



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of September 12, 2024



In honor of 9/11, St. John's hosted a special Flag Ceremony in the Courtyard that included Middle Division and Pre-K students.

"Today, we take time to remember and honor an important day in our history—September 11th, also known as Patriot Day. We think about the bravery, strength, and kindness of so many people who came together to help others during a difficult time. Even though 9/11 happened before many of you were born, the lessons from that day are still important. They teach us the value of helping others, showing compassion, and standing together in difficult times."

- Mrs. Grogan

All School

Help SJES Support First Responders

To show our sincere gratitude for our First Responders and their service and dedication during these tough times, we are hopeful that each St. John's student can make a handwritten thank you note to a first responder. Students can use thank you cards, stationery, lined paper, or plain white printing paper. Students can write and/or draw with colored pencils, crayons, markers, or pens. Students can then bring their completed thank you notes to class and give them to their teachers. We will ensure the notes get into the hands of our local first responders.

Additionally, Middle Division Student Council will be selling ice cream on Friday's at lunch, beginning tomorrow, September 13. Ice cream will be sold for \$1 each. The money student council earns will support supplies for First Responders at the Airport Fire.

- ECD students will have ice pops available for purchase at afternoon pick-up on Friday, September 13.
- K-8 grade students will be able to purchase ice cream with cash at their designated lunch times.
 - *Ice pops will be available for purchase for K-2 grade students.*
 - *Ice cream cups and ice pops will be available for purchase for 3-8 grade students.*

Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive is Extended

The Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive has been extended through next Wednesday, September 18. Students can bring their goods to their classrooms and give them to their Teachers.

- ECD: Support with any items on the following list
- K-1st: Canned veggies or beans
- 2nd-3rd: Dry Pasta or mac and cheese
- 4th-5th: canned pasta sauce (no glass)
- 6th: Canned fruit
- 7th: Peanut Butter and Jelly
- 8th: Canned soup or ramen

After-School Library Access

The St. John's Learning Commons (library) will be available for Early Childhood Division and Elementary Division families to visit after school, every full school day, with

the exception of Wednesdays. During this time, our students and their families are able to check out books and work on schoolwork while they wait for Middle Division siblings to be dismissed. This is also an amazing opportunity to enjoy the peacefulness of the Learning Commons and the Patio. ECD and ED students are not permitted in the Learning Commons during this time without direct supervision from a parent/guardian.

Additionally, at the 3:05 p.m. dismissal, Middle Division students have the option of visiting the Learning Commons for a Study Hall-like environment until 4:00 p.m. If Middle Division students require supervision after 4:00 p.m., they can then attend Extended Care in Room 14 in Sillers Hall.

Fall Into Fellowship: Please RSVP

Whether you are a returning family or new to St. John's, you won't want to miss an uplifting opportunity to engage with families in your child(ren)'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

Spirit Lunch on Friday, September 20

The first Spirit Lunch of the year will take place next Friday, September 20! If you did not place your order online by Monday, September 9th at Noon, please plan to pack your child(ren) a lunch that day as no Choice Lunch will be served. K-8 Parents are welcome to attend for their child(ren)'s designated lunch time. We ask that all parents adhere to check-in protocol at the front office upon arrival, and depart campus after their child(ren) finish their lunch. Students and parents are encouraged to wear Spirit Wear on this day (with uniform bottoms for K-8 students).

- K-1-2: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 3-4-5: 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 6-7-8: 12:35 p.m. - 1:05 p.m.

Learning Commons Parent Volunteer Meeting

St. John's Learning Commons is looking for Parent Volunteers. On Wednesday, September 25 at 8:00 a.m., Librarian and Digital Media Specialist, Mr. Stephens, is hosting a meeting that will review a variety of ways to get involved. These include supporting our Learning Commons holiday events, helping out with birthday celebrations, and assisting with the School-wide Book Fair. With the support of dedicated parent volunteers, we can keep this beloved learning space running smoothly and in tip-top shape. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make the Learning Commons a wonderful place for all students this year!

The Student Store Is Going Cash-less

We will continue to accept all major credit cards, debit cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay as forms of payment. We will no longer accept cash or checks. Families are welcome to shop in-store before or after school. Additionally, our hours can be found on our [Student Store website](#). Parents can also place orders [online](#) and have their student pick up the items.

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

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

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Saturday, September 14

- *ECD Fellowship: Family playdate at Sendero Park*

Wednesday, September 18

- *Golf Tournament at Tijeras Creek Golf Club*

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch: No ChoiceLunch*

Elementary Division

Wednesday, September 18

- *Golf Tournament at Tijeras Creek Golf Club*

Thursday, September 19

- *Elementary Play Auditions: 3:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch: K-8 Parents are welcome to attend. No ChoiceLunch*

Monday, September 30

- *ED Fellowship: Parent only dinner at Hanna's*

Thursday, October 3

- *Pep Rally: Spirit Wear*

Middle Division

Thursday, September 12

- *Washington D.C. Parent Meeting (8th Grade)*

Friday, September 13

- *Middle Division Play Rehearsals: 3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, September 18

- *Golf Tournament at Tijeras Creek Golf Club*

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch: K-8 Parents are welcome to attend. No ChoiceLunch*
- *Middle Division Play Rehearsals: 3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

Thursday, October 3

- *Pep Rally: Spirit Wear*

Early Childhood Division



Last week Pre-K started their first “Letter of the Week,” the letter “L.” Mrs. Ramirez’s class decided to make a Lava Lamp for the letter L. The kids loved it so much they wanted to make their own at home. [Click here](#) if you would like to make a Lava Lamp at home with your child(ren).

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



Space Exploration in Fourth Grade

Blastoff! Fourth grade students in Ms. Casey's room took a trip into space as they learned about lunar landers, the spacecraft that lands on the moon. Using a small number of supplies, students worked in teams to create their own lunar lander which was tested to see if their design could safely land on the moon. Students drew blueprints the day before to prepare for their building, and were able to build, test, make changes, and prepare for the final test. This was a great way for students to connect, build friendships, work as a team, and bring their interests of exploring space to life.

Alice in Wonderland Parent Meeting: Cancelled

Due to the events of this week, the parent information meeting that was scheduled to be held today at 2:15 p.m. in the Learning Commons Patio has been cancelled. Instead, Rachael Gafner, the director of Alice in Wonderland, will record an information video for all parents in grades 1-5. Please stay tuned for this video. Thank you!

Parents! Please Join us for 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 10:05 a.m.

Battle of the Books for 4th and 5th Grade: Join the Fun!

Attention 4th and 5th Grade Students and Parents: Our new Librarian and Digital Media Specialist, Mr. Stephens, is excited to lead our Battle of the Books Team for the 2024-25 school year!

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 12:00 p.m. Students who commit to the Battle of the Books will continue to meet each Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Learning Commons. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about Battle of the Books, dive into some terrific reads, and start gearing up for the competition. Encourage your child to read as much as possible! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Stephens.

Elementary Division Play is COMING SOON!

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 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 to view information*. 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](#).

Middle Division



The World Ahead: Visit from Crean Lutheran School

On Thursday, September 5th, an Admissions Team from Crean Lutheran High School visited our 8th grade students as a part of Ms. Peebles' World Ahead class. The current unit, "Road to High School," involves presentations from various local high school teams. On Thursday, the Crean Lutheran Team, comprised of three high school students and an Admissions Director, joined us at St. Johns. In addition to presenting to students, they offered opportunities for our 8th graders to ask questions. As students were asking questions, they were expected to take notes. Now that 8th grade students are becoming ever more independent, they are expected to present to their families after each visit. The High School Process is a BIG deal in their academic lives. Our hope is to develop agency so that they – in collaboration with you – can make informed decisions about High School and Beyond.

8th Grade Parents: Washington D.C. Informational Meeting is TONIGHT

8th grade Parents: The Washington D.C. Field Studies Trip meeting for BOTH students and parents is TONIGHT 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.

Ice Cream Sales for a Cause

Attention Middle Division Parents: Student council will be selling ice cream on Fridays at lunch, beginning tomorrow, September 13. 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 support supplies for First Responders at the Airport Fire. We appreciate your support!

Church

Save the Date: Roaring Twenties Fundraiser is October 19

Step back in time to the glitz and glamour of the Roaring Twenties at our spectacular fundraising gala! Join us on October 19 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for an evening of jazz, decadence, and excitement featuring a live auction, a thrilling raffle, and a delectable dinner. With the ambiance of a bygone era and lively tunes to keep you dancing, this is an event you won't want to miss. Don your finest flapper dress or dapper suit and be part of an unforgettable night that promises to be the bee's knees! Tickets are available online. Questions? Please reach out to Rebeca Mizejewski at rebecamizejewski@gmail.com.