



## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of March 28, 2024*

### All School



**STEAM, Fibonacci Style:** Thank you to everyone who came out to participate in our annual STEAM Day last Friday! The energy and excitement was palpable as our students erupted volcanoes, created load-bearing marble mazes, replicated dinosaur fossils, designed working water filters, launched rockets, and more! Here, St. John's fifth graders explore the intersection of math and music with keyboards and laptops, creating musical scores using the Fibonacci sequence.

### **American Ninja Registration Warriors, Rejoice! (a.k.a., Summer Registration Site Has Been Improved)**

If you've been hearing parental cries of deepest anguish over the past couple of days, that was probably our fault. (Sorry!) We asked you to complete a summer registration process that was full of tiny (okay, Everest-level, LA-peak-traffic-time-equivalent) obstacles. But here's some good news: Because you let us know of the challenges you've been facing, Strategic Kids was able to make some improvements to the registration process for Summer at St. John's 2024. Here are the deets:

- **Keep the Registration Link Handy! Seriously.** One of the major concerns has involved difficulties in returning to the camp registration pages using “Back” and “Continue Shopping” buttons (a function of the pages being available exclusively to St. John’s families). While some of these link issues have been resolved via super-secret, behind-the-scenes ninja techie voodoo, the very best way around this is *still* to keep the registration link handy. Literally, just **click the registration link every time you want to return to the menu of camp choices.** (You’ll thank us later!)
- **Forms, Forms, Forms!** You have let us know that there are a lot of forms to fill out—and you are 100% right. There’s not a great way around this, because forms are unique per student, per order, and per registration page. We know it’s not ideal, nor is it particularly fun. We’re truly sorry for that. All we can say is that we are working with Strategic Kids to find ways to improve the process in future, and each and every one of you who has filled out multiple forms to ensure your child has an awesome summer is a rock star who deserves a nap and a warm, gooey chocolate chip cookie!
- **How About a Do-over?** These registration updates were pushed out to the system yesterday morning around 11:00 a.m. If you had items in your cart at that time and have not yet completed the registration process, you’ll need to remove the items from your cart and start the registration process over. Yes, that means more forms. (Sorry!) But it also means you’ll get to see how much more smoothly the rest of the registration process goes now!
- **Need Help?** If the registration website itself is giving you trouble, email Strategic Kids’ Technical Director Gabriel Balme at [GBalme@StrategicKids.com](mailto:GBalme@StrategicKids.com). With questions about the camps themselves, please email the person organizing them. (For Cardinal Camps, that’s the teacher leading the camp. For camps led by Strategic Kids’ staff, that’s Ryan Jackson—949.215.6956 or [RJackson@StrategicKids.com](mailto:RJackson@StrategicKids.com).)

Mostly, thank you to each and every one of you who has fought through the summer-registration obstacle course to the end and let us know how the site can be improved. Rest assured that we are taking all feedback seriously and using it to fuel discussions about how to make the registration process better. We know that won’t get you back all the time you spent completing forms, but still, we appreciate you a lot and are grateful for your support as we work to provide summer-long programming options for families who need them.

And we know that one day, we’ll look back on this American Ninja Warrior–style registration process and laugh. (At least, we hope so!)

With love,

The St. John's Summer Camp Team

### **Celebrate Easter at St. John's Episcopal Church**

He is risen! Join us at St. John's Episcopal Church to celebrate Jesus's resurrection on **Easter Sunday**, March 31. The 8:00 a.m. service will feature organ and hymns, while the 10:00 a.m. service will feature choir and brass ensemble, followed by an **Easter egg hunt**.

### **Cardinella Photos Now Available**

Cardinella photos are available now! [Click here](#) to view and purchase pictures from the event.

### **Save the Date: Mother and Daughter Event Is May 11**

Save the date for our annual Mother and Daughter event on Saturday, May 11. This year, the lovely morning will take place on campus at St. John's. More details to come after Easter Break!

### **International Fair Is May 17: Volunteers Needed**

This year, St. John's Parent Teacher Fellowship will be hosting the first International Fair on **May 17 from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.** in the courtyard. This is to allow our community to represent and share their cultures, as well as to learn about other cultures. If you are interested in volunteering to help create this fun learning and fellowship event, please [fill out this three-question survey](#).

### **50% Off DENNIS Uniform Logo Items**

Dennis Uniform has discounted our logo items 50% off to clear! Take advantage of this fabulous deal and pick up items to last you through this year (and even next, as DENNIS Uniform items may be worn during the 2024–25 school year).

### **New Youth Arrival in the Student Store**

Put a little SPRING in your step with our newest youth arrival in the Student Store! This new [Champion crew](#) is sure to add springtime vibes to any closet. Shop in-store or online at [SJESStudentStore.com](http://SJESStudentStore.com).

### **Athletics Update + Upcoming Game Schedule**

Our spring season is off to an amazing start! The 5/6 Boys' Volleyball team has won its first two games, and both soccer teams are undefeated after two weeks of play! Go Cardinals!

### **COME CHEER ON YOUR CARDINALS**

Come cheer on your Cardinals at the following games after Easter Break:

## **Tuesday, April 9**

- 5/6 Boys Volleyball vs. Stoneybrooke (Home) at 3:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, April 10**

- 5/6 Soccer at Mission Basilica (Away) at 3:30 p.m.
- 7/8 Soccer at Mission Basilica (Away) at 4:30 p.m.

### **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](#)**.

### **Buy Tickets 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!](#)**

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Early Childhood Division**

#### **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

#### **Sunday, March 31**

- *Easter Services at St. John's Episcopal Church:* 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m. service followed by an Easter egg hunt

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

- *Easter Break:* No school

### **Wednesday, April 10**

- *Petting Zoo*: 8:15 a.m. in the ECD parking lot

### **Elementary Division**

#### **Thursday, March 28**

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

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#### **Friday, April 5**

- *Noon Deadline to Pre-order April 18 Spirit Lunch*: [Click here to order](#)

#### **Friday, April 12**

- *Opening Ceremonies of St. John's Summer Olympics*: 8:00 a.m.

### **Middle Division**

#### **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



***An Egg-cellent Celebration:*** In anticipation of Easter, the Early Childhood Division classes have been busy dyeing and decorating eggs, making Easter-related crafts, and



*reading all about the Easter bunny. On Wednesday, the ECD students participated in class egg hunts and enjoyed classroom Easter celebrations. The ECD wishes all our families a Happy Easter and a fun-filled Easter Break!*

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### **The Petting Zoo Will Be Here April 10**

Parents, you're invited to join us on Wednesday, April 10, to enjoy the Petting Zoo with your child! Farm clothing is highly recommended on this day. Since the Petting Zoo will take place in our parking lot, **the ECD lot will be closed starting at 8:15 a.m.** Please have your child dropped off by 8:15 a.m., or park on the street and walk them onto campus. T/TH families are also welcome to attend. Teachers will share their class's time with you. No siblings, please.

## **Elementary Division**



**Yes Siree, BOB!** Since September, the fourth- and fifth-grade Battle of the Books (BOB) club has been meeting weekly to discuss books, connect with literature, and have fun while reading. Upon our return from Winter Break, 13 students from the BOB Club came together to become the competitive BOB team—Cardinal Genius. Practicing together, these 13 BOB-ers went on to compete against a dozen teams from eight different schools last week. The competition was tough, but our Cardinal Genius teams soared, bringing home third and fourth place. Congrats to the Cardinal Genius teams for all their hard work and for this amazing accomplishment!

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### **A Note From Mrs. Kemmerle: Fractional Problems Foster Whole-Child Learning**

Third graders recently participated in a math task centered around the exploration of fractions. Students were challenged to order a set of fractions with unlike numerators and denominators using various strategies in an activity that fostered collaboration, the application of critical-thinking skills, and a deeper understanding of fractions.

The activity began with small student groups receiving a random grouping of fractions. Their task was to arrange these fractions from least to greatest—a seemingly simple task that encouraged them to delve deeply into their knowledge of fractional values.



*Two third graders sit on the floor and sort varied fractions by value, least to greatest.*

What made this activity particularly interesting to observe was the diverse range of strategies employed by the third graders. Many students initially gravitated toward grouping fractions by those closest to zero, one-half, and one whole, a strategy that provided them with a familiar reference point. Others preferred a tactile and visual approach and chose manipulatives such as fraction strips or fraction tiles to visually represent and compare the fractions.

One of the most significant discoveries made by students during this activity was the realization that the size of the denominator did not necessarily mean that a fraction was larger. Several students observed that fractions with larger denominators represented



smaller fractional pieces, challenging their initial assumptions and prompting a deeper exploration of fractional concepts.

Throughout the activity, students enjoyed collaborating with one another, sharing strategies, justifying their reasoning, and engaging in meaningful discussions about fractions.

Warmly,

Joy Kemmerle  
Third-Grade Teacher

### **SJES Summer Olympics: A Note About Opening Ceremonies on April 12**

St. John's Summer Olympics are near! The Elementary Division students have been assigned to represent six different countries: Italy, Germany, France, China, Spain, and Great Britain. We will kick off this exciting endeavor with an Opening Ceremony assembly on Friday, April 12, at 8:00 a.m. On this day, please have each student wear their uniform bottoms and a top that matches the color of their assigned country. Thank you!

### **Kindergarten: Oral Health Assessment Form Due May 31**

California law requires that students enrolled in kindergarten receive an oral health assessment by a licensed dental health professional, and submit a completed Oral Health Assessment Form to the child's school. Oral health assessments must occur between 12 months prior to the start of kindergarten and the end of the kindergarten year on May 31.

To fulfill the requirement, please **complete and submit this Oral Health Assessment Form**, as follows:

1. Parent/guardian must complete Section #1.
2. Licensed dental professional must fill out and sign or stamp Section #2.
3. Parent/guardian must return the completed form to the St. John's Health Office by Friday, May 31.
4. To claim an exemption from this requirement, parent/guardian must complete Section #3 and return to the Health Office by Friday, May 31.

If you have any questions, please call the Health Office at 949.858.5144 x223.

## Middle Division



***Excellence = The Common Denominator:** St. John's Middle Division students (and one Elementary Division student!) made a spectacular addition to the Sage Hill High School Math Competition last Saturday. Our students earned several individual and team achievements, and demonstrated Commitment and Curiosity throughout the day-long event!*

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### **From the Division Principal**

A huge shout-out to the St. John's Middle Division students (and one Elementary Division student!) that successfully participated in the Sage Hill High School Math Competition last Saturday. The competition is completely student-organized, with Sage Hill High School students putting on the event for area middle school students. The competition consists of team-based competitions in the areas of Mental Math, Measurement, Algebra, Statistics and Probability, Geometry, and Engineering. Students also compete individually in a head-to-head individual tournament in which they solve math problems in a best-of-three round system.

SJES had individual and team achievements, but more than anything, we had **33 amazing Cardinals** representing eight teams. It was our largest group to date, and the students demonstrated Commitment and Curiosity during the full-day event. This year's competition included 35 to 40 teams representing six area schools, and SJES placed as follows:

- **First Place—Sixth Grader:** Jason Tse

- **Second Place—Seventh/Eighth Grader:** Tulip Hu
- **Third Place—Egg Drop Engineering Team Challenge:** Charles Gao, Duncan Reynolds, Thomas Chiotti, Ronan Lau
- **Third Place—Sixth-Grade Team:** Ashley Zhao, Athena Tran, Ethan Schneider, Richard Shen, and Ronan Colleran

Math competitions like this spark interest in mathematics and encourage students to value intellectual pursuits and develop problem-solving skills that require creative thinking and innovative approaches. It also brings together students with like interests, fostering friendship, inspiration, and encouragement.

Congratulations to the entire group. They took risks and embraced collaboration to find success in mathematics. These skills are invaluable beyond the realm of mathematics and promote academic and personal growth. Congratulations to all the participants from SJES for their dedication and their achievements!

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:

- [Olivia L.](#) and [Elsa H.](#), Eighth-Grade Students of the Week
- [Duncan R.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Ashley Z.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

## **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.](#)

- 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.