

# ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY PARENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

[stjohnsacademynd.org](http://stjohnsacademynd.org)



## Important Dates

- November 1st - All Saints Day Mass - 9 AM
- November 2nd - All Souls Day
- November 3rd - First Friday Early Dismissal - 11:45 AM
- November 8th - Parent/Child Reconciliation Retreat
- November 10th - Veterans Day - No School
- November 17th - Cyber Madness State
- November 23rd - Happy Thanksgiving - No School
- November 24th - Thanksgiving Break - No School





# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

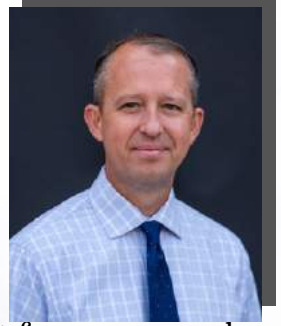
ST. JOHN'S



ACADEMY

Families of St. John's Academy,

November greetings from the Academy. I have mentioned in previous years that November has become one of my favorite months of the year. As a sports fan, it's a great mix of the World Series, NFL, college football, high school playoffs and college basketball. Mix that in with Thanksgiving family time, food, Christmas decorating, November is filled with things I love.



On a deeper level, my love of this month centers on the end of the Church calendar that focuses on end times (both personally and universally). It may sound a little morbid to express an appreciation of focusing on these things, but I find it refreshing to recenter my focus on what matters most, which is to say, my faith (unum est necessarium ~ the one thing necessary).

I love November because there's a strong focus on the recognized Saints. It reminds me of when I was a child how my room was covered wall to wall with Larry Bird and Michael Jordan posters. They were my role models and I desired to someday play just like they played (little did I realize that size and athleticism would be inhibiting factors). My admiration for Bird and Jordan was healthy as it inspired me to practice and work on my skills to refine my ability to imitate how they played. Although I obviously fell well short of their level of play, their example motivated me to perform to the best of my ability.

The Church's focus on the Saints is for this very same reason. When we read their stories and study their habits and actions, we too can be inspired to live lives of significance. Although we may never reach the level of recognized, canonized saints, we are encouraged and strengthened to do the best we can to love God and others by doing "small things with great love" ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta.

This year, each classroom teacher has selected a classroom saint for this reason. It is to help our students recognize just how amazing these people were and to recognize what God can accomplish through us when we commit to cooperating with His grace.

I encourage our families to spend some time learning more about these Saints during the month of November. Make it a family activity and give your child an opportunity to share what they have learned about their classroom saint. Their stories are a treasure to us as one cannot help but be inspired to try and follow their example.

The Jordan's, Birds', and Mahomes' of this world are entertaining without question, and we keep our eyes out for the next great athlete who will inspire us with their accomplishments. However, this November, let's consider what our world would look like if there were more St. Maria Goretti's, St. Maximilian Kolbe's, St. John Bosco's, St. Teresa of Calcutta's or St. Padre Pio's.

**HOPE Dinner** - On a school related note, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to another successful HOPE Dinner. From our sponsors and donors to our committee members and volunteers, your generosity of time and treasure is beyond amazing. Your love and commitment to the success of this school is remarkable and the students and staff of St. John's Academy are incredibly grateful! Blessings to everyone this November!

In Christ,

Jeff Trumbauer  
Principal - St. John's Academy





# Mrs. Mahoney's Kids' Kingdom

The morning preschoolers investigated bats and spiders through fingerprinting, books, and movement. This session conducted a science experiment by mixing fingerprint colors, which in turn, allowed us to practice crossing our all-important midline!

Kinder Prep spent their afternoons closely studying bats and spiders! They dove into science and math concepts, such as...AB patterns, STEM activities, art projects, movement, and music.

Each session worked on unit stations, math and language skills, fine motor activities of printing and cutting, and most importantly... interpersonal skills! We were very much Actively Learning each week!



October's special guests included Parent Partners joining us for spider math and a fantastic visit from UJ Football players and coaches!

Much love to you all,  
Mrs. Mahoney







# Mrs. Gange's Kids' Kingdom

In November we are going to spend some time talking about pumpkins, harvest & being thankful. We will spend time talking about Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks with a grateful heart." We are going to incorporate that into thanksgiving by doing lessons and activities that focus on the verse.

This month we will also start Friendship Friday with all our Early Childhood friends and do different activities in each room.

-Mrs. Gange





# Library



Happy November, it is time to Gobble up a Good Book! Thank you so much for coming to our Scholastic Book Fair and supporting our school by buying books! This book fair SJA Library earned almost \$2,000 dollars to spend on our library. New books will be coming in soon!

One popular question parents have is, "Is this book the right reading level for my child?". There are two very easy way for both parents and students to check the level of a book. The first is called the Five Finger Test.

- Open the book to a random page.
- Have the student begin reading at the top. For every word they do not know put up one finger. Read the entire page.
- How to tell the reading level
  - 0-1 fingers up the book is a little too easy.
  - 2-3 fingers the book is just right.
  - 4 fingers the book is a little challenging but can be done with support.
  - 5 fingers the book is too hard for the student yet.







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# Mrs. Neville's Pre-K

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

- During our apple unit, we did lots of apple activities: apple themed centers and apple tasting were our favorites 

- We visited the middle school's pet turtle, Kevin. We loved watching him swim in his tank! 

- To celebrate Jamestown High School homecoming, we wore our Blue Jay gear! 

- Each class picked a saint for the year. I chose St. Joseph for the pre-k class. He is the patron saint of carpenters and caring for children who are not yours. His feast days are March 19th and May 1st.





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For more information on our Community of Saints program, visit:  
[www.stjohnsacademynd.org](http://www.stjohnsacademynd.org)





# Kindergarten



The kindergarten students have been practicing Halloween Fingerplays. They are excited to perform for their parents.

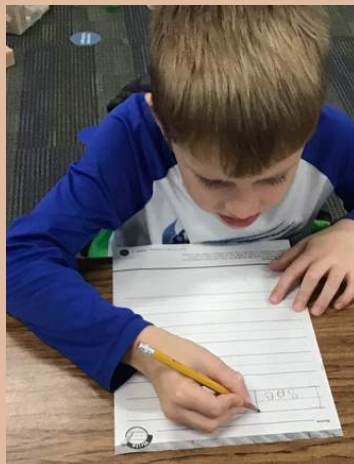
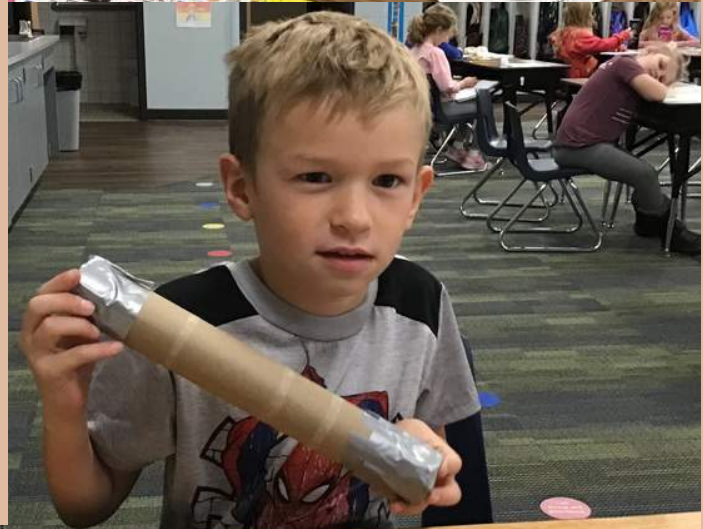
In science we have been learning about the weather. We ended our weather unit by making rain sticks.

The students have been busy counting, writing numbers, and comparing groups of objects in math.

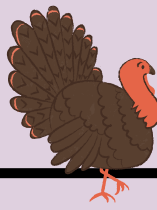
In reading we are practicing putting sounds together to create words.

For art the students drew a pumpkin and leaves. They then had to mix colors to create orange and green to paint their pumpkin and leaves.

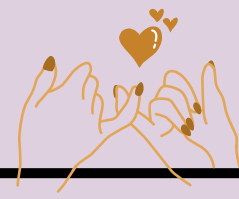
For religion the students love to learn about our classroom Saint, Dominic Savio. A little piece of information about Saint Dominic Savio was that he had to walk 2 miles to continue his studies. An elderly person asked him if he was afraid to go so far alone. Dominic Savio's response was "I am not alone. I have my angel guardian with me, accompanying every step."



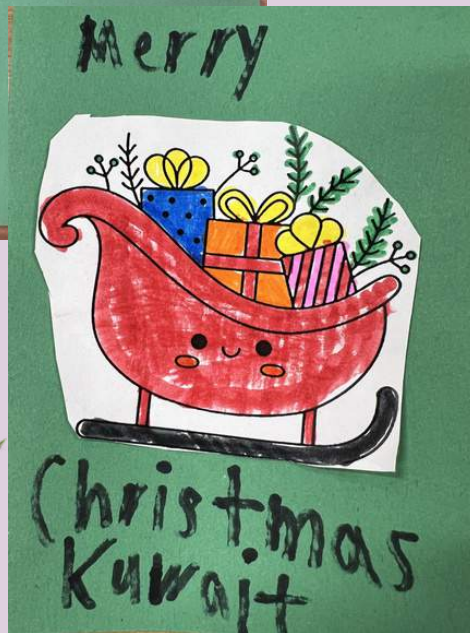
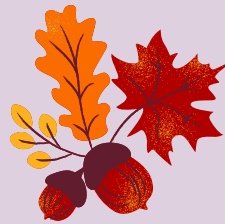
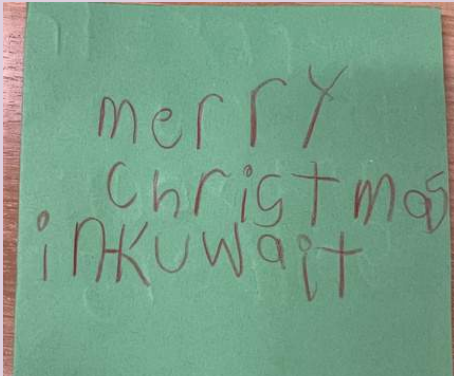




# First Grade



October was a busy month for the first graders. We got to meet our new prayer partners for the year. It was exciting to see who we're going to pray for and do activities with this school year. Mrs. Hansen's class meets with the third graders and made a pinky prayer promise and Mrs. Schafer's class meets with the fifth graders, and we made Christmas cards for the soldiers in Kuwait. We're excited to see what November brings (hopefully no snow)!







# Second Grade



We enjoyed performing at the HOPE Dinner and did amazing! We thank the Lord for the many gifts and talents he has given us! We celebrated national fire prevention week to educate ourselves on the importance of fire safety.

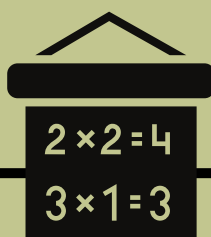
In religion, we learned that God gives us the ability to choose, and He tells us about himself through bible stories. Each week we enjoy discussing and finding examples of how to apply virtues to our life.

In math, we understood how to represent and solve addition and subtraction word problems. In science, we have explored land and water on Earth, and in social studies we learned about how people best cooperate within our community and country.

Each day we go to the chapel to pray together and grow our relationship with the Lord!







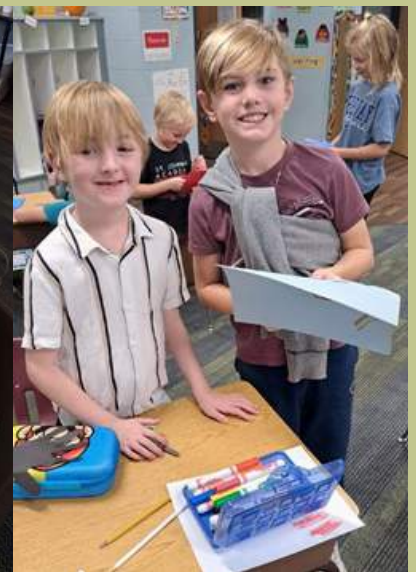
# Third Grade



A glimpse into our past month...

- We prayed & met with our 1st grade prayer partners (They were adorable.)!
- We worked on a pottery wheel (It moved faster than we anticipated.).
- We celebrated St. Therese of Lisieux's Feast Day with special treats (Thank you to our awesome parent that created these for us! We are blessed & YUM!).
- We started singing our multiples of 2s and 3s for math (It's catchy!).

**YOUR ADULT CHALLENGE:** If you see a 3rd grader, spend 2 minutes going through their X2s or X3s multiplication equations or just have a 3rd grader sing their multiples of 2s/3s to you! All hands-on deck, I repeat, all hands-on deck. It takes a village to raise children and if we all help them grow into their best capable selves, we can accomplish great feats. (Make sure to high-five that 3rd grader after!)





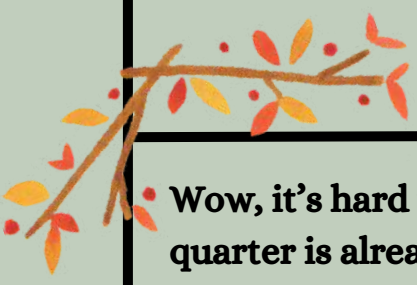
# ✝ Fourth Grade



October in fourth grade is always exciting as we prepare for our special day, All Saints' Day. For the past two months we have been learning about many different Saints, our heroes in the Faith. We spent time in prayer asking for help on what Saint to choose. We researched the Saints by doing Internet searches and browsing the many Saint books we have at our school. We watched Saint videos on Formed.org and discussed many of the miraculous things God has done through His faithful disciples. Once the students made their final choice, they completed written work, crafted a sign and created a costume with the help of their families at home. We are looking forward to showing our love and appreciation for our Saints at the All-Saints' Day Mass and our school Saint Parade.







# Fifth Grade



Wow, it's hard to believe that the 1st quarter is already over! We have been working hard as we strengthen our reading skills, hone in on our multiplication facts and learn how to multiply multi-digit numbers, study and collect data about ecosystems, and discover the many early explorers. We enjoyed our time with the Artist in Residence as she taught us about working with clay.



We also spent much time learning about the great sacramental, the Rosary. We wrote and drew about our favorite Mystery of the Rosary. We recited this beautiful prayer in our Grotto, and made large paper bead rosaries in our groups. It has been amazing learning about Jesus and Mary's life!

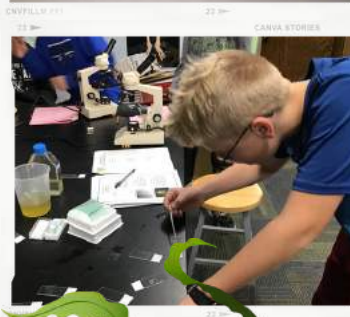
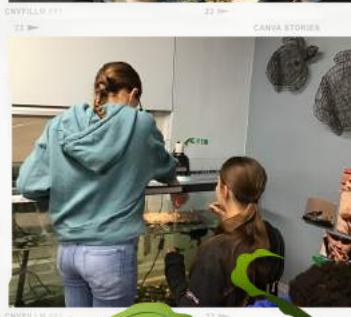




# Middle School



The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science classrooms have been spending a lot of time immersing themselves with algae, with the help of Algae Academy. Algae Academy is a free STEM based curriculum provided to SJA by The Algae Foundation. It's an incredible program and a very hands-on way to learn about algae and ALL the ways it can benefit the world! We were able to create algae cultures, test the biomass index as our cultures grew, and look at our algae under the microscope. We even tested Kevin's water for algae. We ended up finding all kinds of goodies in there! It was a fantastic opportunity and we thank The Algae Foundation for sending us curriculum, live algae cultures, and a bunch of materials which will continue to bless our science lab in the future.

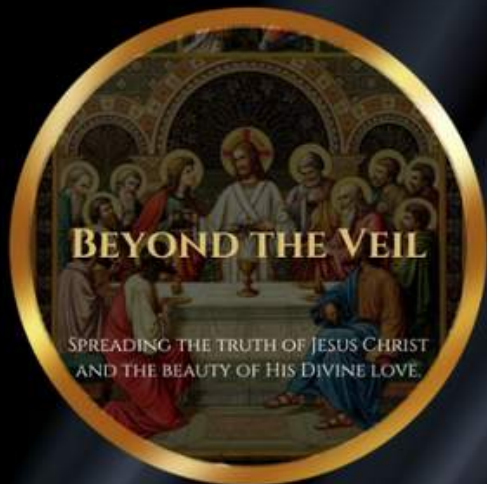




Mrs. Cramer's 8th grade Religion has been learning more about their classroom saint, Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa was canonized as a saint on September 4, 2016. She is the patron saint of World Youth Day, the Missionaries of Charity, and co-patron of the Archdiocese of Calcutta, India. Her work with the poorest of the poor made her a champion for the poor and dying. Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Pray for us.







## Exploring the invisible realities of the existence of God.

### The Gift of Presence: St. Mother Teresa's Example for Life



JACOB HEIDEL

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

[wordonfire.org](http://wordonfire.org)

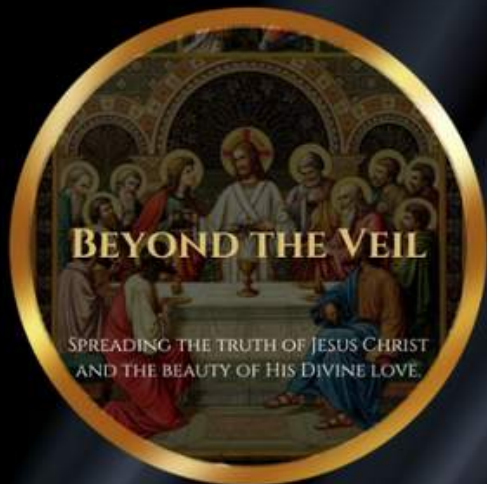
Hey, CO!" yelled the inmate clothed in an orange county smock from behind the thick glass of the cell door between him and the young corrections officer making his rounds. "What's up?" asked the officer as he paused on the walkway. "I need to talk to you . . . somebody . . . anybody. You see, CO, I have things weighin' on me—dark things. Things that bother me. No one listens. I feel angry inside at people and at myself. I don't know what to do." The officer looked at the inmate and simply asked, "Would it help you if I listened to what it is that is bothering you? I can only spare a few minutes, but I will try and offer to you what I can if it would help." The inmate gestured with the nod of quiet desperation. The officer did a quick scan of the cellblock and leaning on his law enforcement training and even more on his Catholic faith, he stood opposite the inmate at the thick cell door and listened as the broken man—wounded from the awful crimes he had done and the sinful life he had chosen—poured out his heart and lamented those things and where they had inevitably brought him.

The first several seconds seemed like an eternity, but the young officer persevered through all the things weighing the man down. The long back-to-back shifts in the jail, the fatigue from being on constant high alert and ready to go at any minute to protect and maintain security, the inmates always badgering him for something or trying a game of manipulation, the heartache of being away from his dog and his family, the fact that he would not be able to go to Sunday Mass because the jail was in dire need of shift coverage—oh yes, the officer had his own woes to lament too. And yet, he found himself before this inmate—a man justly sentenced for crimes he had knowingly committed—listening to him pour out his heart.

### ***How will you respond to Christ's call to be present to others?***

The officer's mother's words in many sacrificial situations came to mind, "There, but for the grace of God, go!" Suddenly, he became keenly aware of another individual who had often done the same in her life and religious vocation, someone now in heaven among that blessed communion of saints. The memory of her and her incredible example suddenly flooded the young officer's mind. He found he was not so weary and fixated on his troubles, but sensitive to the ones of the man before him. He looked to this saintly woman of faith—this small but zealous nun in a white and blue saree, holding her Rosary beads and repeating in the most genuine and heartfelt of ways, "I will pray for you!" This young corrections officer in a navy-blue sheriff's uniform and duty belt made the decision to take up the





## Exploring the invisible realities of the existence of God.

example of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata and enter the slums—not of India but of a jail and into the heart of the criminal standing before him. With Mother Teresa’s example, this young officer made the resolve to show the love and mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ by simply being present and offering what he could to this troubled and tormented man in a jail cell. As St. Mother Teresa reminds us, how often have Jesus and his mother been there to hear us, comfort us, love and encourage us? The answer: always.

The gift of presence is the game-changer. Mother Teresa knew this, for she learned from the best of the best—Our Blessed Lord. Jesus is the prisoner found in every tabernacle and monstrance of the world, so madly in love with us and bound to us in the Blessed Sacrament—His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Most Holy Eucharist. Jesus knows how starved we are for his divine presence, and this is why he utters from the altar-wood of the cross on Calvary, “I thirst!”—the very words St. Mother Teresa heard in the cries she could not and would not ignore from the poorest of the poor.

I was that young corrections officer once upon a time. All of this occurred, and St. Mother Teresa was fast in my heart and mind, beckoning me to learn from her and be Christ to one of his poor ones. She begged me to present the priceless treasure of Jesus’ love to a tormented soul in the sure and certain hope that he might know peace one day. When I go before Our Eucharistic Lord in Adoration, I cannot help but think and reflect on the quote from the film *A River Runs Through It*: “The poor without Christ are of all men the most miserable. But the poor with Christ? Princes and kings of the earth!”

I ask you, how will you respond to Christ’s call to be present to others? Will you simply share a smile on the sidewalk? Maybe utter a “hello” to a stranger in the supermarket? Not lose your temper when someone on the road cuts you off or takes your spot in the crowded parking lot? Or offer a heartfelt “I will pray for you” to someone in dire need of Christ’s loving presence as St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata often did?

Let us learn from Mother Teresa, for she is a great teacher. She knew that the slums of the poor dwell all around us—those souls burdened by physical poverty, bodily illness, loneliness, addiction, indifference, slavery to immorality, and spiritual drought. Like that great saint who gave everything up so that others might know the Kingdom of God, strive to be present to each soul placed before us with the same love and attention he shows us. For if the poor—all of us—have Christ, they then become as kings!

I leave you with these words of St. Mother Teresa:

***Let us ask Our Lady to be with us; let us ask her to give us her heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate—her Heart! So full of love and humility—that we may receive Jesus in the Bread of Life. That we might love Him as she loves Him, and serve Him in the distress and disguise of the poor. Let us ask Our Lady to be with us!***

*St. Teresa of Kolkata, pray for us!*

**O most loving Father, grant that I may at last gaze forever upon the unveiled face of your beloved Son. - St. Thomas Aquinas**





# Oct.-Nov. Breakfast 2023

## SJA Cafeteria

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<b>23</b> Cereal Bar Cereal Fruit	<b>24</b> Mini Doughnuts Cereal Fruit	<b>25</b> Yogurt Cereal Fruit	<b>26</b> Poptart Fruit Cereal	<b>27</b> Mini Long John Fruit Cereal
<b>30</b> Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit	<b>31</b> Muffin/Omelet Cereal Fruit	<b>Nov1</b> French Toast Cereal Fruit	<b>2</b> Egg Bake Muffin Cereal Fruit	<b>3</b> Caramel Rolls Cereal Fruit
<b>6</b> Egg Cheese Biscuit Cereal Fruit	<b>7</b> Cereal Bar Cereal Fruit	<b>8</b> Pancake Sausage Wrap	<b>9</b> Poptart Cereal Fruit	<b>10</b> Veterans Day!
<b>13</b> Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit	<b>14</b> Muffin/Omelet Cereal Fruit	<b>15</b> French Toast Cereal Fruit	<b>16</b> Yogurt Cereal Fruit	<b>17</b> Mini Doughnuts Cereal Fruit





# Oct.–Nov. Lunch 2023

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30 Hamburger Potato Smiles Roasted Chic Peas Ham Sandwich	31 Scalloped Potato & Ham Bread Stick Turkey Sandwich	Nov. 1 Orange Chicken Veggie Fried Rice Breadstick Ham Turkey Wrap	2 Spaghetti Breadstick Ham & Cheese Sandwich	3 Early Out! Mac & Cheese Breadstick Sunbutter & Jelly
6 Hot Dog Baked Beans Ham & Cheese Sandwich	7 Chili/Cheese Breadstick Turkey Sandwich	8 Chicken Nuggets w/ Dipping Sauce Corn Ham & Turkey	9 Chix Drumstick Potatoes & Gravy Roll Ham & Cheese	10 Veterans Day! No School
13 Pulled Pork on Bun Corn Ham & Cheese Sandwich	14 Tator Tot Casserole & Bread Green Beans Turkey Sandwich	15 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Ham & Turkey Wrap	16 Taco/Bag Salsa Ham & Cheese Sandwich	17 Chicken Cheese Quesadilla Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich