



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

December 13, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

I can't think of a more exciting place to be to prepare for the Christmas season than St. John Fisher! Our classrooms and hallways have been transformed with advent wreaths, lights, snowmen, Christmas trees, ornaments, Santa, gingerbread men and more. Together our teachers and students have created a magical winter wonderland!

During this advent season, we continue to pray for Rone Leja along with her family and loved ones and the members of the St. Michael's Community. Our thoughts and prayers are also with those less fortunate than us. Thank you to all who contributed to our gift collection for our Robbins Community. You certainly have made a difference to many families this Christmas season.

There are many fun events taking place at SJF this Christmas season which are outlined below. Thank you so much for your continued support of Catholic education and specifically St. John Fisher.

In unity and hope,

*-Mrs. Maura Nash*

## Important Announcements

- **Updated Bullying Policy to the Handbook:** Please take a moment to review the below addendum to the Bullying Policy in the Handbook. This will be discussed with students in grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> next week.
- Today we raised **\$620** in donations allowing us to purchase **1000 pairs of handwarmers** for the PADS Homeless Shelter in Chicago Ridge. Thank you for your generosity!
- *Congratulations to Mrs. Erin Deering* who recently completed her classwork for an LBS1 & Special Ed. Endorsement! We are so proud to have you on our staff!
- *Congratulations to Norah Burke & Kevin Coyle*, winners of the **Southside Catholic Conference Christian Leadership Award!** We're so proud of you!
- **EXTENDED DAY 12.20.19:** *Extended Day will be closed at 4pm on Friday, 12.20.19.* Please reach out to Mrs. O'Grady with questions.
- *Tis' the season* for SJF's Pre-K and K **Christmas Shows!** Both parent shows are on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> in the Church. The Pre-school show is @ 12 & the Kindergarten Nativity Performance is @ 1.
  - **ATTENTION PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN & PRE-K STUDENTS:** If you intend to have your other children attend the parent performance, YOU MUST notify your child's teacher as well as the office ahead of time and sign your child out at the main office. Also, make sure your child speaks to his or her teacher to arrange to make-up any work he or she will miss during the performance. *Thank you for your attention to this matter!*

- **ATTENTION PARENTS OF WINTER SPORTS ATHLETES:** Please sign and return the parent code of conduct contract to your child's coach. Thank you!
- Students should wear their **SUNDAY BEST** on 12.20.19 for our All-School Christmas Prayer Service @ 10:15. *All are welcome!*
- **Congratulations to KATIE ALVAREZ, Chick Evans Scholarship Winner & SJF Alum!**
- **Manna News:** The holidays are upon us and so is **Holiday Shopping!** **Don't forget to use Manna** for all of your gift shopping needs! Give it as a gift or use it to purchase a gift! Whichever you choose, you will earn **CASH BACK** towards your next manna rebate. Any questions contact one of the manna ladies, [sjfmanna@gmail.com](mailto:sjfmanna@gmail.com).
- The **January Lunch Order** is now available online.
- **SAVE THE DATE: January 26, 2020, Catholic School's Week** New Family Open House 9-10, Mass 10 and School Family Open House 11-12.
- **Please be careful driving and dropping off your children in the morning.** As the winter weather is upon us, many more students are getting rides to school. We recognize the congestion around the perimeter of the building and we understand many people are in a hurry. **Please be patient and mindful of those around you.** We are working to find a solution to this issue. **Thank you for driving slowly and safely on campus!**
- Don't forget to check your student's teacher blog @ [www.sjfschool.net](http://www.sjfschool.net) for the latest and greatest information from your child's class. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.
- **Forgotten student items:** homework and lunches – please partner with us and resist the urge to drop off your students' forgotten items at school as we continue to cultivate and encourage independence and accountability in all of our students. Thank you so much for your cooperation!
- *We invite and welcome your feedback.* If you have a question regarding your child's education, please reach out directly to your son or daughter's teacher. If you need further support, contact Mrs. Larmon, [clarmon@sjfschool.net](mailto:clarmon@sjfschool.net), Mrs. Carey, [ncarey@sjfschool.net](mailto:ncarey@sjfschool.net) or Mrs. Nash, [mnash@sjfschool.net](mailto:mnash@sjfschool.net). *We are happy and grateful to partner with you in order to best serve your children.*



*For the Feast of St. Lucy today,  
some of our "St. Lucy's" lead our morning prayer  
and announcements.*

## Peek at the Week

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Polar Express ETC</b> with Mrs. Altman</li> <li>• <b>Girls Volleyball</b> competes in the Conner T. Lowry Gym, 9-2</li> </ul>                                |
| Sunday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cookies with Santa</b> after the 10 Mass in Kane Hall from 11:15-1</li> <li>• <b>Girls Volleyball</b> competes in the Conner T. Lowry Gym, 1-5:30</li> </ul> |
| Monday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>McAuley Acapella Christmas Concert</b> in Church @ 12:30</li> </ul>  |
| Tuesday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Homework Club</b> 2:30-3:00</li> <li>• <b>Band Concert</b> @ 7pm in Church</li> </ul>  |
| Wednesday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-School Christmas Show</b> in Church @ 12</li> <li>• <b>Kindergarten Nativity Show</b> in Church @ 1</li> <li>• <b>Homework Club</b> 2:30-3:00</li> </ul> |
| Thursday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Future Falcons</b> play group @ the Conner T. Lowry Gym 10:30-11:15</li> <li>• <b>Children's Choir Practice</b> @ 3:45</li> </ul>                            |
| Friday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All-School Christmas Prayer Service</b> @ 10:15 ~ <i>All are welcome!</i></li> <li>• <b>11:30 Dismissal – Merry Christmas!</b></li> </ul>                    |
| Saturday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children's Christmas Novena</b> @ 5pm</li> </ul>   |







# FALCON OF THE WEEK

Vicky Baader, 8th grade



**SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is 8th grader, Victoria Baader.**

This year, our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing what it means to be 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 demonstrate each and every day. Our "Falcon of the Week" is Vicky Baader. Every day, Vicky works incredibly hard at trying to always be a good example and role model, not only for our younger students, but also for her peers. Vicky is one of our stellar patrol guards

and takes her job very seriously. She always does the right thing and always follows each and every rule. Vicky is very fun to be around and she loves to sing. If you walk near the main entrance door in the morning, you will undoubtedly hear Vicky singing which brightens everyone's morning. Now that the Christmas season is upon us, Vicky spreads joy singing Christmas songs getting everyone into the Christmas spirit. Vicky does her best to help her peers and teachers whenever possible. She is quick to give a compliment or a positive comment to help build up those around her. She also takes great care of our youngest falcons by helping them get to class in the morning. Vicky is honest and kind and we are lucky and proud that she is a falcon! Thank you, Vicky, for the awesome example you set for all of us each and every day. Keep "Flying like a Falcon", you're making a difference!



*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

Appropriate disciplinary consequences are applied to offending student(s).

- When accused of a disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated act of misconduct, implicated students will meet with members of the Administrative Team and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, including but not limited to detention, suspension and expulsion. Guardians will be notified.
- In instances where disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated acts of misconduct occur outside of school, the guardians of accused students will be contacted via phone or email and informed of the accusations made against their child. Disciplinary action may be taken.
- When a student has been accused of disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated misconduct, however, the behavior cannot be substantiated, the guardian(s) of all students involved will be contacted, individually, outlining the accusations. No further action will be taken by school leadership, as unsubstantiated acts or acts that cannot be verified are not punishable. However, guardians will be made aware that it was suspected and/or reported that their child was involved in disrespectful, intentional, hurtful and/or repeated acts of misconduct.

**Please take the time to review the addendum made to the St. John Fisher Student Handbook.**

As our society and community evolve, so must the practices we use in educating our students. In recent months, it has become clear that the behavioral policies outlined by the St. John Fisher Student Handbook were limited in scope and in need of revision. To best facilitate the personal and social growth of all St. John Fisher students, it is imperative that we uphold strict behavioral policies especially as it relates to the treatment and respect of others.

In an effort to best support students and parents, who often fear social consequences when reporting disrespectful, intentional, hurtful acts of misconduct, we have updated the Bullying Policy to address reported incidents of bullying/misconduct that cannot be verified definitively. In addition, off campus incidents reported to school by community members and/or parents that cannot be verified and the accused cannot be definitively identified, parents of students suspected to be involved will be contacted by a member of the Administrative Leadership Team directly. It is the hope that these communications will not only encourage parents to engage in conversation with their children regarding their behaviors and peer relationships, but also lessen the time dedicated by school personnel investigating incidents that are brought forth and ultimately cannot be verified and/or remediated. Through this partnership, students will be held accountable for their actions, both in and out of school, yielding a more respectful, cohesive school environment.





# St. John Fisher prepares for Christmas!







## St. John Fisher's Children's Choir & Fr. Ken

Perform Christmas Music at our Christmas Concert on December 10th

**Members of our choir include:** Maggie Berry, Abigail Ciraulo, Ava Dignan, Casey Dooley, Jessica Fennell, Jordyn Flint, Gabriella Gavin, Lorianna Griggs, Riley Hitz-Easton, Naimh McNicholas, Josephine McGann, Allesandra Melicharek, Bridget Poppish, Molly Rafferty, Cate Scanlon, Cate Schreiber & Ella Schreiber

*Thank you to Ms. Lenz for your dedication and direction of the choir and concert!*



# SJF'S 8th Grade Game Night

## POST HS ENTRANCE EXAM CELEBRATION!





**SJF**

# **GARDEN FLAGS**

## **FOR SALE**

**GARDEN FLAGS ARE FOR  
PURCHASE FOR \$15**

- **IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE, SEND  
YOUR \$15 IN AN ENVELOPE WITH  
YOUR STUDENT AND WE WILL SEND  
IT HOME**

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF  
OUR SCHOOL. FLAUNT THAT  
FISHER PRIDE!***





# St. John Fisher SWAG!

**SJF'S ONLINE STORE HAS UPDATED APPAREL FOR KIDS AND ADULTS!**

- **ALL ORDERS PLACED BY 12.6 ARE GUARANTEED DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR BY CHRISTMAS.**
- **5% OF EACH ORDER GOES BACK TO THE FSA.**
- **[HTTPS://TEAMLOCKER.SQUADLOCKER.COM/#/LOCKERS/ST-JOHN-FISHER-SCHOOL?K=SIF3AM](https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/st-john-fisher-school?k=sif3am)**
- **FLAUNT THAT FISHER PRIDE TODAY!**

