

# OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."



November 24th through November 28th

St. Joseph Community School's mission is that we are here to lead students to their fullest potential. We focus on four main categories: *academic excellence, faith, leadership, and service*. All of these categories are meant for them to thrive and also encounter Christ while on their journey.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCY

### FAITH

### LEADERSHIP

### SERVICE

*Proverbs 27:17*



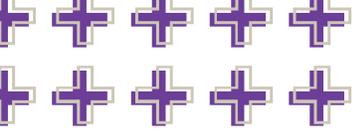
What are you waiting for?

**START YOUR PATH HERE**



*"At St. Joe's, my faith was cultivated and intertwined with academics, volunteering, and athletics, and truly everything that we did. This was so valuable and formative during my growing up years, alongside what I was learning at home and at church about my faith."*

**Lydia Gessner // Class of '16**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Tuesday, November 25th

- All School 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester PBIS Reward Day
- Learning Connections Class at 5:30pm in the Sunrise Preschool room

## Wednesday, November 26th

- All School Christmas Concert Practice at 8:30am
- Prayer service at 9:15pm in the gym
- Turkey basketball at 10am in the gym
  - **REMINDER NO HOT LUNCH THIS DAY**
- Early Out at 1:15pm

## Thursday, November 27th

- No School - Happy Thanksgiving 🦃🇺🇸
- No PantherZone

## Friday, November 28th

- No School - Thanksgiving Break 🦃
- No PantherZone

Visit our school [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!

# UPCOMING ACTIVITY EVENTS

## Monday, November 24th

- 7th grade girls basketball at Sumner-Fred at 4:15pm

## Tuesday, November 25th

- 7th grade girls basketball vs Cresco at 5:15pm

Visit the activities [calendar](#) to see any changes or more information!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come join us in our long standing Thanksgiving tradition, Turkey basketball! We are excited to start our day in with a prayer service at 9:15am in the gym. At 10am, the basketball game will start! If you are wanting to bring your child(ren) home after the basketball game please let the office and their teacher know before Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. We can't wait to enjoy the annual tradition together again!

Join us on **December 14th** for a beautiful day of faith and music! Mass at Holy Family Church (the church attached to the school) begins at 10am. After Mass, please bring your child(ren) to the gathering space for the Christmas concert to begin **at 11:30am**. This year's theme is *The Peace of Christmas*. Our students can't wait to share the Good News and remind us all why we celebrate this joyful season. We hope to see you there!



## OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:45am

Breakfast is served  
7:45am-8:00am

School day begins  
8:05am

School day ends 3:15pm

## WEEKEND MASS

### Saturday Mass Times

4pm at Holy Family

6pm at IC in North  
Washington or St. Boniface

### Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

9am at Holy Family



# MEET THE TEAMS

## *Specials Teams*

### MUSIC NOTES UPDATES:

We are working with students on finalizing our program for The Peace of Christmas, our Christmas performance this year. Students are excited to share their hard work with families, friends and the whole community! Our program will include readers, soloists, duets and whole-school music which we hope will help share the joy of the season and foster peace in our world. Our concert is December 14 starting at 11:30am after Mass. We also look forward to working on music for Mass in December as we approach Christmas. The students are thrilled with community involvement on Friday mornings and always enjoy the support of family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving to all and peace as the holiday season begins.

**- Mr. Speltz and Mrs. Schueth**



### WEEKLY ART GALLERY:

What can I do with this line? The answer is built into the background skills and application for our projects. Kindergarten and First Graders created Fun Turkey Tails using the circle family and the basic handwriting stroke called "The Hill Stroke" found in the printed lowercase letters n, m, and h, and even along the outside edge of their thumb. This hill stroke helped make the turkey's head and neck, as well as developing a fan tail by dabbing thumbprints in a circular fashion. The turkeys turned out SO cute! Second Grade finished an interesting exploratory making an Autumn Forest scene using newsprint to add texture to vertical and slanted tree trunk bark and layering autumn colored sponge paint to create foliage. Amazingly beautiful masterpieces. Third and Fourth Graders continue to apply vertical and horizontal lines as background for their monochromatic still life art pieces. A surprising twist for adding final detail of contrasting curly lines will be painting using dried prairie weeds and grasses. Middle Schoolers have spent time noting the color gradation of sunrises and sunsets along horizon lines in magazine photos. Using chalk, they have developed a multicolored background for landscapes that will have silhouetted trees in the foreground created by straw blowing India ink. Quite a process, but results will be Awesome Autumn Silhouettes. **-Mrs. Boge**

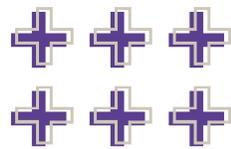
### P.E. LINEUP:

Students have been practicing their basketball skills this week in preparation for our annual Turkey Basketball event next Wednesday. They've been working hard on dribbling, passing, and shooting, and we're excited to see their progress in action!

We are also eagerly looking ahead to our roller skating unit that is starting in December—always a student favorite. Permission slips for roller skating will be sent home this week. Please be sure to sign and return them so your child can participate in this fun and active unit.

**- Mr. Henry and Mrs. Larsen**





# MEET THE TEAMS

## *Early Childhood Team*

### 3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: A FUN WEEK OF LEARNING!

Colors- pink, purple, gray

Letters- a, d, g

Numbers- 10, 6, 8

Shapes- square, rectangle, and hexagon

Nursery Rhyme- Hey Diddle Diddle

This week we started our new activities with a puppet named Ted. Ted is a bear who taught us: a new song to get our lessons started, about listening bodies, read a story with us and worked on comprehension skills for the story, The Story of the Gingerbread Man. We continued our work on rhyming words, blending words, and segmenting words. A new activity was added where we try to isolate the first sounds in all of our name. One more new thing we started during phonics, was where we have to listen to a sentence and figure out how many words there are in that sentence. Math was embedded into our learning throughout the day through our S.M.A.R.T activities, in our small group time, and in our large group time. We have been working on more, less and the same amounts as well as number identification for 0-10. We used our fine motor skills to work on making feathers on our turkeys and coloring them. Some even chose to write their names themselves on their projects. For this project we also talked a little bit about what the word thankful means and the students each shared one or two things they were thankful for. Next week is our schools annual Turkey Basketball game and even though the preschoolers will not be here on Wednesday, you are still invited to attend and enjoy the time with us. **-Mrs. Schueth**



### 4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Numbers-20, 10, 12

Shapes-rectangle/rectangular prism, oval, star

Nursery rhyme- Hey Diddle Diddle

During Station Rotation this week, the preschoolers did a picture story/word story for the book The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything. They chose a part of the story to draw and write about. They did more writing work by drawing Mat Man and doing rainbow writing. The preschoolers also played number bingo with Ms. Megan. We read Henny Penny and talked about why the characters didn't make good choices. The preschoolers also noticed that the fox in the story was sneaky and shouldn't be trusted just like the fox in the Gingerbread Man books we read earlier in the year. We talked more about why animals live in trees.

#### Upcoming dates

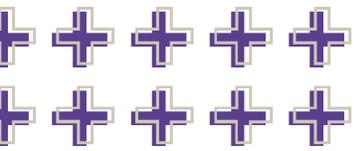
**November 27-28** No school for Thanksgiving

**December 14**-Christmas concert

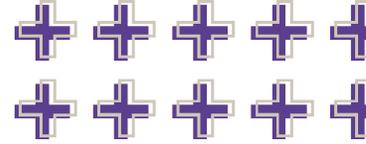
**December 23**- Early out

**December 24 thru January 2**- No school for Christmas

**- Mrs. Abbott**



# MEET THE TEAMS



## Early Childhood

### KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS:

This week in religion, we enjoyed thinking about how we are a special gift from God. God created us as gifts to the world and gave each of us special talents to share with those around us. In phonics, we worked with the letters b, k, v, and e as we sorted words that begin with those letter sounds and practiced writing them in our handwriting lessons. We learned about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade as we read the book, "Balloons over Broadway" and watched an old episode of "Reading Rainbow" in which we learned how the balloons are created and what makes the Tom Turkey float come to life. We then planned for our own balloon creations and are excited to put them together next week. We packed Jared Boxes with toys that were purchased from our apple stand profits and delivered them to MercyOne this week as well. It was fun seeing what our work from the stand was able to accomplish and we are looking forward to our cocoa stand starting soon!

- Mrs. Flugum



### FIRST GRADE INSIDE SCOOP:

Happy Sunday! This past week our students had mass and have been working hard to prepare for this. Nice job to all those who had a part. In writing students worked on an adventure story. We have continued to work on compound and plural subjects as well. In math we finished up our Topic 5 which was focusing on adding 3 digits. We also worked on trying to find groups of 10 to add on to. In reading we have been working on making good fit choices for the books we read. Lastly, in social studies we are continuing our unit on past/present/ and future. We hope you have a great Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing you at the Turkey Basketball game and prayer service if you can make it on Wednesday

- Mrs. Heying

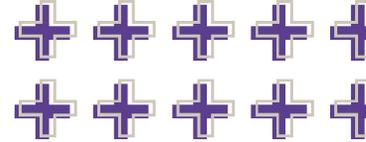


## Elementary Team

### SECOND GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

This week the second grade class will receive the sacrament of reconciliation. We have been preparing for months for this blessed day. We enter into this sacrament by admitting our sins. We show God how sorry we are. This is penance, our hearts open to receive God's forgiveness. This sacrament brings forgiveness because of God's never-ending love. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good." As we celebrate this sacrament, we are excited about God's love and sharing this with others. - Mrs. Rochford





# MEET THE TEAMS

## *Elementary Team*

### THIRD GRADE:

This week in religion we talked about the Our Father. The students did a doodle prayer as they truly reflected on what the words mean to them. Such a beautiful time of prayer! The students created multiplication stories to go along with their arrays in their city using the skills from the topic. Our read aloud was "Thundercake" by Patricia Polacco. The students are recognizing many similarities and differences between the titles we have read. Her stories are so engaging and the students are enjoying each one. They are noticing what the characters say and do shows how they feel about each other and what the characters think, say, and do show how they are feeling. This pushes them to think more deeply about the story. We are looking forward to the Turkey Basketball game next week as well as Thanksgiving break. May God bless you all! - **Mrs. Herold**



### FOURTH GRADE:

Hello Families,  
 We had another great week of learning and excitement in our classroom!  
 In Reading, Students continued their author study of Patricia Polacco and began reading Thunder Cake. We spent time exploring the story's themes, characters, and connections to Polacco's other works. The students are really enjoying her storytelling style!  
 This week in Math, we wrapped up Chapter 5 and took our chapter test. Chapter 5 focused on multiplying by multiples of 10 and 100 and beginning to break apart multi-digit multiplication problems. Students worked hard, and we are proud of their effort!  
 In Social Studies, students started sharing their State Research Projects, and they are doing an amazing job presenting what they've learned. We are impressed with their teamwork, creativity, and confidence!

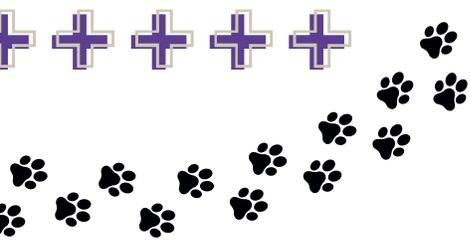
🏀 Turkey Basketball Next Week! We are very excited as we prepare for Turkey Basketball next week!

A friendly reminder: Students may leave early after the game. If your child is going home with a friend, please notify the office in advance so we can ensure dismissal runs smoothly.

Thank you for your continued support at home.  
 We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,  
 - **Mr. Larsen**

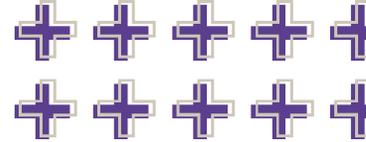




# MEET THE TEAMS

## Middle School Team

### MIDDLE SCHOOL!



Our middle school scientists lit up the classroom this week with three high-energy demonstrations that showed just how exciting the laws of physics can be! Using everyday materials—marshmallows, soda cans, and even a glass bottle—students observed surprising reactions that helped bring key science concepts to life.

The fun began with the Marshmallow Plunger, where students watched mini marshmallows magically expand and shrink as air pressure changed inside a syringe. Their eyes widened as they saw Boyle’s Law in action—proof that science can be sweet!

Next came the crowd favorite: the Can Crusher. With heat, steam, and a quick flip into ice water, students witnessed an empty soda can collapse instantly with a dramatic CRUNCH. The burst of “oooohs” and “aaahhs” filled the room as we explored Charles’ Law and how temperature can affect the behavior of gases.

Finally, things got really exciting with the Bottomless Bottle. A firm tap from a rubber mallet sent a pressure wave through the water-filled bottle—sending the bottom popping off in a clean, controlled burst! This eye-opening moment illustrated Pascal’s Principle and gave students a firsthand look at how pressure travels through liquids.

After each demonstration, students recorded detailed diagrams and crafted their own explanations of the phenomena, strengthening both their understanding and their scientific reasoning skills. Safety goggles were on, minds were open, and curiosity was off the charts!

Middle school science has never been more interactive—or more fun!- **Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald**



# 12 Days of *Christmas* Dress Up Days

## **December 8th - Merry & Bright**

(Red vs. Green, wear your favorite color and see which wins)

## **December 9th - Twinkle Lights**

(Glow sticks, light-up necklaces, or LED accessories. NO flashing lights please)

## **December 10th - Wrap It Up**

(Wear bows, ribbons, gift-tag accessories, or paper patterns)

## **December 11th - Holiday Vacation**

(Think tropical Christmas—Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, leis, beach Santa vibes)

## **December 12th - Flannel Friday**

(Wear your coziest flannel shirt or plaid outfit)

## **December 16th - Tree Topper**

(Holiday hats! Santa hats, elf hats, reindeer antlers, or tree toppers)

## **December 17th - Festive Socks or Sweaters**

(Choose between crazy holiday socks or an ugly/festive sweater)

## **December 18th - Holiday Character Day**

(Dress as or wear items inspired by elves, reindeer, snowmen, Grinch, etc.)

## **December 19th - Candy Cane Day**

(Wear red and white, stripes, or peppermint-themed outfits)

## **December 22nd - Blizzard Blue Day**

(Wear all blues, silvers, sparkles, or snowstorm-themed items.)

## **December 23rd - All the Jingle Bells Day**

(Go all out with full holiday spirit—holiday shirts, accessories, bells, and festive colors)

# 12 Days of *Christmas* Giving

3 YO - Tooth Paste/Tooth Brushes

4 YO - Canned Fruit

K - Socks

1st - Toilet Paper

2nd - Baby Wipes

3rd - Shampoo and Conditioner

4th - Canned Vegetables

5th/6th - Laundry Detergent

7th/8th - Body Wash/Soap

Office - Mouth Wash

Teachers - Feminine Hygiene Products

Support Staff - Deodorant