



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



January 30, 2025

Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.

Dear Parents and Staff,

On January 22, we had the first monthly Home and School Meeting of the calendar year. (The next meetings are February 19, March 26, April 30, and May 21.)

Here are the highlights of the meeting:

1. Parents were asked to sign up for various volunteer opportunities: Lost and Found, library help, lunch time help, International Night on March 27, the Craft Fair on May 10, and Catholic Schools Week. Parents who were not able to attend can email the office or the principal to express interest in any of these. Since the meeting, one parent has volunteered to help with Lost and Found and setting up a 'gently used' uniform supply in the school where parents could shop for items at reduced prices. More when this is ready to open...
2. The NEASC Accreditation Committee asked that the schools review the Mission Statement to more reflect the Catholic foundation of the schools. Parents were asked for input, what to keep, what to add, etc. There will be a parent survey later in the year which will include questions about the Mission and suggestions for its updating.
3. Parents discussed some fundraising ideas such as starting the auction again, have school nights at family-owned restaurants, a Walk-a-Thon when the weather is warmed, more family nights, and selling items. Some attendees volunteered to work more on ideas; again, parents who'd like to help, please email the office or the principal.
4. Future fun activities such as a Grandparents Day, the Talent Show, a spaghetti dinner with the Knights of Columbus, and summer camp or summer school were discussed. The idea of camp was of great interest, so I will be talking to staff about how this would look. More to come...
5. The recent diocesan safety training was reviewed. Blue U is the company; it has a different approach from the training many educators have previously received. (Please see the newsletter of January 16.) A few misconceptions that were cleared up: the parking lot is not a public one. Staff are always alert to unfamiliar cars or people near the buildings. When we had the Blue U training on January 13, there was a car in the parking lot that did not belong to the school or church. The police were notified and took care of the situation. Parents were notified of this by an email that day. The school is required to run 6 fire drills and 4 safety drills in a school year. Blue U is offering its safety training again; please see further down in this newsletter for the link.
6. It was also discussed how to get more parents to attend the monthly meetings. Sending an email reminder the day before, offering a free dress down, and providing babysitting were a few suggestions. We are checking with some of the OLMA students about being babysitters as service to the community. Other ideas are welcome.

Thank you to the parents who attended the meeting, and thank you to the parents who faithfully read this newsletter. As always, I encourage any parent who wants a question answered or who has a concern to please speak with me.

A final thank-you to the families who spoke at St. Bernard and St. Margaret Mary last weekend. Your talks were from the heart and so supportive!

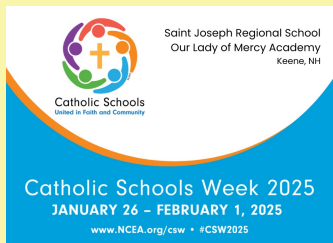
And thanks to all of our staff for making this week a great one for our students. Happy Catholic Schools Week!

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

PSALMS 139:14

I praise you, because I
am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your
works! My very self you
know.



IMPORTANT DATES

Mon-Fri 1/27-31 -- Catholic Schools Week (see details below)

Friday 1/31 -- Spelling Bee -- 9am (Parents welcome!)

Friday 1/31 -- Half Day -- 11:45am dismissal and no Extended Day.

Sunday 2/2 -- Middle School Youth Group -- 4-6pm

Wednesday 2/5 -- Please note: There will be NO ALL-SCHOOL MASS on 2/5.

Wednesday 2/5 --Blue-U webinar -- 10am (see details below)

Monday 2/10 -- French Club Crepes sales at lunch

Wednesday 2/12 -- All-School Mass -- 9:30am

Wednesday 2/12 -- Deadline for Soup-er Bowl donations (see details below)

Friday 2/14 -- Middle School Dance -- Grades 6-8 - 6-8pm

Mon-Fri 2/17-21 -- NHDI Residency

Wednesday 2/19 -- Home and School Association meeting -- 6pm

Mon-Fri 2/24-28 -- Winter Break -- NO SCHOOL

CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

*****PLEASE NOTE***** The calendar has been updated to reflect that there will be NO SCHOOL on Thursday, March 20, AND Friday, March 21.

NOTICE OF CALENDAR CHANGE

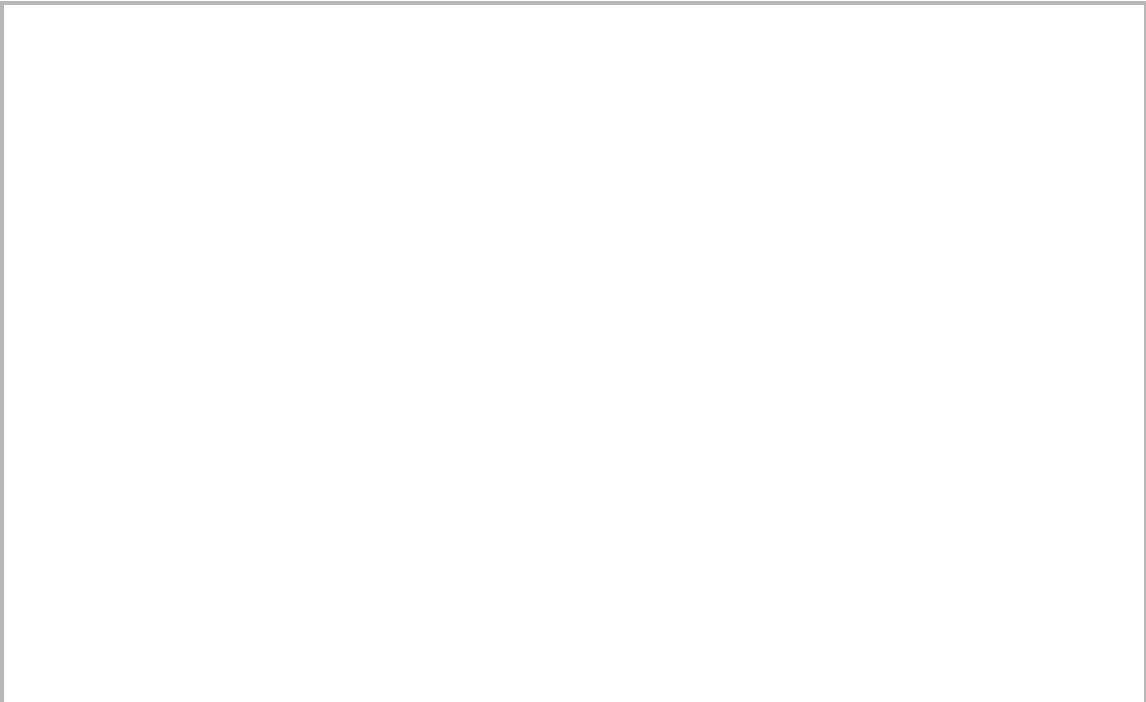
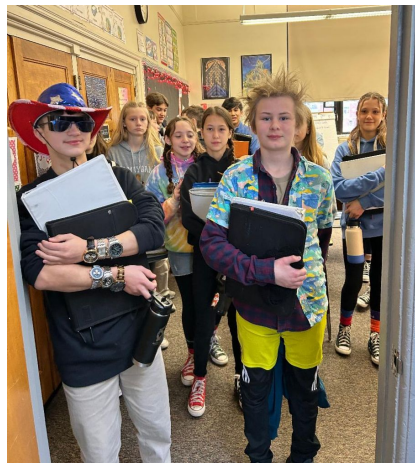
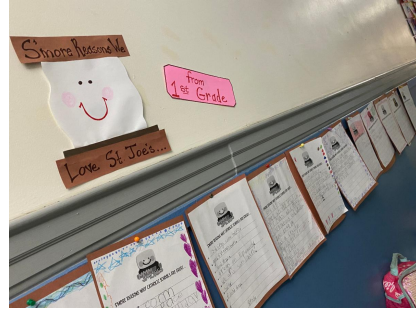
The Diocesan Professional Day has been changed to Thursday, March 20 instead of Friday, March 21. There will NOT be school on either day, so please be aware that **March 20 and March 21 are non-school days.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We are a Community of Faith and Hope.

We have had a joyous Catholic Schools Week! We kicked off the week with parents speaking at the Masses on Sunday, and Miss Farrington and Mr. Sully on WKBK Radio. We had ice cream sundaes on Monday, and hotdogs and donuts today! A beautiful new Family Tree, Crazy Day, K-4 CSW projects, and a lively game of Nation Ball between the SJRS 8th graders and the OLMA 11th graders.





Catholic Schools Week

2024-2025

We are a Community of Faith and Hope

Sunday, January 25 and 26: Our Parish has Faith and Hope

SJRS and OLMA Families speak at all Parish Masses

SJRS and OLMA materials in bulletin and in church



Monday, January 27: Our School Community has Faith and Hope

\$1 Dress: school colors (blue, gold, and white)

Ice cream Sundae bar by SJRS Student Council, at lunch, OLMA invited

Tuesday, January 28: Our Families have Faith and Hope

\$1 Dress: crazy day (mismatched clothing)

SJRS and OLMA Family Pictures Display in each school building

Wednesday, January 29: Our Benefactors have Faith and Hope

Many Gifts, One Nation - Day of Giving

Dress: regular Mass attire (uniforms and dress-up)

All-school Liturgy at 9:30 am with Benefactors and School Advisory Board

with Intro by SJRS President Brynn Bezio and Reflection by OLMA President Francis Cardine

Sr. Mary Rose, from the Diocese, visits classrooms

Thursday, January 30: Our Students have Faith and Hope

\$1 Dress: sports teams attire and colors

SJRS Leadership sells hot chocolate during lunch

1:40 pm: Game between students and staff (details pending)

Friday, January 31: Our Staff has Faith and Hope

\$1 Dress: t-shirts and jeans

9:00 am: SJRS Spelling Bee, Grades 3-8, in the gym

11:45 am: Early dismissals (no lunch)

All Week

SJRS Penny Wars

SJRS CSW Activities in Religion Classes

Religious Knowledge Contests

SJRS Grades 7 and 8 and OLMA Science and Organ Kit sessions (Tues, Wed)

Note: all Dress money goes to Corpus Christi, destroyed in the California fires

OUR FAMILY TREE

Be sure to stop by to see our new Family Tree in the main stairwell! Anyone can still send a family picture in at any time, and it will be added to our tree. We would love to see as many SJRS families as possible!

You may send in a hard copy family photo with your student or email a photo to Ms. Nelligan at: mnelligan@stjosephkeene.org.



MINIATURE PIPE ORGAN KIT ASSEMBLY

This week, Parish of the Holy Spirit organist Jon Farina hosted sessions with the SJRS 7th and 8th grade students and the OLMA Physics Honors students as they built a fully-functional miniature pipe organ, learning all about how these amazing instruments work. As part of an initiative of the New Hampshire chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the students put together a kit from **Orgelkids USA**. The hands-on puzzle captured the students' musical and scientific interests, and highlighted the fascinating intricacies of the pipe organ. The ultimate goal is to ignite the interest of young people in the organ, which of course plays a historic vital role in the sacred music of the Catholic Church. **Also, to see The Keene Sentinel's coverage of this activity CLICK**



CSW ELEMENTARY RELIGION CLASS PROJECTS

The Elementary Religion Classes with Ms. Nelligan created literary projects to showcase the many reasons why they love their Catholic Education at SJRS! The top project winners from each class are displayed in the St. Bernard Church Parish Hall for the weekend Masses. All other projects are displayed in the main hallway in the school. Come see for yourself why our students are full of goodness and joy! Here are the top project winners:

Kindergarten--Buzzillion Reasons We Love St. Joe's
Henry Greene
Brynn Bachynski
Josie Kingsbury

1st Grade--S'more Reasons to Love

Catholic Education

Zoey Pipp
Juniper Bednar
Isaac Jobbins
Rory Burns

2nd Grade--Haiku

Jocelyn Jarrell
Noah Lavigne
Avery Zhang
Moana Chow
Elliot Colby



3rd Grade--"If You Give a Kid a Catholic Education..." book

Samara Stoutzenberger
Emma Gray
Emma Jobbins
Riley Sweeney
Eloise Dunnell

4th Grade--Dodecahedrons

Evan Kwon
Melanie Nuru
Vera Chow



AFTERNOON OF APPRECIATION

The SJRS/OLMA Advisory Board and Home & School Association will be hosting an Afternoon of Appreciation for our SJRS/OLMA Faculty and Staff on Thursday, February 6th, from 3:30-5:30pm. We would like to ask for your help in making this a special event to honor and thank them for everything they do for our schools. **If you would like to contribute or help, please [CLICK HERE](#) for the sign-up genius.**

For more information, please contact Annie Pearson at anniep1979@gmail.com.

Appreciation

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PRESENTS



SOUP-ER BOWL

DUE BY
WEDNESDAY FEB 12

SOUP FOOD DRIVE

This is an optional event

✦ Donate a can of soup
as a community
service act



To go toward St
Vincent de Paul
Food Kitchen

SUPER BOWL SQUARES

Super Bowl Squares are back! It's a fun, popular game of chance that makes watching the Super Bowl a little more interesting. This is a traditional squares fundraiser with a 50/50 split -- half to SJRS/OLMA and half to the winners.

Get your squares before they're gone! And please share this with your family and friends. All are welcome to play!

\$25 per square

PRIZES (assuming all squares sell out)

1st quarter - \$150

Halftime - \$325

3rd quarter - \$150

Final score - \$625

Go here for all of the details and to pay for your squares...

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/squares>

Choose your squares here...

<https://www.superbowlsquares.org/sjr溶olma2025/enter-picks>



SJRS/OLMA FAMILY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We are in the process of putting together a directory of all of the businesses owned by SJRS and OLMA families, so that we can share that information to encourage the support of those businesses within our school communities. If you own a business, please send along to Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org) your business name and contact information that you would like to share. We will only include those businesses whose owners let us know that it is OK to do so. THANK YOU!



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR! Last Friday, our PreK and 2nd Grade classes celebrated the start of the Year of the Snake with crafts, lanterns, and lots of special treats from the Yang/Zhang family! THANK YOU so much Clemence and Jie!!





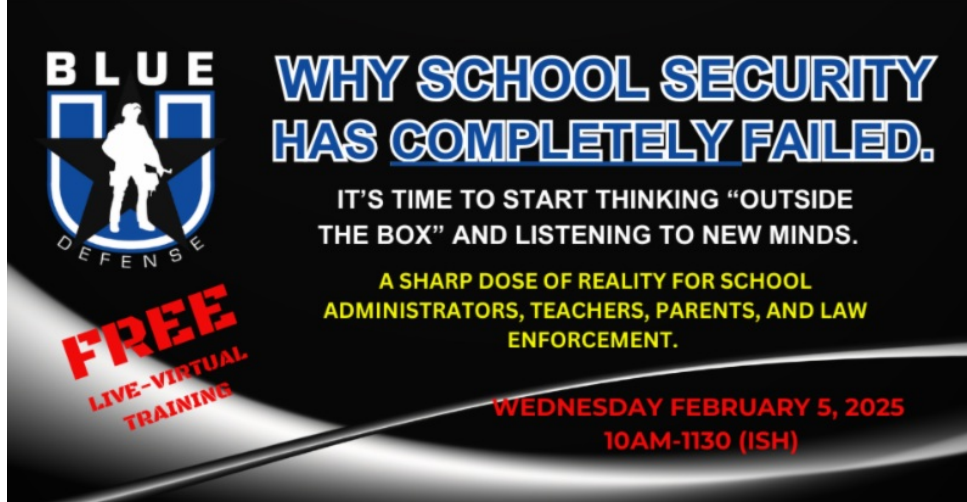
ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL
2025-2026
PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN
ADMISSIONS NOW OPEN

Schedule a tour today!

603/352-2720

Learn more: www.stjosephkeene.org
Contact us: admissions@stjosephkeene.org

Scholarship | Service Faith | Family



BLUE-U TRAINING

If you are responsible for, or have an interest in, keeping our teachers and kids secure while they are in school - this is a must attend, “training session of enlightenment”.

The title says it all - SCHOOL SECURITY HAS COMPLETELY FAILED!

Think about this: 27 years after Columbine (the incident that triggered a national effort to secure our nations schools) incidents of violence continue and, the results are, in many cases, worse than Columbine. This means that although schools today have done everything that “the experts” and “research” have told them that they should do to prevent and survive incidents-of-violence, the incidents persist and the results are many times as bad, and even worse, than Columbine - even though Columbine had none of the benefits of results of “the experts” and “research”.

So...we clearly have a significant problem that needs to be corrected!

BUT FIRST - we need to understand that we have a problem and why we have a problem.

And that's what this session is about.

Blue-U Defense is the national “thought-leader” in what it takes to truly secure people and organizations. Blue-U Defense is a NH-based organization serves (nationally) some of the biggest companies, organizations, and agencies in the world to create cultures that support individual responsibility for true security, practically enhance physical sites; and develop and deliver highly effective training programs, for normal, "non-warrior-type people that enhance prevention efforts and the ability to survive when prevention efforts fail.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

For your reference, all newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/newsletters>



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