Dear Parents and Guardians of SJRCS,

We have had a busy few weeks here at SJRCS. Last Friday, our PK students enjoyed an on-campus “trip” to the Pumpkin Patch. The students were able to ride a pony, visit a petting zoo, and play in a moon bounce. Then, they were able to select a pumpkin and decorate it. The weather cooperated which helped the students to have a great day.

Our upper grade students participated in an election for our new Student Council officers. We thank all of the students who ran for office, campaigned, and made speeches. Congratulations to our new officers: Kyra Brockett, President; Fran James, Vice-President; Thomas Evans, Treasurer; Marie Smith, Secretary; and Alex Piraino, Parliamentarian. This year, the Student Council is under the direction of Mrs. Pessagno and Mr. Rapposelli.

After school chess club and coding club, both conducted by Silver Knights Chess Club, are underway. We also have two groups of students participating in the Science Explorers STEM club. These are under the direction of Mrs. Santucci and Mrs. Ballenger.

7th and 8th graders, parents, and faculty members got to hear a powerful message from Mrs. Peg Dubrowski. Peg is the author of the book Following Jesus on the PATH, A Catholic Teen’s Guide to Life-Altering Faith, and has spent many years working in Catholic schools in the Midwest.

Next week, the H.S.A. will be sponsoring our annual Book Fair. Students will have a chance to visit the fair and purchase books. Please use Sign-Up-Genius, https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-cafeteria, if you can spare a few hours to assist students with their shopping.

I hope to see SJRCS families next Saturday night at the Halloween Event at Summers Farm. There will be plenty for the students to enjoy including a corn maze - don’t forget your flashlight! SJRCS will have two fire pits for our group that will have supplies for s’mores. So, why not come out and join the fun?!

We will also be welcoming parents to school on Thursday and Friday for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Don’t forget that the conference scheduler will close on Tuesday, October 15th. Please make sure to go online and schedule conferences with your child’s teachers.

Peace and all good things!
Mrs. Karen Smith

Invited a friend to this year’s open house. Remember, you will receive a $350 referral credit if they enroll and attend for the 2020-2021 school year.

Veteran’s Day activities are in the planning stages. The students will be sent home with stars to commemorate friends or family that are veterans. If you have a family member who is on ACTIVE DUTY, please send a digital picture with name, rank, and branch of service, to Mrs. Smith ksmith@sjrcs.org.

Fall Open House
Sunday, October 27th,
1 - 3 pm
Pre-K - Grade 8

VETERANS DAY

Veteran’s Day activities are in the planning stages. The students will be sent home with stars to commemorate friends or family that are veterans. If you have a family member who is on ACTIVE DUTY, please send a digital picture with name, rank, and branch of service, to Mrs. Smith ksmith@sjrcs.org.
Development Notes

SJRCs Wildcats 2019-2020 Basketball Registration

**NOTE Registration is ONLINE ONLY and will CLOSE on October 27**

Basketball Registration has begun. We will be conducting all registrations online by grade level. Below is an overview of the program.

**Grades 1 & 2** – Play in our In-House Coed League-$ 50.00 (includes T-shirt). The focus of the in-house program will be skills development and fun. We will have coed teams of roughly 8 players per team and they will compete against other SJRCS teams. The in-house program will begin in January and run into February. The in-house teams will not have practice, only games at St. John between 8:00 - 12:00 on Saturdays.

**Grades 3 - 8** – Play in the Monocacy Youth Basketball League-$130.00 (Uniform Fee - $40.00 if needed). The Monocacy Youth Basketball League Teams will start practice in November with games beginning in early December. This is a competitive league where the teams are single sex and we compete against the likes of Urbana, Mt Airy, Carroll Manor and Ballenger Creek to name a few. We expect to hold most practices at St. John’s while some may be held at Thomas Johnson Middle School or Lincoln Elementary. Games are usually Saturday morning or afternoon at St. John’s, TJ Middle, or other local gyms.

Go to www.sjrcs.org click on Student Life, Athletics, Register Now, on the website or Click on the MySchool-Bucks on the home page to register for Basketball.

Please join us as we launch our first 2020 Silent Auction and Gala Planning Committee Meeting of the year!

Thursday, November 14, at 7pm, in Media Center

We’ll have light refreshments and appetizers! Please come with a friend. At this meeting we will begin discussing our vision for our upcoming silent auction and gala. We hope you all are able to come to the meeting. Please bring your ideas and creativity. We cannot wait to see you all!!!!!

We are very proud to announce that the SJRCS Little Treasures Pre-K program has received a rating of 5 through the Maryland EXCELS program. Maryland EXCELS is a quality rating and improvement system that awards ratings from 1 to 5 to child care and early education programs based on nationally recognized standards and best practices. The system is simple: programs earn ratings on five progressive check levels that form a pathway to excellence. The Maryland EXCELS framework is based on five core disciplines: Compliance, Professional Development, Accreditation, Developmentally Appropriate Activities, and Administrative Practices.

A rating of ‘1’ is awarded to providers and programs that successfully meet initial requirements, while a rating of ‘5’ is awarded to those that have achieved the highest level of quality.

Children & Youth Protection Policy Requirements

It seems there is a need to reiterate what steps must be taken in order to volunteer at SJRCS. In the rush to register, many mistakes are showing up that draws out the process considerably. ALL volunteers are considered substantial contact with children, which should only be clicked when entering role. EVERYONE must complete a background screening, list 3 references (complete address/email) and online training. There are no shortcuts to registering, if any of the above is missing, one cannot volunteer. **ONLY when I notify the registrant by email are they considered certified.** Background screenings are taking 12 business days or more. Even though ESR states the screening is completed, the Office of Child and Youth Protection makes the final approval.

Some problems that are reoccurring with VIRTUS registration this school year are:

—Incorrect background screening checked - only 3970 Base Package ESR2 is correct - no volunteer will ever drive students at school.

—No references given/info left out, faulty emails

—training started but never completed or never started at all. It is best to fully complete the VIRTUS registration steps all at once, so please allow time to do this.

One final note, those who have been notified of 5 year renewals must complete in the month they are due. After 30 days the account is considered inactive until a new background screening/training is completed. If any problems with the VIRTUS process please, please, please contact me at school - dprice@sjrcs.org. **DO NOT create a second account**! Thank you!

Denise Price/Screening Coordinator

Dine in or carry out! Just let them know you are with SJRCS!

**SJRCS Spirit Day**
October 22nd
ALL DAY!