



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



March 24, 2022

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

Greetings SJRS Families and Faculty,

Since we have not used all of the snow days that I had included in this year's calendar, I have added **two additional days off** around Spring Break and Memorial Day. Please see the Important Dates below and plan accordingly. The **school calendar has also been updated** to reflect these additional days off.

My note last week regarding **cell phones and technology usage** generated quite a lot of responses, all of which were positive and appreciative. As I was thinking more about this topic, I would like to take this one step further to hopefully help everyone a bit.

Many families are struggling with the issue of managing cell phones and other electronics. At the same time, many families also have some great ideas that they implement. **We have created a [Google Form](#) where I would love to have families share their ideas, tips, suggestions, recommendations, etc. for how you manage technology usage (especially cell phones) with your own children.** I believe that hearing some ideas from our very own families within our own school community might be helpful to everyone. Once we get everyone's ideas, we will compile those and share. This will of course be completely anonymous. No one will know who has contributed the ideas. The goal is to put together our own "best practices" that can maybe be helpful. My feeling is that just about everyone is challenged with this issue in some way. So here is [the link to the Cell Phone/Electronics Management Google Form](#). I hope everyone will take a few minutes to share their thoughts of what works for them and even what has not worked. It could go a long way towards helping another family. We are all in this together.

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 3/25 – Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to Immaculate Heart of Mary followed by rosary – 12:00Noon – St. Bernard's (Grades 1-11)

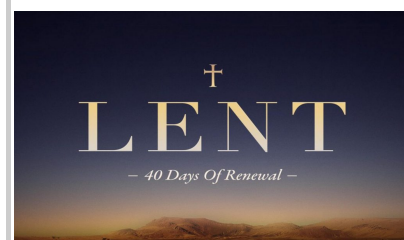
Friday 3/25 – Trivia Night – 6-8:00pm (Grades 6-8)

Tuesday 3/29 – Ukraine stickers for sale during lunch – \$5.00

Tuesday 3/29 – Drama Club – 3:00pm (Grades 5-7)

Wednesday 3/30 – School Mass – 9:30am

Wednesday 4/6 – End of the 3rd Quarter



MARK 1:12-14

At once the Spirit sent

Thursday 4/14 – Holy Thursday (1/2 day)
Friday 4/15 – Good Friday NO SCHOOL
Monday 4/18 – Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
Thursday 4/21 – Talent Show
Fri 4/22, Mon-Fri 4/25-29 – Spring Break NO SCHOOL
Saturday 5/7 – Spring Craft Fair/Art Day
Monday 5/16 – Spring Concert
Friday 5/27 – Memorial Day weekend NO SCHOOL
Monday 5/30 – Memorial Day weekend NO SCHOOL

him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.



Prayer from Pope Francis that he will lead on March 25, 12:00noon EST, for the consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our school communities will be coming together tomorrow (Friday, 3/25, at 12noon) with Fr. Alan to pray simultaneously with the Pope and Catholic communities around the globe. St. Bernard's Church bells will ring afterwards, and we will also be saying the rosary. Family members are welcome to join us in this special prayer experience.

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!



ADVANCED BAND SECTIONALS SCHEDULE FROM MR. THIES

Week of March 28

Monday -- 8:30am trumpets; 1:30pm trombones

Tuesday -- 8:30am percussion

Wednesday -- 8:30am flutes; 11:00am basses

Thursday -- 8:30am clarinets

Friday -- 8:30am saxes

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

Mercy Academy students still have **stickers** (4" x 4") available for sale. **They will be selling them during lunch at SJRS next Tuesday, March 29.** Stickers are **\$5.00**. All proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross in support of Ukraine.



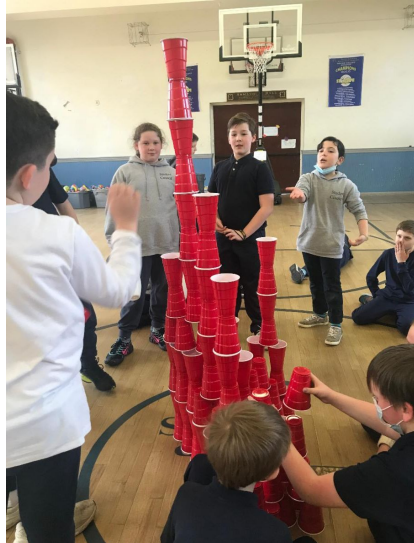
PE NOTES FROM MRS. HART

In the month of April, we will continue combining Health topics into PE, specifically discussing Social Acceptance-The Value of Friendships and How to be a Good Friend, Team Building, and Sportsmanship. We are building on our discussion of all important aspects of Health including physical, social-emotional, and spiritual.



This week, we also did lots of cup stacking with all grades! This is a great activity that can also be done at home. Cup stacking not only promotes physical fitness, but also academic learning. Students of all ages that cup stack on a regular basis have shown increases in levels of concentration and academic achievement. Students use both the right and left sides of their brain. When students stack they are crossing the "midline" of their bodies and developing new connections in their brains. In classes, cup stacking also promotes teamwork!

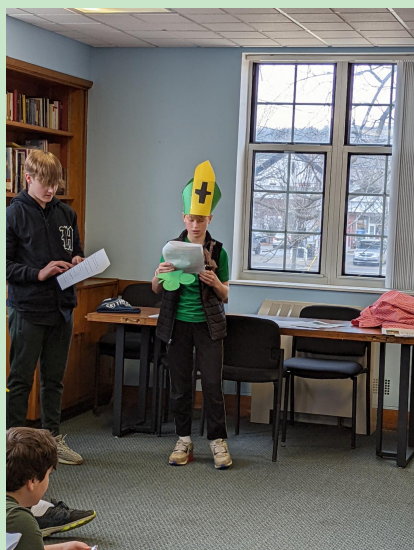




Drama Club

DRAMA CLUB -- GRADES 5-6-7

The Drama Club will meet next Tuesday, March 29, immediately after school (3-4:00pm) in the gym. **All students in Grades 5, 6 and 7** are welcome to attend as the group is still just getting started!



The **7th Grade** spent the afternoon at Mercy Academy last week to have a special combined celebration of **St. Patrick's Day** and **St. Joseph's Day** with the high school students. It included prayer, a skit, outdoor cleanup AND pretzel making!

A WORD ABOUT TECH DECKS

Parents, please be sure that your children are leaving their Tech Decks (miniature skateboards) at home.



As you can imagine, when these toys come to school, they are a huge distraction in the classroom. This has been a particular problem in the Middle School, but others have them as well. THANK YOU in advance for your help with this!



8th grade buddies spent time reading with the Pre-K students earlier this week!

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Diocese of Manchester Auxiliary Bishop Francis Christian joined us at St. Bernard's last Friday for First Communion and Confirmation with some of our 3rd Grade students!





FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEW HAMPSHIRE



EDUCATION TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The application is open for 2022-2023 for NH Education Tax Credit Scholarships. **The DEADLINE to apply is MAY 6.** The eligibility is:

1. You must be a New Hampshire resident.
2. You must have a child/children between the ages of 5 and 20 who is entering **Kindergarten** or **1st grade** for the first time **OR** entering 2nd-12th grades and coming from a public school.
3. Your household income must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. See income chart below.

EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

The application is open for 2022-2023 for NH Education Freedom Accounts. You can direct part of your child's state education funding to pay for tuition at SJRS/OLMA. **The DEADLINE to apply is JULY 15.**

The eligibility is:

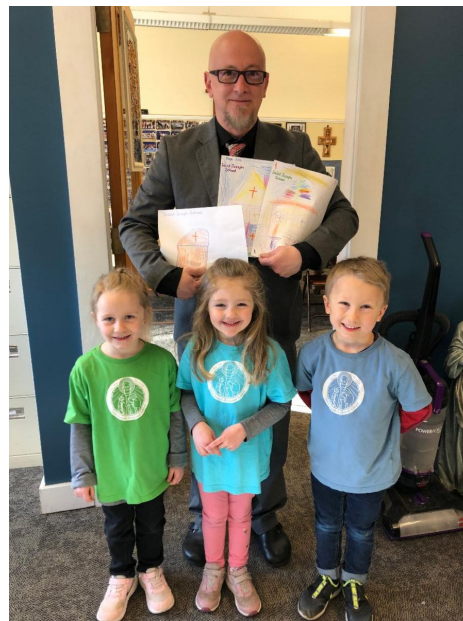
1. You must be a New Hampshire resident.
2. Your child must be at least 5 years old and no older than 20 years old and **entering Kindergarten – 12th grade.**
3. Your household income must not exceed 300% of the federal poverty level. See income chart below.

Both of the above programs are administered by the **Children's Scholarship Fund New Hampshire**, and applications are currently being accepted for new and returning families. The applications for both programs are simple and entirely online. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to apply as soon as possible. Many of our families receive funding from these great programs. There is a combined application for the programs so that you may apply for both at the same time, if you qualify for both. **You may receive funding from BOTH programs if eligible.** **[CLICK HERE for the application for families NEW to these programs.](#)** **[CLICK HERE for the portal login for families REAPPLYING to these programs.](#)** If you have questions about the above programs, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

300% of 2021 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines			
Family Size	Income Limit/ Annual	Income Limit/ Monthly	Income Limit/ Weekly
2	\$52,260	\$4,355	\$1,005
3	\$65,880	\$5,490	\$1,267
4	\$79,500	\$6,625	\$1,529
5	\$93,120	\$7,760	\$1,791
6	\$106,740	\$8,895	\$2,053
7	\$120,360	\$10,030	\$2,315
8	\$133,980	\$11,165	\$2,577
add \$13,620 for each additional person			



CONGRATULATIONS to 8th grader **Andrea Rusu!** Yesterday Mr. Smith and Miss Fletcher announced that Andrea won 1st Place in the Knights of Columbus NH State Council Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. Great job, Andrea!!

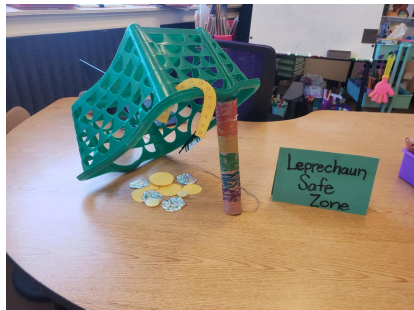
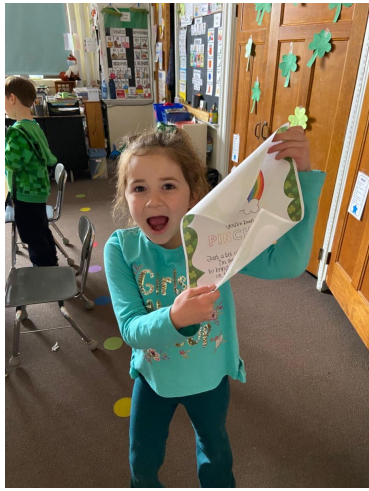


A few of Mr. Smith's Pre-K friends brought him some pictures that they drew of our school this week!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

The Elementary School students arrived to upended classrooms...and tons of fun last Thursday for St. Patrick's Day!!! It seems there were some leprechauns in the building?!?!





helps schools

Together, we're greater than groceries.

HANNAFORD HELPS

Earn money for SJRS while you shop at Hannaford! **Now through May 28, 2022**, choose from over 1,500 participating products.

Shopping In-Store

SHOP – Look for shelf tags on over 1,500 participating products .

CHECK OUT – Collect your School Dollars from an associate at checkout.

DEPOSIT – Drop your School Dollars in the SJRS Hannaford Helps Schools collection tower in-store.

Hannaford To Go

SHOP – Look for the apple icon on over 1,500 products online.

CHECK OUT – Receive your School Dollars with your receipt .

DEPOSIT – Drop your School Dollars in the SJRS Hannaford Helps Schools collection tower in-store, or send them in to the SJRS Main Office with your child.



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