**MILESTONES AND TRADITIONS**

1. **3rd Grade Bibles:**  Our third graders are given their first Bible to be used here at school in their daily classroom/confirmation instruction.  The Bibles are given as a gift from the school to each third grade student.  A special presentation is made to each third grade student every September on Christian Education Weekend.
2. **8th Grade Washington D. C. Trip:**  Each spring the 8th grade class, along with their teacher chaperone and accompanying parents, travel to the Washington, D. C. area for a 4 day “field trip.”  In the past students have made the trip by bus, but lately have flown to the DC area in order to see all the sights!  For some, it is their first time flying!  Students “fund raise” for an entire year to raise money for the trip.  Students sell mums in the fall, wreaths at Christmas, man food stands...you name it, they do it!  The fund raising ideas are decided on by the 8th grade parents and students. Many are well established and people look forward to them. The trip is not all fun and games, as the class is expected to fill and complete a booklet on their Washington D.C. trip.  Classmates who do not accompany the rest of the class to D.C. are expected to attend school and complete specific projects.
3. **Chapel Partners/Families:**  SJLS students participate in all school chapels on Wednesday mornings. Students are assigned to a chapel family along with a chapel partner at the start of each school year.

Families consist of students in grades K-8.  Within that family group are chapel partners, made up of an older student from grades 4-8 (depending on student numbers) with a younger student from grades K-3/4.  Many times students will exchange a birthday card, Valentine’s day card, or even remember your partner with a small Christmas gift. This is common, but not mandatory.

1. **Cut-Out Cookie Sale:**  A Christmas Cut-Out Cookie Sale is conducted each November by a few of our moms!  It is a great way for our busy moms to get part of their Christmas baking needs done!  Profits are designated to a special school project each year.
2. **Merry Basket Project:**  St. John’s School sponsors their Merry Basket Project each December.  Students and congregation families alike have been sharing this ministry for 25+ years!  All students in K4 through grade 8 help prepare baskets for senior members (age 65+) of our congregation and any other seasoned individuals that need a holiday boost!  Cookies are baked and decorated by grades K4-4. Chex Mix is prepared and boxes decorated by our 5-6 grade students. Chapel families color special cards and make crafts.  Grades 7-8 share holiday cheer as they deliver the baskets.  Each December 150+ baskets are delivered!  It should be noted that Merry Baskets would not be possible without the total support of our school and church families.  Contributions of cereal, butter, seasoning, fruit, and other goodies are all donated by our families!
3. **National Lutheran School Week (NLSW):**  The first week of March is celebrated as National Lutheran Schools Week.  Teachers plan special activities throughout the week for students to enjoy.  During the third week in January, SJ students join with 4 other area Lutheran schools on a rotating basis for a chapel service and activity.  Many fun and “out of the box” activities are scheduled for students, but don’t worry, classes are still held!
4. **Operation Christmas Child:**  Mr. Mageski, our first grade teacher, organizes this mission project.  Weekly donations of various supplies are collected to fill boxes for needy children overseas.  Small toys, hats, mittens, socks, hygiene projects, and school supplies are donated by school families.  A “Packing Party” is held in late November to pack individual boxes for the children.  This ministry could not happen without the awesome support of our school and church families.
5. **Outdoor Education:**Each fall, students in grades 7-8 travel to Camp Timber-lee Christian Center near East Troy for 3 days/2 nights of team building, educational activities, and just plain old fun and fellowship.  They are accompanied by teacher and parent chaperones.  At this time, students hold a “Tree Sale” and car wash-brat fry the first Saturday in May to raise funds to offset the cost of this camp experience.  Parent chaperones pay for a portion of their stay at Camp Timber-lee.
6. **Pizza Sale (School Wide):**  St. John’s holds a school wide Pizza Sale each spring.  All students/ families are expected to participate.  This is the only school-wide fundraiser that we ask all families to participate in.  Profits from the sale of these homemade delicious pizzas are used to support school curriculum expenses.  The Saturday of the sale is considered “Pizza Making Day!”  Fellowship is a bound! This is also a great way for families to pick up volunteer working hours!
7. **PTL:** (Parent Teacher League) What a wonderful, fun group of parents we have participating in this group.  They meet the second Wednesday of each month.  Many activities are PTL sponsored; Valentine’s Day Talent Show and Dinner, Audubon Days Float, and a Trap Shoot/Fish Fry coming up in June.  The PTL remembers students with treats on National Cupcake Day, and Apple Cider Day, and Candy Cane Day, to name just a few.  All parents are encouraged to attend a meeting!
8. **Rummage Sale:**  Each Spring St. John’s holds an area wide rummage sale.  St. John’s sale is famous and brings rummagers in from far and near!  The sale is always held the week after Easter, Thursday through Saturday morning.  Congregation and School families contribute items to the rummage sale.  Rummage sale time is always a good time to clean out your closets and garage!  School parents are encouraged to sign up for a shift or two to work.  A portion of the profits benefit a school project.
9. **Scrip:**Families at St. John’s School have the opportunity to utilize our “Scrip Program” to help offset school tuition fees each year.  Families purchase Scrip (gift cards and certificates for everyday use like groceries, gas, clothing, and fast food) here at school or from church for face value.  A percentage of Scrip bought goes back to the family.  We retain 10% of your Scrip rebates received for an administrative fee.  The 90% remaining can be split however you choose between church, tuition, or cash back.  Families in K3 and K4 may start using the Scrip Program to generate funds to be used once the student enters Kindergarten.
10. **Spelling Bee:**  Students in grades 3-8 can qualify for the annual Rock River Spelling Bee every March.  Individual classroom spelling bees are held to fill-out rosters for the following divisions:  GRADES 3-4, GRADES 5-6, and GRADES 7-8.  Rock River member schools alternate host sites for the annual spelling bee.
11. **Sports at St. John’s:**  Students in grades 5-8 may participate in all sports.  Students in grade 4 are possible participants depending on team numbers.  Students in grades 3-8 are welcome to be part of St. John’s Spirit Squad.

Fall Sports include volleyball and soccer; winter sports include basketball and spirit squad; and in the spring, students have the opportunity to participate in co-ed softball.

1. **Student Council:** Student Council is open for students in grades 5-8 to join!  Students meet monthly to schedule special days and do various tasks, Each Valentine’s Day the Student Council sponsors a “Sucker Sale.”  Students may purchase suckers for their favorite Valentine’s!  At the end of each school year a special “field trip” is planned for only the student council members to enjoy!
2. **Youth Group:** The group is separated by grades 5-6 and 7-8.  Various activities are planned for each meeting night, along with a Bible study. Watch EAGLE Newsletter for meeting details.