



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of September 5, 2024



Design Innovation Technology is a new class at St. John's this year. Led by Mr. Morrell, this Enrichment classroom hosts students from grades 1-8 throughout the week. This class challenges students to utilize areas of math, science and art with the common goal of creating something new and encourages our Cardinals to continue to be collaborative, curious, and resourceful.

All School

LAST CALL! Spirit Lunch Orders are Due Monday, September 9th at Noon

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 9th at Noon**. 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 place your child(ren)'s burger order: [**click here**](#).

Wear Red, White, and Blue on Monday, September 9th

In honor of September 11th, all K-8 students may wear a red, white, and blue shirt with formal uniform bottoms on Monday, September 9th. Students should wear formal uniform bottoms and Chapel sweaters.

The Garden Refresh Project Has Been Postponed

Due to the excessive heat forecasted for this Saturday, September 7th, **the Garden Refresh Project planned from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. will be postponed until further notice**. We apologize for any inconvenience; however, it is necessary for St. John's to follow the same safety standards during weekend projects as we during the regular school day. Please stay tuned for information regarding an updated date and time for this event. Thank you.

School Picture Days are Next Week

Are you ready for School Picture Day next Wednesday and Thursday? Students are required to wear their Formal Uniform on their photo day. Formal sweaters and white polos are fully in-stock at [**Tommy Hilfiger School Uniforms**](#). Expedited shipping is available by calling their Customer Service number at 1-(877)-825-2860. For more information about uniforms, please visit the [**Student Store**](#).

Don't Miss Out: Join Us For Some Golf!

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

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

Calling All Singers for the St. John's Kids Choir

St. John's Episcopal Church and School are looking for singers, grades K-8, to participate in the St. John's Kids Choir on Sunday, September 22nd and October 6th at the 10:00 a.m. services. If interested, please contact [Ms. Naulls](#). Let's make a joyful noise!

Save the Date: First PTF Meeting is Tuesday September 10th

Don't miss our first Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) meeting of the school year! Join us on Tuesday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons for our September PTF meeting. This is also where the Acting Head of School and Division Principals will share exciting happenings for the year ahead. Be the first to hear from our guest speakers about PTF/School updates and more on the second Tuesday of each month.

If you are unable to attend any of the meetings in person, please join via Zoom to participate:

- Zoom Link: <https://jamsadr.zoom.us/j/91718331258?from=addon>
- Meeting ID: 917 1833 1258
- One Tap Mobile: [+16694449171](tel:+16694449171), [91718331258#](tel:+16694449171)

In Case You Missed It: First Day of School Photos

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

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Monday, September 9

- *Wear red, white, and blue top.*
- *Spirit Lunch orders due by Noon: [Click here](#) to purchase*

Tuesday, September 10

- *PTF Meeting*

Wednesday, September 11

- *Picture Day*

Thursday, September 12

- *Picture Day*

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch*

Elementary Division

Thursday, September 5

- *Elementary Division Back to School Night*

Monday, September 9

- *Wear red, white, and blue top with uniform bottom*
- *Spirit Lunch orders due by Noon: [Click here](#) to purchase*

Tuesday, September 10

- *PTF Meeting*
- *K-2 Chapel 8:*

Wednesday, September 11

- *Picture Day*

Thursday, September 12

- *Picture Day*
- *3-5 Chapel 8:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.*

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch: K-8 Parents are welcome to attend*

Middle Division

Friday, September 6

- *Middle Division Fall Social*

Monday, September 9

- *Wear red, white, and blue top with uniform bottom*
- *Spirit Lunch orders due by Noon: [Click here](#) to purchase*

Wednesday, September 11

- *Picture Day*

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch: K-8 Parents are welcome to attend*

Early Childhood Division



ECD students are having fun making new friends along with rekindling previous friendships so far this school year. In Mrs. Adame's Pre-K class, students were broken into small groups to make "Friendship Bracelets." Each child was given a bag with a single color of beads. In order to make a colorful bracelet, they were encouraged to share their color of beads with their friends to make bracelets filled with colors and new friendship connections.

School Pictures are Next Week!

Early Childhood Division students will have their pictures taken starting at 8:15 a.m. Please mark your calendar:

- Wednesday, September 11th: 3-Day and 5-Day students
- Thursday, September 12th: 2-Day students

A Few Friendly Reminders:

- Please do not serve your child food on the ECD playground. We have several children with allergies and need to make sure this space remains a safe place for all of our students.
- With the excessive heat warning children may be inside during Extended Care hours. If your child is in Preschool or Pre-K they will be in Room 4. If your child is in Early Preschool they will be 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.
- 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.

Elementary Division



On Tuesday, Lower Elementary Chapel was led by Mr. Bourke, Principal of Elementary and Middle Division. Using treasures and collections as examples, Mr. Bourke reminded our students of Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” By helping others, doing good deeds, and being mindful of God’s Word, our Cardinals were encouraged to give back to the community and to others.

Elementary Division Back to School Night is TONIGHT

Elementary Division Back to School Night is tonight **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.

Monday, September 9th Flag Ceremony in Honor of 9/11

In honor of 9/11, students in Middle Division are invited to attend the Elementary Division Flag Ceremony on September 9th in the Courtyard. The Flag Ceremony will begin at 8:00 a.m.; parents in both divisions are invited to attend as well.

Parent Attendance at Chapel

As an Episcopal School, St. John's encourages our parents to attend Chapel services. For the Elementary Division, parents of students in grades Kindergarten to 2nd grade are invited to attend Chapel services on Tuesdays from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.. For parents of students in grades 3-5, you are invited to attend on Thursdays from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Middle Division parents are invited to attend on Wednesdays from 9:35 a.m. to 10:05a.m.

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 theater 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 12th 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

Math Olympiad Coming Soon for Elementary Division Students

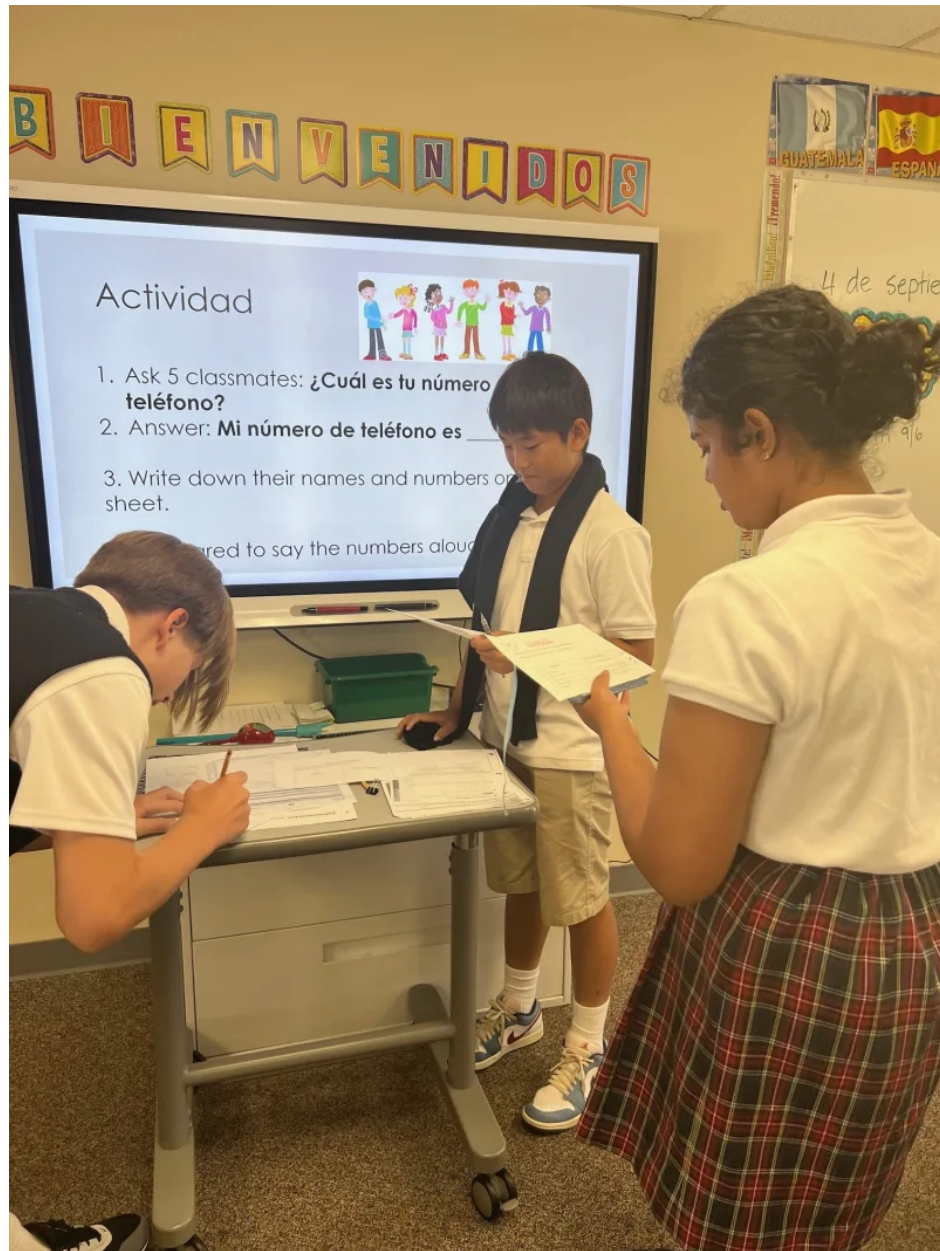
St. John's is excited to offer our 4th and 5th grade students the opportunity to participate in Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary Schools (MOEMS). MOEMS is a nonprofit public foundation which provides opportunities for children to engage in creative problem-solving activities which develop a child's 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 next week, September 9th through 13th. The Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive, in memory of SJES Alumna Lisa Frost, '93, who lost her life because of the tragedy that took place on 9/11, will benefit the San Francisco Solano Food Pantry. [Click here](#) to view the flyer for grade level contributions.

Along with the food drive, to commemorate the anniversary of September 11th and honor Patriot Day, students will participate in age-level appropriate activities which could include reading a picture book about St. Paul's Chapel in New York City or hearing about everyday heroes and first responders. In addition, Mr. Tom Frost, father of Lisa, will speak to students during all-school chapel on Monday, September 9th about Lisa's passion for community service and her time at St. John's.

Middle Division



First-year Middle Division Spanish students in Mrs. Acosta's class practiced greetings, introducing one another, and asking for phone numbers in Spanish. Challenged with the translation of common English greetings and conversations, students stepped out of their comfort zones to learn more about one another.

Congratulations to our Students of the Week Winners!

- 6th Grade - **Austin Pettit**
- 7th Grade - **Maddy Cates**
- 8th Grade - **Christian Pettit**

ICE CREAM, You Scream, We All Scream for ICE CREAM!!!

Attention Middle Division Parents: Student council will be selling ice cream on Friday's at lunch, beginning Friday, September 13th. Vanilla ice cream cups and ICEE POPs/Otter Pops will be sold for \$1 each. The money the student council earns during each ice cream sale will go to a charity at the end of the school year. We appreciate your support! Thank you.

Attention 8th Grade Parents: Important Washington D.C. Information

8th grade Parents: The Washington D.C. Field Studies Trip meeting for BOTH students and parents is on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. Information will be provided around all aspects of the trip, as well as reviewing necessary paperwork. If you have any questions, please contact **Mrs. Sarachman**.

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.

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Church

Welcome Back From Summer Lunch is This Sunday, September 8th

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 with questions or get more information [here](#).