



ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL - COLUMBIA, SC



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A Word From Our Principal

Welcome To The Family

Remember as a child going to a family reunion? For me, it was a day that I looked forward to for many weeks. My mom had 7 sisters and 2 brothers (all but one was married) who joined us with LOTS of cousins! Although we all lived in the Chicago area at that time, we only came together for Christmas Eve and the Summer Family Reunion. What fun! We played games and, of course, there was lots of great food. We played all day, enjoying each other's company.

That excitement is what many of you are sharing with me as we start our new school year. Friends talking to friends, filling each other in on summer events. The first few weeks of school are sometimes scary for children (and parents) who are starting at a new school. Remember what that was like? Always, we are a school family. We are here for you. When you walk your children through our door, you are not alone. You have the arms of our school family, waiting and welcoming you every day. As you take time to reconnect with your friends, remember the families you are mentoring and help them become part of our school family.



We look forward to our Grandparents' Day and School Family Reunion on Friday, Sept. 23, as part of our Family Night. Grandparents are welcome to join their grandchildren for the morning. In the evening, we will have dinner cooked by the Knights of Columbus at the pavilion on our property, so bring your blankets and chairs to enjoy an evening of fun, friends, and entertainment by the children. I hope to see all of the members of our family there!

Barbara Cole
Principal

Principal's Honors

- 5th Maya Duffy
Paige Miller
Logan Randall
Brennan Schmidt
Allison Stanek
- 6th Chloe Cobb
Kaitlyn Cote
Khanhnie Fleshman
Nicholas Orr
Hayden Schmidt
Abbey Winslow

First Honors

- 5th Loren Brown
Will Galloway
Alex Gregg
- 6th Mary Aufuldish
Drew Gustafson
Alex Lacson
Katie LaPorte

FOURTH QUARTER

Second Honors

- 5th Alex Beach
Will Christensen
Victoria Collins
Gracie Costagliola
Kimberly Curlee
Donya Farzam
Jasmine Flora
Lauren Frierson
Josh Green
Fulton Jones
Ashley Maddock
Mac O'Neil
Isabelle Parks
Ellie Pobis
Ryan Rescigno
Emma Robinson
Bradley Shuford
Caylee Wise



- 6th Jake Buzzetti
Baylee Cline
Bethany Hamm
Sara Levitt
William Morrison
Maddie Risinger
Rochelle Tuazon
Timothy Whiddon

School Advisory Board & PSA



A Great Start to a New Year at SJN

James D'Alessio, School Advisory Board President

I trust that all of you have settled in to the routine of a new school year. As I attended coffee on the lawn, I could not help but reflect on all of the hard work, dedication and generosity the entire Saint John Neumann family showed in making Our Vision a reality. Hopefully, every one of you has had a chance to tour the wonderful addition to our school. If you have not, I hope you will take an opportunity to do so soon. It really is a testament to the ability to achieve anything with perseverance in your heart and the Lord by your side.

Barbara and her staff deserve a special thanks, not only for their role in the vision, but for what they do every day to make our school the best in South Carolina! I would also like to extend my personal thanks to each and every parent and parishioner who gave of their time, talent and treasure to get us to this point.

As Dr. Jonas Salk once said, "The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more." Even as we pause to admire our accomplishment and enjoy our present, we must also look to the future and develop a new vision for our school. I ask each of you to become involved as your Advisory Board begins that process. The best way to do that is through our committee structure. Below is a list of our committees and their Advisory Board member chair. Find your area of interest, and help us to continue to keep our school out front!

Facilities-----Edwin Moore
Special Programs/Grants---Terry Dixon
Crisis----- J.J. Darby
Catholic Identity-----Amy Grassinger

Technology-----Elizabeth Stewart
School in Community----Daniel Quirt
Finance-----Greg Risinger
Ownership-----Chip Collins

Change Is In the Air

LuAnn Aycock, PSA President

New York Times bestselling author Andy Andrews wrote a book called *The Butterfly Effect*. Remember the original theory of the Butterfly Effect? "A butterfly could flap its wings and set molecules of air in motion, which would move other molecules of air, in turn moving more molecules of air—eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet." Applying it to our daily lives, Andrews writes, "By your hand, millions—billions—of lives will be altered, caught up in a chain of events by you this day." "Your life and what you do with it today matters forever."

Sometimes the change we can make in the world is right down the street staring us in the face. Here are some ways you can spread your wings at St. John Neumann:

- The Rock-n-Roll Sock Hop, our annual auction, needs your help--in any and every way. No matter what your time limitations are we can find something for you to do. Please call or email the auction chairs or attend a meeting. Make sure that you schedule your sitters for November 19th - it is an event you don't want to miss. Remember: this is the only PSA fundraising event all year, so find a way to get involved.
- Our school is only as good as the parents who volunteer to make things happen. Here are some other areas where you can donate your time: library, discovery center, carpool line, lunch monitor, newsletter, monthly teacher appreciation and the upcoming Halloween Carnival. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Kolp at 361-1676.

The Mentor Family Italian Ice Social, New Parent Orientation, New Parent Uniform Exchange, Coffee on the Lawn, and Open House were all great successes to start the year. Thanks to all of the butterflies who made those events possible: Diana Williams, Cheryl Kolp, Jhoanna Pineda-Kim, Sandi Hitchcock, Patricia Younan, Kristy Speronis and Nancy Johnston.

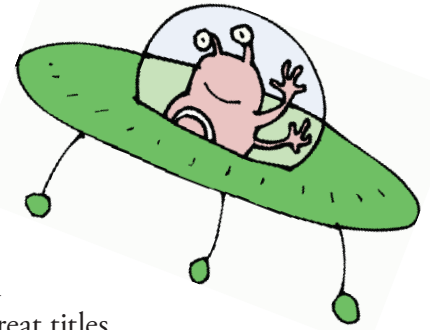


Library Literacy

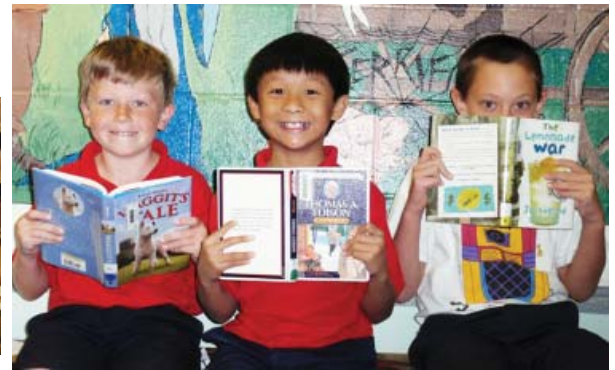
To The Book Fair & Beyond

Karen Zimmerman

Get ready to blast off to the 'Book Fair and Beyond', when the Scholastic Book Fair comes to the St. John Neumann School Library! The Book Fair will be open from Friday, September 23, until Thursday, September 29, from 7:30am until 4:30pm each school day. It will also be open from 7:30am until noon on Friday, September 30. Once again, the book fair will have thousands of great titles from which to choose. Bestsellers and classic children's books will be available as well as books by popular authors, such as Andrew Clements, Wendy Mass, and Mary Pope Osborne.



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 27, as our Reading Night will be held on this evening from 6 until 8 p.m. Parents, students, and friends of St. John Neumann School are invited to join us for a fun evening of books, crafts and activities related to space and flight. During Reading Night, visitors may fly a plane using a simulator, don an Air Force flight suit, make paper airplanes and helicopters, meet aviation heroes, and learn about constellations! The Book Fair will also be open throughout the event! Get ready for a great week of books and reading, as St. John Neumann demonstrates that "Reading Is Out Of This World!"



Birthday Books



Renner Presnal, June 17, from Mom & Dad for his 7th birthday

Bryce Schottelkotte, July 5, from Mom & Dad

Rachel Kwon, July 25, from her Mom & Dad

Taylor Burch, August 4, from Mom & Dad for her 8th birthday

Taylor Burch, August 4, from her Grandparents, Patty and Jerry Burch, for her 8th birthday

Garen Presnal, August 5, from Mom & Dad for his 9th birthday

Mac Fitzgerald, August 16, from his family for his 4th birthday

Taylor Monfils, August 16, from Mommy, Daddy, Daniel, Mema & Granddaddy, for her 6th birthday

Lilly Flowers, August 21, from Mommy, Daddy, & Stella for her 9th birthday

Stella Flowers, August 22, from Mommy, Daddy & Lilly for her 6th birthday

Nelson Faiivae, from Mom & Dad

Payton Burch, August 27, from Mom & Dad for her 6th birthday

Payton Burch, August 29, from her Grandparents, Patty and Jerry Burch, for her 6th birthday

Ella Rescigno, September 3, from Mom, Dad, Ryan & Colby for her 9th birthday

Justin Mateo, September 14, from Daddy & Mama

Brandon Mateo, September 15, from Daddy & Mama

Lauren Frierson, September 22, from Mom & Dad for her 12th birthday

Will Frierson, September 26, from Mom & Dad for his 9th birthday

Kayla Tuazon, September 28, from Mom, Dad, & Kuya Mark for her 8th birthday



Memory

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Amrol in memory of Mr. LeBlonde Davis, father of Mrs. Freeda Wood

Tri & K.Diem and Kadie Tran in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Nghi Nguyen and Mr. Khang Nguyen on Vu-Lan



Sixth Grade Leadership Retreat

Cheryl Cambre

On Friday, September 9th, the 6th graders at St. John Neumann School were presented with the opportunity to participate in leadership building activities. This has become an annual event for preparing these students to become more aware of their leadership abilities. As they are solving each physical challenge, the students become more aware of the need to communicate clearly and respectfully to one another and to listen to the suggestions of each person in the group as a possible solution.



A retreat held at the school provides a time of reflection. The students were asked to think about what they had learned during their problem-solving group activities, to reflect on the part they played within the group, and to think about the gifts and talents that God has given each of them, individually. Next Friday, students will give speeches for the student council office that they would like to have. An election will be held to choose those students whose leadership skills, having been developed further throughout retreat activities, will be used to guide their fellow students in this final year at SJN.



Differentiated Instruction

Alison Levitt

As we begin the new school year, teachers are busy daily pre-assessing each child to find out their learning styles and ability levels to best meet their needs. Whether it be a learning style inventory, written pre-assessment or MAP data, SJN teachers know exactly where each of their students are and work to move them ahead so all students experience growth. We have already begun to test students in grades 1-6 with MAP assessments in reading, math, and language. These assessments provide valuable data for teachers to use to plan instruction individually for each child's readiness. This insures every child's instructional needs are met and we see academic growth in each student. Many of our teachers attended classes and workshops over the summer to learn new teaching techniques and are eager to use these new strategies. Teachers at SJN believe in being life-long learners themselves and dedicate many hours to investigating new ways to reach each of our students.



Welcome to Our New SJN Teachers & Staff



Megan Robbins has joined us in the sixth grade. Megan was born in Hershey, PA and graduated with her B.S. of Education with a major in English and a minor in Health. She also has her M.A. in Guidance Counseling. Her first job was teaching sixth and eighth graders health in Mooresville, NC. She was also the Assistant Field Hockey Coach at Davidson College. In her spare time, Megan enjoys spending time with her family. Her favorite foods are ice cream, fruit - especially strawberries, and homemade pizza! The friendliness of the staff at SJN really stood out to her on her first visit. Her teaching goals are to motivate, organize, and meet the needs of each and every student on a daily basis.

In the fifth grade, we welcome Erika Fallaw, originally from Washington D.C. Erika has her B.A. in Elementary Education. Her first job after college was as an Ordnance Officer. Her favorite books are biographies and historical fiction. She enjoys Chinese food and loves Italian. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her husband and children. She loves that SJN's academics are emphasized by students who are eager to learn and teachers who are innovative and highly trained. In the future, Erika would like to get her Master's in Administration.



Elizabeth McGuire joins us as a Kindergarten teacher from Brownsville, TX. She has her B.S. in Applied Learning & Development, as well as a Minor in Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin. Liz's favorite books include *Harry Potter* and the *Twilight* series. She enjoys eating Mexican and Chinese food. In her spare time, Liz enjoys cooking and spending time with her husband and dog. Liz also enjoys running and going to the gym. Her first impression of SJN was that everyone was friendly and helpful. In the future, Liz would like to earn her Master's degree, but right now she hopes to be the best teacher she can be!

We welcome Ashley Konieczko to PreSchool this year....AND as our Spanish teacher. She was born right here in Columbia, SC. Ashley has her B.A. in Spanish and her Master's in Teaching, both earned from THE USC. Her first job was as a Spanish teacher in Lexington District 4. Ashley's favorite foods are crab and peaches and her favorite book is *The Sunflower* by Richard Paul Evans. In the summer, she enjoys going to the beach, but her favorite thing to do in her spare time is spending time with her husband and two dogs. She feels very much at home at SJN after being a student here and having her mother work at SJN, too. Her goal is to inspire students to "expand their horizons while touching their lives with the Christian spirit and knowledge that God loves them."



Lisa Angelini joins us as a PreSchool Assistant Teacher and Extended Care teacher. She is from Mount Vernon, IL and attended the University of South Carolina. Her favorite books are mysteries and *Harry Potter*, and her favorite foods are pizza and pasta. In her spare time, she enjoys watching movies, going for walks, drawing, and traveling to see her family. The warm and welcoming environment at SJN was the first thing she noticed. Her goal is to become a full time teacher, continue her education, and improve on her teaching techniques. Welcome Lisa!

Tell Them You Saw Them In EAGLE EVENTS



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GRANDPARENT'S DAY & FAMILY NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

SJN BOOK FAIR

SEPTEMBER 23RD - 30TH

READING NIGHT AT SJN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

SJN AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH