



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

December 17, 2020 Newsletter



Dear SJRS and OLMA Families,

I can not tell you how overjoyed I am that as a school, we have made it all together every day all the way to Christmas break. I know that we have had numerous people in and out, and on remote, but we have made it all work! All of us – students, parents, grandparents, extended family members, faculty, staff – all working hard together have made this happen. THANK YOU to everyone for your incredible efforts! Our students have benefited from this greatly, and have been kept developmentally on track both academically and socially. This has been a difficult time for them, but our strength as a school community has lifted them up.

I will be checking my email periodically over the break, and will really focus on it around January 1, as we get ready to come back together on January 4. Please reach out to me if you have any concerns or need guidance with our COVID protocols. Please give special consideration to your travel over the break. You will receive another COVID return to school survey from me before we return. Please be certain to respond in a timely manner. As we move forward into 2021, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to keeping everyone healthy and safe!

May the peace of Christ be with you and your families this Christmas. I will see you all on January 4!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal



The Mercy Academy students received their Advent surprise from Mr. Smith earlier this week with milk shakes!



Luke 2:9-20

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/21-1/1 – Christmas Break – **NO SCHOOL**
- 1/4/2021 – First day back from Christmas Break
- 1/18 – Martin Luther King Day – **NO SCHOOL**
- 1/26 – End of the 2nd quarter



The Kindness Elves have been popping up all over Mrs. Konopka's 1st Grade classroom throughout December!



Our Advent wreath inside the main entrance.

Francesca Crisman (grade 4) enjoying her Advent surprise ice cream sundae earlier this week!



WINTER GEAR

Everyone in grades Pre-K through Grade 4 goes outdoors every day, unless temperatures are extremely cold.



Students must have proper waterproof boots, snow pants, gloves/mittens, and a hat. Their boots should be *in addition to other footwear*. They need to change out of their boots into other shoes inside so as not to get the classroom floors wet.

And Middle School students also go outdoors daily for mask breaks, so please make sure that they have appropriate winter wear as well!

SHOP AMAZONSMILE FOR CHRISTMAS!

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support SJRS every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com



on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to SJRS. [CLICK HERE for all of the details and to activate AmazonSmile.](#) THANK YOU!



Earlier this week, 5th and 6th grade Builders Club students (with a little help from Ms. Foder) shopped for and wrapped Christmas gifts for two girls that they had adopted for the holidays through Monadnock Family Services.

SJRS STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

The SJRS Student Council will be selling **hot chocolate** with whipped cream and a candy cane during the lunch period every **THURSDAY** until January 28. The cost is \$1.00.



SJRS CHILDCARE NEWS

Please be sure to register your student for Childcare at least 10 days in advance.



[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **January 4**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **January 11**.

Please watch your email for invoices. Thank you!



7th grader Tucker Johns having a little (pre-snow) fun on the playground!

PAST NEWSLETTERS

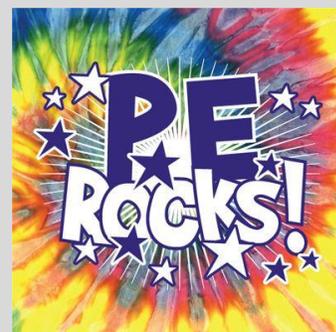
If you ever need to reference newsletters from previous weeks, they are all available on the school web sites.

<https://www.stjosephkeenc.org/news>

<https://www.mercy.academy/news>



The 4th grade had a blast with the parachute in PE class on Wednesday!



CHRISTMAS VIDEO

Keep an eye out early next week for an email from Mr. Smith giving you the link for our special 2020 Christmas video!



We had a beautiful school Mass this morning, including music for the first time this year. 9th grader Tessa Pearson was our cantor and Mrs. Johnson added a few solos (left). Fr. Alan had the 2nd grade join him on the altar (above) at the end since it was the first time that they had been able to come to Mass this year.



The Kindergarten had a small party and watched Polar Express this afternoon!



The 2nd grade had a party and loved their new bells!



The 5th grade enjoyed the huge snow piles this afternoon!

The Middle School Game of Games!

Today the Middle School had a great time with the Game of Games organized and managed by the SJRS Student Council and Mrs. Bezio. **The 8th Grade won the tournament, so they get 1 FULL WEEK of dress down January 4-8!**



The Middle Game of Games include Christmas trivia, gingerbread house building, chess, dodgeball, and badminton! The classes competed against one another and accumulated points for each of the activities.





The 1st grade had a party this afternoon and watched Nestor the Long-Eared Christmas Donkey!



The Preschool enjoyed some special Christmas Jello today -- since J was the letter of the week!



The 3rd grade watched A Christmas Carol this afternoon with Mr. Rafail!



Mrs. Lundin's 4th grade relaxed and played games together this afternoon.

