

Parent Newsletter

December 2023



MISSION STATEMENT

As Heralds of the Gospel, Saint John School seeks to bring light and truth to PK-12 students in Ashtabula County and beyond through its commitment to educating the whole person by developing scholarship, deepening faith and inspiring leadership in the Catholic tradition.

A Note From The Administration

As we approach the sacred season of Christmas, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the warm sense of community that defines Saint John School. Christmas is a time of reflection, celebration, and above all, a celebration of the light that entered the world through the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded of the angel's proclamation, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23). This prophetic message encapsulates the profound significance of Christmas—God, in his infinite love, choosing to dwell among us, offering hope and salvation to all.

Pope Francis beautifully captures the essence of Christmas when he says, "God is alive; he is in each one of us." This simple yet profound truth resonates with the spirit of our Saint John family. As we gather with our loved ones and reflect on the gift of Christ's presence in our lives, let us also be mindful of Pope Francis's call to actively embody God's love through our actions and interactions.

This Christmas, let the light of Christ guide our steps and illuminate our hearts. May we be inspired by the teachings of Jesus to love one another as he loves us, fostering a sense of compassion and understanding within our school community in our world.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us also remember the words of Pope Francis: "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." May this joy fill our hearts, bringing warmth and unity to our Saint John family and beyond.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas filled with the love, joy, and peace that come from knowing Christ.

God's Peace,
Scott Plescia

As we celebrate Christmas in 2023 I pray for peace. I believe that leaders are peacemakers. Let us pray for peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, our country, our families and in our hearts.

Sister Maureen

As we prepare for Christmas with family and friends, I think it's important to reflect on some of the great blessings we have been working on during semester, one here at Saint John School- Win Wednesday, a new playground, inspirational speakers, and All Ohio Athletes. God has been so good to us in so many ways. I am grateful for each and every one of you.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a restful New Year.

Millicent Zullo



Exams

Exams for students in grades 7-12 will take place on December 15, 18 and 19. Exams are meant to be a formative assessment to help assess the long term retention of learned material. It is important that students are present for exam days. Students who miss an exam without a medical excuse are subject to academic consequences. The exam schedule will be distributed to students and will be posted on-line and a link will be available in the Sunday enews closer to the date. If a student has a medical emergency, the make up day will be Wednesday, December 20. Students may dress down for the exam days. Students may also leave once their exams are completed each day.

SGO/Scholarship Granting Organization

The state of Ohio has implemented a new tax program which allows you to lower the amount you pay in Ohio Income taxes. If you make a donation to a scholarship granting organization (Saint John qualifies) you will receive a deduction (tax Credit) for the exact amount. Donors may donate \$750 for an individual and \$1500 for a couple filing jointly. If in 2023 your Ohio tax liability is \$2000 and you donate \$750/\$1500 to Saint John your liability is now only \$1250/500. If your tax liability is less than \$750 you may donate a lesser amount. This is a win-win situation for the donor and Saint John. There is no catch.

We will have an informational meeting on November 30 at 7 pm to discuss this and answer any questions. There is also information on our website:

<https://www.sjheralds.org/support/saint-john-scholarship-granting-organization.cfm>

Scan below to donate:



Festival of Trees

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in our Festival of Trees event. We will update you at a later time.

Dress Down Day for students whose parents spent at least \$20 or more on raffle items are permitted to dress down on Thursday, November 30.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 9, 10:00-12:00 in the Saint John School gymnasium and cafeteria. This event has always been sold out and due to our increased enrollment and space limitations, it will be reserved for Saint John School students in grades PK-Grade 3, please. Online registration and payment are required to reserve your spot. The sign up form can be found on Saint John website under Student Experience. Direct any questions or offers to volunteer to Mr. Corlew at 440.997.5531 X 226 or kcorlew@sjheralds.org.

Christmas Program

The annual Christmas Program for students in Grades PreK-6 will be on Tuesday, December 19. The program for students in Grades PK-2 will be 10:30 am. Students will be dismissed after the concert. The Grade 3-6 concert will be at 1:15 pm, and students will be dismissed after that.

Christmas Celebrations

Our Elementary Christmas Parties are scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th beginning at 1:30 pm. We will be using our Visitor Management System to check all visitors into the building on this day. Party attendees should plan to enter the building via the cafeteria door and present your drivers license to a staff member.

Santa Shop

PTO is once again sponsoring a Santa Shop the week of December 4th. Children will have the opportunity to purchase simple gifts for members of their families. Please check the PTO flyer included with this mailing for all of the details.

Ugly Sweater Day

The Philanthropy Club will be sponsoring an Ugly Christmas Sweater Day on Thursday, December 14. We are requesting a \$3 donation that will benefit charities in the area. Students who pay \$3 may dress down with an Ugly Christmas Sweater.

Christmas Vacation Office Hours

The office will be closed from December 21 – December 26 and January 1. If there is an emergency please contact us via email or leave a message on 440-997-5531 x 228.

Athletic News

The Basketball season will open on December 1 with a rally for grades 6-12 at 1:00 pm and a Varsity Girls Basketball Game at home at 5:30 pm. During the season we need many volunteers to assist with the Concession Stand and Ticket Booth. If you are willing to help contact Nick Iarocci at niarocci@sjheralds.org.

Friday, December 1 will be an all school Spirit Dress Down Day.

New ACT Dates...

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)	
February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024	January 19, 2024	
ACT (No Writing)	\$68.00	Standby Testing	ADD \$68.00
ACT Plus Writing	\$93.00	Test Option Change	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$36.00	Change Fee:	ADD \$42.00
Visit www.actstudent.org for online registration and practice resources.			
Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.			

SAT TESTING DATES

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)	
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024	February 27, 2024	
SAT Test	\$60.00	Cancel Registration	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$30.00	Late Cancel Registration	ADD:\$35.00
Change Registration	ADD \$30.00		

Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.

Visit www.collegeboard.org for online registration and practice resources.

For all ACT & SAT dates, please check the website.

College Visits Scheduled:

College visits are being scheduled with Mrs. Steele's College and Career Readiness class. Seniors who would like information for a certain college will need to speak with Mrs. Steele before the visit.

Kent State Ashtabula Dec. 6th 2nd Period

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP)

Students in grades 7 - 11 who are interested in taking classes at Kent State University (Ashtabula) or other higher education institutions for the first time in the 2023 - 2024 school year please contact Melissa Nooney mnooney@sjheralds.org. This will enable you to meet deadlines for financial and entrance applications.

Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus (ATECH)

Students who are interested in attending ATECH, please reach out to Melissa Nooney mnooney@sjheralds.org for more information on applying for the 2024-2025 school year.

ATECH also offers a number of ways in which an interested student can visit or become familiar with each program. They include:

* Individual Visits for students to see programs can be done through ATECH by calling 440-567-6015, x1115.

* Career Night will be held on December 7th from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm for students and their families wishing to visit any of the programs.

Please note that students are eligible to apply for their program choice online throughout the school year on ATech's Website under the High School tab. However, students will not be placed into that program until they have completed a visit to ATech.

I See The Leader In You!

Saint John School
7911 Depot Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Geneva, Ohio
44041
Permit No. 9

Please follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/heraldsashtabula;
www.facebook.com/groups.HeraldsFriendsAndAlumni
On Twitter:
[@StJohnHeralds](https://twitter.com/StJohnHeralds)
On Instagram
[@stjohnheralds](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnheralds)
Join our LinkedIN:
Ashtabula/St.John/Sts.John & Paul High School
And keep up to date by visiting our website:
www.sjheralds.org
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

December 4th - 8:30 am Advent Prayer Service / Lighting of Advent Wreath

December 6th - Saint Nicholas Day; Santa will visit students in grades PK-4. Over the week, students will learn about Saint Nicholas and receive treats in his original tradition.

December 8th - 9:30 am Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (All School Mass with Dress Uniforms in gymnasium)

December 11th - 8:30 am Advent Prayer Service / Lighting of Advent Wreath

December 20th - 9:00 am Elementary Students' Christmas Prayer Service

Students will be given an opportunity to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. Details will be shared in their Religion Classes.

During the Season of Advent, Saint John School will be working with the Catholic Charities' HALO Project. Forms have been sent out for families to receive Giving Tree ornaments that note a gift for a child in the community. Tags and gifts will be collected in classrooms and given to Catholic Charities for distribution.

JOURNEY
OF
Faith



SAVE THE DATE - IMPORTANT CHANGE IN FAFSA

This is a tentative date for our information night, the Federal Government has decided to postpone opening FAFSA on December 1st. The alternative date for our FAFSA night will be **January 9th at 6pm**. If the Federal Government opens FAFSA in time, we have a December 13th date set aside for our families.

****Reservations required:** Please RSVP to Nicole Steele (nsteele@sjheralds.org), Guidance Administrative Assistant, by **Wednesday, November 29, 2023 for the December 13th date**. If you prefer, you can call-in your reservation: 440-997-5531 x256.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) WORKSHOP FOR SENIOR PARENTS

Wednesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00pm

Room: TBD

Senior parent(s) and students are encouraged to attend the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **interactive workshop** in which you will be completing the FAFSA form online. This will be the only college financial aid workshop scheduled at Saint John. FAFSA information is changing and will not open until **December** this year. If you are a family who has previously filled out FAFSA, the application process is changing. We will do our best to keep you updated on the changes.

To assist in the **completion** of the FAFSA, the following information should be brought to the meeting for the parent and the student....

1. Student's social security number
2. Parents' social security numbers if parent information will be provided
3. Driver's license number (if you have one)
4. Alien registration or permanent resident card if not a United States citizen
5. Information on savings, investments and business and farm assets for student and parent(s)
6. Federal tax information or tax return including (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ) IRS W-2 information for student and parents if providing parent information. **Use the 2022 tax information.**
7. Foreign tax return and/or tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the US Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia or Palau.
8. Records of your untaxed income such as child support received, interest income and veterans' non-education benefits
9. Information (parent/student) on cash, savings and checking account balances; investments including stocks and bonds and real estate but not including the home in which you live; business and farm assets.

Prior to that evening we will be working with the seniors to create a FAFSA ID. We are also asking that if both parents are contributing information to the FAFSA for then both parents need to create their own FAFSA ID as this will allow for enough time to hopefully complete the FAFSA on the evening of the 13th. We will continue to keep families updated as we receive information regarding FAFSA.

A FAFSA ID can be created by visiting <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. Social security number is needed. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Steele at (440) 997-5531 ext.256 or e-mail at nsteele@sjheralds.org

Looking Ahead:

Midterms - Midterms will be given to students in grades 7-12 on December 15, 2023, December 18, 2023 and December 19, 2023. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

NWEA MAPs will be given in January for all students. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

ACT Testing for **Juniors** will be given on February 27, 2024. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

Pre-ACT Testing for **Sophomores** will be given on February 27, 2024. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

IOWA Test of Basic Skills - All **Sophomores** will be taking the IOWA Test of Basic Skills in February - this test is a graduation requirement for Saint John School students. To graduate students must pass all sections of the test.



SAINT JOHN SCHOOL PTO NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

12/6 - Wreath & Poinsettia
Pick-Up

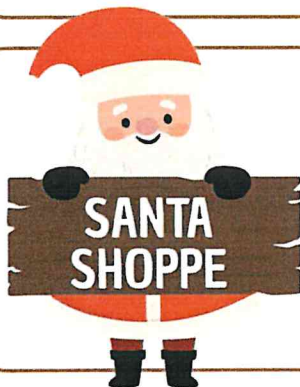
12/12 - There will be NO
PTO meeting this month

12/19 - Christmas Concert
PK-2 - 10:30am
3-6 - 1:00pm

12/21-1/3 - Christmas
Break

SHHHHH....

Are you looking for the
perfect gift idea for a
teacher or staff
member? The office has
a binder filled with
information about each
staff member. Stop by
the office or call the
office to get a copy!



DECEMBER 4-8
A FORM WITH COME
HOME TO ASSIST OUR
ELVES WITH HELPING
YOUR CHILD PURCHASE
GIFTS.

Contact me

BILLIE WILLIAMS

Text: 440-344-0030

Email: sjpto@sjheralds.org



THANK YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU to
all of you that
purchased items from
the wreath and
poinsettia fundraiser.
We were happy to be
able to bring winter
greenery options back
this year!

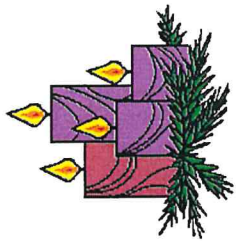
ELVES NEEDED

We are looking for elves
to help our little
shoppers purchase gifts
from Santa's Shoppe.
You can find the signup
in the Sunday Weekly
Connection Email. This is
a magical time for the
kiddos! Grandparents
welcome to volunteer!

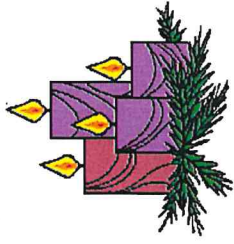
REMINDER


PLEASE write your
child's name on
EVERYTHING!
THE LOST & FOUND IS
LOOKING LIKE A
DEPARTMENT STORE!
lunch boxes, water
bottles, clothes, coats,
etc.





Activity Calendar December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				30 Festival of Tress Dress Down Day	1 Winter Sports Rally Grades 6-12- 1:30pm All School Spirit Dress Down Day	2
3	4 Advent Prayer Service—8:30 am SANTA SHOP	5	6 Poinsettia Delivery	7	8 Immaculate Conception Liturgy 9:30 am Dress Uniform Day	9 Breakfast with Santa
10	11 Advent Prayer Service—8:30 am	12 PTO Meeting 6:00 pm	13 FAFSA Meeting 6:00 pm Christmas Play 6:00 pm	14 Ugly Christmas Sweater Day	15 Lottery Dress Down Day Exams Gr. 7-12	16
17	18 Exams Grades 7-12	19 Exams Grades 7-12 Christmas Concerts PK -2 - 10:30 am Gr. 3-6 - 1:00 pm	20 End of 2nd Quarter Elementary Christmas Play - 9 am Elementary Christmas Parties—1:30 pm	21	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Lunch Menu December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	2
3 Cobb Salad	4 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Fruit Milk	5 Hot Ham & Cheese Sweet Potato Tots Broccoli Fruit Milk	6 Rigatoni Salad Roll Fruit Milk	7 Teriyaki Chicken Vegetables Rice Fruit Cookie Milk	8 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	9
10 Chef Salad	11 BBQ Pork OR PB&J Baked Beans Corn Fruit Milk	12 Hamburgers French Fries Green Beans Fruit Milk	13 Rotini Salad Breadstick Fruit Milk	14 Chicken Soup Turkey Slider Carrots Fruit Milk	15 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	16
17 NO SALADS	18 Turkey Sandwich OR PB&J Tator Tots Celery & Carrots Fruit Milk	19 Chicken Nuggets Mac & Cheese Corn Fruit Milk	20 Shells Salad Roll Fruit Milk	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Calendar Subject to Change

Merry Christmas