# THE LION LINE

Learn the True, Do the Good, Love the Beautiful

#### A Message from Headmaster Johnson

Dear Parents,

What a joyous, busy time of the year! It is hard to believe the holiday season is already upon us. I am not exaggerating when I say that we have had a very busy first semester. Our accreditation visit went very well; the team was quite impressed with our school. Our teachers do an amazing job every day, bell to bell. It is crucial that we not take that for granted; that is not always the case in a school. Our support staff is also top-notch, and their support for our teachers is imperative for our school's success.

Clay County District Schools also sent a team to evaluate us for charter renewal, and they too were extremely impressed. This is the fruit of five years of perseverance by our Board of Directors, our administration and staff, and our teachers. I can state that there is no better school around. I am so thankful to be a part of SJCA's mission!

Speaking of being thankful, our success is also attributed to you, for sending your children to this school. As I stand out at car line twice a day, I am always thankful for our parents, along with our faculty and staff. Working together, we are making a difference in American education. This movement is gaining steam, and we all play a key role in its success. Thank you for partnering with us, and I hope you have a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Lion Strong!

Mr. Johnson

#### Hillsdale College's Monthly Speech Digest, Imprimus

*Imprimis* is the free monthly speech digest of Hillsdale College dedicated to educating citizens and promoting civil and religious liberty by covering cultural, economic, political, and educational issues. The content of *Imprimis* is drawn from speeches delivered at Hillsdale College events. First published in 1972, *Imprimis* is one of the most widely circulated opinion publications in the nation with over 5.6 million subscribers.

Past issues are available at: <u>https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu</u>

Click  $\underline{here}$  to activate your free monthly subscription to Imprimis.

# Imprimis

#### Fundraiser: Holiday Dress Up Days Coming in December

Our annual Holiday Dress-Up Days return this year. Display your holiday cheer while also supporting SJCA's fundraising efforts. Each day will cost \$2 to participate, which is voluntary.

- Wednesday, December 15th: \$2 Ugly Sweater Day
- Thursday, December 16th: \$2 Country Christmas Day
- Friday, December 17th: \$2 Pajama Day

## Mark Your Calendar: Important Upcoming Dates

- December 15th, 16th, 17th: Early Release
  (6th-12th Grade Dismiss at 10:45;
  Kindergarten-5th Grade Dismisses at 11:15)
- \* **December 20th-3rd:** Christmas/New Year Holiday, No School
- + January 4th: Students Return

## **Upper School Winter Chorus Concert**

Come one and all for a night of melody and harmony. On December 10, 2021, the Upper School Chorus will be hosting a concert in the SJCA Cafetorium. Their repertoire has been carefully selected to display the hard work and dedication that the scholars have strived for this past semester. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; the concert begins at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

# LION OLYMPICS

Each semester, Houses Athens, Corinth, Delphi, & Sparta will compete in a series of athletic and academic competitions known as the Lion Olympics. All scholars must participate in at least one olympic event. All scholars will be required to wear a house shirt or solid house colors. 6th graders can wear SJCA spirit gear. Scholars <u>must</u> follow Spirit Day guidelines. 7-12 grade scholar's participating in an athletic event are allowed to wear SJCA PE shorts or athletic shorts or sweatpants that meet Spirit Day dress requirements, which must be to the knee. <u>Any</u> scholar who does not follow the dress code above will not be allowed to participate in the event.

Pizza will be pre-ordered for lunch. \$5 for two slices and a drink. Forms are forthcoming. <u>Pre-Orders are Due by December 3, 2021.</u>

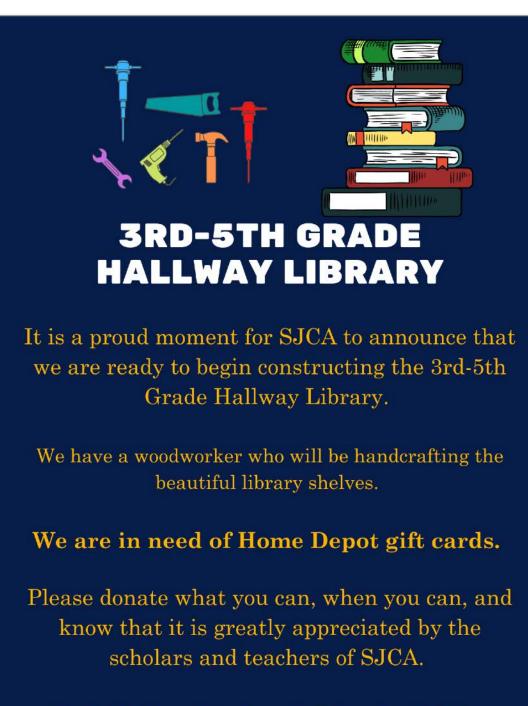
#### Winter Olympics December 8, 2021 Trivia

Kickball Soccer Math Competition Cornhole Sentence Diagramming Race Latin Selling Bee Volleyball

#### Spring Olympics May 18, 2022 Trivia Flag Football Basketball Poetry Recitation Ultimate Frisbee Latin Translation Race Spelling Bee Tug of War

St. Johns Classical





Send all gift cards to the administration building labeled "Hallway Library". If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Ms. Weaver at jackie.weaver@stjca.org. Thank you for your continued support!! www.stjca.org



Application Link: Lands' End School Uniform Starboard Scholarship

### CALLING ALL STUDENT LEADERS!

We're excited to announce our 2021-2022 scholarship program is open for entries. Since 2019, we've awarded 19 scholarships—a total of \$165,000—to students who have shown exceptional leadership skills.

Up to five \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to eligible Preferred School students in grades 8-12. Up to 1,000 applications will be accepted through 12/15/2021. Click below to share this information and the application with your school families.

#### 8th Grade D.C. Field Trip

This summer, the 8th graders will travel to Washington, D.C. to see many of the historical places they have studied. Please join us in the cafeteria for an informational meeting on December 2nd at 6 p.m. and learn how to save \$200 on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please visit the link in the flyer to R.S.V.P. for the meeting.

# START EXPLORING



St. Johns Classical Academy's Washington, D.C. Trip meeting Thursday 12/2 at 6 PM. RSVP here: <u>https://bit.ly/30FEn1n</u> Looking to the Future: SJCA's Strategic Goals and Alignment to the Academy's Vision

By Mrs. Maegen Satcher, Dean of Academics

As most of you know, the Academy has recently gone through the accreditation process, which assisted us in committing to a continuous improvement. Part of that process included outlining our strategic priorities and goals and sharing them with the Cognia team and the Clay County School District. These priorities align with the school's vision statement, which states, "the vision of St. Johns Classical Academy is to offer a unique option that provides students with classical education. Scholars will receive a cohesive Classical education, which builds upon itself year after year, creating a successful foundation for learning. Scholars will be intentionally taught the benefits of virtuous character and will be challenged through the lessons taught within the curriculum to develop and strengthen their character. Our teachers will provide the support and attention scholars require in order to meet the high expectations of a Classical education." SJCA's vision pushes us to consider the Academy's future, provides a sense of direction, and is essential to planning the strategies we intend to implement. A key element that exists in our vision includes our relationship with our stakeholders. Therefore, it is important we take a moment to share our goals with our community and explain how they align with our vision statement.

First, we want to retain all of our scholars through graduation. Classical education exists to serve students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. We do not consider our work to be complete unless students are able to reap the benefits of a comprehensive high school curriculum. Often Hillsdale schools experience what is commonly referred to as the eighth-grade melt, which means many scholars will leave Classical education to attend other local high schools that offer more in terms of athletics and extracurricular options. SJCA is working diligently to build a gymnasium for its scholars. As has been communicated previously, the gym will be used to host various athletic events, concerts, fine arts performances, and other special events such as school dances. In addition to building a gym, the Academy intends to continue to improve the physical capacity and capabilities of its current campus by increasing space for Upper School parking, enlarging the soccer field, and constructing exterior restrooms. These initiatives are meant to increase the options available to scholars. We are committed to providing a Classical education through graduation.

Second, SJCA endeavors to become a Hillsdale K-12 certified school. Much like accreditation, certification earns SJCA a gold star. It sends a public message that we are committed to teaching the Hillsdale K12 program with fidelity and excellence. Similarly, other schools will look to SJCA as a Hillsdale K12 model school. Our scholars are taught very intentionally using the Hillsdale K12 Program Guide, and through it, they learn the benefits of virtuous character. The lessons are designed to challenge scholars, which ultimately, will develop and strengthen their character. Through Hillsdale Certification, citizens eager to start their own schools will be able to visit SJCA as a model of excellence; school administrators and teachers will be encouraged to observe our instructional practices; parents will know that SJCA is highly effective in its Classical educational offerings.

continued on page 8

#### continued from page 7

Third, the Academy has recently earned High Performing Charter Status through the Florida Department of Education by earning subsequent A ratings, as measured by standardized testing. We believe a Classical education prepares scholars for any test they face. Our curriculum is rich in content and our reading practices are superior in how students are taught to read and write. As we progress through the years, we seek to retain this designation.

Finally, as a public charter school, SJCA is a proponent of school choice. We believe parents should have options when choosing the type of school their scholar attends. Since we have been successful at the Fleming Island campus, we would like to replicate at another campus in Clay County. Our unique option provides parents with the option of sending their scholar to a Classical school. Demand exists as exhibited by our waitlist, and we would like to extend this particular option to the families who desire it for their scholars.

All of these goals are at different stages of development, but they exist to set our eyes on the future. Our stakeholders play a key role in making them come to fruition. We thank each and every person who is devoted to the school's mission and vision for the role they play in the successes we have experienced thus far and those still to come.

#### **Instrumental Music Concert**

Please join us for our annual Winter Concert of the Instrumental Musicians of Band 1 and Band 2/3/4 on Monday, Dec 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the SJCA cafeteria. Music from movies, Broadway, and holiday favorites will captivate audiences of all ages. Don't miss this celebration of timeless classics and surprises!

#### Hillsdale Graduate: Historical Connection to Jacksonville

Mrs. Becky Lincoln, the Hillsdale K-12 Director of Teacher Support, shared this article with the Academy about a woman named Mary Blackmar who graduated from Hillsdale College in the 1850s. Ms. Blackmar went on to work as a nurse during the Civil War, had the opportunity to see President Lincoln, and eventually became a medical doctor. Ms. Blackmar set up her medical practice in Jacksonville in 1870. To read more, click <u>here</u> to learn about this Hillsdale Hero.

#### 1776 Curriculum

Do you have friends who homeschool or are traditional classroom teachers who would be interested in teaching a complete curriculum of American history and civics lessons in their K12 classrooms? If so, please recommend the 1776 Curriculum, authored by Hillsdale College. This curriculum is modeled on the civic education students at Hillsdale-affiliated K-12 schools receive. It is available for **free** to any public-school teacher, private-school teacher, or homeschool family who desires a comprehensive and high-quality history and civics curriculum. The initial stages were released this past July. The remaining history portions will be released in early 2022. Hillsdale K12 believes this curriculum will be good for America's students and for America itself. As a Hillsdale K-12 school, we want to assist the College in spreading the word out about this excellent history resource. It can be downloaded at the Hillsdale K12 website: https:// k12.hillsdale.edu. More information is available also available on YouTube. Dr. Kathleen O'Toole and Jordan Adams explain details of the curriculum in these videos that were live-streamed last month.

- I) Inside the Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum
- 2) <u>Teaching with the Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum</u>

SJCA Calendar

<u>The Great Turkey Feather</u> <u>Challenge!</u>

Lower School: 1st Place- Mrs. Hines 2nd Place- Mrs. Stuart

Upper School: 1st Place- SIXTH GRADE I<u>nteract Club</u> Food Drive

Lower School: Mrs. Melson 502 items Mrs. Rabino 443 items Mrs. Stuart 354 items

Upper School: Mrs. Kiep's Homeroom 268 items

for supporting: The Fine Arts Department and Families in Need in the Community

<u>Wreaths Across America 2021</u> SJCA's Interact Club will be laying 91\* wreaths on the graves of veterans this holiday season!!

"That's 41 more than their goal!



SJCA Calendar



# Lion Cub Chorale presents...

# Ringing in the Holidays!

# Thursday, December 9th 6:30 pm SJCA Cafetorium ~Doors will open at 6:00 pm~

Join us for a fun and festive evening of Christmas carols, old and new, as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year in song!

Refreshments will be available for purchase, provided by the Lions Council-Fine Arts Boosters. Cash is preferred, but Square will be available at a minimum purchase of \$5. Proceeds benefit SJCA Fine Arts programs.

Questions: <a href="mailto:cassie.crosby@stjca.org">cassie.crosby@stjca.org</a>



SJCA's Lower School Music Dept. presents...

# Traditions of Christmas

Thursday, December 16th 5:30 pm Hibernia Baptist Church

This holiday concert will feature performances by our Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third grade scholars.

Reminisce with us as each group performs four selections that will take the audience on a timeless journey of Christmases past.

Please join us for a dashing good time!

Questions: <a href="mailto:cassie.crosby@stjca.org">cassie.crosby@stjca.org</a>



SJCA Calendar

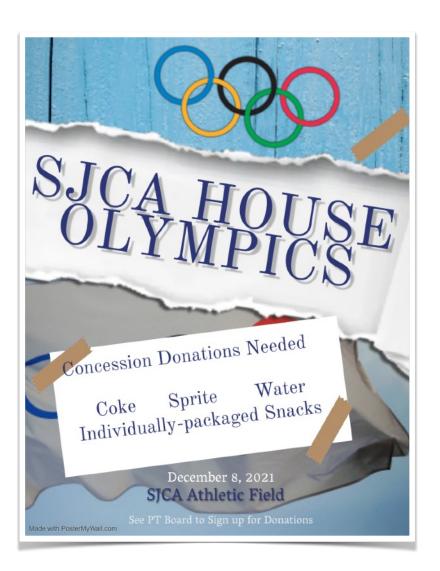
### Second Graders Enjoy Bee Presentation

Recently, SJCA second-graders had the opportunity to learn about bees from the Weeks family. They thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Weeks!









# DECEMBER 2021 SJCA Lions Athletics

# LACROSSE

Lacrosse Camp finished up and we had a blast! Thank you to the Fleming Island High School Lacrosse Team, parents, and coaches. We couldn't do it without you!



# Coaches Needed!

We are in need of a 5th/6th grade flag football coach and assistant soccer coaches. Contact Mrs. Flannagan at Kayla.Flannagan@stjca.org if you are intrested!

# SOCCER

Girls and Boys 6th-10th Grade Soccer Tryouts are December 6th-10th. See flyer below for more information.



# BOYS BASKETBALL

# Game Schedule for December

12/6- 4:30pm @ Russell Baptist Church 12/7 - 4:30 @ RBC 12/9 - 4:30pm @ RBC 12/14 - 6:00pm @ Potters House 12/17 - 4:30pm @ RBC

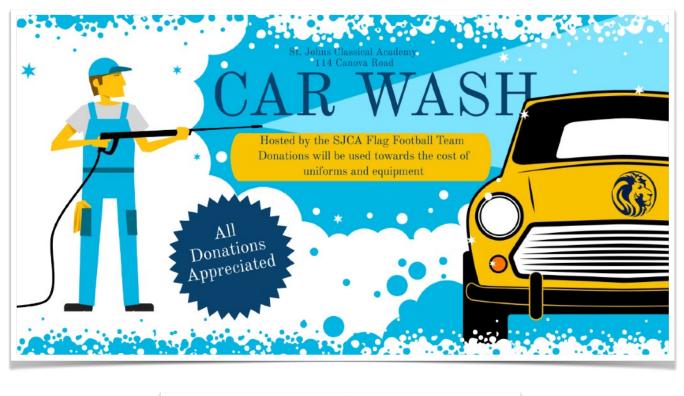
# GIRLS BASKETBALL

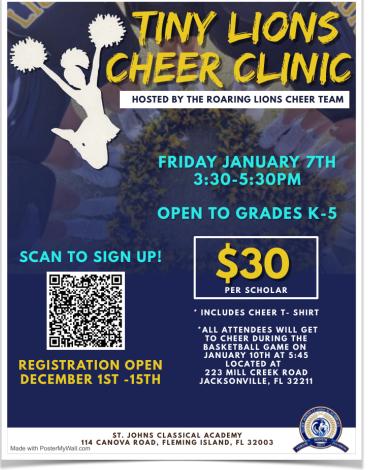
Game Schedule for December 12/8 - 6:00pm @ Global Outreach 12/11 - 12:00pm @ Bridge Prep 12/14 - 4:30pm @ RBC

# CHEERLEADING



Roaring Lions Cheer Team at their Halloween practice.





Who loves to shop?

# **PENGUIN PATCH IS BACK!**

Scholars in Grades K -5 can buy special gifts for friends and family members. They will be able to shop at school and keep it a surprise until the family gift exchange.



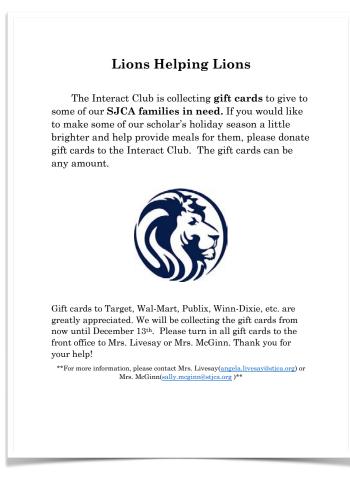
# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We are looking for volunteers for our Penguin Patch Holiday Shop! We had a blast last year helping the kids pick out presents for their friends and family. It is really a special experience. Sign up on PTBoard or email LSC@stjca.org for more information on how to become a SJCA Lions Council Volunteer.

#### **Fine Arts Events for December**

\* Friday, December 3rd: Upper School Turkey Feather Competition Winner Spirit Day

- + Friday, December 3rd, 3:30-4:45 p.m.: The Jingle Jam! For Kindergarten 3rd Grade in the cafeteria
- \* Thursday, December 9th, 6:30 p.m.: Ringing in the Holidays! Christmas Concert presented by the Lion Cub Chorale in the Cafeteria
- \* Friday, December 10th, 3:15-4:3pm: The Jingle Jam! For 4th 5th Grade in the Lower School art classroom
- + Friday, December 10th, 6:00 p.m.: Upper School Chorus Concert in the cafeteria
- Monday, December 13th, 6:00 p.m.: Winter Concert of the Instrumental Musicians of Band 1 and Band 2/3/4 in the cafeteria





#### **College Acceptances**

2022 is special for SJCA. Our first class of scholars will walk across the commencement stage, and another tradition at the Academy will be established. In the meantime, seniors are busy studying great works, writing their senior thesis, applying to college, and making plans for their futures.

Congratulations to seniors Lauren Sawyer and Raelyn Rogish for being accepted into their colleges of choice. Lauren will attend Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, where she intends to study psychology. Raelyn will attend Florida State University in Panama City, where she plans to study forensics.

SJCA would love to feature each senior as they make plans for their future beyond SJCA. Please email <u>Mrs.</u> <u>Satcher or Ms. Exum</u> with your scholars' postgraduation plans and a picture to represent their intent. We want to be sure to celebrate all of our scholars in *The Lion Line* as they embark on this next step of the journey of life.



#### SJCA Calendar of Events: Location Update

To view a complete listing of upcoming events at St. Johns Classical Academy, please click the link below:

# https://sjcalionscouncil.ptboard.com/calendar

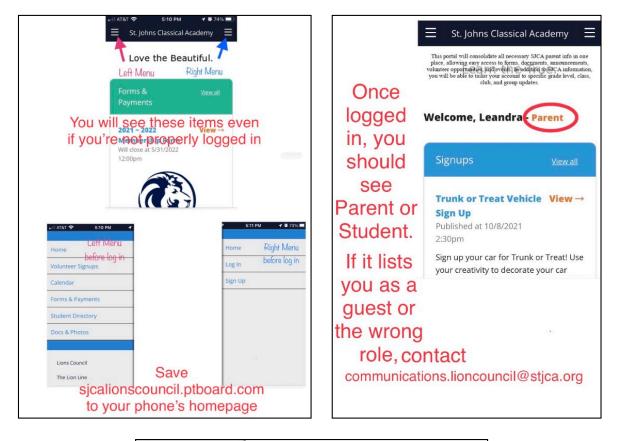
Additionally, this link is embedded in the bottom, left corner of each page of the newsletter. It will be permanently housed in this location for quick, easy access to all SJCA activities and events.

## **PT Board Tutorials**

As we complete the transition to PTBoard, there may be questions on how to navigate the information available to our parents and students. The following pages highlight the most commonly used features. Please note that the app is not the best way to view this service. If you are using a mobile device, please bookmark the webpage <a href="https://sjcalionscouncil.ptboard.com/home">https://sjcalionscouncil.ptboard.com/home</a>. Please see the next two pages for a complete tutorial.

If you have any questions, please contact <u>Communications.lioncouncil@stjca.org</u>.

# **PTBoard Visuals**



Home Volunteer Signups Calendar	Join	your c	ass & Grou lasses & a	
Forms & Payments	Classes	schoo	l activities	
Student Directory	Name (Grade	)	Description	Action
Docs & Photos	8th Grade Scie	nce (8th)		
Class & Group	ALL ANNOUNC	EMENTS	Whole School Announcements	Unjoin
ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS	ALL Eighth Gra	de (8th)	Sign up if you have a scholar in 8th	Unjoin
ALL Eighth Grade	ALL Eleventh G	irade (11th)	Sign up if you have a scholar in 11th	Jain
ALL Fifth Grade		≜ sicalion		
ALL Tenth Grade	Groups			
ALL Third Grade	Name (Grade)	Description		Action
	4-H	2nd Tuesday of each Month immediately after carline until 4:30 PM		Join
	6th Grade Track & Field (6th)			Join
	8th Grade DC Trip (8th)			
		ê sical	ionscouncil.ntboard.com	-

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#### Home Home Volunteer Signups Docs & Photos Home Class & Gro Volunteer Signups ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS Calendar - password protected (must Calendar Forms & Payments be logged in to view details) Select Forms & Payments Student Directory Class & Group: ALL - whole school information your Student Directory ANNOUNCEMENTS Docs & Photos class/ Whole School Announcements Docs & Photos Class & Group group to all AT&T 📚 5:13 PM 1 8 72% Class & Group see 2021-2022 Operation Plan ALL Eighth Grade F what's 🖙 Group Announcements 🕥 ALL Eighth Grade ALL Fifth Grade new ALL Fifth Grade ALL Tenth Grade 2021-22 Handbook & **Crossing Guards Are** ALL Tenth Grade Uniform Requirements Needed- Click on Flyer for ALL Third Grade more info! published: 17 hours ago Arrival & Dismissal Info "All Announcements" is for school-wide Attention Needed **Complaint Process** published: 4 days ago information. Your Attention is Needed Please This replaces Schoolmint Parents & Guardians, Please he advised of important items isjcalionscouncil.ptboard.com nce Forms texts/emails. Extracurricular Activities ionscouncil.ptboard.com

# **PTBoard Visuals**



# Rise Against Hunger

The Interact Club Rise Against Hunger event was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help us pack over 10,200 meals.









#### Veterans Day at Camp Blanding

A group of SJCA students visited Camp Blanding's museum to participate in its Veteran's Day Celebration. Two representatives from the History Club presented a display, and several SJCA scholars had the opportunity to see inside a Chinook helicopter.





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# **SJCA Platinum Sponsors**



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