



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of March 21, 2024

All School



***Check(mate), Please!** Students in After-School Extended Care receive daily lessons in chess from Strategic Kids' chess coach, then put their new strategies into practice each afternoon. It's been amazing to see their excitement about the game increase alongside their knowledge!*

Update: Summer Camp Registration Pages Will Go Live Early Next Week

A quick update on the registration pages for our ECD Summer Camps and K-8 Faculty-Led Enrichment Camps: Our vendor has let us know that they are still fixing some technical issues and expect to have the registration pages fully functional by early next week. Rest assured that our **Cardinal families will still have exclusive early access to registration**. Stay tuned—we will email the registration links just as soon as they are ready!

STEAM Day 2024: Join Us Tomorrow!

Parents, please join us tomorrow—Friday, March 22—as we celebrate STEAM Day 2024! To view the link to our full program and schedule, please [click here](#). We know you'll enjoy this opportunity to see the engagement and excitement of STEAM learning in action!

Athletics Update + Upcoming Game Schedule

Our co-ed soccer teams got off to a great start last week. The 5/6 team defeated OLF 6–3, and our 7/8 team defeated OLF 4–2. Go Cardinals!

COME CHEER ON YOUR CARDINALS!

Come cheer on your Cardinals at the following games next week:

- **Monday, March 25**
 - 5/6 Soccer at St. Serra at 3:30 p.m.
 - 7/8 Soccer at St. Serra at 4:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 27**
 - 7/8 Soccer vs. CVCS (Home) at 3:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 28**
 - 5/6 Boys Volleyball vs. St. Anne (Home) at 3:30 p.m.

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

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

Next Spirit Lunch: Place Orders by April 5

Our next Spirit Lunch will take place on Thursday, April 18. We are excited to have [Cuca's Mexican Food](#) catering this event. No Choicelunch will be served on this day, and all orders must be placed online, in advance, by Friday, April 5, at **noon**. For more information and to pre-order Spirit Lunch, [click here](#).

Cardinella: Highlights + THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who came out to support St. John's at Cardinella on Saturday! Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure made our annual benefit a huge success. A few highlights from the event:

- Teddy, the Cardinella puppy, found his forever home!
- The Murillo family won the opportunity drawing of a wine experience for 12.
- The Parent Gift was announced to revamp our outdoor learning spaces—and raised over \$60,000!

A huge shout-out to Cardinella Chair Carli Beckman and Vice-Chair Alexa Biegenzahn, to the Cardinella Committee Volunteers, to PTF President Britani Naisbitt, and to the generous sponsors who made this event possible!

- **Presenting Sponsor:** The Murillo Family
- **Founders Sponsors:** Santa Margarita Catholic High School, John's Incredible Pizza, Lullabar
- **Cardinal Sponsors:** Carli Ann Design, Janna Mooney Real Estate, The Frieden Family, Graves Construction, PharmaMia, The Bowen Team
- **In-Kind Sponsors:** The Garrett Family, MoonBeam Studios

Buy Ticket Now: 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. Tickets are on sale now—[click here to purchase!](#)

March PTF Meeting Minutes Now Available

Miss last week's Parent Teacher Fellowship meeting, or just want to review the topics discussed? The meeting minutes are now available. [Click here to read them.](#)

We hope to see you at **the next PTF meeting on Tuesday, April 16!**

Thank You, Sunshine Committee!

Thank you to the Sunshine Committee and all PTF parents who have contributed and volunteered to provide lunch and recess coverage for our faculty and staff this afternoon!

Last Chance: Help Our Seventh Graders Raise Money for Clean Water in South Sudan!

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](#).

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

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 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 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

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Early Childhood Division



***Jungle Fun:** The Early Childhood Division has been learning about jungle animals and their habitat. Yesterday, our preschool classes went on a safari, traveling through the “jungle” (SJES garden) looking for hidden animals. Dressed in safari attire complete with safari hats and binoculars, the students had a blast searching for these elusive jungle animals. Who knew we had elephants, lions, and tigers!*

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 involves the Leprechaun Trap, an annual St. John’s tradition. This year, in preparation for St. Patrick’s Day, our Pre-K Cardinals worked together in small groups to catch a leprechaun. Students were confident that their designs for their traps were going to prove successful!

Not only did the Leprechaun Trap project motivate our students, but it also asked them to leverage their inner engineer and artist. This collaborative process of design and construction lent itself to some fierce competition between Mrs. Adame's, Mrs. Bosanko's, and Ms. Ramirez's classes! Based on what I overheard on the playground, all of our Pre-K students were 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

STEAM Day Is Tomorrow!

We hope you'll join us for STEAM Day tomorrow—Friday, April 22.

OPENING CEREMONIES

- We will begin the day with Opening Ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. in front of the Johnson STEAM Center.
- Parents who drop off and plan to stay for the Opening Ceremonies are welcome to join us at the Johnson STEAM Center for a reception and meetup from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m., with coffee and donuts provided.
- The presentations and learning experiences put on by our students will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue all the way through the end of the day.

ECD-SPECIFIC SCHEDULE

- **10:00 a.m.—Pre-K with Fourth-Grade Buddies:** Will the boat float? Pre-K has extended its exploration into the rainforest by experimenting with boat designs. Students will then be using this knowledge to design river boats with their fourth-grade buddies.

As a reminder, if you are planning on attending this fun-filled event, please remember to wear your name lanyards.

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

Please note that the front doors to the Early Childhood Division 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.

Elementary Division

From the Elementary STEAM Coordinator

Tomorrow (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.

Following is some information on tomorrow's schedule:

OPENING CEREMONIES

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ELEMENTARY DIVISION SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m.—Take Shelter! (Kindergarten With Fifth-Grade Buddies)
- 9:00 a.m.—Mine a Load of Gold Marble Maze (Fourth Grade)
- 10:00 a.m.—Will the Boat Float? (Pre-K With Fourth-Grade Buddies)
- 12:15 p.m.—Going Back in Time (Second Grade)
- 12:30 p.m.—And Away We Go (First Grade)
- 1:30 p.m.—Create a Water Filter (Fifth Grade)
- 1:40 p.m.—Animal Habitats (Third Grade)

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.

With any questions, please [email the St. John's STEAM Team](#).

Sincerely,

Tiffany Adair
Librarian and Elementary STEAM Coordinator

Middle Division



Forecast for Learning: Sunny! Tasked with supporting scientific claims about weather patterns through an Investigative News Broadcast, sixth-grade students embraced their roles as news broadcasters, writers, graphic artists, sound-effect technicians, and expert witnesses.

From the Division Principal

Project-based learning involves students designing, developing, and constructing

solutions to real-world problems. Our sixth-grade scientists recently concluded an engaging project in which they shared their scientific arguments on weather patterns. Tasked with supporting scientific claims about weather patterns through an Investigative News Broadcast, students embraced their roles as news broadcasters, writers, graphic artists, sound-effect technicians, and expert witnesses.

On presentation day, it was evident that each group had dedicated considerable effort, resulting in creative, thoughtful, and persuasive newscasts. Each Investigative News Broadcast included a scientific claim supported by evidence and reasoning, a unique news media name, theme music, sound effects, commercial breaks, expert witnesses, summaries, and official sign-offs.

Observing the students seamlessly assume their assigned roles highlighted the project's effectiveness in encouraging collaboration and creativity. By integrating various disciplines and leveraging technology for effective communication, students demonstrated their knowledge while developing solutions to real-world problems.

This approach not only enhances retention of knowledge, but also fosters a deeper understanding as students actively apply what they have learned in innovative ways. Project-based learning provides a dynamic platform for students to engage with content while enjoying the learning process. The Investigative News Broadcasts were informative, engaging, creative, and fun. If you get a chance to speak to one of the sixth-grade scientists, ask them to share some of the highlights with you!

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:

- [Victoria P.](#) and [Steven C.](#), Eighth-Grade Students of the Week
- [Elle T.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Meela G.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

STEAM Day in Middle Division: Join Us Tomorrow

We hope you will join us for our all-school STEAM Day event tomorrow—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.