



January, 2025

Dear Parents,



Peace! Continued Christmas Blessings as we began the second quarter of the 21st century. Personally I am finding it hard to believe that it has been 25 years since we turned the calendar from 1999 to 2000. As the New Year begins may we be every aware of God’s presence in our lives.

Along with 2025 being a New Year, Pope Francis has proclaimed that 2025 is a Jubilee Year, a Holy Year. The theme for this special time in our history is *PILGRIMS OF HOPE*. The year officially began on Christmas Day, 2024 and will end on January 6, 2026. In the midst of everyday celebrations, difficulties and challenges we are encouraged to travel through the upcoming months as pilgrims, as people willing to: Renew Our Faith, Be Filled with Hope and Work Together for Peace and Unity. Look for a more detailed explanation of the Jubilee 2025 logo this week.



We will incorporate the Holy Year throughout the upcoming months. Our retreat day began with celebrating Eucharist with our parish community, opening our classroom doors with a school wide activity and reflected on what we need to be rooted in, to help us **REMAIN IN GOD**. Along with reflecting on our resolutions, dreams and goals, we also designed “Holy Doors”, and made mobiles that explain the Holy Year. More information will be coming in the months ahead. You are invited to join us on this special Pilgrimage.



Many, many thanks for your goodness to myself, our faculty, staff and our Advent projects. We are deeply grateful for who you are and the example you continue to be for our children. Your outreach to those in need was overwhelming. Each gesture of **KINDNESS** strengthened our desire and hope to **REMAIN IN GOD**.

We will begin the Diocesan Star Assessments in Reading/Math for grades 2-8 the week of January 6 through January 24. Each grade will schedule their individual assessment times. Encourage your child to take their time, read all the directions and stay focused.

Spaghetti dinners will start up this month:

Wednesday, January 8 – Grade 3 at 6:15 PM

Wednesday, January 22 – Grade 4 at 6:15 PM



Please make sure you sign up with the number of family members attending. We ask that you bring a dessert for your table. We also ask that you review appropriate

“restaurant behaviors” with your child. Children are expected to follow cafeteria expectations.



St. Joan of Arc School will be closed Monday, January 20 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Together let's pray for the grace of tolerance, acceptance of differences and the ability to see all people as children of God. Family service acts are encouraged. In keeping with the values of Dr. King and our Advent theme, “KINDNESS BRINGS GOD'S LIGHT TO OUR WORLD”, Officer Brian has contacted the Evesham Police Department to provide an assembly for our children on the importance of our spoken words, text messages, snap chat, etc. Hopefully the presentation will help our students understand the power, either positive or negative, of the spoken/written word. We trust this will help us to stop and think before we speak.

Speaking of thinking before we speak, I would invite all of us to do the same, especially when it comes to any of our “Chat Sessions.” It has come to my attention that some of them are hurtful to our school community. The adult chats are a great way to communicate essential information to one another. We trust that they promote SJA and all who belong to the SJA community in a positive manner. As we have stressed with the children, unkind words are similar to toothpaste. Once they are out it is impossible to get them back. Thanks for being great role models for our children and a positive PR person for our school.



ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

Our Parish Finance Committee has been meeting and planning our school budget for the 2025-2026 school year. We will share very important information with you on Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 PM and on Friday, January 24 at 10:00 AM. As you know the parish and the PTA provide financial assistance in the form of a scholarship for every student (\$3,300 per student for 2024-2025). It is also expected that school families support the parish and PTA. It is essential that every family, parents and students, understand that SJA is a Catholic parish with a school. We are most grateful to all of our school families who are active participants in our parish. If for some reason you are not one of them, please reconsider your privilege and responsibility and join us on a regular basis.

Our “*Brain Symposium*” has been very successful. To date we have explored the parts of the brain, the five senses and the multiple intelligences. During January we will identify the Emotional Brain. Teaching elementary students the neuroscience of emotions helps them understand their feelings and empowers them to “respond with intentionality.” Kathryn Fishman-Weaver



We will begin our celebration of Catholic Schools Week of Saturday, January 25.

Open House for New Families

Saturday, January 25, 4:00 PM

Begin in Pedata Hall followed by Open House for present families.

Opening Liturgy

Saturday, January 25, 5:30 PM

Followed by Open House for present families.



LEAD Graduation (5th grade)

Tuesday, January 28, 10:15 AM

Pedata Hall

Registration for New Families

Thursday, January 30 – Pedata Hall

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Thank you for all the positive marketing you do for SJA each and every day. Please pass on the registration date to any family or friends who desire a God-centered environment and will be a positive asset to our parish/school community.

Grandparents Day

Friday, January 31

9:00 AM Liturgy, followed by coffee, donuts, etc. classroom visitation. More directions to follow.



Reminders about Dress Code: Please make sure your child/ren are following the expectations regarding school dress. Hopefully you have adjusted the length of skorts, shorts in light of any growth spurts since December. Girls may wear navy blue tights. Leggings with socks are not part of the SJA uniform.



INCLEMENT WEATHER: With the winter months, comes inclement weather. St. Joan of Arc follows Evesham Township School District. If ETSD is closed or on a 2-hour delay, so is SJA. You will be notified via School Messenger. If you have not opted in to receive text messages from School Messenger, please text “Yes” to 67587.

For a 2-hour delay, school doors will open at 9:55 AM. Homeroom bell will ring at 10:15 AM. If we have a 2-hour delay tomorrow, Monday, January 6, our lunch will be the

regular Monday lunch of French toast sticks. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during possible closures, delays or early dismissals.

Special thanks for your expressions of sympathy on the death of Mrs. Joy McGarrigle, our beloved school secretary for 19 years. Some of you knew her personally. I had the privilege of working with her for those 19 years. She lived up to her name every day. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The Feast of the Epiphany is this weekend. We are hopeful that our school children and their families were part of our faith filled and faithful parish community. The Wisemen made their pilgrimage to Bethlehem (House of Bread). With hope in their hearts they followed the star that led them to Jesus, the Bread of Life. As Pilgrims of Hope, may we too follow the path (the star) that will lead us to Eucharist so that we can be Jesus for others.



Blessings of Peace, Joy, Hope in the New Year,

Sister Pat



Attachments:

Morning Car Line Expectations – PLEASE READ