

Pro Tips from Pro Parents

Welcome to St. John School! We are so excited to have you join our community. We know it can be overwhelming at first with so much information and so many firsts. We get it, we've been there! Below you'll find some helpful information to guide you as you get acquainted with the community activities.

Communication: There are three main places for you to look for electronic communication:

- **School Website:** (<https://st-johnschool.org/>) Check out the school calendar for important dates and website tabs for detailed information on programs. Each teacher has a page on the school website.
- **NewsViews:** You will receive a weekly e-newsletter (NewsViews) on Thursdays. Please contact Diane Crockett, dcrockett@st-johnschool.org if you are not receiving it.
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschoolsea/> Check out and like our Facebook page—non-essential news, photos, and short videos are posted on Facebook.

Volunteer Opportunities: Integral to the spirit of community and St. John School's Fair Share philosophy, every family is expected to volunteer their time and talent sometime throughout the year. Every parent of a St. John student is automatically a member of Parent Association (PA) which holds monthly meetings. This is a wonderful opportunity to (1) be in the know about upcoming events, (2) meet more parents, and (3) sign up for volunteer opportunities. This team works to support teachers, communicate with parents, organize events, etc. More information can be found online at <https://parentassociation.st-johnschool.org/>

There are opportunities to volunteer in the library, on the playground, in the kitchen, baking for special events, selling Scrip, joining the auction or jog-a-thon committees, or helping at evening events. You'll find no shortage of opportunities to fill your volunteer hours!

Uniforms: Certain items, including the plaid jumpers/skirts, logo sweatshirts/t-shirts, and cardigans are purchased through Dennis Uniforms, <https://www.dennisuniform.com/schools/XTJ405>. Other items can be purchased at other retailers if they are similar in color and style and many stores in the area carry them. There is also a uniform exchange available throughout the year. Families donate outgrown pieces in good condition and is a well-stocked resource for filling out the school wardrobe. The uniform policy and information about the exchange can be found at <https://st-johnschool.org/about/uniform-policy-2/>.

Hot Lunch Program: St. John has the best hot lunch in the city of Seattle. Professional chef and St. John parent, Michael Strimban and crew prepare lunches from scratch using fresh ingredients Monday through Friday, with one Monday per month served by Emerald City Hot Dogs and one Monday per month set aside as a pizza fundraiser. Emerald City Hot Dogs supports a lunch program for homeless children and pizza fundraisers support our mission work in Kenya, Peru, are served on Monday and once a month there is a pizza fundraiser. All ordering takes place monthly via an online portal found on the school website. The lunchroom is a great place to volunteer - with the bonus of a free tasty lunch! <https://st-johnschool.org/hot-lunch/>

Back to School BBQ: The Back to School BBQ is a fun celebration for all families to kick off the year! The St. John PA sponsors dinner with a dessert contest for all willing participants. Bring some chairs or blankets and join the fun on the playground. There will be a new family section so join us, meet new friends and have fun!
***Note the Back to School BBQ is TBD this year. Look for updated information this summer.*

Jog-a-thon: This is the first fundraiser of the year and information about it comes out quickly. Each family is asked to secure \$100 in donations, which can either be pledged as flat amounts or \$ per lap. Pledges are submitted through an online tool that can be sent to family and friends via email, posted to Facebook, etc. Throughout the day, each grade takes to the playground (PK-3rd) or adjoining block around Egan Hall (4th-8th) and runs for 30 minutes. It's a fun event that includes raffles, music, and free dress for students the day of - including crazy hair & hats! It's a great opportunity for parents to volunteer - help with set-up, hand out fruit & water, mark off laps, or cheer on the students! <http://jogathon.st-johnschool.org/>

Other Events: Other events open to both school and parish families throughout the year include the Blessing of the Backpacks Mass (September), Seahawks Game Watch, March Crabness, and the School's-Out Pig-Out (June). Lots of opportunities to socialize as well as to volunteer!

Auction: Held in the spring, information about the auction will begin to go out in the late fall. The auction is our most important fundraiser of the year and requires everyone's participation. As part of your school commitment, all families are expected to procure \$250 worth of items or cash. It is not recommended that you purchase items, but rather solicit businesses for donations or contribute to class items. Each class provides a high-value donation which is typically an experience. Your donation can also be something that you do for work or a hobby. Perhaps you are a great baker and you will provide a dozen cupcakes every month for a year. All of these options go towards your \$250 contribution, or you may provide cash that the auction team will put towards a package. Each grade has an auction liaison that will be your contact for information and questions.

Want to attend the auction but don't have a table? Sign up individually and the auction committee will put together tables of families within the same grade.

There are two parts to the auction – online and live. The live auction is a fun, adults-only night including dinner, drinks, dancing, and prizes. You must purchase tickets to the live auction. Certain items will only be available that night including class art projects, which are always very popular. Other items are only available online, which opens for bidding the week of the auction. You can bid for hundreds of items online as well as purchase a spot for your student(s) in a "Sign-up Party," such as an after-school movie, or lunch from Dick's and kickball. You can take a look at last year's themed auction here: <https://auction.st-johnschool.org/>.

Endowment Event: Each fall, the community hosts a celebration to benefit the school endowment. The venue and details vary from year to year, but it is usually a social hour, dinner with a brief program, followed by dancing and more socializing. Prior venues include Ballard Beach Club, Fremont Studios, Tom Douglas' Palace Kitchen, Egan Hall & Gym, and Ethan Stowell's Cortina Restaurant. The brief program focuses on recognizing a distinguished graduate or winner of the St. John Eagle Award. There is an "ask" for guests to donate funds directed to the school endowment. This event is open to all and attracts both current families, young adult graduates, and alumni parents.

Still reading? We know we've covered a lot of information here. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your buddy family or email Jonna Skokan, Director of Admissions and Development at jskokan@st-johnschool.org.

We look forward to seeing you in and around school!