



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of November 2, 2023

All School

Sibling Admissions: Apply by November 30 for Priority

If you have a child in your family who does not yet attend St. John's, and you are considering submitting an application for the 2024–25 school year, **we strongly encourage you to apply by the sibling application deadline of Thursday, November 30.**

This early application does not guarantee admission, but it will place you in a priority position if there is space in your desired grade. For grades with a waitlist, accepted siblings who applied by November 30 will have priority on the waitlist.

[Click Here to Complete Your Online Application.](#)

The sibling application and admissions timeline is as follows:

- **Thursday, November 30:** Applications due for sibling priority
- **Thursday, February 1:** Application checklist items due
- **Wednesday, February 21:** Sibling decisions sent for students who applied by the November 30 deadline
- **Monday, February 26:** Sibling enrollment due
- **Friday, March 1:** Admissions decisions sent to the general public

Please feel free to contact **Admissions@StJohns-ES.org** with any questions. We look forward to welcoming new siblings to the Cardinal family next year!

Help Us Reach Our Goal: YOU Make the Difference!

Tuition alone does not cover the cost of the St. John's Experience. The Cardinal Fund is **St. John's most important fundraising effort** of the year and bridges the gap in operating funding. The fund is now at 26% parent participation, and YOU can help us reach our goal of 100% by making a donation. **[Click Here to Donate Today!](#)**

An Update From the PTF Sunshine Committee

Today, the Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) Sunshine Committee stocked the four faculty and staff pantry areas with snacks and beverages to show how thankful we are. Also in the month of November, the Sunshine Committee will be covering recess duty so faculty and staff may eat together for their Annual Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to all who have contributed to make the Sunshine Committee possible. If you are interested in getting involved, please [email Lindsay Chandler](#).

Elementary Division Play: Buy Tickets Now for Next Week's Performances!

Don't miss our Elementary students in *Cinderella* this coming Wednesday, November 8, and Thursday, November 9! Purchase play tickets on the Creative Kids Playhouse website [here](#).

Middle Division Musical: *The Greatest Showman* Is November 10

Join us on Friday, November 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the Gym for the Middle Division production of *The Greatest Showman*! **No tickets are required to attend this performance.** All are welcome!

SJES Christmas Card: Submit Artwork by November 10

All St. John's students in Early Childhood through eighth grade are invited to submit artwork for the 2023 SJES Christmas Card, which features FIVE designs by different student artists each year.

- Designs should be submitted to the Advancement Office or to Art Teacher Lee Heys by **Friday, November 10**.
- All submissions will be considered and voted on by St. John's administration team.
- With questions, please email Advancement@StJohns-ES.org.

Next Spirit Lunch Is November 30: Place Your Order Today!

The next Spirit Lunch will take place on Thursday, November 30, and TK Burgers will be back on campus! As a reminder, K-8 Spirit Lunches take place alongside Parent Lunch; however, burger ordering is only available to students in an effort to accommodate efficient lunch lines.

- Order options include a cheeseburger, hamburger, veggie burger, corn dog, or grilled cheese, and include bottled water and chips.
- **All orders must be purchased in advance by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, November 16.**
- No Choicelunch will be available on this day.
- To pre-order your child's meal and for more information, please [click here](#).

Student Actors and Narrators Needed for Church Christmas Pageant

The 2023 St. John's Episcopal Church Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday, December 23, at 5:00 p.m. The theme is "Stellar Christmas," so those who attended VBS this year will be very familiar with the songs and characters.

- We need children from four years old through fifth grade to serve as narrators and actors.
- If older siblings would like to participate, we could also use help motioning the songs and directing the children.
- With questions or for additional details, please reach out to Chrissy Hennings via [email](#) or at 949.291.6141 for more details.

We will sing, act and—most of all—have fun and SHINE JESUS'S LIGHT!

COMING SOON! Candy Cane Lane

St. John's beloved annual shopping event, Candy Cane Lane, will take place December 5-8. More details to follow in the coming weeks!

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Thursday, November 2

- *Conference Sign-up Links Available in Today's Cardinal Weekly*
- *Deadline to Return Ages & Stages Questionnaire*

Wednesday, November 8

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin*

Friday, November 10

- *End of First Trimester*
- *Deadline to Submit Designs for 2023 SJES Christmas Card*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.*
- *Middle Division Production of The Greatest Showman: 3:00 p.m. in the Gym; no tickets required to attend; all are welcome*

Saturday, November 11

- *Wine Wall*: Invitations emailed October 11; please RSVP

Monday, November 13

- *School Eucharist and Holy Baptism*: All are welcome to be baptized; [contact Patti Peebles](#) to sign up

Tuesday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting*: 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 15

- *Friday Flip Day*: Follow Friday schedule; wear Spirit Wear tops

Thursday, November 16

- *Conference Day*: No school

Friday, November 17

- *Conference Day*: No school

Elementary Division

Thursday, November 2

- *Conference Sign-up Links Available in Today's Cardinal Weekly*
- *Elementary Play Practice (Red Cast)*: 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/guardians welcome
- *Elementary Play Dress Rehearsal (Blue Cast)*: 3:00–6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 7

- *Grades K–5: Wear Formal Uniform*
- *Admissions Open House*
- *Elementary Play Dress Rehearsal (Red Cast): 3:00–6:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, November 8

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin*
- *Elementary Play Performances (Blue Cast): 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.*

Thursday, November 9

- *Elementary Play Performances (Red Cast): 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.*

Friday, November 10

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *End of First Trimester*
- *Deadline to Submit Designs for 2023 SJES Christmas Card*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.*
- *Middle Division Production of The Greatest Showman: 3:00 p.m. in the Gym; no tickets required to attend; all are welcome*

Saturday, November 11

- *Wine Wall: Invitations emailed October 11; please RSVP*

Monday, November 13

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *School Eucharist and Holy Baptism: All are welcome to be baptized; [contact Patti Peebles](#) to sign up*
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents/guardians welcome*

Tuesday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting: 8:00 a.m.*

Wednesday, November 15

- *Friday Flip Day: Follow Friday schedule; wear Spirit Wear tops*
- *Thanksgiving Feast (K–2)*

Thursday, November 16

- *Conference Day: No school*
- *Deadline to Place Orders for November 30 Spirit Lunch: [Click here](#) to order*

Friday, November 17

- *Conference Day: No school*

Middle Division

Thursday, November 2

- *Conference Sign-up Links Available in Today's Cardinal Weekly*
- *Fall Sports Awards: 3:15–4:15 p.m. in the Gym*

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](#)*

Tuesday, November 7

- *Grade 6: Wear regular PE uniform*
- *Grades 7 & 8: Wear Formal Uniform*
- *Admissions Open House*

Wednesday, November 8

- *Deadline to Submit Art to Mrs. Heys for Possible Inclusion in Sunday Church Bulletin*

Thursday, November 9

- *Fall Sports Photos*
- *Middle Division Fall Play Practice: 3:00 p.m.*

Friday, November 10

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *End of First Trimester*
- *Deadline to Submit Designs for 2023 SJES Christmas Card*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.*
- *Middle Division Production of The Greatest Showman: 3:00 p.m. in the Gym; no tickets required to attend; all are welcome*

Saturday, November 11

- *Wine Wall: Invitations emailed October 11; please RSVP*

Monday, November 13

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *Boys 5/6/7/8 Lacrosse Tryouts: 3:15–4:30 p.m. on Reuland Field*
- *Boys 5/6 Basketball Tryouts: 3:15–4:30 p.m. in the Gym*
- *Boys 7/8 Basketball Tryouts: 4:30–5:30 p.m. in the Gym*
- *School Eucharist and Holy Baptism: All are welcome to be baptized; [contact Patti Peebles](#) to sign up*

Tuesday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting: 8:00 a.m.*
- *Girls 5/6 Basketball Tryouts: 3:15–4:30 p.m. in the Gym*
- *Girls 7/8 Basketball Tryouts: 3:15–4:30 p.m. in the Gym*
- *Girls 5/6/7/8 Lacrosse Tryouts: 3:15–4:30 p.m. on Reuland Field*

Wednesday, November 15

- *Friday Flip Day: Follow Friday schedule; wear Spirit Wear tops*
- *Deadline to Pick Up Your Child's Field Studies Medications From Health Office*

Thursday, November 16

- *Conference Day: No school*
- *Deadline to Place Orders for November 30 Spirit Lunch: [Click here](#) to order*

Friday, November 17

- *Conference Day: No school*

Early Childhood Division

From the Division Principal

The Fall Festival was a fun event for all of our young learners. They were excited to show parents around their school, participate in favorite activities, and meet up with all their friends.

In just a few short years, they have learned to do many things, becoming more independent each day. We can credit that independence to parents, teachers, and play. **Free play is child-initiated play**, a form of play in which children have the autonomy to choose their activities, explore their interests, and interact with their environment. It is driven by the child's curiosity, creativity, and imagination.

Halloween is the beginning of a busy time of year, and the additional demands can be challenging for young children. Free play is **essential for a child's overall development**, as it helps them build a wide range of skills, including problem-solving, social interaction, creativity, and emotional regulation.

Knowing that play is an important element in your child's daily routine, **here are a few ways to support free play during busy times:**

- Encourage children to play independently, and trust them to explore on their own. This fosters self-regulation and autonomy.
- Supervise for safety, but avoid overdirecting. Let children take the lead and discover on their own.
- Join in occasionally. This is a great way to connect with them and to show your support for their interests!

Warmly,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Sign Up Today!

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 16, and Friday, November 17.

- Please [click here to schedule your conference](#) through SignUpGenius.
- Once you sign up, you will receive an email confirming your selected time, in addition to an email reminder five days before your conference.
- If you have any questions about conference sign-ups, please [email Susan Gomez](#).

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

Halloween was a fun-filled day! It was great to kick everything off with our traditional Halloween Parade. Having all of our Elementary students parade around the field in front of the other students, faculty, and parents provided one of the rare opportunities for everyone to be on the field at the same time. The variety of costumes was great to see, as was the excitement of each Cardinal!

As we enter the month of November, I would like to turn our attention to the upcoming holiday season. In a matter of weeks, Thanksgiving will be upon us, with Christmas arriving shortly afterward. This cascade of holidays from Halloween to the New Year will go by quickly. Before we know it, 2024 will be here—and so will the second half of the school year.

Before each of us gets caught up in the Thanksgiving celebration (and everything that happens afterward), I ask that all parents focus their attention on **Parent-Teacher Conferences**, which will take place on **Thursday, November 16, and Friday, November 17**.

Please use this opportunity to learn as much as you can about your child's progress. **Ask questions, share stories, and find out how—in partnership with you—we can best provide your child with the exemplary and memorable St. John's Experience!**

While Parent-Teacher Conferences offer one opportunity for communication between school and home, I encourage everyone to stay in contact with your child's teacher throughout the school year. St. John's has dedicated times for parents and teachers to connect, but **we are always available, so please don't hesitate to reach out** to any of us with any questions you may have!

Sincerely,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Sign Up Now

Parent-Teacher Conference sign-ups are now available! Conferences will be held Thursday, November 16, and Friday, November 17, and you may schedule your conference using the SignUpGenius links below.

- Click on the appropriate link and follow the instructions provided:
 - [Grades K–2 Parent-Teacher Conference Sign-ups](#)
 - [Grades 3–5 Parent-Teacher Conference Sign-ups](#)

- You will receive an email confirmation of your sign-up, and then a reminder email five days before your conference.
- Enrichment teachers will also be available to meet with parents on the scheduled conference days.
- If you would like to schedule a conference with an enrichment teacher, or if you have any questions about conference sign-ups, please contact Su Plamondon via [email](#) or at 949.858.5144, ext. 201.

Congratulations, Cardinal Character Recognition Honorees!

During the Elementary Division Flag-Raising Ceremony this week, [these students](#) were recognized for displaying Cardinal Character traits. Congratulations, Cardinals!

Attention, Fifth Graders! Cinderella Crew Help Needed Next Week

Creative Kids Playhouse (CKP) is seeking fifth graders to serve on two Stage Crews for the production of *Cinderella*—one crew to serve during the Blue Cast dress rehearsal and performances on November 6 and 8, and one crew to serve during the Red Cast dress rehearsal and performances on November 7 and 9.

- If your child is currently in fifth grade and would be interested in helping out, please complete [this form](#).
- Each crew will have five members, who will be randomly selected from the list of volunteers by CKP.
- Students who are selected must attend both the dress rehearsal and their selected performances.

Wear Formal Uniforms This Tuesday

Due to our Admissions Open House, all Elementary Division students are reminded to wear Formal Uniform this Tuesday, November 7, in addition to wearing Formal Uniform this Monday, November 6.

December 11: Parents Invited to Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony

Our next Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony will be held immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Flag-Raising Ceremony on Monday, December 11.

- Families of students who are receiving a recognition award will be notified in advance. This is a great event, and all parents are encouraged to attend, if possible.
- If you do attend the Ceremony, please park on the street or in the LDS or Christian Science parking lots. Please do not park in the St. John's parking lot, as this creates difficulties for our Early Childhood Division parents.

SMCHS Holiday Music: You're Invited on November 30

St. John's students in K–8 are invited to attend the Santa Margarita Catholic High School (SMCHS) Christmas production in the Pavilion on Thursday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m. What a wonderful way to sneak preview SMCHS's Arts Program and spend a festive evening listening to holiday music with your SJES family! Please [email Lisa Naulls](#) ASAP if you are interested in attending.

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

Happy November to everyone! I want to personally thank you for sharing your children with us for the MD Field Studies week.

The trips provided exciting and fun experiences, but also gave your children the opportunity to mature and grow in ways that do not happen every day. For our sixth- and seventh-grade students, four days away from home with no access to technology and no communication with parents can be difficult and trying.

That said, it also gave every student the chance to explore in a safe environment, challenge themselves with activities they may not have tried before, collaborate with each other through open and meaningful conversation, and lean on one another when things seemed a bit too hard. The students came home with stories of difficult moments, but they also shared many more moments of immense pride and accomplishment.

For our eighth-grade students, eight days on the other side of the country is both exhilarating and frightening. I can tell you firsthand that all our students gained amazing stories to share about the places they visited in our nation's capital and the ways that they learned to be responsible young adults on the trip of a lifetime. Each of these unique experiences encourages growth and maturity and plays an important role in our students' development.

Another important part of the MD experience is student-led conferences. Below, you will find the links to **sign up for MD Parent-Student-Advisor Conferences on Thursday, November 16, and Friday, November 17.** These conferences are not only a time for you to hear how your student is doing, but also a time for your student to learn to advocate for themselves in front of caring adults—their parents and their advisor.

The students are challenged to share their personal thoughts on what has gone well over the course of the first trimester, where improvements can be made, and how they plan to meet their goals. **Through this process, students improve their confidence and communication skills while cultivating their own voice.** Open and honest dialogue allows for a better understanding of the student's specific needs.

I strongly encourage every family to sign up for a conference and to take a key step in helping your child develop lifelong goals that lead to greater achievements as a student and as an individual.

Sincerely,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

Parent-Student-Advisor Conferences: Sign Up Today!

Parent-Student-Advisor Conferences will be held **Thursday, November 16, and Friday, November 17.**

- Please click on the pertinent link below to schedule your conference through SignUpGenius:
 - [Grade 6 Conference Sign-ups](#)
 - [Grade 7 Conference Sign-ups](#)
 - [Grade 8 Conference Sign-ups](#)
- Once you sign up, you will receive an email confirming your selected time, in addition to an email reminder five days before your conference.
- Sign-ups close at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 13.
- **Students are required to attend the conference with parents.**
- With questions about conference sign-ups, please [email Rhiannon Overmire](#).

Eighth-Grade Parents: Student Survey Date Changed

This past Monday, eighth-grade parents received an email about the Next Step Program—an effective drug-education program that the Orange County Sheriff's Department will be sharing with St. John's eighth graders over the next few months. In Monday's note, we let you know that eighth graders would take an anonymous Drug Awareness Student Survey during advisory today, November 2. However, that survey date has been moved. **Instead of taking the survey today, students will now complete the survey on Thursday, November 30.** We apologize for any confusion!

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:

- [Vincent M.](#), Eighth-Grade Student of the Week
- [Ronan L.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Sawyer M.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

Grades 7 & 8: Wear Formal Uniform This Tuesday

Due to our Admissions Open House, **all seventh- and eighth-grade students are asked to wear Formal Uniform this Tuesday, November 7**, in addition to wearing Formal Uniform this Monday, November 6. **Sixth-grade students ONLY should wear their regular PE uniforms this Tuesday, November 7**, as they will be participating in regular PE activities that day.

Fall Sports Photos Are Next Thursday

Athletics will be hosting Fall Sports Photos on Thursday, November 9, in the Gym.

Winter Sports Tryouts Are November 13 & 14

Tryouts for basketball and lacrosse will be held according to the following schedule:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- **Boys 5/6/7/8 Lacrosse Tryouts:** 3:15–4:30 p.m. on Reuland Field
- **Boys 5/6 Basketball Tryouts:** 3:15–4:30 p.m. in the Gym
- **Boys 7/8 Basketball Tryouts:** 4:30–5:30 p.m. in the Gym

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- **Girls 5/6 Basketball Tryouts:** 3:15–4:30 p.m. in the Gym
- **Girls 7/8 Basketball Tryouts:** 3:15–4:30 p.m. in the Gym
- **Girls 5/6/7/8 Lacrosse Tryouts:** 3:15–4:30 p.m. on Reuland Field

Field Studies Medication: Pick Up by November 15

If you provided medication for your child's use during Field Studies, please pick it up from the Health Office. Contact the Health Office if you wish to keep some of your child's medication on campus for the remainder of the school year.

- Medication will NOT be given to a student to transport home; a parent must pick up the medication.
- If the medication is not picked up by Wednesday, November 15, it will be disposed of.
- The Health Office is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. daily.

SMCHS Holiday Music: You're Invited on November 30

St. John's students in K–8 are invited to attend the Santa Margarita Catholic High School (SMCHS) Christmas production in the Pavilion on Thursday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m. What a wonderful way to sneak preview SMCHS's Arts Program and spend a festive evening listening to holiday music with your SJES family! Please [email Lisa Naulls](#) ASAP if you are interested in attending.

Church

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 theme. Students should submit work to SJES Art Teacher Lee Heys by Wednesday each week.

- **Message for Wednesday, November 8:** Keep Watch—Light your lamp to see who comes