



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



October 17, 2024

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

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

The cooler weather is definitely here, and parents may hear their students talking about the 'extra efficient' heat that is now working at both of our schools. To fill in some details: in July, we were looking at the prospect of a new heating system, a very large expense. But thanks to the professional abilities of Mr. Bill Baker, who is also one of our school parents, the old boiler is now back working and putting out heat and keeping our classrooms at SJRS toasty warm. The system at OLMA has also been serviced and some minor repairs done, and is already being used daily. Mr. Baker is still working on some thermostats and valves, but it's great to know that we will have good heat all winter.

He has been assisted in this by Rick Cavallero who is overseeing the Facilities Committee of our new School Advisory Board. To bring families up to date about the Board, we have been meeting since August, and the members are Fr. Alan Tremblay, Ann Szot, Cheryl Mihaly, Annie Pearson, Jon Farina, and myself. Another member, taken from our incipient Home and School Association, will also be added. The Board has begun to look at the Mission Statement for both schools which was one of the directives from the NEASC Accreditation Committee. The Committee said that we should revise the Mission to more reflect our Catholic values.

Any revision of a Mission Statement includes input from all stakeholders. While the Board is doing its part, and the school staff did some reviewing of the Mission, the process will necessarily take longer as we seek to authentically reflect what SJRS and OLMA are and what we do together as a faith and school community. Parents will be asked in a more formal way, in a later newsletter, to give ideas about the Mission.

Parents and families-please start thinking about what you'd change, add, or keep the same about our mission.

*The mission of Saint Joseph Regional School/Our Lady of Mercy Academy is to empower students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.*

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington  
Principal

## **PSALM 1:1-3**

Blessed is the man who  
does not walk in the  
counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the way of  
sinners, nor sit in  
company with scoffers.  
Rather, the law of the

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 10/18** -- Dress Down Day (see details below)

**Friday 10/18** -- Rock Paper Scissors Tournament --  
Grades 4-8 (see details below)

**Friday 10/18** -- Halloween Outdoor Movie Night --  
6pm (see details below)

**Wednesday 10/23** -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am

**Thursday 10/24** -- Visit to Cedarcrest -- 3:30pm

LORD is his joy; and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers.

(see details below)

**Friday 10/25** -- Halloween Dance -- grades 6-8 -- 6-8pm (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

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

**HALF DAY**

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

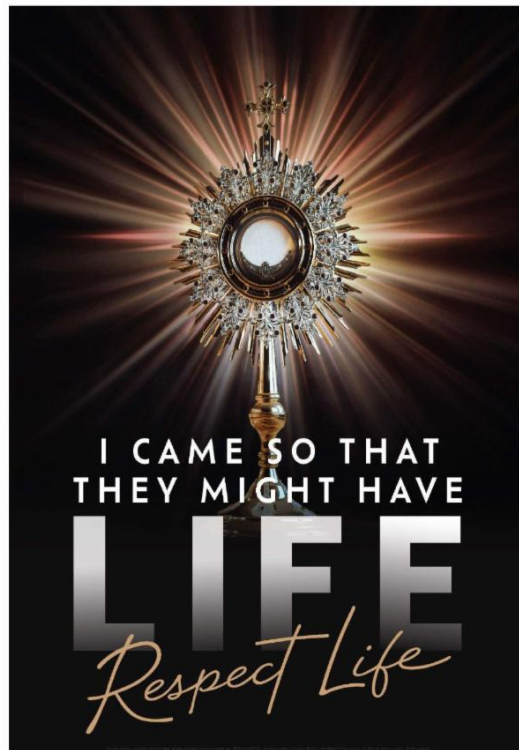
**Wed-Fri 11/27-29** -- Thanksgiving Break -- **NO SCHOOL**

**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](mailto:mnelligan@stjosephkeene.org))



**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of the winners of the Middle School Respect Life poster contest!

**5th GRADE**

3rd place -- Eli Lavinge  
2nd place -- Acacia Stoutzenberger  
1st place -- Rocco LeQuerre

**6th GRADE**

3rd place -- Sienna Gardner  
2nd place -- Helena Morrison  
1st place -- Alayna Chaput

**7th GRADE**

3rd place -- Zac Lucena  
2nd place -- Gracie Heeran  
1st place -- Serafina Blanchard

**8th GRADE**

3rd place -- Mackenzie Ryan  
2nd place -- Marcus Sementa  
1st place -- Anna Rafail



**!! DRESS CODE UPDATE -- NO MORE SHORTS !!**

As the weather has now turned colder, shorts are no longer appropriate to be worn during the school day. This includes no shorts on Physical Education days. On PE days, students must

be in navy sweatpants.



A huge THANK YOU to the Saunders family who recently donated six playground balls! Three will be used in PE classes and three for playground fun. Thank you so much for your generosity!

### 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>

### 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.

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



## October Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament



- Friday, October 18th
- Grades 4-8
- \$1 per set of beads
- You can purchase a maximum of 5 sets of beads
- Same rules as last year - 10 beads to challenge a teacher or 15 beads and you are safe



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

**SPOOKY  
HALLOWEEN  
DANCE**



 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM    
 GRADES 6-8    
  \$5 IN COSTUME \$7 NOT IN COSTUME

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**

**THERE IS A COSTUME CONTEST FOR GROUP (2 TO 4 PEOPLE) AND INDIVIDUAL COSTUMES**

## 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](mailto:rbezio@stjosephkeene.org)).
- \* Parents should keep an eye out for emails from the teachers regarding donations of snacks/drinks for each of the classes.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Middle School soccer team for a great season! They finished off their season this week with a spirited game against a very talented faculty/parents team!





THANK YOU to all of the students and families who joined us for our fun pumpkin carving event last Thursday evening!



We had a beautiful day last Friday to walk all of our carved pumpkins to their display location for the Keene Pumpkin Fest!





St. Joseph Regional School | 92 Wilson Street | Keene, NH 03431 US

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