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PICTURE BY IXCHEL MIXON

## SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS

*by Josh Meyer, Superintendent*

Thank you to the many parents and patrons and staff members that recently filled out a survey about school district improvement. This is part of our efforts to gather information for school district improvement and for accreditation with the state. This is our final year of our accreditation cycle and we will be submitting our information to the state next semester.

There are some recent and upcoming changes in school district personnel. Lisa Cornwell is transitioning into retirement. She will be working part time as our career and technical education coordinator and grants facilitator. She will also be working closely with our new school nurse to ensure a smooth transition. Krystal Burton has been hired in the combined position of nurse and elementary secretary. She will be spending part of her time in the elementary office and some time in the nurse's office. Mandy Sanders has been hired as the board treasurer. She will handle those duties along with some payroll, accounts payable, and transportation.

Natalie Clark has been offered an assistant director position with the state department of education in Topeka. We hate to lose her expertise, but she will be a valuable connection for us in Topeka and I know she will do well in that role. Hannah Sallee will be moving over to the business classroom in January. Tabra Ward has been hired to fill the family and consumer sciences teaching position. She is working to obtain her FACS teaching endorsement through Pitt State. Change is never easy, but I feel good about the people we have in place in these positions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## THIS EDITION'S EDITORS

### JACY WILLINGER-JASPER

*9th Grade*

### KEATON BURNS

*9th Grade*

### EVELYN LOPEZ

*10th Grade*

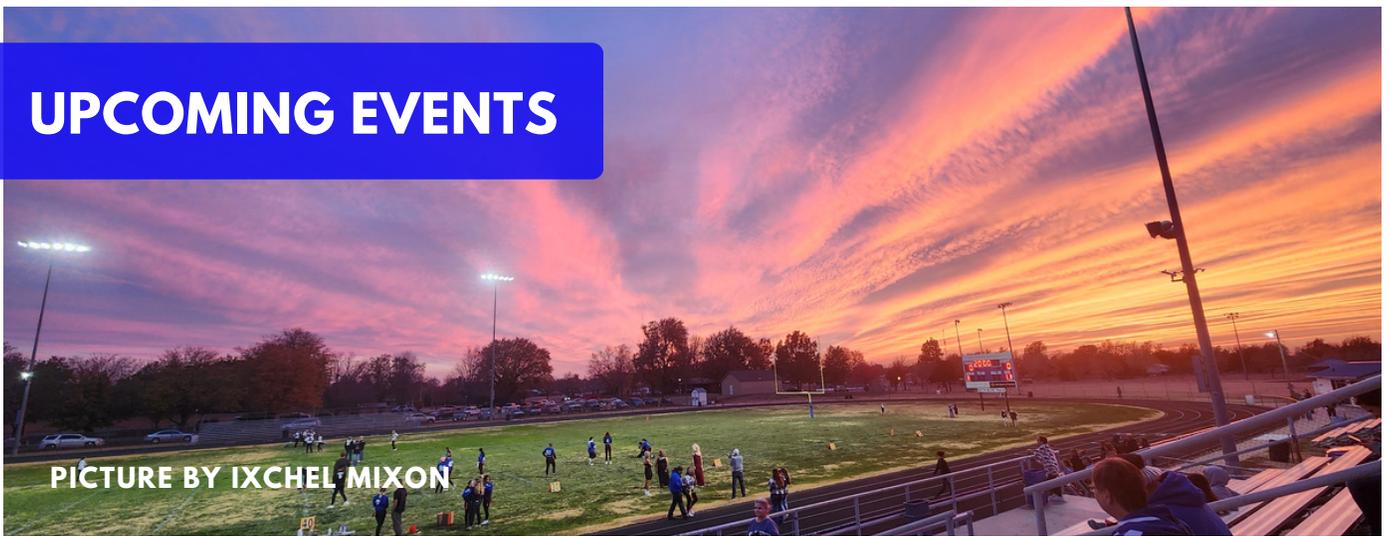
### KATLYN ELLIOT

*12th Grade*

### MRS. IXCHEL MIXON

*Interactive Media*

# UPCOMING EVENTS



PICTURE BY IXCHEL MIXON

## DECEMBER

### 4TH - 6TH MUSIC CONCERT

*Dec 6th @ 7 pm*

### EARLY RELEASE

*Dec 7th @ 1:15 pm*

### ACT EXAM

*Dec 10th*

### JH / HS BAND CHOIR CONCERT

*Dec 15th @ 7 pm*

### END 1ST SEMESTER

*Dec 16th*

### NO SCHOOL / CHRISTMAS BREAK

*Monday Dec 19th - Friday Dec 30th*

## JANUARY

### NO SCHOOL / CHRISTMAS BREAK

*Monday Jan 2nd*

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORK DAY

*Monday Jan 2nd*

### BACK TO SCHOOL

*Tuesday Jan 3rd*

### ACT REGISTRATION DEADLINE

*Jan 6th*

### KMEA ALL STATE AUDITIONS

*Jan 7th*

### NO SCHOOL / STAFF DEVELOPMENT

*Jan 20th*



# SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We have been working to get an operating daycare on the school campus for a while now. The holdup has been the licensing process with the state. There has been some movement on that and we anticipated that Nikki Adams will be able to open her daycare in that building at the beginning of January. If you need more information about the daycare, you can contact her at [littleblessingsdaycare2022@gmail.com](mailto:littleblessingsdaycare2022@gmail.com).

You may be aware that the county childcare committee and Stafford County EcoDevo have purchased a modular unit that will house two daycares. When this is completed, there will be 3 different childcare facilities operating within a block of the school. This will be a welcome addition of a much needed resource for our community.

Last month, I wrote about our facility assessment committee. The committee includes school staff and a group of parents and community members. We recently had our first committee meeting. This group is taking a deep dive into the current state of our school facilities and assessing the needs and challenges that exist. They took a long tour at the meeting and got a first-hand look at everything. The group will be meeting again this month and a few times after the holiday. At some point, the committee will issue a report with recommendations for the board to consider. I am grateful for these committee members for taking time to come up with a long-term plan for our school facilities and the future of our school district.

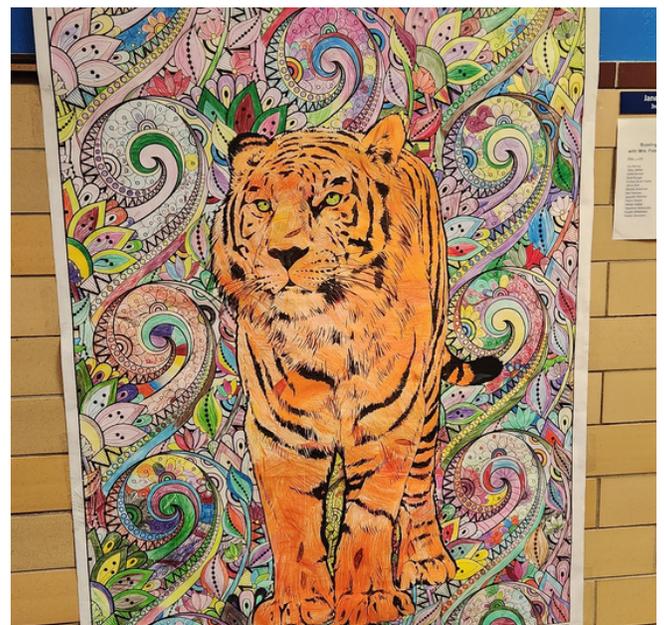
As the year draws to an end, many of you are considering charitable donations. You might also consider the USD 350 Educational Foundation for any charitable giving. The Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides an avenue for patrons, businesses,

and organizations to financially support the mission of St. John-Hudson schools.

Our Foundation really captures the giving spirit of this great community. The Foundation accepts donations to support student scholarships, library funding, and various student and school programs. Donations can be given for a particular purpose or to be used at the discretion of the Foundation board to support our schools. Information about the Foundation can be found on our school district's website.

On behalf of the USD 350 school family, I want to wish you all a happy holiday season and a very Merry Christmas. As always, if you'd like to visit about any of these topics or have other questions or concerns, I can be reached at 620-549-3564 or [meyerj@usd350.com](mailto:meyerj@usd350.com). I am proud to be a Tiger and proud to serve USD 350 with Purpose, Passion, and Pride.

- Josh Meyer - USD 350 Superintendent



# ELEMENTARY NEWS

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

*by Angela Petersen, Elementary Principal*

November at St. John-Hudson Elementary school was a month full of thankfulness. Students had many opportunities to practice showing appreciation for others through in class activities and projects, as well as an at home gratitude challenge. As a staff, we are all so grateful for the support of our families and our community. We value all of our partnerships and want to thank you for your continued support!

When reflecting on the month, there are also many things that the grade levels are proud of. KINDERGARTEN would like to brag on how hard they are working on addition and subtraction, as well as celebrate the fun they had at their Friendship Feast. FIRST GRADE continues to celebrate their learning, especially how many students are now fluent readers! SECOND GRADERS are not only making academic gains, but they have also grown a great deal of confidence and resilience this month!

Students in THIRD GRADE are mastering multiplication facts, with everyone scoring As and Bs on their chapter test! FOURTH GRADE tackled sorting out factors and multiples as well as writing their own poetry. FIFTH GRADERS have learned about Native Americans and are striving to meet their AR goals. SIXTH GRADE students are celebrating the connections they made between in class learning and their trips to Strataca and the Cosmosphere.

The month of December brings a lot of excitement! Students are looking forward to their Christmas band and vocal concerts,

trips to sing at Kenwood, holiday projects and activities, and of course all of the holiday festivities we will have here at school, including class parties, a day of building-wide Christmas learning, and a movie sponsored by SJN Bank. The students have grown so much grit, perseverance, pride, and joy in their learning this first semester, that they have more than earned an enjoyable end to the year! Thank you again for all of the family and community support that makes our success possible!





**KAYS AND KAYETTES FILLING CANDY SACKS FOR REC FOR CHRISTMAS AROUND THE SQUARE.**



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## HOME SCHOLARS BOWL TOURNAMENTS

*By Felicia Spare, Scholars Bowl Sponsor*

Buzzing in for the team! On November 28, five area teams competed in the St. John-Hudson High School's Annual Scholars Bowl Invitational Tournament: Central Plains, Ellinwood, Macksville, Pratt-Skyline, and St. John-Hudson.

The Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams rearranged and set up rooms for the tournament, parents and guardians provided cookies for hospitality, and the district ordered Tiger Town Pizza for the event. SJHS Staff and community members from Stafford and St. John volunteered as Judges and Moderators. Mrs. Norton, lunch lady, provided hospitality as Cassie Martin, parent and a member of PTO, greeted teams as they arrived.

Judges: Mrs. Joanna McAlister, Mr. Warren Mixon, Mr. Mark Fitch, Ms. Rebecca Tanner.

Moderators: Mrs. Ixchel Mixon, Mrs. Elizabeth Fitch, Mrs. Becky Thrasher and Mrs. Joyce Miller

Time Keepers: Tanner Mawhirter (9), Maylin Sanders (9), Cody Newdigger (9), Rafael Gonzalez (9)

Scorekeepers: Anissa Friend, Aaliyah Gonzalez, Addie McAlister, and Mrs. Cassie Martin

Greeter: Cassie Martin





## 2022 St. John Invitational Tournament Results:

- 1 - Central Plains (undefeated)
- 2 - Ellinwood
- 3 - St. John
- 4 - Skyline
- 5 - Macksville

St. John Varsity Players - Eli Foote (11), Garrett McAlister (10), Willow Murphy (10), Brandon Henkle (10), and Mason Gunter (12)





# HS SCHOLARS BOWL SKYLINE TOURNAMENT

*By Felicia Spare, Scholars Bowl Sponsor*

Congratulations to the HS Scholars Bowl team for placing 4th at the December 8th Skyline Tournament! Ely Foote placed 3rd in the Individual High Point Scorers for the night. Congrats team!

Garret McAlister (10), Willow Murphy (10), Cody Newdigger (9), Brandon Henkle (10), and Eli Foote (11).



## RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 29, ELLINWOOD HIGH SCHOOL JV/V TOURNAMENT:

Varsity Results: 1 - Hoisington, 2 - Ellinwood, 3 - Ness City, 4- Hays, 5 - LaCrosse, 6 - Central Plains, 7 - St. John, 8 - Otis-Bison

JV Results: 1 - St. John, 2 - Hays, 3 - Macksville, 4 - Hoisington, 5 - LaCrosse, 6 - Chase, 7 - Otis-Bison, 8 - Central Plains

Pictured left to right: Back - Tanner Mawhirter (9), Cody Newdigger (9), Rafael Gonzalez (9); Front - Cora Martin (9), Maylin Sanders (9).



# 3RD GRADE PRACTICING DIVIDING

By Keaton Burns





# KANSAS SUICIDE PREVENTION CONTEST

By Mrs. Brad Emery, Art Teacher

Frances Duntz won 1st place in her division (8th & 9th grade) for the Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention Art Contest. Her art will be posted in an online gallery for the public and “may be used by Kansas State agencies for the creation or advancement of suicide prevention messaging campaigns.” In addition, she received a letter from the governor recognizing her accomplishment and a \$50 Visa card.



# KINDER FRIENDSHIP FEAST

*By Mrs. Jill Christie*

Kindergarten is thankful for many things and friends are at the top of the list. It seemed fitting to round out their food groups/nutrition unit with a Friendship Feast. Each student helped contribute something to to feast for everyone to enjoy.





# JOB OLYMPICS

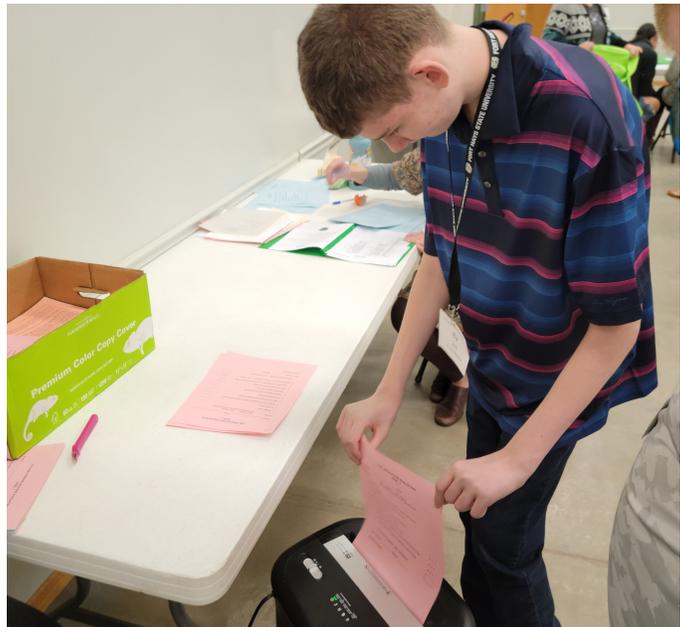
By Mrs. Cheri Michael

November 18th, Jacob Lauber and Ely Kocher participated in a multi-county competition called Job Olympics located in Lyons, Kansas. This competition comprised of over 30 job skills to select from to test their skills. The boys worked weeks with Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Trevino, Mrs. Rotert(not pictured), and Mrs. Fischer training for the competition and will continue their work toward becoming more independent within their homes and at work.

Within this competition, Jacob Lauber took 2nd place in operating a shredding machine and 2nd place in sorting money skills. Ely Kocher took 1st place in assembling items on an assembly line. Due to their overall scores of completing many other tasks such as sorting and grouping different-sized pizza boxes, sorting recycling, vacuuming, folding washcloths, cleaning tables, money skills, and greeting the judges Ely and Jacob won 2nd place overall.

Other skills available to learn in the future are: facing and organizing shelves, using tools, folding clothes, hanging clothes on a hanger, wrapping silverware, stocking a vending machine, detailing a car, cooking measurements, caring for pets, setting a table, and many others.





# TRASH TO TRENDS

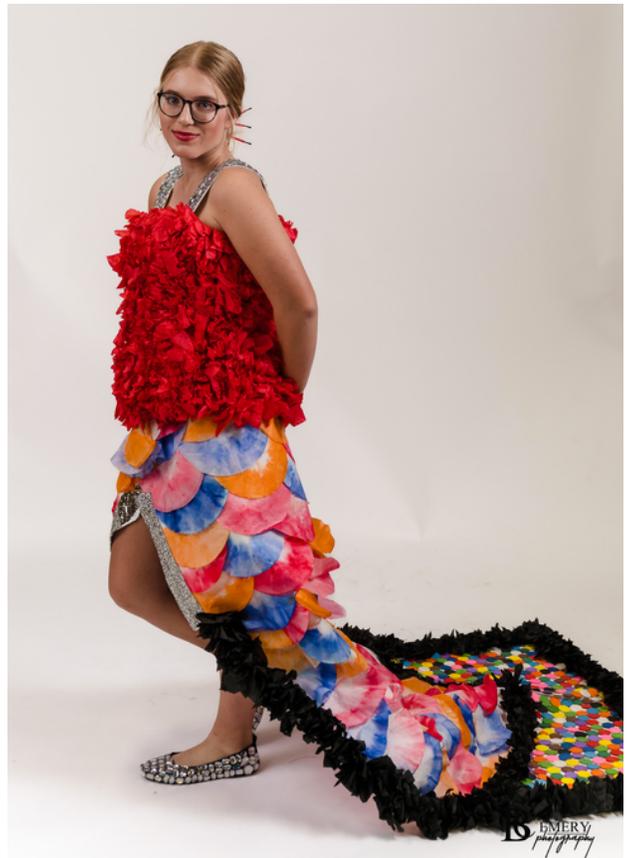
By Brad Emery

Trash to Trends is an annual recycled clothing art competition hosted by St. John High School. It was held at the annex on November 2nd.

Pictures by BC Emery Photography.

## COSTUME WINNERS - TRASH TO TRENDS 2022

- 1st Place: McPherson (Preserved Leaves Dress)
- 2nd Place: Little River (Tissue Paper Dress with Train)
- 3rd Place: Kiowa County (Purple Billboard and CDs)
- 4th Place: Larned (Yellow and Red Dress)
- 5th Place: McPherson (Paper Mache Band Uniform)
- 6th Place (TIE): Medicine Lodge (Caution Tape)
- 6th Place (TIE): St. John (White Textile with Flower Headband)
- 7th Place: Kiowa County (Dyed Satin Dress)





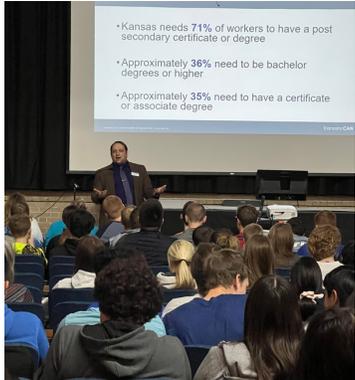


BE EMERY  
photography

BE EMERY  
photography

# JH / HS CAREER DAY

By Jacy Willinger-Jasper



# GALLERY



PHOTOGRAPHER: KARLY ROCKENBACH



PHOTOGRAPHER: KARLY ROCKENBACH



PHOTOGRAPHER: KARLY ROCKENBACH



PHOTOGRAPHER: KARLY ROCKENBACH

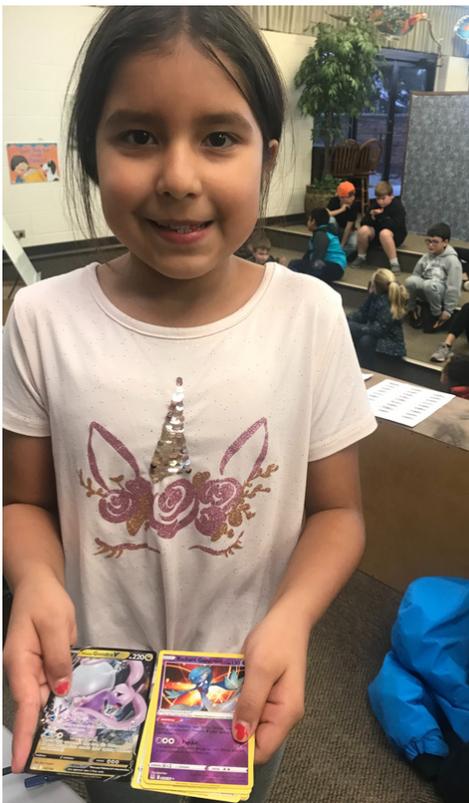
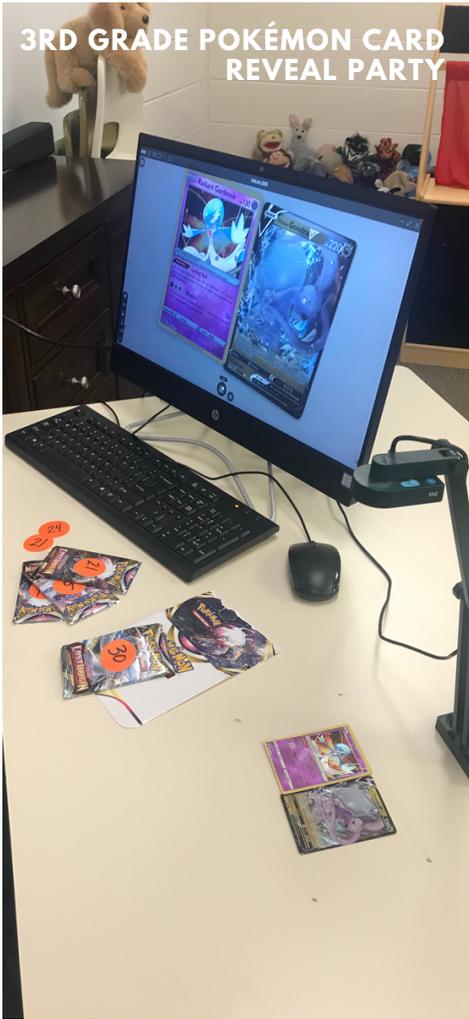


PHOTOGRAPHER: KARLY ROCKENBACH



PHOTOGRAPHER: KARLY ROCKENBACH

3RD GRADE POKÉMON CARD REVEAL PARTY



# 3RD GRADE POKÉMON CARD REVEAL PARTY



## BOYS/GIRLS JH BASKETBALL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
December 1st	<b>VICTORIA</b>	Away	4 pm
December 5th	<b>SPEARVILLE</b>	Home	4 pm
December 8th	<b>ELLINWOOD</b>	Away	4 pm
December 12th	<b>NESS CITY</b>	Away	4 pm

## BOYS/GIRLS HS BASKETBALL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
December 2nd	<b>STAFFORD</b>	Home	5 pm
December 5th	<b>SPEARVILLE</b>	Larned	6:30 pm
December 9-10th TBD	<b>TBD</b>	Larned	TBD
December 13th	<b>CENTRAL PLAINS</b>	Away	5:00 pm
December 16th	<b>KIOWA COUNTY</b>	Home	5:00 pm

## BOYS/GIRLS WRESTLING

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
December 1st	<b>DOUBLE DUEL LYONS, COUNCIL GROVE</b>	Lyons	5 pm
December 2nd	<b>PRATT GIRLS</b>	Pratt	3 pm
December 3rd	<b>PRATT BOYS</b>	Pratt	10 am
December 10th	<b>HESSTON VARSITY BOYS</b>	Hesston	9 am
December 16th	<b>HOISINGTON</b>	Hoisington	3 pm

*For sponsorship or other details please contact the front office.  
Events are subject to change without notice.*



# DECEMBER FOOD MENU

from USD 350 website, edited by Keaton Burns

## Breakfast

- DEC 1** French Toast Sticks, Applesauce, Pineapple/Orange Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 2** Banana Bread, Pears, Apple Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 5** Mini Pancakes, Applesauce, Grape Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 6** Breakfast Pizza, Mixed fruit, Apple Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 7** Breakfast Burrito, Peaches, Pineapple/Orange Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 8** Breakfast Pizza, Mixed Fruit, Apple Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 9** Breakfast Burrito, Pineapple, Grape Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 12** Breakfast Bar, Pears, Orange Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 13** Pancake on a stick, Applesauce, Orange Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 14** Muffin, Pears, Apple Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 15** Biscuits & Gravy, Mixed Fruit, Orange/Pineapple, Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 16** Biscuits & Gravy, Mixed Fruit, Orange/Pineapple, Juice, Cereal, Milk
- DEC 19** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 20** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 21** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 22** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 23** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 24** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 25** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 28** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 29** NO SCHOOL!!
- DEC 30** NO SCHOOL!!
- JAN 2** NO SCHOOL!!

## Lunch

- Hamburger Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Sliced Pears, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk
- Taco Salad, Lettuce & Tomatoes, Corn, Peaches, Fresh Fruit, Cookie, Milk
- Chicken Tetrizzini, Mixed Vegetables, Baby Carrots, Mixed Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk
- Sloppy Joe/Bun, French Fries, Baby Carrots, Applesauce, Fresh Fruit, Cookie, Milk
- Chili, Relish Plate, Sliced Pears, Fresh Fruit, Crackers, Cinnamon Roll, Milk
- Salisbury Steak, Potatoes & Gravy, Peas, Peaches, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich, French Fries, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit, Pears, Cookie, Milk
- Chicken & Noodles, Whipped Potatoes, Broccoli, Applesauce, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk
- Taco Salad, Lettuce & Tomatoes, Cheddar Cheese, Refried Beans, Pineapple, Birthday Cake, Milk
- Chicken Nuggets, Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll, Milk
- Cheeseburger/Bun, French Fries, Baby Carrots, Applesauce, Fresh Fruit, Cookie, Milk
- nkn
- NO SCHOOL!!

# 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE

by Blain White, HS Principal

December signals the nearing of the end of the first semester of school and there are many emotions that are felt by students, staff and families that go along with that. Happiness, sadness, stress, panic, excitement, relief, and gratitude are a few that I can think of off the top of my head. It seems like everything is a rush. We just finish Thanksgiving break and then, as if we entered a time warp, school calendars fill up with sports practices, sporting events, concerts, etc. and families become busy with shopping and family gatherings. Then there is the excitement of Christmas and the holidays that go along with that. To top it all off, we expect that students not only continue normal learning at school but also prepare for final exams, start thinking about courses for the next semester (and even the next year) and consider postsecondary options. It is indeed a crazy and stressful time of year for everyone.

Whatever emotion you are feeling during this last few weeks before the holidays, take some time for yourself. Grab a cup of your favorite pumpkin spice latte (or whatever your preferred flavor) sit back and reflect on the past year, set goals for the new year, be thankful for what you have, and take time to relax.

Not trying to add to anyone's stress but here are a few things for students and parents to keep in mind:

1. The last day of school is December 16th. Under most circumstances, this is also the last day for students to be able to hand in any work.
2. Prioritize your time. Don't try to do everything at one time but make sure you allow enough time to do what you HAVE to get done.
3. If you need help or even just a quiet place to work on assignments you can go to student tutoring on Monday thru Thursday from 3:20-4:20. Listen to the announcements to find out where that is located each day.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

4. For High School students, the semester grade (1st Quarter and 2nd Quarter average) go on a student's permanent transcript.
5. This is very important. Santa prefers homemade cookies. Primarily Snicker Doodles, White Chocolate Chip, and Sugar cookies. Make sure you find a good recipe. I am not saying that I'm Santa, but if you make cookies that you want delivered to him, I will make sure he gets them.

I thought to end this month's article I might add something you could enjoy that would not add to your stress. Here is a little bit of Holiday trivia for you.

1. The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was in Seattle, Washington, measuring 221 feet tall.
2. Black Friday is NOT the busiest shopping day of the year. That distinction goes to the two days just before Christmas.
3. A popular tradition in Japan is to eat KFC for Christmas. It is so popular, in fact, that orders must be placed two months in advance.
4. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer got his start as an advertising gimmick for Montgomery Ward in 1939.
5. Jingle Bells was originally a song about Thanksgiving in 1857. It also was the first song ever played in space, by astronauts Walter Schirra, Jr. and Thomas P. Stafford.
6. One in three men wait until Christmas Eve to do their holiday shopping.
7. Toys for Tots was founded in Los Angeles, California in 1947. A handmade doll was the first donation, and more than 5,000 toys were collected during that first drive.
8. Bing Crosby's version of "White Christmas" is the highest-selling song of all time.
9. Americans purchase 1.6 billion Christmas cards every year.
10. Visa credit cards are used about 6,000 times every minute during the Christmas season.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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**ALISA FISHER**  
Board Clerk  
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### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Carl Behr, *Vice President*  
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# ST. JOHN HUDSON USD 350

PURPOSE \* PASSION \* PRIDE

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### SOCIAL

 [www.usd350.com](http://www.usd350.com)

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### ST. JOHN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Angela Petersen, *Principal*

### ST. JOHN JR / SR HIGH SCHOOL

Blain White, *Principal*  
Stephanie Smith, *Secretary*  
Jennifer Fischer, *Secretary*

### SCHOOL NURSE

Lisa Cornwell, *CTE Coordinator*

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Laura Davis, *Director*  
Pat Crissman, *Clerk*  
Mark Bryant, *Clerk*

“

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*Use your smartphone camera to scan.*

