



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of October 31, 2024



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Today, students in all three divisions participated in the annual Halloween Parade around the Konrad Reuland Field. We hope you all have a fun and safe Halloween.

*Reminder: There will be **NO SCHOOL tomorrow, November 1.** We will see you on Monday!*

All School

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Sign-ups are NOW OPEN

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, November 14, and Friday, November 15. **Conference signups are NOW OPEN** on the [Parent Portal](#) under the “Happening Now” section. Please contact the appropriate Division office if you are having trouble signing up. Please make every effort to attend your child’s parent teacher conference during the scheduled conference days. As per the handbook, scheduling make-up conferences with the teacher is strongly discouraged and not always possible.

November Flip Days for ALL Divisions

Due to our Admissions Open House event – and the necessary schedule adjustments – Thursday, November 7 will be a Friday Flip Day (students will follow a Friday schedule). Additionally, Friday, November 8 will follow a Thursday Schedule with a minimum day dismissal for each division.

Tommy Hilfiger Uniforms 31% Off Today ONLY!

Stock up on uniforms for next year. This is the best [Tommy Hilfiger](#) (THSU) sale we have seen so far!

Enter Promo Code: TREAT31OCT

Offer starts 12:00 a.m. CT on 10/30/24 and ends 10/31/24 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

The Promotion Code is required during checkout. Enter it in the Promo Code box of the shopping cart to apply the discount.

The offer is not valid on any previous orders, not valid with other offers, and has no cash value. Excludes custom sized items.

Alice in Wonderland Tickets are ON SALE NOW!

Don’t miss your chance to see our Elementary students in Alice in Wonderland with shows at 3:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6 (Blue Cast), and Thursday, November 7 (Red Cast).

- To purchase play tickets for the **Blue Cast** performances, click [here](#).
- To purchase tickets for the **Red Cast** performances, click [here](#).

Students who attend the play will receive a FREE DRESS DAY on a later to be determined date.

Red Ribbon Week is NEXT WEEK!

Red Ribbon Week is next week, Monday, November 4 through Thursday, November 7. Our entire school community will be making a pledge to make healthy choices by signing their names on an all-school poster. Local law enforcement personnel will be making a special visit to campus in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. Each day will have its own theme, and we encourage all St. John's students from Early Preschool to Eighth grade to participate. [Click here](#) to view daily dress themes.

- Please note that Monday through Thursday is considered "free dress" in accordance with school guidelines (as long as the student is participating in the daily theme). For example, on Monday, if a student is wearing a red shirt, he or she is allowed free-dress bottoms, and vice versa. However, students who choose not to wear red will be expected to wear their regular school uniform. Free dress will only be permitted for those who are participating in the daily themes.

ADMISSIONS UPDATES

Admissions Uniform Announcement: Friday, November 8

St. John's is hosting Admissions Open House the morning of Friday, November 8. All students (except 6th graders) will wear their formal uniforms on this day. Only 6th grade students will wear their P.E. uniforms. (ECD students are welcome to wear spirit wear, but it is not required). Thank you!

Sibling Applications are Now OPEN

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now OPEN. If you have a student who *does not* yet attend St. John's, please read the [email](#) sent to families on October 30 with information about the sibling application timeline. [Click here](#) to apply. Questions? Please reach out to the [Admissions Team](#).

Financial Aid for the 2025-2026 School Year – Applications Open Tomorrow!

Financial Aid applications for the 2025-2026 school year will **open tomorrow November 1, 2024, on FACTS**. Please note that we will be requiring 2024 tax returns as a part of the application process this year – **this is a change from prior years**. The deadline for applications for Financial Aid for 2025-26 is **February 14, 2025**. Any applications received after this date will be reviewed subject to available funds, as awards will be made in the order in which applications are received. For more information, [click here](#).

A Week of Giving in Support of RSM Cares is NEXT WEEK

Join with St. John's Church members in our annual RSM Cares Thanksgiving Food Donation Drive. During a Week of Giving, each grade level is asked to bring items needed to create Thanksgiving Dinner Bags for those in our community who are in need. [Click here](#) to check your child's grade level request. Items can be dropped off to your classroom/advisory or to chapel during ingathering dates.

Vision & Hearing: Grades K, 2, 5, and 8

Southern California Sensory Screening will be conducting vision and hearing screening next Thursday, November 7 for the following:

- All students in grades K, 2, 5, and 8
- Students across all grade levels who are new to St. John's
- First grade boys (color vision screening only)

If your child wears glasses, please make sure they bring their glasses to school the day of the screening. There is no charge for this screening. Should you have any questions regarding the screening, or want to opt your student out, please contact the [Health Office](#) directly.

Winter Athletics Registration: 5th - 8th Grade Basketball and Lacrosse

We are excited to launch our Winter Sports Athletic programs. If your 5th to 8th grade student is interested in participating on one of our teams, please [click here](#) to register by Friday, November 22. All registrants must complete the forms on the [Athletics Webpage](#) to participate. Questions? Please reach out to [John Roland](#).

One More Week Left to Enter the Christmas Card Art Contest

It's that time of year! Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity for your child to showcase their creativity and festive spirit in the 2024 SJES Christmas Card. Open to students in Early Preschool to 8th grade, the Christmas Card contest encourages participants to design original Christmas-themed artwork that captures the joy, warmth, and magic of the holiday season. This year, the card will feature FIVE designs by different student artists.

- Designs should be submitted to the Advancement Office or to Ms. Heys (Art Teacher) by **Friday, November 8**.
- All submissions will be considered and voted on by St. John's Administration Team.
- With questions, please email advancement@stjohns-es.org

Make-Up Picture Day: Wednesday, November 13

Make-up picture day will take place on Wednesday, November 13. Students who plan to participate should wear their formal uniform on this day. Please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher if your child will need to participate in make-up Picture Day.

Save the Date: Wine Wall is December 7

Save the Date! Wine Wall, St. John's annual holiday party, will take place on Saturday, December 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for this fun and enjoyable evening, as we kick off Cardinella. Enjoy the festivities while wearing your coziest attire, generously hosted at the Keil family home. This will be an adult only evening – so line up your sitters! Official invites to follow.

International Festival – Parent Volunteer Interest Form

This year, SJES PTF will be hosting the annual International Fair on Wednesday, January 29 from 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in the SJES courtyard. This event will allow our community to represent and share their cultures with others, while discovering and learning about cultures which may be new to them. If you are interested in volunteering to help create this fun and educational fellowship event, please [click here](#) and fill out the three-question survey.

St. John's School Families are Invited to a Baptism – Theirs!

On Monday, November 11, during our morning Eucharist, St. John's will offer the sacrament of Holy Baptism to anyone in our school community who is interested – students, parents, members of extended families, faculty, or staff. According to the Catechism of The Episcopal Church, "Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the Kingdom of God." Baptized Christians are considered full members of Christ's Church. The sacrament is available to persons of any age.

If you'd like more information, or if you or a family member would like to be added to the baptism rolls on that day, please contact [Patti Peebles](#) by email or at 949-858-5144, ext. 226 by this **Monday, November 4**.

Trunk or Treat Photos

Thank you, families, for joining 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 this past Sunday. [Click here](#) to view photos from this fun afternoon!

CHOIR CALLS!

Looking for K-8 Singers

St. John's Church is hosting an Interfaith Concert in celebration of Thanksgiving. We need singers for our St. John's Kids Choir on Sunday, November 10 at 4:00 p.m. Please wear formal school uniform and stay for the reception to follow. If your child is interested, please reach out to [Ms. Naulls](#).

Singers for 4th to 8th Grade

The St. Johns Children's Choir has once again been invited to participate in *Santa Margarita High School's Annual Nick Kraus Memorial Concert* by singing a special song selection in honor of the much-loved Percussionist Instructor, Nick Kraus, who passed suddenly in 2014. Our students participated in this incredible concert last year. The experience of singing to an audience in the Segerstrom Concert Hall is such an amazing opportunity for our students.

The concert will be held at the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall on Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. We will rehearse starting next week, October 29, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7:15 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. in Ms. Naulls' music room. You must commit to the 10 rehearsal sessions between now and the performance. Please email [Ms. Naulls](#) and let her know as soon as possible if your child is interested in participating.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, November 1

- *In-service: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 8

- *Minimum Day: 11:45 a.m. Dismissal*
- *Christmas Card entries due*

Thursday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 15

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Elementary Division

Friday, November 1

- *In-service: NO SCHOOL*

Monday, November 4

- *Elementary Division Play Dress Rehearsal (Blue Cast)*

Tuesday, November 5

- *Elementary Division Play Dress Rehearsal (Red Cast)*

Wednesday, November 6

- *Elementary Division Play: Blue Cast*

Thursday, November 7

- *Elementary Division Play: Red Cast*

Friday, November 8

- *Admissions Open House: Wear Formal Uniform*
- *Minimum Day: 12:00 p.m. dismissal*
- *Christmas Card entries due*

Thursday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 15

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Middle Division

Friday, November 1

- *In-service: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 8

- *Admissions Open House: 7th & 8th Wear Formal Uniform; 6th wear P.E. Uniform*
- *Minimum Day: 12:15 p.m. dismissal*
- *Christmas Card entries due*

Thursday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 15

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Early Childhood Division



Pumpkin Exploration

*Mrs. Caito's class began exploring pumpkins last week. They started by looking at the outside and describing what they saw like "orange and green", "circle and rolls", and "hard and bumpy". They painted orange pumpkins in many different shapes and sizes after reading the stories, *The Big Pumpkin*, *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*, and *Five Little Pumpkins*. Then they cut the pumpkins open to see what was inside and again described what was seen. The children used descriptive words like "white seeds" and "squishy and orange". They added dirt into one to see if the seeds would grow. The other pumpkin was turned into a Jack-O-Lantern with a happy face. At the end of the week, they did an EXPERIMENT. Mrs. Caito put baking soda (white powder that looked like "a fluffy cloud", one student said) into the pumpkin with food coloring and dish soap. Each child got to pour a cup of vinegar to see the chemical reaction that occurred as the liquid bubbled up and out of the pumpkin. They explored all things pumpkins in a fun, hands-on way!*

Fall Festival - THANK YOU!

Thank you, Room Parent Coordinators, Room Parents, and PALS for bringing our annual Fall Festival to life earlier today! It was a great turnout. Be on the lookout for a link to all the amazing photos in next week's Cardinal Weekly.

Friday, November 8 is a Minimum Day

Next Friday, November 8 is a minimum day, with pick-up at 11:45 a.m. There is no extended care offered this afternoon.

Make-Up Picture Day: November 13

Make-up picture day will take place on Wednesday, November 13. If you would like your child to retake their picture, or your child was absent, please send a Brightwheel message to your child's teacher and let them know.

Elementary Division



Third Grade Field Studies

Last week, Third graders went on the "Tongva Trail" field trip at the Environmental Nature Center in Modjeska Canyon. Taking place in the canyon surrounded by oak trees, native plants, small critters, and a stream, the field trip provided hands-on experiences in connection to what students learned in the classroom about local Orange County native tribes. They practiced hunting styles with stuffed animals, made string with plant fiber, played old fashioned tribal games, used wooden pump drills to drill into seashells, and made music using natural materials such as gourds, turtle shells, and sticks. The field trip was an excellent way for students to wrap up their studies of the tribes and put learning into action.

Congrats to our Cardinal Character Winners!

During the Elementary Division Flag-Raising Ceremony this week, **these students** were recognized for displaying Cardinal Character traits. Congratulations, **Cardinals!**

Chapel Sweater Update

Beginning the week of November 18, 2024, Elementary and Middle Division students will be required to wear their formal sweaters twice a week. All students will wear their formal sweaters on Mondays for All-School Chapels, as well as on their second Chapel Day (Tuesday for grades K-2, Thursday for grades 3-5, and Wednesday for grades 6-8).

Alice in Wonderland Tickets are ON SALE NOW!

Don't miss your chance to see our Elementary students in Alice in Wonderland with shows at 3:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6 (Blue Cast), and Thursday, November 7 (Red Cast).

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Middle Division



8th Grade Washington, D.C. Field Trip

Every year, the 8th grade embarks on an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., to deepen their understanding of American history and strengthen their bonds as a class. They explored what life was like in Colonial Williamsburg, stepped on the battlefield at Yorktown, and wondered at the monuments in Washington, D.C. The trip offered the perfect blend of education and adventure, bringing history to life while creating lasting memories. More pictures from the trip can be found on the link below.

[8th Grade - Washington, D.C.](#)

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Middle Division Field Studies Medication Pick-Up

Attention Middle Division Families: Please pick up and sign out your child's medication from the Health Office. Contact the **Health Office** if you wish to keep some of your child's medication on campus for the remainder of the school year. Medication that the Health Office has previously had stored for your child (Epi Pen, Inhaler, Daily medication, etc.) will continue to be held in the office. **Medication will NOT be given to a student to transport home; a parent must pick up the medication.** If your medication is not picked up by **Friday November 8**, it will be disposed of. The Health Office is open Monday to Friday, from 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Thank you!

Scoliosis Screening: 7th Grade Girls & 8th Grade Boys

Scoliosis Screening will take place on Thursday, November 7 for 7th Grade Girls and 8th Grade Boys. The screening will be conducted by Southern California Sensory Screening. Please note that girls may prefer to wear a sports bra or bathing suit top for this screening. If your child is absent, we recommend that you contact your physician to do this screening. If your child is already being treated for scoliosis or you do not want them to participate in this screening, please notify the **Health Office**.

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Santa Margarita Catholic High School (SMCHS) Parent Information Night

Santa Margarita Catholic High School is hosting a Parent Information Night at St. John's. The event is scheduled for Monday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m. in Siller's Hall, Room 25. Interested families of current St. John's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are encouraged to attend.

Church

Trunk or Treat Photos

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