



## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of November 9, 2023*

### **All School**

#### **Tomorrow Is a Minimum Day**

Families are reminded that tomorrow—Friday, November 10—is a minimum day. Division dismissal times are as follows:

- Early Childhood Division: 11:45 a.m.
- Elementary Division: 12:00 p.m.
- Middle Division: 12:15 p.m.

#### **Elementary Division Play: Final Two Performances Are Tonight**

Don't miss our Elementary students in *Cinderella* this evening—Thursday, November 9. Performance times are 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Purchase play tickets on the Creative Kids Playhouse website [here](#).

#### **Middle Division Musical: Join Us Tomorrow for *The Greatest Showman***

Join us tomorrow—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: Tomorrow Is Artwork Submission Deadline**

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 tomorrow—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](mailto:Advancement@StJohns-ES.org).

### **Wine Wall: See You Saturday!**

We are so excited for Wine Wall this Saturday, November 11, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. See you there!

### **Winter Sports Tryouts Are This Monday and Tuesday**

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

### **Next Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting Is Tuesday**

Please join us for our November Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting this **Tuesday, November 14, at 8:00 a.m.** in the Learning Commons. At this month's meeting, we will welcome **Mrs. Patti Peebles and some of our very own SJES students** to speak about the Service-Learning Committee. We hope to see you all there!

If you are unable to attend in person, please join us via Zoom:

- **Zoom Meeting Link (Meeting ID: 956 8499 4550):** <https://jamsadr.zoom.us/j/95684994550?from=addon>

### **Spirit Lunch: Place Orders by November 16**

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, 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](#).

### **Candy Cane Lane Is December 5-8**

Candy Cane Lane is an annual student event that allows students in Grades PK–8 to practice financial planning and money management while holiday shopping for their family and friends. Be sure to save the dates! Candy Cane Lane will be held on campus this year from **Tuesday, December 5, through Friday, December 8**. We'll be sharing more information on this beloved event and on how you can volunteer for it soon!

### **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!

### **Save the Date: Mother-Son Outing Is January 21**

The annual Mother-Son Outing will take place on Sunday, January 21, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at John's Incredible Pizza. We hope you will join us for this fun event filled with games, rides, pizza, music, and more! More details to follow.

### **The Father-Daughter Dance Will Return on January 27**

Save the date for a magical "Night in Paris" Father-Daughter Dance on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Enjoy an unforgettable evening in Paris featuring a live DJ, photo ops, tasty treats, and delightful crafts! More information and ticket sales are coming soon.

### **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. Thank you to everyone who has already supported this most important philanthropic effort! Because of your donations last week, the fund is now at **32% parent participation**, and YOU can help us reach our goal of 100% by making a donation. [Click Here to Donate Today!](#)

## **Ingathering Donation Report: Thank You for Making a Difference!**

We give thanks to all who supported our recent ingatherings—the October Change for Change Drive and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. You made a difference!

- Our October Change for Change Drive ended with a grand total of \$1,279.27 in contributions, which have been sent to the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii on behalf of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in downtown Lahaina.
- Our Thanksgiving Food Drive gave us more than 100 bags of Thanksgiving dinner provisions, which will be given out at the RSM Cares Food Pantry this Wednesday, November 15.

*“From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” —Luke 12:48b*

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Early Childhood Division**

#### **Thursday, November 9**

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

#### **Friday, November 10**

- *End of First Trimester*
- *Deadline to Submit Designs for 2023 SJES Christmas Card*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *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*

## **Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday: No school*

## **Elementary Division**

### **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

#### **Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*: No school

### **Middle Division**

#### **Thursday, November 9**

- *Fall Sports Photos*
- *Middle Division Fall Play Practice*: 3:00 p.m.
- *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 12:15 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

## **Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*: No school

## **Early Childhood Division**

### **From the Division Principal**

In the Early Childhood Division, you will find children getting ready for Thanksgiving. Even the

youngest children in our Early Preschool classes participate in community service by decorating placemats that will be given to veterans.

Each class is learning about the symbols of Thanksgiving, such as Pilgrims, turkeys, and cornucopias. You can see many engaging activities in each class as students create group-designed turkeys, learn how to use a cornucopia to collect vegetables, and anticipate the winner of the turkey race.

Moreover, children are learning about the true meaning of Thanksgiving and the importance of being grateful for our families, friends, food, and homes. Even in these early years, our students are having classroom discussions that show them they have a lot of reasons to be thankful. These lessons and activities not only teach about the holiday, but also foster creativity, teamwork, and a sense of community—ultimately epitomizing St. John's goals by developing children who are thoughtful, respectful, and caring!

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](#).

### **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!



## Elementary Division

### **From the Division Principal**

This past Tuesday, St. John's hosted our annual Admissions Open House. Welcoming prospective St. John's families, this event allowed our staff and students to showcase some of the amazing attributes of our school. As the tour groups walked around our campus, our students were the center of attention! They were proud to demonstrate to all the visitors what they were doing and what they could accomplish as learners.

It was a firsthand opportunity for prospective families to see our incredible students, facilities, and faculty—and to answer a very important question: “Can I imagine my child as a part of this learning community?” For so many who tour our campus, the answer is a resounding, “Yes!” We pride ourselves on our exemplary approach to education, and it's one of the reasons St. John's is so impressive to visitors.

Although the Admissions Open House is a thoughtfully planned event—from small details to large—I would like to emphasize that what happens at Open House happens at St. John's **every day**. We believe that students are the center of the school. It is because of them that we exist. If you were a fly on the wall at any point of any day, you would see just how much we value your child and all that they can accomplish. Students at St. John's are constantly showcasing their achievements.

When it comes to making learning visible, students engage in many types of practices:

- They engage in the writing process, editing and revising before proudly reading their compositions to peers;
- They learn the art of persuasion, selecting a position and then advancing an argument;
- They interpret a master artist's work and then recreate their own masterpiece with their personal touch;
- And that's just the beginning!

In the realm of mathematics, I want to take this moment to share with you how students are demonstrating their thinking to their teachers and each other.

St. John's teachers have been exploring a math routine that encourages students to engage in dialogues centered around sequences of math expressions. These expressions, introduced one at a time to a group of students, are designed to encourage the development of a specific math strategy, model, or big idea.

In the context of number discussions, properly referred to as “Number Strings,” students use mental math to reason mathematically, develop number sense, engage in problem-solving, and visualize math in a variety of ways. The rich math discussions that emerge from this practice

allow students to identify as mathematicians and to develop the growth mindset that encourages them to take risks and articulate their ideas.

St. John's is a school that values STEAM education, and Number Strings add another layer to our approach as we prepare students for the future. As you continue to speak with your children about their days at school—and as you follow up with them after Parent-Teacher Conferences next week—please remember to create opportunities at home for them to continue demonstrating their learning. They have so many reasons to be proud!

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke  
Elementary Division Principal

### **Calling All Singers in Grades 3-8!**

The St. John's Children's Choir has been invited to sing in Santa Margarita Catholic High School's annual Nick Kraus Memorial Concert at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

- If your child is in Grades 3–8 and is interested in being a part of this amazing musical opportunity, please **complete [this form](#) no later than Friday, November 17**.
- Students who wish to perform will be asked to participate in a brief audition the week of November 27.
- More details will be provided soon.

### **Elementary Christmas Concert Is December 14**

We're pleased to invite you to our K–5 Christmas concert on **Thursday, December 14**. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our Elementary Division students to share their talents and what they have been learning in our music program with the entire school community.

### **This Sunday: 'Let Us Sing Thanksgiving' Interfaith Musical Performance**

You're invited to celebrate Thanksgiving this Sunday, November 12, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. with uplifting musical performances from our local faith groups. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **First-Grade Physical Form Due by December 1**

California law requires that first-grade students have a health examination form on file at school no later than 90 days after the start of school. This completed form is due to the Health Office by Wednesday, December 1. If you have already turned in the form, please disregard this notice. If you are unsure whether you have turned the form in, please [email the Health Office](#).

### **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!

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences Are Next Week: Sign Up Now**

**Parent-Teacher Conference sign-ups are 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.

## **Middle Division**

### **From the Division Principal**

Tomorrow is the end of the first trimester, and we are one-third of the way through the 2023–24 school year. This is a good time to focus on one of our eight Cardinal Character Traits—namely, resilience. **Here at St. John's, resilience is defined in the following way: We approach new opportunities and points of view by taking risks with a spirit of determination, courage, and perseverance.**

Our students demonstrate a desire to push themselves beyond their comfort zone and seek new heights, whether as athletes trying out for a sports team, performers willing to

demonstrate their talents on stage, scientists arguing their point of view during a scientific seminar, student ambassadors leading tours during Admissions Open House, or artists sharing their talent with the community.

- When a teacher shares the story of a quiet student finally gaining the courage to speak up in class, I am reminded of the risk the student is taking.
- When a coach shares the story of a young athlete who initially did not want to serve the ball but by the end of the season became the leading server on the team, I am reminded of the perseverance required.
- When I watch a Middle Division Student Ambassador lead a tour group of adults for the first time, I am reminded of the courage required.
- When the robotics team spends weeks collaborating and competition day arrives, I am reminded of the risks that come with competing against schools near and far.
- And academically, when students do not perform to the best of their ability, but are willing to spend time relearning concepts, they gain understanding and find success through the process.

Our students are, indeed, resilient, and **it is important for us to recognize that while they have so many opportunities in their young lives, those opportunities are accompanied by challenges.** In life, it is through struggles that students develop resilience, and the ability to see past frustration to growth empowers students to embrace new opportunities.

Here at SJES, the STEAM approach to learning reminds our students that with failure comes learning when they practice resilience. I encourage you to have open conversations with your students during which they share the details of their day, and those specific moments where they took a risk, stepped out of their comfort zone, and found the courage to persevere.

Sincerely,

Sheryll Grogan  
Middle Division Principal

### **Calling All Singers in Grades 3-8!**

The St. John's Children's Choir has been invited to sing in Santa Margarita Catholic High School's annual Nick Kraus Memorial Concert at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

- If your child is in Grades 3–8 and is interested in being a part of this amazing musical opportunity, please **complete [this form](#) no later than Friday, November 17.**
- Students who wish to perform will be asked to participate in a brief audition the week of November 27.
- More details will be provided soon.

### **Mark Your Calendars: MD Christmas Concert Is December 12**

We are so excited to welcome Middle Division families to our Christmas concert on **Tuesday, December 12**. Mr. Roberts (Band), Ms. Naulls (Choir), Ms. Stebbins (Dance), and Mr. Tiatia-Garaud (Drama) are so proud to showcase what the students have been working on in their respective classes.

The event is divided into two separate shows, occurring on the same night but at different times:

- If your child is in **Band** or **Choir**, your portion of the show will begin at **6:00 p.m.**
- If your child is in **Dance** or **Drama**, your portion of the show will begin at **7:00 p.m.**

More information will be communicated by your child's Performing Arts teachers. We look forward to seeing everyone for a wonderful evening put on by our Middle Division Performing Arts students.

### **Parent-Student-Advisor Conferences: Sign-ups Close Monday**

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. this Monday, November 13.
- **Students are required to attend the conference with parents.**
- With questions about conference sign-ups, please [email Rhiannon Overmire](#).

### **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 This Wednesday**

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 this 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**

### **You're Invited on November 12: Interfaith Thanksgiving Program**

You're invited to the Interfaith "Let Us Sing Thanksgiving" Program, which will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (30522 Via Con Dios in Rancho Santa Margarita). Groups from the area, including St. John's choir students, will offer a wonderful presentation of peace, gratitude, and harmony through music! Refreshments will be provided.

### **Thanksgiving Eve Service Is November 22**

On Wednesday, November 22, at 6:00 p.m., we will hold a special Holy Eucharist service to mark the Thanksgiving holiday. All are invited to join us for music, communion, and a special performance by our school choir.

### **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.
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