This year, St. John’s Episcopal School celebrates its 60th Anniversary with pride and thanksgiving. Launching an educational institution is no easy task. The Founders of St. John’s Episcopal School could hardly have foreseen that the seeds which they planted would leave a legacy that would positively impact the Abilene community for more than half a century.

“Though we march to the music of our time, our mission is timeless”
- 42nd President of the United States

St. John’s mission reads...“St. John’s Episcopal School shall provide an enriched academic program that emphasizes the development of each child’s potential within a caring and Christian environment.”

I am grateful for the founding visionaries who laid St. John’s foundation in academic excellence and rich traditions and who thought of the importance to teach EACH child. This mission statement has been the base from which many generations have been taught and today it is still at the core of the St. John’s classroom.

Our teachers realize that our mission is validated every day through their work. As they make their lesson plans, they are mindful of what they want each student to experience. The quality of the daily classroom experience is a measure of how well we are accomplishing our mission. It is within our power to see that the St. John’s mission is translated from words into reality. Only then can we give our current and future students the experience we want them to have!

I encourage you to join St. John’s as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless this institution as we serve the Abilene community.
The month of August brought many new beginnings for our students. We jumped right into our school year with our “Welcome to School” and “All About Me” units. In these units we rejoice all the differences that make us special. The month of September begins with our “Homes” units. During these units we are learning about the different types of homes we live in and also the homes where the animals live. We worked hard preparing for Grandparents Day. The two’s classes were excited to celebrate their grandparents and special friends this past Friday. After the celebration we will set up grocery stores in our classrooms and learn all about shopping and buying groceries. At the end of the month we will learn all about fire. We will have an exciting visit from Abilene Fire Dept. We will talk about how to stay safe and be careful around fire. These are all the exciting events to look forward to in the month of September. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms. We can’t wait!

Mrs. Harrison, Ms. Melinda (EPK 3PT) and Mrs. Krake (EPK 3FT) would like to welcome you to St. John’s. We are so thrilled that you are here and are excited about the new school year!

Our units of study for September will include all about me, homes, and grocery stores. While discussing all about me we will focus on how we are all unique and special in the eyes of God. While discussing homes, we will not only learn about human dwellings but about animal habitats as well. During out grocery store unit, we will explore its many different aspects. For example, we will discuss bakery, produce, and the checkout lines. All of these units will be accompanied by themed art, books and toys. Our graphing activities will be specific to the units we are studying. We will also focus on a different letter each week.

Please check the calendars in the respective halls for both daily and monthly information. Our biggest event in September - Grandparent’s Day was a huge success! Thank you all for coming and sharing in this special day. Don’t forget our monthly PTO meetings and dress-for-dollar days!! They will both be lots of fun. Please join us for the skate night on September 25th. September 13th is Curriculum Night so please make plans to attend. You’ll be able to see what your child does during the school day and afford us the opportunity to answer all of your questions.

We are so very blessed to have your children. We truly love them and look forward to seeing them each and every day. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to an absolutely awesome year!
**Transition** Lana Williams, Carla Clifford, Stephanie Phelps & Brooke English

Our Transition classes are off to a great start! We are busy learning all about our new school family while sharing about our families at home! God has made us alike in so many ways, but we are all different, unique and special in His eyes! Learning to love and care about ourselves and others is an important part of our school experience! In September, as we talk about our families, we will certainly not forget about any special pets that we have! We will spend two weeks exploring all kinds of animals and decide which ones would make good pets and which ones are better off in a zoo, in the jungle or in the wild. The students will have the opportunity to meet several special pets during this time!

During the last week of September, we will begin our unit on color, shape and size. We will go on a “color & shape safari” looking for colors and shapes all around our school! We will be making binoculars to help out on this important mission! We are certain to find many colors and shapes in the world around us each and every day, so we will begin the year by always being on the lookout!

We were busy getting ready for Grandparents Day at the beginning of September. Grandparents are all a special part of our families and we enjoyed celebrating all that they mean to us! Curriculum Night/Open House on Thursday, September 13th is also an evening that we will be preparing for. It is always exciting for the students to share their school experience with family! Last but not least, we are excited about Muffins for Mom and Donuts for Dad during our Book Fair September 24th – 28th!

We are so excited about getting to know your child this year and helping them as they learn and grow each and every day!

**PK4** Allie Ensor, Kay Snead, Amy Westervelt, Amanda Frazee & Diane Thompson

We are so excited to be jumping off to our new school year with full timers and part timers together in our classes. We will introduce rhyming skills by incorporating each child's name in our "I Have A Friend" poem and the fun book The Night Before Preschool. We will emphasize each student's place of importance in our classrooms by creating friendship bracelets and a puzzle made up of individually decorated pieces which we will leave up all year. Each child will have the opportunity to bring items to class in a bag depicting their own uniqueness for a fun show and tell. Chicka Chicka Boom Boom activities will get us ready to introduce a letter per week. We will also add a shape, color, number and sight word on a word ring each week. We are looking forward to our exciting Ocean unit and an amazing interactive unit on My Community. We will become pizza makers, grocery store owners, donut makers and florists. You are always invited to come and see what we are doing in PK4!

**St. John’s Board**

President: Tom Watson  
Vice-President: Dickson Ferguson  
Secretary: Melinda Stephens  
Treasurer: Riley Griffith  
Church of Heavenly Rest Rector: Rev. Luke Back  
Church of Heavenly Rest Vestry Rep: Yvonne Batts  
PTO President: Camie Garvey  
Member: Rachel Anderson  
Member: Cade Browning  
Member: Claire Carlson  
Member: Brandon Logan  
Member: Nancy Estes  
Member: David Smith  
Member: Jay Hardaway  
Member: Diane Stearns  
Member: Kerry Kleinhaus
First Day of School Pictures
Kindergarten  Toni Diller & Tish Ferry

Kindergarten Here We Come! Kindergartners will be busy this year learning their numbers, letters, and sounds. Kindergarteners will also be reading and writing each day with Daily Five Stations.

This month we will be celebrating each child while learning about one another and what makes us special. We kicked off the month by celebrating special people in our lives, our Grandparents! We were busy learning songs to show off at the Grandparents Day Program.

The letters for our phonics lessons this month will be L, O, G & H, and T & P. We will practice capital and lower case letter recognition, letter sounds, and a Bible verse for each letter. We will begin our Science Journals with learning to observe our surroundings, including nature and environment as well as observing our friends’ feelings and needs. We will close out the month studying solids and liquids by making Green Goo. Students will participate in a taste test while learning about the five senses. In Math, students will be learning to sequence and group sets of numbers and also studying different ways to make and extend patterns.

Our Kindergarteners are already impressing us with their reading, writing, and great behavior. We are so proud of them!

1st Grade  Temi Scott & Kelsey Alexander

We are so excited to welcome our new first graders this year! We can already tell this is going to be a great group who works well together. We started the year off with a bang when we made Jitter Juice to get rid of those first day and new year jitters. The first few weeks we will be talking about how special we are and our families. Students will get to show off their specialness by creating a Rainbow Name-bow. This gives them the opportunity to learn new words that applies to their uniqueness and specialness. Come by the classroom to see these displayed! We will also be making family trees, graphing our family members and making a special treat for our grandparents on Grandparents Day.

This year students will be taking spelling tests! Most students enjoy this new responsibility because it shows they are growing up. We will have our first practice spelling test on Friday, September 14th. That week will also be the first week of spelling homework. Don’t forget Curriculum Night on September 13th. I will be answering questions you may have about this year.

I know this will be a successful year! Students can look forward to Author’s Party, spelling tests, a trip to KTXS news room and so much more!
Welcome to 2nd grade! I’m thrilled to have such a wonderful group of second graders for the 2012-2013 school year. It’s going to be a year filled with lots of learning, laughter, and love!

My students shared an acrostic they made for their grandparents at the Grandparents Day program. This month we will be learning about leadership, citizenship, and our government. We will be taking our first field trip to City Hall. They will get to tour the council chambers and meet with Mayor Archibald. He will talk to them about the decisions he makes for our community.

We have an exciting new science curriculum – National Geographic Science! We will begin the year by studying the properties of objects and determine which objects will sink or float. The students will have many opportunities to do hands-on learning in both the lab and in the classroom.

Second graders will learn what it means to read with meaning. We will learn this month about what readers do, where they read, and how they choose their books. We will discuss how our schema (background knowledge) helps us understand and interact with the text. The students will get to do some Reader’s Theatre this year. The first book they will act out is Cook-a-Doodle Doo! At the conclusion of the book, we will make and eat Great-Granny’s magnificent shortcake. I’m looking forward to a terrific year!

### Class Chapel Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>4th &amp; 5th Grade</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
<td>Birthday Blessings for August and September</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>No Chapel (Grandparents Day Rehearsal)</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>4th &amp; 5th Grade</td>
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<td>2nd Grade</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
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<td>September 25</td>
<td>1st Grade</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>Blessing of the Animals</td>
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<td>October 3</td>
<td>Birthday Blessings for October</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>1st Grade</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Praise &amp; Worship</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Class Lead Chapel</td>
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3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Social Studies & Language Arts
Suzanne Casey

Welcome back to school! Even though I’ve taught school for many years, this time of year is always a time of joy and excitement for me. Seeing your children’s faces on the first day makes all of the preparation well worth it!

We are thankful to have quite a few new students in our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes this year. We will be eager to share class information with both the new and previous parents on Curriculum Night, which will be held on Thursday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Amidst the many enrichments and traditional activities at St. John’s, we have many classroom plans! Our new curriculum will enhance our studies of Language Arts and Social Studies. We will devote much class time to helping students become more skillful readers, while instilling in them a love of reading that will hopefully serve them for a lifetime. Happy new school year!!!

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

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the light of a fire”- W.B. Yeats

As the Upper Grades Math and Science Teacher it’s my goal that each child experience will be filled with personal growth as a thinker and learner. I am looking to this year’s adventure, with that said we are in full swing down in the Upper Grades hall. I’m excited about our new Science curriculum – National Geographic Science. All Upper grades will start off the year with Earth Science. Fourth and fifth grader will take a closer look at moon cycles, solar system, rocks and weather. Third grade will learn the sun and other stars, moon and Earth’s surface changes.

In Third-Fifth Grade math students will be learning about and keep track of their very own checking account. Eagle Bucks are simply a play checking account that I created for each student. Students have received a check book and liger to help keep track of their “money.” Students will be able to earn money by making 100’s on test/quizzes and following the Eagle Creed. They will also have different ways of spending their money in class, but the BIG no-no is having, to “pay bills” when not following the Eagle Creed. At the end of the year student that have $1000 or more in their account will be able to attend a Pizza Party.
Technology  Karen Nix

I am so excited to be in the computer lab this year and getting to teach every child! We will start the year by reviewing computer lab and safety rules. We will also review the names for the parts of the computer and the software that they will be using early on. In the EPK building we get to use iPads and the two-year-olds will become familiar with the touch screen and play basic games that teach animals, colors, shapes, and letters. They will also practice using a mouse to play a Sesame Street game. This is great for hand-eye coordination! From September 15 - October 15th, I am partnering with Senora Molina to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The 3 year-olds through 5th grade will take virtual tours of some Spanish-speaking countries. The 1 - 5th graders will then do some of their own research to learn more about a Spanish-speaking country to present to the class. I look forward to seeing what the kids can do with the new technology in the classrooms and programs we will be working with in the lab. I also welcome ideas and suggestions for creative ways to help our students learn more through technology. If anyone has software that their kids have outgrown or grown tired of, we also love donations!

Art  Patty Rae Wellborn

St. John’s Episcopal School offers art classes to students four years old and up. We know the benefits of the arts in education are many. Studying art teaches children life skills such as developing an informed perception; articulating a vision; learning to solve problems and make decisions; building self-confidence and self-discipline; developing the ability to imagine what might be; and accepting responsibility to complete tasks from start to finish. In the month of September we will begin with learning the basic elements of drawing. The children learn to draw and define the elements such as dots, circles, angles and lines. The little ones will begin by tracing around plastic shapes and they will soon discover that they can draw them without tracing. Students will learn to use these elements in their drawings. In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month we will make an “Oho de Dios” (God’s Eye). It is an artifact traditionally given to children as a birthday blessing. The 2nd through 5th grade students will learn to cut banderas (flags) cut from tissue paper that are commonly used in Hispanic celebrations.

Phys. Ed. & Athletics  Rebekah Stephenson

I enjoy seeing returning faces and new faces here at St John’s! In PE we are ready to play some fun games and learn about health and safety while having fun! Our younger classes will be focusing on space awareness and also games and activities that help us use our ears as we play! We will be playing red light, green light, different animal movements, and fun games with songs. We first are getting used to the gym and our new surroundings as we learn and emphasize the safety rules in the gym. Our Kindergarten - 5th graders are making great pictures to show them following the rules in PE and they will be posted around our gym so come take a look! We are going to begin our Kickball unit next week, one of my all-time favorites! Also, Track Attack began Tuesday, September 4th so please make sure your child is always prepared by having appropriate running shoes. If for some reason we are not able to run the track on a Tuesday, we will run a different day so please help your child be ready each day. I look forward to getting to know you all more!
Bienvenidos! (Welcome) In la Clase de Espanol (Spanish class), all our students will begin the year primarily listening to stories, following commands, playing games, and singing songs.

Our Spanish curriculum, SUBE, is a multi-sensory language program for preschool through 5th grade. A basic SUBE strategy (which is applied through multi-sensory games and activities) is to encourage a playful, nurturing environment that gives students the opportunity to experiment and take risks necessary for learning a new language. Through games, music, art, and informal conversations, students will learn listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension at the appropriate age level.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated from September 15 to October 15, will provide us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the United States and the diverse Hispanic cultures existing within our community. During Hispanic Heritage Month we will extend our studies beyond the Spanish classroom. In Mrs. Nix’s Computer class the students will be taking “virtual tours” to the different Spanish speaking countries. In Mrs. Patty Rae’s Art class, students will be making an Ojo de Dios (Eye of God) as well as Papeles Picados (banners) to decorate our halls with. In Mrs. Williams’ class, students will be learning Spanish songs, and in Mrs. Stephenson’s PE class, students will learn games played in the Spanish speaking countries. Mrs. Hughes will create a display of Hispanic Heritage-themed books, Classroom teachers will be reading great reads that celebrate Hispanic Heritage. I would like to extend an invitation to you to help bring the culture to our class. Please call me if you are available to be a guest speaker in our classroom.

**Enrichments (continued)**

**Music** Beth Williams

Hello! We are going to have a rockin’ year in music!

This year, we started off with a lot of music to prepare. All of the students worked hard to learn new songs for the special Grandparents Day program. I am very proud of their performances on stage!

This month, our youngest children will learn simple songs and how to move to music. Pre-school students will bring out some of our favorite percussion instruments and learn to keep a steady beat as we sing and listen to music. Kindergarteners will enjoy learning to read simple quarter note and quarter rest rhythms. Our first grade students will review Kodaly hand symbols and begin learning simple rhythm reading. Our second grade students will be learning about the instruments and keeping a listening journal as we begin to explore classical music. Our third, fourth, and fifth graders will be keeping listening journals, learning to read music and reviewing the instruments of the Symphony Orchestra. All our children will enjoy special back-to-school songs and activities. Third and fourth grade students will serve as our choir leaders on Wednesday Chapel services.

**Dress for a $ Day**

**Fiesta**

Thursday, September 13th

**Curriculum Night**

Thursday, September 13th

Meet in Chapel at 6:00 p.m.

{parents only please}

**Spanish** Lydia Molina

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The *Summer Reading Swim Party* was a great reward for the students, 1-5, who read and reported on five books during the summer. There were 23 students who enjoyed ice cream, snacks, and two hours of fun away from school on Thursday, August 30th. Thank you to the parents who so willingly provided food, drinks, rides and support. You are appreciated.

September in the library brings lots of book fair fun. **Scholastic Books Fair will be held in the library, Monday, September 24 through Friday, September 28, 7:30 - 8:30 and 2:30 - 4:00.** During the week there are two family events - Muffins for Moms (Tuesday a.m.) and Donuts for Dads (Thursday a.m.). For our new families, this is an edible enticement which the students love. We will have muffins or donuts, juice and coffee and plenty of people on hand to help find just the right books for your family. All family members are welcome and bring your friends too. At the fair you will find software, books and much more on almost every topic you can imagine and some you never even thought of. Prior to the fair, students will have a preview video which shows some of the items the book fair has to offer. Students hear from numerous authors and illustrators of the books. Your child will make a “Student Wish List” during their library time to aid in your selection of books. Teachers will also make “Classroom Wish Lists”. Purchasing books for the classroom is a wonderful way to show how much you appreciate our St. John’s teachers and the importance of literacy. Please come enjoy the fair with your child. I look forward to meeting you and if the library holds a special interest for you call or email and volunteer. You are always welcome.
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<td>Donuts w/ Dad</td>
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**September Birthdays**
- 5 - Pete Olvera
- 6 - Harlie Rafter
- 9 - Carlee Nelson
- 15 - Hanna Kincheloe
- 16 - Gage Bryant
- 17 - Josh Garza
- 18 - Cameron Laurence
- 18 - Haylee Phelps
- 18 - Patty Rae Wellborn
- 19 - McKenzie Weber
- 20 - Trevor Short
- 20 - Brenner Paul
- 20 - Dakota Zegada
- 22 - Stealey Crousen
- 27 - Elena Liew
- 29 - Lili Owens
- 30 - Evan Yoder