



## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of October 3, 2024*



### **Build-a-Book Author Party**

*That's a wrap! Yesterday, students who participated in the summer program, "Build-a-Book," joined Ms. Adair and Mrs. Putman back in the Learning Commons for an Author Party. Ms. Adair joyfully reunited with students as she highlighted the 37 hardcover copies of students' books that they worked so diligently on over the summer. Afterwards, students enjoyed sharing their masterpieces with their parents and fellow classmates while enjoying some sweet treats!*

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## **All School**

### **Fall Break is Coming: No School October 11-14**

School will be closed next Friday, October 11 and Monday, October 14. Enjoy your Fall break!

### **St. John's Children's Choir at Episcopal School Sunday: This Sunday!**

Calling all Kindergarten – 8th Grade students! We would love for you to be a part of the St. John's Children's Choir at this Sunday's Episcopal School Sunday service. Please join us this Sunday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m. for the NAES special service, celebrating Episcopal schools nation-wide with Mrs. Grogan as the guest speaker. Please wear your formal school uniform and arrive 30-minutes prior to the service. There will be donuts afterwards! If you'd like to sing, please reach out to **Ms. Naulls**. Hope to see you there!

### **Spirit Lunch Orders are Due Monday at Noon**

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.

As a reminder, K-8 parents are welcome to attend for their child(ren)'s specific lunch time. We hope to see you there!

### **Last Chance! Support the Faculty/Staff Gift Fund**

Help enhance our appreciation efforts with gifts for classroom teachers, enrichment teachers, assistant teachers, instructional aides, and all of the amazing staff members behind the scenes who make St. John's the wonderful place that it is. We'll do the shopping for you! All we're requesting is a one-time donation (per child) to help fund gifts for Christmas, Staff Appreciation Week, and Year-end gifts. **Donations will close TOMORROW, October 4.** **[Click here](#)** to learn more about the Faculty/Staff Gift Fund and how you can make a difference.

### **Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 27**

Please join the St. John's church and Community Lutheran along with St. John's Episcopal School for a Spooktacular afternoon of fun and festivities at our annual Trunk or Treat event on **Sunday, October 27 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** [Click here](#) to sign up to host a Trunk or Treat car or just come for the fun! Enjoy trick or treating, games, face painting, a costume parade, cake walk, crafts, food from the grill and more. Dress up in your costume or Halloween spirit best! All are welcome! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for this wonderful community event! For additional information or questions, please contact Nikki Trueman or Rebecca Swartz

### **PTF Meeting Next Tuesday, October 8 in the Learning Commons**

Join us on Tuesday, October 8 at 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons for our October PTF meeting where our Acting Head of School and Division Principals will share exciting happenings for the year ahead. Be the first to hear from our guest speakers and learn about PTF/School updates at our monthly PTF meetings, held the second Tuesday of each month. If you're unable to attend in person, you can participate via Zoom:

Link: <https://jamsadr.zoom.us/j/91718331258?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 917 1833 1258

One tap mobile: +16694449171,,91718331258#

### **Change for Change is THIS WEEK!**

Change for Change is our annual October service-learning event. 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 the Early Childhood Division, Elementary Division, and Middle Division. Additionally, Student Council will be outside at the front gates on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings or at the back carpool on Friday mornings with buckets to collect any change you may have. Thank you for your support!

### **We Need YOUR Help Naming our Chickens!**

As a St. John's Cardinal, you have the opportunity to help name our new chickens! Next week, students in each division will be able to suggest names for each baby chick. Submissions will be open through Thursday, October 10. Here's how to submit your ideas:

**Early Childhood Division:** Students can write their suggestions with their name, grade level, and Chicken name idea.

**Elementary & Middle Divisions:** Students can write their names on provided posters in the Elementary and Middle Division hallways. Please be sure to write your name in legible print, along with your grade level.

### **Shoutout to Our Sunshine Committee: Thank You!**

A huge thank you to our Sunshine Committee Chairs, Melanie Freeman and Chloe Apter, for organizing and spreading joy with the first Sunshine lunch today. Faculty and Staff enjoyed lunch from Board & Brew thanks to the generous time and donations from SJES families. Our Faculty and Staff thank you!

### **New Drinkware Collection Has Arrived In The Student Store**

Stay hydrated - St. John's style! New water bottle styles have arrived in The Student Store this week. We have smaller sizes for smaller hands and a larger size for those hot afternoon sporting events. The **Student Store** will be open today after school, stop by and take a look!

### **Get Involved with Our Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF)**

Looking to get involved at St. John's? We have a volunteer opportunity to suit every schedule! Even just one hour of your time can make a difference. **Click here** to check out our volunteer opportunities and help make our Cardinal Community even stronger.

### **Athletics Updates**

St. John's Boys Flag Football and Girls Volleyball season are well under way! **Click here** for updates from last week's games, as well as a look into upcoming games and matches. We always welcome Cardinals of all ages to come cheer on St. John's and show their support. We hope to see you there!

## **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**

#### **Thursday, October 3**

- *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**

- *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****Monday, October 7**

- *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



### **"Not A Box"**

*Mrs. Caito's class read the book "Not A Box" this week. A box is just a box... unless it's not a box. From mountain to rocket ship, a small rabbit shows that a box will go as far as the imagination allows. Mrs. Caito's class then decided they would see what they could turn a box into. The project began with "marble painting" as a group. Then, the children were asked to give some ideas about what they should make out of the large box. The majority were interested in making a rocket ship. They painted some wings and used miscellaneous recycled egg cartons for instruments to create their rocket ship. They discussed the difference between rocket ships and space shuttles. They both blast off straight up into the sky, but the shuttle lands like an airplane on wheels. Since they were headed into space, one child said, "We needed to make some stars with lots of glitter". The class is still enjoying their rocket ship and trips to space in Mrs. Caito's classroom!*

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### **Early Childhood Enrichments**

This week, our Preschool and Pre-K classes started attending weekly enrichment classes. They traveled to the Multipurpose Room (MPR) and Gym for Fitness Fun with Mrs. Dietz, Chapel with Ms. Patti, the Learning Commons to read with Mr. Stephens, the Outdoor Exploration Center (OEC) for Music with Mr. Roberts, and the STEAM building for Science with Mrs. Easley. Enrichments provide an opportunity for Early Childhood students to engage in STEAM activities, while exploring other spaces on campus and engaging with older students and staff across Divisions.

### **Bonding with Big Buddies**

Our ECD students are meeting and collaborating with their Big Buddies both this week and next week. We love to see our youngest Cardinals working with the Middle School PALS and our 4th Grade classes. The buddy system is a two-way support system where both buddies benefit from developing empathy, understanding, and acceptance of differences. They also learn valuable life skills, such as patience, cooperation, and communication. These are special days all students look forward to. [\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to see our ECD students with their Big Buddies!

## Elementary Division



### **Cardinal Character Recognition**

*This Monday, St. John's held its first Cardinal Character Recognition during Flag Ceremony. These awards are given to students each month for embracing one of our eight Cardinal Character traits: Confident, Caring, Collaborative, Curious, Resourceful, Reflective, Responsible, Respectful, Resilient. Congratulations to this month's **winners!***

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### **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.

### **Upper Elementary Parent Fellowship Event: Monday, October 7**

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. Upper Elementary's Fall Fellowship (parent-only) event will take place on Monday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Hanna's in Rancho Santa Margarita. We hope to see you there!

### **Rising Cardinals: Volleyball for 3rd & 4th Grade**

We are excited to invite our 3rd & 4th grade students to participate in the Rising Cardinals program, which provides an introduction to school sports and friendly competition. Led by members of the Physical Education Department, the program focuses on individual and team development in a fun environment. This year, we will begin the program with Volleyball in the fall, followed by Basketball in the winter and Flag football in the spring. The volleyball program will begin on Tuesday, October 8. Three weeks of volleyball instruction will culminate in a mini volleyball tournament on Saturday, October 26 for all students in the Rising Cardinals program. [Click here](#) to register your student before spots fill up!

### **Monthly Enrichment Updates on the Parent Portal**

Please visit the Veracross [Parent Portal](#) for the latest news of what's happening in each of the enrichment classes. Our fabulous enrichment teachers will be posting monthly, on their Veracross webpages, about the interactive and engaging learning that is taking place! To view enrichment classes, follow the steps below:

1. Login to the [Parent Portal](#)
2. Click the **Classes & Reports** button under your child's name
3. Click on any of the Enrichment classes listed and you will be redirected to the enrichment class webpage for that specific course

## **Middle Division**



### **7th Grade Scientists**

*Students in 7th grade Science class recently engaged in a fun and collaborative project to help them learn the organelles of the cell. As a supplement to their Amplify Science unit on the microbiome, students chose from a variety of modalities to “display” the cell parts and functions. Students had the opportunity to work alone or in a group. The creativity was inspiring! They created three-dimensional models, comic books, travel brochures, rap songs, pop songs, and posters likening the cell to anything from a bank to a restaurant. It was great to see our Cardinals working together and having fun, while also learning.*

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### **Pali and SeaCamp Field Studies 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 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.

### **Washington D.C. Drop-In Meeting**

The Washington D.C. field studies drop-in meeting is **Wednesday, October 9 from 3:05 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Come to Room 18 upstairs in Sillers Hall with your student to pick up the final itinerary, luggage tags, class t-shirt, etc. If you would like your student to pick up the materials, please email **Mrs. Sarachman**, and let her know to send it home.

### **Student Support Times in Middle Division**

Each Middle Division teacher has an assigned Student Support Time each week. **Click here** to view the schedule. This drop-in time is designated for students, so that they may meet with teachers to converse about topics taught, to discuss an upcoming absence, to follow up after an absence, or to receive additional help. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers individually via email should they have any questions or concerns, or to request a one-on-one meeting.

### **Middle Division Featured Athletes**

#### **Vincent Larson, 7th grade**

Cardinal Character Traits: Resilient and Collaborative

I am proud to nominate **Vincent Larson** as a featured athlete. Vincent plays on the 7th Grade Flag Football team. Vincent displays excellence in his effort, performance, and character on the football field. Vincent is a player who works hard on every play, encourages his teammates, and always keeps an exceptional attitude. He is very deserving of this recognition, and he is a joy to have on the team.

#### **Emily Sheng, 6th grade**

Cardinal Character Traits: Confident and Collaborative

**Emily Sheng** is a confident and collaborative Cardinal. She excels not only in her individual performance, being our most consistent server on the team, but also creates a positive environment for her peers on and off the court. Emily embraces challenges with a growth mindset, encouraging her teammates to push their limits and learn from setbacks.

## Church



### **Instructional Eucharist**

*Monday was St. John's annual Instructional Eucharist for students in grades 1-8.*

*We gathered for worship, explained terms and traditions of the Church, and celebrated the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving." Eucharist also includes communion and blessings for those who participate. We are thankful for what Jesus has done for us, thankful for our community and for our daily blessings.*

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### **Blessing of the Animals is TOMORROW at 7:30 a.m.**

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 tomorrow, October 4 at 7:30 a.m. **Pets must remain on leashes at all times.**

**Please Join us for Episcopal School Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

We invite you to join us for Episcopal School Sunday this Sunday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m. as we celebrate our vibrant community! We invite everyone to come together for a special Holy Eucharist service, featuring a sermon by Mrs. Grogan, 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!

**Get Your Tickets! Roaring Twenties Fundraiser is Saturday, October 19**

Step back in time to the glitz and glamour of the Roaring Twenties at our spectacular fundraising gala! Join us on Saturday, 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](#). We are excited to announce our live auction items.

**Lunch with Bishop John Taylor and Kathy:** Step into the heart of the Episcopal Diocese of LA with a private lunch! This exclusive experience includes a personalized tour of the diocese, where you'll uncover its rich history and vibrant community.

**Timeshare in Mexico:** A week-long escape at a luxurious timeshare in Mexico! With six stunning locations to choose from, this package is perfect for two adults and two children seeking adventure and relaxation.

**Sunset Yacht Cruise:** Join us for an exclusive yacht cruise for eight, complete with delectable hors d'oeuvres and stunning views. It's the perfect way to celebrate a special occasion or simply enjoy an evening of luxury on the waves!

Questions? Please reach out to Rebeca Mizejewski at [rebecamizejewski@gmail.com](mailto:rebecamizejewski@gmail.com).

**Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 27**

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