



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of November 7, 2024



Red Ribbon Week

This week, students in all grade levels participated in Red Ribbon Week. Students pledged to make healthy choices and showed their commitment to doing so through participating in daily dress themes.

All School

Tomorrow is a Minimum Day: Wear Formal Uniforms

Tomorrow, November 8 is Admissions Open House from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This important day allows prospective St. John's families to get a taste of everyday life as a Cardinal. We ask that all Elementary and Middle Division students wear their Formal Uniforms (6th grade students wear P.E. Uniforms). Early Childhood students are welcome to wear Spirit Wear, but it is not required.

Tomorrow is also a Minimum Day, with early dismissal at the times listed below by division. There is no Extended Care available.

- Early Childhood Division: 11:45 a.m.
- Elementary Division: 12:00 p.m.
- Middle Division: 12:15 p.m.

NO SCHOOL Next Thursday and Friday

REMINDER: There will be no school next Thursday, November 14 and Friday, November 15 during Parent Teacher Conferences. Extended Care will not be provided.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Don't Forget to Sign-Up!

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held next Thursday, November 14, and Friday, November 15. **Conference signups are available** 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.

Friendly Carpool Reminder

We kindly ask that you review and follow the **carpool rules** and obey the crossing guard when dropping off or picking up your student(s). These rules are in place to ensure the safety of all children and staff during carpool and require cooperation from all constituents. Thank you.

PTF Meeting Next Tuesday, November 12

Join us next Tuesday, November 12 at 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons for our November PTF Meeting where Taylor Diaz, Marketing and Communications Specialist, will discuss the NEW Veracross **Parent Portal**. If you are 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#

LAST CALL: Christmas Card Contest Entries Close TOMORROW

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 designs by FIVE 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 the St. John's Administration Team
- Please email advancement@stjohns-es.org with questions

Yearbook Dedication Pages

Looking for a way to tell your son or daughter "I am proud of you"? Purchase a dedication page in the yearbook! Dedication pages are now on sale for the 2024-2025 school yearbook. There are four different sizes to choose from (1/8, 1/4, 1/2, and full page). [Click here](#) to view the flyer for instructions and pricing. The first price increase will take place on December 1, so purchase yours today for the lowest price! Questions? Contact [Beth Sarachman](#).

The Next Spirit Lunch/Parent Lunch is Friday, December 13

The next Spirit Lunch will take place on Friday, December 13. We are excited to have TK Burgers back on campus! Orders must be placed in advance online by Monday, December 2 at Noon. There will be no Choice Lunch served on this day. [Click here](#) to place your order. K-8 parents are invited to attend Spirit Lunch at their child(ren)'s designated lunch time.

Make-Up Picture Day is Next Wednesday, November 13

Make-up picture day will take place next 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.

Fall Sports Picture Day is Next Wednesday, November 13

Fall sports photos will be taken next Wednesday, November 13. Students who participated in football and/or volleyball should bring their team uniform to school that day. Please reach out to your team coach if you have any questions.

You're Invited! RSVP to Wine Wall

Earlier this week, you received an invitation via email to Wine Wall, St. John's annual holiday party. This event 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 evening of fellowship 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! Didn't receive the invitation? Please email Advancement@stjohns-es.org.

Take a Stroll Down Candy Cane Lane

Mark your calendars! Our favorite Cardinal tradition is heading to campus December 2 - 6! This special holiday event allows Pre-K through 8th grade students the opportunity to "surprise" friends and family with holiday gifts of their choice, while also learning how to shop and budget. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will have assistance from their school PALS/Buddies while they shop. More information to follow soon, including how you can help your kids make a list (and check it twice)! "Yule" love this event for your child(ren).

Donate Leftover Candy for the Marines at Camp Pendleton

Do you have leftover Halloween candy that you do not want? Fear not! Mrs. Garrett is collecting leftover Halloween candy for the Marines at Camp Pendleton. Please place your donated candy into a plastic bag and drop it off in any of the division offices. You may also stop by Mrs. Garrett's room in Sillers Hall (Room 22) to drop off candy. Donations will be accepted through Tuesday, November 19.

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

Financial Aid applications for the 2025-2026 school year are **now open 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](#)**.

You're Invited: A Special Chapel Service at St. John's

Students, faculty, and staff are invited and encouraged to attend "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit" on Sunday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's Church. This service includes an inspiring and uplifting program of spiritual settings by H.T. Burleigh, Hall Johnson, William Dawson, and George Shearing, along with folk song settings by Aaron Copland. Mezzo-soprano and St. John's Music/Choir Instructor, Ms. Lisa Naulls will be performing. A suggested donation of \$20.00 per adult will benefit St. John's Church; suggested donation of \$10.00 for students and seniors. St. John's School students are free with parent or adult. All students who attend the concert will receive free dress! **[Click here](#)** for more information.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Friday, November 8

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

Sunday, November 10

- *Orange County Interfaith Council, "Let Us Sing Thanksgiving" musical program:* 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Church

Tuesday, November 12

- *PTF Meeting:* 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons or via **Zoom**

Wednesday, November 13

- *Make up Picture Day*

Thursday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Conferences:* NO SCHOOL

Friday, November 15

- *Parent Teacher Conferences:* NO SCHOOL

Elementary Division

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*

Sunday, November 10

- *Orange County Interfaith Council, "Let Us Sing Thanksgiving" musical program: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Church*

Tuesday, November 12

- *PTF Meeting: 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons or via **Zoom***

Wednesday, November 13

- *Make up Picture Day*
- *Fall Sports Photos*

Thursday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 15

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Middle Division

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*

Sunday, November 10

- *Orange County Interfaith Council, "Let Us Sing Thanksgiving" musical program: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Church*

Monday, November 11

- *SMCHS Information Meeting: 6:30 p.m. (Room 25)*

Tuesday, November 12

- *PTF Meeting: 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons or via **Zoom***

Wednesday, November 13

- *Make up Picture Day*
- *Fall Sports Photos*

Thursday, November 14

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Friday, November 15

- *Parent Teacher Conferences: NO SCHOOL*

Early Childhood Division



Spooky Pop Rocks and Soda Experiment

For a special STEAM activity, Pre-K classes conducted a ghost-themed science experiment. Children worked in groups of two to add rock candy to a soda bottle. As the pop rocks dropped into the soda, the children were delighted to watch the white “ghost” balloon expand. The children learned that a chemical reaction was created as the carbonated soda mixed with the rock candy. Science is so much fun!

Fall Festival Photos

Thank you to all of our Room Parent Coordinators, Room Parents, and PALS who made the ECD Fall Festival a spooky and fun success last week! [Click here](#) to view photos from the event.

TOMORROW, November 8 is a Minimum Day

TOMORROW, November 8 is a minimum day, with pick- up at 11:45 a.m. Reminder: there will be no Extended Care available.

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.

NO SCHOOL Next Thursday and Friday

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Elementary Division



Second Grade: Pioneer Day

Our second grade students are concluding an exciting unit on the Pioneers! They have been exploring the fascinating differences between their lives today and the lives of our ancestors. Last month, students had an amazing opportunity to step back in time and experience Pioneer life through engaging centers presented by California Living History.

Throughout the morning, our young learners dove into hands-on activities that brought history to life! They washed clothes just like the pioneers did, crafted their own butter and dolls, played traditional games, printed with a printing press, made ropes, and even got to touch real artifacts used by the pioneers.

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Fall Sports Picture Day is Next Wednesday, November 13

Fall sports photos will be taken next Wednesday, November 13. Students who participated in football and/or volleyball should bring their team uniform to school that day. Please reach out to your team coach if you have any questions.

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 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).

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, 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](#).

Middle Division



Red Ribbon Week

You may have noticed something different about the St. John's campus this week. Maybe you've noticed some funky hats and t-shirts, or even some different decor around the campus. Each of these things are all meant to bring awareness to the subtle, but important daily choices that we make to lead healthy lives. Red Ribbon Week highlights this, and presents an opportunity for parents, educators, and communities to reinforce the messages of healthy living.

During Red Ribbon Week, youth and adults around the nation pledge to increase their knowledge by learning more about how, when and why to make good choices and renew their commitment to live a healthy lifestyle. In the Middle Division, students dove deeper into what healthy choices look like and learned

about the negative effects unhealthy decisions can have on them. Middle Division students also enjoyed a visit from Orange County Deputy Sheriffs to highlight and discuss responsible decision-making. Teaching the importance of health and wellness to our youths will help guide them to make positive choices throughout their lives.

Tomorrow is Admissions Open House (Minimum Day): Wear Formal Uniforms

St. John's is hosting Admissions Open House tomorrow, November 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All Middle Division students are to wear their formal uniforms except for 6th grade. **Only 6th grade students will wear their P.E. uniforms.** This day will conclude with early dismissal at 12:15 p.m. Thank you!

Middle Division Fall Show, *Elf*, A Christmas Story, is Tomorrow, November 8

Join us on tomorrow, November 8, at 3:00 p.m. in the Gym for the Middle Division production of *Elf*! No tickets are required to attend this performance. All are welcome!

Student of the Week Winners

Congratulations to our Student of the Week Winners! Click on their names below to learn a little more about them.

6th grade: [Ian Heyming](#)

7th grade: [Amari Patel](#)

8th grade: [Sofia Antolin](#)

Middle Division Field Studies Medication: LAST CALL FOR PICK UP

Attention Middle Division Families: Please pick up and sign out your child's Field Studies medication(s) from the Health 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 **tomorrow, November 8**, it will be disposed of. 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. The Health Office is open Monday to Friday, from 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Thank you!

Santa Margarita Catholic High School (SMCHS) Parent Information Night

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

A Note About 8th Grade High School Recommendations to SMCHS

For families of 8th grade students applying to Santa Margarita Catholic High School (SMCHS): please be assured that the Teacher and Principal recommendations, as well as transcripts for students applying to SMCHS, will be submitted prior to their deadline of November 15. Thank you for your patience.

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Church

Thanksgiving Concert on Sunday, November 10

Presented by the Orange County Interfaith Council, the "Let Us Sing Thanksgiving" musical program will be held on Sunday, November 10 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Church. Music groups from different faith traditions will lend their talents to this beautiful concert in celebration and thanksgiving for our diverse community. Additionally, we need singers from our St. John's Kids Choir on this day! Students should wear formal school uniform and stay for the reception to follow. If your child is interested, please reach out to [Ms. Naulls](#).

Thanksgiving Worship: Save the Date

Join us for a special Holy Eucharist service in celebration of Thanksgiving! This joyful gathering will take place on Wednesday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Church, and will be a time to reflect on gratitude and share in the blessings of community and faith. After the service, stay for a delicious pizza dinner, where we'll enjoy fellowship and give thanks together. All are welcome—bring your family, friends, and anyone who would like to celebrate. We look forward to seeing you there!

Concert Celebrating Spirituals

You are invited and encouraged to attend “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit” Sunday, November 17 at St. John’s Church at 4:00 p.m.; an exciting, inspiring and uplifting program of spiritual settings by H.T. Burleigh, Hall Johnson, William Dawson, and George Shearing, along with folk song settings by Aaron Copland. Mezzo-soprano and St. John’s Music/Choir Instructor Lisa Naulls will be performing. Lisa is well known for her interpretation of spirituals. She has toured the United States, Asia, Israel, Europe and South America and has been a member of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers and the Los Angeles Chamber Singers. Lisa will be supported by pianist and organist Gary Toops and a small ensemble of singers from The Festival Singers of Orange County. A suggested donation of \$20.00 will benefit St. John's Church; suggested donation of \$10.00 for students and seniors. Light reception to follow; [click here](#) for more details. Hope to see you there!

Calling All Actors and Singers!

St. John’s Church Annual Christmas Pageant will take place Sunday, December 22 at 5:00 p.m. We are looking to fill roles for Mary, Joseph, the Three Kings, shepherds, townspeople, and more! No previous acting experience is required; we just want participants to have fun enjoying the spirit of the season! There will be two rehearsals in December (dates to be announced after sign-ups are complete). Children ages 3 to 10 are welcome, and we may accommodate siblings outside this age range if space allows. We are also seeking adult or high school volunteers to help with set up and costumes for the dress rehearsal and performance. Sign up [here](#).