December 2018

DATES TO NOTE

Dec 5  Early Dismissal at 1pm
Dec 14 Kids Kingdom, Pre K & Kindergarten Christmas Program
Dec 17 1st - 6th Grade Christmas Program
Dec 21 Movie Day
Dec 22 Holiday Break Begins
Dec 25 Christmas Day

Jan 1  New Year’s Day
Jan 3 School Resumes after Holiday Break

Christmas Movie Day

When: December 21st
Time: 9:00am
Cost: $5.00 per student
Movie: Mary Poppins Returns

Permission slips will be sent home Friday, December 14th and due back December 19th.

Childcare
Childcare will be open over Christmas break.

Dates open: December 27
December 28
December 31
January 2

Sign up begins December 10th.
For more information contact Courtney Oliver at courtney.oliver@k12.nd.us

Follow us on Twitter
Like St. John’s Academy on Facebook
Visit us at stjamesbasilica.org
Dear Parents,

Where is the year going? It’s hard to believe that we are entering the season of Advent already! The students and staff at SJA are filled with excitement and anticipation as we proceed with our preparations for the celebration of the birth of Christ. In addition to keeping up with their school work, the students are working hard on the annual Christmas program. I’m very excited to witness my first St. John’s Academy Christmas program this year. From what I hear, Mrs. Sprague is once again putting together a fabulous program.

Throughout the newsletter you will find information on all that is to transpire during the busy and joyful month of December at the Academy. We hope that you will be able to join us and share in the Christmas spirit that exists at SJA.

As a reminder, there will be no school from December 22nd through January 2nd. School will resume in the new year on January 3rd.

On behalf of everyone at St. John’s Academy we wish you and yours a safe and blessed Christmas. May God our Father fill you and all those you love with the joy of the birth of our Savior!

In Christ,

Jeff Trumbauer
Principal - St. John's Academy

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The Manger of My Heart
By Renee Swope

This Christmas, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when you sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift - the greatest gift ever,
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus’ birth,
when He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us,
Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, “Into your darkness, God brings His Light.”

“Do not be afraid,” they said,
to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today,
Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside,
to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord,
I long to hear your voice.
Clear my mind of concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.
Invoke my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord.
It’s in your wonderful Name I pray.
LOST & FOUND
If your child(ren) are missing any items please check the lost and found. On the 15th and 30th of each month, all items remaining in the Lost and Found collection will be donated to Goodwill.

The school office is open from 7:30am to 4:00pm Monday - Friday or by appointment.

Please make sure to check the lost and found table regularly.

Kids’ Kingdom

May you and your family have a Blessed Christmas & New Year
From all of St. John’s Academy Teachers & Staff

PREK
Pre-K had an exciting month!! We’ve been having so much fun playing and learning together. Here are some of the last month’s highlights:

- Walking to the police station for a field trip
- Going on a field trip to the fire station, as we learned about fire safety and prevention
- Learning about nocturnal animals by using flashlights and wearing our pajamas to school
- Friendship Friday where we learned about The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Talking about what we are thankful for and our favorite Thanksgiving foods

KINDERGARTEN
November was spent being thankful for the many blessings we have in our lives. Here are a few things that the students were thankful for: godparents, pizza, school, saints, mom, dad, earth, Mass, friends, cousins, movies, brother, sister, and family. We had visits from the University of Jamestown nursing students and also students in the education department.

The students enjoyed another fun-filled Friendship Friday. The theme for this month was The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
**1st Grade**

First graders have been busy reading, doing math and learning about maps, countries, and land forms of our Earth. We also have been learning about the liturgical season of Advent and Christmas customs in other countries. The students are looking forward to lots of fun putting together and decorating their Gingerbread houses with their parents/grandparents. They will learn that the custom of making a gingerbread house comes from the country of Germany. It’s always fun to see their Gingerbread House masterpiece when they are finished. The students are looking forward to Christmas to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

The student council is happy (super happy...see photo) to report that SJA donated a total of 634 pairs of socks during their Socktober collection. The 6th graders will deliver these socks to Mary's Sharing and Caring Hands in Minneapolis on April 30 on their mission trip. The guiding principle of Mary's Sharing and Caring Hands (taken from their website, www.sharingandcaringhands.org) is as follows:

We are dedicated to the proposition that the community can make a difference in the lives of others through volunteerism, donation and commitment, and that this can be accomplished without creating an expensive bureaucracy that saps the resources necessary to carry out its vision and achieve its goals.

The student council is happy to be able to help such a worthy charitable organization providing one of the most requested, yet one of the least donated, items to help the homeless.

In November the student council recognized Epilepsy Awareness Month, Military Family Month, National Adoption Month, National Family Literacy Month, and PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month. On the last day of November the whole school was invited to wear purple to recognize all of these.

Next up? The student council will be sponsoring a food drive from December 10-21 to benefit the Food Pantry in Jamestown. Please bring any donations and put them in the box by the school office. Thank you in advance!

**2nd Grade**

In second grade, we are busy learning. We are focusing our studies on getting to know about the world around us. We have learned about communities and the people that keep them going. In science, we finished learning about habitats and the plants and animals in each. Now we have moved on to learning about matter. We recently read *Bartholomew and the Ooblec* by Dr. Seuss and made our own Ooblec. Did you know that it can be both a liquid and a solid? We were amazed at its properties!

We have also begun our preparations for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We look forward to celebrating the Sacrament in January. As we prepare for the Christmas season, students are looking forward to learning about the Christmas story and how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world.

**3rd Grade**

3rd Grade in Mrs. Vandal’s Class

In November we have been learning about lots of different canonized saints. We have received saint cards from the Faith Formation Office, and we are reading about them as we put them on a key ring. It is exciting to make the connections of when a particular saint’s feast day is to our own lives such as our birthdays or the actual day. The saints are a wonderful way for us to realize that we all can do great and small things as we work to bring about the kingdom of God.

In Science we are studying about our solar system so that is fun as we learn the difference between the inner planets and the outer planets, how the sun is actually a star, and the paths or orbits each satellite takes around the sun.

We have also started to learn cursive as we continue working in Language Arts and the other subjects. We are looking forward to being able to write everything in cursive some day.

3rd Grade in Mrs. Gapinski’s Class

Have you heard of a Jesse Tree? Make sure to ask the Gapinski 3rd Graders! They will be learning about the lineage of Christ through the creation of ornaments and reading scripture! We are preparing our hearts for Advent! You are also welcome to come check out the tree in our room.
**4th GRADE**

During the month of November, the fourth graders read mystery books. We read closely for clues to solving a problem. We even created a case file to study the mystery and to share our finding with our classmates. Fourth grade also read the book *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* as a class. It is a funny and very relatable book. I think we all enjoy a good laugh while we are working so hard learning. We are looking forward to studying rocks and minerals in science this month. We have many future geologists in the fourth grade that are interested in how rocks formed and where they came from.

**5th GRADE**

For science we have been working on different coding activities both with a computer (plugged lessons) and without a computer (unplugged lessons). These have helped us problem solve and debug errors that we find. We have been enjoying computer science coding and look forward to continuing with this throughout the year! Our big project this month has been our living museum project. Each of us have been doing research on a famous person that has left an impact on the world. These people include famous inventors, athletes, and other historical figures. We have been researching, writing a paper, and memorizing our speeches for the day when our museum comes to life! We look forward to sharing our museum with the school and are excited for the Christmas season and all it brings!

**6th GRADE**

If you keep up with the 6th graders through the monthly newsletter, you might get tired of hearing about how busy we are...but from the first day of school through graduation day in May, we never slow down! Each day is action packed! Even Snickers, our Guinea pig, gets wiped out by the end of the day and collapses in a heap when the kids leave. Have you created the visual? If so, you could imagine Mrs. Yatskis in much the same way. :) The month of November was no exception to our fast-paced schedule.

We started the month with a trip to Calvary Cemetery for a prayer service to remember the deceased. This might seem like a strange place for a group of students to hang out, but the prayerfulness and seriousness that is cultivated in respect to the dead during this time is priceless.

Excitement Alert: We welcomed four new "classmates" to our room this month! These "classmates" are so awesome!! They literally do EVERYTHING that we tell them to do without hesitation...at least they will when the students use their iPads to use Coding to communicate with them. We have two Dash and two Dot robots that have brought our technology experience to a whole new level. Mrs. Yatskis strives for engaged learning for her students every day...and this one is a slam dunk! One of the highlights of science this month was our Paper Airplane Engineering project. What a blast!! Mrs. Yatskis is sure that a world record was set for the amount of math accomplished during one 20 minute segment of this project.

And, of course, we had our monthly trip to Ave Maria for Mass and card/dice games with the residents. If you could witness the faces of both residents and students as they hold hands during the Our Father during Mass, you would want to be a 6th grader (or their teacher) just to be a part of this moment. These 17 6th grade students that Mrs. Yatskis has the privilege of being with each day are absolutely amazing! This is no fluke. St. John's Academy allows families and teachers the ability to cultivate the best in these kids. With God included like He is at SJA, no more explanation is needed.
Kids Kingdom, Pre K
&
Kindergarten Christmas Program
Friday, December 14
2:00 PM
St. James Basilica

1st - 6th Grade Christmas Program
Monday, December 17
6:30 PM
St. James Basilica
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**Breakfast Prices:**
Students $2.00

Cold Cereal, Fruit, and Juice also offered daily.

Breakfast served from 7:45-8:20
### December 2018

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<td>Taco in a Bag on a Tray</td>
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<td>Pepperoni Pizza</td>
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**Lunch Prices:**
- Students-$2.75
- Guests-$3.50

**Extra Milk-$0.50**

A cold sandwich will be offered as a second option every day.

Salad Bar is offered K-6