



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SECOND TRIMESTER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



On February 18, construction crews began preparing the site to commence work on our new school addition, including securing and isolating the building construction areas. Fencing was installed around the exterior construction area while effected areas inside the Junior High building were closed off. Two outside entrance doors were closed off for entering and exiting the building, which affected our dismissal process for Drivers' and Walkers' Line.

Safety First

Safety is always important to us. During our first fire drill since construction started, students were able to exit the building in less than 2 minutes!

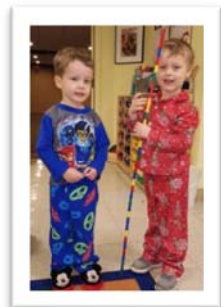
Groundbreaking Ceremony and Site Blessing

Thank you to the St. Joseph community for coming out on such a cold day to support our groundbreaking ceremony and site blessing on March 3!



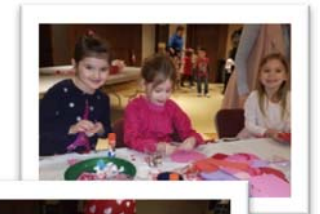
Thank you for your continued support and patience during the construction. While it may cause some disruption and changes to our normal routines, we are committed to continuing to provide an excellent education in a safe environment and are excited about what the new classrooms and spaces will provide in the future. Stay tuned for updates on construction progress. Our target date for completion is August 19, 2019!

PRESCHOOL



PJ Day

One of the students' favorite days of the year is Pajama Day where they get to learn and play, sing and dance, and be comfy cozy in their pjs!



Celebrations

Our preschoolers had a great time learning about Advent – the expectant waiting and preparing for Jesus to be born - and rejoicing his arrival at their Christmas celebration. They also had a blast at their Valentine's Day festivities with crafts and games.



Dental Health

We've been learning how to keep our teeth healthy. Mrs. Byrd, a dental hygienist, visited our preschoolers and left a model of teeth and gave each student a new toothbrush!



Saorise the Amaryllis

We planted an amaryllis bulb and have had fun watching it grow!
We take turns watering and measuring our plant, Saorise.
We are now making predictions when it will bloom.



KINDERGARTEN

Science Days



Our Kindergartners love monthly Science Day! In November, they made butter just like the Native Americans and Pilgrims did, made and learned about teepees, and learned about owls and made an owl snack. All of the experiments for January were focused on winter. They made snow, talked about blubber, made a snowstorm in a jar, and built igloos out of marshmallows. In February they had a blast with dancing hearts and balloon baking soda experiments, a marshmallow toothpick challenge and sound challenge. Thank you to our parent volunteers who help make Science Days fun!



100 Day

On Thursday February 7th, Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school! The students did various hand-on activities and projects to see exactly how big 100 is. What a fun day!

Polar Express Day and Pajama Drive

Our Kindergarten students celebrated Polar Express Day by wearing their pajamas to school. They also donated 34 pairs of pajamas for the Scholastic Pajama Drive, which matches pajamas and books for at-risk children. The pajamas were delivered to DuPage Pads in Wheaton. This is a wonderful opportunity to help families in need. The children had a blast starting the morning with the Polar Express story read by our amazing Teacher Aide, Anita Pattanayak, who also created the astonishing artwork in the hallway. The children "boarded the train" with their Polar Express ticket, found a seat and listened as we traveled to the North Pole. After the story, the children enjoyed hot chocolate and popcorn while watching the movie. It was a fun day that truly got us all into the Christmas spirit of giving.



Presentations

Kindergartners are continuing to practice their presentation skills. They presented to their teachers and classmates about Family Holiday Traditions and Famous Americans.

Dental Health

Dr. Carolyn Bronke Wind, a dentist and SJS parent, taught us that we should all brush our teeth 2 times a day for 2 minutes and visit the dentist 2 times a year. She even brought masks, gloves and mini mirrors for the children to dress up like a dentist.



FIRST

Cards for Troops

Our 1st graders were proud to make Christmas cards that will be sent to American troops serving overseas. The students learned what our armed forces do and wanted to show their appreciation for them. We thank the troops for all they do, and we hope that the cards bring some Christmas spirit to them!



Advent Gloves

During Advent, the 1st graders participated in a service project to collect money to buy gloves. They also made Christmas cards to include with the gloves. We then delivered them to the food pantry where they would be distributed before Christmas. We felt good knowing others would have warm hands this winter!



Let There Be Light

The 1st graders completed a unit on light. They explored with flashlights and various materials such as wax paper, foil, plastic, and cardboard to discover which were transparent, translucent or opaque. They also tested materials to see which ones reflected light the best.



Literacy Fair

First Grade participated in the first ever First Grade Literacy Fair! Each student picked a favorite book and made a display about it on a file folder. Students recorded story elements (characters, setting, beginning/middle/end events for fiction texts; main idea and three details for informational texts) and their reaction to the book. They shared their projects with fellow classmates, 8th grade buddies, and the projects were on display at the Catholic Schools Week Open House.



SECOND GRADE

Friendship

Our 2nd graders really enjoyed celebrating and practicing our virtue of friendship! They loved eating with new friends, journaling about their new friends, creating friendship posters, and reading and discussing different books about friendships.





Best Part of Me

The 2nd grade recently published a book called "The Best Part of Me" based off of a book we read together in class. They enjoyed reading the book to the Kindergarten and Preschool classes.

Christmas Café

Our 2nd graders hosted the 6th annual Christmas Café! To prepare for the Café the students apply, interview, and train for their positions in the restaurant. As always, it was a huge success and the family patrons enjoyed the experience. All proceeds from the Café are donated to the St. Joseph Parish Food Pantry



Producer and Consumer Fair

During Social Studies, the 2nd graders held a producer and consumer fair. The weeks leading up to the fair, the students had the opportunity to earn "Crusader Coins" that they spent at the fair on goods and services made or provided by their classmates. The students were required to create a poster to show what they were selling/offering as a service, make an open/closed sign, create a business card and write a brief explanation about their good or service and how they came up with the price for it.



First Reconciliation Prep & First Communion Retreat

Father John visited the 2nd grade classrooms to help the students prepare for their First Reconciliation. They recently participated in a First Communion retreat with the St. Joseph Parish Religious Education students where they shared bread brought from home and became familiar with the items used in Mass, such as the chalice and practiced receiving the (unconsecrated) bread and wine.



Ooblek

In their studies of States of Matter, the 2nd graders got to experiment with Oobleck, a non-newtonian fluid. That means it acts like a liquid when being poured, but like a solid when a force is acting on it. Oobleck gets its name from the Dr. Seuss book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* where a gooey green substance, Oobleck, fell from the sky and wreaked havoc in the kingdom. In this experiment, our Oobleck made a lot less of a mess!



Marble Run

The 2nd graders had a blast making marble runs using empty paper towel/toilet paper rolls and tape.



THIRD GRADE

Science Lab

Tuesdays after school Mrs. Limberg hosts a Science Lab for some of our 3rd Graders! They spend time learning about a variety of topics in Science and getting some hands-on experience.



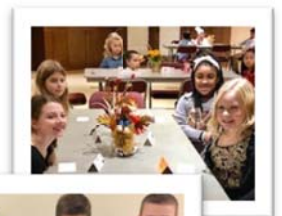
Coding

Coding is becoming more and more popular as a STEAM activity. Our 3rd graders taught our 2nd graders using the website Kodable. All the students had a blast and enjoyed working together.



Chari-TEA

The virtue for November was courtesy so Mrs. Bordens and Mrs. Limberg spent a great deal of time discussing and using fun activities to help students understand courtesy, etiquette, manners, and how our positive and careful actions reflect God's grace. To encourage acts of Charity in support of this year's overall virtue, every Tuesday in the month of November, the students brought in a canned good to donate to the Food Pantry. To celebrate courtesy, charity, and allow the students to put their good manners into practice, 3rd grade hosted a formal "Chari-TEA" party. They could each invite 1 guest and had to create a centerpiece for the tea party out of a canned good that would be donated to the food pantry. The students and their special guests had a great time and were excited to give back to their community.



FOURTH

Latinos Famosos

4th graders presented Latinos Famosos in Spanish in Senora McGovern's Spanish class. The students created a Google Slide presentation in collaboration with Mr. Christian's Computer class and taught us all about some inspirational people. We learned about their accomplishments, countries and cultures of their background.



Factor Trees

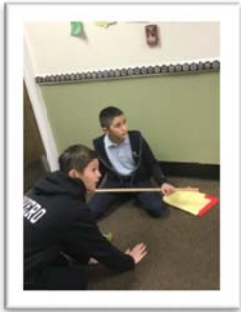
Christmas spirit was in full swing in our 4th grade math classes as our students learned how to make a factor tree.



FIFTH

Halloween Fun with Kindergarten Buddies

Our 5th graders make great role models for our Kindergarteners! The students attend the all-school mass together once a month and had a lot of fun celebrating Halloween!



Catapult Project

Our 5th grade students were challenged with a STEM project in math class. They had to design a catapult out of limited materials, and then calculate the velocity their object traveled using the distance and time they tracked. They also implemented finding the average of certain measurements...3 cheers for these motivated 5th graders!

Dr. Shaky Science Show

Deacon Tim Kueper from Our Lady of Mercy church has developed a program that integrates science and the beliefs of the Catholic Church. He recently shared his program as Dr. Shaky with our 2nd through 5th grade classes. He discussed the connection between God and science. We observed many science experiments that showed how density, gravity, and surface tension are at play in our everyday lives. Was it magic? No! It was the wonder of science! We even heard about three Catholics that have made a huge impact in the field of science: Sr. Mary Kenneth Keller, Fr. Gregory Mendel, and Fr. Georges LeMaitre. Thank you Dr. Shaky for sharing your passion for God and science with us!



SIXTH

Parts of Mass

At SJS, Catholic faith formation is an integral part of our daily studies. Our students have the privilege to attend Mass every week as a school community. To help our younger students better understand and appreciate the experience, our 6th graders recently worked one-on-one with the 2nd graders to teach them about each part of the Mass. Come experience our All-School Mass on Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. during the school year. You'll be glad you did!



SEVENTH

Book Trailers

The 7th graders kicked off the 2nd trimester by creating book trailers about the independent reading books they have read this year. They learned how to produce videos to highlight the setting, plot, characters, conflicts, and theme. It was a fun and innovative way to share what they have been reading!



Children's Books

The 7th grade students wrote and illustrated childrens Christmas books in Miss Shannon's class. They shared them with their 2nd grade buddies.

Breakfast with the Bishop

Patrick Cohoon attended the annual "Breakfast with the Bishop". Bishop Conlon invited one 7th grade boy from each of the schools in the Diocese to join him for a talk about Catholic Schools from Fr. Belmonte, a Prayer and Song Service, breakfast, and individual pictures with him. Patrick was chosen for many reasons. He is kind and helpful to both staff and fellow students. Patrick embodies the virtues (charity, friendship, courtesy, purity, fortitude) that we have been studying and practicing this school year; he is a true representative of St Joseph School in both faith and academics.



EIGHTH



Vocations Awareness

The 7th and 8th grade celebrated Vocations Awareness week in November by attending the Called by Name Vocation Conference at St. Isaac Jogues. The students learned how to practice lectio divina - prayerful engagement with scripture. They also had a chance to talk to seminarians and sisters about their vocations. The highlight was playing knock out basketball and Catholic trivia!

Valentine's Dance

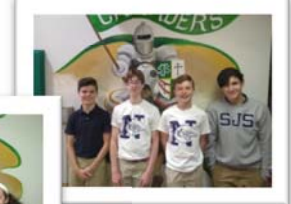
The 8th Grade Valentine's Dance is a long-standing tradition at SJS. The students take four after-school dance lessons, taught by Miss Winter, where they learn the waltz, cha-cha, and hand-jive swing. It is a special way to celebrate Valentine's Day and teaches valuable life and social skills.



COMPETITIONS

Scholastic Bowl

At the Nazareth Academy Scholastic Bowl, nine of our 8th graders competed against other local Catholic schools answering questions from the categories of Reading, English, Social Studies, and Math. The competition started with sixteen teams, and our girls' team advanced to round three as one of the top eight teams. Congratulations to Danny Boyle, Eamon Casey, Michael Gates, Joey Schamber and Natalie Izzo, Aylssa Halpin, Sadie Kearney, Josephine Rauch and Sara Severin on a great job representing SJS in the competition!



Geography Bee

Great job to all of our participants who made it to the school Geography Bee! Eli Brunzelle, Joseph Busch, Johanna Congdon, Gwendolyn Ellis, Charlie Kane, Seamus Mulligan, Michael Stangl, Collins Whitfield, Marko Zeba.

1st place: Joseph Busch (8th grade), 2nd place: Seamus Mulligan (4th grade),
3rd place: Marko Zeba (4th grade)

Band For Today Solo Contest

Thirteen students from St. Joseph School performed at the annual Band For Today solo contest. Congratulations to all the performers for their hard work, determination and achievement! Justina Azer, Eli Brunzelle, Jaxson Congdon, Johanna Congdon, Jessica Dumlao, Kamryn Gaydos, Dylan Graham, Sophie Izzo, Addison Kane, Sadie Kearney, Sarah Phillips, Nico Sokolowski, and Kiran Zaloudek.

Spelling Bee



Congratulations to our Spelling Bee participants: Richie Boehm, Sean Boyle, Patrick Cohoon, Rachael Holecek, Brian Lifka, Adriana Marsicano, Josephine Rauch, Nico Sokolowski, and Andrew Tyson. 1st place: Brian Lifka (4th grade), 2nd place: Josephine Rauch (8th grade), 3rd place: Adriana Marsicano (5th grade)

Brian Lifka did an incredible job representing St. Joseph at the regional Spelling Bee. He was one of the youngest competitors and lasted four rounds. Brian tied for 19th out of 24 school Spelling Bee champions.





Knights of Columbus Essay Contest

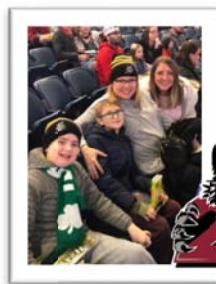
The Knights of Columbus sponsor a yearly writing contest to highlight the importance of Catholic Education in America. The students finished essays without names or identifiers. These essays were read and judged by the Knights of Columbus and Father John Phan. The name of the First Place winner is displayed on a plaque near the entrance of St. Joseph School. Current K of C Grand Knight Dan Daemicke and Mike Miller gave the presentation at St. Joseph School's yearly Catholic Schools Mass on February 1. Congratulations to our winners!

1st Place: Josephine Rauch, 2nd Place: Colleen Engstler, 3rd Place: Luke Pacelli

EVENTS

Red Carpet Gala

Our annual fundraising event was held at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge. The Gala Committee put together a fun and festive evening that included appetizers, a four-course meal, dancing, and a fun photo booth. Thank you to our sponsors and donors who contributed to a wide variety of live and silent auction items. Additionally, there were several buy-in options and Raise the Paddle for School Security. This event is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year and proceeds will help fund school security and technology enhancements along with tuition assistance.

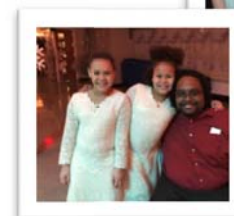


Mother Son Outing

Several SJS mothers and sons enjoyed an evening out together at a Chicago Wolves game.

Father Daughter Dance

Thanks to an amazing team of parents, our school hall was transformed into a Winter Wonderland for our fathers and daughters who had fun dancing the night away!



Mother Daughter Tea

Save the Date! Our first Mother Daughter Tea will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 11 am-1 pm at the Drake Oak Brook.

TEACHERS

Congratulations to Mrs. Knightly who welcomed baby Ryan Thomas on February 15! Big brother Jimmy is doing well with his baby brother and is a great helper!

VIRTUES PROGRAM & CHARITY

Our focus on the virtue of Charity continues this year and can be seen through several classroom and Student Council activities where we strive to make a difference in our community. Our Virtues in Practice program allows the SJS community to work both in school and at home on the virtues of Courtesy, Purity, Fortitude and Prudence. Next trimester our activities will center around the virtues of Respect, Forgiveness and Responsibility.



Student Council Food Pantry and Soup-er Bowl Drives

Thank you to all of our students and families for helping to stock the St. Joseph Food Pantry shelves during the Student Council Thanksgiving Food and Supply Drive and Souper-Bowl Canned Food Drive. Your donations brought in a nice supply for the Food Pantry to help during the holidays and recent cold spell.

Soles4Souls

Save the date! The week of March 18th, Student Council will be collecting shoes in all sizes and styles to be donated around the world through the organization Soles4souls.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Despite the snowy and extremely cold weather, we were able to enjoy several activities and traditions during Catholic Schools Week. Thank you to all the volunteers who organized the activities and events to make it a fun week for our students and teachers in celebration of Catholic education.



Bishop Conlon Visit

We were honored and privileged to welcome Bishop Conlon to SJS! He presided over our all-school mass and spent the day with our teachers and students.



Students vs. Teachers Volleyball Match

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration, we held a students vs. teachers volleyball game. Father John Phan helped the teachers out a bit!



Fun Fair

As the name suggests, SJS students and parents always have a blast at the Fun Fair. Bishop Conlon even got in on some of the fun!

Puppet Show

Preschool through 2nd grade students enjoyed an entertaining puppet show. The kids laughed so much and helped the characters throughout the story. In the end, the Princess became friends with the dragon who prefers eating PB&J sandwiches to princesses!

Know it All Show

3rd through 8th grade students participated in a "Know It All Show" that tested their knowledge by working together in teams to answer questions about Math, Science, Social Studies, People, Fun Challenges, and SJS Facts. The program also discussed what to do if you are bullied. At the end of the show, the school was presented with a "Know It All" award!



Career Day

Several students dressed up as what they want to be when they grow up. It was great to see future sports players, teachers, veterinarians, flight attendants, police officers, and so much more!



Variety Show

Our school community enjoyed the 7th annual Variety Show hosted by Miss Winter and emceed by Chloe Mika and Elizabeth Lifka. There were singers, dancers, pianists and comedy routines, including the tradition of our 8th grade boys (plus 4th grader Ben Gates) closing out the show with jokes! We're so proud of

all the participants for their courage to share their talents with the SJS community.



Open House

We celebrated Catholic Education by hosting an Open House event. We welcomed several prospective families to tour SJS. There was a basketball shootout with canned good donations for the Food Pantry and a STEAM and extracurricular fair to highlight some of the enrichment classes we offer. Students and families visited classrooms to see the exciting projects we've been working on and talk with our amazing teachers. 8th graders showcased their science fair projects while several students sang piano karaoke with Mr. Horneman, got face paintings and SJS temporary tattoos, tried to guess their



teacher's baby pictures or participated in the Fun Passport for a chance to win an SJS baseball cap! Thank you to all involved who helped make it a fun and successful day!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Members of the SJS Student Council recently attended two leadership workshops where they met with other Student Council members from our Northeast district to discuss leadership, teamwork, respect, and how to be successful Student Council members. The advisors met to discuss ideas for schools and the big state convention, which will be take place in Springfield in April. Thank you to Tyler Balsamo, Scarlett Carbon, Eamon Casey, Eoin Casey, Ryan Economou, Elizabeth Lifka and Norah Porcelli for attending these two important workshops!



ATHLETICS



Basketball

Congratulations to all our basketball teams on a great season! Go Crusaders!

Spring Sports

SJS Track & Field and Boys Volleyball starts March 11. Have a fun, safe and successful season!



ALUMNI

Illinois State Scholars

Congratulations to SJS Class of 2015 alumni on their recent distinction as Illinois State Scholars in District 99! Shout out to Dominic Balsamo, Louis Griffin, William Paveleck, Matthew Porcelli, George Ross and Lauren Sebek on this outstanding achievement!



All-Big Ten Offense

Congratulations to SJS alum David Edwards, who attends the University of Wisconsin, on recently being named to the 2018 All-Big Ten Offense!

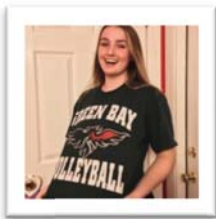


DGN Athletic Hall of Fame

Eric Jagielo (2006) was inducted into the DGN Athletic Hall of Fame. He currently plays for the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp whose parent MLB club is Miami Marlins.

Alumni Volleyball Bash

Two of our graduating classes reunited at the SJS gym for a night of camaraderie and competition. The class of 2017 came together after Summer break for a night of Survivor Volleyball. Before Thanksgiving, the Class of 2018 got together for a volleyball bash and also donated items to the St. Vincent DePaul Food pantry at St. Joseph Parish.



College Commitment

Addy Karmik (2016) made her verbal commitment to the University of Wisconsin Green-Bay where she will be playing Division 1 Volleyball.



Class of 2018 High School Honor Roll

Congratulations to our Class of 2018 alumni! 31 of our recent grads achieved Honor Roll Status in their first semester of high school! Keep up the good work!

Just Married!

Congratulations to Catie Nehls (2003) on her recent nuptials! She and her husband, Dan Scherer, were married in Tampa, Florida on December 8, 2018. Catie is the Office Manager at Optimal Health Solutions in Naperville. She attended DGN (2007) and graduated from Illinois State University in 2011 with a degree in Nutrition.



Show your love for SJS!

- Like us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Post a review on Yelp, Google, Niche and Great Schools

Thank you to all our teachers, staff, students, and parents for your hard work, determination and perseverance to make this another great trimester. Congratulations on all of your outstanding projects, activities and accomplishments! We're looking forward to another trimester full of exciting highlights.