FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

In the United States, one of the basic rights afforded to all children is a free education. Despite this government offer, many parents are seeking an alternative to the public school system and are choosing private education. Parents realize the educational decisions they are making today will have a lasting effect on their child’s future achievements. For the growing number of parents choosing to make a difference in their child’s education, the ideal choice is St. John’s Episcopal School, where character and academic excellence count. The challenging Christ centered curriculum allows our students to become proficient critical thinkers; a tool students will use for the rest of their lives. St. John’s smaller class sizes allow for individualized attention which feeds the student’s appetite for learning. Excellence is measured everyday by the accomplishments of the School’s students. St. John’s is making the difference today in the lives of those we teach. It is never too early to know where you are going, let St. John’s help you get there. - Rebecca McMillon

Dear Friends,

As re-enrollment begins for next year my wife, Meredith, and I have been thinking about the reasons our children will remain part of the St. John’s family. We feel very fortunate to send Louisa (first grade), Simon and Joshua (Pre-K) to St. John’s and are grateful to many friends of the school for creating a firm foundation enabling them to attend. Our children will be returning because the school is uncompromising when it comes to excellence in education. Freedom to teach spiritual truth makes this education whole and holy. Meredith and I are both graduates of Episcopal Schools and we know the value of the personal attention every student receives. The dedicated teachers at St. John’s know our children and they have the time to fully nurture their individual potential. Mrs. McMillon is a remarkable Head of School and with her talented staff she is leading St. John’s into a very bright chapter of life. It’s never too early to know where you are going - and the Backs are going to SJES!

Faithfully, Fr. Luke

Re-enrollment begins Feb. 21st!
PK2 has started the year off with a bang! We are hammering away and learning all about construction. We kick-off February (and the tail end of January) with two very important days. January 31st marks our full time student’s 100th day of school! This means we will celebrate with 100 fun activities. February 2nd is groundhog day. Cross your fingers for spring to be right around the corner. The fun certainly does not stop there because we are feeling the love and getting ready for Valentine’s Day. The beginning of February starts our Valentines unit. We will make cards, hearts, and Valentines boxes. PK2 will have their parties on Tuesday February 14th, so get those beautiful cards ready to pass out to all of our special valentines. Feel free to wear your red and pink on the 14th because it is a free dress day! After all our chocolate-y fun dies down, we cannot wait to be at the beach! We will start our oceans unit. For two weeks we will learn so much about the big blue sea. We will make many different sea creatures and discover the underwater world they live in. A few dates to remember are, February 9th because it is Dress for a Dollar Day-camouflage theme, and February 17-20th because it is our Winter Break. We will have an Early Release (no lunch) on the 17th at 11:30 and No School on Monday the 20th. We will return just in time to break out the planes, trains and automobiles because the last unit of February is transportation. We cannot wait for this fun month to begin!

EPK 3  Amy Harrison, Melinda Trevino, Ashlee Johnson & Sara Mathis

It’s been a fun and LOUD few weeks as we have learned about construction! From painting with hammers to building houses with all of our tools, we have had a great time! Coming up in February, we are going to celebrate love as we prepare for Valentines Day. We love because Jesus first loved us, and we are going to share that special love with all of those we hold dear. Be on the lookout for information concerning class parties and make sure to shop the SJES VPO. We also have Parent/Teacher Conferences the week of 13-17th so make sure and sign up. We want to talk to you about your great kids! Then we will take a dive into our Ocean unit. We will learn about different sea creatures, experiment with sink/float, and make observations about sea shells as we use our magnifying glasses. It’s going to be a “whale” of a time! We will end the month with transportation as we ZOOM into March! Hope everyone has a blessed February and knows how LOVED and SPECIAL you are!

Dates to Make Note of ...
March 1st - S杰斯 Board Fundraiser, Dueling Pianos
March 23 - Science Fair
March 29th - Spring Program at 6:00 pm
April 15th - St. John’s Sunday at Heavenly Rest
Transition  
Kristina Hadaway & 
Lana Williams

The long awaited day has arrived! Kambree Hadaway was born on Saturday, January 21st. CONGRATULATIONS to Kristina and Nole! Our class has already been busy with a project to welcome Mrs. Hadaway's new addition! Mrs. Weber has been helping us to make a quilt for Kambree, as we have been learning the letter Q! During the month of February, the Transition class looks forward to learning more about the world that God has made! We will explore the wonders of the ocean and even relax on a warm, sunny beach in our classroom! The book, *Commotion In the Ocean* by Giles Andreae is sure to be a new class favorite! We will be making lots of ocean animals such as crabs, turtles, whales, and the ever so famous rainbow fish. We will also be making candy sushi to enjoy for snack. Once we get back from our ocean voyage, we will spend a week celebrating friendship and will share cards and goodies with each other at our class Valentine’s Day party! Transition will then learn all about insects. We will be making ladybugs, ants, and bumble bees. We will even be making an edible ant hill! At the end of the month, we can’t forget to celebrate Dr. Seuss. Transition loves to read his stories and what better way to celebrate than to spend the week reading! As we read all his wonderful books, we will be making lots of the things from the stories. We will be making the famous Dr. Seuss hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2. We will be making a Jell-O aquarium for One Fish, 2 Fish, and of course we will have to try Green Eggs and Ham! Transition will be celebrating Dr. Seuss by reading and eating! We will finish up the month learning all about seasons and weather and why they are important to the world we live in. We will determine wind direction with colorful homemade kites for a fun science project! By the end of the month, we will know more about the letters R, S, T and U! We are learning and growing every day at St. John’s!

St. John’s Board

President: Tom Watson
Vice-President: Matthew Choate
Secretary: Rachel Anderson
Treasurer: David Smith
Church of Heavenly Rest Rector: Rev. Luke Back
Church of Heavenly Rest Vestry Rep: Yvonne Batts
PTO President: Camie Garvey
Member: Cade Browning
Member: Claire Carlson
Member: Dickson Ferguson
Member: Riley Griffith
Member: Frank Johnson
Member: Kerry Kleinhaus
Member: Diane Stearns
Member: Melinda Stephens
Member: Linda Taylor

Class Chapel Schedule

February 7th - P & W PK3 Johnson
February 9th - 4th & 5th grade
February 14th - P & W PK4 Nix
February 16th - 3rd grade
February 21st - P & W PK3 Harrison
February 22nd - Ash Wednesday & Holy Eucharist
February 23rd - 2nd Grade
February 28th - P & W 3rd-5th

PK4  Karen Nix, Allie Ensor, Kay Snead, Stephanie Phelps & Diane Thompson

February is an exciting time in Pre-K!!! We will begin the month learning about the seasons, wrapping up our unit on weather, and celebrating Groundhog Day. We are making our own little groundhog that we hope will not be seeing his shadow because we have been enjoying this lovely spring-like weather! We will also celebrate Valentines this month!! We will spend time talking about our hearts...how to love and how to keep it healthy! We will have our class parties on Tuesday, February 14th in the afternoon. Classroom teachers will be sending out more information as it approaches. Be sure to take your little cupid to shop in the V.P.O., February 6-13, to support our 3rd & 4th graders’ trip to Mo-Ranch next year. We will be “digging up bones,” dinosaur bones that is, to finish out our month. They love this unit and it is a joy to watch these little paleontologists blossom. We look forward to all the fun we will be having in February!
Transition Class leading Praise & Worship Chapel

PK4 Celebrates Chinese New Year

Pictures of January

ART Class
PK4 Snead leads 100th Day of School Chapel

Community Helper Day
Kindergarten  
*Toni Diller, Kidra Snead & Tish Ferry*

In February, Kindergarten will start the month making predictions about Groundhog Day and celebrating 100 days as a growing Kindergartener. As we work towards becoming a first grader we are busy reading and learning more spelling rules. We know our nouns, verbs and adjectives and use them in our daily journaling. In math we are adding, subtracting and skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. We are using reasoning skills and higher level thinking to solve number stories and word problems. Building addition and subtraction sentences are also a big part of this month. Our social studies and science units bring exciting new discoveries. We will focus on Presidents, past and present. We will discuss their duties and responsibilities and brainstorm our ideas if we were the President. Valentine's Day will bring fun activities, art, a party and VPO! The letter X will allow kindergarteners to see an MRI of a brain and some of our main organs. We love seeing what makes our body strong and help us learn and think. The end of the month will have an exploration of the ocean and all of the beautiful animals that inhabit it. We will make a jellyfish and talk about ways to help preserve our ocean. We are so proud of our growing Kindergarteners!

1st Grade  *Temi Scott*

1st grade will be discovering many new things during February. Two of the most exciting topics will be timelines and Flat Stanley. While we learn what a time line is and how to read one, students will be working on creating a timeline of their own life. Our 1st graders will be excited to share special events through pictures, stories and keep sakes they have gathered over their lifetime! Flat Stanley will be an activity that these 1st grade students will remember forever. Students will learn about the flat little guy and all of the exciting places Stanley gets to visits. The students will get to create their own Flat Stanley and send him to family or a friend who lives in a different city, state or even country. The friends Flat Stanley visit will be showing our first grade students all the different places they visit by sending pictures and letters about Stanley’s adventures. This experience is filled with cultural learning, writing practice, and geography skills. February also brings Valentines and Saint John’s annual Valentine Post Office. This is a great opportunity to allow your child to use those money skills we have been learning. During this time students are allowed to shop for their friends at the post office. Fourth graders will deliver the Valentines during the Valentine party on February 14th.

2nd Grade  *Emily Nickson*

VIP is just around the corner! Please come **February 23rd** at **8:15** in the chapel to see and hear all about Thomas Edison, George Washington, Florence Nightingale, Walt Disney, Helen Keller, Christopher Columbus, Jackie Robinson, and Albert Einstein. The students have been working hard to prepare for this event. We will see you there! This month we will be learning about American History and symbols. We will say good-bye to the continent of Europe and catch a plane to Africa! In science we will be expanding on the sink and float experiment by talking about density and manipulating objects to make them sink or float. We will also be learning about nutrition and how to keep our bodies healthy. We will conduct fat, Vitamin C, and starch tests on various foods and identify the ingredients in packaged foods. Our class wrapped up our community service project by taking a field trip to Rescue the Animals. We delivered the dog and cat food our class had collected. With a generous donation from Wal-Mart, 2nd grade collected 209.8 pounds of dog food, 86.5 pounds of cat food, and 72 cans of food. The donations were greatly appreciated. Way to go 2nd graders!

2nd Grade VIP Program during Chapel on February 23rd!
3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Social Studies & Language Arts
Suzanne Casey

January was Spelling Bee month. Many of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders took on the challenge, and worked very diligently. As a result, we have more competent spellers! I am so proud of all of them!

Our 5th Grade Winner, and representative to the Big Country Spelling Bee, is Abigail Griffith. (Congratulations, Abigail!) She is working conscientiously to prepare for the Hendrick Children’s Hospital/Big Country Spelling Bee. If you are able, come support Abigail and SJES on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held in the Van Ellis Theater on the Hardin-Simmons University campus.

3rd Graders are working hard! In Social Studies, we are continuing our study of “Citizenship and Our Government.” With this being a U.S. Presidential election year, there are plentiful opportunities for learning. We will be doing some current events reports to take full advantage of the opportunities. In Reading, 3rd Graders will be starting the first novel by Laura Ingalls Wilder, Little House in the Big Woods. It has always been one of my personal favorites, and we are all excited!

4th and 5th Graders will be reading another novel. 4th Graders will read Shiloh, while 5th Graders will read Bridge to Terabithia. In Social Studies, 4th Graders will be completing their research projects on Native American groups. They will also be working on a “Texas History Timeline.” Sections of the timeline will be displayed as they are completed. As 5th Graders complete their research on a selected New England Colony, they will build a model of that colony.

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Math & Science
Sarah Lara

Third and Fourth Graders are hard at work putting finishing touches on the Valentine’s Post Office (VPO). Valentine’s Post Office is the only fundraiser of the year for Mo-Ranch. Please come and support the 3rd-4th graders as they raise money for their 2012-2013 class trip.

As a student at St. John’s Episcopal School, 4th-5th Graders have the opportunity to participate in a learning experience that is not offered in any other elementary school in Abilene. One of those learning experiences is participating in the local St. John’s Science Fair as well as the Southwestern Association of Episcopal School’s Regional Science Fair held in Dallas this year. This is an exciting challenge for students, teachers and parents.

Our local Science Fair will be held on Friday, March 23, in the St. John’s Science Lab. As we prepare for the fair, students will learn the steps to the scientific process as well as categorize their project either in Life Science or Physical Science. We will have approximately twenty local judges from our community judging this year.
Enrichments

Music  Beth Williams

This month our students will begin working on their songs for the Spring Program, which will be held on Thursday, March 29. I can’t wait! Our Preschool students will finish up our unit on the instruments by meeting the violin. Preschool and Kindergarten students will also begin learning about tempo, how fast or slow the music moves. This is a fun unit as our students get to move around at different speeds to the music. We will get to “skate” around the room to a waltz and practice dancing, leaping and marching to music. We will learn our tempo music words as well. You can help your children practice at home by asking them to get dressed allegro (quickly) and brush their teeth adagio (slowly).

Our Kindergarten and 1st grade students are continuing to study solfege and how melodies move up and down. Their ability to correctly match pitch improves every class. I am so pleased at how this has affected their singing voices and their self-confidence! Kindergarten will also focus on rhythm and how the words of a song or poem create a rhythm. 1st grade and 2nd grade students will study the differences between legato and staccato sounds. This is a lot of fun as we get to do some funny singing. Our 2nd graders enjoyed created music using the blues scale as we studied jazz last month. We will finish presenting those this month and work on some music reading as we play our xylophones and glockenspiels.

Our 3rd – 5th grade students are beginning to play recorders this month. The students and I are really excited! They will continue to improve their music reading abilities and develop breath control and fine motor skills. There is so much going on as they play! The students are challenged to earn a recorder “black belt” by the end of the year. When they successfully pass each song test, they will earn a new belt, much like karate. Each belt represents the mastery of a new skill level. You’ll be able to see their progress at our Spring Program when they show off their recorder abilities!

Phys. Ed. & Athletics  Rebekah Stephenson

Well I am sure your child is having a blast with my very sweet substitute, Mrs. Alexander while in PE class. I know she is great and enjoying your child! I am of course enjoying my time with our newborn son, Barrett, but also look forward to seeing your sweet kids upon my return February 28. In the preschool ages, they will be working on running up to a ball and kicking it as far as they can with the inside of their foot as this is an important skill to learn. Then they will begin some play catch and toss with balloons! What fun!! This is a great way to teach young children hand-eye coordination to start catching a balloon then proceeding to catching and tossing balls. I know they will be ecstatic about the balloons! The Kindergarten-5th graders will be doing their jump rope unit and learning some fun chants to sing as they jump and just practicing many different ways to jump rope as they get that heart rate up! They will also begin an all time favorite, Wall Ball! They will learn or be reminded of how the game is played and it is a challenging but fun game! They will never be "out," as they will continue playing the game at another wall with friends to continue working on the technique of the game!

Technology  Nikima Stewart

We have a variety of activities planned in technology in honor of Black History Month and Presidents’ Day. PK3 through Kindergarten students will watch spotlight videos of famous African Americans. 1st and 2nd graders will use the internet to research important people other than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who were involved in the Civil Rights Movement and share their findings with their classmates. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders completed research projects of famous African Americans. Their work will be displayed on the Technology/Spanish bulletin board throughout the month of February. Then, 1st through 5th graders will all take a video tour of the White House and go on an internet scavenger hunt to find presidential facts.
Art
Patty Rae Wellborn

In Art class we will continue to study the work of famous artists and the terms used to describe such works as pointillism, fauvism, cubism, realism and impressionism. The work of 30 students will be selected to participate in Youth Art Month at the Grace Museum. YAM takes place in March. The reception is on Thursday, March 1, 2012 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. I am posting some of the work we are doing in class on my Public Facebook Page. This page is open to the public so you don't have to "friend" me to see it. The student’s faces will not be shown. Go to http://facebook.com/painter.pattyrae

Spanish
Lydia Molina

February, despite being a short month, has lots of special days beginning with El Dia del Marmota (Groundhog Day) and continuing with Dia de San Valentin (Valentine’s Day), Dia de los Presidentes (President’s Day), Miercoles de Ceniza (Ash Wednesday), y (and) Cuaresma (Lent). Spanish in February will be about the terms and new vocabulary words associated with those special days/observances. In addition, EPK and PK students will be introduced to vocabulary words associated with their Classroom Units. Kindergarten through 2nd Grade will begin learning terms associated with Los Lugares (Places). 3rd through 5th graders will be viewing Destinos a series whereby the students will enjoy an engaging story and follow the plot of an unfolding drama. Through this telecourse, students will also experience the culturally rich environments of Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Puerto Rico, and various areas of the United States. Prior to each episode students do the Preparacion (Preparation) section where they will be "Predicting" what the next episode entails. After viewing each episode they will do the Tienes Buena Memoria? (Do You Have a Good Memory?) section which will test them about what they remember after watching an episode. I encourage you to ask your child(ren) to repeat and to use the Spanish vocabulary words in and out of the home.

Library
Shelley Hughes

Dan Yaccarino is the creator of numerous award-winning children’s books (including Unloveable), magazine illustrations, painting exhibitions, and animated television series (including Oswald and the upcoming Willa’s Wild Life). His work has been enjoyed by millions of adults and children around the world. And his work is coming to the NCCIL in downtown Abilene. Most recently, Dan takes readers on a fun and fabulous road trip through the fifty states with his fact-filled title Go, Go America. "My inspiration for the book came from the road trips I took with my own fabulous family as a kid," Dan says. "I spent a lot of time in the back seat of the family station wagon with my brother and my sister as our family traveled across the East Coast on many road trips. I have fond memories of touring Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, eating frog’s legs in Georgia, and watching gator wrestling in Florida. These days, I travel with my wife and two children to many of the same destinations. I’ve even caught myself shouting, ‘Don’t make me pull this car over!’"

Coming Soon in the NCCIL Gallery
The Fantastic World Of Dan Yaccarino

OPENING EVENTS:
*FEBRUARY 9: GALLERY PRESENTATION
A conversation with Dan Yaccarino in the NCCIL Gallery at 6:30 PM (FREE to Community)
*FEBRUARY 10: EVERY FRIDAY WITH DAN
Special Viewing and Reception in honor of artist Dan Yaccarino at 7:30 PM, NCCIL Gallery, Ticketed Event. Accepts by Monday, February 6, 2012
*FEBRUARY 11: CHILDREN’S EVENT
Come and be wowed as Dan Yaccarino shares his artistic adventures with all. This event is in conjunction with the Abilene Public Library and will be hosted at 10 AM in the Auditorium at the Main APL Branch. (FREE to Community)
## February Birthdays

- 2 - Sam Stone
- 3 - Gabriel Urbina
- 3 - Marly Gabriel
- 8 - Hunter Archibald
- 10 - Sam Coleman
- 13 - Anjali Doshi
- 14 - Gabriel Guadalupe
- 15 - Karlie Currey
- 16 - Asher Moss
- 17 - Sarah Eyssen
- 19 - Rich Lam
- 22 - Sara Mathis
- 25 - Ryleigh Green
- 27 - Barrett Browning
- 27 - Hayln Hall

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### February 2012

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- **February 6th-13th**: VPO Open
- **February 13th**: Last day for VPO to be open
- **February 14th**: VPO Delivery & Free Dress Day
- **February 21st**: Re-Enrollment begins
- **February 22nd**: Ash Wednesday & Holy Eucharist
- **February 23rd**: 2nd Gr VIP SJES Board Meeting
- **February 25th**: Abilene Spelling Bee

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**St. John’s Episcopal School**

1600 Sherman Drive
Abilene, Texas 79605

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St. John’s Episcopal School
Head of School - Rebecca McMillon
Business Manager - Terri Cress
Health Administrator/Receptionist - Sarah Eyssen
Dir. of Development & Curriculum - Ronnie Laurance
Dir. of Admissions & Marketing - Jill Flores