



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



October 24, 2024

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

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

The winners of the 2024 Brattleboro and Keene's Best of Contest have now been announced, and is it any wonder that St. Joseph has been listed?

A big thank-you to all the staff, students, and families who have brought SJRS and OLMA to its present state today where we enjoy a fantastic reputation in our community. Many dedicated and hardworking people have served here over the years, and this award is a tribute to them.

And now, a few updates:

-the first quarter ends next week, so that means Report Cards and conferences are coming soon. The conferences are an important way for teachers and parents to communicate and collaborate, so please don't miss the chance to sign up.

-Grades 6-8 will have their first dance on October 25. Please encourage your student to attend where a festive, yet wholesome night of pre-teen fun takes place. Thanks to the SJRS Leadership Council for organizing this.

-we invite families of PK-Grade 5 to attend the Halloween Parade on Thursday, October 31 at 1:30 pm in our parking lot AS WELL AS the All Saints Mass on Friday, November 1 when we will have 2 middle school students present saint stories and later in the day, at 12:45 pm in the gym when the middle school will have its saints costume contest.

Finally, on my radar lately is the need to talk with staff and parents about the use (or overuse) of tech devices. Having just watched the video called Screenagers and having started to read the book, "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt, I would love for our schools to talk about this together...so, please watch the newsletter for more information about a parent meeting/fireside chat to do this. It will be in-person and not virtual !!

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

ISAIAH 12:2-4

God indeed is my salvation; I am confident and unafraid. For the LORD is my strength and my might, and he has been my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the fountains of salvation, And you will say on that day: give thanks to the LORD,

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 10/24 -- Visit to Cedarcrest -- 3:30pm
(see details below)

Friday 10/25 -- Halloween Dance -- grades 6-8 -- 6-8pm (see details below)

Sunday 10/27 -- Middle School Youth Group -- 4-6pm (see details below)

Tuesday 10/29 -- End of the 1st Quarter

Thursday 10/31 -- Halloween Parade/Parties (see details below)

Friday 11/1 -- All-school Mass -- All Saints' Day -- 9:30am

Thursday 11/7 -- National French Week Dress

acclaim his name; Among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

Down Day/Costume Competition (see details below)

Friday 11/8 -- 50/50 Raffle stubs/money due (see details below)

Friday 11/8 -- Parent-Teacher Conferences --

HALF DAY

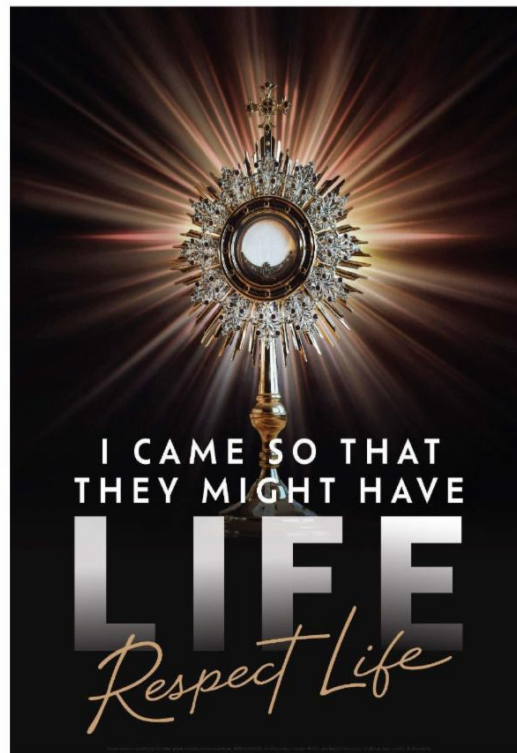
Monday 11/11 -- Veterans Day -- **NO SCHOOL**

Wed-Fri 11/27-29 -- Thanksgiving Break -- **NO SCHOOL**

CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

October is **RESPECT LIFE MONTH!** This year's theme is **"I came so that they might have life!"** To actively show respect for life, both schools are raising funds for individual Christmas gifts for the residents at **Cedarcrest**. OLMA had a very successful **CAR WASH!** SJRS will have a **DRESS DOWN DAY** on **Friday, Oct 18th** for a suggested donation of \$1.00.

On **Thursday, Oct 24th**, we will bring all our collected donations to Cedarcrest. We will be singing songs & reading picture books to the children. All students from both schools are invited and encouraged to attend. Please meet at Cedarcrest~91 Maple Ave in Keene~ from 3:30-4:30. Parents must bring and stay with their students during the visit. Any questions please reach out to Mary Grace Nelligan (mnelligan@stjosephkeene.org)



HALLOWEEN INFORMATION

Thursday, October 31

After lunch -- Students in grades PK-5 change into their costumes.

1:30pm -- Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Parade

The parade will start inside, exit out the playground door, proceed through the parking lot,



and re-enter the building at the main front doors. Four faculty vehicles will be decorated and distributing candy. Parents are welcome to attend the parade. The parking lot is the perfect place to gather and watch. Parents may bring candy to distribute, if they wish.

1:45-2:00pm -- Snacks in the gym (PK/K in their classrooms)

2:00-2:30pm -- M&M Bingo in the gym

2:30pm -- Students return to classrooms. PK-5 students may stay in their costumes for dismissal.

A few notes to help you plan accordingly.

- * Students in grades PK-5 should bring their Halloween costumes to school with them . They should not wear their costumes to school that day. One exception: If hair color is to be worn as part of the costume, it must be applied at home and must be washed out before school the following day (Friday). Students may not apply hair color at school.
- * Students in grades 6-8 will be helping with snacks and bingo, but not in costume.
- * **NO BLOOD, NO WEAPONS, NO HIGH HEELS, NO FACE PAINT** with costumes. If anyone has a question about the appropriateness of costumes, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Bezio (rbezio@stjosephkeene.org).
- * Parents should keep an eye out for emails from the teachers regarding donations of snacks/drinks for each of the classes.



Last Friday was the perfect day for our Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament. The grand champion -- Vera Chow (Grade 4)!



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

Leadership Council has opened a new swag store! If any parents are interested in purchasing items for their student in Leadership Council, please check out the online store below. Many items are customizable (and would make great Christmas gifts!).

<https://zeigerandollie.shop/collections/leadership-council-sjrs>

Middle School Youth Group
Sunday, October 27th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Prepare and eat dinner, Prayer, Activity
St. Bernard's Parish Hall

50/50 RAFFLE

Once your tickets are sold, you may send the stubs/money back into school at any time. They can be given to your student's homeroom teacher or directly to Ashley Brown in the Main Office.



All stubs/money due back by Friday, November 8!

THANK YOU to all those who have already turned everything in! **If you have any questions or would like additional tickets, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).**

Over the past few months, the stage area in the SJRS gym has gone through a needed renovation. The space was thoroughly cleaned out and painted to give more space and an improved environment for the Middle School band rehearsals and for the numerous other uses for the stage that both SJRS and OLMA have throughout the academic year. As part of the



update, the old curtains were removed to address fire safety as well. A huge **THANK YOU** to the **Knights of Columbus Council 819** for donating the funds for the beautiful new curtain system that we now have! Thank you to Thomas, Francis and Andy Cardine and Danielle and Joel Fitzpatrick for helping to install the new curtains!



🍷 Kick Off National French Week in Style with St. Joe's French Club! FR

Join us on **November 7th** for an exciting **dress-down day**! Show your French pride by wearing the colors of the French flag—**bleu**, **blanc**, and **rouge just** for just \$1.00.

But that's not all! Want to take it up a notch? Enter our thrilling **Costume Competition** and bring a famous French figure to life!

- **Pick Your French Icon:** From poets, writers, singers, aristocrats, and celebrities—who will you choose?
- **Know Your Character:** Wow the judges with cool facts about the person you're portraying!
- **Dress to Impress:** Get creative with the perfect outfit, accessories, and hairstyle!

Rules: Costumes must be school-appropriate, creative, and props must be safe.

Don't miss this chance to shine, have fun, and celebrate all things French!



We have all enjoyed the beautiful weather this past week...including Anna Rafail, Sophie Tarnowski, and Vivian Saba (Grade 8) having fun on the swings!



THANK YOU to the OLMA Student Council for hosting some family fun with the Halloween Outdoor Movie Night last Friday!



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