



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of December 14, 2023

All School

Next Cardinal Weekly Will Be Published on January 2

Please note that the next edition of *Cardinal Weekly* will be published on Tuesday, January 2, instead on on Thursday, January 4, to help ensure you have the information you need prior to our return to school. Have a wonderful Christmas Break, and see you in the new year!

Next Spirit Lunch Is January 25: Place Your Order Today!

The next Spirit Lunch will take place on Thursday, January 25, and BJ's Restaurants is excited to cater lunch! 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 personal cheese pizza, a personal pepperoni pizza, and chicken fingers with French fries.
- All orders must be purchased in advance by Monday, January 15, at noon.
- No Choice lunch will be available on this day.
- To pre-order your child's meal and for more information, please [click here](#).

Save the Date! Join Us January 18 for State of the School

We hope you and your family will join us for State of the School on Thursday, January 18, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

- Steve and Vickie Lovejoy will be hosting the event, which will kick off with wine and cheese at 5:30 p.m., followed by a very important school update at 6:00 p.m.
- While you're at State of the School, your kids are invited to join us for pizza, games, and fun! Please [RSVP for childcare here](#) to help us plan.
- [Click here](#) to view the Paperless Post invitation.

We hope to see you there!

To Help You Plan: Important School Calendar Dates for 2024-25

For those of you who love to plan ahead (including vacation time!), we wanted to share some key dates from the 2024–25 academic calendar. The full one-page calendar will be finalized in the spring. Please stay tuned for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES—2024-25 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- **First Day of School:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024
- **Labor Day Holiday:** Monday, September 2, 2024
- **Thanksgiving Break:** Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29, 2024
- **Christmas Break:** Saturday, December 21, 2024–Monday, January 6, 2025 (Classes resume Tuesday, January 7. Monday, January 6, is an Inservice Day for faculty and staff.)
- **Easter Break:** Friday, April 18, 2025–Friday, April 25, 2025 (School resumes Monday, April 28.)
- **Eighth-Grade Commencement:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025
- **Last Day of School:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 (Last day of school for Early Childhood through Grade 7)

Game Schedule for Winter 2024 Basketball

Come cheer on your Cardinals during this winter’s basketball games! [Click here](#) to view the schedule for our boys and girls basketball teams.

Play Winter Reading Bingo With Ms. Adair!

Librarian Tiffany Adair invites students to play Winter Reading Bingo and have a little extra fun while reading over Christmas Break!

- [Click here for the bingo sheet.](#)
- Using the typical rules of bingo, students should follow the directions in each box as a loved one reads to them or while they independently read for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- This is a just-for-fun activity and should not interfere with any classwork or homework requirements.

When we return in January, students will receive a small prize when they give their bingo sheet to Ms. Adair!

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](#).

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, December 15

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.
- *Christmas Celebrations*
- *ECD Christmas Performance*: 11:15 a.m. in the gym

Monday, December 18–Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Break*: No school

Thursday, January 18

- *State of the School*: 5:30-7:00 p.m.; [click here](#) to view the Paperless Post invitation.

Elementary Division

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

Friday, January 5

- *Vision and Hearing Screenings for Grades K, 2, and 5, and for all New Elementary Division Students*

Thursday, January 18

- *State of the School*: 5:30-7:00 p.m.; [click here](#) to view the Paperless Post invitation.

Middle Division

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

Wednesday, January 3

- *Drug-Awareness Meeting for Eighth-Grade Parents*: 6:00 p.m. in Siller's Hall, Room 25

Thursday, January 4

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

Friday, January 5

- *Vision and Hearing Screenings for Grade 8 and for all New Middle Division Students*
- *Scoliosis Screenings for Seventh-Grade Girls and Eighth-Grade Boys*

Thursday, January 18

- *State of the School*: 5:30-7:00 p.m.; [click here](#) to view the Paperless Post invitation.

Early Childhood Division

From the Division Principal

“Play is the foundation of learning, creativity, self-expression, and constructive problem-solving. It’s how children wrestle with life to make it meaningful.” —Susan Linn, contemporary American psychiatrist

Last week, we continued our community outreach in conjunction with the Elementary Choir and members of the student body. During outside play, our preschoolers painted and glued, putting together Christmas cards for residents of the nearby senior living community. The cards were delivered by the Elementary students when they went to sing Christmas carols to the seniors. We received word that the residents were delighted by the singing and our cards.

As we prepare for Christmas in preschool, it is such a magical time. Children can be heard practicing Christmas songs together in classrooms and on the playground. In their dramatic play, children pretend to cook, shop, wrap presents, and decorate Christmas trees. Several of the children like to gather in the gingerbread house, inviting their friends in to play.

Despite all the fun, the heightened activity level can be stressful for children. Dramatic play is a great way for children to develop their imagination and creativity, but it also enables them to mimic what they see happening in their environment and to act out feelings that they may otherwise not be able to show or say directly.

It's fascinating to see how children can express themselves through play and how it can help them develop important social and emotional skills.

Warm regards,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

Parking Reminder: ECD Lot Is for Drop-off and Pickup Only

While attending events on campus (PTF Meeting, Character Awards, Class Parties, etc.), please do not leave your car parked in the ECD parking lot. Once your child has been signed in, please move your car to the street, as the ECD parking lot is for drop-off and pickup only. Thank you for your understanding.

ECD Christmas Performance Is December 15

Don't miss this year's Early Childhood Division Christmas performance tomorrow (Friday, December 15). The performance will begin at 11:15 a.m. and will take place in the newly renovated gym. Children are asked to wear their Christmas best. This is a special event for the whole family!

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

In a recent Chapel, I shared with Upper Elementary students some recollections from my childhood at Christmas. I spoke about the times with my family, the special events, and some of my most salient memories. I also shared with students that the most memorable times in my past were those spent with loved ones. Even though the presents were fun, Christmas was much more than the material things: it was the opportunity to be with loved ones.

As we approach Christmas, I urge all St. John's families and students to appreciate the many memory-building opportunities that this time of year offers. Yes, I know it's busy! But in all this bustle, there will be special events that you—and your child—will remember forever.

St. John's is happy to be a part of these occasions. We appreciate your partnership!

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

ED Christmas Concert Is This Evening

The Elementary Division Christmas Concert will take place **this evening (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!

Vision and Hearing Screenings Are January 5

On Friday, January 5, Elementary Division students in grades K, 2, and 5—as well as all new ED students—will have their vision and hearing screened by Southern California Sensory Screening. In addition, first-grade boys will be checked for color vision.

- There is no charge for this screening.
- If your child wears glasses, please make sure they bring their glasses to school the day of the screening.

- Should you have any questions regarding the screening, please [contact St. John's Health Office](#) directly.

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

The Middle Division is buzzing with festive activities and holiday spirit. Christmas is coming! Students have celebrated the season with Candy Cane Lane, the Christmas Door Decorating Contest, and Tuesday's Christmas Concert. We'll wrap up the fun tomorrow morning with the MD breakfast—complete with holiday pajamas (Free Dress rules apply)—to add a cozy and relaxed touch to the Christmas season.

As you can see, there is no shortage of Christmas cheer in the Middle Division!

We also want to take this time of year to focus on each other, special memories, and time spent together. As families go near and far for the holidays, we wish everyone Christmas blessings and a time filled with joy, warmth, and memorable moments.

May the new year bring peace and love to all!

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

Eighth-Grade Parents: IMPORTANT Drug-Awareness Meeting on January 3

We look forward to sharing important information on our drug-awareness program with all eighth-grade parents on **Wednesday, January 3, at 6:00 p.m.** in Siller's Hall, Room 25. Our drug-awareness student sessions will begin the following day, on Thursday, January 4. For more information, please [click here to view the parent letter](#) emailed home on October 30.

Seventh-Grade Parents: Washington, DC, Field Studies Info Night Rescheduled to January 4

Due to recent updates, we have rescheduled the Washington, DC, Field Studies Information Night to **Thursday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m.** in Siller's Hall, room 25. The purpose of the meeting is to kick off the 2024 Washington, DC, Field Studies trip, go over basic trip details, including date, cost, and registration procedures. This new date will allow us to provide families with the most up-to-date and relevant information for the upcoming trip.

Yearbook Request: Submit Your Eighth Graders' Baby Pictures!

Current eighth-grade parents, please [view this flyer](#) about eighth-grade baby pictures featured

in the yearbook. Questions? [Contact Mrs. Sarachman](#) in the Middle Division.

Vision, Hearing, and Scoliosis Screenings Are January 5

VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS FOR EIGHTH GRADERS + NEW MD STUDENTS

On Friday, January 5, eighth graders—as well as all new Middle Division students—will have their vision and hearing screened by Southern California Sensory Screening. There is no charge for this screening. If your child wears glasses, please make sure they bring their glasses to school the day of the screening. Should you have any questions regarding the screening, please [contact St. John's Health Office](#) directly.

SCOLIOSIS SCREENING FOR SEVENTH-GRADE GIRLS AND EIGHTH-GRADE BOYS

On Friday, January 5, seventh-grade girls and eighth-grade boys will be screened for scoliosis by Southern California Sensory Screening. Please note that girls may prefer to wear a sports bra or bathing suit top for this screening. If your child is absent, we recommend that you contact your physician to do this screening. If your child is already being treated for scoliosis or you do not want them to participate in this screening, please [notify the Health Office via email](#).

Church

Join Us for Holiday Worship!

We hope you'll join us for holiday worship in December! Service times are as follows:

- **Third Sunday in Advent:** Sunday, December 17, at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- **Children's Christmas Pageant:** Saturday, December 23, at 5:00 p.m.
- **Fourth Sunday in Advent:** Sunday, December 24, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Christmas Eve Worship:** Sunday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Day Worship:** Monday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

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.

- [Sign up online here.](#)
- 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.

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