



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of September 26,, 2024



Welcome to our NEWEST Cardinals

Two new, young Cardinals were introduced to our community at Flag Ceremony on Monday; but, they weren't Cardinals at all... they were baby chicks! Two baby chicks, a Rhode Island Red and a Silver Laced Wyandotte, will live in the Elementary Science Classroom, along with an additional two chicks (coming soon!), for the next eight weeks.

Students from all three divisions will have the opportunity to observe their growth, offer suggestions for names, and watch how much they change. Once they are old enough, they will be housed in our St. John's Community Coop behind the STEAM Building. All of this could not have been done without the generous support of the Cardinella Parent Gift and we are so grateful to be able to provide this enriching opportunity for our students.

All School

Pick-Up of Child by a Person Other Than Those Listed on Veracross

We understand that at times you may need to arrange pick-up of your child by someone whose name is not listed as a contact in Veracross. As much as possible, please add these individuals as contacts in the Veracross **Parent Portal** by following these steps:

1. Click the **Update Your Information** button under Quick Links.
2. Click **Contacts for My Children**
3. You can add a new contact by clicking the blue **Add New+** button, or you can update an existing contact as an authorized pickup person by clicking their name card and checking the box under Pickup Authorization.

When a person other than someone listed on the Veracross Parent Portal is picking up your child (e.g., last-minute arrangement for someone else to pick up your child), it is essential that you inform your child's teacher in writing with as much advanced notice as possible.

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.

Change for Change Starts NEXT WEEK!

Change for Change is our annual October service-learning event. Our Middle Division learns of a local service organization or need based on current events. They introduce the beneficiary to all students, who then bring in their loose change all month long to support the cause. Previous recipients have been Thomas House in Garden Grove, the Pet Project Foundation of San Clemente, and last year we supported the Episcopal Church in Lahaina that burned down in the Maui fires.

This year, **Change for Change will support the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Santiago Hand Crew Fire Fund.** Funds raised will support those hurt in the accident on the 241 freeway on Thursday, September 19th on their way back from working at the Airport Fire. **Collection Pumpkins will be placed in all Elementary and Middle classrooms and in the administrative offices in Early Childhood Division, Elementary Division, and Middle Division.** Thank you for your support!

Next Spirit Lunch is Friday, October 18: BJ's Restaurant

The next Spirit Lunch will take place on Friday, October 18. Students will have the option of purchasing a cheese or pepperoni personal pizza (gluten free option available), or chicken fingers with French fries from BJ's Restaurant. No Choice Lunch will be served on this day. All orders must be placed in advance online by **Monday, October 7** at Noon. [Click here](#) to purchase your child(ren)'s Spirit Lunch order.

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

Save 20% On All Tommy Hilfiger Uniforms

St. John's uniform provider, Tommy Hilfiger Uniforms, runs sales often. If you have not started to add Tommy Hilfiger uniforms to your student's uniform collection, be sure to sign up for promotional emails on the [THSU website](#).

The current 20% off promotion runs from Monday, September 23 through Sunday, September 29. **Enter Promotion Code SEPTFALL24 at checkout to receive the discount.** Shop Online at www.globalschoolwear.com. Make sure that you are entering our St. John's School Code **STJO56**, or that you are shopping under St. John's Episcopal School so that your uniforms arrive with our school logos. Questions? Please contact our Student Store Manager, [Cheryl Boesch](#).

Student Store New Arrivals This Week!

We have received new Youth and Adult **headwear** this week in **The Student Store**. We have a variety of new styles and colors available - including a new youth PINK **hat**! All St. John's headwear can be worn to and from school and on the playground but must be removed when entering school buildings.

Athletics Updates

Athletics Recap for the Week Ending September 20

On September 16, our 7th/8th Grade Girls Volleyball won all 3 sets over Mission Basilica. That same day, our 8th Grade Boys Flag Football beat Mission Basilica, 30-0, while our 6th Grade Boys Flag Football team beat Mission Basilica 25-0. Go Cardinals!

On September 17, our 7th Grade Boys Flag Football beat St. Margaret's 14-7! Two days later, our 7th Grade Boys beat St. Maragaret's again, 42-0. Go Cardinals!

Upcoming Flag Football Games

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. Margaret's (Away)
5th Grade Boys – Tuesday, October 1 at 3:30 p.m. vs. St. Serra (Away)
8th Grade Boys – Wednesday, October 2 at 3:30 p.m. vs. Our Lady Fatima (at Home)
5th Grade Boys – Thursday, October 3 at 3:30 p.m. vs. St. Serra (at Home)
7th Grade Boys – Thursday, October 3 at 4:30 p.m. vs. St. Maragaret's (at Home)
5th Grade Boys – Friday, October 4 at 3:30 p.m. vs. Stoneybrooke Christian (at Home)

Upcoming Volleyball Games

5th/6th Grade Girls – Wednesday, October 2 at 3:30 p.m. vs. Aliso Viejo Christian (Away)
7th/8th Grade Girls – Wednesday, October 2 at 4:30 p.m. vs. Aliso Viejo Christian (Away)

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Monday, October 7

- *Spirit Lunch orders due by Noon*

Friday, October 11

- *Fall Break: No School*

Monday, October 14

- *Fall Break: No School*

Thursday, October 17

- *Great California Shake Out*

Elementary Division

Friday, September 27

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

Monday, September 30

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

Tuesday, October 1

- *Coffee and Conversation: Learning Commons Patio 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.*

Thursday, October 3

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

Friday, October 4

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

Monday, October 7

- *Eucharist*
- *Spirit Lunch orders due by Noon*
- *Upper ED Fellowship: Parent only dinner at Hanna's*

Friday, October 11

- *Fall Break: No School*

Monday, October 14

- *Fall Break: No School*

Thursday, October 17

- *Great California Shake Out*

Middle Division**Friday, September 27**

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

Monday, September 30

- *8th Grade Washington D.C. paperwork and Medication Forms due by 3:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, October 1

- *Coffee and Conversation: Learning Commons Patio 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.*

Thursday, October 3

- *Pep Rally: Spirit Wear*

Thursday, October 4

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

Monday, October 7

- *Eucharist*
- *Spirit Lunch orders due by Noon*

Wednesday, October 9

- *Pali and SeaCamp Medication Forms due by 3:00 p.m.*

Friday, October 11

- *Fall Break: No School*

Monday, October 14

- *Fall Break: No School*

Thursday, October 17

- *Great California Shake Out*

Early Childhood Division



Mrs. Lytle's Early Preschool class continued to discuss the yellow monster! This week, her students learned that the yellow monster represents feeling happy. The class made a list of things that make them happy and continues to look for happy characters in the books they read as a class. Emotions are constantly changing. Some are so wonderful that we bask in them like sunlight! Others are difficult, and we wish them away. Communicating the complexity of emotions can be challenging even for adults, but more so for children. Using colors is a tangible way to introduce and teach emotions. When children are first learning to speak and communicate emotions, it can be a challenging and frustrating experience. If a child can point to blue to express their sadness or red to express their anger, this difficult emotion has become accessible.

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.

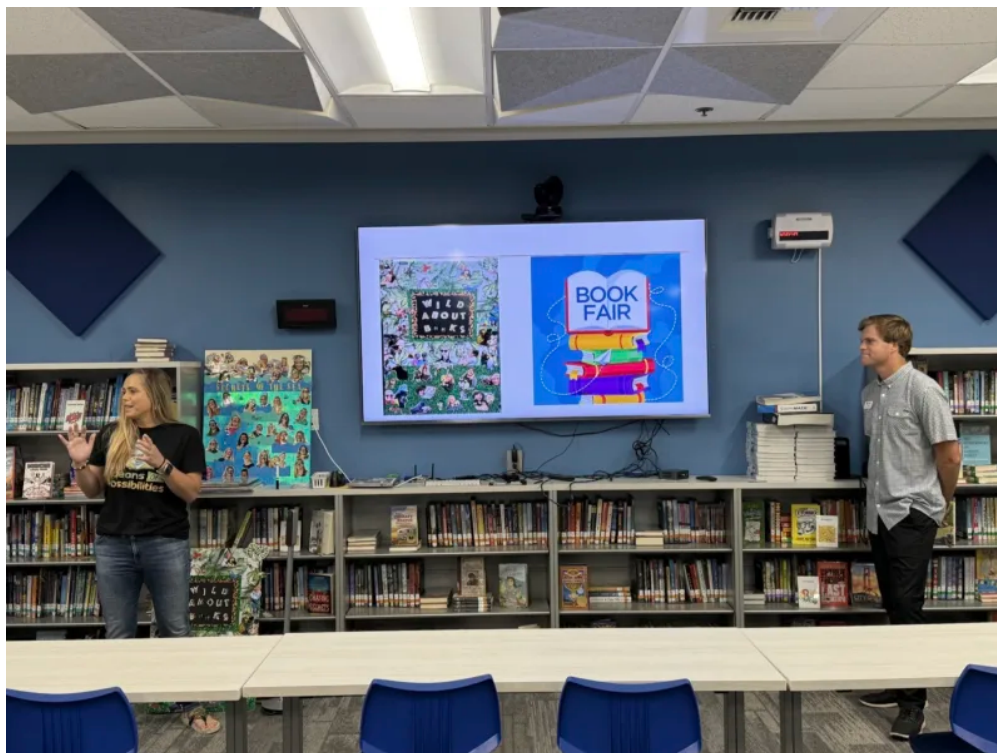
Outdoor Exploration Center Photos

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



Learning Commons Volunteer Meeting

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Stephens (Library and Digital Media Specialist) and Brittany Huffman (Parent Volunteer) led a Learning Commons Volunteer meeting. We were pleased to have such a large turn-out of interested volunteers! Thank you to all who attended. During the meeting, Mr. Stephens and Ms. Huffman reviewed the many exciting opportunities offered to our students, including the Learning Commons classes, the “Battle of the Books” competition for 4th and 5th grade students, as well as our Book Fair.

A Message from Ryan and Danielle

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of September AND at the half-way point of the first trimester. Although it feels as though we have just begun, we are definitely well into the school year.

For families of students in both the Elementary and Middle Divisions, our teachers engage in a Mid-Trimester Report process each trimester. This process is intended to provide feedback to parents regarding the performance and progress of students. While we are still a ways off from the official Report Card and Parent/Teacher Conference period, this snapshot of students is helpful to ensure the success of students.

The Mid-Trimester point for this trimester is Friday, September 27 (tomorrow). Families of students in Middle Division will be able to access these Progress Reports on the **Parent Portal**. For families of students in the Elementary Division, parents will receive an emailed report ONLY if the child's teacher deems it necessary to share information. Not all Elementary Division parents will receive a Mid-Trimester Report; however, all Middle Division parents will have access to a report.

Communication about these reports will be sent out on Friday afternoon.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. It is always a good practice to maintain lines of communication between the home and school. Furthermore, you are welcome to reach out to us.

Warmly,

Ryan Bourke and **Danielle McLennan**

Updates to the Elementary Division Program

We are thrilled to announce some significant updates to the Elementary Division Program that went into effect in August of this school year:

1. In our **Design, Innovation, and Technology (DIT)** Laboratory – under the instruction of Mr. Matthew Morrell – students in grades 1-8 are now offered opportunities to engage in a variety of challenges, projects, and initiatives. By expanding the age-range of students who participate in this curricular experience, our Cardinals will develop the aptitudes and dispositions to truly connect with 21st Century technologies. As an example, first grade parents can expect to hear from their child about an upcoming DIT unit: An Exploration of Two-Dimensional Space. Expect to learn about their experiences with analogue coding, polygons, and vector geometry.
2. Mr. Jason Roberts is now offering **Band instruction** (brass and woodwind) to students beginning in 4th grade. By adding an additional two years of instrumental music instruction, our band students will be able to perform at even more sophisticated levels. It is exciting to imagine!
3. Finally, Ms. Diamond is now providing **Mandarin instruction** to our 4th graders! By exposing students at a younger age to an additional language option, they will be

better informed to make decisions about which language elective to select when they arrive in Middle Division.

Coffee and Conversation Meeting with Ryan and Danielle

On Tuesday, October 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Mr. Bourke and Mrs. McLennan will host an informal parent gathering on the Learning Commons Patio. This “Coffee and Conversation” will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions, share ideas, and get to know the leadership team a little better. Coffee and light snacks will be served. We hope to see you there!

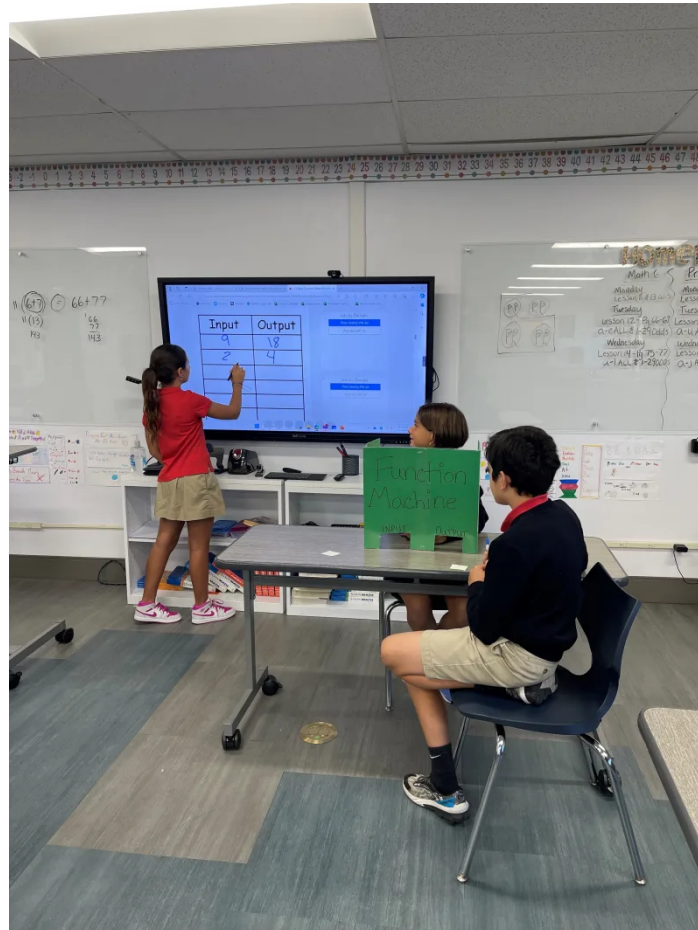
Flag-Raising + Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony: This Monday, September 30 at 8:00 a.m.

Elementary Division parents and guardians are welcome to join us this Monday, September 30, at 8:00 a.m. for our weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony. On this day, we will also hold our first Cardinal Character Recognition. If your child has been selected to receive Cardinal Character Recognition, you will have been notified in advance.

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. Chretien**](#) with questions.

Middle Division



Hands-On Learning in Pre-Algebra

Students in Mrs. Carlson's Pre-Algebra 7 class explored functions through a fun "function machine" activity. They took turns inputting numbers, acting as the machine's brain, and recording data on the board. As a class, they evaluated the results and created guidelines for identifying functions.

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Warmly,

[Ryan Bourke](#) and **[Danielle McLennan](#)**

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: **[Yuka Sun](#)**

7th grade: **[Naomi Pan](#)**

6th grade: **[Ava Graves](#)**

Middle Division Field Study Students: Medications are DUE

Medications for Field Studies are due!

- Medications for Washington D.C. are **due no later than Monday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m.**
- 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 doctor 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.

8th Grade Parents: Washington D.C. Paperwork is Due Monday, September 30

Washington D.C. paperwork is due on Monday, September 30. Forms were distributed to parents at the meeting held earlier this month on September 12. Please make sure to turn in your forms to [Mrs. Sarachman](#) and the [Health Office](#) no later than Monday. Thank you!

Lisa Frost Food Drive Reflections

St. John's Episcopal School introduced our first annual Lisa Frost Memorial Food Drive in honor of our dear Cardinal alumni, Lisa Frost, who lost her life during the attacks on 9/11. The week was filled with giving back and teaching our students the importance of service. Our entire school collected food that was donated to the Solano Food Bank where Lisa Frost volunteered. Half of the Student Council delivered the donations we collected during our food drive. Students were able to see the room dedicated to Lisa Frost where all the food donations are stored. [Click here](#) to read more thoughts and reflections from the Student Council from their experience that day.

Church

Blessing of the Animals is next Friday, October 4

The Blessing of the Animals is a cherished tradition held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and nature. Through a time of prayer, we will honor St. Francis's message of love and respect for all of God's creations. This special event invites students, families, and community members to bring their pets or stuffed animal for a blessing from Father Jerry, celebrating the bond between humans and animals. We hope you and your furry friends will join us in the St. John's Courtyard on Friday, October 4 at 7:30 a.m. **Pets must remain on leash at all times.**

Episcopal School Sunday: October 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for Episcopal School Sunday as we celebrate our vibrant community! We invite everyone to come together for a special Holy Eucharist service, featuring our talented students and the joyful voices of the children's Choir. It's a wonderful opportunity to nurture faith, connect with friends, and witness the incredible spirit of our youth. Come be a part of this meaningful celebration, and let's honor the gift of education and fellowship together!

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 27

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 27! The annual SJEC Trunk or Treat event is coming. Brought you by St. John's Church, Community Lutheran, and SJES. More details to come!