



Dear St. John School Families,

My family is new to the parish, having moved here in June. It was important to my wife and to me that we enroll our son, Evan, at St. John School prior to our move, and he commuted with me from Leavenworth to Lawrence for all of the 2015-2016 school year. Needless to say, we did not imagine it would take the entire year to sell and purchase a new home!

Every family has its own story for "Why St. John." There are other education choices in our community, but all of us choose to send our children to St. John. For our family, we chose St. John because faith is an integral part of the experience, the school has a reputation for strong academics and small class sizes, and there is a real sense of community. **As you consider your parish pledge for the new year, I encourage you to reflect upon your St. John Story.** What has St. John meant for you and your family? What can you do to ensure our school's future success?

Mike McDonald, Member, St. John School Council

Christmas Outreach Project – Marty Indian School ,Yankton Sioux Reservation

We still need help us with our Christmas outreach project. We are adopting Marty Indian School, a small school with seventy students on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. To donate, go to <http://signup.com/go/utfGVz> . All donations are due Friday, Dec. 9. Once we have the toys, our student council will match the toys with the children's names, wrap the gifts, and Monica Olivera will drive the donations to the Marty Indian School.

Two Host Families Needed for Students (5th and 6th grades) from South Korea

I am excited that the two students from South Korea will spend a few weeks at St. John.

The students are placed here by Guardian Edu., International Educational Company, who provides supervision, guardianship, support, and insurance. The host family will receive a stipend to cover the cost of housing the students.

One of the students is a boy in the 5th grade and will be here from January 6 until February 25.

The other student is a boy in the 6th grade and will be here from January 6 until February 4.

If you are interested in hosting one of these boys, or would like more information about the students, please contact me, at newton@saint-johns.net.

Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 21, 2:00 & 7:00 in St. John Church

The **matinee** Christmas program begins at **2:00**. This performance includes afternoon preschool and kindergartners through 3rd grade. Students are expected to wear school uniforms for the matinee performance. The **evening** Christmas program begins at 7pm. All preschoolers through 3rd graders participate in this performance. Students should wear dressy clothes for the evening performance. There is no need to worry about costumes. Some 3rd graders will be in costume and costumes will be handled in school. Preschool will perform at the very beginning of each performance. The church will be **very crowded at the evening performance**. If you have relatives that might have trouble hearing, seeing, or have special seating needs, we recommend the **2:00** performance.



Ms. Eliza Bellerive

Principal for the Day

(Purchased at the St. John Auction)

Calendar: December 2016

| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| MWF Preschool St. Nick Party | 2:50 St. Nicholas Day Parties Spirit Day—Red and Green 6:30 PTO /J. Wilson's | 3:30 Crochet Club (4th-8th) | 8:30 Immaculate Conception Mass/ planned by 5A | 2:00 Band and Orchestra Concert 3:30 Crochet Club (4th-8th) | 11 3:30-4:30 SJ Parish St. Nick |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | 3:30 Crochet Club (4th-8th) | 8:30 Mass/planned by 7B St. John City/planned by 5th grade | 2:00 Alleluia Singers concert 3:30 Crochet Club (4th-8th) | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | | Christmas program 2:00 & 7:00 | No School | No School | 29 |

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs. Schmerge and her husband, Josh. They are the happy parents to Althea Alicia Schmerge who was born Nov. 30. While Mrs. Schmerge is on maternity leave, we welcome Mrs. Nancy Keel.

Looking Ahead

Dec. 6: 2:50 St. Nicholas parties
 Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception Mass
 Dec. 9: 2:00 Band & Orchestra Concert
 Dec. 15: 5th grade SJ City
 Dec. 16: 2:00 Alleluia Singers Concert
 Dec 21: 2:00 & 7:00 Christmas Program
 (note change in matinee time)
 Dec. 22-Jan 2: No School Christmas
 Jan. 3: School resumes
 Jan. 6: End of First Semester
 Jan. 16: No School, Dr. MLK
 Jan. 19: Honor Roll presentation
 Jan. 20 Kdg Cowboy Day
 Jan. 22-28: 8th grade to Washington, D.C.
 Jan. 29-Feb 3: Catholic Schools Week
 Jan. 30: Grandparents' Day
 Jan. 29-Feb. 3: Catholic Schools Week
 Feb. 2: Science Fair and Open House
 Feb. 3: PTO Bingo Night
 Feb. 10: Middle School Party
 Feb. 14: 2:50 Valentine's Day parties
 Feb. 15-17: No School/Parent Conferences
 Feb. 27: Burning of palm branches for Ash
 Wednesday
 March 1: Ash Wednesday Mass
 March 6: Spring Marathon Club begins
 March 10: 2:00 & 7:00 4th and 5th Music
 Concert
 March 16: Confirmation
 April 1: Garage Sale
 May 6: 6:30 First Communion
 May 22: 6:30 Eighth Grade Graduation

ST. JOHN CITY On December 15, fifth graders will be running Saint John City as the final project for a unit on economics. Students will sell the products they have made. All students, K-8, will have a chance to do some holiday shopping at Saint John City. Shoppers may spend up to \$10.00 on gifts. You may bill your account for shopping.

ST. NICHOLAS PARTIES St. John School continues the tradition of celebrating Christmas with St. Nicholas parties. St. Nicholas' feast day is December 6. We will have the classroom parties on **Tuesday, December 6, at 2:50pm**

SPIRIT DAY On Dec. 6, students are invited to wear Christmas shirts, sweaters, hats, or red and green colors in lieu of uniforms.

AUCTION I am thrilled to announce the auction total: We grossed \$166,000, with a net profit of \$110,000! Thank you, auction chairs, donors, and attendees!

FUNDRAISING U Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fundraising U. We sold \$9,052 with a profit to SJ of \$3,620.80. Thank you!

Virtue of the Month Charity

Ignacio Alamos,
 Scott Chieu, Ava
 Crook, Chase
 Ramirez, Maya
 Sabatini, Gabriel
 Hundley, Hannah
 Jenicke, Molly
 Urban



Saint John

Ornaments of Appreciation

(Probably the easiest "gifts" you'll give all season long)

If you are familiar with the program, then you know what to do.....

- Email Cris Denning at cdenning@saint-johns.net and request her to "bill your account" in the amount you choose
or
- Send in a check and write "Ornaments of Appreciation" on the memo line

It's really that easy!!! No driving around searching for the "perfect" gift, no wrapping, no worries. This truly is a "green" gift :)

If you are not familiar with the program, or would like some additional information, then read below.

The "Ornaments of Appreciation" program was started about 11 years ago by parents as a way to collect donations and divide them among the St. John school staff members. That way staff members could decide how they would like to spend their "gift".

Some things to consider

- We have 32 staff members who benefit from this great program.
- The more families who participate, the bigger the "pot" is to divide among all of our AWESOME staff members!!!
- If you choose to "bill your account", then your "gift" won't show up until your January 2017 statement.
 - All donations are greatly appreciated :)

In order to have them processed and ready to hand out, our last day to collect is
Tuesday, December 20th

*Thank you so much for your participation.
Please email or call me if you have any questions.*

Merry Christmas,

Cheryl Najafizadeh 760-3368 calexander0123@gmail.com