



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

December 10, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

Happy Friday everyone! I hope you have had many opportunities to get into the Christmas Spirit! As Mrs. Carey's Wellness Wednesday stated, our kids already have all the feels! Our Falcons have spent time this week writing letters to Santa and wishing for that most important gift to arrive under their tree on Christmas morning. SJF students have also been incredibly generous with their time and prayer in many ways this week. Our Falcons donated wrapping paper and helped wrap 300 presents for our Pro Labore Dei Ministry. Every student wrote a Christmas card to a child struggling for the *Make A Wish Foundation* which raised \$1,000 for this amazing cause. Grace Cahill, one of our incredible 8<sup>th</sup> graders, organized this effort! With the help of our S.O.A.R. students and our committed moderators, Ms. Dunlavy and Mrs. Lordo, Smith Village will also be the recipient of our students' well wishes as every student made a Christmas card and drew a picture for the residents there. Our kids have made many efforts this week to think about, pray for and send joy to those less fortunate. Thank you to our parents and families who helped support us in these efforts!

We have a few other events on our calendar to continue to celebrate this blessed and magical season together! The FSA's Traveling Santa Visits are slated for this weekend. Thank you to the FSA, especially Julie De Tineo, for organizing this fun event! Next week our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade S.O.A.R. students will be singing Christmas carols and delivering our Christmas cards to Smith Village. Our classroom door decorating contest is underway and our family gingerbread decorating contest is next Thursday. We are thrilled to have the return of our pre-school and kindergarten Christmas performances which will take place next week as well. COVID has been difficult on all of us. We continue to pray hard for those who are sick and/or quarantined during this time. However, I am proud of our community and the ways in which we continue to safely bring a sense of normalcy to our Falcons.

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

In unity and hope,  
*Mrs. Maura Nash*



## Important Announcements

- **SJF's Gingerbread House Decorating Contest is Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup>!** Gingerbread houses can be brought to Kane Hall from 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Judging will take place on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** is *Ugly Sweater Day*!
- **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** is *Christmas PJ Day*! Students can order cookies and milk straight from the North Pole. Please see the attached order form. **\*Gluten Free Oreos will be available.**
- **December 21<sup>st</sup>** is an *11:30 dismissal*.
- There is **NO HOMEWORK CLUB** next week!
- The **January Lunch Menu** is open for ordering.
- Save the Date for the **FSA's Mother Son Bulls Game on January 30<sup>th</sup>!**
- You can purchase **new SJF swag at our Squadlocker Store** [linked here](#). A portion of the proceeds is donated back to SJF's FSA.
- **Extended Day** : Make sure to [register your child here](#). Reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** with any questions, [dogrady@sjfschool.us](mailto:dogrady@sjfschool.us).

## The Fisher Falcon Education Fund

- On Giving Tuesday last 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/>**.

## Oktoberfest Funds

- Thank you again for all of those who organized, volunteered, attended, sponsored, and supported our Oktoberfest Event! Together we raised just over \$30,000! With those funds we were able to purchase:
  - 7 Smart panels (which will make every single classroom equipped with brand new Smart panels)
  - 36 additional (and needed) wireless access points to increase our Internet speed and capabilities, enhancing our technology efficiency and classroom experience
  - 200 device licenses
- Your generosity has allowed us to improve our technology learning environment for our Falcons...

*Thank you!*

## School Advisory Board

Please join us **Tuesday, December 14th** for the School Advisory Board meeting in **Kane Hall at 7 p.m.** All are welcome! The agenda includes Spring Dinner Dance Committee update, Fisher Falcon Education Foundation Launch, School Marketing Video Recommendation and Strategic Plan: curriculum & instruction updates. Please email [sjfsab@gmail.com](mailto:sjfsab@gmail.com) if you plan to attend or if you have any questions or agenda items.

## Looking Ahead

<b>Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FSA ~ Santa's Coming to Town!</b>
<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Join us for <b>Mass</b> : 4 p.m. on Saturday, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday ~ <i>The Third Week of Advent</i>
<b>Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	ETC 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Around the World w/ Mrs. Altman</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup></b>	ETC 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festive Fidget Fun w/ Mrs. Altman &amp; Mrs. Lindgren</li> <li>• Multiplication Madness w/ Mrs. Sefcik</li> <li>• Game Night w/ Ms. Dunlavy</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	ETC 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jingle Mingle w/ Mrs. Altman</li> <li>• Christmas Clay Class w/ Mrs. Corley</li> </ul> School Advisory Board Meeting @ 7 p.m. in Kane Hall
<b>Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup></b>	ETC 3 p.m. – <b>4:30</b> p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reindeer Games w/ Mrs. Altman</li> <li>• Christmas Crafts w/ Ms. Dunlavy</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Gingerbread Houses are due today in Kane Hall from 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.! 3 year-old Pre-K Christmas Show @ 12 4 year-old Pre-K Christmas Show @ 12:30 Kindergarten Nativity @ 1:15 ETC 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baking Buddies w/ Ms. McAndrews</li> </ul>

## 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!
- **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.***





# FALCON OF THE WEEK

Jessi DeLlano, 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 grader, Jessi De Llano.**

Jessi was nominated by another parent to be this week's Falcon of the Week! This past Saturday, after the entrance exam test, our 8th graders attended SJF's Game Night which had swag baskets donated by all of the high schools where our Falcons tested. Jessi put all of her raffle tickets in the St. Laurence basket, hoping to win it for her friends. Jessi is going to McAuley. Well, Jessi won the basket and happily handed over all of the gear to her friends who tested at Laurence. What an incredible selfless gesture! In addition, Jessi has an impeccable work ethic and always gives 100% at everything she does. Jessi is positive, encouraging, and a friend to all. Thank you, Jessi, for being such a bright light for all of us at SJF. We are lucky you are a Falcon and grateful we get to learn from your example each day. Keep flying like a Falcon, Jessi. You're making a difference!

# WE LOVE OUR SJF TEACHERS!



THIS WEEK'S FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS ON **ERIN RECH** FROM **KINDERGARTEN**.

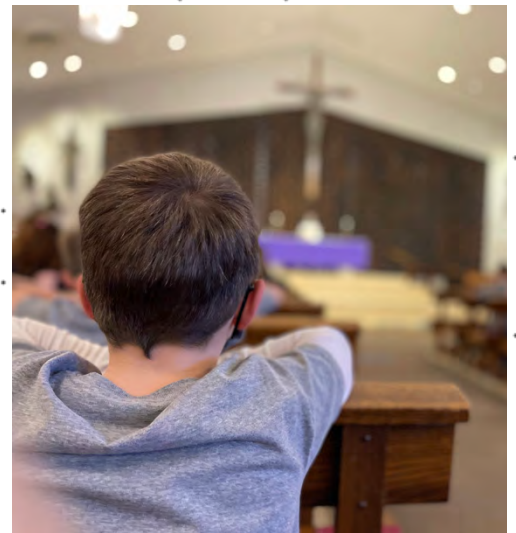
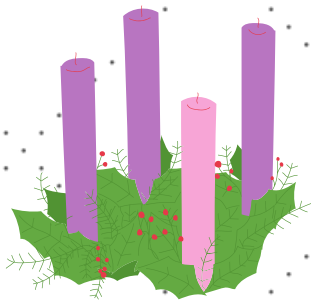
Schools in our country are suffering from a significant teacher shortage. SJF is fortunate to be fully staffed with some of the best teachers around. We are proud of our incredible faculty and want to pause to celebrate them! This week we celebrate, **Mrs. Erin Rech!**



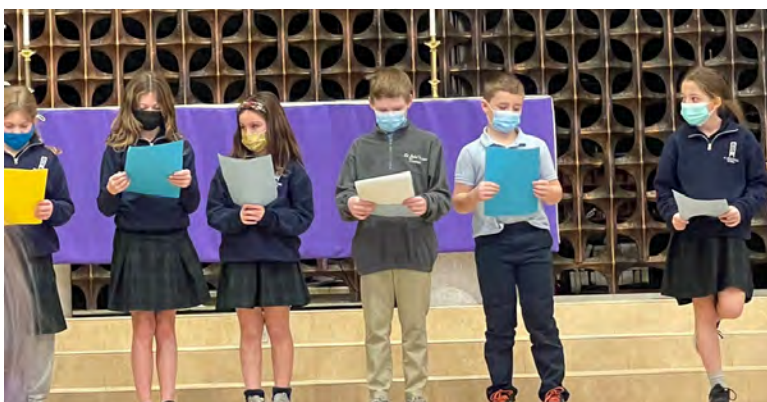
1. How long have you been at SJF? **This is my 4th year teaching at SJF.**
2. What do you love about SJF? **I love the feeling of family here. Everyone is so warm, welcoming, and compassionate. It feels like home. I look forward to each and every day I spend here with the students and faculty. I'm so lucky!**
3. What has been most exciting about Kindergarten this year? **The return of the play! I'm so honored to be a part of this wonderful tradition. The Kindergarteners work so hard and do such a beautiful job retelling the First Christmas. I'm so proud of my Kindergarten Friends. Watching them work and play and demonstrate so much growth has been the highlight of my year!**
4. Can you tell us something that we may not know about you? **My mom is a Fisher Falcon, I am a Fisher Falcon, my husband is a Fisher Falcon, and my 5 children are Fisher Falcons!**



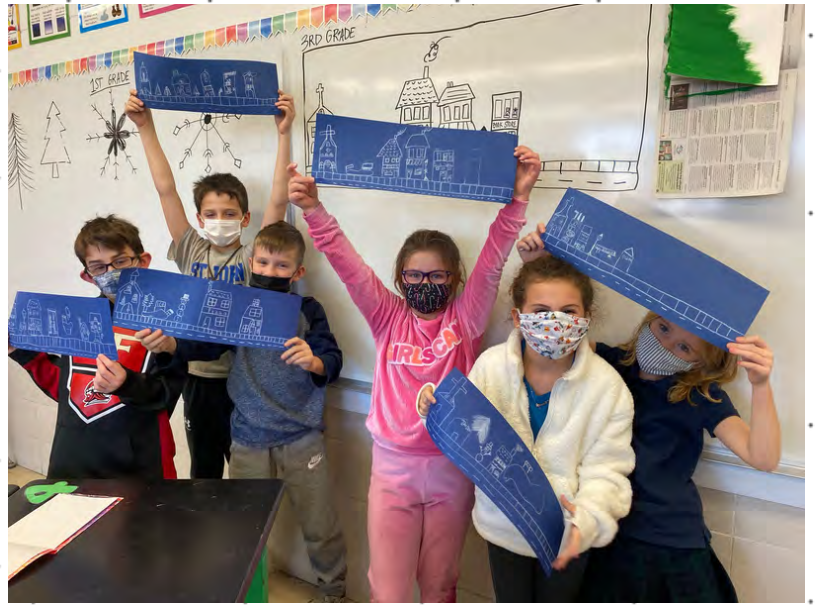
# ALL SCHOOL MASS FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION











# SJF Gingerbread House Contest!



Show us your house decorating skills!

Please bring in your decorated gingerbread house on Thursday, December 16, 2021 between 7:30-7:45 A.M.

\*Sponsored by S.O.A.R.



## Santa's Busy Bakery

In the spirit of the holidays SOAR will be selling Santa's Christmas cookies and milk. The cookies will be ordered this year and you can choose from either Chocolate Chip or Sugar. This treat will be delivered to the classrooms on Tuesday, December 21st. Please fill out the form below. If your child has allergies or does not wish to participate, please have them bring in their own sweet treat.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose a cookie:

Chocolate Chip

Sugar

### Choose a drink:

White Milk

Chocolate Milk

Water

Please include \$2.00 in an envelope and return to school by Tuesday, December 14th.



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### Choose a cookie:

Chocolate Chip

Sugar

### Choose a drink:

White Milk

Chocolate Milk

Water

Please include \$2.00 in an envelope and return to school by Tuesday, December 14th.





**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](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com)

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



## 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**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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**
- 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: **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>.**