



St. John's School

Eagle Newsletter

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August 2020

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Hello St. John's Families,

Summer is coming to a close and school is right around the corner! We have been busy here at school getting ready for our students to arrive. In this edition of the Eagle Newsletter you will find lots of important information about what's coming up in the next few weeks here at St. John's. Future Eagle Newsletters will be sent home via email and will also be available on our website - www.sjocs.org

For those of you new to St. John's School, we are a very close-knit community with parents frequently popping into the office for a quick chat and a cup of coffee or visiting with one another after school in the parking lot as the kids play on the playground. Sadly, at this time we can't offer you that kind of hospitality. We ask that if you need to stop by the office, give us a call from the parking lot to give us a heads-up and then when you come in please wear a mask. And for now, students will be asked to go home at the end of the day. God willing these changes will be able to be relaxed as we progress through the school year. Now, read on for all of the latest news and some important changes that you should take note of for the start of this coming year...

A Few Notes About Important Dates

Meet and Greet with Teachers: On **Tuesday, August 11th from 4:00-6:00**, our K-8th Grade teachers will be in their classrooms. Students and parents will have the opportunity to drop off their school supplies and meet their teachers. On **Monday, August 17th from 4:00-6:00** our Pre-school families will have the same opportunity to drop off supplies and meet their teachers.

If you are unable to stop by, please don't worry! I know many students already know their teachers and will feel comfortable on the first day of school. However, if you can't make these times and you feel that your child would benefit with meeting with their teacher before the first day of school, please let me know and we will schedule a time for this. **As a reminder, all of us should be mindful of social distancing and the wearing of masks.**

School Clean-up Day: On **Thursday, August 13th** we could use your help to get the school grounds ready for the first day of school. We will meet at 3:00 pm in the school parking lot to go over what needs to be done. Mrs. Cathy Medland has kindly agreed to help supervise this project. We will provide the needed tools and supplies, and you can knock out some volunteer hours! (More about volunteer hours later in the newsletter) If you just can't make this time and still want to help, give us a call and we will work out a time that is better for you. Due to Covid 19, our clean-up will be focused on outside tasks this year. If the weather proves to be awful on Thursday we will bump our clean-up plans to **Friday, August 14th**. Please let me know via email if you are planning to attend. Kids are welcome too! ~Thank you in advance! ☺

First Day of School K-8th Gr.: The first day of school is on **Tuesday, August 18th**. The church bells will ring at 8:15. Students will meet their teachers and other cohorts in the designated spot in the parking lot and will then proceed into the school. Additional directions and cohort locations in the parking lot will be sent home in a separate email. Parents of Kindergarteners, please walk your kiddos to the spot in the parking lot for the K-2 Cohort. You may feel free to wait until they walk inside with Mrs. Mellor, but we kindly ask that you not follow them into the classroom during this important transition time. I promise that they will be fine. ☺

Payments: Please plan to pay your tuition and fees on (or before!) **August 18th**. You may stop by the school to make your payments or just put them in the mail. If you plan to stop by on the 1st day we ask you to remember the part about masks and social distancing being mandatory and plan to do so between 2:00-2:30. For the remainder of the school year, tuition and lunch fees are considered late if not received by the 10th of the month and late fees will be applied.

First Day of Preschool: The first day of Preschool will begin on **Tuesday, August 25th at 8:30**. Preschool families should plan to follow the new drop-off instructions which will be sent in a separate email. Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Rasic will be so happy to receive them into their classrooms and please rest assured that they will be in good hands.

Lunch: As you will have noticed in the recent St. John's School Covid 19 Response email that was sent home, our normal hot lunch program is on hold for now. Students will be eating lunch with only the other members of their cohort. At the beginning of the school year, we will eat lunch outside as much as possible to enjoy the good weather while it lasts. Students should plan to come to

school with a bag lunch. A microwave will be available for students to heat up their lunches, if necessary.

We thought it would be fun to have a Pizza Lunch Day on Thursday, Sept. 3rd. The Hot Lunch Form for this day will be sent home during the first weeks of school. If this lunch goes smoothly, we will plan to add a Pizza Lunch Day each week on Thursdays. Be assured, that students will remain in their cohorts during this lunch hour as they will have been doing since the first day of school. ☺

Birthday Lunch: On the 4th Friday of each month we will celebrate the birthdays of all students born in that month with cake or cupcakes along with a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday sung to them by their fellow cohorts. During the month of August, we will also celebrate any summer birthdays. Providing the birthday treats is one way of getting some of your volunteer hours knocked out. Please contact the Office if you're interested in helping with this. Our August birthday lunch day will be **August 28th**.

Labor Day Holiday: In observance of Labor Day weekend, students will be **released at 1:30 on Friday, Sept. 4th** and there will be **NO SCHOOL on Monday, Sept. 7th**.

Family Lunch Day: On the 2nd Wednesday of each month we normally host a Family Lunch Day. Families are invited to come eat lunch with their students on Family Lunch Days. After lunch, you are welcome to join your children at Noon Hours, in the Nave. Our first Family Lunch Day will be on **Wednesday, Oct. 14^h**. **We will keep you posted if this event will be possible or not.**

Other Important News

Travel: **If your student has recently traveled out of state or is currently out of state, please strictly follow the state travel guidelines before returning to school. Here is a link to the most recent guidelines:** <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>

Mat-Su Central: Many of our St. John's students are co-enrolled with Mat-Su Central. If you are interested in enrolling or updating your enrollment with Mat-Su Central, I can provide you with the necessary contact information for Tisha Jones who is the advisor assigned to our school. She will be available to work with families to complete the necessary paperwork for enrollment and to answer any questions you may have.

Schedules: PE and Art will begin the first week of school, with the schedule for Hours, Christian Ed. and Divine Liturgy on hold due to Covid restrictions. The finalized schedule for Lunch and our other pullouts will be sent home soon by your student's teacher. We are still making a few tweaks and adjustments to this schedule. ☺

PE: At St. John's we believe in the importance of getting our kids moving! Whether at recess or in PE, student participation is strongly encouraged. Because we don't yet have a gym, please ensure that your students are prepared to be outside during their PE time. Before the snow flies that means having a pair of shoes at school and any appropriate outerwear that will let them participate in the planned games and activities. During the wintertime it means having a pair of boots, and the rest of their winter gear at school. If the weather is super crummy, we will have PE in the church basement.

Field Trips: This year we will let you know about upcoming field trips far enough in advance that you may plan your student's hot lunches around these trips. Of course, the necessity for accommodating for school lunches is not an issue at the moment due to Covid. Please send all field trip money and permission slips to your student's teacher, not to the office. This will help the teachers know which students still need to turn in their paperwork and \$\$.

Parking Lot Protocol: K-8th and Preschool:

Currently we are working on a map that will show parents the different Cohort locations for drop-off and pick-up. We will hope to have a draft for you to review on Tuesday when you stop by for the Meet and Greet. We will email the final draft to you before the 1st day of school. Teachers and staff will be in the parking lot each morning and afternoon as we work to establish this new routine that will keep our cohorts from mingling at the beginning and the end of each day. This will be challenging, but in order to make coming back into the classroom environment a reality we must stick to it. We thank you in advance for your support of these new plans. Our new traffic patterns will also address the protocol for walkers and bike riders.

Dress Code: A few reminders about appropriate attire for school...

- Shorts **may** be worn from the first day of school until the **last day of September**.
- Only **closed toe** shoes may be worn to school – safety over fashion! **No flip flops.** ☺
- No leggings may be worn without an appropriate dress or tunic top.
- No strapless, or spaghetti strap tops.
- No sweatpants.
- Ripped jeans – I know this is fashionable at the moment, so if you do wear them, please don't show too much skin.
- T-Shirts and sweatshirts should not have any inappropriate slogans or advertisements

Note: We understand that these are comfortable options and expect that students will occasionally slip up. That's okay, but we appreciate your attention to this detail. We hope to give our students the tools to learn to dress discreetly and appropriately for school.

- Hats may not be worn in the school building during the school day.
- St. John's Spirit wear is encouraged on Wed. and Fri. but is welcome any day of the week! If you need more information about our Lands End Spirit Wear please email the school and I will send you that information.

VSP Opportunities: If you are able to assist with the outdoor sprucing of our school yard on Thursday, August 13th, we would really appreciate it. It would be so helpful!!! A list of other VSP opportunities will be sent home with a sign-up sheet during the first few weeks of school. Please note that the number of hours that a family is typically required to commit to (20 hrs.) may have to be adjusted due to Covid concerns. A portion of a family's required volunteer hours is normally dedicated to our fundraisers which may not be possible this year.

St. John's School Staff for 2020-2021

I am very excited about our staff this year. St. John's School has once again been blessed with a fantastic group of dedicated educators and a supportive community eager to see us succeed. I know I speak for all of us when I say that we feel privileged that you have chosen St. John's School to teach and mentor your children during the coming school year.

Keep our school staff, students, teachers and our Anchorage community in your prayers as we strive to do our best,

Mrs. Streff

Administrator	Lynn Streff
School Coordinator	Betsy Dunaway
Office Manager	Kali Macalino
Preschool	Melissa Reynolds, Rachel Rasic, Kathleen Sorensen, Sloan Medders
Kindergarten	Lori Mellor, Kim Medders
1 st Gr./2 nd Gr.	Doreen Dougherty, Ann Patras, Janet Hawi, Kim Medders
3 rd /4 th Gr.	Betsy Dunaway, David Wright
5 th Gr.	Khafani Abel
6 th /7 th /8 th Gr.	Rebecca Raso, Ryan Smith