



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

December 2, 2021



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

Dear SJRS Families,

As I shared earlier this week, we will be recording our **Christmas Concert** this year. Below is the schedule for the days when we will be recording, so you know when your child should be dressed up for school. Students are encouraged to wear what they would normally wear to the Christmas Concert.

Wednesday, December 8
PreK – Grade 3 – Dressed up

Tuesday, December 14
Grades 5 - 8 – Dressed up (Chorus, Advanced Band)

Please note that Grade 4 will not need to dress up for their recording since they will be in costume for the pageant.

A THANK YOU to Ms. Foder and the members of the Builders Club for their Thanksgiving related **community service** over the past few weeks. They have truly been putting our mission into action!

Finally, as Advent has begun, I have started making my way through the classes for my **annual Advent surprises** for the students. Each day there is something a little bit special planned somewhere in the building, so be sure to ask your child about the fun happening each day!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal

A huge THANK YOU to former SJRS parent Joe Durell for his presentation on **college financing** last month. Joe left us with copies of this helpful booklet that are available in the Main Office for anyone interested. Feel free to stop by to pick one up!



IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 12/2 – Middle School basketball meeting – 5:30pm
Friday 12/3 – Logo Day (wear SJRS logo apparel)
Friday 12/3 – SJRS/OLMA school mass – 9:30am
Friday 12/3 – Middle School Christmas Dance – 6-8pm
Wednesday 12/8 – SJRS/OLMA school mass – 9:30am
Friday 12/10 – Parents Night Out – 5:30-8pm
Mon 12/20-Fri 12/31 – Christmas Break NO SCHOOL

*****FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3***
LOGO DAY!**

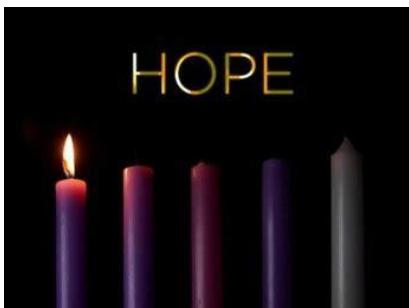
Please have your child come to school tomorrow (Friday, December 3) wearing logo apparel!



Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

Advent is a season of reflection. The first purple Advent Candle stands for **hope**, specifically the hope the Israelites had that the promised Messiah would come. They had been waiting for the Messiah for centuries, wondering what he would look like and what he would do when he arrived.





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/1JX9mfLMgDzPLWYdmFeb9I3buQXY7FdT1aJKsssErZw/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 | |

The SJRS Builders Club has been busy over the past few weeks. Apple cider sales, preparing Thanksgiving dinner baskets, baking cookies, and attending the Kiwanis Christmas Tree Lighting during the break!



EMBRACING HOPE

Dear SJRS Families,

Our family has been privileged to be a part of the SJRS and OLMA community for the last 2 years. It is a great joy to be at a school whose mission is:

"to empower students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls."

And it is out of that space that I wanted to share about an organization that I am part of called: Embracing Hope Ethiopia (EHE) www.embracinghopeethiopia.com. We are a faith-based, nonprofit serving in Ethiopia in the neighborhood of Kore'. This is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the world, located alongside a garbage dump in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Families- many of them single mothers with young children, are working jobs making as little as a dollar a day or begging to make enough to survive. The mission of EHE is to see: **the poorest and most vulnerable of families preserved and orphans prevented by using compassionate, holistic practices that promote dignity, sustainability, transformation, community, and Christian discipleship which transforms all areas of life for this and future generations.** We provide a safe, caring daycare, preschool and kindergarten, supporting mothers and freeing them up to find jobs. We give them the help, education and resources that they need to embrace dignity and become self-sustaining members of their community. To learn more about EHE, please check out our website or this short 7 minute documentary:

<https://vimeo.com/51822142>

There is currently a civil war in Ethiopia and although it has not yet spread into the capital city of Addis Ababa, the needs are massive. There are thousands of victims of the fighting and refugees have been fleeing with only the clothes on their backs. There has also been massive inflation and job loss due to Covid-19 which affects everyone but is especially crippling for the poor who live from day to day, barely making enough to survive. You can sponsor a child and support the families of Kore' for as little as \$34 a month. If you have any questions, please reach out - I would love to talk!

Peace be with you,

Sarah Visser

sarah@embracinghopeethiopia.com



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>

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for Ages 5–11

BY APPOINTMENT | DRIVE-THRU

Cheshire Medical Center, 580 Court Street, Keene, NH

- Saturday, November 20
- Saturday, December 4
- Saturday, December 11

Established and eligible Cheshire Medical Center pediatric patients, ages 5 to 11, can schedule an appointment in advance through myDH.org or by calling their primary care provider's office.

For more information,
visit cheshiremed.org/vaccine



MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Local musician Floyd Oster, who has worked with several of our students in the past, has available time for trumpet, guitar and bass lessons for 30-minute or 45-minute lessons. He has openings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school. If you have questions or would like to schedule a lesson, you may contact Floyd directly at fdoster@aol.com.



SJRS MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVANCED BAND

Sectionals Schedule from Mr. Thies

Wednesday, December 1

8:30 - 9:00	Clarinets
9:00 - 9:30	Saxes
9:30 - 10:00	Trumpets
10:00 - 10:30	Low Brass/Bass
10:30 - 11:00	Percussion
11:00 - 11:30	Flutes



Please be sure that your child has their instrument in school on all band and sectional days. THANK YOU!



Our tennis program in action! Students have been playing at the Keene Racquet Club after school. Xavier Fox (Grade 3) recently played in a tournament in Texas over the break!



SHOP AMAZONSMILE THIS CHRISTMAS!

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support SJRS every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. [CLICK HERE for all of the details and to activate AmazonSmile.](#) THANK YOU!

"ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE"

In early November, I worked with Ms. Foder at SJRS and the students in grades five through eight to create poems for the Catholic Daughters of America's poetry contest, sponsored by the Hinsdale Council. Their poems, up to eight lines, were based upon the theme "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). In the spring, representatives from the Catholic Daughters will visit the school, share the names of the winners of the contest, present the awards, and provide all the students who participated with ice cream sandwiches as a celebration of their efforts.

As I reviewed the ninety plus poems submitted, I thought you might be interested in seeing a sampling of the phrases from the poems that spoke to me:

- With God you can change the world,
- He watches over us,
- He turns leaves different colors,
- Every day is a miracle,
- God can forgive no matter what you do,
- We can achieve our supreme potential,
- He helps me remember my purpose,
- By praying, sadness is turned to gladness,
- Be in harmony and perfect peace,
- As long as we believe, we can do great things,
- When I turn to you, darkness becomes light,
- You guide us through our struggles,
- God is the path to righteousness,
- God will show me the way,
- When you pray, He will hear you,
- Just trust, you'll see, don't be afraid,
- He never gives up on us,
- The Lord is our shield,
- The dead are resurrected,
- I can climb every mountain,
- He makes hope and love possible, and
- He never gives up on us

I hope that you enjoyed reading these thoughts from our students from SJRS.

Deacon Ken

"Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

PARENTS NIGHT OUT CHRISTMAS EDITION!!



Friday, December 10th

5:30-8:00 P.M.

\$15.00 per Student OR \$20.00 total for multiple students

from the same family

Come to Christmas Movie Night wearing your favorite Christmas Pajamas
and with a cozy blanket!

Pre-K and Kinder will be watching a Christmas movie in the Pre-School Room

Grades 1-5 will be watching a movie on the big screen in the Gym

Pizza and a dessert are included



Please fill out the bottom and turn it in to your child's teacher
(not the office) with the payment ☺

Student(s) Name(s): _____

Grade(s): _____

Allergies: _____

Number where you can be reached: _____

Who will be picking up your student(s): _____

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Christmas Dance

Friday, December 3rd

6:00-8:00 P.M.

\$7.00



Come wearing Christmas colors! Red, Green, Gold,
White OR an Ugly Christmas Sweater!!

7th Annual Lessons and Carols



*Sunday, December 5th 2:00pm
St Bernard Church*

"The Lessons and Carols Service will be Sunday, December 5th at 2pm at St Bernard Church. Come and listen to the story of the birth of Christ the King in readings and music as we prepare to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Take an hour out of your busy holiday schedule to open your heart to this most loving and glorious gift from God."