



St JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of April 25, 2024

All School



St. John's fourth graders, along with several parents, faculty, and staff, flew to Sacramento for an epic field trip this week! Stops included the California State Capitol, with a special visit to the Assembly Floor courtesy of Assemblywoman Sanchez; the Gold Bug Mine, where students panned for gold; and the California State Railroad Museum, where they learned about the history of the railroad, explored steam locomotives, and enjoyed a fantastic model railway exhibit.

Don't Miss *Shrek The Musical JR.* This Weekend!

Join us for swampy fun at this weekend's performances of the Middle Division spring musical, *Shrek The Musical JR.*

- Friday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27, at 3:00 p.m.
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Tickets are \$11 each and will be on sale at the door beginning tomorrow—Friday, April 26—at 5:00 p.m. by credit card ONLY. No cash/checks will be accepted. **Please Note:** All ticket sales are final and non-refundable. Tickets are non-transferable. No reserved seating.

Unused LEGOs Sitting Around? Donate Them to St. John's!

The Parent-Teacher Fellowship is looking for LEGOs! Mr. Lovejoy and Mr. Bourke will be hosting the first-ever St. John's LEGO Championship for the lucky winner of the Cardinella SJES LEGO Championship auction, and they need lots and lots of LEGOs to host this fun opportunity. If you have any unused LEGOs sitting around your home, please feel free to drop them in the LEGO Box in the Front Office any time between now and Friday, May 10. Please put them in a bag—and be sure to list your name so we know whom to thank!

Athletics Updates + This Week's Game Schedule

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Come cheer on your Cardinals this Monday, April 29:

- 5/6 Coed Soccer vs. St. Margaret's (Home): 3:30 p.m.
- 7/8 Coed Soccer vs. Stoneybrooke (Home): 4:30 p.m.

SWIM MEET ON MAY 25: REGISTER NOW

Our league is hosting a swim meet for grades 3–8 at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, at Santa Margarita Catholic High School.

- Experienced swimmers are eligible to join three swimming events, with options including 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter backstroke, 50-meter breaststroke, 50-meter butterfly, and 100-meter individual medley.
- If your child is interested in participating, please [click here to register](#).
- With questions, [email Bryan Winn](#).

SPRING SPORTS AWARDS ARE MAY 20

Save the date! Spring Sports Awards for soccer and volleyball will be held at 3:15 p.m. on Monday, May 20, in Cardinal Gym.

April PTF Meeting Minutes Now Available

Miss last week's Parent-Teacher Fellowship Meeting? [Click here](#) to view the meeting minutes!

RSVP Now: Tommy Hilfiger Launch & Uniform 101 Is May 8

Join us on Wednesday, May 8, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. in the Cardinal Gym for our Tommy Hilfiger School Uniform (THSU) launch and Uniform 101 presentation.

- Meet our THSU representative, enter to win a THSU gift certificate, see our new uniform program in person, and enjoy coffee and light breakfast bites.
- During our presentation, we will share uniform updates and give families an opportunity to ask questions.
- Computers will be available for parents who would like assistance with ordering.
- [RSVP here](#) to let us know that you will be joining us!

DENNIS Uniform Logo Items Now Available at the Mission Viejo Store

Have your students outgrown their polos, PE shirts, or sweaters? Our remaining DENNIS Uniform logo inventory has been transferred to the Mission Viejo store for quick sale.

- You no longer have to wait for items to be shipped to your home. [Visit the DENNIS Uniform website](#) to confirm size availability, then shop in-store today.
- The Mission Viejo store is open Mondays through Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to save on uniforms that can be worn for the remainder of this year and next!

St. John's School Families Are Invited to a Baptism (Theirs!)

During our School Eucharist on Monday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m., St. John's will offer the sacrament of Holy Baptism to anyone in our School community who is interested—students, parents, members of extended families, faculty, or staff.

According to the Catechism of The Episcopal Church, "Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the Kingdom of God." Baptized Christians are considered full members of Christ's Church. The sacrament is available to persons of any age.

If you'd like more information, or if you or a family member or friend would like to be added to the baptism rolls on that day, please contact School Chaplain Patti Peebles via [email](#) or at 949.858.5144, ext. 226.

Join Us for an Amazing Mother-Daughter Morning on May 11

Mothers and daughters, join us for a morning of celebration and fellowship on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the SJES Courtyard.

- Guests will enjoy a **do-it-yourself donut bar** with six toppings and six glazes to choose from. (Fruit and coffee will also be provided.)
- Daughters will have the opportunity to **build a bouquet** for mom.
- The Golden Spark permanent jewelry will be available for purchase.
- The event is open to **all students from Early Childhood through eighth grade** and will include a photo opportunity with your child.
- Tickets are \$42 per mother-daughter duo, and \$12 per additional daughter.
- [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, April 26

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Tuesday, April 30

- *All School Open House*

Friday, May 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Wednesday, May 8

- *ECD Mommy and Me Event: 8:00–10:00 a.m.*

Friday, May 10

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Elementary Division**Friday, April 26**

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Saturday, April 27

- *Rising Cardinals Flag Football Tournament: 9:00–10:00 a.m. at SJES*

Sunday, April 28

- *SJES Track & Field Practice (K–4): 9:00–10:00 a.m. at Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

- *All School Open House*

Friday, May 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Sunday, May 5

- *Track & Field—JSerra Regional Meet (1–8)*
- *SJES Track & Field Practice (K–4): 9:00–10:00 a.m. at Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

- *ERB Testing for Grades 3-5*

Wednesday, May 8

- *ERB Testing for Grades 3-5*
- *Tommy Hilfiger School Uniforms Launch and Uniforms 101: 8:00 a.m. in Cardinal Gym*

Thursday, May 9

- *ERB Testing for Grades 3-5*

Friday, May 10

- *ERB Testing for Grades 3-5*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Middle Division

Friday, April 26

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Middle Division Musical Performance of Shrek JR.: 5:30 p.m. in Cardinal Gym*

Saturday, April 27

- *Middle Division Musical Performance of Shrek JR.: 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in Cardinal Gym*

Sunday, April 28

- *SJES Track & Field Practice (5–8): 10:00–11:00 a.m. at Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

Monday, April 29

- *Formal Uniform Day (K–8)*
- *5/6 Coed Soccer Game vs. St. Margaret's 2 (Home): 3:30 p.m.*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer Game vs. Stoneybrooke (Home): 4:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, April 30

- *All School Open House*

Friday, May 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Eighth-Grade Field Trip to Knott's Berry Farm: [Purchase tickets](#) by April 26*

Sunday, May 5

- *Track & Field—JSerra Regional Meet (1–8)*
- *SJES Track & Field Practice (5–8): 10:00–11:00 a.m. at Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

Monday, May 6

- *Formal Uniform Day K-8*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer Playoffs (TBD)*

Tuesday, May 7

- *ERB Testing for Grades 6-8*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer Playoffs (TBD)*

Wednesday, May 8

- *ERB Testing for Grades 6-8*
- *Tommy Hilfiger School Uniforms Launch and Uniforms 101: 8:00 a.m. in Cardinal Gym*
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Thursday, May 9

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Early Childhood Division



This week, Preschoolers joined Middle Division members of St. John's Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Program in decorating pots made out of recycled soda cans, then filling them with potting soil and strawberry plants.

A Note From Mrs. Townsend

In honor of Earth Day, St. John's Preschoolers and seventh- and eighth-grade members of our Middle Division Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Program got together to learn about recycling and environmental conservation. Working together, Preschoolers and PALs created something useful that was fun and enlightening for everyone involved.

First, PALs made pots out of recycled soda cans. They then joined our Preschoolers in decorating the pots with different materials. Once the pots were ready, PALs put holes in them so the Early Childhood Division kids could learn about drainage for the plants. Preschoolers then shoveled the potting soil into the pots and placed strawberry plants in the dirt.

Planting not only teaches the children about gardening, but also about the importance of growing our own food and caring for the environment. They are learning about responsibility and taking care of the Earth.

Sincerely,

Michele Townsend
Preschool Teacher

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Elementary Division



In celebration of Earth Day, Mrs. Easley's fifth-grade students participated in Recycling Relays. Students raced to pick up various items and had to sort them into one of three categories—recycling, compost, or landfill. Afterward, students discussed which items could be recycled in our area and which items could be composted.

A Note From Principal Maddie

Hello, families of St. John's! My name is Madeline C., or Maddie. On Tuesday, I was Elementary Principal for the Day!

First, I would like to thank Mr. Bourke for this amazing opportunity and helping me be the best principal I could be. On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to read to some classes, observe our teachers doing great work, and see our students having fun and learning new things. I challenged them to all do a good deed, and it was amazing to see all the positive energy. I learned that we are so lucky to have such a caring and hardworking faculty like Mr. Bourke and all the teachers. Every single one loves your kids and makes sure they do their best to keep them happy, learning, and safe.



On Tuesday, Elementary Principal for the Day Maddie C. got to visit classrooms, meet with students, make decisions about homework, attend a business lunch—and celebrate her faculty and staff with trophies and delicious cupcakes! (Her sign reads, "To The BEST Staff Ever: Please enjoy some cupcakes and take a trophy! Love, Principal Maddie")

As I walked around the school on Tuesday, I saw kids living their Cardinal values and being kind to each other. I know that the school does an extraordinary job teaching our kids these values, but this comes from home, too—so thank you, parents, for all your support.

My favorite thing about being Principal for the Day was ... everything! Everything was so fun and very enjoyable. Be sure to ask your kids if they saw me Tuesday! I'll never forget my experience. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Madeline C.
St. John's Elementary Principal for the Day

ERB Testing Is May 7-10

This year's Educational Records Bureau (ERB) standardized testing for grades 3 through 5 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, through Friday, May 10. These are important tests, as they are used by the school as one of many tools to evaluate your child's academic growth.

Please note the following important information:

- Testing will begin at 8:15 a.m. and end by 10:30 a.m.
- Please ensure your child comes to school on time. In order to minimize interruptions, a student will not be admitted to a classroom once a test has begun. Tardy students must check into their Division Office, and will remain in the office area until the completion of the test.
- Makeup testing will be available if your child is absent due to illness.
- On these days, please schedule any appointments for your child outside of school hours.
- As always, we encourage your child to get a good night's rest and eat a nutritious breakfast daily.

If you have any questions about the testing process, please feel free to [email me](#) or [Division Principal Ryan Bourke](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sharon Alston
Learning Specialist

Elementary Spring Concert Is May 16

Join us for our Elementary Spring Concert for grades K-5 on Thursday, May 16, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Cardinal Gym! For details, [click here](#). We can't wait to see you there!

Family Service-Learning Opportunity: Create a Birthday Bag for a Displaced Child!

Our Upper Elementary families are invited to participate in a service opportunity spearheaded by our Student Council—create a Birthday Bag for a child who resides at the Children's Home Society in Orange, CA. For a child displaced from their home, little things like having a birthday party are often difficult to achieve.

Completed and decorated bags should be delivered to your classroom on or before Friday, May 3.

St. John's service-learning projects provide a valuable opportunity for students to develop compassion, empathy, and a fuller understanding of the world around them. Please take on this project as a family—the experience is sure to make an impact on your child. Please see the Monday folder letter for all the details. With questions, [email Shelley Chretin](#), our Student Council Advisor. Thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

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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



At JSerra High School Engineering Magnet's Annual Rocket Launch, the model rocket created by SJES seventh graders Charles G., Samuel K., and Teddy H. achieved the longest overall air time and the only error-free parachute deployment!

Our Cardinals Blast Off With the Rocketry Team!

In preparation for JSerra High School Engineering Magnet's Annual Rocket Launch, St. John's seventh graders Charles G., Samuel K., and Teddy H. worked hard perfecting not one, but multiple model rockets in hopes of impressing the judge's panel.

As the morning fog crept over the high school athletic field, our Cardinals faced fierce competition. They left the day proud of their successful launch, which boasted the competition's longest overall airtime and only error-free parachute deployment.

These students will continue to build their own bright futures, and we look forward to their next creation! Special thanks to Mrs. Haggard and our parent chaperone, Mr. Heyming, for supervising, teaching, and working with our future engineers.

Matthew Morrell
Makers Teacher

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:

- [Gabby F.](#) and [Sora L.](#), Eighth-Grade Students of the Week
- [Rachel K.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Ronan C.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

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Important End-of-Year Details for All MD Students ([KNOTT'S AND BOOMER'S PAYMENTS DUE TOMORROW!](#))

The excitement is building as we near the end of April, and the final days of the school year are right around the corner. There are many activities and events taking place over the course of the next several months, and we want to make sure you are aware of each one to help you plan.

CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATES: END-OF-YEAR INFORMATION

Information about end-of-year activities and events for eighth graders was emailed to all families on Tuesday, April 15. [Click here](#) to review the email completely, and please respond to the [Knott's payment link](#) and the [Commencement RSVP link](#) if you have not done so already.

GRADES 6 & 7: END-OF-YEAR INFORMATION

Information about end-of-year activities and events for sixth and seventh graders was emailed to all families on Tuesday, April 15. [Click here](#) to review the email completely, and please respond to the [MD Dance payment link](#) and the [Boomer's payment link](#) if you have not done so already.

Church

Register Now: Vacation Bible School Is June 17-21

[Sign up now](#) for St. John's Episcopal Church's Scuba Vacation Bible School, taking place from **9:00 a.m. to noon on Monday, June 17–Friday, June 21**. At Scuba VBS,

kids will be immersed in new adventures, enjoy field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible lessons, and discover what living water is really all about! With questions, email VBS@StJohns-ES.org.