



News and Views from Mr. Schmit

Greetings!

What a week. Our staff and students continue to amaze me as we make our way through this academic year.

Over the last several weeks I have had the awesome opportunity to compile a vast amount of documentation into a comprehensive accreditation report. The faculty and staff helped to provide the evidence for the MANS Accreditation Report that will be utilized for an upcoming virtual accreditation visit scheduled for January 19-20, 2021. Because of this process I was not able to be present in the classrooms, lunchroom and on the playground like normal. I should be able to finalize the documentation shortly and be completed with this part of the accreditation review process.

This effort has been extremely enlightening for me as I have been able to dig into the inner workings and processes of the school. The next five year accreditation cycle will involve a greater representation of the school community as we will form a School Improvement Team which will call for a laser focus on continual improvement. I am excited for the future of our school and will be sharing "what's next" for our community after the upcoming visitation.

Here's a brief rundown on our 70th day of in-person learning:

- The faculty, staff, and students have done an excellent job creating a festive atmosphere. We will continue these efforts throughout next week as we will keep things festive with a "Christmas Spirit Week!"
- We are looking forward to recording the Christmas program over in the Church on Tuesday (and Wednesday morning for preschool). Each class will go over individually and be spread out throughout the Sanctuary (the front of the church) to ensure proper social distancing as each grade's performance is recorded. I do not have a scheduled date for when the project will be ready for viewing because some editing and production will have to take place prior to sending out the link.
- Since early last week, we now have Medify Air purifiers in each room throughout the school, including the office, the conference room, the library, and the cafeteria.
- I am blown away by the generosity shown towards the Giving Tree/Merry Mail project. Thank you to all who have contributed.
- Thank you to Barb Walstrom and the St. John Education Foundation for organizing the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The lights on the Rybicki tree are bringing joy to our families each morning.
- Come join us for the Third Sunday of Advent Mass this weekend. We will continue with the three options for participating in our Eucharistic celebrations: In the church, in the Activity Center, or in your car. Our mass times are Saturday at 5PM, Sunday at 830AM, 10AM, and 1130AM.
- Friday, December 18 is A HALF-DAY. NO PM JETS CLUB.

I hope and pray that you have a restful week so we can come back for an awesome last week before Christmas break!

God bless,

Andrew Schmit

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. 1 Thes 5: 24
-25

PARENT CALENDAR



December

- Sat 12 **Happy Birthday Father Ryan!**
- Sun 13 **Happy Birthday Mrs. Davidson!**
- Sun 13 Last Chance to place Scrip Orders (does not include ScripNow ecards)
- Mon 14 **Christmas Spiritweek Begins!**
- Fri 18 **Half-Day—Christmas Break Begins at 11:30 Dismissal**
- Thurs 24 **Happy Birthday Mrs. Farella**
- Fri 25 **Merry Christmas!**
- Sat 26 **Happy Birthday Mrs. Marinelli!**



January

- Mon 4 **Classes Resume**

On Tuesday, December 15th, all students in grades K-8 should wear their Christmas best to school. We will be recording our Christmas music program that day. (Grade levels will be recorded individually).

****Preschool will be recorded on a different day to accommodate MWF only students. Please look for instructions from your preschool teacher regarding changes to preschool spirit days.**

COLD WEATHER REMINDER



Colder weather is upon us!! Please be sure students come to school everyday prepared to go outside. Our policy is to have outside recess everyday as long as temperatures are 10 degrees or above (factoring in the wind chill). Please be sure your children bring warm coats, hats, and gloves.

It is also a good idea to label all items. Our lost and found always starts to grow at this time of year.

Do you need prayer?

We'd like to pray for your intentions through the intercession of St. Nicholas beginning the first weekend of Advent (November 28) through Christmas Day. Drop them into the contribution boxes located in the Church or in the red mailbox in the school vestibule. We recommend that you place them in a sealed envelope marked 'To: St. Nicholas.' You can sign your name or leave it anonymous. Every week throughout Advent we will collect the letters, gather as a staff, and pray specifically for these requests through the intercession of St. Nicholas.



Christmas Spiritweek

December 14-18



Monday

A Long Winter's Nap

Come to school in your PJs.

Tuesday

Deck the Halls

Dress in your Christmas best for the recording of our Christmas music program.

Wednesday

Family Picture Day

Wear your flannels or Ugly Christmas sweaters.

Thursday

Santa's Workshop

Break out all those Christmas accessories, socks, light up necklaces, etc. and let us see how festive you can be. Dress as your favorite Christmas character from the North Pole. Be creative! Accessorize with elf hats, reindeer antlers, or decorate yourself as a Christmas Tree.

Friday

Christmas Spiritwear Day

Wear your choice of Christmas Spiritwear.



IMPORTANT AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

Greetings parents and continued supporters of St John the Evangelist –

Each day we are so thankful to send our children to school during these times of uncertainty. We are very aware that THIS year is different for so many reasons. We are also mindful that now, more than ever, our school depends on your generosity and support to sustain success and maintain the additional expense introduced by the current state of our reality. THANK YOU for your unwavering dedication to our students, staff and administration year after year. We call upon you again this year as we prepare for our biggest annual fund raiser. We are extremely excited to share with you that (*in order to anticipate any state regulations and adhere to any potential restrictions*) we will host this year's auction in the SPRING of 2021!! **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021!!!** It may look a little different this year, but THE SHOW MUST GO ON!! Stay tuned for many surprises! We know this year's auction is going to be AWESOME!!!

Planning has begun for Auction 2021 so NOW is your chance to JOIN OUR TEAM. To volunteer for the auction committee, please contact **Kelly Ahn (PSA Auction Chair) at 313.300.8841 or kahn@stout.com**. Assistance in ALL areas is needed!!! Acquisitions, Corporate Sponsorships, IT, Marketing, Social Media, Decorations, Entertainment, Distribution, Set-Up, Clean-Up, etc. Please let us know how you would like to be a part of this great event!! For those of you who are homeroom parents, please stick with the discussed deadline of January 20th to **turn in** completed projects. (If you haven't given your project idea to Michelle Pagnani, please turn that in RIGHT away!!) Because we don't know what our future holds, we'd like to be prepared with those completed class projects so the sooner they are done the better! And if you are interested NOW in being an Auction Sponsor, donating items or services or have any questions at all about this beneficial opportunity for SJS please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for making St. John the BEST it can be and joining us for AUCTION 2021!!
Kelly Ahn & SJS PSA

Dear Friends and families,

The PSA would like to offer our sincere thanks for your support of the 2019/2020 St. John School AUCTION. Your attendance, purchases and contributions helped us to raise much needed funds to support the students of St. John School. The funds raised at last years auction went directly towards programs, experiences and materials necessary to assure a full, quality education for each one of our students.

Now planning is underway for the 2020/2021 school AUCTION. We know times are tough and challenging right now. We are so very thankful that our children are in school! Our kids are growing, thriving and learning in person. While many schools are closed and only offering remote learning our SJS staff is working hard to make an impact and they are succeeding. They are going above and beyond. The SJS staff is dedicated to providing a quality academic and spiritual education for your students. We are so blessed to have this advantage!

One of the elements of our school that we are most proud of is our partnership with our families and community. This active and dynamic relationship is an essential piece to our continued success. On behalf of the students, staff and families of St. John School, thank you for your ongoing support. We couldn't do it without you!

How can we give back? How can we show the staff at SJS how grateful we are? One way it to support the AUCTION [on May 22nd, 2021](#). You can donate to, volunteer for and/or sponsor this years auction!!

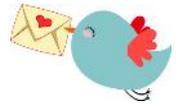
Thank you to our 2020 sponsors listed below! We are truly thankful for your overwhelming support. If you would like to sponsor the upcoming 2021 auction or if you have ideas/suggestions for sponsorships please let me know.

Michelle Pagnani: [810-845-8414](tel:810-845-8414) or michellepagnani@yahoo.com

Thank you to our sponsors!



ON A PERSONAL NOTE



Thank you:

- To Mary Gadany for decorating our Christmas Tree in the lobby.
- To the St. John Education Foundation for organizing the beautiful tree-lighting ceremony. We love seeing the tree lit up each morning!



MERRY MAIL

We had a record breaking year for Merry Mail. Send in your last minute letters for delivery on Monday. Stay tuned next week for a recap of the generosity of our SJS community.

HAPPY MERRY MAIL!

Building Foundations of Faith

As Catholic parents, we are called to provide moral education and spiritual growth for our children. What better example than to learn and grow in faith yourself? Visit this Jet Gazette feature weekly for thoughts, articles, and tips to strengthen and deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith.

Are you overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of the season? To quiet your mind, read "[How Mary Invites Us Into Silent Contemplation This Advent Season.](#)"

Today's #microchallenge from bustedhalo.com



To stay up to date with parish events, here is a link to the weekly parish bulletin: <https://stjohnfenton.org/bulletins>



Staff Spotlight

What is your favorite Christmas cookie?



Mrs. Salerno: My favorite Christmas cookie is my grandma's thumb print cookie with a cherry in the center.

Mrs. Farella: My all time favorite Christmas cookie is Grandma's soft Gingerbread boys. It is a family recipe that has been passed down for many generations. Our family gets together to bake them every year!!

Ms. Bade: Sugar cookies with frosting and sprinkles!!!!

Mrs. Anderson: Peanut Butter balls!!

Ms. Adams: Homemade sugar cookies!

Mrs. Whitney: Ooey Gooey Red Velvet Cookies

Mrs. Salzano: Grandma Ruth's sugar cookies with frosting

Mrs. Roche: Peanut Butter Kiss cookies

Mrs. Ratke: A soft frosted sugar cookie decorated for Christmas

Mr. Garbutt: Sugar cookies, with lots of icing. A perfect complement to coffee in the morning.

Mrs. Dawes: Cut out sugar cookies made with cream cheese

Mr. Moore: Gingerbread and ginger snaps have always been my favorite.

Mrs. Wright: I love decorated sugar cookies and Russian tea cakes. One delicious Christmas treat I haven't had in a long time that my grandma used to make is Divinity. Maybe I will make some this year!

Ms. Jennings: Coming from my Polish heritage, I love Polish Angel Wings. (Chrusciki)

Mrs. Minnick: Gingerbread

Mrs. Marinelli: Peanut butter with the Hershey kiss

Mrs. Roberts: My favorite Christmas cookie is a Russian tea cake!

Mrs. Haiss: I love Haystack cookies!

Mr. Schmit: My favorite Christmas Cookie is eating "tollhouse cookie dough as fast as we can."

Mrs. Adams: Peanut butter kisses

