



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of March 14, 2024

All School



We Do So Like Green Eggs and Ham! In celebration of Dr. Seuss's 120th birthday and Read Across America Week earlier this month, Mr. Lovejoy read Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham to Mrs. Townsend's Preschool class. Everyone then sat down to a vibrant repast of strawberries, bananas, and—you guessed it—green eggs and ham!

Students Are Invited to Wear Green Tomorrow!

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, all students are welcome to wear green shirts tomorrow—

Friday, March 15! Students in K–8 who choose not to wear green must wear their Spirit Wear; uniform bottoms are still required.

Cardinella: Bid Now on Silent Auction Items

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket to attend Cardinella this Saturday, March 16! We are looking forward to a lovely evening of fellowship and fundraising at the Inn at the Mission, San Juan Capistrano.

- **Regardless of whether you'll be attending, you are invited to bid on our Silent Auction items!**
- Bidding is open now through 7:30 p.m. this Saturday (the evening of Cardinella).
- To register, browse items, and place bids, please [click here](#). Good luck!

Summer at St. John's: Registration Opens Monday

Registration for Summer at St. John's opens this Monday, March 18, for students from two years old through eighth grade. Keep an eye on your inbox—we'll be sending registration details around 4:00 p.m.!

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. Parents are invited to observe STEAM in action throughout the day. 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)
- 12:15–1:00 p.m.—STEAM Build in Gym (Second Grade)
- 12:30–1:00 p.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](#).**

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](#).

Athletics Update + Come Cheer on Your Cardinals!

Co-ed soccer and boys' volleyball season is underway! Come cheer on your Cardinals at the following games next week:

- **Monday, March 18, at 3:30 p.m.:** 7/8 Co-ed Soccer at Aliso Viejo Christian
- **Wednesday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m.:** 7/8 Co-ed Soccer vs. Mission Basilica (Home)

K-8 TRACK & FIELD: THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER

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

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Saturday, March 16

- *Cardinella*

Friday, March 22

- *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*

Monday, April 1–Friday, April 5

- *Easter Break: No school*

Elementary Division

Friday, March 15

- *Spirit Wear Friday or Wear a Green Shirt With Uniform Bottoms*

Saturday, March 16

- *Cardinella*

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

Monday, April 1–Friday, April 5

- *Easter Break*: No school

Middle Division

Friday, March 15

- *Spirit Wear Friday or Wear a Green Shirt With Uniform Bottoms*
- *MD Spring Musical Rehearsal*: 3:15–6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16

- *Cardinella*

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*
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Early Childhood Division



'This Is Going to Be the Year!' Pre-K artists and engineers worked together this week to build Leprechaun Traps for St. Patrick's Day as part of a celebrated annual SJES tradition.

From the Division Principal

I am thrilled to officially begin working with our amazing Early Childhood Division students and faculty! As I get to know everyone—parents included!—I am amazed at just how committed everyone is to providing our very youngest Cardinals with the best experience possible.

As you know, early childhood is a time of awe and wonder. Young children begin each day anticipating that anything is possible! While at school, we build upon this enthusiasm and use every opportunity to capture the hearts and minds of our students.

One such opportunity is that of the Leprechaun Trap—an annual St. John's tradition that occurs around St. Patrick's Day. In preparation for St. Patrick's Day, our Pre-K Cardinals work together in small groups to catch a leprechaun. Students are confident that their designs for their traps are going to prove successful!

Not only does the Leprechaun Trap project motivate our students, but it also asks them to leverage their inner engineer and artist. This collaborative process of design and construction has lent itself to some fierce competition between Mrs. Adame's, Mrs. Bosanko's, and Ms. Ramirez's classes! Based on what I've overheard on the playground, all of our Pre-K students are excited about the possibility of capturing a leprechaun.

As I'm in classrooms and on the yard, our students are energetically engaged in a variety of activities like these all day long. It's wonderful to be a part of this!

I invite any ECD parent to reach out to me to share questions, concerns, or ideas. I am also happy to find some time for us to meet and get to know each other. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at RBourke@StJohns-ES.org. I believe in fostering strong school-home partnerships and welcome everyone to take advantage of your place in the St. John's family!

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke
Early Childhood Division/Elementary Division Principal

Change to Student Drop-off After 8:15 a.m.

Beginning this Monday, March 18, the front doors to the Early Childhood Division will close at 8:15 a.m. If you arrive after this time to drop your child off, please go to the front office of the school to check in.

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STEAM Day Is March 22 + Volunteers Needed

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- 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](#).** Thank you!

Elementary Division

From the Elementary STEAM Coordinator

On Friday, March 22, our entire student body will engage in STEAM Day 2024. Parents are invited to observe this school-wide event, encompassing an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to learning. Our Elementary Division students will partake in grade-level STEAM Builds in the gym that correlate to a current unit of study. Water-filtration systems, marble mazes, and habitats and shelters are just a few of the concepts you can expect to witness in action throughout the day.

You will notice your child engaged in hands-on, inquiry-based experiences that foster important Cardinal Character Traits we believe will help them succeed in life—being Curious and Confident, while exhibiting a Caring, Respectful, and Collaborative nature. Students will be Resourceful, Reflective, and Resilient throughout the day as they work together on their STEAM builds.

To watch your child in action, please see the following start times for your grade level's STEAM Build:

- **Kindergarten (With Fifth-Grade Buddies):** 9:00 a.m. in Cardinal Gym
- **First Grade:** 12:30 p.m. in Cardinal Gym
- **Second Grade:** 12:15 p.m. in Cardinal Gym
- **Third Grade:** 1:40 p.m. in Cardinal Gym
- **Fourth Grade (With Pre-K Buddies):** 9:00 a.m. in Cardinal Gym

- **Fourth Grade:** 9:30 a.m. in Cardinal Gym
- **Fifth Grade:** 1:30 p.m. at the blue lunch tables

As an added experience, students in grades K–2 will participate in a collaborative Art and Health lesson with Ms. Heys and Mrs. Dietz. Students in grades 3–5 will engage with the Fibonacci sequence—the mathematical pattern found within nature—and its intersection with music through a lesson taught by Ms. Naulls and Mr. Roberts.

By combining different subjects of study and simultaneously helping students develop these character traits, STEAM education helps prepare students for a future that demands knowledgeable, thoughtful, creative, and kind people.

St. John’s STEAM Team will provide more information in a follow-up email. With any questions, please [email the St. John’s STEAM Team](#).

Sincerely,

Tiffany Adair
Librarian and Elementary STEAM Coordinator

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In honor of St. Patrick’s Day, all students are welcome to wear green shirts in lieu of Spirit Wear tomorrow—Friday, March 15. Students who choose not to wear green must wear their Spirit Wear. Uniform bottoms are still required.

SJES Summer Olympics: Opening Ceremony Is April 12

The Summer Olympics are coming to SJES! Mrs. Dietz and the Enrichment Team are excited to announce a collaborative Summer Olympics unit throughout the month of April within the Elementary Division. We will kick off this exciting endeavor with an Opening Ceremony assembly on Friday, April 12.

- Students will participate in six different Olympic events during their PE classes.
- While in their Enrichment classes, students will participate in activities with art, music, science, and library as it relates to our Olympic theme.
- Students will represent six different countries and accumulate points for those in their country across various grade levels.

Be on the look out for more information coming from the “Olympic Committee!”

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

Middle Division had a wonderful completion to the second trimester and an incredibly positive start to the third trimester. A huge thank-you to every family that attended the student-led conferences. In the Middle Division, we find it invaluable to have students share their successes and the areas that still need growth directly with their parents and their advisor. The result is very few surprises, many healthy and honest discussions, and effective communication between home and school.

This past Monday, members of the Class of 2024 began wearing their high school sweatshirts to school. This is a privilege they earn after years of commitment to their school, their studies, and themselves. The final high-school decision requires an open mind and a commitment to finding the school that is the best fit.

The process of exploring high-school options began in the fall with the Road to High School class. Representatives from area schools were on campus to share their presentations and help our students make informed decisions about their future education. For some students, the presentations opened new doors, and for others, they provided the clarity needed.

I am happy to share that our students will be attending eleven different area high schools in the fall, reflecting the diversity of choices and opportunities available: Capo Valley, Crean Lutheran, Fairmont, JSerra Catholic, Mater Dei, Mission Viejo, Sage Hill, San Juan Hills, St. Margaret's Episcopal, Santa Margarita Catholic, and Tesoro. Many students received multiple acceptances, placed into honors-level courses, and received offers to enroll in specialized programs. Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

Warm regards,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

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STEAM Day in Middle Division: Join Us March 22

We are thrilled to announce our all-school STEAM Day event on Friday, March 22. STEAM Day is a unique opportunity for your child to learn, explore, and have fun while developing important global skills that will help them succeed in the future.

- The day will begin with an opening ceremony in front of the STEAM building.
- Our Middle Division students will then dive into their STEAM projects, which are designed to integrate various subjects and provide an excellent opportunity for them to engage in critical thinking, teamwork, and collaboration.
- Additionally, we are excited to have a guest speaker who is an esteemed entrepreneur and local favorite.
- ***Parents are invited to join us for the Opening Ceremony at 8:30 a.m., and may stay throughout the day to observe all the exciting STEAM activities. We look forward to seeing you there!***

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.