

Principal's Bulletin



For the latest information, please see the COVID section of the St. John's School website:

[SJB COVID INFORMATION](#)

From the Principal

Blessings on you and your family this happy wintery October. The snow this week is just another thing that makes the year 2020 unpredictable and a little crazy.

The end of October and beginning of November are special days for us. As a Catholic school, we not only enjoy Halloween but we also focus on honoring those who have gone before us. In a tradition dating back to the 8th century, Christians gather on October 31st (known as All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve) to honor the saints. On November 1st on All Saints Day we will recognize and honor the Saints of the Church by attending Mass and other classroom activities. On November 2nd we celebrate All Souls Day and recognize and honor all those in our lives who have died. These three days (Oct. 31 - Nov. 2) encompass the Day of the Dead which is celebrated in many Hispanic cultures.

As always we will have celebrations at school with our students for Halloween and All Saints' Eve on October 30th, but this year these will look different. Teachers are working with parents to coordinate prepackaged treat bags and an activity or craft for the students. On October 30th, students may be out of uniform and are asked to come to school in Halloween colors (orange and black) or appropriate Halloween - themed clothes. Jeans are okay for students to wear on this day.

Hallo-grams/Saint-grams will be sold Thursday, October 22 – Monday, October 26th. All grams will be collected Tuesday morning, October 27th. Hallo-grams/Saint-grams are optional for students and are notes that they may send to other students in the school to wish them a Happy Halloween or All Saints Day. The cost for these is 25¢ each or 5/\$1.00. These notes will be sold in students' homerooms and should be turned in by October 27th. The SJB Student Ambassadors will then sort and deliver the grams to students with a treat.

The SJB Student Ambassadors are also holding an All Saints Day coloring contest. This is an optional activity for students to color a Saint picture. Winners from each grade will receive a prize. All contest submissions need to be completed and returned by Monday, October 26th.

Join other parish families on Sunday, November 1st. for our St. John's Parish and School's ALL SAINTS' DAY Celebration. Students should come dressed as their favorite Saint and there will be a parade through the west parking lot followed by Saint Bingo and a craft. See below for more information.

Some of your children may have come home talking about their prayer partners at school. Our Prayer Partner program here at St. John's allows students from different grades to form relationships and to be mentors to each other. In a non-COVID school year, classes/grades would meet with their prayer partner multiple times a year to pray together, read to each other, do art/craft projects, and have fun. All activities are

CLOTHING DRIVE COMING IN NOVEMBER

If you are planning to clean out those closets and find the winter gear - save those gently used clothing items, shoes, and household linens for an upcoming clothing drive hosted by the SJB 8th grade students.

More information will be provided soon...



done during the school day. This year we are working to find ways to develop these relationships in a safe manner. Therefore, these interactions between prayer partners will look different and some grades are still working to develop their plans for prayer partners. If you have any questions about the prayer partner program and what your children may be doing, please reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

There are number of events (both extra-curricular events and school wide events) that we are still determining how we can still do them differently and safely. They are as follows: Christmas program, school play, and band concerts. We will communicate with our families the plans as soon as they are finalized.

As our weather has quickly turned from fall to winter, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. This should include a warm coat, boots, snow pants, hats and gloves/mittens. Students will still go out for recess unless the temperature (including the wind chill) is below zero or it is raining. With snowy weather comes the question of "snow days" and "cold days." While we do not anticipate any school closures due to weather in the near future, any school closures will be communicated to parents in the following ways:

1. An email will be sent to all households via our Educate system stating the closure
2. Notifications will be announced on the major news outlets: WCCO 4, KSTP 5, KMSP 9 and KARE 11 and will be listed as St. John's - New Brighton (or something similar)
3. Closure information will be listed on our school website www.stjohnnyb.org

In general, we do follow the Mounds View School District when it comes to school closures, however, we reserve the right to deviate from their decision and hold school even if they do not. St. John's would then be in session with a no-busing option and families would need to transport their students. This option would be communicated to families via email and posted on our website.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th. This year you will have option for a Zoom conference or in-person conference. We will send out a sign-up link next week to begin the process of scheduling these meetings. If you or your student have any questions or concerns before then, please reach out to your child's teacher at any time.

To our families who pick up students in the afternoon, we ask that you park in the main church lot (west lot) and that you pull through or back into the parking spot so that when you are leaving, you have clear sight lines and do not need to back out when the students and families are walking to their cars. If you park on the street, please walk to the sidewalk to pick up your child so that they are not walking into the street unaccompanied. Also, for those who park on the street, we do block off the street with cones so please be aware of that and which direction you are facing so that you may exit safely. We kindly ask that you do not make a U-turn in the street, but wait until all the students are with a parent and the cones are removed for you to drive away. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students and their families safe.

Finally, the USDA free lunch program that was set to expire in December, has been extended until the end of the school year. That means that our students will continue to receive free lunches this school year. This is a wonderful unexpected blessing for our families and we are happy to continue to be able to offer this to you. The memo from Mrs. Sheryl Szymanski, Food Service Director, is attached to the email giving more details.

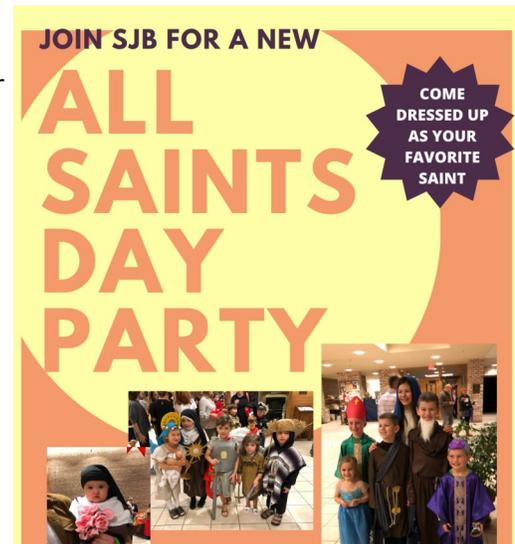
As always thank you for all your support. We appreciate all you do to make sure we can continue in-person learning at St. John's.

Ms. Ann Laird, Principal

Save the Date! All Saints Day Parade

Sunday, November 1st on All Saints Day we will host an All Saints Day Parade of saints! We invite children of all ages to dress up as a saint and gather in the West Parking Lot at 1:00pm. We will get lined up and parade around the parking lot led by one of the NET team playing the guitar to "Oh When the Saints Go Marching In". (Start practicing the song now so you are ready to go!) Kids dressed up as a saint can enter into a raffle by age group. All children will receive a goody bag created with safety protocols. We will have an area decorated for photos. Unless weather permits, we will be outside for this portion of the event so you should have a costume that can be worn on the outside of your coat if needed.

After that, join us inside for saint bingo and a craft. Inside activities will be limited in size to follow COVID protocols and only one family will sit together at a table to provide social distancing. Costumes and jackets may be taken off for this portion of the event. The entire event will run from 1-2:30pm but families can choose to do only the outside portion of the event. Warm beverages and light snacks will be available for purchase from our SJB 8th grade class to raise money for their Washington, D.C. trip Questions? Email livermontj@stjohnnyb.org



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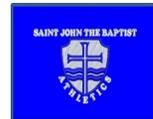
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On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping - please choose St. John the Baptist. Thank you!

SJB Athletics - Basketball Signups

Sign-ups for the SJB basketball season are now underway! Basketball is open to all students in grades 5-8.



OCTOBER 23RD IS THE DEADLINE TO TURN IN ALL REGISTRATION MATERIALS.



See the registration form for more information. Forms can be found on the [Athletics Page](#) of the SJB website or see Mr. Miley for copies of the form.