



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of January 9, 2025



Welcome back, Cardinals!

We loved seeing the faces of our smiling students returning to campus as they reconnected with friends and teachers after the holidays. It's these connections that foster the strength of our community and make St. John's the welcoming home that it is to so many.

We hope you will join us later this month at the State of the School on Thursday, January 23, for some important updates about St. John's.

[Click here](#) to RSVP.

All School

Fire Support

As a community who recently experienced the damaging effects of wildfires just yards from our doorsteps, we can more easily empathize and recognize the impact of the Los Angeles fires on its community and the people who make it. Beginning **tomorrow through Friday, January 17**, St. John's will be accepting lightly used clothing item donations for families displaced in the LA fires. So that we may more efficiently transport donated items, ***please limit to one bag of donations per family***. Items can be dropped off in the Front Office in the morning at drop-off or in the afternoon at pick-up. We invite you to use this opportunity to go through items with your child(ren) and have open conversations about the fires and ways we can keep ourselves safe and support others who may not be.

To Help You Plan: Important School Calendar Dates for 2025-26

We to share the 2025-26 academic calendar. [Click here](#) to access the full one-page calendar and start planning for the year ahead.

RSVP for State of the School: Thursday, January 23

We hope you will join us for State of the School on Thursday, January 23, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to submit a specific question that you would like for us to address at State of the School.

- This annual event will provide important school updates for the 2025-26 school year. Dinner and wine will be served, followed by a presentation. [Click here](#) to RSVP.
- While you're at State of the School, your kids are invited to join us for pizza, games, and fun! Please [click here](#) to RSVP for childcare to help us plan accordingly.

Kids Cardinella T-Shirt Contest is NOW OPEN!

Are you ready to show your school spirit? We're seeking designs for the 2025 **Kids Cardinella** T-Shirt that will be worn by all SJES students and faculty at Kids Cardinella on Thursday, February 20. All designs must be **submitted to Chrissy Hennings at by 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 16** to be considered. [Click here](#) to the view the T-Shirt contest flyer for more details. Let's see that Cardinal creativity shine! What is Kids Cardinella? [Click here](#) to find out more.

School Uniform Reminders

Sizing Reminders

As we head into the second half of the school year, please remember to replace uniform items that are becoming too small. Uniforms need to be size-appropriate, not form fitting, and midriffs must not show when arms are raised above the head. Skorts and dresses must come to at least the students' fingertips while their arms are resting naturally at their sides. Solid-colored black leggings, or bike shorts must be worn under all dresses. White polos are required to be tucked in on Mondays for All School Chapel.

Used Uniform Donations

Used uniforms and spirit wear that are no longer needed can be donated in the Student Store. Please note the following dates that pertain to Used Uniforms in the coming year.

- Dennis used uniforms will be available for sale in the Student Store until **January 31, 2025**.
 - If you think that your student may need a Dennis used uniform item to get you through the remainder of the school year, be sure to purchase it before January 31. Students are permitted to wear Dennis uniforms throughout the 2024-2025 school year.
- Beginning **February 1, 2025**, only Tommy Hilfiger *used* uniforms will be available.
- Dennis used uniform donations will be accepted until **January 15, 2025**. For more information, [click here](#) for a copy of the email that was sent in November. Questions? Please reach out to Student Store Manager, [Cheryl Boesch](#).

Save the Date: Grandparents & Special Friends Day is February 14

We hope our Grandparents and Special Friends will join us for a joyful morning of activities and fellowship on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. A detailed schedule and additional information will follow, along with a formal invitation to grandparents. In the meantime, please make sure to update your grandparent contact info on the [Parent Portal](#). To do this, follow these steps on the Parent Portal:

- Click the Update Your Information button
- Click Contacts for My Child
- Click +Add New
- Add their First and Last Name
- Add their best email address - this will help us make sure they receive the invite!
- Mark their relationship as Grandparent or Friend

Winter Athletics Game Schedule

Our Winter Athletics events have already begun! [**Click here**](#) to view the schedule for the season. Please keep in mind there are possible last minute changes. Stay informed by accessing the [**Athletics Calendar**](#) on the [**Parent Portal**](#). Go Cardinals!

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Monday, January 20

- *MLK Day: NO SCHOOL*

Thursday, January 23

- *State of the School: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to RSVP by January 16*

Wednesday, January 29

- *International Fair: 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.*

Friday, January 31

- *Daddy & Me Day: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.*

Elementary Division

Friday, January 10

- *Pep Rally: Wear Spirit Wear*

Monday, January 20

- *MLK Day: NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, January 21

- *Monday Flip Day*

Thursday, January 23

- *State of the School: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to RSVP by January 16*

Wednesday, January 29

- *International Fair: 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. in the Gym*

Middle Division

Thursday, January 9

- *Washington D.C. Field Studies Meeting for 7th Grade: 6:00 p.m. in Room 25, Sillers Hall.*

Friday, January 10

- *Pep Rally: Wear Spirit Wear*

Monday, January 20

- *MLK Day: NO SCHOOL*

Tuesday, January 21

- *Monday Flip Day*

Thursday, January 23

- *State of the School: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. [**Click here**](#) to RSVP by January 16*

Wednesday, January 29

- *International Fair: 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. in the Gym*

Early Childhood Division



Hands-On Professional Development

During a teacher in-service day earlier this week, Early Childhood teachers participated in professional development with The Child Creativity Lab focusing on creativity and open-ended learning through STEAM. During the session, teachers engaged in a hands-on activity where they built a bridge using loose parts. This experience allowed them to appreciate first-hand the benefits such activities offer young learners. Activities like these promote critical thinking, problem-solving, innovation, and much more, helping children develop essential skills in a playful and engaging way.

Save the Date: Daddy & Me Day

Mark your calendars! Daddy & Me Day will take place on Friday, January 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on the ECD Playground. We look forward to seeing you there.

Elementary Division



Celebrating Success in STEAM

Our 4th Graders are beaming with pride as they celebrate their success in creating 3D building models of our school's Johnson STEAM Center on their iPads! 🎉 In Exploring Engineering class with Dr. Li, these young innovators tackled their very first project of real-life building structure modeling, using their creativity and newly learned skills in this trimester. What an amazing accomplishment!

Rising Cardinals: Third and Fourth Grade Basketball

We are excited to invite our third and fourth 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. Our upcoming season will be basketball in the winter, followed by flag football in the spring. **The basketball program will begin on Tuesday, January 14.** Three weeks of basketball instruction will culminate in

a mini basketball tournament for all students in the Rising Cardinals program. Spaces are limited, so [click here](#) to sign up. Go Cardinals!

Middle Division



Simulation in History

Eighth-grade history students aren't too old to play with blocks! To simulate the challenges of the Articles of Confederation, students worked in groups to demonstrate how a weak central government created problems for the new country. This hands-on activity helped students understand why the U.S. needed a stronger central government, which ultimately led to the drafting of the Constitution.

Seventh Grade Parents: Washington, D.C. Field Studies Info Meeting is TONIGHT

All current seventh grade families are invited to join us **TONIGHT, 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!

JSerra Spelling Bee

On Wednesday, January 29, the 6th Grade class will attend the JSerra Catholic High School Spelling Bee to cheer on their fellow classmates who will be participating. Students will be leaving campus at 10:50 a.m. by bus and are scheduled to return to St. John's at about 2:30 p.m. The high school will be providing lunch that day for students, so please do not send your student with a lunch. **If you have Choice lunch ordered, please make sure to cancel it in well in advance.** If you have any questions, please contact **Beth Sarachman**.

Cardinal Carrier Wave News

Didn't catch our Middle Division Christmas Special? **Click here** to view our unlisted YouTube channel for last year's final broadcast of 2024. Watch till the end credits for bloopers!

Calling All 8th Grade Baby Photos

"Guess Who?" It has been a recent tradition to include a page in the yearbook of all our 8th grade graduates' baby photos. Students and families love trying to guess "who is who" in each of the pictures. Please **click here** for more information and contact **Mrs. Sarachman** with any questions.