



R. J. Vial Elementary School

Christina Mullins, Principal
Shannon Madden, Assistant Principal

Jaguar Journal 

January 2026

St. Charles Parish Public Schools

Issue 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2026, Jaguar Families!

Aloha and Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was filled with sunshine and that you had the chance to float along the currents of relaxation with family and friends. After a refreshing break, our Jaguars have resurfaced with a tidal wave of energy and enthusiasm, ready to make a splash as we dive back into the 2nd semester.

As we set sail into the waters of 2026, we are taking time to revisit our students' hopes and dreams. Some of our explorers have already reached the shores of their first-semester goals and are ready to chart brand-new courses. Others are still swimming steadily toward their original targets, while some are preparing to brave new waters and take on fresh challenges. I encourage you to remind your children that you have hopes and dreams of your own. As we swim into the third quarter, let's celebrate every milestone reached and encourage our students to keep paddling forward toward greatness.

The horizon is bright with upcoming events to celebrate our students' hard work. Our 2nd Quarter Award Celebrations will take place on Friday, January 16, 2026. If your student is receiving an award, they will bring home an invitation for you to join us on the island for the festivities.

Looking further ahead, please make sure to mark your calendars for our Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences on Thursday, February 5th, and Friday, February 6th. Please note that both of these days will be Early Dismissal days for students. These conferences are a vital opportunity for teachers, parents, and students to gather, discuss progress, and strengthen the tide of support between home and school.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making RJV a successful place to be!

Dream it - Believe it - Achieve it!

Christina Mullins
Principal

Follow us:  
Instagram @rjvialelementaryschool
Facebook @rjvialelementaryschool



Monday, January 12th
4H Club 3:50pm-5:00pm

Tuesday, January 13th
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Wednesday, January 14th
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Friday, January 16th
Q2 Awards (via invite)
9:00am—5th Grade
9:50am—4th Grade
10:40am—3rd Grade

Monday, January 19th
MLK DAY
I HAVE A DREAM
No School

Tuesday, January 20th
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Wednesday, January 21st
5th Grade Biztown Field Trip
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Thursday, January 22nd
Jaguar Buddies 3:50pm-5:00pm

Friday, January 23rd
3rd grade Artsperience @ LPAC

Monday, January 27th
LRobotics 3:50pm-5:00pm
District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm-8:00pm @ RJV

Tuesday, January 28th
Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm

Wednesday, January 29th
District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm-8:00pm @ Nicholls

Thursday, January 30th
District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal
9:30am-4:00pm @ Nicholls
5th Grade Artsperience @ LPAC

Friday, January 31st
District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal
9:00am-12:15pm @ LPAC
District VII Honor Choir Concert
12:30pm @ LPAC
Admission \$6.25 Credit or Debit only

Congratulations!

Amanda Shields



2025 - 2026

Teacher of the Year

R. J. Vial Elementary School

December Students of the Month

The R. J. Vial students of the month are chosen based upon qualities including character, leadership, and citizenship. Students of the month must demonstrate an effort to learn subjects to the best of his or her ability, be prepared for class, and participate in class. R. J. Vial students of the month demonstrate excellent behavior in and out of the classroom, are well-mannered, and are respectful to both peers and teachers.



5th Grade: Peydon Comardelle

4th Grade: Jacob Dufrene

3rd Grade: Joshua Matherne

Congratulations!

R.J. Vial Employee of the Month

Faculty and staff at R. J. Vial Elementary nominated Mrs. Cheryl Ponder for Employee of the Month!

Here are just some of the reasons she was nominated:

“Mrs. Ponder approaches every responsibility with dedication, readily implementing new strategies while fostering a transparent, supportive classroom that nurtures both academic and social-emotional growth. This is why Mrs. Ponder belongs here, and we are honored to work alongside her at R.J. Vial.”



Congratulations!

Congratulation RJV Jagbots!!

They competed in the HHS Qualifier where they won the Best Robot Design Award and qualified for the Louisiana State Robotic Competition!



VFW Post 3750 Teacher of the Year



Mrs. Tanya Diaz

Congratulations

D.A.R.E.
TEACHING STUDENTS DECISION MAKING
FOR SAFE & HEALTHY LIVING

Beginning this month, ALL 5th Grade students will be participating in the D.A.R.E. program.

D.A.R.E. IS SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION AND MUCH MORE!

D.A.R.E. was founded in 1983 and has proven so successful that it has been implemented in thousands of schools throughout the United States and many other countries.

D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence free lives.



ORDER YOUR 2025 - 2026

Yearbook



**THE R. J. VIAL 2025-2026 YEARBOOK
IS NOW ON SALE!
THE COST IS \$30.00.
WE ACCEPT CASH, A CHECK MADE
OUT TO R. J. VIAL ELEMENTARY, OR
YOU CAN PAY ONLINE:**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/RJVYEARBOOK](https://tinyurl.com/RJVYEARBOOK)



The R.J. Vial Bands are working hard preparing for our upcoming concert!



Jaguar CHOR

The Jaguar Choir is excited to begin 2026. We are working to refine our winter concert music to present to our friends and family on Monday, February 2 at the Lafon Center. We will also begin preparing new music for our upcoming performances at the Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA) Large Ensemble Festival and ArtsFest in March. We have a very busy season ahead of us!

The Jaguar Choir would also like to give a huge shout out to ten of our singing Jaguars for their acceptance into the LMEA District VII Honor Choir! Congratulations to Gabrielle Beaver, Kimberlei Chester, Elizabeth Fletcher, Autumn Ford, Breelynn Ortego, Olivia Oxford, Emalee Rawls, Marianna Stroup, Makiah Williams, and Massiah Williams. We know that they will represent us well.





ART NEWS



It is TIME for ArtsFest 2026! Each year approximately 20-25 students' artwork is selected to represent R. J. Vial Elementary School at our annual ArtsFest. St. Charles Parish Public Schools' ArtsFest takes place on March 14th at the Dr. Rodney R. Lafon Performing Arts Center (LPAC). It showcases visual art displays, choir and theatre performances, hands-on art and more, from all of our schools. If your student has any completed artwork that was taken home, but thinks it would be a worthy contender for display at the ArtsFest, please return it to school if you would like an opportunity for it to be at ArtsFest. If the artwork is chosen, a notification will be sent home with more information about its display at the LPAC. The artwork will be returned before the end of the school year. Thank you for your continued support of our students!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



In physical education class, all students will be focusing on aerobic exercises through a variety of different exercises and activities. Aerobic exercise is **cardiovascular exercise, or cardio, that gets your heart pumping**. During aerobic exercise, your blood pumps quickly throughout your body and your lungs take in more oxygen. The word aerobic means "with oxygen," meaning that your breathing determines the amount of oxygen that gets to your muscles.



3rd Grade

Welcome back and Happy New Year! This month, in ELA, students will read and explore two wonderful novels: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo and *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. As we read, students will analyze the friendships that develop throughout each story. They will explore how friendships begin, how characters change because of those relationships, and how friends help one another through challenges. Through class discussions, and written responses, students will practice using text evidence to explain how friendships impact the characters' actions and feelings. This unit helps strengthen comprehension skills while encouraging empathy and deeper thinking about relationships. Encouraging your child to read at home and talk about what they are reading will greatly support their learning. We are excited for a month full of meaningful stories and growing readers!



4TH GRADE

Fourth grade mathletes have been busy working on multiplication and division proficiency. In Science, our students learned how a windmill is able to transform motion energy into electrical energy. In the pictures, students are building working generators to light a LED.



5TH GRADE

Our 5th graders have been hard at work, diving into a variety of exciting new lessons! In English Language Arts, we've stepped through the wardrobe into Narnia as we begin reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Students are currently focusing on character analysis, specifically how different points of view help shape the story's narrative. Our Social Studies blocks are buzzing with energy as we start our BizTown lessons to prepare for our upcoming field trip. In Math, students are leveling up their skills as they begin to learn how to divide fractions. For Science, our young researchers are now investigating the fascinating ways that Earth's systems work together. To support this learning at home, please encourage your child to continue building their skills by reading Amira stories and completing their Zearn lessons.





4H



A Huge THANKS to everyone who contributed to our 4H Toy and Food Drive. Many families were blessed during this holiday season because of your generosity.



= School = Counselors



The start of a new year is a time for fresh beginnings, reflection, and growth. It can be exciting to think about what's ahead, while also taking a moment to slow down and reset. As we welcome the new year, here are a few reminders to support your child's well-being:

- **Start small with goals** – Simple, realistic goals help build confidence and motivation.
- **Create calm moments** – Deep breaths, quiet time, or short breaks can help children reset and focus.
- **Practice patience** – Learning and growing takes time; mistakes are part of the process.
- **Encourage reflection** – Talk about what went well and what your child is proud of from the past year.
- **Support healthy routines** – Consistent sleep, meals, and movement help children feel their best.
- **Focus on growth** – Emphasize effort, kindness, and progress rather than perfection.

We are excited to continue supporting our students and families in the year ahead and wish you a happy, healthy, and positive new year.

Warm regards,
Your School Counselors



You can request a counseling session for your student anytime by filling out the counselor request Google form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPOptidLJLkmfbNpjV2Fty8elx6LAjVgNn8ILLY4c5shI3jw/viewform?usp=sf_link

KINDNESS WEEK

FEB 9-13

Show your commitment to being a kind kid by dressing up according to each day's theme. Have fun with the daily themes, but be sure to adhere to District Dress Code Guidelines.



Let Kindness Shine- Wear sparkles, sequins, or a neon shirt with school uniform bottoms.



Team Kindness- Wear your favorite sports shirt and uniform bottoms to show that you are a good sport.



Cozy up with Kindness- Wear school appropriate pajamas.



Spread the Love -Wear your favorite Valentine's, hearts, red, or pink shirt with school appropriate bottoms.



RJV Kindness Krewe- Wear school appropriate jeans and a Mardi Gras shirt.



January 2026 Elementary Menus

St. Charles Parish Public Schools

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Menus are subject to change.

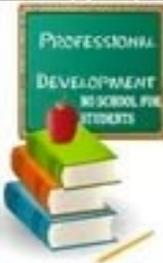


Every complete meal we serve comes with your choice of low fat or nonfat milk!

AVAILABLE DAILY

With all meals
Low Fat White Milk
Fat Free Flavored Milk

Cold Lunch Choice
Monday: Sunbutter Sandwich
Tuesday: Charley Box
Wednesday: Deli Sandwich
Thursday: Entrée Salad
Friday: Sunbutter Sandwich

Monday, January 5	Tuesday, January 6	Wednesday, January 7	Thursday, January 8	Friday, January 9
 <p>Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Jambalaya Broccoli Florets Steamed Carrots WW Roll Pineapple Tidbits</p>	<p>Breakfast French Toast Sticks Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Chili, Fritos Garden Salad Steamed Corn Banana Cake or Crisp</p>	<p>Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Fish Nuggets Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Cucumber & Tomato Salad Pears</p>	<p>Breakfast Egg Bites Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Hamburger/Cheeseburger Crinkle Cut Fries Lettuce/Tomato/Pickle Baked Beans Orange Wedges</p>	
Monday, January 12	Tuesday, January 13	Wednesday, January 14	Thursday, January 15	Friday, January 16
<p>Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Chicken Tenders Waffles Broccoli Steamed Carrots Sliced Peaches</p>	<p>Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Orange Chicken Fried Rice Asian Chopped Salad Edamame Beans Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>Breakfast Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Spaghetti & Meatsauce Italian Salad Pears Garlic Bread Banana</p>	<p>Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Turkey & Sausage Gumbo Steamed Rice Potato Salad Cucumber/Tomato Salad Pineapple Tidbits</p>	<p>Breakfast Scone Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Mini Corn Dogs Tater Tots Carrots w/Ranch Orange Wedges Jello w/Topping</p>

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia.

He was a civil rights activist in the 1950s and 1960s. He believed that all people were created equal, regardless of the color of their skin.

He was a pastor and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

He delivered the "I Have a Dream" speech at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.



Monday, January 19	Tuesday, January 20	Wednesday, January 21	Thursday, January 22	Friday, January 23
 <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School</p>	<p>Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Sweet & Sour Meatballs Loaded Mashed Potatoes Steamed Corn Dinner Roll Apple Wedges</p>	<p>Breakfast French Toast Sticks Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Potato Soup Biscuit Garden Salad Banana Brownie</p>	<p>Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Turkey Stew Steamed Rice Carrot Soufflé Steamed Cabbage Strawberry Cup</p>	<p>Breakfast Waffle Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Chicken Filet Sandwich Crinkle Cut Fries Lettuce/Tomato/Pickle Fresh Orange Wedges</p>

Monday, January 26	Tuesday, January 27	Wednesday, January 28	Thursday, January 29	Friday, January 30
<p>Breakfast Grits w/Sausage Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Red Beans w/Steamed Rice Steamed Carrots Seasoned Mustard Greens Cornbread Peaches</p>	<p>Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Nachos Steamed Corn Refried Beans Taco Salad Cup Apple Wedges</p>	<p>Breakfast Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli Florets Dinner Roll Banana</p>	<p>Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>LUNCH: NEW YEAR Sweet & Sour Chicken Fried Rice Edamame Beans Asian Chopped Salad Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>Breakfast Donut Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice</p> <p>Lunch Fresh Hot Pizza Marinara Sauce Garden Salad Orange Wedges Cookie</p>



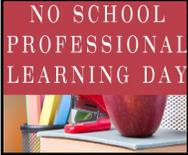
Weekly Celebrations

New Year's Resolutions Week | Jan. 1-7
National Pizza Week | Jan. 11-17
Universal Letter Writing Week | Jan. 11-17

Monthly Celebrations

International Creativity Month
National Oatmeal Month
National Thank You Month
National Soup Month
Apple and Apricot Month
Self-Love Month

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Happy New Year!			1	2	3
4	5 	6  Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm 	7 Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm 	8	9  Quarter 2 Jaguar Fest	10
11	12  4H Club 3:50pm-5:00pm	13 Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm 	14 Robotic 3:50pm-5:00pm 	15	16  Q2 Award Celebrations (Via Invite) 9:00am—5th grade 9:50am—4th grade 10:40am—3rd grade	17
18	19  No School	20 Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm 	21 5th Grade Biztown Fieldtrip Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm 	22  Jaguar Buddies 3:50pm-5:00pm	23  3rd Grade Artsperience	24
26	27  Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm-800pm @ RJV	28 Robotics 3:50pm-5:00pm 	29 District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm-800pm @ Nicholls 	30  5th Grade Artsperience District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal 9:30am-4:00pm @ Nicholls 	31 District VII Honor Choir Rehearsal 9:00am-12:15pm @ LPAC  District VII Honor Choir Concert 12:30pm @ LPAC	



50 Years in Paradis(e)!

