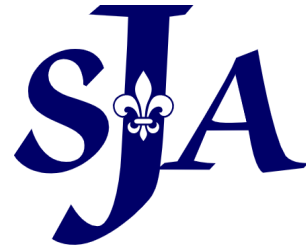


St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



November 20, 2024

Greetings SJA Parents and Families,

When students return after the Thanksgiving break we will begin trimming a Jesse Tree to observe Advent. The Jesse Tree receives an ornament each day which symbolizes a story from the Old Testament which points forward to the birth of Jesus as our Savior. Each day during Advent, we will hide one of the Wise Men, and the student who finds the Magi will get to put the ornament on the following day, and will get a gold covered chocolate coin. (If your child cannot eat chocolate, let us know!) I am looking forward to sharing this Advent celebration with our students.

I look forward to meeting many grandparents and special friends next Tuesday. Finally, I will need to schedule a lockdown drill soon. I will let you know before we have the actual drill, so that you can talk to your child and prepare them not to be scared during the drill. We will only practice carrying out the lockdown procedures. There will not be any noises or other “enhancements” which can frighten children, and have now been outlawed in Maryland.

Please check your email Friday November 22 at 3:30 for your child’s report card.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz

Important Dates

- **Nov 21** Parent Shop night at the Book Fair
- **Nov 22** Report Cards sent home via Email
- **Nov 26** Grandparents Special Friends Day/ Trimester 1 awards Assembly
- **Nov 27-29** Closed for Thanksgiving Break
- **Dec 1** 11:15 Family Mass
- **Dec 4** 8th grade High school Placement Test
- **Dec 12** Christmas Concert 6-8pm

- **Dec 13** Jingle Bell Shop
- **Dec 19** Dress down day/ Class parties @ 2:00pm
- **Dec 20** Living Nativity @ 10 am Half day dismissal 12:05 No aftercare
- **Dec 23- Jan1** School Closed for Christmas Break
- **Jan 2-** Back to school

1st Trimester Survey

As the 1st trimester comes to a close and a new one begins soon, we want to hear from you. We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on how we can improve! Please know that this is a quick anonymous survey. Thank you in advance for your participation.

<https://forms.gle/SDbfMzJL3ivSw57N8>

Gentle Reminder

Student birthdays, understand we know birthdays are special. We ask that no birthday treats be brought into the classroom. This is to be cautious for those with food allergies. Your student's teacher can acknowledge their birthday in class.

Grant & Aid

The 2025-2026 Grant & Aid Applications opened on November 1, 2024. You may access the application by clicking [here](#). Please be sure to complete the application early as the deadline is February 28, 2024 **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Should you have any questions please contact Mrs Pam Franke at pfranke@stjoanarc.org.

Hot Lunch

There will be no hot lunch next week. We will resume hot lunch Wednesday Dec 4th. Please check your email at the end of next week for the lunch order form. All orders must be in by 8am on Monday December 2nd. There are no exceptions.

Grandparents and Special Friends

Grandparents and Special Friends are welcome to visit St Joan of Arc on November 26th. We will begin liturgy at 8:30am, followed by our Trimester awards. You will then head over to school to spend some time in the classroom. A sign up has been emailed home. Please fill out the form and send it back no later than November 20th.

Book Fair

The Book Fair began this week November 18- 26. See attached flyer for more information. You can also use the link below to find out more information as well as set your student up to make purchases on their assigned shopping day.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/stjoanofarcschool>

Emergency & Weather related Closings/Delayed Openings

St. Joan of Arc School follows the same procedures for school closing and delays as does the Harford County Public School System. If Harford County schools close early because of inclement weather, SJA will do the same. Extended Care will not open on days when school is closed. Morning Care will not be open when school is opening late. If school is dismissed early, Extended Care will be opened until 1 hour after dismissal.

Christmas Giving ~~ Gift Card Donations

The Sunshine Committee with help from all you is sponsoring some local families and some from Harford Family House again this year for Christmas. We had such a great response from all of you, we are hoping for the same this year.

We will be accepting gift card donations of any denomination from Amazon, Target or Walmart. REMEMBER, *RAISE RIGHT IS A GREAT SOURCE FOR PHYSICAL GIFT CARDS- PLUS YOU SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL IN THE PROCESS!!!*

Your donations will help make someone's Christmas very special. Please consider donating and send your donations to school by **Wednesday, December 4th** to the attention of 'The Sunshine Committee.'

Thank you for your help in spreading kindness and joy this Holiday Season!

Original Works

We are in the **FINAL DAYS** of ordering through the Original Works website. **All orders must be placed online by tomorrow: Thursday, November 21st at midnight!**

Through the program, students have created artwork that you then can have reproduced onto a variety of keepsake products. The individualized flyers will be sent home soon. The products range from magnets to mugs and start at just \$6.00. These products will make great Christmas/Holiday gifts. They will arrive at school right before Christmas Break.

Proceeds from the program will go to our HSA's general fund. For more information on Original Works please visit their website at www.originalworks.com

Thank you for supporting this unique and creative program! Any questions please reach out to: Susan Baer: sbaer@stjoanarc.org.

HSA

 **Jingle Bell Shop will be December 13th. Save the date!!** 
Sign up to [donate](#) or to [volunteer](#) the day of

RaiseRight Fundraiser

Purchase gift cards from over 750+ brands through RaiseRight to fundraise for SJA. You get the full amount of the gift card - but each purchase earns up to 20% for SJA. Bonus events increase earnings on select brands - RaiseDays has a second weekend Nov. 21-22. If you do not have an account yet, go to RaiseRight.com to get started and use enrollment code A9C13C7351446 to earn for SJA. Already have an account? Start browsing the brands you already use and take the extra step to purchase gift cards before shopping.

Upcoming bonus events include - most bonuses only apply to eGift or reloadable gift cards.

Raise Days on Nov. 21-22.

Dazzle Days on Nov. 30 - Dec. 13

eGift card bonuses Dec. 14-23

eGift cards are available to purchase anytime for immediate use.

Track it Forward

There are many opportunities for volunteer hours on [Track it Forward](#). Please be mindful that families need 20 hours for the year. We are in need of reams of paper for our school. Please send it to the office when brought in.

Parish News

Join us for Family Mass Dec 1st at 11:15 mass.

Join us Saturday, December 7th for the Annual Aberdeen Christmas Parade. We anticipate line-up at 2:30pm, and the parade should start at 3pm. We will meet on Law Street. As the parade gets closer we will let you know a time and place to meet. If your looking for more info is available on the City of Aberdeen website: <https://www.aberdeenmainstreet.org/>

The theme this year is Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, and we will have a walking group representing the Pastorate. We encourage all families to dress for the weather and wear something festive or suiting the theme - especially anything that represents the Island of Misfit Toys or any of the characters from the Rudolph movie (just not Santa!).

ADVENT BREAKFAST

Do you like a hearty breakfast?

On Sunday December 1st the Knights of Columbus will be cooking up our annual Advent Breakfast! The menu will include Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Mixed Fruit, Juice, Coffee and Tea!

Breakfast will start at 9 AM and go until 11 AM downstairs in the Church Hall, so stay late after 8:30

Mass or come early for the 11:15 Family Mass and hear the children sing!

Tickets will be available at the door - cash or checks only so come prepared. Prices are: Adults \$7;

Children (10 and under) \$4; and \$25 for a family ticket.

Great food, great friends, great times with your parish community ... we can't wait to see you there!

CHRISTMAS IN ABERDEEN

Starting, Friday, November 29th



SCAN EVENTS

INTERACTIVE LIGHT DISPLAY, FESTIVAL OF TREES, BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, CRAFT FAIR, PARADE, TREE LIGHTING AND MORE! SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DATES AND TIMES



Fri-Sun Starting
November 29th
Ripken Stadium
873 Long Dr.
Aberdeen, Md.

TB3 Event Center
203 W. Bel Air Ave.
Aberdeen, Md.

47th Christmas
Street Parade
Downtown Aberdeen



For more information
email: vhorne@aberdienmd.gov
www.aberdienmainstreet.org

**St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church | Knights of Columbus
PRESENT**



**Sunday, December 1 | 9 - 11 AM
Tickets at the door**

Adults \$7 | Kids Under 10 \$4 | Family \$25

Family Mass



1 | DEC
2024

11:15 AM





RAISE DAYS

NOV 14-15 & 21-22

175+ Bonuses • Earnings up to 23%

Things to Know

- 2 chances to shop 175+ brands on bonus.
- Bonuses apply to eGift cards and reloaded gift cards only.
- Participants must have an online account to participate.

How to Participate

Already have a RaiseRight participant account?

View and shop bonuses November 14-15 and 21-22 on the RaiseRight mobile app or at [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com).

Don't have a RaiseRight account yet?

Follow the easy steps to get started at [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](https://www.RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning). Use enrollment code A9C13C7351446 to earn for SJA.

Get a Sneak Peek of all Raise Days bonuses

Exclusively on the RaiseRight mobile app, Wednesday, November 13



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