

Good afternoon SJS Community,

Well, we beat the heat this week! Thank you to all our teachers for being flexible with space and activities and the extreme heat. Our students did as they always do – they strived for excellence, even in difficult circumstances. We hope that the heat will break and next week is a return to some type of seasonable normal.

Even with the heat, we were able to have a blessing of our new field by Fr. Tom after our first all school Mass this morning. We thanked the Butler and Burke families for their extraordinary work and Mr. Hall for EVERYTHING! I spoke briefly about how this project was a labor of love. Every person who worked on this field in any way did it because they love St. John School and every student in it. I told our students that when they enter the field they should feel showered with love.

I wanted to provide an update on our search for a new Music/Performing Arts Teacher, which has been unsuccessful. We have had numerous interviews and been turned down by a few possibilities. We have also tried to contract out with a company, but they are lacking people as well. This week and continuing until we can get someone, music class will consist of watching musicals. We will either have a sub or a classroom teacher in the class. IF you have any leads, please let me know as we continue to search.

After School Clubs start in the next two weeks. See attached for details on our three offerings – Soccer, Flag Football, and Sports and Games. Please pay attention to the dates as they are all a bit different. Sports and Games will start Thursday. Clubs are 7 weeks long and cost \$70 (billed through FACTS). They run from 3:15 – 4:30. A child may go to aftercare after a club if needed for the normal \$10 charge. Forms are due to Mrs. Sullivan by Thursday, September 14.

Back to School Night for Prekindergarten through Grade 5 is Wednesday. Back to School Night will begin in classrooms at 6:00. Each teacher will present information on their class twice. The first session is 6:00-6:30. The second session is 6:30 – 7:00. Teachers will then remain in their classrooms until 7:15 if you have additional questions or

need to get to a third teacher. We structure Back to School Night this way so families can visit multiple grades if needed.

MAP testing will begin next week (Middle School) and will continue through the end of September. MAP is the standardized assessment that we give twice a year. It is an adaptive test that provides us a wealth of important information. We use the data for teaching and learning as well as curriculum development. After the MAP is complete, we will celebrate our students who scored in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for achievement or growth in either math, reading, or language usage. As an FYI, we do retest some students if we feel their results are not representative – as we all know, sometimes we have off days. Families receive MAP results in the spring after the second testing and a full year of growth. We have also begun using an assessment called MAP Fluency with our kindergarten through Grade 2 students. This assessment gives us some quick data around phonemic awareness and the building blocks of reading.

### **SJS Calendar**

Tuesday, September 12 – Lifetouch Picture Day (NO DRESS DOWNS)

Wednesday, September 13 (6:00 pm) – Back to School Night (PK – G5)

Friday, September 15 – HALF DAY

Wednesday, September 20 (6:00 pm) – Back to School Night (PS and Middle School)

Friday, September 22 (7:00 – 10:00 pm) – SJS Parent Group Fall Social

### **SJS Drama Presents *Mary Poppins Jr.***

St. John School will present Mary Poppins Jr in November. Auditions for students in Grades 5 – 8 are next week. Please see attached for details. The cost is \$100 per student and will be billed through FACTS.

### **St. Oscar Romero Youth and Junior Choir**

Please see the attachment for details on the St. Oscar Romero Youth and Juniors Choirs. This is a wonderful opportunity for our singers and a

great way to be involved with the Mass. Email Maria White ([mwhote@cantoncatholic.org](mailto:mwhote@cantoncatholic.org)) with any questions.

### **Instrument Lessons**

St. John School will again use Paul Effman Music for instrument lessons this year. Mr. Chris Nowelski will return as well. We will have an instrument demo next week and lessons will begin in late September. Please see attached for a sign up. Lessons take place during the day and are available to Grades 2 and above. Grade 1 will take ukulele lessons in the fall and Kindergarten in the spring.

### *Second Notices*

#### *SJS Parent Group Fall Social*

The SJS Parent Group will host a Fall Social on Friday, September 22 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm in the SJS back parking lot. Join us for pizza, charcuterie, and cheer. Pack your own drinks and enjoy time with friends – old and new. [Click here](#) for details.

#### *Blood Drive*

SJS will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 20 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. This is in honor of our own Kieran Whall as well as to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September). To make an appointment, go to [www.bostonchildrens.org/halfpints](http://www.bostonchildrens.org/halfpints) and use the sponsor code STJOHN.

#### *Picture Day*

Picture Day is Tuesday, September 12. All students must be in their full uniform. Order before Picture Day at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) (Code – EVTCGH2WH).

#### *Gently Used Uniforms*

We are collecting any gently used uniforms that you are not using anymore. Feel free to drop them off in the Main Office. We will have a table of gently used uniforms at Back to School Nights to look through. Laura Dever is in charge of Gently Used Uniforms this year, so please email her at [LMD5210@hotmail.com](mailto:LMD5210@hotmail.com) with any questions.

#### *CORI and VIRTUS*

Please send in your CORI forms for the 2023-2024 school year. Also, if you want to volunteer you must have completed VIRTUS training ([www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org)).

*Helpful Links*

*Ebackpack* - <https://www.sjscanton.org/e-backpack>

*2023-2024 Calendar* - [Click here](#)

Chris