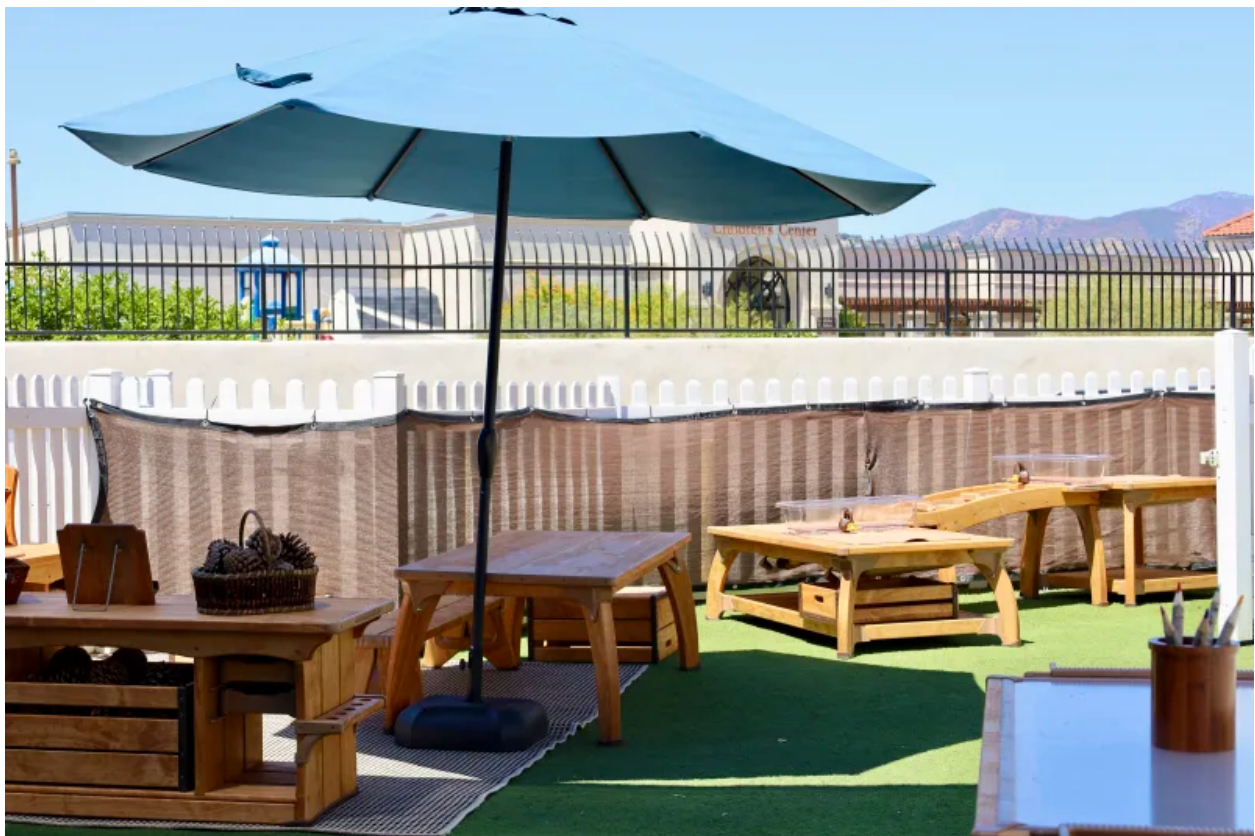




CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of August 22, 2024



Introducing: The Outdoor Exploration Center

The Outdoor Exploration Center combines the power of play and natural materials in a center open for children to explore their interests and expand on their classroom curriculum in different ways. [Click here](#) to find out more and to view additional photos of this unique space.

All School

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year at St. John's Episcopal School! It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I greet you, ready to embark on this journey of learning, growth, and discovery together!

The first days of school are filled with special moments—times filled with anticipation, new beginnings, and endless possibilities. Whether you are a returning Cardinal eager to reconnect with friends and teachers, or a new Cardinal stepping onto our campus for the very first time, know that you are a vital part of our school community, and we are thrilled to have you here.

To all our Cardinals, this is your year to shine. Embrace the challenges, ask questions, be curious, and take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Remember that learning is not just about the grades you earn, but about the experiences you have and the growth you achieve along the way. Your teachers, counselors, and the entire school staff are here to support you every step of the way.

To our parents, thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and academically rigorous environment where every student can thrive. We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year to ensure that your child's experience is both rewarding and fulfilling.

To our faculty and staff, you are the heart and soul of our school. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence set the tone for everything we do. I am grateful for your hard work and for the positive impact you have on the lives of our students every day.

My commitment to each of you—students, parents, faculty, and staff—is to lead with honesty, openness, empathy, and a focus on our shared mission: to provide an excellent education in a nurturing environment with an ideal balance of tradition and innovation. I believe in the power of community, and I know that together we can create an atmosphere where every member feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their best. Together, we can make this year one of the best yet!

Thank you for two fantastic days of school thus far. We look forward to an incredible school year ahead!

Warmly,

Sheryll Grogan

Acting Head of School

REMINDER: Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

Please take a look and review our [**Drop-Off and Pick-Up procedures**](#) for the 2024-25 school year. It is important that all parents in each division follow these guidelines to ensure an easy and efficient process of receiving students and sending them home.

If your child would like to ride their traditional two-wheel bike (no E-bikes) to school, they may walk their bike through campus, and park it behind the gym.

Extended Care Update

Earlier this week, you received an email announcement with updated information about Extended Care for the 2024-25 school year. Extended Care Registration is available with the following options:

- 1 hour (2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- 2 hours (2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Please view [**this document**](#) for detailed information about Extended Care and visit the [**Parent Portal**](#) to register. For any questions on billing or attendance, please email [**extendedcare@stjohns-es.org**](mailto:extendedcare@stjohns-es.org).

Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee

Please join us for complimentary gourmet coffee and pastries from Haute Cafe on **Friday, August 30th at 8:00 a.m.** on the SJES Learning Commons Patio. Learn about various volunteer opportunities, hear from our Acting Head of School and PTF President and meet some new parents. If you are unable to attend the Volunteer Fair or wish to preview and sign-up for these opportunities ahead of time, [**CLICK HERE**](#). We look forward to seeing you as we kick off the 2024-25 school year and make it the best one yet!

Welcome Back! Learn more about our School Counselors

We are excited to announce that the Counseling Department has grown this year! The counseling team will now be comprised of two full-time counselors, Miss O. and Miss Granados. Please [**click here**](#) to learn more information about the counselors and what they will be doing this year!

Golf Tournament Tickets are ON SALE!

St. John's Annual Golf Tournament will take place on **Wednesday, September 18th. [Tickets are ON SALE NOW.](#)** We are currently looking for sponsorships for this fellowship event and would love your support! Proceeds go to supporting the Athletics Department. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available now. [Click here](#) to support!

Uniform Reminders

- Formal sweaters are still required to be embroidered with the student's last name. Sweaters can be taken to either Monogram Magic or The Shirt Cannery to have the embroidery completed. Vendor information can be found [here](#) or on our Student Store [website](#).
- Tommy Hilfiger uniform orders are currently taking 2-3 weeks to receive as we are in the busy back to school season. If you need uniforms immediately, please visit our Student Store on campus to view our selection of used uniforms. Dennis used uniforms can be purchased in person or [online](#). Dennis uniforms can be worn for the 2024-25 school year.
- For the time being, formal uniforms with Chapel sweaters are only required one day a week (Mondays). More information will follow in the coming weeks.
- P.E. uniforms are no longer required for Elementary Division students. All K-5th grade students will now wear their Everyday Uniform on their P.E. days.
- Students transitioning from Elementary Division to Middle Division are required to wear the Middle Division uniform. This can be either the Tommy Hilfiger Middle Division Uniform or The Dennis Middle Division uniform for the 2024-25 school year. Uniform Guides can be found [here](#). Contact [Cheryl Boesch](#), Student Store Manager, if you have questions.

Spirit Lunch: TK Burger Truck on Friday, September 20

The first Spirit Lunch of the year will take place on **Friday, September 20th**. First stop: TK Burgers! All orders must be placed online, in advance, by **Monday, September 9**. K-8 parents are welcome to attend for their child(ren)'s lunch; however, in an effort to keep serving times on schedule during lunch time, lunches may **ONLY** be purchased for students. No Choice Lunch will be served on this day. For more information and to purchase your child(ren)'s burger order: [click here](#).

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, August 30

- *PTF Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee*

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day: NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, September 10

- *PTF Meeting*

Wednesday, September 11

- *Picture Day*

Thursday, September 12

- *Picture Day*

Elementary Division

Friday, August 30

- *PTF Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee*

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day: NO SCHOOL*

Wednesday, September 4

- *Monday Flip Day (wear Formal uniform)*

Thursday, September 5

- *Elementary Division Back to School Night*

Tuesday, September 10

- *PTF Meeting*

Wednesday, September 11

- *Picture Day*

Thursday, September 12

- *Picture Day*

Middle Division

Friday, August 23

- *7th Grade SEACAMP Final Payments Due: [Click here](#)*

Friday, August 30

- *PTF Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee*
- *6th Grade Pali Field Trip Final Payments Due: [Click here](#)*
- *Middle Division Fall Play Auditions*

Monday, September 2

- *Labor Day: NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, September 3

- *Middle Division Back to School Night*

Wednesday, September 4

- *Monday Flip Day (wear Formal uniform)*

Friday, September 6

- *Middle Division Fall Social*

Wednesday, September 11

- *Picture Day*

Thursday, September 12

- *Picture Day*
- *Washington D.C. Parent Meeting*

Early Childhood Division



Welcome back Early Childhood students! Yesterday, St. John's welcomed back its 3- and 5-day students to the ECD. Our Preschool students kicked off the day with a scavenger hunt to familiarize themselves with important places and

people around campus. They found the Health Office, the garden, the STEAM Robot, Mrs. Gomez's desk, Mrs. Bosanko's office, and the flagpole.

Welcome Back! We had a successful first day yesterday; the children came in happy and jumped into the fun that their teachers had waiting for them. It was so nice to see new friendships form and old ones reconnect. We are all looking forward to a fun-filled year!

A few reminders:

- Please remember to sign your child in and out daily as you enter the foyer.
- If you have an older child, you must exit through the foyer and drop-off through the main school entrance.
- Please have your child's name on their water bottle each day.
- Choice Lunch is available to students in Early Preschool, Preschool, and Pre-K. Please order in advance to ensure your child has lunch at school. Please keep in mind your child will still need a morning snack. Choice Lunch is not delivered until 11:15 a.m.
- School Pictures are scheduled for September 11th and 12th.

Please reach out with any questions.

Warmly,

Alli Bosanko

Early Childhood Division Principal

Early Childhood Parking Reminders

Please be sure to use your pink plaque when pulling into the ECD lot. **If you have a child in the Elementary or Middle Division, as well as in the ECD, please use street parking.** Picking up students in other divisions takes extra time and this results in backing up the ECD Parking Lot into the street. We appreciate your cooperation.

Elementary Division



Mrs. Shuy's First Grade students embarked on a special trip around campus. As students excitedly traveled through the courtyard and gathered around the SJES letters, she introduced "Mousey" from "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie". She explained that Mousey can be found in various places around campus, and our Firsties exercised their curiosity to locate him throughout the day!

Dear Families,

Yesterday was a day of excitement! With the advent of the new school year, it was revitalizing to have all of our Cardinals return to campus. Along with the smiles, laughter and occasional look of trepidation, came a sense of belonging: our students were back in their “home away from home.” No matter how students felt about their return – or start – of school, it was immediately apparent that every Cardinal experienced the warm welcome of our faculty and staff. It was so wonderful to have them back and we are very much looking forward to an amazing school year.

As we conclude the first official week of school, we ask that you establish a routine of open communication between you and your child. Whether your child is in the elementary or middle division, it is essential to talk about the day's events. Discussing school may not be your child's favorite thing to do, however, by encouraging communication about their day at school, you will be able to understand their highlights, questions, and areas of growth. Avoid asking questions that require only a yes or no answer! Trust us when we tell you that a school day at St. John's is filled with excitement. Somewhere within your child are stories to tell about learning, socializing, and all the other great things are students experience!

Speaking of communication, we also encourage you to remain connected to your child's teacher(s). Never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. At St. John's, we pride ourselves on developing partnerships with our families. We're so happy that you have entrusted us with your child, and we are committed to staying in contact with you. Together, we will ensure that your child's St. John's experience is exemplary.

For anyone who would like to stop by and meet with the administration, both Ms. McLennan and I are available to speak or meet whenever you would like. Please don't hesitate to set up a time to talk.

Here's to an amazing first week and an incredible year ahead!!

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke, Middle and Elementary Division Principal

Danielle McLennan, Middle and Elementary Division Assistant Principal

Elementary Division Play

We are happy to share that this year's Elementary Division Play for grades 1-5 will be *Alice in Wonderland*! We are thrilled to announce this exciting experience for our elementary students. If you are new to St. John's, our theatre program provides an opportunity for your child to meet new friends and enjoy a fun onstage experience. For anyone who is interested in enrolling their child, there will be a parent information meeting on **Thursday, September 12, from 2:15 p.m. -2:45 p.m.** on the Learning Commons Patio. We look forward to seeing you there. We encourage all of our parents to come and find out more about this popular St. John's tradition. For more information – and for registration – please refer to the Creative Kids Playhouse link [here](#). This year, families are required to make an account for their child. If you have any difficulties enrolling, please contact Rachael Gafner at rachael@creativekidsplayhouse.com

Monday Flag Ceremony

Elementary students will meet with their classmates each Monday morning by the flagpole. Prayers, the Pledge, announcements – and on select dates Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremonies – will occur during our time together. Parents and guardians are encouraged to join us. Flag is expected to last no more than 15 minutes. If your child is selected to receive character recognition or lead (5th Grade), you will receive notice in advance.

Elementary Division Back to School Night: Thursday, September 5

Mark your calendar for the Elementary Division Back to School Night on **Thursday, September 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Join us in the Courtyard for light desserts, fellowship, and the opportunity to chat with enrichment teachers. The formal program begins promptly at 5:50 p.m. with welcoming remarks, followed by classroom visits beginning at 5:55 p.m. We know you are looking forward to meeting your child's teachers and hearing about the wonderful programs planned for the year. Please note: this is an adult only event.

Service Learning Opportunity

Our first Service Learning event of the year will take place the week of September 9. The Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive, in memory of SJ Alumna Lisa Frost, '93 who lost her life as a result of the tragedy that took place on 9/11, will benefit the San Francisco Solano Food Pantry. Stay tuned for information in the Cardinal Weekly on how your student can participate.

Come Sing with the Upper Elementary Choir

Come sing with the UE Choir—no audition necessary. All 3rd-5th graders are welcome to join us during recess (10:30 a.m.) on Thursdays! We meet in Ms. Naulls' Choir room. Be sure to bring a snack and let's make some music! View [**this flyer**](#) for more details.

Middle Division



It's finally Eighth Grade year for a large handful of our Cardinals. Now, the "big kids" on campus, our Eighth graders were elated to reunite with one another for their final year of making memories as students at St. John's.

Dear Families,

Yesterday was a day of excitement! With the advent of the new school year, it was revitalizing to have all of our Cardinals return to campus. Along with the smiles, laughter and occasional look of trepidation, came a sense of belonging: our students were back in their “home away from home.” No matter how students felt about their return – or start – of school, it was immediately apparent that every Cardinal experienced the warm welcome of our faculty and staff. It was so wonderful to have them back and we are very much looking forward to an amazing school year.

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For anyone who would like to stop by and meet with the administration, both Ms. McLennan and I are available to speak or meet whenever you would like. Please don't hesitate to set up a time to talk.

Here's to an amazing first week and an incredible year ahead!!

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke, Middle and Elementary Division Principal

Danielle McLennan, Middle and Elementary Division Assistant Principal

Elf, A Christmas Story - Fall Show Information Meeting

Mr. Tiatia-Garaud will be hosting a **Parent and/or Student Information Meeting** about the Fall Play on **Monday, August 26 at 3:15 p.m.** Please join us to get more information about rehearsals and expectations for this performance opportunity we are providing to our Middle Schoolers. You will only have three days to register, as rehearsals will begin on Friday, August 30 (audition day).

Final Payments are Due for 6th & 7th Grade Field Studies

Sixth-grade students will enjoy their first outdoor field studies trip to Pali Institute in Running Springs. Deposits in the amount of \$100 were submitted this past spring. **Final payments are due by Friday, August 30th.** So that we may secure our reservation, please **click here** to submit final payment by Friday, August 30th.

Seventh-grade students will travel to SEACAMP San Diego for their outdoor field studies trip. Your \$100 deposit was submitted this past spring. **Final payments are due TOMORROW, August 23rd.** So that we may secure our reservation, please **click here** to submit your final payment.

Middle Division Back to School Night: Tuesday, September 3

Mark your calendar for the Middle Division Back to School Night on **Tuesday, September 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Join us in the Courtyard for light desserts, fellowship, and the opportunity to chat with enrichment teachers. The formal program begins promptly at 5:50 p.m. with welcoming remarks, followed by classroom visits beginning at 5:55 p.m., according to your student's schedule. We know you are looking forward to meeting your child's teachers and hearing about the wonderful programs planned for the year. All MD students will bring home a copy of their modified Monday schedule on Monday, September 2. Please be sure to ask your student for your copy.

Service Learning Opportunity

Our first Service Learning event of the year will take place the week of September 9. The Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive, in memory of SJ Alumna Lisa Frost, '93 who lost her life as a result of the tragedy that took place on 9/11, will benefit the San Francisco Solano Food Pantry. Stay tuned for information in the Cardinal Weekly on how your student can participate.

Church

Youth Group Retreat: This Saturday, August 24

SJEC RESET Youth Group is having a one-day retreat for Middle and High School students this **Saturday August 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** It will be a time of fellowship, fun, and service. Service hours provided. Email ca@stjohns-es.org with questions or sign up [here](#).

Welcome Back Lunch

St. John's Church is hosting a "Welcome Back From Summer" lunch on **Sunday, September 8**, for Church and School families following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please plan to join us for this gathering of adults and children as we greet old friends returning home from vacation travels and make new friends as we head into the new school year. Email ca@stjohns-es.org with questions or get more information [here](#).