



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



November 14, 2024

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

Dear Parents and Staff,

Here's the latest news and musings from the principal....

Yesterday at Mass, we recognized the Good Samaritan Award winners from OLMA, recognized for their likeness to the Biblical Samaritan, being helpful, kind, and respectful:

The winners are Madelyn Carlson and Elio Saba!

We also recognized the Junior Class students for their amazing PSAT scores. The PSAT was taken on October 17 with the following results:

OLMA's mean score: 1138 reading/writing: 591 math: 548

State of NH mean score: 1009 reading/writing: 519 math: 490

United States mean score: 1000 reading/writing: 509 math: 491

Global mean score: 1002 reading/writing: 510 math: 492

This means that our students scored 129 points higher overall than the next highest group (the state group), 72 points higher in reading and writing than the next highest group (the state group), and 56 points higher in math than the next highest group (the global group.)

This is one of the main reasons that you send your children to St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mercy, so that they can receive a superior academic foundation for college, career, and life.

Another hallmark of our schools is that we respect our nation and those who serve it in the military branches. We say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning, we remember veterans and those currently in the armed forces, and we pray for them. This week, our students completed 271 for the "Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge". Part of the challenge requires a staff member to read through the cards for approval before they are sent to the challenge's sponsor.

What sentiments from our students... a true reflection of their patriotism and understanding that freedom isn't free. Here are some examples:

"For sacrificing your life to protect our lives and freedom, you are appreciated wholeheartedly."

"Thank you so much for serving our country and keeping us all safe."

"Thank you for giving us freedom and protecting us."

"Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your commitment to our country."

Finally, we know that the Catholic Christian environment that students experience at St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mercy is the essential element of our Mission. Without it, we would just be a private school that provided a good education. In this regard, we will be remembering Deacon Ken Swymer next week at our weekly school Mass. We will pray a Spiritual Bouquet for him (one Our father, One Hail Mary, One Glory Be) and Ms. Suzanne Foder will offer a brief remembrance of Deacon Ken. He was an important person in our schools and in our Parish, and he is greatly missed. The 8th Graders will also pray a Rosary for him on November 21, the anniversary of his passing, in their religion class. We ask parents to join us by praying for Deacon Ken's eternal soul and for his still grieving family.

And just 2 reminders:

--the Technology meeting for parents is Tuesday, November 19, in the SJRS cafeteria, from 6-7:00

pm. At this meeting, I will be asking for input about how we use technology at our schools. --the Lost and Found bin at SJRS has more clothes now than my own closet...please stop by to see if any items belong to your children, and if anyone has a good idea about how we can display the items to parents for easier retrieval, please let us know. With the weather getting colder, and the bin having so many fleece articles, jackets, and sweatshirts, we are hoping for some happy reunions between clothing and owners!

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

TITUS 3:4-7

But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 11/19 -- Parent Meeting about technology use -- 6pm -- SJRS cafeteria
Wednesday 11/20 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am
Thursday 11/21 -- Apple cider sales at lunch (see details below)
Friday 11/22 -- 50/50 Raffle winners picked -- 1pm
Sunday 11/24 -- Middle School Youth Group -- 4-6pm (see details below)
Tuesday 11/26 -- Picture re-take day (see details below)
Wed-Fri 11/27-29 -- **Thanksgiving Break -- NO SCHOOL**
Sunday 12/1 -- Advent begins
Monday 12/2 -- State of the Schools Parent Meeting -- 6pm

CLICK HERE for the UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

50/50 RAFFLE

Tune in to **our Facebook page** on Friday, November 22, at 1:00pm, when we will go LIVE to pick the winners of our 50/50 raffle!



ORIGINAL WORKS

Students in grades K-8 have received their personalized order forms from Original Works, showing their own artwork. There are lots of fun items that you can purchase with your child's artwork!



CLICK HERE to access the SJRS Gallery

Each student received a unique access code, but you can also access the shop by school and student name.

DEADLINE to order is next TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

All orders will be delivered to school in time for the holidays, so they make great Christmas gifts for grandparents and other family members!

If you have questions, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).

SUMMER EBT

The **Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (S-EBT)** provides families with a one-time payment of \$120 per eligible child to buy food during the summer months when students don't have access to free or reduced-price meals at school. DHHS has reached out to families that participated in the SNAP, Medicaid, or TANF programs during the 2023-2024 school year and they will be automatically enrolled in S-EBT unless they opt out. Families that participated in the National School Lunch Program but did not participate in SNAP, Medicaid or TANF may also be eligible for S-EBT, but must provide their address through the DHHS portal that will be open November 15 to December 15. **CLICK HERE for more information.**



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Good Day St. Joseph School Community,

It is Thanksgiving Basket time! Leadership Club is collecting items to create 15 Thanksgiving baskets which will be donated to **Feeding Tiny Tummies** based out of Keene for distribution to area families in need. The following items are needed to fill each basket:



- Pre-K canned vegetable (peas, corn, green beans)
- K canned cranberry sauce
- 1st stuffing mix
- 2nd bag of dinners rolls
- 3rd 5 lb. bag of potatoes
- 4th jarred turkey gravy
- 5th applesauce (cups, jarred or pouches)
- 6th pre-made pumpkin pie or apple pie
- 7th sweet potatoes (2-3 potatoes)
- 8th bag of apples (girls) and bag of oranges (boys)

In addition, a \$25 gift card from Hannaford will be included in each basket. This money was raised from Leadership Club Apple Cider sales.

Each class will have a designated area in their classroom for donations. **All items are needed by Thursday, November 21.**

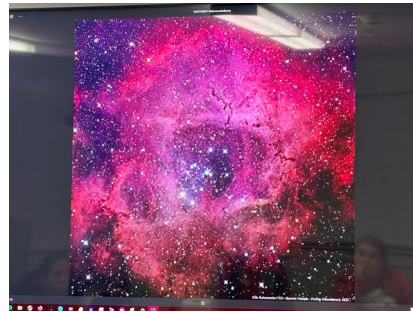
Thank you all for helping us help others in our community in having a blessed Thanksgiving.

Leadership Club

GIRL SCOUTS NEWS

Our troop spent this past Saturday night learning all about planets, nebula, constellations and astronomy. Jacqueline Johnson Speaks, a former student of SJRS, is now a senior at Dublin School. JJ enjoys working a great deal in the astronomy lab and volunteers her time working on projects with NASA! JJ and Mr Saveliev, the Astronomy director, met with us to teach us about projects students are working on currently and had worked on the past. Below you will see pictures of nebula. Each one was seen and photographed after many hours of data collection and mapping by students at Dublin! We saw the Hercules Cluster, Saturn and the moon using their observatory telescope! We also learned how the periodic table of elements is used to detect the elements in planets, stars and more!





Christmas
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Christmas Children's Choir will be rehearsing for the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass every Sunday until Christmas, at 1:00 PM in the St. Joseph's Music Room in the basement of St. Joseph's School. All school-aged children are welcome to participate. Contact Chris Dube to sign up or for any questions (603)499-1233 or Christopher_J_Dube@hotmail.com



Our **Middle School Youth Group** gathered this past Sunday with Mrs. Heeran to work on a project to show appreciation for our veterans within the Parish of the Holy Spirit as well as

for prayer, food and fellowship!

Lord God, Almighty Father,
creator of mankind and author of peace,
as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess,
we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces.
Give them courage, hope and strength.
May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing.
Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light.
To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.



★ CLICK TO SIGN UP! ★

5TH-8TH BASKETBALL

MONDAY'S & WEDNESDAY'S

3:00-4:30PM

Ready to take your basketball game to the next level? Our middle school basketball season is approaching, and we're looking for dedicated students who are eager to make a commitment, work hard, and enhance their skills on the court. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the sport, this is your opportunity to be part of a team that values effort, sportsmanship, and growth. We plan on including more games this year and are looking for committed players to join the team!

Practices will begin on 11/18, so sign up now! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Coach Justin Wright and Matt Kimber!
justwright34@gmail.com mkimber81@hotmail.com

Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, November 24, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Prepare and eat dinner, Prayer, Activity

St. Bernard's Parish Hall

Questions? dheeran@stjosephkeene.org

SJRS ALPINE CLUB NEWS

from Club Coordinator Wendy Petschik

The SJRS/OLMA Alpine Club is excited for another fun season of skiing and riding with the Slope Days Program at Crotched Mountain! All SJRS and OLMA students ages 7-18 are welcome—there are no capacity limits so we can accommodate anyone who wants to join us.



I'm creating a contact list, so if you're interested, please add your details using the Google Sheet link below to be included in our master email list.

Crotched Mountain is asking that families **sign up by Friday, December 13th** to secure a spot in the program and to help them plan for the hiring of lesson instructors.

If you already have a season pass and don't need lessons, you don't need to register through Crotched Mountain—but please still sign up on the Google Doc to receive club updates. For equipment needs, check out the Keene High School Alpine Ski Swap (details below).

I am so excited for snow and the slope-side fun to begin!!

If you have any questions, please email Wendy Petschik at wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org.

***** Master Email List - use this link for Alpine Club email list:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18BJtsZusqbVvfnFtsDJXnGRQGk1COe0G0d6ODXyJwU/edit?usp=sharing>

Crotched Mountain Slope Days Program details – USE SCHOOL CODE SJK25 to sign up

Our scheduled mountain time is Fridays with lessons starting promptly at 5:00 PM from Friday, January 10th – Friday, February 14th

New this year – two session lengths (3 & 6 weeks) and a la carte for season pass holders

3 Week (lift/lesson/rental) \$209

6 Week (lift/lesson/rental) \$408

******* Use this link to sign up for the products above and enter the school code SJK25:

<https://www.crotchedmtn.com/plan-your-trip/ski-and-ride-lessons/products/slope-days>

A la cart option for season pass holders (Epic/Epic Local/Northeast Value)

3-week option, lesson: \$95

6-week option, lesson: \$189

3-week option, rental: \$79

6-week option, rental: \$158

******* You must call or email to register for any a la cart options at 603-842-7549 or

email crotchedmtngroupsales@vailresorts.com and give them the SJK25 school code.

Detailed Instructions for How to Sign Up

To help streamline the distribution of information, I have also provided a detailed document with all the information repeated from above and instructions for signing up for the Slope Days at Crotched which can be found by clicking the link below.

***** Link with detailed information and sign-up instructions:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C71kV9BmoEGGo4sgbuH2f6JI5zsWk87E5wk_U7pPkA/edit?usp=sharing

Keene High School 2024 Alpine Ski Sale and Swap

Saturday, November 23rd 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

If you would like to donate items for sales or consignment you can do that on Friday, November 22nd from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. This event is sponsored by the KHS Alpine Ski Team and is a great place to get used (and sometimes new) equipment for skiing or snowboarding. The entrance lines get really long, so it is strongly suggested to get there early before the doors open to get a good place in line and, hopefully, first pick of all the items.

RETAKE DAY IS ALMOST HERE!

¡El día de la foto llegará pronto!



Remember to bring in your original picture proof and photos for replacement.



Picture Day
Día de la foto:
11-26-24

Absent Students *Estudiantes ausentes*

If you are having your picture taken for the first time because you were absent on Picture Day, have your photo taken on Retake Day and you will receive your photo proof after the event! This proof sheet will also have information on how to order!

Retake Students *Retomas*

If you received your picture package and are unsatisfied, just return your package & proof sheet to the photographers on Retake Day and have your photo retaken. We will replenish your package at no cost!

ESTUDIANTES AUSENTES

El día de retoma de fotos es la oportunidad para aquellos estudiantes que estuvieron ausentes el día de fotos original. Recibirá su prueba de foto después del evento. Su prueba también tendrá información sobre cómo completar su pedido.

RETOMAS

Si recibe su paquete de fotos y no está satisfecho, sólo tienes que devolver su paquete y la hoja de pruebas a los fotógrafos el día de retoma y le tomamos su foto de nuevo. Repondremos su paquete sin coste alguno.

Acuérdese de traer su prueba de imagen original y las fotos para la sustitución.

Saint Joseph Regional School



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