



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

December 3, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

Welcome back! I hope your family had a lovely Thanksgiving and a fun and relaxing break! On to Christmas! We have a busy month of activities on the calendar as we anticipate the birth of Jesus and all of the joy that preparing for Christmas brings. You can literally feel the excitement from our students as we transform our classrooms and hallways into Winter Wonderlands. Our Falcons' curriculum has also shifted to Christmas themes such as Advent in Religion, Christmas around the world in Social Studies, reflecting and writing about family Christmas traditions in ELA, and painting and shaping Christmas trees in Art to name a few. We are eager to bring back our pre-k and kindergarten Christmas shows as well. We look forward to celebrating all of the magic with our Falcons and sharing this beautiful season with all of you!

As you are aware, we are experiencing an uptick in positive COVID-19 cases at SJF and in our neighborhood. Many of our students are testing positive. Please keep your child home if they are not feeling well. We are all working toward transitioning to a sense of normalcy both in and out of school and collectively are hoping and praying for an end to the COVID lifestyle in our near future. However, we are not there quite yet. In order to keep our school doors open, and provide our extracurriculars a hope at having a season, we need to follow the rules set forth by the archdiocese. Proper mask wearing and staying home when sick are the two most critical priorities of the Arch's COVID Task Force's plan. Following these rules will lead to a greater chance of our kids continuing to learn in person, our teams playing and competing, and our clubs holding meetings and events. As a community, let's commit to these two priorities so that we can give our children the gift of a sense of normalcy while growing up during this unique and unprecedented time. (*****Additional COVID guidance and athletic reminders are outlined below. PLEASE READ!**)**

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. Enjoy the beginning of the wondrous Christmas season!

In unity and hope,
Mrs. Maura Nash



COVID GUIDANCE & REMINDERS

- If your child or a household member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, **please call the school office, 773-445-4737, during the school office hours, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and/or email attendance@sjfschool.us.**
 - If you contact the school office outside of regular scheduled office hours, ***we will get back to you the next business day.*** Thank you for your patience!
- **A few details to highlight:**
 - All symptomatic individuals must remain home, regardless of vaccination status.
 - If symptoms last longer than 24 hours, individuals must receive a negative COVID-19 test or alternative medical diagnosis prior to returning to school.
 - Masks are required for all students and staff indoors regardless of vaccination status. **This rule INCLUDES athletes, coaches, and spectators indoors at sporting events.**
 - A **close contact** constitutes being within 3 feet of a positive individual, un-masked for more than 15 minutes. If your child is considered a close contact, you will be contacted separately and will receive specific quarantine guidance.
 - **Updated Athletic Guidance per the Archdiocese: If a student athlete tests positive, all of his/her teammates will be considered close contacts and will be required to quarantine. If a teammate is vaccinated and asymptomatic, he/she will not need to quarantine.**
 - In addition to proper masking, SJF cleans and sanitizes desks and tables multiple times throughout the day. Our classrooms are cleaned daily. Our building is deep cleaned every weekend. Our students sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the classroom/lunchroom. We are following the archdiocese guidance and working hard every day to ensure our children and staff remain healthy and safe.
- Please review the most recent communication from the archdiocese [linked here](#). These guidelines will be reviewed every two weeks and are subject to change.

Athletics

To ensure SJF is able to host athletic competitions and that our teams are eligible to compete, we need everyone's cooperation and assistance in adhering to the COVID protocols established by the Archdiocese COVID-19 Task Force.

- **ALL spectators, coaches, players and gym staff must wear masks** in the gym and school building during all games and practices.
- As a reminder, ***if your child misses school due to an illness*** (fever, throwing up, headache, etc.), ***he or she cannot attend that day's athletic practice or game.***
- Please ensure your children ***represent SJF well*** as they compete and cheer on other Falcon teams. Good sportsmanship matters!
- ***Student conduct in the gym, on the stage, and in the hallways during sporting events outside of school hours continues to be an issue.*** Garbage is left all over the stage, stairways, and hallways. Please remind your child to take pride in our school and pick up and throw out his/her garbage. ***Students should not attempt to enter any part of the school building while they are attending athletic competitions at SJF.***

The Fisher Falcon Education Fund

- On Giving Tuesday this week, we launched **The Fisher Falcon Education Foundation**. On Day 1 of our launch, we raised **\$5,675!** Thank you for your generosity and your continued support for St. John Fisher School. Together, we will continue our communication efforts to reach parishioners and alumni to consider a gift to the foundation that will contribute to the strength and vitality of our beloved school. If you would like to learn more about the foundation, please visit our **website at: <https://www.falconeducationfoundation.org/>**.

Neighborhood Safety

- Sgt. Bob Kellam addressed Falcons in grades 4-8 this week discussing ways they can stay safe in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood has recently been rocked by the frightening incidents that have occurred at Munroe Park and 101st Washtenaw/ Fairfield. Our children are our most precious commodity and we care deeply about their safety and wellbeing. SJF is committed to educating and bringing awareness to ways in which our kids can remain safe in our neighborhood.

Important Announcements

- The *SJF's Women's Club HOLY SHOP Vendor Fair* is tonight in Kane Hall from 7-10! Any SJF parent in attendance will receive a voucher for his/her child(ren) to attend school out of uniform on Monday. Thank you for your support!
- Our **brilliant and well-prepared 8th grade Falcons** are taking the Catholic High School Entrance Exam tomorrow morning. Please join me in praying for our students as they take the first important step toward the next stage of their undeniably bright future! You've got this Falcons!
- **This is the LAST CHANCE to purchase our 2021 HOLIDAY RAFFLE TICKETS!** The winner will be drawn tomorrow after 4 p.m. mass. **[Here is a link to purchase your tickets online.](#)**
- The **SJF Athletic Association is selling t-shirts** in an effort to raise funds to make improvements to the lighting and purchase bleachers for the new student section on the stage in our Conner T. Lowry Gym. The order form is linked here and **[the online store closes at midnight on December 5th](#)**. Thank you for your support!
- **Extended Day**: Make sure to **[register your child here](#)**. Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, **dogrady@sjfschool.us**.
- **December 21st** is an 11:30 dismissal.

FSA Corner

- **FSA Save the Dates:**
 - Santa's Coming to Town, **12.10 & 12. 11** (please see the attached flyer for sign-up information)
 - Mother Son Bulls Game, **1.30**
- Want to **update your SJF Fashion for Christmas?! Check out these new designs and items in our Squad Locker Store, linked here!** Squad Locker gives a percentage of every purchase back to the FSA. Don't delay and get your new swag today!



Looking Ahead

Friday, December 3rd	Women's Club Holy Shop Vendor Fair , Kane Hall, 7p.m. – 10 p.m.
Weekend Mass	Join us for Mass: 4 p.m. on Saturday, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday *The Holiday Raffle Winner will be drawn immediately following 4 p.m. Mass
Saturday, December 4th	Catholic High School Entrance Exam – Pray for our bright and prepared 8 th grade Falcons! ETC 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reindeer Games w/ Mrs. Altman 8th Grade Game Night in Kane Hall
Sunday, December 5th	SJF Athletic Apparel Store Closes today at midnight! Order form is linked here.
Monday, December 6th	ETC 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Fidget Fun w/ Mrs. Altman & Mrs. Lindgren • Multiplication Madness w/ Mrs. Sefcik • Game Night w/ Mrs. Dunlavy
Tuesday, December 7th	ETC 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingle Mingle w/ Mrs. Altman • Christmas Clay Class w/ Mrs. Corley
Wednesday, December 8th	ETC 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reindeer Games w/ Mrs. Altman • Christmas Crafts w/ Ms. Dunlavy
Thursday, December 9th	ETC 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baking Buddies w/ Ms. McAndrews





FALCON OF THE WEEK

Jacob Malloy, 7th grade



One of our school themes is "Fly Like a Falcon". Falcons SOAR above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "SOAR above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon", lifting one another up, celebrating the positive interactions, and kind behavior that our students and staff demonstrate each and every day. **This week we recognize 7th grader, Jacob Malloy.**

Jacob was "caught in the act" of doing a selfless deed for one of our parishioners this week. As a parishioner was dropping off groceries at the rectory, Jacob noticed the amount of bags she had to bring in and quickly walked over and offered to carry them for her. This is a simple act of kindness, that had a big impact. This parishioner was floored by Jake's spontaneous reaction to help without any prompting. He swiftly carried the bags and then told her to have a great day. If you know Jacob Malloy, you know this is not out of character for him, but symbolic of who he is: a quiet, humble leader, kind, thoughtful, bright, hard-working, empathetic and polite. We are lucky Jacob is a Falcon! Jacob, you are a wonderful role model not only to your peers, but to all of the adults in the community as well. You make us proud. Keep flying like a Falcon, Jake; you are making a difference!

WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **WIN BIERNACKI** FROM **RESOURCE**.

Schools in our country are suffering from a significant teacher shortage. SJF is fortunate to be fully staffed with some of the best teachers around. We are proud of our incredible faculty and want to pause to celebrate them! This week we celebrate, **Mrs. Win Biernacki!**



1. How long have you been at SJF? **This is my 8th year at SJF.**
2. What do you love about SJF? **I love the deep sense of community. We are very much a family, especially when we come together to cheer each other on, or rally around one another during difficult times.**
3. How have resource services changed in the last 8 years? **We started small and have grown, with the support of Sr. Jean and Mrs. Nash, into a robust program that includes small group and individual instruction, as well as in-class support. We are able to provide support to students with broader ranges of needs, always keeping in mind that the learning process often looks a bit different for each student. The joy is in watching their confidence grow as their knowledge expands.**
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? **In one of my former careers, I was a computer teacher in a grammar school and I also taught seniors in the community. My oldest student was 95!**

2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



**Because of the unpredictable world we live in, these dates are subject to change.*

- Christmas Break: **12.22 – 1.5** *classes resume **1.6**, **12.21** is an 11:30 dismissal
- Martin Luther King Day – No School: **1.17**
- First Reconciliation: **1.25, Ms. Surin's Room & 1.26, Mrs. Kellam's Room**
- Catholic Schools Week: **1.30 – 2.5**
- Confirmation: **2.6**
- 8th Grade Graduation Pictures: **2.9**
- Parent Teacher Conferences: **2.17**
- President's Day Break: **2.18 – 2.21** *classes resume **2.22**
- End of Second Trimester: **3.8**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development (no classes): **3.14**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** *classes resume **4.25**
- First Communion: **4.30**
- May Crowning: **5.6**
- 8th Grade Ribbon Mass: **5.20**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8th Grade Classes: **6.1**
- Graduation Dance: **6.3**
- Graduation Mass: **6.5**
- End of Third Trimester, Last Day of School: **6.8** ~ 10:30 dismissal

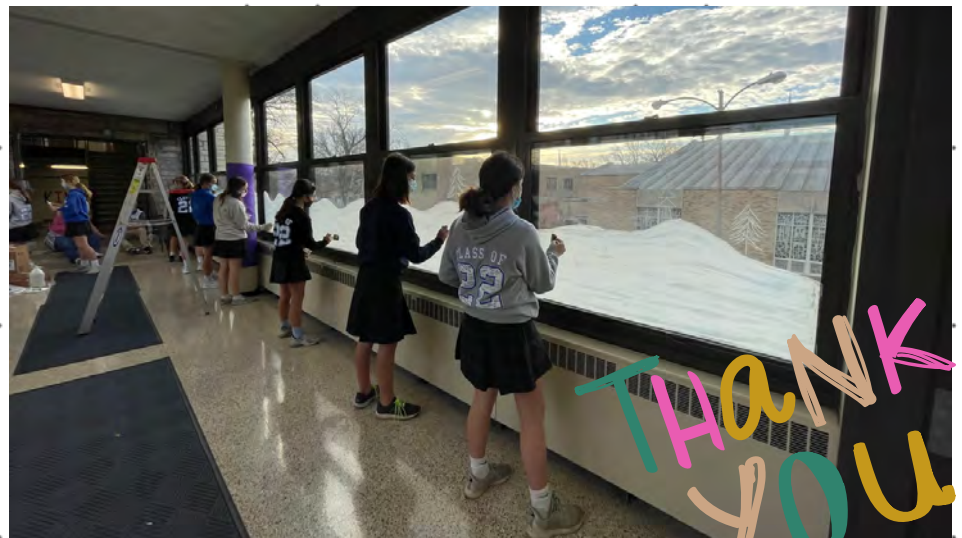
***1 p.m. dismissals** are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the following months for faculty meetings and PLC work: **November 3rd, December 1st, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th.**

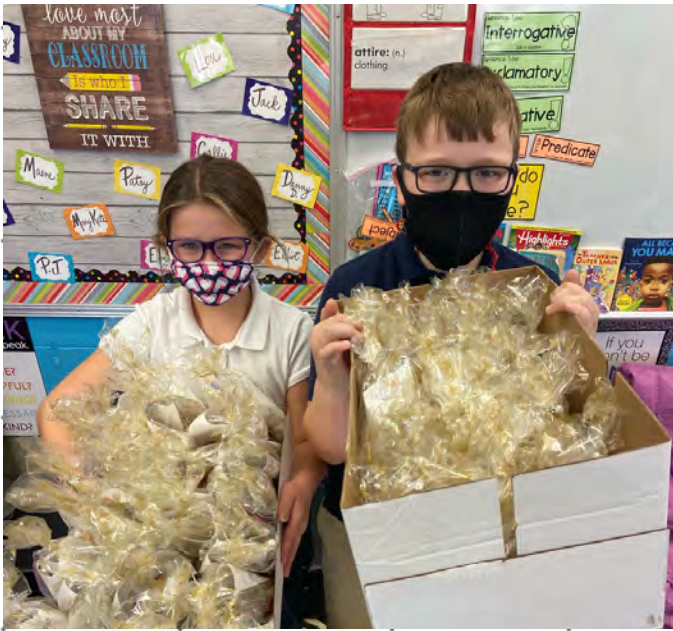
Sgt. Bob Kellam spoke with our 4-8th graders providing important tips and counsel on how to stay safe in the neighborhood.





**Thank you to our
SOAR students who
turned our bridge
into a winter
wonderland!**



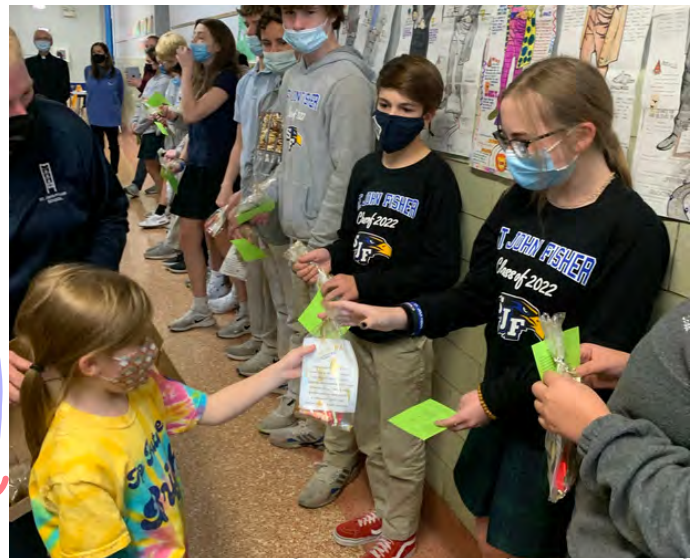


Good luck to our 8th graders as they take their high school entrance exam! Thanks to the 3rd graders for packing the special bags and to our young Falcons for passing them out.





“good things ahead”



Santa Claus is coming to see some Falcons!



The Big Guy will be making visits to the Falcons on the nice list!

Friday, December 10th 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 11th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$40 per family includes an outdoor visit from Santa, digital download of your visit, Sweet treats for the kids, and Christmas cocktails for the parents

To receive a visit from Santa, sign up on the link below and send payment to school in an envelope marked Santa Visit with your family name. Please limit the number of families at one home to no more than three.

Santa Sign Up

Space is limited, therefore, first come, first serve Sweet Treats compliments of Beverly Bakery & Christmas Cocktails compliments of Barney Callaghans Sponsored by St. John Fisher FSA



St. John Fisher Holiday Grand Raffle

Tickets are \$100 each

First prize: \$25,000 Second prize: \$5,000 Third prize: \$2,000

Tickets can be purchased **October 16th-December 4th** in person at the rectory, after 11:00 a.m. mass, or online through the church and school websites <https://www.sjfschool.net> or <https://www.stjohnfisherparish.net>

**Winners will be drawn
December 4th @
4:00 p.m. Mass**





Respect Life

Wreath Sale

The Respect Life committee will be selling wreaths/gift items after mass on **Saturday, December 4th** and **Sunday, December 5th**. These items will fill your home with the spirit and love of the Christmas season and make the perfect hostess gifts for friends and neighbors. All proceeds help support the work of the Women’s Centers of Greater Chicagoland. Through your generosity, hundreds of teens and young woman facing a crisis pregnancy will receive the compassionate counseling, social service referrals and material goods assistance they need to help them through this most difficult period of their lives. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Listed below are available items:

Be Merry Centerpiece \$25.00	26” Noble Fir Wreath w/cones \$35.00
14” Winter White Candle Ring \$30.00	48” Canella Berry Mantel Piece \$45.00
26” Cinnamon Wreath \$45.00	<i>Cash and checks accepted</i>



Please contact Courtney Connors or Kerry McNicholas with any questions.

courtneykconnors@gmail.com

(773) 396-4896 (Courtney)

Kerrymcginnis@yahoo.com

(708) 525-0705 (Kerry)

Each child is sent into the world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, and a personal act of love to bestow.



MANNA
has your
Christmas List
Covered!



Visit MANNA 'Cash and Carry' Hours at the Convent (on Fairfield side)

Monday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Friday 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (school days only)
Saturdays 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Sundays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Or buy online at www.ShopWithScrip.com

All online orders (including local stores) must be placed **by noon on Sunday**
for pick up starting Wednesday evening.