



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of September 19, 2024



Cardinal Coupons

This year, St. John's Elementary Division began an exciting new opportunity: Cardinal Coupons. Cardinal Coupons are given out by teachers and staff when students are seen performing acts of kindness. This can be something as simple as holding a door open for someone, offering to tie someone's shoes, or giving a compliment. Each Monday at Flag Ceremony, one winner is drawn from Lower and Upper Elementary. The lucky winners receive a surPRIZE from Mr. Bourke and Mrs. McLennan. Congrats to this week's winners:

Parker W. and Michael S.

All School

St. John's Supports First Responders

There is truly something special about the St. John's community. Our Cardinal community is a tight-knit family and values the importance of appreciating those that serve in times of need. We cannot thank our St. John's families enough for your generous donations to our first responders. [Click here](#) to read more about how your support has positively impacted those affected by the Airport Fire.

St. John's Calendar: Now on the Parent Portal

We appreciate your patience while we implement our new Student Information System, Veracross. We are working diligently to get the Calendar synced up with our website. In the meantime, you can access important upcoming dates on the [Parent Portal](#). To view the calendar, simply click the **My Calendar** tab at the top of the Parent Portal homepage.

If you would like to have dates directly imported to your iCalendar or Google Calendar, you can subscribe to the All School Calendar. Scroll down to "Calendar Subscriptions" on the right-hand side of the Parent Portal homepage and click the **All School Calendar** button to manage your subscriptions. Please note that if using Google Calendar, syncing could take up to 24 hours.

Reminder: Spirit Lunch is TOMORROW

The first Spirit Lunch of the year will take place tomorrow, Friday, September 20! If you did not place your order online, please plan to pack your child(ren) a lunch tomorrow as no Choice Lunch will be served. K-8 Parents are welcome to attend during 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 eating 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.
- 3-4-5: 12:00 p.m.
- 6-7-8: 12:35 p.m.

Learning Commons Parent Volunteer Meeting

St. John's Learning Commons is looking for Parent Volunteers. Library and Digital Media Specialist, Mr. Stephens, is hosting a meeting that will review a variety of ways to get

involved on **Wednesday, September 25 at 8:00 a.m.** 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!

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 other 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!

- 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 Volunteers!

Looking to get involved at St. John's? We have a volunteer opportunity to suit every schedule! Even just 1 hour can make a difference, so [click here](#) to check out our volunteer opportunities, and help make our Cardinal Community even stronger.

The Student Store Is Going Cashless

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.

Athletics Updates

Flag Football Recap for the Week Ending September 13

Our 6th Grade Boys Flag Football team earned a well-deserved victory over Stoneybrooke Christian, 37-28, in their first season game last Friday evening. Our 8th Grade Boys Flag Football team showcased impressive teamwork and skill but fell just short losing to Stoneybrooke Christian on the last play of the game.

Upcoming Flag Football Games

5th Grade Boys - Thursday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m. vs. St. Serra (at Home)

7th Grade Boys - Thursday, September 19 at 3:45 p.m. vs. St. Margarets (Away)

8th Grade Boys - Thursday, September 19 at 4:30 p.m. vs. Aliso Viejo Christian (at Home)

8th Grade Boys - Monday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. vs. Aliso Viejo Christian (Away)

7th Grade Boys - Monday, September 23 at 3:45 p.m. vs. St. Margarets (Away)

8th Grade Boys - Wednesday, September 25 at 3:00 p.m. vs. Our Lady Fatima (Away)

5th Grade Boys - Thursday, September 26 at 3:30 p.m. vs. Mission Basilica (Away)

7th Grade Boys - Thursday, September 26 at 4:45 p.m. vs. St. Margarets (Away)

Upcoming Volleyball Games

8th Grade Girls - Thursday, September 19 at 4:30 p.m. vs. Aliso Viejo Christian (at Home)

5th/6th Grade Girls - Tuesday, September 24 at 3:00 p.m. vs. Our Lady Fatima (Away)

7th/8th Grade Girls - Tuesday, September 24 at 3:00 p.m. vs. Our Lady Fatima (Away)

5th/6th Grade Girls - Wednesday, September 25 at 3:30 p.m. vs. Stoneybrooke Christian (Away)

7th/8th Grade Girls - Wednesday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m. vs. Stoneybrooke Christian (Away)

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, September 20

- *Spirit Lunch: No ChoiceLunch*

Elementary Division

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*

Friday, September 27

- *Elementary Play Rehearsal 3:10 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.*

Monday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 3

- *Pep Rally: Spirit Wear*
- *Elementary Play Rehearsal 3:10 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.*

Middle Division

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.*

Monday, September 23

- *Middle Division Parent Fellowship*

Friday, September 27

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

Thursday, October 3

- *Pep Rally: Spirit Wear*

Early Childhood Division



Mrs. Lumpkin's Pre-K class engaged in fun, hands-on literacy and pre-writing activities using different objects. By practicing literacy in this way, students also build their fine motor skills.

ECD Fellowship Playdate Photos

A big thank you to Rebekah Young and Carly Curtis for hosting such a fun, family-filled fellowship for the ECD community! Thank you, Katie Scott, for capturing the event. [Click here](#) to see the photos from the event.

Outdoor Exploration Center Photos

Our Outdoor Exploration Center (OEC) continues to provide endless opportunities for our youngest Cardinals! [Click here](#) to see our ECD, Kindergarten, and First Grade students in action on the OEC yard! Photos and videos will continue to be updated throughout the school year.

Extended Care Photos

If your child attends ECD Extended Care with Ms. Raquel, [click here](#) to see some of the engaging, memorable moments. Ms. Raquel will also add to this link each week.

Elementary Division



STEAM and collaboration make learning even more fun!

*Students in Mrs. Bouldin's class are enjoying bringing history to life! Fourth graders are reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and studying the regions of California. Students were tasked with the challenge of re-creating the tools of the Nicoleño Tribe living on San Nicolas Island (one of the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara) in the 1800s. Once students created their baskets, tools, and more they made a video to show their classmates their creations.*

St. John's Upper Elementary Student Council

Elections are coming for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students! Student Council allows students to experience the election process and leadership and service opportunities. We meet every week at recess on Mondays. Serving is both a great responsibility and an honored

privilege, as it involves being role models and representing St. John's Episcopal School. Information about the elections went home in Monday folders earlier this week, and has been shared with students as well. Please email [Mrs. Chretin](#).

Important Elementary Play Information: Alice in Wonderland

We are excited to begin auditions for the Elementary Play, *Alice in Wonderland*! If you are interested in your child participating in this incredible experience, Play Director, [Rachael Gafner](#), has created a short [informational video](#) for you. [Click here](#) to register for the play.

Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony

On Monday, September 30, immediately following the Flag Ceremony, we will hold our first Cardinal Character Recognition.

- Each month, students who are selected to receive recognition will have their names announced, along with a short description of their character achievements. After the ceremony, the students will have their picture taken with the Head of School and Elementary Division Principals.
- Parents or guardians of students who will be recognized will be notified by their child's teacher.
- As with all of our Flag Ceremonies, parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

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](#).

Middle Division



Middle Division Students Make Music

In Ms. Naulls' music class, kids are learning about singing "in the round" where students are put in groups and sing a simple melody starting at different times to create new and overlapping melodies and harmonies. One of the most familiar rounds is "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" where groups sing the same melody, staggering entrances at different times; the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders worked on "Fish and Chips and Vinegar", an amusing camp round where each group has its own unique simple melody, adding to the complexity of the melodies and harmonies created when sung simultaneously. Each group also added its own unique movement to go along with the tune. Singing rounds are beneficial in the classroom because they help to build community and inclusiveness. They also help to develop pitch, rhythm, confidence and focus, and a heightened understanding of musical form.

Congratulations to our Student of the Week Winners!

Click on each student's name below to learn a little more about each of them:

8th grade: [**Emilee Zhang**](#)

7th grade: [**Haylee McLennan**](#)

6th grade: [**Shawn Zhou**](#)

Afterschool Performing Arts at SMCHS for 6-8th Graders

The Intro to the Talon Academy of Performing Arts program at Santa Margarita High School is currently running and meets every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., providing musical theatre training for 6-8 grade students. Please check out this link for more information: [**Intro to TAPA - Santa Margarita Catholic High School \(smhs.org\)**](http://smhs.org)

Middle Division Field Study Students: Medications are DUE

Medications for PALI and SeaCamp are **due no later than Wednesday, October 9 at 3:00 p.m.** Please note that if your child has a prescription medication they need to take during the trip, you **MUST** have your Dr. fill out a PRN medication form and bring the medication to the Health Office in the prescription bottle. If your child needs an over-the-counter medication daily, please provide the medication unopened, in its original container with the over-the-counter medication form. All medication must be brought in by an adult. Please do not send medication to school with your child.

Ice Cream Sales TOMORROW

Attention Middle Division Parents: Student Council will continue selling ice cream at lunch on Fridays. 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



Artwork by Emilee Zhang (8th Grade)

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.