



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of January 25, 2024

All School

Parents, Please Join Us This Monday at 2:00 p.m.

As part of our reaccreditation process with the California Association of Independent Schools, a visiting team of educators will be meeting with St. John's parents this Monday, January 29, at 2:00 p.m. in Sillers Hall, Room 25. We hope you will be able to join us to share your thoughts on the St. John's experience with the visiting team!

New Adult Jacket and Vest Arrivals in the Student Store

Embrace the chill! Our **new adult arrivals** this week will keep the morning shivers away. Shop in-store tomorrow—Friday, January 26—from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or online at **[SJESStudentStore.com](https://www.sjesstudentstore.com)**.

Kids Cardinella: Tomorrow Is the Last Day to Donate to Class Baskets

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 class baskets support the overall fundraising efforts of Cardinella. **The last day to donate is tomorrow—Friday, January 26. [Click here to donate.](#)**

Spirit Week Kicks Off February 9

Get ready to show your school spirit! Spirit Week kicks off Friday, February 9, with a fun new theme each day:

- **Country-Western Day on Friday, February 9:** Yeehaw! Show off your fanciest duds and come dressed in your favorite country-western attire!
- **Favorite Character Day on Monday, February 12:** Dress up as your favorite hero or character from a book, TV show, movie—or even theme park!
- **Super Comfy Day on Tuesday, February 13:** Relax at school! Come dressed in your favorite school-appropriate comfy clothes—sweats, flannel pajamas, etc.

You can even bring a stuffed animal, as long as it fits in your backpack. Please remember to wear school-appropriate shoes.

- **Favorite Sports Team Day (With Optional Valentine's Day Accessories) on Wednesday, February 14:** Show your love for your favorite sports team—St. John's, high school, collegiate, or professional! You may also wear Valentine's Day accessories, if you wish.
- **Mismatch Day on Thursday, February 15:** Bring on your clashiest outfits! Mix patterns, polka dots, stripes, plaids, and even styles. Make sure your socks don't match, and choose colors that don't coordinate!
- **St. John's Spirit Wear on Friday, February 16:** Show off your Cardinal spirit with St. John's Spirit Wear!

We can't wait to see your fun, creative outfits!

Next Spirit Lunch Is February 22: Place Your Order Now

The In-N-Out Burger truck will be back on campus on Thursday, February 22, for Kids Cardinella! Order options include a cheeseburger, hamburger, or grilled cheese. All burgers are served plain and include Lay's potato chips and bottled water.

- **All orders must be placed online in advance by Friday, February 9, at noon.**
- No Choice lunch will be served on this day.
- To accommodate a limited serving window during lunch, Spirit Lunch is only available for purchase by students, faculty, and staff.
- [Click here](#) to place your order!

Mother-Son Outing: Thanks for Attending!

Our Mother-Son Outing took place this past Sunday. A special thank-you to John's Incredible Pizza for hosting this fun event, and to Kelli Cheshire and Stephanie Peters for volunteering their time in organizing this outing for our SJES mothers and sons! [Click here](#) to view and download photos from the event.

St. John's Athletics Update + Come Cheer on the Cardinals!

Congratulations to both our Boys 7/8 Basketball Team and our Boys 5/6 Basketball Team (5 and 6 combined for this tournament) on winning the consolation championship yesterday at the St. John's Tournament held at SMCHS. The Boys 6 Basketball and Boys 7/8 Basketball teams both started the season with back-to-back wins to remain undefeated. Our Boys 5/6 Lacrosse team also remains undefeated through four games! Go Cardinals!

We hope you'll join us to cheer on your Cardinals at these upcoming games:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

- Girls 5/6 Basketball vs. OLF (Home) at 3:30 p.m.
- Boys 5 Basketball vs. St. Mary's (Away) at 3:30 p.m.
- Boys 5/6 Lacrosse vs. St. Margaret's (Away) at 3:45 p.m.
- Boys 7/8 Lacrosse vs. St. Margaret's (Away) at 4:45 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

- Girls 5/6 Basketball vs. AVCS (Home) at 3:30 p.m.
- Boys 5 Basketball at St. Margaret's (Away) at 4:45 p.m.
- Boys 5/6 Lacrosse vs. St. Serra (Home) at 3:00 p.m.
- Boys 7/8 Lacrosse vs. St. Serra (Home) at 4:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

It's Tax Season: Donor Acknowledgement Letters Mailed Soon!

Many of you have generously supported St. John's Episcopal School philanthropically during the 2023 fiscal year—thank you!

- **We will be mailing donor acknowledgment letters in time for you to receive them by Wednesday, January 31.** Letters confirm all tax-deductible cash donations made to the Cardinal Fund or Gym Project, as well as Cardinella or Golf Tournament underwriting and sponsorships.

- If you supported Cardinella 2023 through ticket purchases, silent- or live-auction bidding, opportunity drawings, or the wine wall, you should have already received an email from GiveSmart directly, following the event. If you cannot locate this email, please [email the Advancement Office](#), and we will be happy to send you a copy.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, January 26

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Last Day to Donate to Class Baskets in Support of Kids Cardinella:* [Click here to donate](#)
- *Student Store Open:* 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *ECD Daddy & Me Day:* 8:00–9:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 27

- *Father-Daughter Dance:* 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 28–Wednesday, January 31

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

Monday, January 29

- *Student Store Open:* 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30

- *Student Store Open:* 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

- *Student Store Open:* 10:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 1

- *Student Store Open:* 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Friday, February 2

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Student Store Open: 7:45–9:30 a.m.*

Friday, February 9

- *Spirit Week Kicks Off!*
- *Country-Western Day: Yeehaw! Show off your fanciest duds and come dressed in your favorite country-western attire!*

Monday, February 12

- *Spirit Week*
- *Favorite Character Day: Dress up as your favorite hero or character from a book, TV show, movie—or even theme park!*

Tuesday, February 13

- *Spirit Week*
- *Super Comfy Day: Wear your favorite school-appropriate comfy clothes; remember to wear school-appropriate shoes.*

Wednesday, February 14

- *Spirit Week*
- *Favorite Sports Team Day: Show your love for your favorite sports team—St. John's, high school, collegiate, or professional! You may also wear Valentine's Day accessories, if you wish.*

Thursday, February 15

- *Spirit Week*
- *ECD Grandparents and Special Friends Morning*
- *Mismatch Day: Bring on your clashiest outfits! Mix patterns, polka dots, stripes, plaids, and even styles. Make sure your socks don't match, and choose colors that don't coordinate!*

Friday, February 16

- *Last Day of Spirit Week*
- *Spirit Wear Friday: Show off your Cardinal spirit with St. John's Spirit Wear!*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.*

Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: No school*

Tuesday, February 20

- *Faculty and Staff Inservice Day: No school*

Thursday, February 22

- *Kids Cardinella*

Friday, February 23

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Friday, March 1

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.*
- *End of Second Trimester*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Elementary Division

Friday, January 26

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Last Day to Donate to Class Baskets in Support of Kids Cardinella: [Click here to donate](#)*
- *Student Store Open: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*

Saturday, January 27

- *Father-Daughter Dance: 5:00–7:00 p.m.*

Sunday, January 28–Wednesday, January 31

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

Monday, January 29

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Student Store Open: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony:* 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents/guardians welcome

Tuesday, January 30

- *Student Store Open:* 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

- *Student Store Open:* 10:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 1

- *Student Store Open:* 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Friday, February 2

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Student Store Open:* 7:45–9:30 a.m.

Monday, February 5

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

Friday, February 9

- *Spirit Week Kicks Off!*
- *Country-Western Day:* Yeehaw! Show off your fanciest duds and come dressed in your favorite country-western attire!
- *Noon Deadline to Preorder K–8 Spirit Lunch:* [Click here to preorder](#)

Monday, February 12

- *Spirit Week*
- *Favorite Character Day:* Dress up as your favorite hero or character from a book, TV show, movie—or even theme park!
- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony:* 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents/guardians welcome
- *Video Audition Deadline for ED Variety Show*

Tuesday, February 13

- *Spirit Week*

- *Super Comfy Day*: Wear your favorite school-appropriate comfy clothes; remember to wear school-appropriate shoes.

Wednesday, February 14

- *Spirit Week*
- *Favorite Sports Team Day*: Show your love for your favorite sports team—St. John's, high school, collegiate, or professional! You may also wear Valentine's Day accessories, if you wish.

Thursday, February 15

- *Spirit Week*
- *Mismatch Day*: Bring on your clashiest outfits! Mix patterns, polka dots, stripes, plaids, and even styles. Make sure your socks don't match, and choose colors that don't coordinate!

Friday, February 16

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.
- *Grandparents & Special Friends Day*
- *Last Day of Spirit Week*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*: Show off your Cardinal spirit with St. John's Spirit Wear!

Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday*: No school

Tuesday, February 20

- *Faculty and Staff Inservice Day*: No school

Thursday, February 22

- *Kids Cardinella*
- *K-8 Spirit Lunch*: [Click here to preorder](#) your child's lunch by February 9 at noon

Friday, February 23

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, February 26

- *Formal Uniform Day for K-8*

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony*: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents/guardians welcome

Wednesday, February 28

- *Dress Rehearsal for ED Variety Show*: 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 29

- *Dress Rehearsal for ED Variety Show*: 11:30 a.m.

Friday, March 1

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.
- *End of Second Trimester*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *ED Variety Show*: 10:15 a.m. in the Cardinal Gym; please arrive 15 minutes early to check in

Middle Division

Thursday, January 25

- *Girls 5/6 Basketball vs. OLF (Home)*: 3:30 p.m.
- *Boys 5 Basketball vs. St. Mary's (Away)*: 3:30 p.m.
- *Boys 5/6 Lacrosse vs. St. Margaret's (Away)*: 3:45 p.m.
- *Boys 7/8 Lacrosse vs. St. Margaret's (Away)*: 4:45 p.m.

Friday, January 26

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Last Day to Donate to Class Baskets in Support of Kids Cardinella*: [Click here to donate](#)
- *Student Store Open*: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal*: 3:15–6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 27

- *Father-Daughter Dance*: 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 28–Wednesday, January 31

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

Monday, January 29

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Student Store Open: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 6 Basketball vs. OLF (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 7/8 Basketball vs. OLF (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, January 30

- *Student Store Open: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 5/6 Lacrosse vs. St. Serra (Home): 3:00 p.m.*
- *Girls 5/6 Basketball vs. AVCS (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 7/8 Lacrosse vs. St. Serra (Home): 4:00 p.m.*
- *Boys 5 Basketball vs. St. Margaret's (Away): 4:45 p.m.*

Wednesday, January 31

- *Student Store Open: 10:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m.*
- *Boys 6 Basketball vs. AVCS (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 7/8 Basketball vs. AVCS (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

Thursday, February 1

- *Student Store Open: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 5/6 Lacrosse vs. St. Margaret's (Home): 3:00 p.m.*
- *Girls 5/6 Basketball vs. Mission Basilica (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 7/8 Lacrosse vs. St. Margaret's (Home): 4:00 p.m.*

Friday, February 2

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Student Store Open: 7:45–9:30 a.m.*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 3:15–6:00 p.m.*
- *Boys 5 Basketball vs. St. Mary's (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 6 Basketball vs. Mission Basilica (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 7/8 Basketball vs. Mission Basilica (Away): 4:30 p.m.*

Saturday, February 3

- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 9:00–11:00 a.m.; call time is 8:55 a.m.*

Sunday, February 4

- *Early-Bird Registration Deadline for Seventh-Grade 2024 Washington, DC, Field Studies Trip: [Click here for details](#)*

Monday, February 5

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *Deadline to Prepay for MD Off-Campus Movie (February 13): [Click here to prepay](#)*
- *Student Store Open: 7:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
- *Boys 5 Basketball vs. CVCS 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

- *Boys 5 Basketball vs. St. Serra 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

Friday, February 9

- *Spirit Week Kicks Off!*
- *Country-Western Day: Yeehaw! Show off your fanciest duds and come dressed in your favorite country-western attire!*
- *Noon Deadline to Preorder K–8 Spirit Lunch: [Click here to preorder](#)*
- *No Spring Musical Rehearsal*
- *MD Winter Social: 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Gym; country-western theme*

Saturday, February 10

- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 9:00–11:00 a.m.; call time is 8:55 a.m.*

Monday, February 12

- *Spirit Week*
- *Favorite Character Day: Dress up as your favorite hero or character from a book, TV show, movie—or even theme park!*

Tuesday, February 13

- *Spirit Week*
- *Super Comfy Day: Wear your favorite school-appropriate comfy clothes; remember to wear school-appropriate shoes.*
- *MD Off-Campus Movie and Lunch: [Click here to prepay](#) for your child's movie (including popcorn and beverage) by Monday, February 5*

Wednesday, February 14

- *Spirit Week*
- *Favorite Sports Team Day*: Show your love for your favorite sports team—St. John's, high school, collegiate, or professional! You may also wear Valentine's Day accessories, if you wish.

Thursday, February 15

- *Spirit Week*
- *Mismatch Day*: Bring on your clashiest outfits! Mix patterns, polka dots, stripes, plaids, and even styles. Make sure your socks don't match, and choose colors that don't coordinate!
- *MD Variety Show*: 1:30 p.m. in the Gym; please arrive 15 minutes early to check in

Friday, February 16

- *Minimum Day*: Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
- *Grandparents & Special Friends Day*
- *Last Day of Spirit Week*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*: Show off your Cardinal spirit with St. John's Spirit Wear!
- *No Spring Musical Rehearsal*

Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday*: No school

Tuesday, February 20

- *Faculty and Staff Inservice Day*: No school

Thursday, February 22

- *Kids Cardinella*
- *K-8 Spirit Lunch*: [Click here to preorder](#) your child's lunch by February 9 at noon

Friday, February 23

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

Monday, February 26

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

Friday, March 1

- *Minimum Day: MD dismissal at 12:15 p.m.*
- *End of Second Trimester*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 1:00–4:00 p.m.*

Early Childhood Division

From the Interim Division Principal

Tomorrow at 8:00 a.m., we will welcome dads and special guests to campus for Daddy and Me Day. This will be a fun event and an opportunity for you to create new memories to share with your children. As parents, we often try to create memories by planning special events, yet it's important to remember that it is often the everyday moments that we remember most fondly as we grow older.

Your support of and involvement with your children are invaluable to their social and emotional development now, in addition to having positive long-term effects. Researchers have found that early nurturing contributes to cognitive growth, the ability to have healthy long-term relationships as adults, resilience, and mental health.

Thank you for joining your child for Daddy and Me Day tomorrow—and thanks to everyone who has helped plan this fun and memorable event!

Warm regards,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

Tomorrow: Daddy and Me Day Starts at 8:00 a.m.

Dads and special guests, please join us for our annual Daddy and Me Day tomorrow—Friday, January 26—from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on the Early Childhood Division playground.

- The morning will begin with light refreshments served from 8:00 to 8:15 a.m., followed by various activities stationed throughout the playground.
- T/Th students are also invited to attend this fun-filled event with a parent or special guest.

- If you plan on attending, please park on the street, as the ECD parking lot is for drop-off and pickup only.

We look forward to seeing all our amazing dads and special guests!

Spirit Week Kicks Off February 9

Get ready to show your school spirit! Spirit Week kicks off Friday, February 9, with a fun dress theme each day:

- **Country-Western Day on Friday, February 9:** Yeehaw! Show off your fanciest duds and come dressed in your favorite country-western attire!
- **Favorite Character Day on Monday, February 12:** Dress up as your favorite hero or character from a book, TV show, movie—or even theme park!
- **Super Comfy Day on Tuesday, February 13:** Relax at school! Come dressed in your favorite school-appropriate comfy clothes—sweats, flannel pajamas, etc. You can even bring a stuffed animal, as long as it fits in your backpack. Please remember to wear school-appropriate shoes.
- **Favorite Sports Team Day (With Optional Valentine's Day Accessories) on Wednesday, February 14:** Show your love for your favorite sports team—St. John's, high school, collegiate, or professional! You may also wear Valentine's Day accessories, if you wish.
- **Mismatch Day on Thursday, February 15:** Bring on your clashiest outfits for Grandparents and Special Guests Morning and beyond! Mix patterns, polka dots, stripes, plaids, and even styles. Make sure your socks don't match, and choose colors that don't coordinate!
- **St. John's Spirit Wear on Friday, February 16:** Show off your Cardinal spirit with St. John's Spirit Wear!

We can't wait to see your fun, creative outfits!

ECD Grandparents and Special Guests Morning Is February 15

Grandparents and Special Guests Morning will take place on **Thursday, February 15, beginning at 8:30 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.

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

As any parent knows, children have a lot to say! At St. John's, not only do we acknowledge that the stories of our Cardinals are important, but we also celebrate what they have to share.

Oftentimes, classrooms are filled with students recounting their experiences, sharing their ideas, or developing theories about something they've observed. These tidbits of information provide opportunities not only for students to develop their oral-language skills, but also for our professional educators to develop students' abilities to author their own pieces.

As you know, just last week we had the opportunity to work with a senior staff developer from the Mossflower Reading and Writing Project. During this training, our teachers participated in several different learning opportunities, including spending time in classrooms with our young writers. **We are so excited to begin this work as we nurture our writers to their next level using the Writers Workshop approach;** teachers from kindergarten to fifth grade will launch Writers Workshop in the next few weeks.

In one of our classrooms just this week, students worked in their newly formed writing partnerships. As with many activities, **when students have the opportunity to collaborate and provide feedback to each other, the level of their work improves.** Writing partnerships are successful because learning is social. By allowing such opportunities for academic discourse and comradery, we are building on the truth that authors thrive when they have an audience for which to write.

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

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- **Mismatch Day on Thursday, February 15:** Bring on your clashiest outfits! Mix patterns, polka dots, stripes, plaids, and even styles. Make sure your socks don't match, and choose colors that don't coordinate!
- **St. John's Spirit Wear on Friday, February 16:** Show off your Cardinal spirit during Grandparents and Special Friends Day with St. John's Spirit Wear!

We can't wait to see your fun, creative outfits!

Annual Elementary Division Variety Show: Dates + Details

It's time to start preparing for St. John's annual Elementary Division Variety Show! This is a wonderful opportunity for our Cardinals to show off their skills and have a great time performing with friends.

ENTRY FORM DETAILS

- You should have received important details and the entry form in this week's Monday Folder. If your child is interested in participating in this exciting event, please complete the entry form and return it to your child's music teacher by Monday, February 12.
- To be considered for an emcee or stage-crew position, please indicate interest on your child's entry form.

VARIETY SHOW: IMPORTANT DATES

- Video Audition Deadline—Monday, February 12
- Variety Show Dress Rehearsal—Wednesday, February 28, at 11:30 a.m.
- Variety Show Dress Rehearsal—Thursday, February 29, at 11:30 a.m.
- Variety Show—Friday, March 1, at 10:15 a.m. in the Gym; please arrive 15 minutes early to check in

QUESTIONS?

With questions or concerns, please [email Jason Roberts](#) or [Lisa Naulls](#). We're looking forward to a wonderful show!

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

Grandparents and Special Friends Day 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: Project-Based Learning Comes to Life!

Taking a walk through the MD classrooms and hallways this week, it was evident that collaborative, interactive projects are happening throughout the curriculum. **One such example of project-based learning took place in seventh grade and helped students take the leap from “learning about” science to “figuring out” science, with real-world problems.**

The students participated in an Engineering Internship focused on concepts learned in their Metabolism unit. **Working in small groups, they developed a health bar to provide emergency meals during a natural disaster.** The students were tasked with balancing the needs of the target population with cost and taste.

The internship started with the **research phase** to understand human metabolic needs; progressed through the **design phase**, where they utilized a digital “Recipe Test” tool; and culminated with the **proposal phase**, in which students composed a written document about the how and why of their optimal recipe.

Next came the real fun! **Students prepared their optimal recipe in class and presented their proposal to the judging panel with the hopes of having the best design.** One group even added an element of creativity by writing a jingle to sing during their time in front of the judges! Judges rated the student groups on taste, cost, nutritional value, packaging design, and presentation.

Taking on the project-based learning role of food engineers was both exciting and challenging. **As students weighed the various trade-offs while designing their optimal solution, they were active, engaged, curious, evidenced-based thinkers.**

If you happen to cross paths with one of them in the next few weeks, you may want to ask them to share their recipe with you!

Warmly,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

Congratulations, Students of the Week!

Congratulations to our Student of the Week honorees! Click on each student's name below to learn a little more about him or her:

- [**Siena A.**](#), Eighth-Grade Student of the Week
- [**Carter F.**](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [**Josephine H.**](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

Seventh-Grade Parents: Register for DC Trip by February 4 for Early Bird Discount

Seventh-grade parents, be sure to register for the 2024 Washington, DC, Field Studies trip by Sunday, February 4, for the Early Bird price.

- [**Click here for details.**](#)
- Remember, all students must register before the end of the school year if they want to attend this once-in-a-lifetime trip!
- Questions? [**Email Beth Sarachman**](#) in the Middle Division.

MD Spirit Week: Winter Social, Dress Themes, and Movie + Lunch!

Spirit Week is **Friday, February 9, through Friday, February 16**, and we have some fun activities planned!

- The **Middle Division Winter Social takes place Friday, February 9**, as a kickoff to Spirit Week. This year's dance has a country-western theme and will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Gym.
- Students will enjoy **daily free-dress themes** during Spirit Week, February 9–16. [**Click here for details.**](#)
- On Tuesday, February 13, MD students will walk to Cinépolis for a movie (*Wonka*) and then enjoy an off-campus lunch. [**Click here to prepay**](#) for your child's movie (including popcorn and beverage) **by Monday, February 5**.

Join Us! MD Variety Show Is February 15

Please join us for our annual Middle Division Variety Show! The event will take place on **Thursday, February 15, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Cardinal Gym. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. We're looking forward to a wonderful show!

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

Grandparents and Special Friends Day 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!

Yearbook Dedication Pages: Order a Personalized Ad for Your Student Today

Don't forget to give your student a special "shout-out" in the yearbook with a personalized ad! [Click here](#) for more information. With questions, please [email Beth Sarachman](#) in the Middle Division.

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](#).