



## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of August 29, 2024*



### Flag Ceremony Training

*This week, Fifth Grade students received Flag Ceremony training in the SJES Courtyard. Each Fifth-Grade student will have the opportunity to be a part of the flag team during Monday Flag Ceremony throughout the school year. This special duty includes making morning announcements, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, morning prayer, and raising the flag for all K-5 students.*

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## **All School**

### **First Day of School Photos**

It was so great welcoming all our Cardinals back to campus last Wednesday! [Click here](#) to view photos from the photo booth.

### **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, 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 place your child(ren)'s burger order: [click here](#).

### **Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee is TOMORROW**

Please join us for complimentary gourmet coffee and pastries from Haute Cafe **tomorrow, 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!

### **Don't Miss Out! Golf Tournament Tickets are ON SALE NOW**

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 with a Sponsorship.

### **Fall Into Fellowship**

Our families strengthen our Cardinal Community. Whether you're a returning family or new to St. John's, you won't want to miss an uplifting opportunity to engage with families from your child's grade level. Save the date for your division event and keep an eye out for additional information from your Room Parents. We hope to see you there!

- Early Childhood: 9/14 at 10:00 a.m. | Family playdate at Sendero Park, Rancho Mission Viejo
- Lower Elementary: 9/30 at 6:00 p.m. | Parent-only event at Hanna's, Rancho Santa Margarita
- Upper Elementary: 10/7 at 6:00 p.m. | Parent-only event at Hanna's, Rancho Santa Margarita
- Middle: 9/23 at 6:00 p.m. | Parent-only event at Hanna's, Rancho Santa Margarita

### **We Need Your Help Laying Soil in the SJES Community Garden**

Calling all SJES gardeners young and old! On Saturday, September 7 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., we are loading brand new soil into our new community garden beds. Please **bring your shovels, wheelbarrows, buckets** and muscles and enjoy spending a Saturday morning with friends. *We do not have supplies on site and ask that you bring something to help move soil if you plan to participate.* You can come for a short period of time or stay longer-whatever works best for your schedule. Please meet in front of the STEAM building at 8:00 a.m. for some coffee and donuts to fuel us up!

### **Uniform Reminders**

- White polos need to be tucked in on Monday (Formal Day).
- Skorts and dresses may be no shorter than the tip of the longest finger while arms are resting naturally at the sides.
- PE shorts may be no shorter than the knuckle of the longest finger while arms are resting naturally at the sides. Shorts must be size appropriate and not form fitting.
- 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](#).

### **Extended Care**

It's not too late to register for Extended Care for the 2024-25 school year. Extended Care options are as follows:

- 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).

### **Learn More About our School Counselors**

We are excited to announce that we now have two full-time counselors! The counseling team will now be comprised of two full-time counselors, Miss Ostrovsky (Miss. O) and Miss Granados. Please [\*\*click here\*\*](#) to learn more information about the counselors and the services they offer.

## **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 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**



### ***Fresh air, fun, and exploration!***

*This week, our Early Childhood Division was overjoyed when they entered our new Outdoor Exploration Center for the first time! Playing in this space invites a new context for learning. This space provides Ms. Scott and our teachers a place to create intentional learning activities that are difficult to execute indoors. There is great value in looking at books about nature in the shade of a tree, pouring (and splashing!) water on the outdoor water table, building extra-large structures with blocks, sand, or mud, collecting leaves, watching a parade of ants, and playing pretend. The possibilities in our new Outdoor Exploration Center are endless!*

*Children are creative, joyful, and engaged in activities that capitalize on their need to move and enthusiasm for doing so while also achieving other curricular goals!*

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### A Few Friendly Reminders:

- The ECD playground will be open from 7:15 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. for families that need occasional early morning care for long work commutes or early work hours.
- Our ECD doors will open again at 7:40 a.m. with the rest of the school to drop your child off on the playground (Early Preschool will be dropped off in room 7).
- If you drop your child off after 8:15 a.m., we will walk your child to their classroom. Students and teachers have begun their morning classroom routines/enrichments by this time.
- Please be mindful of our small parking lot. If you are dropping-off or picking-up, please be quick so we can keep the traffic moving.
- Children will be moved into Extended Care on Brightwheel at 2:45 p.m. Please plan to pick your child up by this time if they are not staying for Extended Care. Students who have not been picked up by 2:45 p.m. will automatically be moved into Extended Care.

### 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



### **Collaborative Cardinals in Third Grade**

*Third grade students combined both classes to work on a collaboration project. In groups of three, students were asked to put together a puzzle without seeing what the finished product would look like. Third graders were able to use some great strategies to complete the puzzles, and enjoyed getting to know some new friends.*

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## **Division Highlight: Exciting Advancements in Engineering and Robotics with Dr. Li**

This year, we've supercharged our Engineering and Robotics program by weaving Robotics, Coding, and Engineering Design into all 3-7 grade's curriculum. Our Grade 3 students are already crushing it! Take a peek at our creative third graders as they build their own VEX figures, while the fourth graders had a blast bringing a testing "C Rex" dinosaur (yep, the "C" stands for Clumsy!) to life. Watching their imaginations take flight is beyond exciting—we can't wait to see what amazing creations they come up with next!

## **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.

## **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](mailto:rachael@creativekidsplayhouse.com)

## **Math Olympiad Coming Soon for Elementary Division Students**

St. John's is excited to offer our 4th and 5th grade students the opportunity to participate in Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary Schools (MOEMS). MOEMS is a nonprofit public foundation which provides opportunities for children to engage in creative problem-solving activities which develop a child's ability to reason, be logical, be resourceful, and occasionally be ingenious. Our Middle Division students have participated in MOEMS for

several years, and we are excited to provide our Elementary Division students with this mathematical opportunity. Please find more information and a student interest form linked [here](#).

### **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, Class of '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.

## **Middle Division**



### **Cardinal Connection Time**

*Cardinal Connection Time (CCT) is a weekly gathering of all Middle Division students. Each Friday, 6th - 8th grade students come together for announcements, drawings of student of the week, and a fun and collaborative game. This unique time gives middle schoolers a time to bond and socialize with their peers and faculty.*

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### **High School Application Process & Recommendation Requests**

The 8th grade High School application season is beginning and with it comes excitement, anxiety, and anticipation. We are here to support the process and help in any way we can. Individual high school visits to SJES will start in the 1st trimester Road to High School portion of the World Ahead class taught by Patti Peebles and the students will gather essential information to help guide their decision process. It is never too early to access

the individual high school websites and begin the application process. Area high schools often ask for email addresses where Middle School requests for recommendation letters can be sent. To help you with this process, here are a few key details:

- All **requests for transcripts, report cards, or discipline records** should be sent to the Middle Division Administrative Assistant, [Rhiannon Overmire](#)
- All requests for **Principal recommendations** should be sent to [Ryan Bourke](#)
- All requests for **English Teacher recommendations** should be sent to your Child's Eighth Grade English Teacher, [Beth Sarachman](#)
- All requests for **Math Teacher recommendations** should be sent to your child's Eighth Grade Math Teacher:
  - [Holly Galus](#)
  - [Carla Dyquiangco](#)
  - [Nick Kelly](#)

As parents, we know that you are anxious to complete the application process in a timely manner and we want to help. As a faculty, we complete the recommendations when we can speak about your child as an individual and as a student. For this reason, we will not be sending any recommendation letters or documentation until mid-November. We are in constant communication with area high schools and are aware of deadlines. You can be confident that recommendations will be submitted prior to any required dates. If you have any further questions about the process, please feel free to email Mr. Bourke or Mrs. Peebles directly.

### ***Elf, A Christmas Story - Don't Forget to Register TODAY!***

Don't forget to [register online](#) by 3:15 p.m. TODAY to be a part of the Middle Division Fall Play: *Elf, A Christmas Story!* Rehearsals begin tomorrow, August 30th, with auditions right after school. Refer back to Monday's email with more information. Please contact [Mr. Tiatia-Garaud](#) with any questions. [Click here](#) to pay.

### **Final Payments are Due TOMORROW for 6th 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 TOMORROW, August 30th.** So that we may secure our reservation, please [click here](#) to submit final payment by Friday, August 30th.

### **Middle Division Back to School Night: Tuesday, September 3rd**

Mark your calendar for the Middle Division Back to School Night on **Tuesday, September 3rd, 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.** 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 9th. The Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive, in memory of SJES 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**

### **Welcome Back Lunch**

St. John's Church is hosting a "Welcome Back From Summer" lunch on **Sunday, September 8th**, 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](mailto:ca@stjohns-es.org) with questions or get more information [here](#).