healthy.)
- **Wednesday, October 18:** "Wake up and live healthy" (Wear your school-appropriate PAJAMAS or comfortable clothing to show that you are starting each day with healthy choices. Students must wear appropriate foot coverings as stated in the *Parent and Student Handbook*. Slippers and/or UGGs are not allowed.)
- **Thursday, October 19:** "We shine bright when we make healthy choices" (Wear NEON colors to show how bright your life is when you make healthy decisions.)
- **Friday, October 20:** "St. John's teams up for healthy choices" (Wear SPIRIT WEAR to show that you are part of the St. John's Community that strives to live a healthy lifestyle.)

Church

Students Invited to Sing in Worship on October 22

St. John's students are invited to sing in worship at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 22. Singers should arrive at 9:30 a.m. in their formal school uniform. With questions, [email Mrs. Naulls](#). We look forward to worshipping together!

Decorate Your Car for Trunk-or-Treat

On **Sunday, October 29, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**, we will hold our Trunk-or-Treat event in the front parking lot of St. John's. We are seeking volunteers to decorate their trunks and pass out candy or goodies to our students and community members. [Sign up here](#), and [email Rebecca Swartz](#), Church Administrator, if you have questions.

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 SJES Art Teacher Lee Heys by Wednesday each week.

- **Bible Verses for Wednesday, October 18:** Matthew 22:15–22
- **Bible Verses for Wednesday, October 25:** Matthew 22:34–36