Greetings,

Our school community is awesome! The faculty and staff have been amazing. Our parent volunteers in the loop lines and lunch time cleaning have been fantastic. So many of you have donated your time or finances to support the current school year, I do not have the words to express my profound gratitude. There are so many things to be thankful for when it comes to this particular school year, however, at times, my focus goes to the negative, which in turn affects my attitude and approach. However, the joy I witness from our students in the classroom, out on the playground, and in the cafeteria helps me to focus on “the why” we are doing what we are doing, which in turn helps me to refocus and keep going.

Here’s my first week of November rundown:

- Although the county is experiencing an increase in COVID19 cases, we will continue with face-to-face instruction for the foreseeable future. We need to continue doing everything we can to ensure in-person instruction from following the protocols within the school to adhering to social distancing, the wearing of masks and following gathering limits outside of school.

- Thank you to all who helped make our October 30 morning and afternoon loops festive.

- Report Cards will be ready for viewing later this afternoon. See directions for how to view report cards on Page 3. 4th-8th Grade parents: Specials grades are not factored into GPA.

- Thank you to the First Graders who colored pictures for me that are now displayed on my office door!

- The new EOS Temp Cameras have been installed in our two entry doors. We will continue to take temperatures outside on Monday but we will begin using the inside temperature cameras starting on Tuesday. If a student’s temperature registers 100.4 or higher, the student will be asked to wait and be rechecked. If the temperature registers 100.4 again, we will use our new oral thermometer to get a third reading. If the third reading is 100.4 or higher parents will be called to return to school immediately to pick up the student. **Thank you for your diligence with health screening prior to leaving each morning. We have NOT had to send any student home this year due to a high temperature during the morning loop.**

- Parent/Teacher Conferences are next Thursday, November 12.

- We have the two upcoming virtual learning days on November 12 and November 20. The virtual school days will begin at 8:05. Teachers will be sending schedules and expectations. Students are NOT required to wear uniform shirts and please NO pajamas.

- We are going to have a Eucharistic Procession for our students the morning of November 18. Unfortunately we cannot do exactly what we did last year but we are planning on bringing the Blessed Sacrament into each of our classrooms during the procession.

- Our annual Thanksgiving Feast will be on Wednesday, November 11 for students only.

- The annual Santa Shop has been canceled. PSA is looking into an alternative for this event.

- The annual Education Foundation Tree Lighting is December 7 at 6:00 PM. The event will be held outside this year. The Rybicki Tree (Large tree to the left of the main entrance) is going to be professionally decorated with lights. Also, the parish grounds are going to also be decorated with lights and displays for “Something Beautiful for Jesus” throughout Advent and Christmas. We are looking forward to a wonderfully decorated campus in December!

- Families who are interested in receiving the Sacraments, please contact Melanie French in the parish office 810-629-2251.

There is so much swirling around us that we need to pray and then pray some more. As I read through and pray with the scriptures passages for this weekend’s mass, I was struck by the Responsorial Psalm, “My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.” It is a simple prayer but necessary reminder. Our focus can be elsewhere and we can fill our hearts with all kinds of things that in the end leave us wanting. Yet, our souls were created to long for our creator. Pray often so we are connected to our Creator.

Have a great, safe, and healthy weekend!

Andrew Schmit
**PARENT CALENDAR**

**November**

**Fri** 6  Report Cards Available Online

**Mon** 9  Education Foundation Ornament Decorating Option #1

**Wed** 11  Education Foundation Ornament Decorating Option #2

**Thurs** 12  Parent-Teacher Conferences (via Zoom)
   **Half-Day for Students-11:30 AM Dismissal**

**Fri** 13  No School for Staff or Students

**Mon** 16  Spiritwear Order Forms Due

**Wed** 18  Eucharistic Procession

**Fri** 20  SJS Virtual Learning Day

**Fri** 20  Happy Birthday Mr. Garbutt!

**Wed** 25  Happy Birthday Mrs. Wright!

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**THANKSGIVING FEAST**

Our Annual Thanksgiving Feast will be this Wednesday, November 11th. Although we are sad that we cannot invite visitors this year, we are happy to be able to continue this tradition for our students. Lunch will include turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, and honey cornbread along with salad bar, fruit, and milk. The cost for a student lunch is $3. Pumpkin will be available for purchase at snack line for $1.

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**Athletics Update**

**Volleyball:** Volleyball practice next week will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 5 PM to 7 PM

**Basketball Skills:** Starting next week, we will have a boys basketball skills clinic. It will be held in the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 PM to 8:30 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 PM. Masks are required.

**Spirit Squad:** Please use this link to register for Spirit Squad:

[https://forms.gle/uBfgS1nHtZx7bjaP9](https://forms.gle/uBfgS1nHtZx7bjaP9)

All student athletes must have a sports physical on file. You may submit a new physical completed on or after April 15, 2020 OR your child may be eligible to use the sports physical from the 2019-2020 school year. If you wish to use the sports physical from last year, you must fill out the [MHSAA Sports Health Questionnaire](https://forms.gle/uBfgS1nHtZx7bjaP9) and turn it into the office for review. Athletic fees must be paid in order to participate. The fee to participate is $60. Fees can be sent in to the school office.
How to Access Report Cards Online

Parents can print/view report cards from the PowerSchool Parent Portal using the following directions:

1. Log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal (online report cards are NOT available in the mobile app)

2. Select the student from the upper left menu if multiple are available

3. Click on the Report Card link from the left-side menu. Students in grades K-3 use the Standards Based Report Card and students in grades 4-8 use the Traditional Report Card.

4. To print a report card: With the report card displayed on the screen, click on the printer icon in the top blue bar and then use the browser print window to select the printer and print the report card.

5. Questions regarding this process or for password resets, email cwright@sjseducation.com

VIRTUAL DAY INFORMATION

Our Virtual Practice Days will be Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 20th. Homeroom teachers will be communicating to parents what the individual classroom schedules will look like. You will also receive log-in information for any Zoom style meetings that will be held. The school office will be open during the Virtual Learning sessions. Feel free to contact the office if you need assistance with anything.

Below are some general guidelines for Remote Learning for all students:

- Virtual Days are not optional. Attendance will be taken. Please be sure to communicate with the office if your child will be absent from virtual learning on those days. If multiple Zoom meetings are held in one day (especially for middle school), attendance will be taken during each meeting.

- Please show up to Zoom meetings ON TIME and ready to learn (dressed appropriately, quiet voices, listening ears).

- Try to set up a virtual learning space that will be free from distractions while in a Zoom meeting.

- Please remain on “mute” in your Zoom meeting until asked to participate by your teacher. Also, keep your video ON.

- Please be sure to eat before your Zoom meeting or during your snack break. Refrain from eating during live instruction/meetings.

- Please do not write in the group chat boxes unless invited to do so by your teacher.
ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Thank you:

- To all families for participating in last week’s Spirit Week challenges. You helped raise over $1700 for Catholic Charities with our coin challenge and we raised $200 on our Pink Day for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Congrats:

- To Mrs. Whitney’s Fourth Graders for being the first class to win the Spirit Stick by accumulating the most points during spirit week.
- To the 5th grade for coming in second place in our Spirit Stick Competition and to the 8th grade for coming in third place.

Prayers:

- For the Valko family on the passing of Andrew and Henley’s great-grandfather, Peter T. Swallow.

Building Foundations of Faith

As Catholic parents, we are called to provide moral education and spiritual growth for our children. What better example than to learn and grow in faith yourself? Visit this Jet Gazette feature weekly for thoughts, articles, and tips to strengthen and deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith.

During this month of Thanksgiving, most of us take a little time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives. Click here to read an article about ways to also show your gratitude to others.

Today’s #microchallenge from bustedhalo.com

To stay up to date with parish events, here is a link to the weekly parish bulletin: https://stjohnfenton.org/bulletins
Staff Spotlight

What was your favorite cartoon when you were a kid?

Mrs. Whitney: My favorite cartoon growing up was either He-Man or the Flintstones.
Mrs. Minnick: The Smurfs
Mrs. Wright: I liked watching Looney Tunes when I was a kid. Some of my favorite characters were Bugs Bunny, Tweety, the Tasmanian Devil, Speedy Gonzales, Wile E. Coyote, and the Roadrunner.
Ms. Adams: Kim Possible. I even had the video game for my Gameboy Advance!
Mrs. Dawes: I liked Tom and Jerry and Tweety and Sylvester.
Mrs. Salzano: Baby Looney Tunes. They were SO CUTE!
Mr. Forsleff: Looney Tunes, especially Bugs Bunny!
Mrs. Cisto: Bugs Bunny and Scooby Doo
Mrs. Forsleff: The Flintstones
Mrs. Roche: The Smurfs! 100%
Mrs. Ratke: I had many, but I remember Muppet Babies most of all.
Mr. Moore: Darkwing Duck
Mrs. Roberts: My favorite cartoon as a child was Alvin and the Chipmunks!
Ms. Wharff: My hands down favorite when I was little was “David the Gnome.” He lived in a tree with his wife, and worked as a veterinarian. He rode a fox name Swift to get to all the animal emergencies. I loved it!
Mrs. Anderson: Scooby Doo
Ms. Jazzmine: The Jetsons. I loved it! I wanted to have a robot just like Rosie when I was a kid (and I still do even now)!
Mr. Schmit: My favorite cartoon was probably Animaniacs, in particular, Pinky and the Brain.
Mrs. Boyle: I used to love Looney Tunes, particularly Bugs Bunny. Other favorites included: Animaniacs and Doug. Now, we watch Mickey Mouse clubhouse and Bubble Guppies with Natalie.
Mrs. Marinelli: The Smurfs
Mrs. Haiss: I loved to watch The Smurfs and The Gummi Bears.
Mr. Garbutt: I enjoyed the Tasmanian Devil!
Mrs. Adams: The Jetsons, which was about a family in the future.