



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of November 16, 2023

All School

LAST CALL for Spirit Lunch Orders

Today is the LAST DAY to place your child's TK Burgers orders for the November 30 Spirit Lunch. **Orders will close at 11:59 p.m. tonight.** As a reminder, K-8 Spirit Lunches take place alongside Parent Lunch; however, meal ordering is only available to students to accommodate efficient lunch lines.

- Students may choose from a cheeseburger, hamburger, veggie burger, corn dog, or grilled cheese, and meals include bottled water and chips.
- **No Choicelunch will be available on this day.**
- [Click here](#) to pre-order your child's lunch!

Important Carpool Notice

Our goal is to have all students in their classrooms by 8:00 a.m. as quickly and safely as possible. We appreciate your attention and assistance with the following to ensure our carpool line runs smoothly:

- **DRIVERS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR AT ALL TIMES.** It slows the line down considerably when drivers get out of the car in the carpool line. Please allow the St. John's staff members on carpool duty to assist your children in exiting the car quickly and safely.
- If your child needs extra assistance or is hesitant to exit the car in a timely fashion, we recommend you park on the street and walk your children onto campus.
- Please refrain from placing backpacks and school supplies in the trunk of the car. Having items in the back seat with your child(ren) makes exiting easier and less time-consuming.
- For student safety, **children should never exit the car before reaching the metal fence along the field**, even if the line is moving slowly. Lately, we have seen children exiting the cars before the car makes the turn along the field. It is incredibly dangerous and unsafe for students to be walking down the carpool driveway.

We're Putting the 'Fun' in 'Fundraising'! Gratitude and Giving Week Starts November 27

Gratitude and Giving Week is upon us! The Advancement Team has some fun gratitude and giving challenges on the way as we share appreciation for our families and their support, while we seek to boost parent participation in the Cardinal Fund by 20%.

- **“A Very Sweet Thank-You” on Monday, November 27:** In appreciation for our Cardinal families, we'll be serving complimentary Kona Ice in front of the school from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- **“Giving Honor on Giving Tuesday” on Tuesday, November 28:** Give a gift in honor of a teacher, staff member, student, or community member.
- **“Dine Out to Donate” on Wednesday, November 29:** Join your fellow Cardinal families at BJ's RSM or enjoy some takeout. BJ's will donate 20% of the total proceeds to the Cardinal Fund!
- **“Sprint to 20% at Spirit Lunch” on Thursday, November 30:** Support the Cardinal Fund and try your luck at winning some fun raffle prizes during K–8 Spirit Lunch/Parent Lunch, as we complete our homestretch sprint to increase Cardinal Fund participation by 20%.
- **“Celebrate Support for St. John's!” on Friday, December 1:** We'll celebrate the week with popsicles for all students, plus free dress if we've met our fundraising goal!

Challenges will be UNLOCKED when we return from Thanksgiving Break! Stay tuned...

Candy Cane Lane: Create Your Child's Budget by December 1

Candy Cane Lane is a beloved annual student event that allows students in PK–8 to practice financial planning and money management while holiday shopping for their family and friends.

- This year, the event will take place **Tuesday, December 5, through Friday, December 8.**
- Be sure to provide your child with their spend amount in advance. [Click here](#) to fund your child's budget by Friday, December 1.
- Questions? Please [email Chrissy Hennings](#).

Mother-Son Outing Is January 21: Buy Tickets Now

[Click here to buy tickets](#) to the annual Mother-Son Outing, which 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!

Father-Daughter Dance Is January 27: Tickets Now on Sale

A magical “Night in Paris” awaits with the 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! Tickets are on sale now—[click here to purchase](#).

New Ladies Tee in the Student Store

Out with the old, in with the new! A fresh new Spirit tee always feels good on Friday, so pick up one of our chic new short-sleeve Ladies' Cursive Tees and show your Cardinal pride! [Click here to buy yours.](#)

Wine Wall: Photos Now Available!

Thank you again to Lori Stowe and Anne O'Brien for hosting an amazing Wine Wall event this past weekend! If you have wine you would still like to donate, please drop it off to the Advancement Office during school operating hours. [Click here for photos from the event.](#)

Baptisms at St. John's Episcopal School

On Monday at our school Eucharist, we welcomed SJES third graders Levi, Kian, and Aviola into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Congratulations and welcome! Please note that we will have baptisms at school again in May. Keep an eye on the *Cardinal Weekly* for more information in the spring.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Thursday, November 16

- *Conference Day*: No school

Friday, November 17

- *Conference Day*: No school

Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24

- *Thanksgiving Break*: No school

Wednesday, November 22

- *Holy Eucharist Thanksgiving Service*: 6:00 p.m. at the church

Monday, November 27

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"A Very Sweet Thank-You"*: Complimentary Kona Ice will be served in front of the school from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Giving Honor on Giving Tuesday"*: Make a Cardinal Fund gift in honor of your favorite SJES teacher, staff member, student, or community member.

Wednesday, November 29

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Dine Out to Donate"*: Eat at BJ's RSM and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to SJES.

Thursday, November 30

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Sprint to 20% at Spirit Lunch"*: This is our final sprint to increase Cardinal Fund participation by 20%!

Friday, December 1

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Celebrate Support for St. John's!"*: Students will enjoy popsicles during the day, plus free dress if we've met the week's fundraising goal!
- *Deadline to Fund Your Pre-K Child's Budget for Candy Cane Lane*: [Click here for details](#)

Monday, December 4

- *Kindergarten Preview for Current Pre-K Parents*: 8:00–9:15 a.m.; meet in the courtyard

Tuesday, December 5–Friday, December 8

- *Candy Cane Lane for Pre-K Through Eighth Grade*: Create and [fund your child's budget](#) by December 1

Friday, December 15

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.
- *Christmas Celebrations*
- *ECD Christmas Concert*: 11:15 a.m.

Monday, December 18–Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Break:* No school

Elementary Division

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
- *Deadline for Singers in Grades 3-8 to Complete Interest Form to Sing at Nick Kraus Memorial Concert:* [Click here](#) to complete the form

Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24

- *Thanksgiving Break:* No school

Wednesday, November 22

- *Holy Eucharist Thanksgiving Service:* 6:00 p.m. at the church

Monday, November 27

- *Formal Uniform for K–8*
- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"A Very Sweet Thank-You":* Complimentary Kona Ice will be served in front of the school from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Giving Honor on Giving Tuesday":* Make a Cardinal Fund gift in honor of your favorite SJES teacher, staff member, student, or community member.

Wednesday, November 29

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Dine Out to Donate":* Eat at BJ's RSM and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to SJES.
- *Sixth-Grade Preview for Current Fifth-Grade Parents:* 8:10 a.m.; meet in the Learning Commons

Thursday, November 30

- *Wear Spirit Wear Tops*
- *Gratitude and Giving Week— "Sprint to 20% at Spirit Lunch": This is our final sprint to increase Cardinal Fund participation by 20%!*
- *K–8 Spirit Lunch/Parent Lunch: No Choice lunch today*

Friday, December 1

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Gratitude and Giving Week— "Celebrate Support for St. John's!": Students will enjoy popsicles during the day, plus free dress if we've met the week's fundraising goal!*
- *Deadline to Submit Completed First-Grade Health Examination Form to Health Office*
- *Deadline to Fund Your Child's Budget for Candy Cane Lane: [Click here for details](#)*

Monday, December 4

- *Formal Uniform for K–8*
- *First-Grade Preview for Current Kindergarten Parents: 2:00–2:40 p.m.; meet in the first-grade classrooms in Sillers Hall*

Tuesday, December 5–Friday, December 8

- *Candy Cane Lane for Pre-K Through Eighth Grade: Create and [fund your child's budget](#) by December 1*

Friday, December 8

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, December 11

- *Formal Uniform for K–8*
- *Flag-Raising Ceremony/Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. in the courtyard*

Thursday, December 14

- *ED Christmas Concert: 6:00 p.m. in the Gym*

Friday, December 15

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.*
- *Christmas Celebrations*

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, December 18–Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Break: No school*

Middle Division

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*
- *Deadline for Singers in Grades 3-8 to Complete Interest Form to Sing at Nick Kraus Memorial Concert: [Click here](#) to complete the form*

Monday, November 20–Friday, November 24

- *Thanksgiving Break: No school*

Wednesday, November 22

- *Holy Eucharist Thanksgiving Service: 6:00 p.m. at the church*

Monday, November 27

- *Formal Uniform for K–8*
- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"A Very Sweet Thank-You": Complimentary Kona Ice will be served in front of the school from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, November 28

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Giving Honor on Giving Tuesday": Make a Cardinal Fund gift in honor of your favorite SJES teacher, staff member, student, or community member.*
- *Shrek JR. (MD Musical) Parent/Student Information Meeting: 3:15 p.m. in Sillers Hall, Room 23*

Wednesday, November 29

- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Dine Out to Donate"*: Eat at BJ's RSM and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to SJES.

Thursday, November 30

- *Wear Spirit Wear Tops*
- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Sprint to 20% at Spirit Lunch"*: This is our final sprint to increase Cardinal Fund participation by 20%!
- *K–8 Spirit Lunch/Parent Lunch*: No Choice lunch today
- *Eighth Graders Take Drug Awareness Student Survey*

Friday, December 1

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Gratitude and Giving Week—"Celebrate Support for St. John's!"*: Students will enjoy popsicles during the day, plus free dress if we've met the week's fundraising goal!
- *Deadline to Fund Your Child's Budget for Candy Cane Lane*: [Click here for details](#)

Monday, December 4

- *Formal Uniform for K–8*

Tuesday, December 5–Friday, December 8

- *Candy Cane Lane for Pre-K Through Eighth Grade*: Create and [fund your child's budget](#) by December 1

Wednesday, December 6

- *Grade 7 Information Night for Grade 8 Washington, DC, Field Studies Trip*: 6:00 p.m. in Sillers Hall, Room 25

Friday, December 8

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, December 11

- *Formal Uniform for K–8*

Tuesday, December 12

- *MD Christmas Concert*
 - **Band/Choir:** 6:00 p.m. in the Gym
 - **Dance/Drama:** 7:00 p.m. in the Gym

Friday, December 15

- *Minimum Day:* Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
- *Christmas Celebrations*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, December 18–Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Break:* No school

Early Childhood Division

From the Division Principal

St. John's Early Childhood students made more than a hundred Thanksgiving placemats for Marine veterans as part of our division's Service-Learning Project. Each child made one and decorated it with love and care. This is the first of several projects planned for this year to support those in need in our community.

As the first trimester of the school year comes to an end, we look forward to parent conferences, followed by a few days to spend time with our families. I hope you are able to enjoy this holiday with friends and family, sharing love, laughter, and precious moments together.

I am filled with gratitude for the love, kindness, and support shared by the community of St. John's Episcopal School.

We wish you all a beautiful Thanksgiving,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

Pre-K Parents, Join Us for Kindergarten Preview on December 4

Current Pre-K parents are invited to join us for a glimpse into the St. John's kindergarten experience on Monday, December 4, from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m. We'll meet in the courtyard and move on from there.

- Elementary Division Principal Ryan Bourke and our kindergarten teachers look forward to meeting you and to sharing about our nurturing, innovative kindergarten program.
- The morning will include a tour of the kindergarten and of the many wonderful enrichment classes that await your student next year!
- Please [click here](#) to RSVP so we know you will be joining us.

Calling All Preschool and Pre-K Students

St. John's preschool and Pre-K students have been invited to sing two of their Christmas concert songs on Sunday, December 10, at the 10:00 a.m. St. John's Episcopal Church service. If interested, please [email Katie Scott](#).

Save the Date: ECD Christmas Concert Is December 15

Our Early Childhood Division Christmas Concert will take place on Friday, December 15, at 11:15 a.m. in the newly remodeled gymnasium.

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

Last week during recess, a few first-grade students discovered that some balls had been lodged on the top of our handball wall. With some help from me, we were able to shake the balls down. Afterward, one of the boys asked me, "Will you make a rule that says, 'No balls up here'?" In response, I said, "How about you make us a sign?" He agreed.

Sure enough, the next day he gave me a piece of paper that read: "New School Rule. Please do not throw balls up on here."



At St. John's, we work to develop our students' independence and agency. This happens in the classroom, during enrichment periods, and in less-structured settings like recess. Sometimes it requires a lot from our students (e.g., projects, presentations, persuasive essays), while other times it's developed through small behaviors.

No matter what the circumstance, we are impressed with how our Cardinals tackle challenges. It's only November, but already everyone has demonstrated so much growth. It's exciting to think of where everyone will be in June!

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

Fifth-Grade Families: Sixth-Grade Preview Is November 29

Parents of current fifth graders, please **join us for a sixth-grade preview at 8:10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 29.**

- Middle Division Principal Sheryll Grogan will lead the program, which will be held in the **Learning Commons** and will begin immediately after drop-off.
- Come learn about “all things Middle Division”—including the program, scheduling, advisory, Field Studies, fun, and more.
- The morning will conclude with a Q&A session on the Learning Commons Patio.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Kindergarten Parents, Join Us for First-Grade Preview on December 4

Current kindergarten parents are invited to **join us for a sneak peek into St. John's first-grade experience on Monday, December 4, from 2:00 to 2:40 p.m. We'll meet in the first-grade classrooms in Sillers Hall.**

- Your child's “geography” will change for the 2024–25 school year as your student moves into a new building. We know that for some of you, this will be your first time in that part of the campus, and we wanted to provide you with an opportunity to check it out.
- Come meet our wonderful first-grade teachers, Mrs. McLennan and Mrs. Shuy. They have so much to share with you!
- Please [click here](#) to RSVP so we know you will be joining us.

ED Christmas Concert Is December 14

The Elementary Division Christmas Concert will take place on **Thursday, December 14, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** in the Cardinal Gym.

- We are returning to a single-show format.
- Grades K–5: Please drop your child off in his or her classroom between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m.
- Join us at 5:30 p.m. for solo and small-group performances by our Elementary students. Pre-show performers, please arrive at 5:15 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. It is going to be an amazing evening!

Sign Up by Tomorrow: 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 tomorrow—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.

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](#)**.

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

It is heartwarming to see our Middle Division students engaging in meaningful activities to honor and appreciate veterans during the month of November. These Service-Learning Projects not only provide students with a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by veterans, but also allow them to express gratitude in a personal and profound way.

SIXTH-GRADE SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

Sixth-grade students heard firsthand about a special Honor Flight involving John Hettwer, a real-life Vietnam War veteran and the father of their history teacher, Mrs. Walsh.

The history lesson continued with a discussion about our own SJES Vicar, Father Jerry Sather, and his 40+ years of service to our country as a military chaplain, most recently in the Air Force. The students created cards and pictures to personally thank Father Jerry for his service. The

notes were delivered to his office this past Monday, following our All-School Eucharist honoring Veteran's Day.

During the Eucharist service, Father Jerry delivered a moving sermon while dressed in his official Air Force uniform. He made quite an impression on the students! I am sure their notes and cards made an equally warm impression on Father Jerry and were greatly appreciated.

SEVENTH-GRADE SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

The seventh-grade students made similar connections during their history classes. They participated in Advisory visits to the memory-care unit at Park Terrace Senior Living facility last year, and their second round of visits has already begun for this year. What better way to bridge generational gaps and connect with real-life veterans than to write personal notes to veterans at Park Terrace?

Our seventh graders' history teacher, Mr. Spradlin, compiled a list of the 20 veterans residing at Park Terrace, including each veteran's name and branch of service. The students then created personal cards, notes, and pictures to thank them for their service. The notes were delivered on Friday afternoon, so that each veteran would have them in time for Veteran's Day on Saturday.

EIGHTH-GRADE SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

Having just returned from their Field Studies trip to Washington, DC, the eighth-grade students were able to make a direct connection to one of the locations they visited. During history class, Mrs. Walsh reminded them of their visit to the National Museum of the United States Army and of the Volunteer Corp members that serve as docents at the museum.

When our eighth graders visited the museum, the veteran volunteers shared moving stories of soldiers past and present who have proudly worn the Army uniform. In return, the students wrote letters of thanks and appreciation to the volunteers they met while in DC. The package was mailed directly to the museum and will bring joy and happiness to the veteran volunteers in honor of Veteran's Day.

Sincerely,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

November 28: *Shrek JR.* Parent/Student Information Meeting

We are so excited to be putting on *Shrek JR.* as our Middle School spring musical! Mr. Tiatia-Garaud, the director of the musical, will be hosting an information meeting for parents and/or students on Tuesday, November 28, at 3:15 p.m. in Room 23 of Sillers Hall. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! [Click here to view the flyer.](#)

Seventh-Grade Families: Washington, DC, Field Studies Info Night Is December 6

All current seventh-grade families are invited to join us on Wednesday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 25 of Sillers Hall to kick off the 2024 Washington, DC, Field Studies trip. We will go over the basic trip details, including dates and cost, as well as how to register for the trip. We hope to see you there!

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.

Sign Up by Tomorrow: 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 tomorrow—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.

Church

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.