



April 2024



Message from Principal McDonald

April looks to be a busy month. I am very pleased to provide a very informative **virtual** opportunity for Middle School Parents on Student Internet Safety. The virtual meeting is scheduled for the evening of April 10th @ 6pm (approx 90 minutes) and is funded with ESSA Title IV which allows me to **offer it to you for free**. I highly recommend viewing this presentation on the dangers your children face every day in their online life. It will provide you with some strategies to parenting in this hyper digital age. The goal is to increase parents' comfort and awareness on these issues and to be more involved in their children's online life. Parents will also receive practical, technical knowledge on the apps and devices that children are using every day. I'll be emailing the link. Topics will range from

- Cyberbullying
- Online predators
- Overexposure- the permanency of online posts, the implication of inappropriate posts and creating a positive digital footprint
- Sexting and sextortion
- Pornography and the impact on students
- Online Gaming
- All parents will have access to ongoing support from Cyber Safety Consulting for one on one questions and issues.

Please refer to the Upcoming Events for other April school activities. I hope all of you have a healthy and happy Easter and I hope the April showers bring you beautiful May flowers.

God Bless,

Principal McDonald



Upcoming Events

April 1st

Gr. 3 & 4 Lego Club

April 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th

Chess Club

April 5th

Mass Day-uniform required

April 9th

Birthday Day & School Store

April 9 & 23

PNCU Savings Makes Cents

April 10th

Spring Pictures

Virtual Middle School Parent
Internet Safety Meeting 6pm

April 11th

Middle School Student Assembly on
Internet Safety -School Hall

April 12th

Free Dress Down, Q3 Report Cards
& Early Dismissal

April 15th - 19th

School Vacation

April 23rd

Honors Breakfast

April 24th

Chipotle Dine-out 4-8 pm

April 25th

NEASC Foundation Visit
PTO Meeting-School Hall

April 26th

Dollar Dress Down

April 27th

Savers Event- 9am-12pm, Trilby Lot

Berkshire Theatre Group

On Friday, March 8th, the Berkshire Theatre Group from Pittsfield, MA performed The Tragic Tree House Merlin Missions: Winter of the Ice Wizard. This performance was presented to our entire SJA student body through a grant made possible from the **Chicopee Cultural Council**. The appeal of this theater group is that the performers are all school-aged children, mainly junior high and high school students.

The Magic Tree House is the #1 best selling chapter book series of all time - perfect for beginner readers to more advanced readers. Winter of the Ice Wizard is a play with music, based on Mary Pope Osborne's Magic Tree House book of the same title. Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theater, dance, music, and entertainment. BTG's celebrated four stages reflect the history of the American theater; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community. Their vision is to be a center for creative work that enriches, educates, invigorates, and transforms artists and audiences. Through careful planning and programming, BTG offers children and families access to culturally enriching activities. Our students loved their performance!



~ Matilda ~ May 9th & 10th

SJA Performing Arts Club will be performing Matilda on Thursday and Friday evenings, May 9th & 10th.



The cast has been working hard memorizing scripts and learning choreography. PAC will also perform scenes from the show for SJA donors and non-parent volunteers at the Appreciation Breakfast on May 21st in the school hall.

2024-2025 Online Re-Enrollment

A second notice of Intent to re-enroll was emailed home. Please return with the non-refundable registration fee ASAP. FACTS online re-enrollment process is now available. Instructions will be sent home by mid April. Pay in Full payments are due June 1st.

Fundraising Update

Our March fundraiser at Hot Table in Chicopee raised \$348.24. Thank you everyone for your support!



Reminders

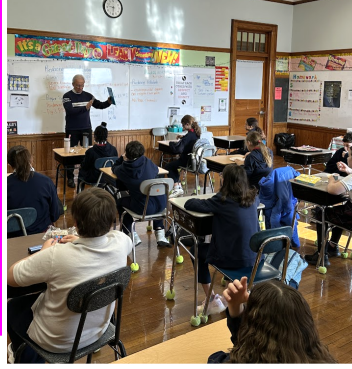
Energy drinks and caffeinated soda of any kind are not allowed in school. Students may bring in a seltzer or flavored water, in either an aluminum can or plastic bottle, to be consumed at lunch.

All other times your child should have a reusable metal or plastic water bottle for use in the classroom.

And

Please write the student's name on all envelopes sent into the school, especially cash payments.

March Reading Month & Scholastic Book Fair



Reading Month with fun by holding special events the entire month of March! SJA kicked off Dr. Suess' 120th birthday by celebrating on **March 4th** with a birthday cake in his honor for the entire school. Special guest the 'Grinch' showed up to spend time with the students! Also, that week each class scheduled a Book Swap at the convenience of the class. Students brought in gently used books from home and swapped them with other students in their class. Everyone makes out with new books to read!

The week of **March 11th** students brought in gently used books to donate. All donated books will be given to children in need. All kids like to get books!

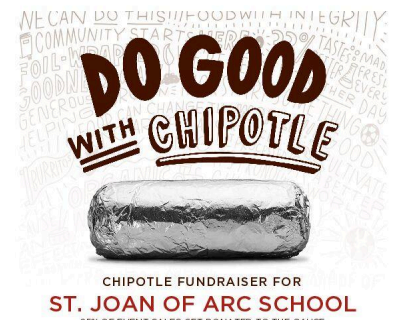
The week of **March 18th** was Read Aloud Week. We had many special guests readers for every classroom throughout the week!

The week of **March 25th**, the Scholastic Book Fair was back at St. Joan of Arc School. Monday was preview day and each class came in to see what's available at the Book Fair. Then each class returned on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday to purchase books and items that interest them. Our Online Fair is available until Monday, April 8, 2024 and can be found at [Online Book Fair](#)

Special Thanks goes to **Mrs. Boone** for coordinating this fantastic month-long school event for the school! Thank you to our read aloud readers, birthday celebration and book fair volunteers as well. And thank you to all the families who participated in the book swap, donations and fair. Reading is certainly something to celebrate.



April Dine-out
April 24th



Download the flyer.

Savers FUNdraiser
April 27th

It's that time again for our annual Savers FUNDrive event! Donate some of that gently used clothing you've been looking to get rid of, and it's a great opportunity for the PTO to raise some funds for upcoming events. Bring your clothing and textiles to the St. Joan of Arc Parking Lot on the morning of the 27th.

NO Household Items please.
Drop off is from 9:00 AM to 11:55 AM. All proceeds go towards raising funds for the St. Joan of Arc PTO.

Clothes: men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles: bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Please gather clothes and household textiles in bags. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.