



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

December 16, 2021



Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.

Dear SJRS and OLMA Families and Faculty,

As we head into Christmas Break, I find myself feeling very fortunate and very blessed. It is a true joy to be principal of these two schools, and to spend every day watching each of our students blossom into good and thoughtful and joyful souls. I am incredibly thankful to be a part of this beautiful community and to be able to support our students and parents that strive to make faith, academics, safety, and kindness the priorities in their lives. I am appreciative that I am surrounded by the most talented, hard-working, and absolutely selfless group of teachers and aides that most school leaders would only dream of having. Our school continues to grow because our students and parents and teachers are growing in our compassion and mercy for everyone we come in contact with. May our spirits be lifted!

Even though we all may still be living in the shadow of a constantly evolving pandemic that tries to stifle the regularity and beauty of our daily lives, I believe there is a light at the end of this tunnel. I pray that we will find our way through these illnesses safer and stronger. We will get there! I also pray that each of you have a safe and happy and blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year's!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal



Tomorrow (Friday, December 17) will be a special **red and green dress down day!** All students may be out of uniform, but still dressed appropriately for school.

MERCY ACADEMY ADMISSIONS

As we are into December, our admissions process at Mercy Academy has now opened to students outside of SJRS. If you know anyone interested in attending Mercy next year, please have them contact Liberty Ebright (lebright@mercyacademykeene.org) as soon as possible. At this time, we are projected to have only three (3) slots remaining available in the 9th grade class for next year. Also, we can accept transfer students in grades 9 and 10 at this time, so please feel free to share with anyone who you think might be interested in transferring. THANK YOU!



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 12/17-**Red** and **Green** Dress Down Day
Mon 12/20-Fri 12/31 – Christmas Break NO SCHOOL
Monday 1/3/22-Return from Christmas Break
Wednesday 1/5/22-SJRS/OLMA School Mass – 9:30am
Monday 1/17/22-Martin Luther King Day – **NO SCHOOL**
Mon 1/31 - Fri 2/4-Catholic Schools Week

Luke 2:10-12

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

The third candle on the Advent wreath stands for **joy** and is also called “the Shepherd’s Candle.” The shepherds’ part of the Christmas story is very much about joy as they were watching sheep in their pastures when an angel appeared to them.



SJRS ALPINE CLUB MESSAGE FROM CLUB COORDINATOR: WENDY PETSCHIK

The SJRS/OLMA Alpine Club is gearing up for a great season of skiing and riding with the Voyager Program at Crotched Mountain. The club is open to all SJRS and OLMA students ages 5- 18 and there are no capacity limits this year so we can accommodate anyone who would like to join us! Below is the current information that has been provided by Crotched about the program. I am still working out the details/payment amount of those students who would like to join us but do not need lessons or rentals, so stay tuned for that information. I would like to get a contact list together of any interested students so please use the Google Doc link below to provide your information so I can create a master email list. If you have a season pass and do not want lessons, there is no need to sign up through Crotched Mountain, but you will still be part of our club so please sign up on the Google Doc below so I can include you in our club communications.

I am so excited for snow and the slope side fun to begin!! If you have any questions, please email Wendy Petschik at wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org.

Google Doc link for Alpine Club email

list: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JX9mfl-MgDzPLWYdmFeb9I3buQXY7FdT1aJKsssErZw/edit?usp=sharing>

Crotched Mountain Voyager Program details

- 5 weeks of lessons plus 2 additional weeks to come out and ski/ride. Voyager is now a 7-week program with lessons offered the first 5 of the 7 weeks.
- 2 products: Lift/Lesson/Rental (\$289) OR Lesson/Rental (\$140)

Schedule:

- Fridays
- Lesson start time: 5 pm
- Starting week of 1/4/22
- Ending week of 2/15/22
- One make-up day, if needed, on your regular day/time, week of 3/8/22



We have our special **SJRS suncatchers** available for purchase again this year throughout the month of December! The proceeds benefit our Annual Fund, which provides support to all of the programs that impact our students every day. For details and to purchase online:

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/suncatchers>



On Monday, we drew the big winners of our 50/50 Raffle! And the winners are...

- 1st - \$5,000 – Michael Muchmore
- 2nd - \$3,000 – Nonno Houston
- 3rd - \$2,000 – Margaret Bruce
- 4th - \$1,000 – Brian O’Neill
- 5th - \$1,000 – Josh Stephens
- Bonus prize – \$1,230 – Martin Cardine

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

And our top ticket selling students will be getting gift certificates to Life is Sweet!

SJRS

- Savannah Smith (2nd) – 70 tickets! WOW!!
- Harper Ouelette (K)
- Gideon Lake (1st)
- Moana (PreK) and Vera (1st) Chow

Mercy

- Emma Schriver (9th) – 42 tickets!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone for your efforts in selling/buying tickets!

ADVENT SURPRISES!

Mr. Smith's Advent surprises continued this week! The 2nd grade did a special craft and had cookies; 1st grade watched a movie and had cookies and milk; the Mercy Academy students made ice cream sundaes; the 8th grade had an extra special lunch that they ordered from Panera, Five Guys, Thai Garden and Athens Pizza; following tradition, the 6th grade played badminton against the faculty; Mr. Smith read a story to the Preschool; the 3rd grade played pin knockdown. And finally, the whole school has red and green dress down day tomorrow!!

