



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of December 5, 2024



Candy Cane Lane

This week, students in grades Pre-K to 8th grade participated in the beloved St. John's holiday tradition of Candy Cane Lane. This event gives students the opportunity to practice the concept of budgeting while embodying the spirit of giving during the Holiday season.

All School

Wine Wall is This Saturday, December 7

Thank you to those of you who RSVP'd to St. John's annual holiday party, Wine Wall. If you RSVP'd "yes" to this event, be sure to check your inbox for important details regarding the event that will take place this Saturday, December 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. If you cannot attend the event but would still like to support Cardinella's Wine Wall, you can drop off a bottle of wine (or whiskey) valued at \$35 or greater, at the front desk in the Advancement Office during school hours. Questions? Please contact Advancement@stjohns-es.org.

Let's Go Caroling!

Kindergarten through 8th Grade students are invited to go caroling in the community this Holiday Season! If interested, please reach out to [Ms. Naulls](#). Upcoming dates are:

- Saturday, December 7 at 4:30 p.m. at Santa's Tree Lighting, Mercantile Way in Ladera Ranch
- Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Santa's Village, Mission Viejo Library
- Friday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rancho Mission Viejo Holiday Event
- Saturday, December 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at RSM Lake

Pass the Pack: Christmas Donation Drive

This holiday season, join St. John's Church in spreading warmth and care to those in need! We're hosting a Christmas Donation Drive to support our local homeless community - and we need your help! All donations will be distributed to those in need in collaboration with Welcome Inn at Doheny State Beach.

What We're Collecting:

- Hygiene Products: Toothbrushes (individually packaged), toothpaste, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, wipes, and more
- New or Gently Used Warm Weather Items: Gloves, hats, scarves, and socks
- New or Gently Used Backpacks and Duffle Bags: To help individuals carry their belongings

Bring donations to the St. John's Church by next Friday, December 13. Your donations will make a direct impact, helping our homeless neighbors stay warm, healthy, and hopeful this season. Let's come together to show the true spirit of giving. Every contribution, big or

small, makes a difference! For more information or questions, contact **Rebecca Swartz** or **Lisa Naulls**.

Save the Date: Christmas Concerts are Just Around the Corner!

Mark your calendars! Here are the upcoming dates for our annual Christmas performances for each division:

- Early Childhood Division: Friday, December 20 at 11:15 a.m.
- Elementary Division: Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m.
- Middle Division: Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Join Your K-8 Student for Spirit Lunch Next Friday, December 13

TK Burgers will be back on campus next Friday, December 13 for the next Spirit and K-8 Parent Lunch. All orders must already have been placed online by Monday, December 2. If you did not place your order online, please plan to pack your child(ren) lunch that day 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.

Christmas Break is Around the Corner

School will be closed Monday, December 23 through Monday, January 6. School will resume on Tuesday, January 7.

St. John's Church Sunday School Program (every Sunday at 10 a.m.)

Hey kids! Have you ever wanted to learn cool Bible stories, sing awesome songs, and make new friends? Sunday School at St. John's is the perfect place for you! We'll have fun as we play games and discover how God loves us all. Sunday School is taught by Andrew Hammond, a member of the St. John's congregation. Don't miss out – join us on Sunday and bring a friend along too! Nursery care is also available for children aged 0-4 on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Saturday, December 7

- *Wine Wall: 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, December 18

- *Wear Christmas accessories*

Thursday, December 19

- *Wear Christmas accessories*

Friday, December 20

- *Early Childhood Christmas Concert at 11:15 a.m.*

Monday, December 23 - Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break: NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, January 7

- *School resumes*

Elementary Division

Saturday, December 7

- *Wine Wall: 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*
- *Christmas Caroling: 4:30 p.m. Santa's Tree Lighting, Mercantile Way, Ladera Ranch*
- *Christmas Caroling: 6:30 p.m., Santa's Village at Mission Viejo Library*

Friday, December 13

- *Christmas Caroling: 6:00 p.m. at Rancho Mission Viejo Holiday Event*

Wednesday, December 18

- *Free Dress Day: Celebrating Giving Week goal*

Thursday, December 19

- *Elementary Division Christmas Concert at 6:00 p.m.*

Friday, December 20

- *Wear Christmas pajamas and accessories*

Monday, December 23 - Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break: NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, January 7

- *School resumes*

Middle Division

Saturday, December 7

- *Wine Wall: 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*
- *Christmas Caroling: 4:30 p.m. Santa's Tree Lighting, Mercantile Way, Ladera Ranch*
- *Christmas Caroling: 6:30 p.m., Santa's Village at Mission Viejo Library*

Tuesday, December 10

- *The Little Mermaid, Jr. Informational Meeting at 3:15 p.m. in Room 23*

Friday, December 13

- *Christmas Caroling: 6:00 p.m. at Rancho Mission Viejo Holiday Event*

Tuesday, December 17

- *Middle Division Christmas Concert*

Wednesday, December 18

- *Free Dress Day: Celebrating Giving Week goal*

Friday, December 20

- *Wear Christmas pajamas and accessories*

Monday, December 23 - Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break: NO SCHOOL*

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Early Childhood Division



Pinecones as a non-traditional painting tool

Using pinecones as a non-traditional painting tool provides a fun and engaging way for preschoolers to explore creativity while also working on important developmental skills. By gripping and manipulating the pinecone, children strengthen their hand muscles, which is essential for fine motor skills used in later tasks such as writing. Additionally, the natural texture of the pinecone offers a unique experience that allows children to experiment with different effects such as stamping, rolling, or pressing, to create interesting patterns and designs. This process encourages experimentation, critical thinking, and problem-solving as they figure out how to use the pinecone to achieve their artistic goals.

Get Into the Holiday Spirit with Christmas Accessories

To get into the holiday spirit! All ECD students are encouraged to wear their favorite Christmas accessories on Wednesday, December 18 and Thursday, December 19.

Early Childhood Christmas Concert is Friday, December 20

Don't miss this year's Early Childhood Division Christmas performance on Friday, December 20. The performance will begin at 11:15 a.m. and will take place in the gym. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our Preschool and Pre-K students to share their talents and what they have been learning in our music program with their family and friends. Children are asked to wear their Christmas best. This is a special event for the whole family!

Christmas Break is Around the Corner

School will be closed Monday, December 23 through Monday, January 6. School will resume on Tuesday, January 7.

Elementary Division



St. John's Caroling at Park Terrace!

On Tuesday, our Upper Elementary Student Council and our Elementary Children's Choir visited Park Terrace to sing carols to the residents! It was a beautiful experience to listen to our amazing singers bring joy to the residents. In addition to singing to a large group outside in their courtyard, we were then invited to sing to residents in both of their dining facilities. Our carolers left with their hearts full knowing that their act of kindness had brought smiles to so many people. Thank you to the carolers, Mrs. Chretin, and Ms. Naulls for being a part of this wonderful experience!

Monday, December 9: Parents Invited to Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony

Our next Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremony will be held immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Flag Ceremony this coming Monday, December 9.

- Families of students who are receiving a recognition award will be notified in advance. This is a great event, and all parents are encouraged to attend, if possible.
- If you do attend the ceremony, please park on the street or in the LDS parking lot. Please do not park in the St. John's parking lot, as this creates difficulties for our Early Childhood Division parents.

Elementary Christmas Concert is December 19

We're pleased to invite you to our K–5 Christmas concert on **Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m.** This event is a wonderful opportunity for our Elementary Division students to share their talents and what they have been learning in our music program with the entire school community. We are looking forward to a memorable and festive evening! [**Click here**](#) for details.

Middle Division



PALS Help our Youngest Candy Cane Lane Shoppers!

"Shopping for Christmas as a child can be difficult: keeping a secret, controlling your budget, and picking out the perfect present! Here at St. John's, we host Candy Cane Lane and PAL members are happy to help. We handle the challenging tasks that come with shopping while the child gets to enjoy a magical experience. We help them stay within their budget and support them in finding an appropriate gift for their friend or family member. Our task is fun and rewarding, and it's so great to be able to work with kids in the bright holiday season!"

- Amalie Maus & Kayla Wabs (PAL Members)

Spring Musical: *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* Informational Meeting

We are so excited to be putting on *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* as our Middle Division Spring Musical! Mr. Tiatia-Garaud, the director of the musical, will be hosting an informational meeting for parents and/or students on **Tuesday, December 10 at 3:15 p.m. in Room 23.** We look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting! Questions? Please contact **Mr. Tiatia-Garaud.**

Congratulations to Our Middle Division Student of the Week WINNERS!

Click on their names below to learn a little more about each of them.

8th grade: [Zackery Mulroy](#)
7th grade: [Caydence Bourke](#)
6th grade: [Kylie Sun](#)

Mark Your Calendars: Middle Division Christmas Concert is December 17

We are so excited to welcome Middle Division families to our Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 17. Mr. Roberts (Band), Ms. Naulls (Choir), Ms. Stebbins (Dance), and Mr. Tiatia-Garaud (Drama) are so proud to showcase what the students have been working on in their respective classes. The event is divided into two separate shows, occurring on the same night but at different times:

- If your child is in *Band or Choir*, your portion of the show will begin at 6:00 p.m.
- If your child is in *Dance or Drama*, your portion of the show will begin at 7:00 p.m. More information will be communicated by your child's Performing Arts teachers. We look forward to seeing everyone for a wonderful evening put on by our Middle Division Performing Arts students.

Eighth-Grade Parents: Important Drug-Awareness Meeting on Tuesday, January 7

We look forward to sharing important information on our drug-awareness program with all eighth-grade parents on Tuesday, January 7, at 8:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons. Our drug awareness student sessions will begin on Thursday, January 9. For more information, please click [here](#) to view the parent letter emailed home on Tuesday, December 3.

Seventh-Grade Parents: Washington, D.C. Field Studies Info Night is January 9

All current seventh-grade families are invited to join us on **Thursday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 25** of Sillers Hall to kick off the 2025 Washington, D.C. Field Studies trip. We will go over basic trip details including date, cost, and registration procedures. This informational meeting is for parents only. We hope to see you there!

Church

Pass the Pack: Christmas Donation Drive

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Save the Date! Christmas Pageant at St. John's Church

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 22, at 5:00 p.m.**, and get ready to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with joy and laughter! Our annual Christmas Pageant is a heartwarming and adorable retelling of the birth of Jesus, brought to life by the children of St. John's. ***All children are welcome to join the fun on stage the night of!*** This beloved tradition is sure to fill your heart with the spirit of the season. Bring your family, invite your friends, and join us for an evening of faith, fun, and festive cheer. We can't wait to see you there!