September 15th, 2024

Good Morning Chargers!

*Positive thinking is a leadership skill.*  Flip Flippen, the guiding researcher and voice behind Capturing Kids Hearts, reminds us how important it is to be intentional about “finding good”… similar to how Mr. Rogers reminds us to “look for the helpers”... and how Ms. Olson (one of our former POA Principals) reminded us to “make it a great day, or not, the choice is yours.”  This week, Chargers, as we *“Hold time to kindness and caring,”* I challenge you to embrace Flip Flippen, Mr. Rogers, and Ms. Olson and chose to find the good in the little moments; you’ll find it and it’ll make the day that much better!

As always, reach out if there is ever anything you need!

**Come Charge Ahead with Us**

**C –** *“Come on time, each day, ready to learn!”* (August)

**H-** *“Hold tight to kindness and caring.”* This week, ask your Charger to “look for the helpers.” As they see those serving in front of them, every day, they’ll learn what it means to be a good Charger!

**Save the Date: Open House is Back!**

It’s been a few year but we are officially brining Open House Back!  This is time for our students and families to come in and spend time with your student’s teacher(s) to learn about what curriculum has been covered and what the remainder of the year will look like.  Details will be shared as we get closer, but please save the dates for the following grade levels.  We look forward to seeing you soon!

* Elementary School
  + 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades:  September 24, 2024
  + 4th & 5th Grades: October 1, 2024
  + We will have Open House from 6:00- 7:00 at the dates below.  We’ll begin with a quick introduction from our admin team fin the auditorium from 6:00-6:15 and then the rest of the evening will be with your teacher(s).  This is not a conference night, but you’ll have the opportunity to sign up for time with your teacher then!
* Middle School:
  + October 10, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
  + You’ll have an opportunity to rotate through your students schedule to get all the happenings for the year.  Details will be shared as we get closer to October!

**School Counseling SIBS group**

Our School Counseling Department will soon begin our “Sibs” group. We are excited at the chance to include your student, as a sibling of a child with Special Needs, and/or unique medical concerns. The group will provide participants with the opportunity to meet other siblings, in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Group participants will receive counselor support, peer support, build a community, and they will learn new ways to be the best sibling they can be! Topics covered will include- finding our strengths, talking about emotions, resilience, problem solving, and discussing unique challenges. The group setting will allow participants to hear from, learn from, and connect with peers on a very special commonality; our aim is to increase social connection through positive relations and a sense of belonging. The group will meet monthly throughout the school year. Participation is voluntary, and we hope your child will join us in this wonderful opportunity.

If you have any questions about the small group or would like to add your child to the group, please do not hesitate to contact your student’s School Counselor.

**POA Robotics Team is up and Running!**

Calling students in 4th grade through 8th grade.  It’s time to dive into a world of innovation, coding, Legos and fun.  First Lego League is an international Lego robotics competition.  Information and application can be found at [https://www-poa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/fllrobotics](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2Fd8_0K0AlWE3s_nubSBrEgQ~~%2FAAAAAQA~%~~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C04100ac73fb5412e775608dcd58ec4b4%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638620056398014307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jIEhpMsEBnc1rL5YuApdcAPUII6MY71mzlJ1WZqJSLM%3D&reserved=0). If you have any questions please reach out to Coach Schouest (Elementary) [leigh.schouest@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:leigh.schouest@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or Coach Smith (Middle School) [erick.smith@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:erick.smith@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

**NAMI Walks Jacksonville**

Come out to NAMIWalks Jacksonville, on October 19th and walk with our *Charge Ahead for Mental Health Team* to support mental health awareness. Wear your POA shirts and walk together in solidarity for mental health!  Look for the POA team to gather at 8:15 am on October 19th at the Winston Family YMCA, 221 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202)

Here's the direct link to Team Captain page and the POA page.  Donating to either will go toward the Charge Ahead for Mental Health Team.

You can also stop by Mrs. Campbell’s room if you need more info or would like to volunteer with our National Junior Honor Society group that day!

[https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=564137](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2F1lGzhOiYgbCvCDRK_XVahQ~~%2FAAAAAQA~%&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C04100ac73fb5412e775608dcd58ec4b4%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638620056398028968%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BIK9iT7qIMmFeOEbLC7r4R1rpCn5M8Czlcf614H8cJ8%3D&reserved=0)

[https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=69168](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FTB9vc0vjFxvCEoZtl3P9PA~~%2FAAAAAQA~%~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C04100ac73fb5412e775608dcd58ec4b4%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638620056398037915%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ut7LyAXkWmBgcmeGFEkmTjyurq4fUQJfjIqyDE0YNMk%3D&reserved=0)

**8th Grade GradVenture Date Change!**

We are grateful for our partners at Greenlight who were able to change our GradVenture date to May 9th, so it no longer conflicts with the Creekside High School Graduation!  Families registered should have received communication directly from Greenlight.  If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out!

**District Library Objection Committee Volunteers Needed:**

All parents and community members who would like to serve on the SJCSD District Library Material Objection Committee should visit the link provided below and submit an interest form.

To be considered for the initial SJCSD District Library Material Objection Committee, please complete the form and training by September 20, 2024.

[https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/news/objection-committee/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2F1ZTJL8sNmRg8QYAMi1wz6A~~%2FAAAAAQA~%&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C04100ac73fb5412e775608dcd58ec4b4%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638620056398046638%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0w5qq4jcdeWUUw0q%2Fp7qCOdZb1e%2Bad8%2Fa9TZyp47Ub4%3D&reserved=0)

**PTO Spotlight (**[patriotoakspto@gmail.com](mailto:patriotoakspto@gmail.com)**)**:

BUSINESS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

Be sure to check out our 2024-2025 Business Partners in Education! These companies, many are family owned right here in our neighborhood, have partnered with our school to enhance the lives of all our POA students.  [Read through the attached e-newsletter to take advantage of special offers and opportunities for all our POA families!](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FT6jom1Wq2sOLgCpgzjL5fw~~%2FAAAAAQA~%2FRgRoyBwBP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPXl4ZHhCbHNSLWlnJm1hbD02MDJmMDUwNmJjNmU1ZmU4NTc2N2U1Yzc2Njk1YWZhZjMxMzRhZGNkNDE1OWZhN2NmZDRiZDQ0ZGVjZDBlZGVhVwdzY2hvb2xtQgpm1YHo5ma8cCEtUiBMZWlnaC5TY2hvdWVzdEBzdGpvaG5zLmsxMi5mbC51c1gEAAAAAQ~~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C04100ac73fb5412e775608dcd58ec4b4%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638620056398055287%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LZZZGyLNSYdYSvk4ORwrzVMSKtqFnTJpWvRBhAOhHZo%3D&reserved=0)

8th GRADE FAMILIES

PTO will be covering the cost of several items for your 8th grade student! This includes a class shirt, a class photo, and class treats at least six times throughout the school year. This is due to the generosity of our families and business partners each year through their support of our initiatives such as ChargerTHON and PTO membership, to name a few.  The first class treat will be offered in Sept.

For class shirts, we are collecting shirt size as well as each student’s name (first and last) as you would like it to appear on the back of the shirt.  Please complete this [form](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftrack.spe.schoolmessenger.com%2Ff%2Fa%2FGmXDwkvcdQgdCYX1hryCsA~~%2FAAAAAQA~%~&data=05%7C02%7CLeigh.Schouest%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C04100ac73fb5412e775608dcd58ec4b4%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C638620056398063121%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0sajMUiL27NPfzsMQq4DjWlxr1IeDyidZ7zXT%2BT%2F99A%3D&reserved=0) by October 25.  If you do not fill this form out by the designated deadline, your student’s name will be listed as per enrollment and he/she will be given a generic size (adult medium or large).

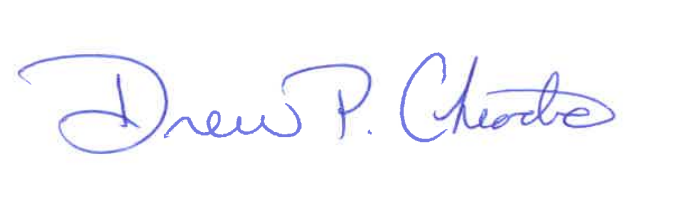
Please note that PTO will be hosting a semi-formal 8th grade dance. It will be held in the Spring and will be an off-site dance.  The cost of the dance will not be covered by the PTO.  Tickets will be sold.

**Week at a Glance, Week of September 16th:**

* *Monday, September 16th:* 
  + Kindie STAR & 3rd Grade FAST Math
  + VBall Practice at 3 pm
  + Blue Chips 6 pm
* *Tuesday, September 17th:* 
  + Constitution Day
  + Kindie STAR & 4th Grade FAST Math
* *Wednesday, September 18th:* 
  + Kindie STAR Testing Math
  + VBall Practice after school
  + Blue Chip BBall after School
  + POA v. PIA Football @ Plantation Turf
* *Thursday, September 19th:* 
  + Kindie STAR & 5th Grade FAST Testing Math
  + VBall Practice after school
  + POA Vball @ MCA
* *Friday, September 20th:* 
  + Teacher Inservice Day- No School

That’s all for now Chargers.  Work Hard. Learn Something. Be Kind.

Respectfully,



Drew Chiodo, Principal

[drew.chiodo@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:drew.chiodo@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

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