



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of May 2, 2024

All School



Congratulations to St. John's 5/6 Coed Soccer team—this year's League Champions!

Tommy Hilfiger Website Is Now Open and Accepting Orders

Parents wishing to get a jump on the 2024–25 back-to-school season may now shop on the Tommy Hilfiger School Uniform website. [Click here](#) and enter our school code, STJO56.

For more information about our new school uniforms, including details on how to make a uniform-sizing appointment, [click here](#) to view the email that was sent out to families yesterday morning.

The Last Spirit Lunch of the Year Is May 23: Order Now!

Our final Spirit Lunch of the year will take place on Thursday, May 23. We are excited to have TK Burgers back on campus serving your student's choice of hamburger,

cheeseburger, grilled cheese, or veggie burger. All orders come with chips and bottled water. **Orders must be placed by Monday, May 13, at NOON.** No Choicelunch will be served on this day. K–8 parents are welcome to attend during their child(ren)'s scheduled lunchtime. [Click here to order.](#)

Summer at St. John's: Some Spaces Still Available!

We invite you to enroll your child in summer weekday camps that blend story-based teaching with exciting activities. Strategic Kids' summer camps at St. John's are an opportunity for your child to dive into artistic expression, forge lasting friendships, and explore enriching activities.

Your child will spend each day playing, learning new skills, and enjoying loads of activities, including:

- Chess
- LEGO
- Tug-of-war challenges
- Dodgeball
- Arts and crafts
- Special themed days
- So much more!

Also be sure to check out Strategic Kids' summer sports camps at St. John's—special camps that feature a blend of traditional sports and unique games developed by Strategic Kids.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these unique camps!

New Student Chaplains for 2024-25

Congratulations to Ava B. and Maya H., who will be serving the school as Student Chaplains next year!

Athletics Updates + Congrats, League Winners!

Congratulations to our 5/6 Coed Soccer team for winning the league title this year! This team has lost only one game in two seasons.

Our 7/8 Coed Soccer team begins playoffs as the #2 seed this Wednesday, May 8, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's. If they win, they will advance to the finals (also at St. Mary's) this Thursday, May 9, at 3:30 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.

RSVP Now: Tommy Hilfiger Launch & Uniform 101 Is Wednesday

Join us this 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!

LAST CHANCE: 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](#).

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.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, May 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Wednesday, May 8

- *ECD Mommy and Me Event: 8:00–9:00 a.m.*

Friday, May 10

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Friday, May 17

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Friday, May 24

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Cardinal Field Day*

Monday, May 27

- *Memorial Day Holiday: No school*

Friday, May 31

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Wednesday, June 5

- *Last Day of School for 3-Day Students*

Thursday, June 6

- *Last Day of School for 2-Day and 5-Day Students*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 11:45 a.m.*

Elementary Division

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*

Sunday, May 12

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

Monday, May 13

- *Formal Uniform Day K–8*

Thursday, May 16

- *Elementary Division Spring Concert: 6:00 p.m.*

Friday, May 17

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Saturday, May 18

- *Track & Field—PAL County Championship Meet (1–8): At Aliso Viejo High School*

Sunday, May 19

- *Track & Field—PAL County Championship Meet (1–8): At Aliso Viejo High School*

Monday, May 20

- *Formal Uniform Day K–8*
- *Spring Sports Awards for Soccer and Volleyball: 3:15 p.m. in Cardinal Gym*

Friday, May 24

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Cardinal Field Day*

Saturday, May 25

- *Swim Meet for Grades 3–8: 10:00 a.m. at Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

Monday, May 27

- *Memorial Day Holiday: No school*

Friday, May 31

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, June 3

- *Formal Uniform Day K–8*

Thursday, June 6

- *Last Day of School*

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.*

Middle Division

Friday, May 3

- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Eighth-Grade Field Trip to Knott's Berry Farm*

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*

Tuesday, May 7

- *ERB Testing for Grades 6–8*

Wednesday, May 8

- *ERB Testing for Grades 6–8*
- *Tommy Hilfiger School Uniforms Launch and Uniforms 101: 8:00 a.m. in Cardinal Gym*
- *7/8 Coed Soccer Playoffs: 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's*

Thursday, May 9

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

Friday, May 10

- *ERB Testing for Grades 6–8*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Sunday, May 12

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

Monday, May 13

- *Formal Uniform Day K–8*

Wednesday, May 15

- *Rising Sixth-Grade Meeting: 6:00 p.m.*

Friday, May 17

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Saturday, May 18

- *Track & Field—PAL County Championship Meet (1–8): At Aliso Viejo High School*

Sunday, May 19

- *Track & Field—PAL County Championship Meet (1–8): At Aliso Viejo High School*

Monday, May 20

- *Formal Uniform Day K–8*
- *Spring Sports Awards for Soccer and Volleyball: 3:15 p.m. in Cardinal Gym*

Tuesday, May 21

- *Middle Division Spring Concert: 6:00–8:00 p.m.*

Friday, May 24

- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.*
- *Spirit Wear Friday*
- *Cardinal Field Day*

Saturday, May 25

- *Swim Meet for Grades 3–8: 10:00 a.m. at Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

Monday, May 27

- *Memorial Day Holiday: No school*

Friday, May 31

- *Spirit Wear Friday*

Monday, June 3

- *Formal Uniform Day K–8*

Tuesday, June 4

- *Baccalaureate*

Wednesday, June 5

- *Commencement*

Thursday, June 6

- *Last Day of School*
- *Minimum Day: Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.*

Early Childhood Division



Award-winning author Bethany Barton delighted students in Pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade by creating a toilet paper "spider web" during her presentation in the Learning Commons.

From the Division Principal

It was wonderful to have everyone on the St. John's campus on Tuesday for our Open House. Students—especially our Early Childhood Division students—were SO excited to be able to show you their "home away from home!" I truly hope that you enjoyed being here. The same joy and excitement that you witnessed yesterday is what we see from ECD students daily: their smiles, laughter, and energy is what makes our Early Childhood Division such a magical place to be.

Again, I would like to express to you just how thrilled I am to be a part of your child's world here at St. John's. As I get to know you, it is truly a blessing to be able to partner with your family. Although last night was our official "Open House," please know that my door is always open. Please come on by to meet at any point. I welcome it!

Sincerely,

Ryan Bourke
ECD/ED Principal

From Mrs. Adame: Students Enjoy Visit From Award-Winning Author

This week, Pre-K students joined the kindergarten and first-grade classes in our beautiful Learning Commons for a special presentation by author Bethany Barton.

Bethany Barton is an award-winning author of STEM-inspired picture books. Her goal is to empower students to grow and learn through STEM resources.

It was such a treat to have topics that tend to be less appreciated—such as garbage and spiders—presented in such a fun and engaging way!

- We learned that spiders cannot chew food very well. To help illustrate this fact, Bethany placed a cookie in a container of water to help dissolve the cookie, after explaining that a spider could not eat a cookie. Once the cookie began to dissolve, she “enjoyed” the cookie by using a straw to drink the cookie-flavored water.
- The children were also thrilled to participate in the making of a “web,” as a toilet-paper blower was used to launch a “spider web” into the crowd of excited students.

We can all agree that learning about spiders in such an interactive manner is tons of fun!

Sincerely,

Susan Adame
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Time Correction: Mommy and Me Day Is Wednesday at 8:00-9:00 a.m.

We accidentally published an incorrect schedule for Mommy and Me Day on the school calendar. The correct time for the event is 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, May 8. We apologize for any confusion!

Elementary Division



Last week, fourth-grade students traveled to Sacramento for the day—one of the most eagerly anticipated field trips of the year! Our modern-day “miners” engaged in a tour of the Capitol, did historical detective work, panned for gold, and so much more.

From the Fourth-Grade Team: Sacramento or Bust!

Eureka! Recently, all of our fourth graders had the opportunity to participate in one of the most eagerly anticipated field trips of fourth grade, when it was Sacramento or bust! This engaging and interactive field trip guides our modern-day “miners” through a whirlwind day of government, historical detective work, panning for gold, and so much more.

The day began at the Capitol with a very special visit to the State Assembly floor while in session, along with an introduction to those members present. It was an immense privilege for our Cardinals to see where laws are proposed, discussed, and set in motion. Touring through the Capitol, our students were also able to connect their knowledge of California becoming the 31st state in 1850 with the symbolism found in the Great Seal of the State of California and the building’s unique architecture.

Then, it was full steam ahead to the California State Railroad Museum! Our fourth graders climbed through different types of railroad cars, heard stories about the race to complete the Transcontinental Railroad, and saw the “second” Golden Spike used to connect the rails at Promontory Summit, UT. Seeing the massive steam engines up

close and learning more about the various methods used to build over and through the Sierra Nevada Mountains was eye-opening indeed!

After a mini scavenger hunt throughout Sutter's Fort, it was then off to "Hang Town," Placerville, and the Gold Bug Mine for a hands-on day in the life of a miner. Would there be windfalls and gold to be found, or would the luck run out and lead to hardships? Could they make it through a long and cold hard-rock mining shift in the mine? Or, when given a pan and a spot to try their hand at panning, could these prospectors strike it rich? Did anyone lose their hearing after a shift in the stamp mill, or were they lucky enough to receive a special item from the local blacksmith? Well, just like John Sutter and James Marshall kept finding gold a secret, so will we!

Warmly,

The Fourth-Grade Team

From Mrs. Adame: Students Enjoy Visit From Award-Winning Author

This week, Pre-K students joined the kindergarten and first-grade classes in our beautiful Learning Commons for a special presentation by author Bethany Barton. Bethany Barton is an award-winning author of STEM-inspired picture books. Her goal is to empower students to grow and learn through STEM resources.



This week, students in Pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade learned fascinating facts about spiders, garbage, and more from award-winning author Bethany Barton during her presentation in the Learning Commons.

It was such a treat to have topics that tend to be less appreciated—such as garbage and spiders—presented in such a fun and engaging way!

- We learned that spiders cannot chew food very well. To help illustrate this fact, Bethany placed a cookie in a container of water to help dissolve the cookie, after explaining that a spider could not eat a cookie. Once the cookie began to dissolve, she “enjoyed” the cookie by using a straw to drink the cookie-flavored water.
- The children were also thrilled to participate in the making of a “web,” as a toilet-paper blower was used to launch a “spider web” into the crowd of excited students.

We can all agree that learning about spiders in such an interactive manner is tons of fun!

Sincerely,

Susan Adame
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

ERB Testing for Students in Grades 3-5

Beginning Tuesday, May 7, and continuing on until Friday, May 10, students in grades 3–5 will participate in the annual ERB (Educational Records Bureau) Testing. For the first time, St. John’s students will complete these important assessments entirely online. In the past, students had to use physical Scantron forms. These were difficult to manage for students and had the potential for errors. By moving the testing online, we anticipate a smoother experience for everyone.

Practice tests have been given (and will continue to be given) so that students become familiar with the online platform. Each morning from May 7 to May 10, students will participate in two short online tests. Although these tests provide the school with some important data concerning student performance and progress, I would like to emphasize that students should not feel nervous or anxious. This is just one measure that we use to assess our students’ academic progress. Our teachers are very good at alleviating any worries. We just ask that students do their very best!

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](#).

Sincerely,

Ryan Bourke
ECD/ED Principal

Fifth-Grade Families: Please Submit 2024-25 Field Studies Deposit

Our 2024–25 sixth graders (current fifth graders) will be attending Pali Institute for their Field Studies trip in October, and we need to confirm our school's reservation. We are asking each family to **submit a nonrefundable deposit of \$100 to secure their student's spot**. Please submit the deposit payment electronically to SJES via [this payment link](#) by Friday, May 17.

Rising Sixth-Grade Families, Join Us May 15

Current fifth-grade parents and students are invited to our Rising Sixth-Grade "Preview" Evening on Wednesday, May 15, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Cardinal Gym. This evening bookends the meeting we held in November and is set aside to give you and your child an overview of the **updated sixth-grade curriculum and schedule**, provide information about the **MD Course of Study** and **course selections**, and share details regarding the **overnight Field Studies trip to Pali Institute** that our sixth graders will enjoy in October.

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: Birthday Bags Due Tomorrow

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. **Completed and decorated bags should be delivered to your child's classroom tomorrow—Friday, May 3**. With questions, [email Shelley Chretin](#), our Student Council Advisor.

Middle Division



Last weekend, the Middle Division put on three amazing shows of Shrek JR. We were so proud of our students' wonderful performances and of all the hard work put in by the cast and crew!

A Note From the MD Drama Teacher

Last weekend, the Middle Division put on three amazing shows of *Shrek JR.*, and we were so proud of the wonderful performances by the cast and crew, under the direction of Mr. Tiatia-Garaud and with Ms. Stebbins' choreography. Everyone laughed, smiled, and cheered loudly for the incredible talents that were displayed on our stage.

Thirty-one students in total participated in the cast, with only sixth and seventh graders. In past years, fifth graders were invited to join the cast to increase numbers, but we are so excited to see the growth of the program and the passion of our current sixth and seventh graders to carry it all by themselves. Jordy B. represented the eighth-grade class by participating as the stage manager.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Shrek JR.* You were shining quite brightly on that stage. Broadway, watch out!

Dimitri Tiatia-Garaud
MD Drama Teacher

Sixth-Grade Families: Please Submit Your 2024-25 Field Studies Deposit

Our 2024–25 seventh graders (current sixth graders) will be attending SEACAMP for their Field Studies trip in October, and we need to confirm our school’s reservation. We are asking each family to **submit a nonrefundable deposit of \$100 to secure their student’s spot**. If you haven’t already, please submit the deposit payment electronically to SJES via [this payment link](#) by **Friday, May 17**.

Rising Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Families, Join Us May 13

Current sixth- and seventh-grade parents and students are invited to our Rising Seventh- and Eighth-Grade “Preview” Evening on Monday, May 13, from **6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Cardinal Gym**. This evening is set aside to give you and your child an **overview of the Middle Division curriculum**, provide information about the **MD Course of Study and course selections**, share details regarding **MD Field Studies in October**, and discuss the **high school process**. We will also be reviewing **important updates to the MD schedule for 2024–25** at this meeting.

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:

- [Jack H.](#) and [Sophia T.](#), Eighth-Grade Students of the Week
- [Anna H.](#), Seventh-Grade Student of the Week
- [Stella H.](#), Sixth-Grade Student of the Week

Reminder: Call the Attendance Line by 8:00 a.m. for Absences, Tardies, or Early Departures

If your student will be absent, late, or leaving school before 3:05 p.m., please remember to notify the Middle Division via the Attendance Line at 949.858.5144 (option 2). Unless it is an emergency, we need to be notified of absences, late arrivals, and early departures before 8:00 a.m. on the day of. Thank you for your cooperation!

ERB Testing Is May 7-10

ERB testing is 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.

- Students should arrive at the normal time of 8:00 a.m. each day. Testing will start at 8:15 a.m. sharp and end by 10:30 a.m. daily. A special schedule follows, with regular dismissal time.
- A personal computer is required to take the exams. We have a limited number of school devices that can be loaned out. Please [email Rhiannon Overmire](#) in the MD Office if your student will need to borrow a device for the exams.
- To minimize interruptions, a student will not be admitted to the classroom once testing has begun. Tardy students must check into the MD Office and will remain in the office area until the completion of that day’s tests.

- Makeup testing will be available if your student is absent due to illness.
- We request that any scheduled appointments for your child be outside of school hours.
- We encourage your child to get a good night's rest and eat a nutritious breakfast.

Church

Mother's Day Worship With Special Music

Please join us for Mother's Day on **May 12** at our 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist service to hear St. John's Episcopal School mother Mrs. Lan Luo and her **Guzheng Ensemble** playing beautiful guzheng instruments. This special presentation during Sunday service is in loving recognition of all our church and school mothers, as well as honoring Asian American Heritage Month.

Piano Concert by Professional Pianist Mrs. Mo Deng

Mrs. Mo Deng is a celebrated pianist, graduating with honors from the Tianjin Conservatory of Music, and a St. John's Episcopal School parent. Mrs. Deng will play a piano concert at St. John's Episcopal Church on **Sunday, May 19, at 4:00 p.m.** She will be joined by Mrs. Naulls, as well as by eighth grader **Capella Zhang** on cello. The concert is free! There will be a freewill offering and light reception. Please join us for an afternoon of what will prove to be a beautiful concert of music and fellowship.

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**](mailto:VBS@StJohns-ES.org).