



## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of January 11, 2024*

### **All School**

#### **State of the School: RSVP for Childcare by Tomorrow**

We hope you and your family will join us to learn how St. John's is Leveling Up at our State of the School event next **Thursday, January 18**.

- 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.
- Thank you to everyone who has already RSVP'd! (If it's still on your to-do list, you may [RSVP here](#).)
- 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](#) by tomorrow—Friday, January 12—to help us plan.**
- Let us know what's on your mind! If you have specific questions you'd like us to address at State of the School, you may [submit questions in advance via this form](#). (You will also have an opportunity to ask them during the Q&A portion of the event.)

We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Kids Cardinella: Grade Level Extravaganza (Class Basket) Donations Are OPEN**

Each year, our Cardinals participate in Kids Cardinella—a separate event that gives all St. John's students the opportunity to participate, have fun, and win some amazing baskets or teacher experiences.

- **Kids Cardinella will take place Thursday, February 22**, during the school day.
- Donations to Grade Level Extravaganzas support the overall fundraising efforts of Cardinella. Donations are now open, and will close on Friday, January 26. [Click here to donate today.](#)

#### **Youth and Toddler Vests Have Arrived in the Student Store**

It is love at frost sight with our newest Student Store arrivals! We now have vests available in both Youth and Toddler sizes to keep our youngest Cardinals warm and cozy this winter. Visit [SJESStudentStore.com](https://www.sjesstudentstore.com) and order yours before they sell out!

## **Come Cheer on the Cardinals!**

St. John's basketball and lacrosse began this week. Our boys' fifth-grade basketball team got off to a good start with a close win against St. Edwards, 26–25! Great job, Cardinals!

We hope you'll join us for the following games to cheer on our Cardinals:

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 11**

- Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. Aliso Viejo (Away) at 3:30 p.m.
- Boys Lacrosse 5/6 vs. St. Serra (Home) at 3:00 p.m.
- Boys Lacrosse 7/8 vs. St. Serra (Home) at 4:00 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**

- Boys Basketball 6 vs. Mission Basilica (Home) at 3:30 p.m.
- Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. Mission Basilica (Home) at 4:30 p.m.
- Boys Lacrosse 5/6 vs. St. Mary (Home) at 3:00 p.m.
- Boys Lacrosse 7/8 vs. St. Mary (Home) at 4:00 p.m.

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**

- Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Mary's (Away) at 3:30 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 19**

- Boys Basketball 6 vs. OLF (Home) at 3:30 p.m.
- Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. OLF (Home) at 4:30 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

- Girls "A" Basketball Tournament at SJES
- Boys "A" and "B" SJES Tournament at SMCHS

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

- Girls "A" Basketball Tournament at SJES
- Boys "A" and "B" SJES Tournament at SMCHS

## **15-Minute Ideas: Honor MLK Jr. Day Through Service**

*"The time is always right to do the right thing."* —Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. lived his life serving others and taking action. Fifty years after his death, millions of Americans follow his example on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Here are some ideas for 15-minute projects you and your child can do together to serve others in honor of MLK Jr. Day:

- Make “caring cards” to take to a local senior center or firehouse.
- Find all your old T-shirts and towels and bring them to an animal shelter.
- Have your child pick out one item each time you go to the grocery store; when you’ve collected a bagful, take the items to a local food pantry. (The RSM Cares Food Pantry is a great choice! It is held the first and third Wednesdays of every month at Shepherd of the Hills Church, just down the street from SJES.)
- Stuff new socks with water bottles and granola bars to give to homeless men and women you pass on the street.
- Donate gently used books, DVDs, or toys to a local children’s hospital.

Be sure to deliver items together so your kids can witness the positive difference their compassion makes for others! Remember to reflect—talk about what you did, how it felt, and what you learned. Right after, build on your child’s enthusiasm by choosing your next service project together.

### **Last Chance to Order Spirit Lunch: Deadline Is Monday at Noon**

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 this Monday, January 15, at noon.**
- No Choicelunch will be available on this day.
- To pre-order your child’s meal and for more information, please [click here](#).

### **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!

### **Two Weeks Until the Father-Daughter Dance!**

The Father-Daughter Dance is in two weeks—[buy your tickets now](#) to ensure your spot, and get a free corsage and boutonniere! Join us Saturday, January 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for an unforgettable "Night in Paris" featuring a live DJ, photo ops, tasty treats, and delightful crafts!

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Early Childhood Division**

#### **Monday, January 15**

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: No school*

#### **Tuesday, January 16**

- *Inservice Day for Faculty & Staff: No school*

#### **Thursday, January 18**

- **State of the School: 5:30–7:00 p.m.**
  - [Click here](#) to RSVP.
  - [Click here](#) to submit questions in advance.
  - [RSVP for childcare here.](#)

#### **Sunday, January 21**

- *Mother-Son Outing: 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at John's Incredible Pizza; [click here to buy tickets](#)*

#### **Wednesday, January 24**

- *ECD Fire Authority Visit: 10:00 a.m.*

#### **Friday, January 26**

- *ECD Daddy & Me Day: 8:15–9:00 a.m.*

#### **Saturday, January 27**

- *Father-Daughter Dance: 5:00–7:00 p.m.; [click here to buy tickets](#)*

#### **Sunday, January 28–Wednesday, January 31**

- *California Association of Independent Schools Re-accreditation Team Visits*

#### **Thursday, February 15**

- *ECD Grandparents Day*

## Friday, February 16

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.

## Elementary Division

### Friday, January 12

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

### Monday, January 15

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday*: No school
- *Noon Deadline to Pre-order Your Child's Spirit Lunch*: [Click here to place your order](#)

### Tuesday, January 16

- *Inservice Day for Faculty & Staff*: No school
- *K–8 Extra-Day Extended Care Available*: [Register on Strategic Kids' SJES website here](#)

### Wednesday, January 17

- *Monday Flip Day*
- *Formal Uniform K–8*

### Thursday, January 18

- **State of the School: 5:30–7:00 p.m.**
  - [Click here](#) to RSVP.
  - [Click here](#) to submit questions in advance.
  - [RSVP for childcare here.](#)

### Friday, January 19

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

### Sunday, January 21

- *Mother-Son Outing*: 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at John's Incredible Pizza; [click here to buy tickets](#)

### **Monday, January 22**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony and Cardinal Character Recognition: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents/guardians welcome*

### **Thursday, January 25**

- *Spirit Lunch/K–8 Parent Lunch: [Click here](#) to pre-order your child's meal*

### **Friday, January 26**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

### **Saturday, January 27**

- *Father-Daughter Dance: 5:00–7:00 p.m.; [click here to buy tickets](#)*

### **Sunday, January 28–Wednesday, January 31**

- *California Association of Independent Schools Re-accreditation Team Visits*

### **Monday, January 29**

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

### **Friday, February 2**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

### **Monday, February 5**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

### **Friday, February 16**

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.*
- *Grandparents & Special Friends Day*

## Middle Division

### Thursday, January 11

- *Boys Lacrosse 5/6 vs. St. Serra (Home): 3:00 p.m.*
- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. AVCS (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Lacrosse 7/8 vs. St. Serra (Home): 4:00 p.m.*

### Friday, January 12

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*

### Monday, January 15

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: No school*
- *Noon Deadline to Pre-order Your Child's Spirit Lunch: [Click here to place your order](#)*

### Tuesday, January 16

- *Inservice Day for Faculty & Staff: No school*
- *K–8 Extra-Day Extended Care Available: [Register on Strategic Kids' SJES website here](#)*

### Wednesday, January 17

- *Monday Flip Day*
- *Formal Uniform K–8*
- *Boys Lacrosse 5/6 vs. St. Mary (Home) at 3:00 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. Mission (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Lacrosse 7/8 vs. St. Mary (Home) at 4:00 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. Mission (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

### Thursday, January 18

- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Mary's (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- ***State of the School: 5:30–7:00 p.m.***
  - [Click here](#) to RSVP.
  - [Click here](#) to submit questions in advance.
  - [RSVP for childcare here.](#)

### Friday, January 19

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*

- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. OLF (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. OLF (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

### **Saturday, January 20–Sunday, January 21**

- *Girls "A" Basketball Tournament at St. John's*
- *Boys "A" and "B" SJES Basketball Tournament at SMCHS*

### **Sunday, January 21**

- *Mother-Son Outing: 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at John's Incredible Pizza; [click here to buy tickets](#)*

### **Monday, January 22**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Boys Lacrosse 5/6 vs. St. Serra (Home) at 3:00 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. Mission (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. Stoneybrooke (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. Stoneybrooke (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Lacrosse 7/8 vs. St. Serra (Home) at 4:00 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Serra (Away): 4:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. Stoneybrooke (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

### **Tuesday, January 23**

- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Edward 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. AVCS (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. AVCS (Away): 4:30 p.m.*

### **Wednesday, January 24**

- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. Mission (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

### **Thursday, January 25**

- *Spirit Lunch/K–8 Parent Lunch: [Click here](#) to pre-order your child's meal*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. Stoneybrooke (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. OLF (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. Stoneybrooke (Away): 4:30 p.m.*

### **Friday, January 26**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*



## **Saturday, January 27**

- *Father-Daughter Dance: 5:00–7:00 p.m.*; [click here to buy tickets](#)

## **Sunday, January 28–Wednesday, January 31**

- *California Association of Independent Schools Re-accreditation Team Visits*

## **Monday, January 29**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. OLF (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. OLF (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

## **Tuesday, January 30**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. AVCS (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Margaret's (Away): 4:45 p.m.*

## **Wednesday, January 31**

- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. AVCS (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. AVCS (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

## **Thursday, February 1**

- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. Mission (Away): 3:30 p.m.*

## **Friday, February 2**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 6 vs. Mission (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Mary's 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball 7/8 vs. Mission (Away): 4:30 p.m.*

## **Monday, February 5**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. CVCS 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

## **Tuesday, February 6**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Girls Basketball 5/6 vs. Stoneybrooke (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

### **Wednesday, February 7**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Boys Basketball 5 vs. St. Serra 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

### **Friday, February 9**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*

### **Monday, February 12**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

### **Friday, February 16**

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.*
- *Grandparents & Special Friends Day*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*

## **Early Childhood Division**

### **From the Interim Division Principal**

The new year brings with it new possibilities. Our young learners have been having a great time acting out roles as firefighters, police officers, veterinarians, and doctors. The stage has been set on the playground, and we have observed some very helpful community workers in our midst.

To help students make real-life connections to these roles, we have invited corresponding professionals (aka “superheroes”) to visit our school—both from our parent community and from local organizations.

We enjoyed a visit from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department on Tuesday, and are looking forward to a visit from the Orange County Fire Authority in a couple of weeks. Our first parent visitor is also scheduled to visit soon, bringing her expertise as a veterinarian and sharing the importance of taking care of our pets.

If you would like to participate in our classrooms in this capacity, please contact the Early Childhood Division Office so we can put you on the schedule. I have found that topics of interest include jobs, traditions, hobbies, places you have visited, food, and more. The possibilities are endless!

This type of engagement with our students promotes cognitive and socio-emotional skills, critical thinking, and interaction between children in the classroom. It opens new

possibilities for investigations, as well as awareness of others and the environment. And, of course, every child whose parent has visited the classroom is very proud to observe their parent as the teacher, even if it's just for a few minutes!

Warm regards,

Carole Magaldi  
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

### **Save the Date! ECD Grandparents and Special Guests Morning Is February 15**

Soon, we will email our grandparent community an invitation to Grandparents and Special Guests Morning for the Early Childhood Division. A copy will also be sent to our parent community so that you can forward the invitation to a grandparent or special friend in case they do not receive it directly.

- The event will place on **Thursday, February 15, beginning at 8:00 a.m.**
- Please note that this is a Special Schedule morning. If your child does not regularly attend on Thursdays, they may join for the morning so long as they are accompanied by a grandparent or special friend who is an adult.
- If your child does not wish to attend with a special friend or grandparent, they may just participate in the normal school day.
- Stay tuned for more information regarding the agenda.

### **Spirit Lunch: Order Deadline Is Monday at Noon**

Remember to order Spirit Lunch for your child by this Monday, January 15, at noon. Please [click here](#) to order.

### **Daddy and Me Day Is January 26**

Please save the date for our annual Daddy and Me Day. The event will take place on Friday, January 26, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on the ECD playground. More details will be available soon.

### **Special Visitors This Month**

In January, our ECD students learn about Community Helpers. On Tuesday, the students enjoyed an interactive presentation by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. On **Wednesday, January 24, at 10:00 a.m.**, the students will enjoy a visit from the Orange County Fire Authority. Both visits are student favorites!

## **Elementary Division**

### **From the Division Principal**

Schools are a place of learning—not just for students, but also for adults. Oftentimes the extent to which adult learning occurs is overlooked. As with other fields, academia involves much continuing education and professional collaboration.

At Tuesday’s PTF meeting, I mentioned how diligently our teachers meet. On a regular basis—sometimes daily—St. John’s teachers spend time together as grade-level teams to plan lessons, review curriculum, analyze student work, and reflect on past teaching. This collaborative work is the heartbeat of any successful school. By working together so closely, our teacher teams ensure that their ideas and creativity are shared, ultimately benefiting our students by means of activities, learning engagements, and assessments.

In addition to ensuring that our students receive the best possible education, regular teacher collaboration also generates cohesion. We strive to provide all students, no matter what class they are in, with a consistent, connected, and cohesive experience.

Our teachers also participate in regular professional development. Sometimes this learning is led by colleagues, other times by myself or other leadership. At times, we invite experts to work with us on campus to lead professional development, collaborate with us as a school, and even spend time in classrooms examining practices in real-time.

On January 16 and 17, Alicia Luick, an expert in the field of English Language Arts (ELA), will visit St. John’s to work with us to enhance our approach to the teaching of writing. As well as working with teachers, Mrs. Luick will offer a parent workshop (more information below).

Mrs. Luick began her career in education as a grade 3–8 teacher, and then became a literacy coach. She has been one of the few staff developers at The Mossflower Reading and Writing Project to work across all grade levels, and that flexibility and expertise has made her invaluable in helping schools develop cohesive school-wide plans for implementing best practices in literacy. Mrs. Luick is committed to supporting coaches, administrators, and teachers, and she has a special interest in helping learners transfer their skills as readers and writers to their studies in social studies, science, and math. She holds dual master’s degrees (in Curriculum and Teaching and in Administration) from Fordham University and has led advanced sections at various institutes, presented at national conferences, and is the co-author of books in the Units of Study series.

As we embark on this “writing” journey, I encourage all parents to speak with their child about writing. Ask questions such as, “What are you working on as a writer? What do you have to offer the world in your writing? Who is your preferred audience? In what

areas of writing would you like to grow?" I also ask that parents ask about the strategies (i.e., tools) that are being taught.

As much as these questions help us understand what is happening in our child's writing brain, they also help our child, as it is always beneficial for students to articulate what they are learning in school.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bourke  
Elementary Division Principal

### **Spirit Lunch: Order Deadline Is Monday at Noon**

Remember to order Spirit Lunch for your child by this Monday, January 15, at noon. Please [click here](#) to order.

### **Exciting Updates to ELA! Join Us Tuesday for a Sneak Peek**

We hope you will be able to join us on Tuesday, January 16, at 3:00 p.m. for a sneak peek at a very exciting development in our Elementary Division English Language Arts (ELA) program! St. John's has partnered with a literacy staff developer to support us as we launch Writers Workshop—a research-based approach to teaching writing that has proven successful for students over and over again.

Our Cardinals have so much to offer as authors, journalists, poets, and researchers. It is our goal to equip students of all passions and interests with the tools to communicate their observations and ideas.

To that end, author, staff developer, and longtime educator Alicia Luick will visit St. John's to train our faculty in the Writers Workshop approach on January 16 and 17.

- On January 16, she will spend the entire day working with our humanities faculty, introducing them to the Writers Workshop approach. During this time, teachers will learn about research-based best practices, as well as unpack some curricular units of study.
- On January 17, Mrs. Luick will work with teams of teachers to help them plan, teach, and reflect on writing lessons. Some of our students will be part of this "lab-site" approach as Mrs. Luick and our faculty spend time in classrooms. Although the Writing Workshop approach provides opportunities for students to write in all genres, the focus for these two days will be on informational writing.

During her time with us, **Mrs. Luick is offering a parent workshop at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, to introduce St. John's families to Writers Workshop.** The information session will give parents the opportunity to learn about this proven approach to inspiring our young authors; it will also give you the chance to ask questions.

Although students are not in attendance on this day, we strongly encourage parents to attend. The closer the partnership between school and home, the better the learning experience will be for students. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

### **Sign Up for K-8 Extended Care on January 16**

**Tuesday, January 16, is a faculty and staff Inservice Day**, so there is no school for students. However, **Extra-Day Extended Care is available on this day**. To register your K–8 student for Extra-Day Extended Care, please [click here](#).

### **Reminder About Cold-Weather Attire**

Our Cardinals spend a significant amount of time outside (lunch, recess, PE, transitions, etc.). As the weather continues to be cold, please ensure that your child dresses in layers and has warm clothing as necessary. While we will hold activities indoors during rainy weather, we encourage students to be outside as much as possible.

### **Special Schedule This Week**

We have a special schedule this week due to faculty and staff Inservice and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Please note the following:

- **Monday, January 15**=No school due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday
- **Tuesday, January 16**=No school due to faculty and staff Inservice Day
- **Wednesday, January 17**=Flip Day—follow Monday schedule; **\*\* Formal Uniform \*\***

### **Save the Date! Grandparents and Special Friends Day Is February 16**

Soon, we will email our grandparent community an invitation to Grandparents and Special Friends Day. A copy will also be sent to our parent community so that you can forward the invitation to a grandparent or special friend in case they do not receive it directly.

- The event will take place on **Friday, February 16, beginning at 8:00 a.m.** Please note that February 16 is a Minimum Day.
- This is a Special Schedule day. If your child does not wish to attend with a special friend or grandparent, they may stay home.
- The event will include a welcome reception with breakfast for the grown-ups, followed by exciting program rotations alongside our SJES Cardinals.
- Our beloved Book Fair will be back for grandparents and special friends to enjoy, as well.

Stay tuned for further details.

## Middle Division

### From the Division Principal

One unique component of the Middle Division experience is the opportunity to participate in our dynamic elective courses, either yearlong or by the trimester. The elective courses play an essential role in allowing our students to explore interests, develop new skills, and broaden their experiences beyond the core curriculum. For some students, an elective course allows them to follow a passion, and for others, it provides a space to step out of their comfort zone.

The emphasis on hands-on experiences, creative expression, and skill development in a safe and open environment aligns with the goals of a STEAM school. Allowing students to explore their passions and step out of their comfort zones not only contributes to their personal growth, but also fosters a sense of curiosity and engagement with learning.

The range of options in our Middle Division reflects a commitment to providing a well-rounded education with varied opportunities.

- During **Everyday Skills for Life**, students learn the basics of cooking, recipe following, kitchen safety, crocheting, sewing, sawing, and drilling. Whether cooking a one-pot fettucine dish or learning a blanket stitch in preparation for their sewing project, the students are actively engaged and having fun.
- In **World Drumming**, students learn how to communicate with their peers through various rhythms, develop important listening skills, and try their hand as conductors while jamming on their drums.
- Next door, in the **Visual Arts** class, students calmly listen to music while creating sculptures with clay. In the coming week, they will paint their projects to add dimension and individuality, while expressing themselves through art.
- Walking into the **Math Olympiad** elective, it is evident that the students are serious, committed, and passionate. With a timer actively counting down, they practice strategies that develop problem-solving, mental flexibility, and out-of-the-box thinking in a collaborative environment meant to challenge our young mathletes.
- Across the hall, students are working to understand page design, publishing techniques, and editing skills in the **Yearbook** class. The product is distributed schoolwide at the end of the year, and the sense of accomplishment and pride will be evident in our young yearbook designers.
- A walk out to Reuland Field finds the **Narrative Film Production** class actively filming to develop cinematography, lighting, and sound techniques as they seek to turn screenplays into storyboards.

These are just some examples of the different electives available to our students, and the possibilities are endless from year to year.

The following testimonials from students highlight the positive impact of elective courses:

*“The electives give us a time outside of our regular classes to do something different.”*

*“It is helpful to take a break during the day and helps us create a positive mindset.”*

*“These are the hardest problems I have ever tried, and I love the challenge.”*

More than anything, the diverse and dynamic elective courses contribute significantly to the Middle Division experience, creating an enriching and fulfilling educational opportunity for students to learn about themselves and the world around them, while developing life skills that will serve them well in their future endeavors.

Warmly,

Sheryll Grogan  
Middle Division Principal

### **Spirit Lunch: Order Deadline Is Monday at Noon**

Remember to order Spirit Lunch for your child by this Monday, January 15, at noon. Please [click here](#) to order.

### **Sign Up for K-8 Extended Care on January 16**

**Tuesday, January 16, is a faculty and staff Inservice Day**, so there is no school for students. However, **Extra-Day Extended Care is available on this day**. To register your K–8 student for Extra-Day Extended Care, please [click here](#).

### **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 her:

- [Serenity T.](#), Eighth-Grade Student of the Week
- [Maya H.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Sofia R.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

### **Save the Date! Grandparents and Special Friends Day Is February 16**

Soon, we will email our grandparent community an invitation to Grandparents and Special Friends Day. A copy will also be sent to our parent community so that you can



forward the invitation to a grandparent or special friend in case they do not receive it directly.

- The event will take place on **Friday, February 16, beginning at 8:00 a.m.** Please note that February 16 is a Minimum Day.
- This is a Special Schedule day. If your child does not wish to attend with a special friend or grandparent, they may stay home.
- The event will include a welcome reception with breakfast for the grown-ups, followed by exciting program rotations alongside our SJES Cardinals.
- Our beloved Book Fair will be back for grandparents and special friends to enjoy, as well.

Stay tuned for further details.

## **Church**

### **Opportunities for Students to Sing in Church**

All students are invited to perform at church with Lisa Naulls on the following dates:

- Sunday, January 28, at 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Sunday, February 4, at 12:30 p.m. Ministry Fair
- Sunday, February 25, at 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Students should wear their Formal Uniform. If interested, please [\*\*email Mrs. Naulls.\*\*](#)