



St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

Jet Gazette Newsletter

November 19, 2021

News and Views from Mr. Schmit

Greetings,

I can honestly say that I'm happy this week is finally over. We had it all this week from Thanksgiving Feast to 7th/8th Powderpuff to a Eucharistic Procession, middle school volleyball to Covid to, oh yeah, learning. So many things have happened with so many things up and coming as the calendar will soon be turning to December. Let's jump into the Friday before Thanksgiving rundown:

- The Youth Choir will be singing at the 5PM Mass tomorrow evening. Come join us in prayer and worship as we praise Christ our King.
- The Education Foundation Tree Lighting ceremony will be on Wednesday evening, December 1, out in front of the school.
- The annual Christmas program will be held during the school day on Tuesday, December 14 in the church. The Preschool-3rd Grade will be performing at 10AM and the 4th-8th Grades will be performing at 2PM. Parents and Grandparents, please come to see/hear these live and in-person performances.
- The middle school classes are still putting the final details together on an outdoor "Journey to Bethlehem" experience that is scheduled for Thursday, December 16 starting at 5pm. More information will be coming after our Thanksgiving Break.
- The fundraising for our St. John playground addition project is well underway. We are hoping that an addition to our existing playground will be able to happen prior to August 2022 by adding additional features that all of our students can enjoy, utilizing the grass/dirt area that exists within the current fenced in playground. If you are interested in donating or want more information please contact the main office.

I know some of you are reading the weekly JG based on some conversations this week so I will continue my mini-lessons from "Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World." As I continue through the second chapter, Dr. Borba emphasizes the importance of perspective taking and learning how to walk in another's shoes. She calls the ability to understand another's thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs, "the gateway to empathy." This essential habit "is an important part of instilling a deep, caring connection with others...that children need for every part of life-from handling playground disputes today to mastering boardroom debates tomorrow." (Borba 49-50) This quote jumps off the page for me because it is necessary for us as parents to teach our children conflict resolution, equipping them with tools to handle situations as they arise. There is a tendency as parents to handle all of those conflicts for our children. However, as we learned a couple lessons ago, handling everything for our children, essentially bulldozing the way for them, leads to raising entitled kids. Entitled kids lack empathy.

SJS parent community, despite the negativity and the noise that surrounds us from whatever is going on in our lives I'm thankful we continue to have beautiful examples each week of empathy and compassion in our school. One of our homerooms made a "thank you" sign for all of our parent lunch volunteers for students to sign. In another classroom, one student was upset about something so another student went over and gave the emotional student a hug. The other day during morning drop off a young student was walking into school and his water bottle fell to the ground but he kept walking. An unprompted middle school student sprinted to pick up the bottle and give it to the owner. One early elementary class has developed a culture of care and compassion and each morning, when they figure out who is missing, the students say a prayer for their absent friends. Finally, I just witnessed a middle school homeroom where students were in small groups interacting in a positive and encouraging way while engaged in a unit review activity. I have to say that this last example brought a smile to my face. All of these examples give me hope for the future. Let's continue working together to bring up disciples of Jesus who are caring and compassionate for others.

Have a blessed weekend!

Andrew Schmit
Principal

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER



Saturday	20	Happy Birthday Mr. Garbutt!
Monday	22	SJS Spiritwear Day
Tuesday	23	Out of Uniform Day
Wednesday	24	No School-Thanksgiving Break Begins
Thursday	25	Happy Thanksgiving
Thursday	25	Happy Birthday Mrs. Wright!
Sunday	28	Advent Begins



DECEMBER

Wednesday	1	Tree Lighting Ceremony-6 PM
Thursday	2	Merry Mail Begins
Saturday	4	Happy Birthday Mrs. Dawes!
Wednesday	8	Santa Shop Begins
Friday	10	Happy Birthday Mrs. Ratke!
Monday	13	Happy Birthday Mrs. Davidson!

Merry Mail

December 2nd-December 8th

Starting December 2nd, St. John School will have our very own post office staffed by the 3rd grade classes. This is an opportunity for students, parents, and staff to send KIND letters, cards, and messages to each other. All money collected will be used to support the St. John Parish Giving Tree. Last year, our school was able to donate over 30 gifts to the Giving Tree from your generous donations.

Stamps will be sold for any donation amount. Letters will be delivered to classrooms each day. Letters mailed after 12 PM may be delivered the following day.



We encourage families to send in letters to be delivered to their children. Everyone loves to receive a personal handwritten note! Please feel free to send your letter and your donation for stamps to the office and we will be sure to get it to the post office in time! We will also have a drop off box in the morning loop line.

Please address letters like this:

Student Name
Teacher
Grade level

Attendance

Due to some questions we have received recently, here are a few attendance clarifications.

- Whenever a student is marked absent, our student database (Powerschool) sends an automatic notification to parents via email. You will receive this notification even if you have informed the office in advance that your child will be absent for any reason. It is the way the system is programmed.
- If a student is quarantined because of a Covid exposure, the student will be marked absent even if the student is attending virtually through Zoom. This helps us keep track of who is in the building in an emergency situation. We keep separate records regarding absences due to quarantine that we will put in a student's file if necessary. **The exception to this is if an entire homeroom/grade level is moved to virtual learning. In this situation, we would know that an entire grade/homeroom is out of the building in an emergency. If an entire grade/homeroom is moved to a virtual learning situation, students would only be marked absent if they do not attend the Zoom meeting.**
- Please continue to call or email the office if your child will be absent. If you are emailing the teacher, please include Mrs. Haiss on the email (ahaiss@sjseducation.com). We still spend a significant amount of time each day trying to contact families of absent students.

Menu Change

Due to supply chain issues, the lunch menu has changed for Monday. Unfortunately, we cannot get mini pancakes or mini waffles because they are out of stock. The choices for Monday's lunch are:

Maple Belgian Waffle w/Sausage, Cheese Pizza, or WOW Butter Sandwich

Thank you for understanding!

Wrapping Paper Donations



The PSA is collecting wrapping paper for this year's Santa Shop. Feel free to drop off donations in the school office or send in with your student. All size rolls of paper are need. Donations will be collected until December 3rd. Thank you from the North Pole!

Spiritwear

We will be debuting even more new styles before Christmas so stay tuned. Spiritwear will make great gifts so check out our online Spiritwear shop [here](#) if you haven't had the chance.

Annual Food Drive

Next week, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our local St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. This will help them tremendously in stocking their shelves to provide items for the monthly food boxes that are donated to those in need.



Please feel free to donate any non-perishable items, especially those from the list provided below. Students can place donated items in the boxes outside their classroom. We will collect items until Tuesday, November 23rd.

Suggested Items

Boxed Cereal
Macaroni and Cheese
Tuna Fish
Spaghetti or Elbow Macaroni noodles
Instant Potatoes
Pancake Mix
Hamburger Helper
Tomato Sauce/Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Beef Stew/Chili/Baked Beans
Cake Mix
Jello or Pudding Mixes
Vegetable Oil
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Shampoo and Conditioner

Amazon Smile

This holiday season, when you are shopping black Friday deals on [Amazon](#) or purchasing last-minute gifts using your Amazon Prime account, be sure to shop on smile.amazon.com to support St. John Parish and School.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. John School every time you shop, at no cost to you. Upon your first visit to smile.amazon.com, select St. John Parish and then begin shopping. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Happy Holidays and happy shopping! Thank you for supporting SJS! Your commitment to the betterment of the parish and school is appreciated!



Athletics Update

Boys Basketball

7th/8th Grade Boys Clinic tomorrow will be from 11 to 12:30 PM.

Sports conditioning clinics for boys in 5th/6th Grade interested in playing will start after Thanksgiving. More details coming soon.



Volleyball

St. John Green and Gold Teams

Sat 11/20	9 AM Start at Powers
Tues 11/23	5 PM Start at St. John
Wed 12/1	5 PM Start at St. John
Sat 12/4	9 AM Start at Powers



Jr. Jets Sports Clinic Information Coming Soon!

PSA AUCTION NEWS

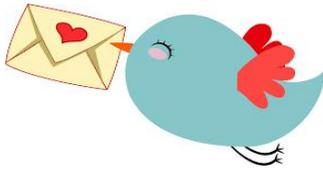
The Big Game

Be sure to save the date for our PSA Auction to be held on February 5, 2022.



Log Your Volunteer Hours

To log your volunteer hours, go to our school website and click on the "Good Stewards" tab. Then, you can click on "Submit Parent Volunteer Hours." If you have questions, about how to log hours, please contact the office.



ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

Prayers:

- For Josh and Penny Hamp's grandfather, Dennis Cole, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Gabriela Lesneski who is recovering from an illness.

Thank You:

- To Deacon Larry for leading our Eucharistic Procession this morning.
- Freeman Tucker for leading us in song during our Eucharistic Procession this morning.



Building Foundations of Faith

Today's #microchallenge from bustedhalo.com



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



7/8th Grade Powderpuff



Staff Spotlight

Ms. Jennings

Library and Early Childhood Aide

How long have you worked in education? 32 years **How about at SJS?** 14 years

What is your alma mater? Rollins College

What is your favorite thing about working in a Catholic school? I enjoy working in a Catholic school because I can freely spread the Good News of Jesus.

Tell us about your family: I have twin girls that are 23 years old. They live in Florida. I have a son in 12th grade at Powers Catholic HS. They all went to SJS and Powers.

Do you have any pets? Yes, Eugene, the stray cat.

What are your favorite hobbies? Traveling, Museums, Drawing

What are your favorite foods? Pasta, seafood, and pizza

What is one thing you will NOT eat? Licorice

If you could go anywhere on vacation, where would you go? Bora Bora (French Polynesian Island). I would stay at the Le Meridien Resort.

What are your favorite books to read with students? Owl Moon, 95 Pounds of Hope

What is your favorite movie? All of the Star Wars movies

What is one of your favorite Bible stories? Exodus 2-1, the Birth of Moses

What is one of your favorite family Thanksgiving traditions? We have turkey shaped butter at the table. We have driven miles to make sure it is on the table every year.

What is your MUST HAVE Thanksgiving dish? Liver pate

What is something that you are extra thankful for this year? I am extra thankful for my parents' health.

This or that? THANKSGIVING EDITION

Watch Football or Watch the Parade

Stuffing or Mashed Potatoes

Watch Movies or Play Games

Apple Pie or Pumpkin Pie

Dress Up or Comfy Clothes

