



# The Wildcat Wire

St. John Regional Catholic School  
Weekly Newsletter

November 19, 2021



## Here's the Scoop

Dear Parents,

In an email from Mr. Jim Sellinger, Chancellor of AOB, and Dr. Donna Hargens, Superintendent of AOB, to principals, they stated, "We recognize that this has been a challenging year and we appreciate the herculean efforts of you and your team. Chancellor Sellinger and I would like to give you three additional four-hour days. We are grateful to our AOB educators for having a passion for Catholic education and a tireless commitment to our students and families."

As a result of this thoughtful notification, we will add three early dismissal days to our school calendar:

- Friday, December 10
- Friday, January 28
- Friday, March 4

With regret, we are sharing that Mr. Saiani will be leaving SJRCS due to family health concerns. His last day will be Wednesday, January 5. He, along with his family, will be locating back to his home area of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. We thank Mr. Saiani for his dedication to the SJRCS community and wish him the best in his next adventure.

*Dr. Annette Jones*  
Principal

*Mrs. Kimberly Hanner*  
Assistant Principal



## Key Dates

### November

**23 Tuesday:** T-1 Ends  
**24-26 Wednesday-Friday:** **No School; Thanksgiving Break**

### December

<b>1 Wednesday:</b>	HSPT Testing, Grade 8
<b>3 Friday:</b>	Progress Reports
<b>6 Monday:</b>	Story Time Tots: St. Nicholas– (8:30am) <b>Date Change * In person: Kate's Kids Rm *</b>
<b>7 Tuesday:</b>	Christmas Program, Grades <b>Cancelled</b>
<b>8 Wednesday:</b>	Mass of the Immaculate Conception (10 am)
<b>9 Thursday:</b>	Christmas Program: PK3, PK4, Kindergarten <b>Cancelled</b>
<b>14 Tuesday:</b>	Christmas Program, Grades- <b>Cancelled</b>

**16 Thursday:** All School Mass  
**20 Monday:** **Christmas Parties:**

- PK3 & PK4 (10:15-11:15 AM)
- Kindergarten & Grades 1-8 (1:30-2:30PM)

**21 Tuesday:** **Noon Dismissal**  
**22- Jan. 2:** **No School; Christmas Break**

## **New Administrative Items**

**Photos** - Individual photos will be arriving sometime after the Thanksgiving break.

## **Reminders**

Following is a link for information regarding vaccines for children and booster shots. [COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

### **Reminder:**

For appointments, parents may park in the circle in front of the school until 2:30 pm. Please come in the building to sign out your child. After 2:30, please wait for your child in the regular dismissal lines.

**COVID Vaccine Clinic Information** - Following is a link for information regarding vaccines for children and booster shots. [COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



### **Thanksgiving Feast**

**Today is the last day to sign up for our 6th Annual Thanksgiving Feast!** Lunches can be pre-ordered for lunch on Tuesday, Nov 23. Don't miss out on this tasty tradition! You can find the online order form in the My School Bucks School Store at <http://www.myschoolbucks.com> or follow the link on the SJRCS website.

### **COVID Vaccine Clinic Information**

Following is a link for information regarding vaccines for children and booster shots. [COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

### **Morning Drop Off**

Please be courteous, slow down, and follow the flow of the traffic. Please do not cut in the line ahead of the other parents patiently waiting in stadium parking to proceed up to the designated drop off areas.

- Upper Lot (Grades 5-8) Please use the entire circle during morning drop off. Please note: in the shaded area 10 cars can fit in the circle to unload students (see image below). Students will exit vehicles proceeding along the designated sidewalk to the front doors.



### Afternoon Pick Ups

Please be aware that Pre-K cars are instructed to drive through the Lower Lot (Grades K-4 lot) before 2:35 to pick up the Pre-K students at the primary doors. Pre-School dismissal is staggered and begins at 2:30 and 2:35. Please keep a watchful eye on the cars and pedestrians proceeding through this area. For everyone's safety, no traffic should be proceeding through the highlighted area in the photo below after 2:45.



- Additionally, for the safety of the students during afternoon pickup, siblings and students should not be running or playing around in the grassy area, between cars, or in the cemetery (wooded area).

### Cafeteria Reminders

- Please remember online lunch orders are due on Sunday evening for the following week.. [Order Lunch for November](#). [We encourage families to use the online ordering system in My School Bucks store](#). Thank you for your cooperation and support!
- Please bring water bottles and morning snacks from home. Students are not permitted to go to the cafeteria to purchase these items every day. Please note, SJRCS has water refilling stations. Students are permitted to carry clear water bottles each day.
- Reminder, SJRCS is a peanut-free nut-free school. Lunches and snacks must remain nut free.
- Students, staff, teachers, and parents miss having the opportunity to eat lunch in the Cafeteria. Starting on December 1st, on a trial basis between Thanksgiving and Christmas one grade level at each lunch shift will return to the cafeteria to eat lunch with an opportunity to purchase a la carte items and snacks. Based on feedback this plan could continue into the new year and be modified based on COVID guidelines as necessary. The students will be spaced out accordingly at tables (6 students per table), as well as assigned seating to comply with guidelines and assist with contact tracing if necessary. Students will be required to wear their masks when getting up from their table in

the cafeteria for any reason. Students must sanitize their hands before accessing the snack table and upon entering the kitchen.

- Parent volunteers will be requested to assist with the snack table and disinfecting tables between grade levels. We will accept cash or on-account purchases at the snack table as well as a la carte. Parents will need to instruct their children what is and is not permitted for them to purchase at the snack table...volunteers and staff are not able to restrict purchases.

December Lunch Schedule for Grade Levels to Cafeteria				
November 29th Return from Break	November 30 None Due to Band	December 1st Grades 1, 3, 5, 7	December 2nd Grades 2, 4, 6, 8	December 3rd Grades 1, 3, 5, 7
December 6th Grades K, 2, 4, 6, 8	December 7th None Due to Band	December 8th Grades 2, 4, 6, 8	December 9th Grades 1, 3, 5,7	December 10th Grades 2, 4, 6, 8
December 13th Grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7	December 14th Grades 2, 4, 6, 8	December 15th Grades 1, 3,5,7	December 16th Grades 2, 4, 6, 8	December 17th Grades 1, 3, 5, 7

### PowerSchool

- It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of Trimester 1 marking period! If you have Parent Access to PowerSchool, please make ensure that you check your child’s grades for this trimester. If you do not have Parent Access, a “hard copy” of your child’s grades were sent home with them today.
- Nov 29 (Mon) - Deadline for all student’s late work
- Dec 3 (Fri) - Report Cards sent home with students

### 8th Grade Families

Considering Catholic High School? The AOB High School Guide can be found on their website at: <https://www.archbalt.org/schools/our-schools/high-school-admissions/> Mark your calendars as the deadline for AOB High School Applications is December 17th.

Is your 8th grade planning on taking the Catholic High School Entrance Test on December 1st? Registration for the Catholic High School Entrance Test on December 1st at SJRCS is open until November 29th. Follow this link to register: <https://stsusers.com/stsusers/registration/static/baltimore.php> All AOB 8th grade students will be taking the exam at their home school. All 8th Grade students registered for the test will take the exam at SJRCS the morning of December 1st in the cafeteria/gym. When registering on the AOB website, please scroll to the bottom of the page to select St John Regional. Frequently asked questions regarding the HSPT can be found here: <https://www.archbalt.org/schools/our-schools/high-school-placement-test/>

### Uniforms

The full dress code can be viewed at the following link [Uniform Policy](#).

### Face Mask Reminder

Each student should have two spare face masks in their backpack at all times.

This is a reminder that cloth face coverings should be:

- solid-colored or printed made with at least 2 layers of breathable material
- fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face (cover nose, mouth, and secure under the chin)
- masks with inappropriate or political messages or innuendos are not permitted
- neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas, and containing valves, mesh material, or holes of any kind are not acceptable.

## MEET OUR STAFF

Over the course of the next few months we hope to give you an overview of our teachers and staff. It's always nice to put a name with a face.

This week we would like for you to meet our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team: Mrs. Bridget McNamara, Mrs. Sadie Homick, Ms. Sarah Kubic and Mrs. Alyssa Eichelberger. We are blessed to have such an energetic and dedicated 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team!

Mrs. McNamara has been teaching, full time for 38 years. She says it has been a gift to be part of each child's education. She has been at SJRCS for just 2 of those years, and says these two years have been just wonderful.

Mrs. McNamara has two grown children, and 3 grandchildren. Something you may not know about Mrs. McNamara is she used to race sailboats on the Chesapeake Bay, the Patuxent River, and the St. Mary's River, along with rowing, crabbing and shark's teeth hunting.

She has a huge family, sees them often, and loves to be outside hiking, inside baking, crafting or reading. Ahh.....life is good!

**Mrs. Sadie Homick** has been teaching elementary students for 3 years. After graduating from Mount St. Mary's University she started her teaching career in MCPS in the second grade. Her first experience at SJRCS was as a student intern in 5th grade in the fall of 2018. When she moved to Frederick in 2020 she remembered her wonderful time at SJRCS and returned as a Kindergarten teacher in Fall of 2020. This school year she is teaching our second grade Wildcats.

Mr. Homick was married in May 2020 and then had her daughter Penelope in March 2021. In her free time, she enjoys going on walks with her family and chasing around her 8-month old daughter. She also enjoys visiting the National Shrine Grotto and the Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine with her family. One day she hopes for Penelope to join the amazing SJRCS family.

**Ms. Sarah Kubic** is in her second year working at Saint John Regional Catholic School. This is her first year as homeroom teacher, and is excited for many more years. She is currently enrolled at Mount Saint Mary's University in the Master's in Education program.

Ms. Kubic is an avid equestrian and has been riding horses since she was in second grade. She has also competed in multiple horse shoes and barrel racing competitions. She is a huge animal lover, especially of her two crazy cats, Ava and Mickey.

Ms. Kubic loves to spend her free time outdoors. In the summer she enjoys kayaking and boating on the Potomac River. She is also an avid cyclist. During her senior year of high school, she biked from Harpers Ferry WV to Washington D.C.



**Mrs. Bridget McNamara**  
Grade 2A Teacher



**Mrs. Sadie Homick**  
Grade 2B Teacher



**Ms. Sarah Kubic**  
Grade 2C Teacher

**Mrs. Alyssa Eichelberger** has been at SJRCS for 9 years as both a staff member and a parent. As a parent, she served two terms as the President of the HSA, room, parent and Chair of the Fair Committee for many years.

She has been both a teacher and an Instructional Aide for pre-K, 2nd and 3rd grade for the past 4 years. She continues her education and will be finishing her master's degree in in Elementary Education at Mount St. Mary's next year.

Mrs. Eichelberger has been married for 27 years and has 3 daughters - 23, 19 and a 7th grader here at St. John's. She is a member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Ijamsville. She serves as President and Secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary, teacher of Faith Formation, leader vacation Bible School for many years and was an integral part of fundraising for the new church as well.



**Mrs. Alyssa Eichelberger**  
Instructional Assistant

Prior to working in the educational environment Mrs. Eichelberger worked in television, as the assistant publisher of a Catholic newspaper and radio. She says she loves teaching and spending time with all the children, especially seeing them excited about school and growing closer to God each day.

In her free time, Mrs. Eichelberger enjoys traveling and reading.



## Admissions Director's Corner

**Refer a Friend** – We are running a *Refer a Friend* campaign through the Parent Portal on our website, [www.sjrccs.org/parents](http://www.sjrccs.org/parents). On your top right column is a link to our Refer a Friend Campaign. Please fill out your contact information, as well as the contact information of 5 family members or friends who you think would make a wonderful addition to our Wildcat community! Those who participate will be entered into a raffle. The winner has a choice of a \$200 tuition credit or Wildcat Café credit.

**Story Time for Tots** - We are going to be using *Kate's Kids* room (in SKD building) for the December 6<sup>th</sup> Story Time for Tots in person.



## Home and School Associate (H.S.A.)

### HSA NEWS

**POINSETTIA AND WREATH SALE** – Thank you to all who placed order for Poinsettias and Wreaths!!! More details to come regarding pickup during the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**SECRET SANTA HOLIDAY SHOP** - HoHoHo - It's time to get in the Christmas Spirit! The Secret Santa shop opens on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Look in the electronic Friday folder for a schedule of when your child will be shopping. Please be sure to send cash or check (made out to SJRCS HSA) with your child on the day they are scheduled to shop if you want them to participate. See your child's hardcopy Friday folder for a preview of some of the items we will be selling from our Holiday shop and look for a full video preview and more details in a special email on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> before the Santa Shop opens. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nicole Holler via email: [NicoleLaperaHoller@gmail.com](mailto:NicoleLaperaHoller@gmail.com) or cell: 301-748-6393. We are so excited to offer our students the Holiday Shop once again!!!

**ELVES NEEDED** – We need help to make the Secret Santa Holiday Shop a success. Elves are needed to help with setup, take down, and to help students shop. Please see the signup genius below if you're interested in helping. All volunteers receive tuition credit. **VIRTUS certification is required.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-secret2>

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** - Get into the Christmas spirit by participating in the HSA Gingerbread House Contest! See the flyer in the electronic Friday folder for details and rules :

<https://content.myconnectsuite.com/api/documents/3c2672baaaa84aa883c00ab87b086599.pdf>

Photos of your gingerbread house must be submitted to HSA@sjrcs.org by **Monday, December 13th**. Include your name, homeroom, and the category in which you are submitting your house. Gingerbread houses will be judged according to the following 4 categories:



**PK-1st Grade** – Parents can provide assistance.

**2nd-5th Grade** – Parents can provide minimal assistance.

**6th-8th Grade** – No parental assistance please.

**Family** – All family members can contribute.

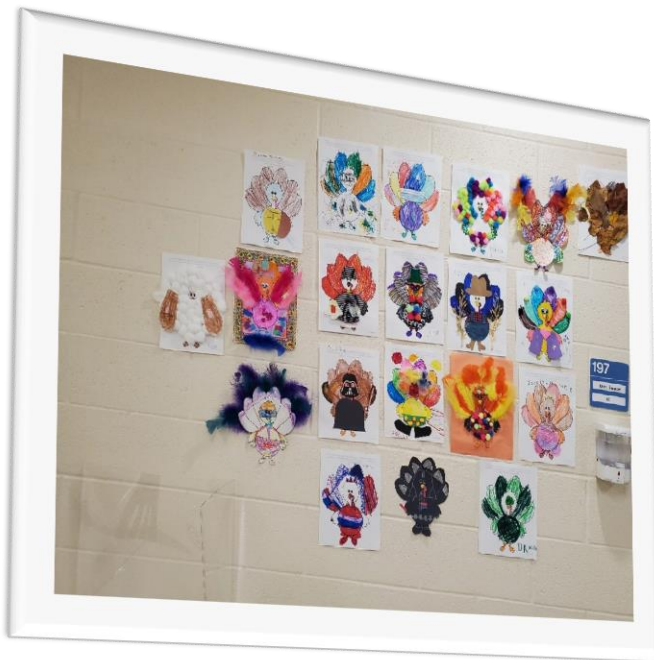
**Prizes will be rewarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for all four categories.**

**MERRY MISCHIEF** - Get in the Christmas spirit with the SJRCS community! See the flyer in the electronic Friday folder for more details: [Mischief](#) Share a picture of yourself with 1 or 2 crazy things your mischievous elf does this holiday season or if you don't have an elf or have outgrown your elf, share a picture in your craziest ugly Christmas sweater or clothing. Anything goes as long as it isn't inappropriate. Send your photo to HSA@sjrcs.org by **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** to be included and we'll compile them into a fun video to share. We can't wait to see what "Merry Mischief" comes your way!



**Around the School**

***Happy Thanksgiving from our "Little Treasures" hallway!***







**We are so “thankful” for our wonderful  
SJCRS Community!!**