

SINCE 1890

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.stjohnsacademynd.org

701.252.3397



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

March 2nd

- Ash Wednesday Mass @ St. James Basilica - 10 am

March 4th

- 1st Grade African Safari - 1 pm

March 8th

- Mass with Bishop Folda @ St. James Basilica - 10 am

March 9th, 10th, 11th

- No School - Spring Break

March 28th

- Drama Club Begins



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear SJA Families and Friends,

As we turn the calendar over to the month of March, it dawns on me that this month is the most anticipated month for me, yet the most disappointing. I am not a particular fan of winter as the days are short, nights are long and temperatures are low. Sure, I enjoy some winter activities like ice fishing, skiing, and sledding with the kids. Although, if I could, I would pass on the not-so-fun winter activities of shoveling, snow-blowing, scraping car windows, scurrying from car to building, etc. etc. I can usually relate to Phil, played by Bill Murray, in the movie Ground Hog's Day, by mid-February!

Because of my disdain for winter, I begin the countdown to March on January 1st. My longing to get outdoors, see green grass, blooming flowers and throw the ball around with the family increases daily. When March finally arrives, I usually have a sense of disappointment. Days are longer, temps are warmer, and the sun is brighter, yet March usually falls short of what I long for, which is to feel the warmth of the sun and to enjoy the great outdoors in comfort!

In some ways, March is a lot like life. Anticipation of something better, but just short of what we truly want. I believe it's human nature to always want a little bit more, to desire to improve our situation. We want our lives to be perfect, getting what we want, when we want it, just the way that we want it. On one hand, is that such a bad thing? We work hard, try to do the right thing, and make sacrifices. Is it too much to ask to just have things the way we want them? The older I get, the more I realize that this pursuit of happiness is always just outside of our reach. Why is that?

At Monsignor Wald's funeral, Bishop Folda described Monsignor as a "loveable curmudgeon". The description was spot on as Monsignor, who was loved by many, had a hint of cynicism, skepticism and would often times describe the glass as half-empty. Yet, Monsignor was loved because he was also full of joy. Wait, what? A cynic, skeptic, curmudgeon who is full of joy? How can that be?

The answer to that question lies in how God, the Father created us. As you have often heard, we are formed with a God-shaped hole in our heart. Nothing in this world will ever be able to completely satisfy us as we were created with a longing for something that only God can fill. Understanding that our Creator loves us so much that he will not allow us to be completely satisfied until we can fully rest in Him is a wonderful and abundant source of joy. The joy that Monsignor possessed came from the understanding that there is more to come. That we weren't created for this world, but rather for a heavenly kingdom that far surpasses anything we will ever experience during this lifetime on earth.

Having this God-based, joyful disposition is very helpful as we live our lives. It helps us to realize that we won't be perfect, others won't be perfect, and that life is not always going to be smooth sailing, living in a constant state of happiness. This aids us in our daily approach and in our relationships with others. We become quicker to say I am sorry, to admit our own errors and to forgive others when they offend us. Perfection is no longer the goal but rather a pursuit, that we understand will only be achieved when we come face to face with our Savior and our God!

We give thanks to God for the month of March as it provides a reminder that as we seek to be closer to Him we can be filled with joy in anticipation of what's to come. For me, the closest we get to this heavenly experience takes place in July!

May God bless you and your family this Lent as we strive to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Trumbauer".

Jeff Trumbauer
Principal – St. John's Academy



A Word From Our Pastor



Dear Friend in Christ,

This week, we begin the journey through the season of Lent as enter the desert with our Lord for 40 days. A long journey begins with a first step and is completed by putting one foot in front of the other until the destination is reached. As we prepare for the journey, we must ready ourselves for the first step.

During Lent, our Lord asks us to deepen our relationship with him through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Attention to these acts aids in taking our eyes off ourselves and instead placing our focus on the Kingdom of God. One rule of thumb that I have been teaching in the classroom, is that it is not so much what we give up, but rather, what we do for the Lord. A wise spiritual person once said, "we complicate things too easily and we give up things that we are comfortable living without." How true that is. It is not difficult to give up coffee or chocolate if you never drink coffee or do not like candy. I propose something new for you to reflect on as you begin your Lenten journey. This year, look into your heart and ask two questions: First, what is one thing I am NOT doing that the Lord would want me to do? Commit to adding that single item for 40 consecutive days. This commitment will form a positive habit that will strengthen your faith and relationship with Christ. Secondly, since you've added something, you should also subtract something to balance yourself. What can you remove from your life that is displeasing to the Lord? Once identified, commit to cutting that item out of your life. This act is pleasing to the Lord as He recognizes your desire and attempt to surrender to His divine will.

I am reminded of two of my former students from Holy Spirit Catholic School in Fargo. The first, struggled with vanity. She had a habit of combing her hair an excessive number of times every morning before school. For Lent, she decided to give up mirrors. It changed her life as she started to see herself how God made her to be, rather than through the lens of who she thought she should be. The other student claimed he had too much comfort and pleasure. In reflection of this, he decided to give up mattresses; not sleeping on a bed. The first few nights that student slept on the hard floor, and he longed for his bed. But that student, remembered how the Lord longed for His heart to live for Him and it eased the pain. After a week of being on the floor, the student decided to sleep on a couch or chair. As the student regained comfort, he noticed how easily he forgot what his mission was about.

The reward for challenging ourselves during Lent for the Lord is a more joy-filled Easter. The daily challenges of the additions and subtractions are made easier as we journey with the Lord. Whatever you decide to do this year, remember that we are all called to increase our prayer time. If you don't have a daily prayer habit, begin with a small commitment of 3-5 minutes. If you already spend 30 minutes in prayer, challenge yourself to add an additional 5 minutes.

We are also called to fast. Fasting takes our eyes off ourselves. When it is done in a healthy way, we recognize where God is filling us, and we rely on Him more fully.

Almsgiving is about looking after the needs of others and taking our eyes off ourselves. It is easy to become self-centered, to only think about number one, but that is not what Jesus did. As He embraced His cross, He was not thinking about himself, He thought of you and me.

How can we make Lent better? It begins with our preparation period, putting our best foot forward.

A reminder that Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent, including Good Friday, are required fast days. A proper fast, is to consume only one full meal, two smaller meals that do not equal a full meal, and to avoid snacking between meals. On Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent, we are asked to abstain from meat. Meat is made from blood that flows through the animal. As we refrain from meat, we think of the blood that our Savior shed for you and me.

Know of my prayers for you throughout the season of Lent that these 40 days of prayer, fasting and care for others will be rewarded with 50 days of Easter celebration. May God bless you on your Lenten journey!

Fr. Neil Pfeifer

March VIRTUES

Week of March 7th: Industriousness

Week of March 14th: Magnanimity

Week of March 21st: Magnificence

Week of March 28th: Patience



**Family Virtue Devotions
on our website!**



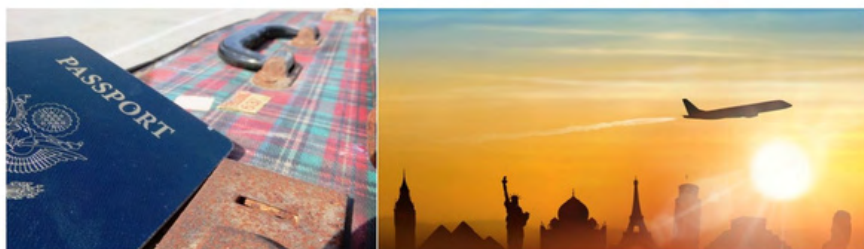
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SUMMER EXPRESS



AROUND THE WORLD

Learning is fun as an adventurous world traveler! Students will strengthen academic skills by exploring God's beautiful creation.

COST

1ST CHILD - \$250

Additional Children \$200



DETAILS

Registration

Grades 1st-6th

Open until full (20 slots)

Weeks

June 6-9, 13-16, 20-23

Days

Monday-Thursday

Time

8:30-11:30

Before and After Care provided 8am-12pm

Contact Us
701-252-3397



LOST & FOUND

St. John's Academy lost & found continues to grow. The lost & found is located in the office. Please stop by if your child is missing an item.



WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF COMMUNITY OF SAINTS

Fairfield Inn & Suites Jamestown

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For more information on our Community of Saints program, visit:
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Mrs. Mahoney's Kids' Kingdom

We've fit a lot into this short month! The highlights of our learning units has been learning all about bears, studying Artic animals and building their habitats, working as veterinarians in our Care Clinic, and diving deeper into the world of penguins!

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with a big party by passing out treats and cards, playing games, dancing, and playing in our "Sweet Shop" classroom store.

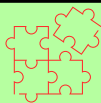


Miss Nikki's Kids' Kingdom

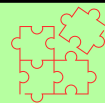
To think there is only three months left of school is crazy! Last month, we covered Valentine's Day, Groundhogs Day, and the special teddy bear clinic! The teddy bear clinic was a hit! We had so many activities with our teddies, and we even showed them around our school. I hope after all the teddies left school they were tired, full of so much information, and healthy as can be!

In March we are going to learn about Dr. Suess, St Patrick's Day, and start learning about Easter. There is so much to talk about with what happened to Jesus, that I want to make sure we take our time. As always, we completed another amazing month, now on to the next.

With love and blessings,
Miss Nikki & Mrs. Jodi



Mrs. Neville's Pre-K



Pre-K has been busy and very exciting! We've been having so much fun playing and learning together. Here are some of the last month's highlights:

- We celebrated Catholic Schools Week! We participated in the various dress up days and attending fun activities with the rest of the school.
- During our unit in construction, we spent time building blocks, words, and puzzles.
- To help with our finger strength to get ready for writing, we played with play-doh!



CREATIVITY



Kindergarten

February started off with a bang. We celebrated Catholic Schools Week. Some of the favorite activities were Family Feud, praying the rosary with the whole school, watching the 6th vs. 7th grade basketball game.

We also had fun dressing up for class color day. Our color was purple.

The kindergarteners had fun creating a Valentine bag for Valentine's Day. We played games and had a special snack to celebrate the day.

Parent/Teacher conferences were held. It was fun to share how much the students have grown academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

We ended the month with Friendship Friday. The theme was "a snowy day".



First Grade

The first graders are very excited to begin their African Safari this week. We try to read as many books as we can in two weeks, learn about African animals, write reports about them, and share with parents. We will also learn an African drum dance and celebrate with treats!

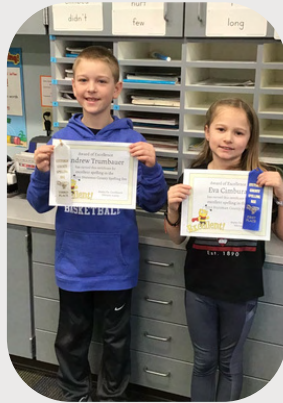




Second Grade

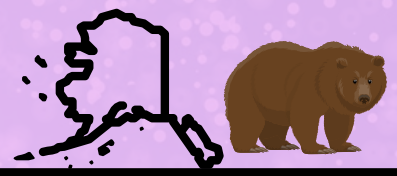


Second grade has been exciting! We are learning about the Kingdom of God, understanding how to apply the virtues to our life, and enjoying our daily visits to the Chapel. In Math, we are working hard on our subtraction facts, telling time, and writing fractions. In Science, we are exploring the changes to plants and materials. In Social Studies, we are understanding what the world is like around us. Throughout these content areas we are gaining knowledge and enjoying doing so! We also had the opportunity to go to a UJ Women's basketball game where we were able to cheer on our pen pals! What fun that was!





Third Grade



We have had a busy month and are GRATEFUL for God's blessings.

We are grateful that Ms. Tottingham taught us about the necklace that was made for her when she lived in Alaska (it has bear claws on it!).

We are grateful for our Spelling Bee representatives and that we could prayerfully cheer them on!

We are grateful for projects that stretch our minds, hearts, and imaginations!

We are grateful to learn and grow with one another.

We are blessed to be together.



Fourth Grade

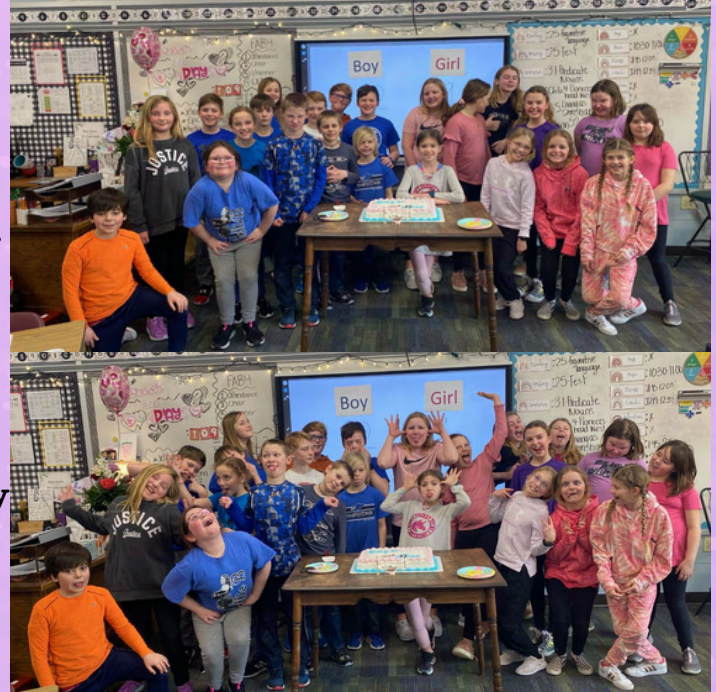
This past month has gone by so fast in our 4th grade classroom. We have celebrated a lot of birthdays and even had a gender reveal party for Mrs. Beckman's new baby! The students each wore the color they thought the baby was and then we cut a cake with PINK frosting in it. What a blast!

BABY

During these cold days the students have filled their indoor recess time with silent ball, making iMovie's and doing different art projects.

This week we will be starting a new novel study "James and the Giant Peach" which we are extremely pumped about.

Each day is a new day here in 4th grade and we are constantly working on treating our friends here with dignity and respect as our Jesus did!





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Patrick Nygaard
Financial Advisor

312 2nd Ave SW
Jamestown, ND

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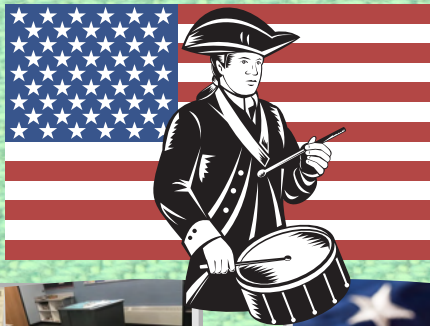
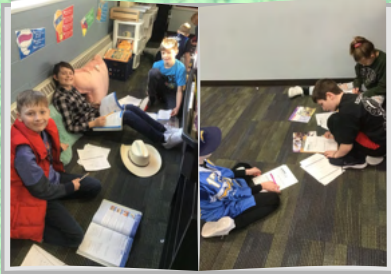


Fifth Grade



The fifth graders are currently learning about the American Revolution. We have studied the Stamp Act and the Boston Tea Party. We have enjoyed chanting "No Taxation without Representation" and can explain to you what that means .

We have also been studying decomposers in science so did some neat experiments watching how different things can help speed up breaking things down. We are moving on to learning about the four systems of earth and have many different ideas about what that means. We are eager to find out exactly in the next week.



Middle School



St. John's Middle School students are having the time of their lives in school. From Catholic Schools' Week activities to hands-on learning to counting the money for Giving Hearts' Day, there is never a dull moment! You may have thought that the "happiest place on earth" refers to a faraway destination, but really, it is right here at SJA! Our students are blessed with amazing opportunities and experiences that are helping them to be the best they can be. The joy in our hearts that comes from the gift of developing our faith in connection with all that we do is evident every single day in the halls of our new middle school. SJA Middle School rocks!!





March Breakfast 2022

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SJA Cafeteria 215 5th St SE Jamestown, ND 58401 Phone: 701-252-3397 ext 31 E-mail: Geraldine.Oretta @k12.nd.us				
7 Breakfast Pizza Cereal & Fruit	8 Cheese Stick Cereal & Fruit	9 No School National School Week!!	10 No School Take Off With	11 No School School Breakfast
14 Breakfast Sandwich Cereal & Fruit	15 Cereal Bar Cereal & Fruit	16 Pancake Wraps Cereal & Fruit	17 Poptart Cereal & Fruit	18 Caramel Roll Cereal & Fruit
21 Cold Cereal with Breakfast Daily Breakfast Served From 7:45-8:15	22 Pancakes Sausage Cereal & Fruit	23 Yogurt Cereal & Fruit	24 Cinnamon Toast Cereal & Fruit	25 Doughnut Cereal & Fruit
28 Breakfast Pizza Cereal & Fruit	29 French Toast Cereal & Fruit	30 Sunseeds Cereal & Fruit	31 Cheese Stick Cereal & Fruit	April 1 Muffin Cereal & Fruit

"This institution in an equal opportunity provider"



March Lunch 2022

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SJA Cafeteria

215 5th St SE

Jamestown, ND 58401

Phone:

701-252-3397 ext 116

E-mail:

Geraldine.Oretta@k12.nd.us

Guests-\$3.75

Extra Milk-\$.50

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

Fresh Fruit & Vegetables served daily

7

Cheese Burger
Baked Beans

8

Scalloped Potato
& Ham
Dinner Roll

9

Spring Break
No School

10

No School

11

No School

14

Pepperoni
Pizza

15

Tator Tot
Casserole
Green Beans
Sliced Bread

16

Pulled Pork
on a Bun
Corn

17

Beef Lasagna
Bread Stick

18

Cheese Tortellini
Bread Stick

21

Chicken Filet
on Bun

22

Spaghetti
Bread Stick

23

Sweet And Sour
Chicken
Veggie Fried Rice

24

Mini Corn Dogs
Potato Wedges

25

Pizza Sticks
Spaghetti Sauce
Mexi/Corn Salad

28

Hot Dog
Baked Beans

29

Taco/Bag
Salsa

30

Chili
Bread Sticks

31

Turkey/Gravy
Mashed Potato
Roll

April 1

Fish on Bun
Tartar Sauce
French Fries