



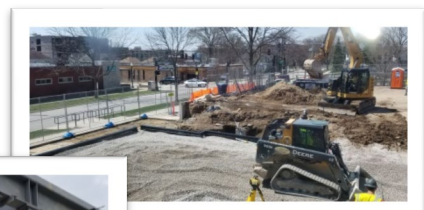
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

THIRD TRIMESTER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support and patience during the construction. Our school expansion and renovations are taking shape every day. From laying a new foundation to establishing strong steel supports, it has been an exciting adventure for our community. We are excited for the additional classrooms, bathrooms, and usable space, an elevator, and overall enhanced learning environment. We look forward to welcoming you back next Fall in the new and improved St. Joseph School! Stay tuned for updates throughout the Summer.



Excavation Prep

Our students and teachers got to experience construction equipment in action as we prepared the site for excavation.

Prime Viewing Location

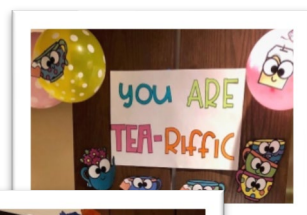
Our Learning Resource Center provided an excellent view of the construction happenings and our students enjoy watching the progress!



PRESCHOOL

Every Day's A Sundae

Preschoolers enjoyed a walking field trip to local ice cream shop, Every Day's A Sundae! It's always nice to take an adventure and explore the neighborhood. Getting a scoop of ice cream was such a nice treat!



Mother's Day Tea

PreK 4s hosted a "Tea-riffic" Mother's Day tea to celebrate the special moms in their lives. The moms enjoyed their special songs, especially "I Love You, Mommy," sung to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine." Moms and kids had fun making hats - a collaborative and creative effort!



KINDERGARTEN



Vowelologists

Our Kindergarteners became surgeons! As vowelologists they dressed in a doctor coat, wore a head mirror, name tags and picked up their patient charts. In the charts, the children had to move to the correct table to find words with missing vowels. They had fun placing the correct vowel on the words and loved going into vowel surgery!

Flea Market

To begin understanding the use of trade to obtain goods and services, our Kindergartners hosted a flea market in their classrooms. The children made or donated small items from home and then sold the items at the flea market. The students earned coins by doing chores at home, and used their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to purchase items at the flea market. The students were so excited to show what they have learned about money and obtaining, trading, and selling goods. The money raised was donated to the St. Joseph Food Pantry, where the students got a behind-the-scenes tour of the operations.



FIRST GRADE

Hospital Visit

First-graders went on a field trip to Good Samaritan Hospital to participate in the Pediatric Orientation Program, which acquaints children to the sights and procedures in a hospital setting, with the goal to ease some fears of going to the hospital. In a mock tonsillectomy, students played the roles of a patient, parents, surgeon, nurse and anesthesiologist, and saw several hospital items. Dr. Mel, an ER doctor at Good Sam, spoke to the group about visiting the hospital and answered some very good questions. The students learned about the importance of the hospital in our community.



Discovering Japan

The students learned about Japan by looking at maps and locating the country's four main islands. They read Japanese stories and learned that the Japanese read right to left, not left to right like we do, and also begin reading in the back of the book. They matched Japanese kanji characters with the appropriate picture and also tried to make origami art. The children were very interested in sushi and enjoyed watching a video showing how sushi is made, and seeing a real sushi mat, nori (dried seaweed) rolls, and chopsticks. The highlight of the week was a visit from Yoko, a friend of an SJS parent. She read stories to us in Japanese and answered questions about her native country. They learned the Japanese word for "welcome" – Yōkoso - to greet her.



SECOND GRADE

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our second-graders on receiving their First Holy Communion

together with the St. Joseph Parish Religious Education students.



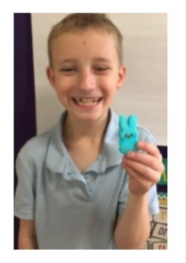
Biography Book Reports

Second-graders had a lot of fun working on their biography book reports in which they researched and wrote about a famous person.

THIRD GRADE

Peep Responsibility Project

To practice responsibility in a fun way, as well as encourage family discussions about caring for God's creatures, each third-grader received a special Peep to take care of for a week. They brought it home for one night and were responsible for keeping it safe and returning it to school the next day. They had a responsibility checklist to complete while caring for their Peep including: not leaving it unattended, reading to it, completing homework with it, doing something fun with it, tucking it in at night, and returning it safe and sound.



Zero-Waste Lunch Challenge

Third-graders learned about Antarctica and our changing planet. They discussed how these environmental changes have affected climate, geography, resources and the animals that live there. They also shared ways that we can help our planet and one of those is reducing waste. On May 2, all third-grade students participated in a Zero-Waste Lunch Challenge - preventing wasted food and garbage. The goal was not to throw anything away. A recycling bag for milk containers was available.



FOURTH GRADE

Forgiveness Project

During the month of April, our fourth-graders worked on the virtue of the month – forgiveness. They created beautiful pictures on hearts, cut them into pieces, and then had classmates put them back together to symbolize apologizing and forgiving. It was such a fun activity and they loved figuring out each other's puzzles.



FIFTH GRADE

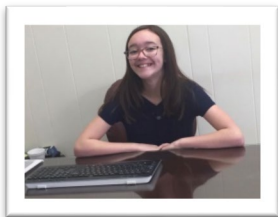


Cathedral Day

Fifth-graders participated in the annual Cathedral Days event at St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet. The students had a behind-the-scenes tour learning about the architectural and historical significance of the cathedral. They also enjoyed some entertainment and laughs while playing games and being reminded to say YES to parents and helping out more at school and at home...because kids can make a difference!

Leprechaun Zip Line

Fifth-graders built a vessel that could hold gold coins to deliver to our classroom leprechaun on a zip line. They were challenged to design a sturdy vessel with limited materials. Also, they were forced to consider how friction and gravity would play a part when considering how to attach their vessel to the zip line so it would cruise all the way across the length of the classroom without dropping any gold.



Principal for a Day

Fifth-grader Lylah P. enjoyed being Principal for a Day. She visited each class and helped in the preschool classes. She also worked with Miss Julie in the front office.



Amazing Element Race

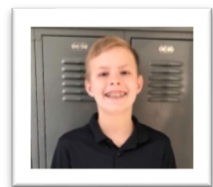
Fifth-graders ended their Atomic Structure unit by competing in the Amazing Element Race. They had to race through 80 clues to find 8 that matched their element.



SIXTH GRADE

Argonne

Our sixth-graders visited Argonne National Laboratory to participate in the *Compute, Code, Create!* Learning Lab. The students worked in teams to complete a series of challenges using a Lego Mindstorm EV3 robot. The challenges covered various entry-level and age-appropriate computational thinking skills – the same skills that Argonne scientists use when tackling society's greatest challenges with one of the world's fastest supercomputers! The experience culminated in a final challenge where teams attempted to navigate their robots through a specially designed maze.



Principal for a Day

Sixth-grader Chris H. had the opportunity to serve as Principal for a day. He was interested in the experience because he wanted to know what it would be like to be a principal. He visited all the classrooms, assisted in the preschool classes, and worked on special projects. He even attended a building update meeting. His favorite part of the day was being able to eat lunch in Mrs. Stasi's office with his friends.



SEVENTH GRADE

Hamilton Exhibit Field Trip

In Social Studies, seventh-graders learned about the basics of economics, including the role of banks and the Federal Reserve, our monetary system, and a section about Alexander Hamilton's role in establishing the American economy and the U.S. Treasury. As a conclusion activity, we went to see the Hamilton Exhibition currently on tour in Chicago, and visited the Money Museum inside the Chicago branch of the Federal Reserve Bank.



EIGHTH GRADE

Confirmation

Congratulations to our eighth-graders who received their Sacrament of Confirmation on March 15th! May you be filled with the Holy Spirit always.



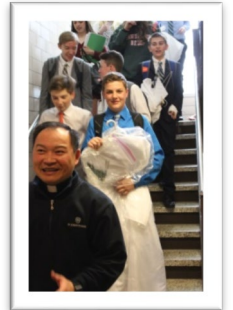
Amiguitos

Nos gustan los libros! The eighth-graders read to their first grade Buddies...in Spanish! Each eighth-grader chose a favorite children's book and translated the English text into Spanish. They then read the translation to their Buddies, and the first-graders enjoyed hearing the stories in Spanish! The eighth-graders completed the task by showing their Buddies vocabulary words from the story in Spanish on index cards. Buen trabajo, estudiantes!



Clap Out Farewell

We held a Clap Out for the eighth-graders on their last day of school. Father John led the graduating class through the halls for their last time as students at SJS. They were met with fanfare from students and teachers.



COMPETITIONS & CONCERTS

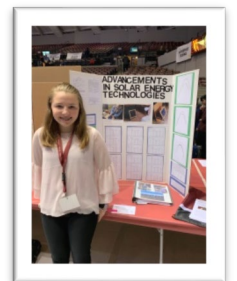
Regional Science Fair

Congratulations to our eighth-graders who participated in the Regional Science Fair. Callie Fletcher - Gold and competed in State; Emma C. & Sadie S. - Gold; Sadie K. & Shelby B. - Bronze; Natalie I. & Hannah K. - Bronze; Declan M. & Eric F. - Bronze; Katherine D. - Bronze



State Science Fair

Congratulations to Callie F. on winning a Gold Award at the Illinois State Science Fair with her project on Advancements in Solar Energy Technology!



Honor Band Festival

Sadie K., Hannah K., Sarah P. and Elizabeth Y. represented SJS in the highest light at Band for Today's annual Honor Band Festival. Congratulations on a job well done!

Music Concerts

Many of our students participate in band, piano and violin lessons before and after school. They recently held end-of-year concerts and recitals to showcase their talents that have been developed over many hours of practice and persistence. Thank you to the amazing instructors - Paul Barton, Catherine Crilly-Yonke and Rick Maycroft - who give of their time and talent to inspire and lead these budding musicians!



STUDENT COUNCIL



In April, nine SJS Student Council members attended the IAJHSC Convention in Springfield. They spent their time touring the capitol, meeting the governor, and joining over 800 student council members across Illinois. The Convention focused on practicing and improving student leadership skills, sharing ideas and building friendships. They also presented their Souls4Soles service project in the Hall of Ideas, where they received an award of recognition from Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

CATHOLIC VIRTUES & FAITH FORMATION

Our focus on the virtue of Charity has shone this year through various classroom and Student Council activities. We are proud of our teachers and students who make it a priority to make a difference in our community. This trimester, our Virtues in Practice program allowed the SJS community to work both in school and at home on the virtues of Respect, Forgiveness and Responsibility.

Student Council Soles4Souls Shoe Drive

SJS Student Council coordinated a shoe drive for Soles4Souls, an organization that provides shoes to those in need around the world. We surpassed the goal of 401 pairs and collected 548 pairs of new, used or gently used shoes! The project was displayed at the IAJHSC State Convention.



St. Baldrick's Event

On March 20th, 15 SJS boys participated in a St. Baldrick's shave event at Ballydoyle in Downers Grove. They raised more than \$6,200 for childhood cancer research. This was the fourth year a team from SJS has participated in a shave event and has raised more than \$42,000 for St. Baldrick's Foundation. We are proud of these boys for putting the virtue of charity into practice!

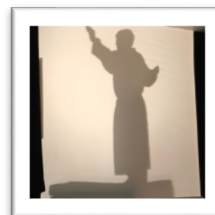
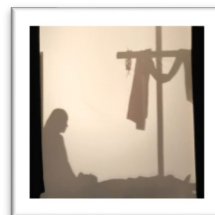
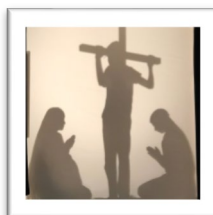
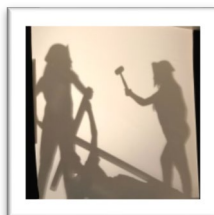
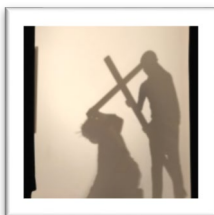
Students Rebuild Ocean Challenge

Our fourth and fifth-graders participated in the *Students Rebuild Ocean Challenge*, a program of the Bezos Family Foundation that mobilizes young people to take action on some of the world's most critical problems. This initiative empowers youth and educators to learn more about and contribute to improved marine health. The SJS Team joined youths and educators worldwide to support ocean conservation and the people who rely on healthy oceans and coastlines, by exploring the ocean system, and coral reefs. Teams participate by crafting and submitting their own paper sea creature based on what they've learned about oceans and the people who live closest to them. For each piece of artwork submitted, the Bezos Family Foundation will donate \$2—up to \$500,000—toward youth-focused, science-based programs aimed at developing a new generation of citizen-conservationists. The programs receiving Challenge funding are expected to engage more than 3,500 youths in coastal communities such as the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and other countries where marine health is central to lives and livelihoods. Our students created 554 pieces of artwork to raise \$1,108 for the cause!



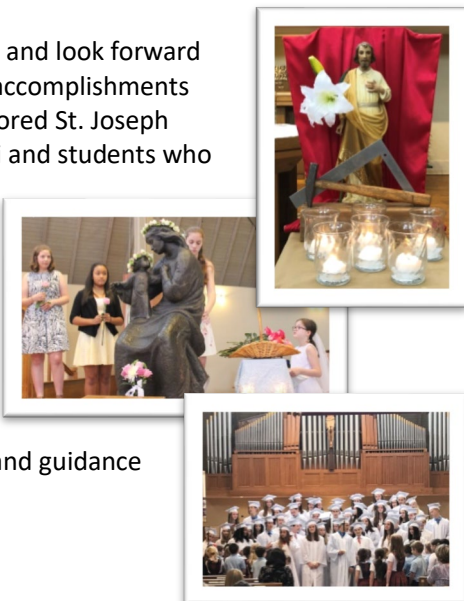
Shadow Stations of the Cross

As is tradition, our eighth-graders performed shadow Stations of the Cross for our school community. It takes a great deal of time and preparation to form the shadow images for the audience, but it is worth the effort for the experience it creates to enhance Stations of the Cross.



All-School Masses

We are blessed to celebrate mass together as a school community on a weekly basis and look forward to the tradition of honoring Sts. Joseph and Mary and acknowledging our students' accomplishments during very special masses in the Spring. At the St. Joseph the Worker mass, we honored St. Joseph and the various roles he plays in the Catholic Church. We also recognized our alumni and students who serve our church and school community in various ways including altar servers, ushers, choir, cantors, Student Council and morning announcers. We appreciate our many students who serve our community with St. Joseph as a role model. The May Crowning mass serves as a reminder of the importance of Mary in the life of the Church and in our own lives. SJS tradition has been that eighth and second-grade girls place the crown of flowers on the statue of Mary. The Cap & Gown mass provided us an opportunity to congratulate and bid farewell to the SJS Class of 2019 and acknowledge student accomplishments and scholarships. Their first grade Buddies sang them a song in appreciation for their companionship and guidance this year.



EVENTS

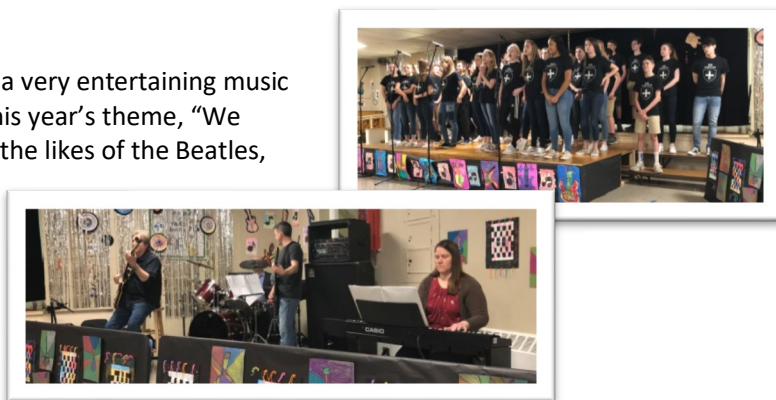
Mother-Daughter Tea

Several SJS mothers and daughters enjoyed a lovely Mary Poppins-themed tea at the Drake Oak Brook. Guests enjoyed towers of treats, crafting kites and taking candid photos. As Mary Poppins would say, it was "practically perfect in every way!"



VIP Program

Continuing a long-standing tradition, our students put on a very entertaining music program for the "Very Important People" in their lives! This year's theme, "We Wanna Rock" was lively and amusing. Singing songs from the likes of the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Survivor, Tom Petty, and Coldplay, our students, led by our music teacher, Mr. Horneman, provided a rockin' good time! SJS parents and alum formed a rock band to accompany the singers and really created a rock concert vibe. As one relative said, "I've been coming to this for 17 years and this is the best one yet!"



Just Married!

Congratulations to Miss Winter, now Mrs. Slisz, on her April 6 nuptials to Dan! They were married in a beautiful ceremony that included 10 flower girls and enjoyed honeymooning in Arizona.



ATHLETICS

Basketball

Congratulation to the Boys 5A team on capturing the championship! A special shout out to Boys 7A and 8B1 and Girls 5A on fighting hard to bring home the runner-up trophy!



CRUSADERS
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL



Track & Field

Our athletes competed hard during a cold and rainy season. Several students won first place at divisionals in at least one event: Tyler B., Colin C., Jake D., Annie E., Danny G., Rachael H., and James N. Congratulations to our athletes who competed in the Championship meet. Tyler got 1st in shot put with a distance of 33' 5" and 5th in 75m dash; Jake was 1st in the 100m, 3rd in the 200m; Jake, Danny, Colin and James were 2nd in the 4 x 100 major relay, Rachael was 1st in the Javelin, 3rd in the 800m; James was 2nd in the 800m; Danny was 3rd in the Javelin; Natalie I. was 3rd in the open shot put.

Volleyball

Our boys' volleyball teams had a great season. All teams will advance to the Championships. Go Crusaders!

ALUMNI



Class of 2019

Congratulations to SJS Class of 2019! We wish you all the best in your high school endeavors. Make us proud as you become Broncos, Friars, Mustangs, Redwings, Roadrunners, Trojans and Wolf Pack, and remember: once a Crusader, always a Crusader!



Service to Parish

We are sincerely grateful to and would like to acknowledge our alumni who return to St. Joseph Parish and serve in various ways. You are a reminder to us that service to the Church extends beyond attending SJS. You are a great inspiration and wonderful blessing to St. Joe's. Cantors: Lauren Gaydos, Megan Sluzas, Rachel Whittington; Musicians: Emily Blanchard; Lectors: Grace Balsamo, Carl Bertram, Jeff Gaydos, Anne Marie Walsh, Nora Woods; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Joslyn Boyer, Kylie Boyer, Brenna Cohoon, Sarah Jaworski, Addy Karmik, Nora Woods, Ray Zaloudek.

Montini 100,000 Club

Congratulations to alumna Madeline Pickering (2015) on receiving several academic scholarships, earning membership into Montini Catholic High School's "Class of 2019 100,000 Club" that acknowledges students who have received more than \$100,000 in academic scholarship offers.



SJS Class of 2015

Congratulations to our alumni who graduated from high school this year! We wish you continued success with whatever your next chapter holds. Stay connected with us and tell us about your plans for the future, favorite SJS and high school memories, and accomplishments!



Med School Bound

Congratulations to Sean Harnik, SJS Class of 2011, on his acceptance to the Feinberg School of Medicine Northwestern University. He recently graduated magna cum laude from the University of Miami with a B.S. in Biology, a B.B.A. in Health Sector Management and Policy and a minor in Chemistry. He graduated from Benet Academy as salutatorian in 2015.

FAREWELL

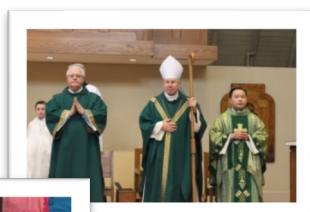
We thank Father John Phan for his faithful leadership and guidance over the last 7 years. We will miss him dearly and wish him well at his new parish, Holy Family in Shorewood.

Farewells will take place on June 8 & 9.

Saturday, June 8: After 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, June 9: After All Masses

Farewell Luncheon after 11:00 am Mass



WELCOME



We look forward to welcoming Father Albert Heidecke who is currently Pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Manteno. He will be joining us mid-June.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 25: 10am-1pm – Back-to-School Open House

August 26: First Day of School (Grades PK4 through 8)

August 27: First Day of School PK3

Show your love for SJS!

Stay connected with us and “Show Your Shield” over the Summer on Facebook and Instagram!



Thank you to all our teachers, staff, students, and parents for a great year!

Congratulations on all of your achievements.

We wish you a fun, rejuvenating and safe Summer and look forward to seeing you in our new and improved school in August!



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