



**St JOHN'S**  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of March 7, 2024*

### All School



***A Harvest of Compassion:*** Last Friday, St. John's eighth graders visited Harvest Solutions Farms to harvest produce that will be distributed to families in need. During the three-and-a-half hours worked, forty-eight students collectively harvested over 11,000 pounds of cabbage!

**Mark Your Calendar: STEAM Day Is March 22 + Volunteers Needed**

STEAM Day 2024 is later this month! St. John's will host our annual celebration of all

things STEAM on Friday, March 22, with a variety of activities, demonstrations, and experiences throughout the day. We will have much more information in the weeks ahead, such as schedules and timing for each grade level, so that parents know when to block out time to join us on campus. Meanwhile, here is a brief overview of the day's highlights:

- 8:30–9:00 a.m.—Opening Ceremonies
- 9:00–9:30 a.m.—STEAM Build in Gym (Pre-K With Fourth Grade / Kindergarten With Fifth Grade)
- 9:30–10:30 a.m.—STEAM Build in Gym (Fourth Grade)
- 10:15–11:00 a.m.—STEAM Build in Gym (Second Grade)
- 10:45–11:30 a.m.—STEAM Build in Gym (First Grade)
- 1:30–2:30 p.m.—STEAM Build at Lunch Tables (Fifth Grade)
- 1:40–2:45 p.m.—STEAM Build in Gym (Third Grade)
- ECD will have a display table in Cardinal Gym.
- Middle Division will have activities throughout the day . . . more info to come!

While parents are welcome to observe STEAM in action throughout the day, we are also looking for volunteers to help in a few areas, including at check-in, during lunch/recess, etc. **If you are interested in volunteering for an hour or more during the day, please [sign up here](#).**

### **SOLD OUT! (But You Can Still Get Added to the Cardinella Waitlist!)**

Cardinella tickets have sold out, but you can still get added to the waitlist!

Simply **[send an email to our Advancement Office](#)**, and we'll be sure to let you know if space becomes available. Thank you, Cardinal Community, for your amazing support of our annual school benefit!

### **Help Our Seventh Graders Raise Money for an Iron Giraffe**

After reading *A Long Walk to Water*, our seventh graders are raising money for the Iron Giraffe Challenge as part of our service-learning project and WE School commitment. An iron giraffe is the drill used to dig wells that provide safe, clean drinking water to the people of South Sudan.

- We are asking for your help to reach our \$1,000 goal via donations of cash or coins to your child's classroom fund, or via online donations to our fundraising page, **[here](#)**.
- Students have created classroom containers to hold donations, and classes will display their containers containing the money during Maundy Thursday worship on **March 28**.
- With questions, please **[email Mrs. Garrett](#)**.
- To learn more about Water for South Sudan, please **[click here](#)**.

### **SJES Athletics: Cheer on the Cardinals Next Week**

Spring sports begin next week, with our co-ed soccer teams battling Our Lady of Fatima at home this Wednesday, March 13. Go Cardinals!

### **Join Us Tuesday for March PTF Meeting**

Please join us this Tuesday, March 12, at 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons for our March Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting. This month's guest speakers will be Coaches Winn and Dietz, who will provide an update on St. John's Athletics and Physical Education program and will discuss how proceeds from the St. John's Golf Tournament will be used.

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

- **Zoom Meeting Link (Meeting ID: 957 0552 7955): <https://jamsadr.zoom.us/j/95705527955>**

### **Save the Date: Father-Son Event Is April 28**

Plan to join us for the next Father-Son Event on Sunday, April 28, when we'll enjoy an Angels vs. Twins baseball game at Anaheim. Keep an eye on *Cardinal Weekly*—more details are coming soon!

### **Summer at St. John's: Registration Opens March 18**

Registration for Summer at St. John's opens Monday, March 18, for students from two years old through eighth grade! Full- and half-day summer programming will feature both academic and enrichment camps, and course offerings include both new camps and the return of old favorites like Build-A-Book and Read It & Eat It!

- Summer at St. John's will run from Monday, June 10, through Friday, August 9.
- Faculty-led Cardinal Camps will run from Monday, July 8, through Friday, August 2.

Keep an eye on *Cardinal Weekly* for more details as the March 18 registration date draws near!

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Early Childhood Division**

#### **Friday, March 8**

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences*: No school for students

- *Extra-Day Extended Care From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:* [Click here to register](#)

### **Tuesday, March 12**

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting:* 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons

### **Saturday, March 16**

- *Cardinella:* [Buy your tickets today](#)

### **Friday, March 22**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *STEAM Day*

### **Thursday, March 28**

- *Maundy Thursday Service:* 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church

### **Friday, March 29**

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school
- *Good Friday Service:* 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church

### **Saturday, March 30**

- *Easter Vigil:* 8:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church

### **Monday, April 1–Friday, April 5**

- *Easter Break:* No school

## **Elementary Division**

### **Friday, March 8**

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences*
- *Extra-Day Extended Care Available From 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.:* [Click here to register](#)

### **Sunday, March 10**

- *Track & Field Practices at the Santa Margarita Catholic High School Track*
  - Grades K–4 at 9:00–10:00 a.m.

- Grades 5–8 at 10:00–11:00 a.m.

### **Monday, March 11**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

### **Tuesday, March 12**

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting: 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons*

### **Thursday, March 14**

- *Third Grade Goes to O'Neill Park*

### **Friday, March 15**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

### **Saturday, March 16**

- *Cardinella: [Buy your tickets today](#)*

### **Sunday, March 17**

- *Track & Field Practices at the Santa Margarita Catholic High School Track*
  - Grades K–4 at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
  - Grades 5–8 at 10:00–11:00 a.m.

### **Monday, March 18**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

### **Tuesday, March 19**

- *BOB Competition*

### **Friday, March 22**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *STEAM Day*

### **Monday, March 25**

- *Cardinal Character Recognition*
- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

### **Thursday, March 28**

- *Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church*

### **Friday, March 29**

- *Good Friday Holiday: No school*
- *Good Friday Service: 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church*

### **Saturday, March 30**

- *Easter Vigil: 8:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church*

### **Monday, April 1–Friday, April 5**

- *Easter Break: No school*

## **Middle Division**

### **Friday, March 8**

- *No School for Students*
- *Extra-Day Extended Care Available From 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.: [Click here to register](#)*
- *Student-Led Conferences*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal: 2:00–5:00 p.m.*

### **Sunday, March 10**

- *Track & Field Practice for Grades 5–8: 10:00–11:00 a.m. at the Santa Margarita Catholic High School track*

### **Monday, March 11**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*

### **Tuesday, March 12**

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting: 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons*

### **Wednesday, March 13**

- *5/6 Coed Soccer vs. Our Lady of Fatima (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer vs. Our Lady of Fatima (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

### **Friday, March 15**

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

### **Saturday, March 16**

- *Cardinella: [Buy your tickets today](#)*

### **Sunday, March 17**

- *Track & Field Practice for Grades 5–8: 10:00–11:00 a.m. at the Santa Margarita Catholic High School track*

### **Monday, March 18**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer vs. Aliso Viejo (Away): 3:30 p.m.*

### **Wednesday, March 20**

- *5/6 Coed Soccer vs. Mission Viejo (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *5/6 Boys Volleyball vs. Stoneybrooke (Home): 3:30 p.m.*

### **Thursday, March 21**

- *5/6 Boys Volleyball vs. St. Anne (Away): 3:30 p.m.*

### **Friday, March 22**

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

### **Monday, March 25**

- *Formal Uniform Day for K–8*
- *5/6 Coed Soccer vs. Serra 2 (Away): 3:30 p.m.*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer vs. Serra 2 (Away): 4:30 p.m.*

### **Wednesday, March 27**

- *7/8 Coed Soccer vs. CVCS (Home): 3:30 p.m.*



## Thursday, March 28

- *5/6 Boys Volleyball vs. St. Anne (Home):* 3:30 p.m.
- *Maundy Thursday Service:* 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church

## Friday, March 29

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school
- *Good Friday Service:* 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church

## Saturday, March 30

- *Easter Vigil:* 8:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church

## Monday, April 1–Friday, April 5

- *Easter Break:* No school

## Early Childhood Division

### From the Interim Division Principal

Thank you for participating in the Parent-Teacher Conference for your child. We hope it is informative and gives you additional insight into your child's learning.

There are two types of assessment that we use in our Early Childhood Division—standardized assessments and formative assessments. These are quite different from each other, yet in combination give us an overall picture of each child's development.

- **Standardized assessments** are widely used to measure children's knowledge, skills, and abilities against predetermined standards. The BRIGANCE Inventory of Early Development is a standardized assessment that allows educators to compare a child's performance to that of same-age children in a nationally representative sample.
- A **formative assessment** is primarily informal; takes place in authentic contexts; and is based on the skills, interests, and abilities of individual children that teachers observe and document. Based on these observations and work samples, teachers can plan activities and scaffold learning. Formative assessments value where children are, what they bring to the learning environment, and where they are ready to go next. It is a strengths-based approach that allows successes to be celebrated and used as building blocks for further development and learning.



During your conference, your child's teacher will share the results of a BRIGANCE Inventory of Early Learning, as well as work samples and pictures of your child at work and play, giving you a comprehensive understanding of your child's learning.

Warm regards,

Carole Magaldi  
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

## **Elementary Division**

### **From the Division Principal**

As you know, we are currently in the midst of Parent-Teacher Conferences. Thank you for taking the time this week to meet with your child's teacher. While the actual conference is very important, perhaps more important are the follow-up opportunities you have to discuss goals with your child. I want to take this time to encourage you to reflect with your child about the discussions and insights gained during this semester's Parent-Teacher Conference.

Below are a few suggestions about how you can reflect with your child on their conference:

- **Celebrate Achievements:** Take a moment to celebrate your child's successes and accomplishments! At St. John's, we frequently provide opportunities for students to experience success. By acknowledging your child's efforts, you will boost their confidence and motivate them to succeed again and again. It is also a great opportunity to reinforce with your child that you—their parent—enjoy celebrating them!
- **Discuss Areas for Improvement:** No conference would be complete without discussing next steps. No matter how strong a child is, there are always areas for growth. After the conference, take time to discuss any areas for improvement. Encourage your child to share thoughts and feelings about these areas, and then collaborate together to identify strategies for improvement.
- **Set Goals:** Use this time to work with your child to set realistic and achievable goals based on the feedback from your child's conference. Setting goals empowers your child to take ownership of their learning. It also makes them aware of their own strengths, as well as of areas for growth.
- **Encourage Communication:** Emphasize that you will continue to communicate with your child's teacher. Encourage your child to frequently share with you their thoughts, questions, and concerns so that you can advocate for your child and continue to partner with the school.
- **Offer Support:** Reassure your child that you are there to support them every step of the way! You are their greatest champion! Let them know to always reach out to you for help when needed.

Finally, this reflective process demonstrates to your child that although conferences are a short event, the process of learning is ongoing. Together with your child and the St. John's community, we can continue to support your child's growth and success, both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to your child's education! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke  
Elementary Division Principal

### **K-8 Track & Field: There's Still Time to Register!**

Track & field registration is still open for grades K–8. [Click here to register.](#)

## **Middle Division**

### **From the Division Principal**

The final line of the SJES mission statement reads, “A nurturing environment and programs built on an ideal balance of tradition and innovation encourage our students to pursue lives of service and purpose.” This statement is a guiding principle for the Middle Division, and the school actively seeks ways to embody our mission through service-learning opportunities in our local community. One notable initiative involves collaboration with Harvest Solutions Farm, a 40-acre farm established in Irvine in 2021 as a division of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

Harvest Solutions Farm aims to support individuals and families in our local communities by providing them with dignified access to healthful, locally grown, nutrient-rich food. The farm cultivates a range of high-grade vegetables and fruits, including cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, watermelon, zucchini, bell peppers, and several varieties of squash. The operation at Harvest Solutions Farm produces approximately 40,000 pounds of fresh produce weekly, which is distributed to local senior citizens, college students, and families in need. With the help of their own staff and supportive volunteers like our students, the time from field to processing center to distribution is less than 72 hours.

This SJES service-learning project in MD is a continuation of the students' involvement with Second Harvest Food Bank, which began in fifth grade when the students participated in the distribution process at the RSM Cares Food Pantry. The students distributed produce along with other donated food items.

In October, our sixth- and seventh-grade students engaged in a day of service, planting seedlings at Harvest Solutions Farm. Last Friday, our eighth-grade students returned to the fields to harvest cabbage. During the 3.5 hours worked, forty-eight students collectively harvested over 11,000 pounds of cabbage. (See the photo at the top of the All School Section of this *Cardinal Weekly*.) Demonstrating their commitment to making a positive impact in their community, the students were reminded that the heads of cabbage in their hands would provide a portion of a meal for someone in need in less than three days.

A morning of harvesting cabbage on an active farm provided our MD students with a profound understanding of their ability to positively influence the lives of others. SJES encourages students to continue giving the gift of time (their own resource) by volunteering at Second Harvest or other local agencies, emphasizing the impact a small act of kindness can have on others. Through service and purpose at Second Harvest, our eighth-grade students provided some hope and relieved some fears for those unable to access fresh produce for themselves and their families.

Warm regards,

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:

- [Remi W.](#) and [Ray Z.](#), Eighth-Grade Students of the Week
- [Ava B.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Aya Z.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

### **K-8 Track & Field: There's Still Time to Register!**

Track & field registration is still open for grades K–8. [Click here to register.](#)

## **Church**

### **Holy Week at St. John's Episcopal Church**

As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we invite you to join us in worship at St. John's Episcopal Church. For more information, including all worship dates and times, [click here.](#)

- Join us on **Palm Sunday**, March 24, for worship as we celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem with our palms and hosannas at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Both Sunday services will feature music and Mark's Passion story.

- On Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m., we will commemorate the Last Supper with Holy Eucharist at a **Maundy Thursday** service.
- On Friday, March 29, from noon to 3:00 p.m., the church will be open for a self-guided walk through the **Stations of the Cross**, or join Fr. Jerry at noon for guided prayer to commemorate Jesus's Passion and death on the cross. At 7:00 p.m., we will retell the Passion story at our **Good Friday** service.
- We will celebrate Jesus's resurrection on **Easter Sunday** morning, March 31, at 8:00 a.m. with organ and at 10:00 a.m. with choir and brass ensemble, followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt** after the 10:00 a.m. service.