



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

March 10, 2022

Dear SJF Families,

This week marks the beginning of the third trimester. There is nothing like the feeling of a fresh start! Our Falcons are ready to make this their best trimester yet! Our kids are so bright and when they work hard, the possibilities are truly endless!

It was so wonderful sharing in the excitement of our athletic teams this past weekend. As the winter season comes to a close, we want to thank our student-athletes for their participation, cordial competitive spirits and enthusiasm! We would also like to extend our gratitude to our volunteer coordinators and coaches who go above and beyond the call of duty to motivate, support, energize and guide our Falcons. None of this would be possible without you. Finally, a shout-out to our parents. Driving kids around every day, ensuring they are at every game and practice with all of their equipment and cheering them on each week is no small feat. Thank you for your commitment to your child(ren) and SJF. Way to go Falcons!

The return of our Irish Mass and St. Baldrick's Event was a huge success. Our third and fourth graders were exceptional as they greeted us at Mass and performed the inspiring and heroic story of St. Patrick. From our speakers to our beautiful dancers, the Mass was truly phenomenal! Thank you to all who attended and participated in both our Mass and the St. Baldrick's Fundraising Event! It was such a feel-good moment to be back in the building for this special cause which is so close to our community's heart. St. Baldrick's wouldn't have happened without Karen McDonagh and her dedicated committee along with our teachers and students who provided the hand painted décor, which set the tone for this fun and special night. What a wonderful way for our community to kick off the St. Patrick's Day season!

Thank you for your continued support of our students and school and thank you for choosing Catholic education, specifically St. John Fisher School.

In unity and hope,

Mrs. Maura Nash 

## Important Announcements

- The **2022 Archdiocese of Chicago 5 Essentials Parent Survey** is open and closes on March 18<sup>th</sup>. [Please complete the survey linked here](#). We are grateful for your feedback!
- **Save the Date: March 27<sup>th</sup>** – SJF School Family Open House from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. followed by the 11 a.m. Family Mass. We can't wait to see you!
- **Extended Day:** Make sure to [register your child\(ren\) here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, [dogrady@sjsfchool.us](mailto:dogrady@sjsfchool.us).



The South Side Irish Parade Committee is honoring Catholic School Educators in the area for their dedication to Catholic education and impressive work during the pandemic. Please look for our teachers and cheer on our group at the parade! We are marching with the Grand Marshall and will be #3 in the parade.

### Looking Ahead

<b>Weekend Mass Schedule</b> <i>*Students who attend mass receive an out-of-uniform pass for the following school day</i>	4 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. Sunday <i>*There is no 11 a.m. Mass due to the South Side Irish Parade</i> 🍀
Friday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	No School ~ OCS Flex Day
Saturday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>	8B Boys Basketball vs. MHR, Marist @ 3:20 p.m. for the SSBL Championship!
Monday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	No School ~ Staff Religious Formation Day
Tuesday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	ETC – Spring Science Lab 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Altman ETC – YOGA for Kids 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Sefcik Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. w/ Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy
Wednesday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	ETC – Leprechaun Training Camp 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Altman ETC – Fun with Fractions 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Sefcik Homework Club 3 – 3:45 p.m. w/ Mrs. Ade & Ms. Dunlavy
Thursday, March 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>*Students may wear a touch of green!</i>	ETC – Shamrocks & Shenanigans 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Mrs. Altman ETC – Spring Arts & Crafts 3 – 4 p.m. w/ Ms. Dunlavy
Friday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	



## School Advisory & SJF Leadership Update

**PLEASE NOTE:** We rescheduled the date of our *Annual State of the School* presentation, **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m.** The presentation will be led by SJF Leadership and our School Advisory Board. We will send a ZOOM link next week so you can tune in from the comfort of your home. We welcome any in-person follow-up at our Open House a few days after on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### 2021-2022 Abbreviated Calendar



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

- End of Second Trimester: **3.8**
- **No School – OCS Flex Day: 3.11**
- All-Staff Religious Formation & Professional Development **(no classes): 3.14**
- School Family Open House & Mass: **3.27**
- Spring Break: **4.13 – 4.24** \*classes resume **4.25**
- First Communion: **4.30**
- May Crowning: **5.6**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ribbon Mass: **5.20**
- Memorial Day – No School: **5.30**
- Last Day of 8<sup>th</sup> 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: **April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## Pro Labore Dei

Thanks to all who made Saturday's lunch making such a success. You never stop being amazing! The next lunch making will be on **April 2nd at 9:15 a.m.** As always we welcome all donations for the makings and volunteers to help compile the lunches. *Specific details will be in the bulletin.*

Next, the need for groceries for meals is still great. We continue to collect on the parking lot each Saturday morning from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thanks for all you do!

Last and most exciting, we are asking for help in providing Easter baskets for those in need. We will collect baskets for men, women, boys and girls. **Please bring your contributions to the Rectory by April 7th. The baskets will be distributed on April 9th in Robbins and Posen.** Again, our most sincere thanks.

Any questions, feel free to contact Pam O'Mara (773-612-0281) or Jerry and Pat Hayes (773-239-8428)

## 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](mailto: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!
- **SJF Faculty and Staff cannot be responsible for whether or not your child wears a mask. If you are choosing to have your child wear a mask while in school, please have a conversation with your child regarding your family's expectations. SJF cannot require students to wear a mask now that the policy is mask optional.**
- **Details to highlight:**
  - Please see Mr. Richmond's most recent note regarding mask optional [linked here](#).
  - 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.
  - Students who tested positive or were exposed to COVID-19 can now return to school after completing a 5-day quarantine, but must wear a mask for days 6-10.
  - Positive students must quarantine from athletics through days 6-10.
  - Exposed students may participate in athletics but must provide proof of a negative test in order to attend events on days 6-10 following the 5-day quarantine.
  - A presumed **90-day immunity window** follows proof of a positive test result for individuals who complete(d) the minimum 5-day isolation and remain symptom free.



# FALCONS OF THE WEEK

Sara Winters, Margot Spreitzer, Ava Sheerin,  
Mimi Barrins & Brian Guinane 8th 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 8th graders, Sara Winters, Margot Spreitzer, Ava Sheerin, Mimi Barrins and Brian Guinane.**

Sara, Margot, Ava, Mimi and Brian are always up for lending a helpful hand. These five 8th graders literally seek teachers out and ask them if there is anything they need help with throughout the week. Recently, they volunteered their time to help Mrs. Altman and Mrs. Caffrey decorate Kane Hall for the Get Behind the Vest Pancake Breakfast. They stayed after school and also used their study hall period to paint signs and hang up all of the decorations. Mrs. Altman is known for decorating for all of the events at our school and she is famous for her weekly E.T.C. classes. Sara, Margot, Ava, Mimi and Brian reach out to Mrs. Altman weekly to see if she needs an extra set of hands to help facilitate those classes and spend time with our youngest Falcons. It is great to have our 8th graders help with these classes because they are setting a good example for our younger Falcons, demonstrating what true leaders look like. We are lucky you are Falcons and that we get to learn from your examples each day. Keep flying like Falcons. You are making a difference!

# WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **MRS. KOVATCH** FROM **4TH GRADE**.

Schools in our country are suffering from a significant teacher shortage. SJF is fortunate to be 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. Laura Kovatch**.



1. How long have you been at SJF? **This is my 14th year teaching at SJF! For fourteen out of my fifteen years of teaching, I have been lucky enough to be right here in 4th grade.**
2. What do you love about SJF? **Since I started teaching at SJF, it has felt like home to me. I feel blessed to be able to work with such wonderful people and be able to spend my days with amazing students. I so appreciate all the connections and friendships I have made over the years. The families and community are the best, and I love how much everyone supports one another.**
3. What is your favorite thing about teaching fourth grade? **My favorite thing about teaching 4th grade is the students! They are independent, creative and love to share their ideas. They are excited to learn new things and always try their best. We have so much fun together in class and I love getting to know them personally and forming a classroom family with them!**
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? **I love to travel! Some of my favorite places are San Francisco, Paris, Venice and London!**

# LAST CHANCE!!

[CLICK TO ORDER OR USE THE QR CODE](#)



**ORDER NOW UNTIL  
MIDNIGHT MONDAY, MARCH 14.**

**AVAILABLE IN ADULT  
AND YOUTH SIZES**

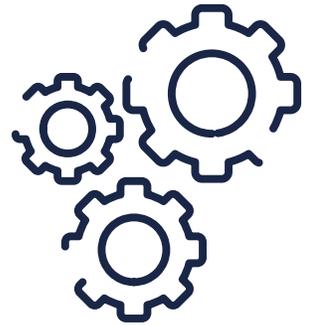
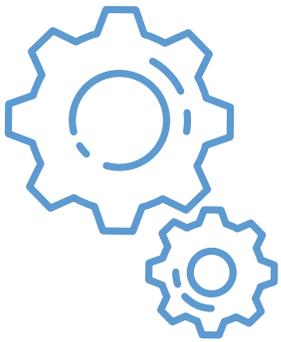


C O N G R A T S



**CONGRATS  
TO ALL OUR  
ATHLETES!**

# 6TH GRADERS PARTICIPATED IN A BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION AT ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL







# 8TH GRADE POLAR PLUNGE



SJF Families-



We feel better  
with you

Family Pancake Sundays in Lent-

All kids can take home a raffle ticket from mass.

Out of Uniform Mondays for all raffle ticket holders.

1 family a week will win a breakfast to enjoy the next Sunday!



SCHOLASTIC

# BOOK FAIR!

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Dear Parents and Families,

I'm pleased to announce that our school will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair, which will take place from \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

The return of the Book Fair will be a familiar and welcome celebration. Volunteers are crucial to the success of this event. We hope that you can offer your time and talents to help students discover the power of books to bring us together.

If you're available to help us with our upcoming Book Fair, please contact me. I'd be grateful if you'd let me know which Fair activities interest you as a volunteer. We need volunteers to help with:

- Advertising
- Decorating
- Setting up the Fair
- Helping shoppers at the Fair
- Cashiering
- Packing up the Fair
- Special events

Thanks for considering becoming a volunteer! I look forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully,

Book Fair Chairperson



# Capture Your Memories in This Year's St. John Fisher Yearbook



## Customize Your 2 Free Pages

- Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.
- Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.
- The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

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Regular Price: **\$25.09**

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Deadline: **Jun 15**

**TreeRing**