

THE SHORTHAND GUIDE

2010 - 2011



This Shorthand Guide contains descriptions of SJMS activities, programs, and events. The intent of the guide is to inform parents about the many opportunities that the school offers to its community. It is designed to be a dynamic document that will be updated regularly on our Web site, based on the changing needs and initiatives of the school.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Erdkinder (ERD), Middle School (MS), Primary (P), and CH (Children's House)

Montessori education is organized according to Maria Montessori's philosophy of educating the human potential. Children's Houses (CH) combine preschool and kindergarten students in one setting. Primary (P) classrooms combine first through third grades. Middle School (MS) combines fourth through sixth grades. Erdkinder (ERD) combines seventh through eighth grades.

Board of Trustees

When: *Meetings are held once per month, second Tuesday at 6:00pm, committees meet throughout the month*

Who participates: *Elected/Appointed voting and nonvoting members*

Organized by: *St. Joseph Montessori School Board of Trustees*

SJMS is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of elected and appointed voting trustees and a few nonvoting trustees. The Board of Trustees has ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the performance and operations of the school. The board's primary responsibilities include employing the Head of School, financial condition monitoring, policy setting, fundraising, perpetuating the school, and advocacy. All members of the corporation—parents, guardians, and professional employees of the school—are welcome to attend the board's monthly meetings.

Family Association

When: *Meetings are held on the last Monday of every month at 5:30, activities are held throughout the year*

Who participates: *All parents, teachers, and staff are members of the Family Association*

Organized by: *Parents*

The Family Association is our parent/teacher organization that focuses on community building at SJMS. All parents, staff, and teachers are automatically members of the association and are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings and assist in our numerous events at the school (child care is available during our monthly meetings). The Family Association organizes a variety of activities and events, including the Kick-off Celebration, Scholastic Book Fairs, Winter Festival, and End-of-the-Year Bowling Party. Money raised by the Family Association is used for school-wide events as well as classroom and school needs.

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Kindergarten and Up

Girl Scouts

When: *Varies*

Who participates: *Kindergarten through Erdkinder girls, depending on parents' and girls' interest*

Organized by: *Parent volunteers*

Through a wide range of activities, girls work together with parent volunteers to build friendships, confidence, skills, and lots of fun. Girls and parents who are interested in Girl Scouts can form a troop at the school. Troops formed at SJMS are part of the Ohio Heartland's Council. Girl Scouts mission is to build "girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place."

Primary and Up

Chess Club

When: *Once per week after school*

Who participates: *Primary through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Parent volunteers*

The Chess Club is an informal gathering of students who enjoy playing chess. For an hour, once a week, club members gather for supervised play and peer instruction. Students who are interested can also compete for the school in chess tournaments.

Cub Scouts

When: *Two meetings per month*

Who participates: *First through fifth grade boys*

Organized by: *Parent volunteers*

Organized and led by parent volunteers, Pack 244 offers the opportunity for boys and their families to come together and explore good sportsmanship, nature, crafts, citizenship, community service, and more. The pack was awarded the 2009 Quality Unit by the Boy Scouts of America. To accommodate parent schedules siblings are always welcome to respectfully attend all regular meetings, campouts, and “Go See It” field trips. No scouting experience necessary!

Earth Scouts

When: *Twice per month after school*

Who participates: *Primary students, and Middle School and Erdkinder students as assistants*

Organized by: *Co-leaders and co-founders Primary teacher Dawn McCombs and parent volunteer Ruth Lomax, along with other parent volunteers*

Earth Scouts is a national program developed by the United Nations. The Earth Charter calls for a caring, sustainable, and peaceful world. It was written by thousands of people from seventy-eight countries over a period of ten years and launched at The Hague Peace Palace in 2000. Badges center on universal human rights, eliminating poverty (economic justice), participatory democracy, respect for nature, and a culture of peace. Our SJMS Earth Scout’s group is the first in central Ohio. Our first Earth Scout group (2009-2010 school year) and their parents ended the year with an overnight stay in a rustic cabin—activities included fishing, canoeing, hiking, singing by a campfire, and more. The cost to participate in Earth Scouts is \$20 for the year.

Project Care Kids Club

When: *After school first Tuesday of every month*

Who participates: *Third grade through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Primary teacher Michelle Getz and students*

SJMS has a long tradition of community service. Helping others in need supports our Catholic Montessori principles. The Project Care Kids Club is an after school student community service organization for third graders and older. Members are involved in the planning and hands-on

work necessary to support community service projects. Often members work to support SJMS community-wide projects, such as food drives for food banks and sponsoring families for the holidays. They also develop their own projects, such as making gifts for patients of Children's Hospital, serving dinners to families in need, visiting nursing homes, and raising money for the Humane Society, to name a few. Project Care Kids is a wonderful way for students (and parents) to give back to the wider Columbus community.

Ski Club

When: *Once per week after school in winter months*

Who participates: *Third grade through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Ski Club coordinator (parent volunteer)*

The Ski Club travels once per week during winter months to Mad River Mountain. Participants obtain annual lift passes, equipment, and group lessons for skiing or snow boarding. Groups either drive separately or arrange carpool. Students who cannot commit to become official members of the club are welcome to join the group on a week-by-week basis. Fees and schedule will be determined on an annual basis. See you on the slopes!

Yoga for Kids

When: *Once per week for forty-five minutes after school for ten weeks*

Who participates: *Primary through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Aftercare coordinator Linda Miller and Yoga on High instructor Lori Wiley*

During this ten-week yoga program, students learn the basics of yoga practice—relaxation methods, sun salutations, breathing techniques, various poses—from Yoga on High instructor Lori Wiley. The session runs for ten weeks and costs \$100. This is a wonderful introduction to the peaceful practice of yoga.

Middle School and Up

Aikido

When: *Once per week for one hour after school*

Who participates: *Middle School and Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Middle School teacher Bill Reed and sponsored by the Hilliard Martial Arts Center*

The Aikido Club meets weekly to practice the martial art of aikido. The class is taught using demonstration, partner and group activities, and active games. The club's monthly \$30 dues also enroll students as members of the Hilliard Martial Arts Center.

Band

When: *Various times, mainly before or after school*

Who participates: *Middle School and Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Music teacher Sandra Matheny*

Band is an elective for students in Middle School and Erdkinder.

There is an additional cost to participate. Scholarships are available.

Sandra will help your children to decide which instrument is best for them. The band plays at various school functions and concerts as well as some concerts off site.

Game Club

When: *Friday after school*

Who participates: *Middle School and Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Middle School teacher Bill Reed*

Once per week, members of the Game Club gather for a couple of hours to play games either brought from home or games from our school-owned collection. Board games, card games, role-playing games, and party games, but no video games, are allowed! Members are asked to bring \$1 per week to cover the cost of a snack.

Hand Bells

When: *Recess for Middle School and during the day for Erdkinder*

Who participates: *Middle School and Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Music teacher Sandra Matheny*

Hand bell performances are a staple at many SJMS events. Middle school and Erdkinder students perform beautiful pieces at the Cookies and Carols and May concerts as well as community and arts events.

Math Club

When: *Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00*

Who participate: *Middle School students*

Organized by: *Middle School teacher Susan Walling*

Math club is an extra math time for students. Students use it in many ways: to catch up on work, to get help on concepts, to learn something

new, to wait for aikido, to do math because they love it, to do math because parents/Susan require it, and so on.

Math Counts

When: *Once per week after school*

Who participates: *Sixth grade through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Erdkinder teacher*

Math Counts allows students to expand their math skills in an organized after school activity. In addition to an extra hour of math every week, Erdkinder students compete in the AMC 8 and the Math Counts competition in February. All members also compete in the Online Math League and the Ohio Mathematics League at the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level.

Science Club

When: *Once per week after school*

Who participates: *Middle School and Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Parent volunteer and Erdkinder teacher*

Science Club members meet weekly to explore scientific topics and experiments. Some students also prepare for the Science Olympiad.

Scrap Rap

When: *Once per week during recess*

Who participates: *Middle School and Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Art teacher Roxanne Holonitch*

Art teacher Roxanne Holonitch guides students in creating and developing personal scrapbooks. The fee to participate is \$10, which covers the cost of stocking our scrap rap cart with paper, glue, stickers, etc.

Erdkinder

Paint Club

When: *Once per week during lunch and recess*

Who participates: *Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Art teacher Roxanne Holonitch*

The Paint Club allows interested Erdkinder students to further develop their artistic painting skills. The club is free for students who supply their own materials. The fee is \$35 for students who need a full kit of

paints, four canvases, a smock, and basic painting tools. The club ends its year with a festive art show.

Power of the Pen

When: *Once per week after school*

Who participates: *Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Erdkinder teachers*

Power of the Pen is an interscholastic competition for young writers. Our students are devoted to excellence in writing. Power of the Pen students focus on creative writing in preparation for the “Power of the Pen” competition. Some Erdkinder students are chosen for the district competition, and regional and state level competition is possible for students who do well on the district level. In the 2009-2010 school year, two SJMS students made it to the state competition.

FAMILY ASSOCIATION EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SJMS offers many opportunities for parents, staff, teachers, and students to volunteer—in the classroom, library, or office; on field trips; and at various school-wide and Family Association events. We encourage all parents to sign up to volunteer!

Protecting God’s Children

When: *Year round*

Who participates: *All volunteers who have care, custody, or control of children in the school*

Organized by: *Catholic Diocese*

Per the Catholic Diocese of Central Ohio, all adults who have care, custody, or control of students must have “Protecting God’s Children” certification and a background check on file with the school. We encourage ALL parents to obtain the proper requirements, although there are many volunteer opportunities at the school for parents who have not completed these requirements yet. Protecting God’s Children seminars are held throughout the year at local Catholic schools and churches. Please visit www.virtus.org to register for a session near you. Background checks are also conducted during these sessions. Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this requirement.

Year-round Family Association Activities

Carpool Coffee

When: *First Friday of every month, 8:30-10*

Who participates: *Parents*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

Held in the Multipurpose Room, Carpool Coffee is an informal monthly gathering for parents. Parents can attend for just a few minutes or the entire time. This gathering is an excellent way for parents to stay connected.

Publishing Center

When: *During the school day, scheduled at convenient times for individual classrooms*

Who participates: *All levels based on interest of each class*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

Volunteers assist students to publish bound books of their original stories or poetry. Publishing takes place in the classroom, multipurpose room, or art room, depending on classroom schedules. Students generally publish in groups of three to four children. The students go through the editing and revision process in the classroom with their teachers. Once they have a typed and illustrated copy of their story or poetry completed, a time is scheduled for publishing. The Family Association provides the supplies for the publishing center. The bound books are keepsakes!

Room Parents

When: *Year round as needed*

Who participates: *Parents*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

Organized by the Family Association, room parents volunteer to serve their child's classroom throughout the school year. They serve a very important role at SJMS as liaisons between the Head of School, parents, teachers, staff, and the Family Association. When word needs to spread throughout the school, room parents are the Family Association's and school's contact people. They are instrumental in coordinating volunteers for events throughout the year. Most of all, room parents serve as cheerleaders and community builders in their classrooms. They help acquaint new parents with SJMS to ensure they

feel welcome. Room parents also inspire/encourage parents to get more involved in the SJMS community.

Date Specific Family Association Activities

Kick-Off Celebration

When: *Sunday before school starts in August*

Who participates: *All levels, parents, staff, teachers*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

The Family Association hosts a kick-off celebration in late August on school grounds. This event, geared toward all families (returning and new), is a festive way to kick off the new school year. During the event, parents have the opportunity to sign up for various volunteer activities planned for the entire year and listen to brief remarks from the school leadership. This event is a great way to reconnect with old friends and meet some new ones as well.

Fall/Spring Book Fairs

When: *One week in the fall and one week in the spring*

Who participates: *All levels, parents, teachers, staff*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

The Scholastic Book Fairs, organized by Family Association volunteers, are fundraisers that benefit classrooms and the Family Association. Older students have the opportunity to attend the Book Fair during class time. CH students are escorted by teachers or older students, who write down the book titles of interest to them. Teachers also provide titles that they are interested in receiving for their classrooms, allowing parents to donate books to their child's classroom. There is no obligation to purchase from the book fairs. Parents are welcome to browse/shop for their children, friends, and family members, or for their child's classroom.

Grandparents' and Special Guests' Day

When: *Friday in October*

Who participates: *All levels, grandparents, and special guests*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers, staff, teachers*

Organized by the Family Association, this event celebrates the unique relationship of grandparent and grandchild, or between special guest and child. Invitations to this event are sent out to grandparents and special guests if parents provided their addresses on school forms. The

Family Association is happy to send out additional invitations. If a grandparent is unable to attend, we encourage parents to assist in inviting a special family friend, babysitter, older sibling, or other relative to attend. After brief welcoming remarks and a band concert in Ryan Hall, guests are invited to visit their host's classroom, where children are excited to show their guests around. Following the event, frequently, grandparents/special guests take the student out for lunch and then return him/her to school or home. Parents and grandparents make these arrangements in advance and inform the teachers about their plans. If a grandparent cannot attend, they are invited to write a letter to the child and send it to the school prior to the event. This is a highly attended event, with most children in the school having one or more special guests.

Winter Festival

When: *First Sunday in December*

Who participates: *All levels, parents, teachers, staff, friends, neighbors*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

This is a school-wide community and fundraising event, with proceeds benefiting the Family Association and Erdkinder (Erdkinder organizes games and pictures with Santa). Every family is encouraged to volunteer and attend this spirited, family-oriented event. Games, crafts, shopping, food, pictures with Santa, and poinsettia and wreath sale are among the features. This effort benefits from the contributions of parents, students, faculty, and staff. Your family will receive a number of flyers and e-mail notices asking for your assistance with helping to organize and staff the Winter Festival. You are not expected to do everything, but we hope you will volunteer and make a contribution in ways that you enjoy. Be sure to invite grandparents, neighbors, and friends to join us for all of the Winter Festival fun. This is the main revenue-generating event for the Family Association.

End-of-the-Year Bowling Party

When: *After school on the last day of school*

Who participates: *All*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

The end-of-the-year bowling party is a great way to kick off summer vacation. Typically held at Columbus Square Bowling, participants pay a small fee (with additional costs covered by the Family Association) for two games of bowling, pizza, drinks, and cake.

SUPPORTING SJMS

Members of our school community can support SJMS in many ways—for example, by donating to our Annual Fund, using Erdkinder’s Gallery Hop babysitting service, donating to and/or attending our Spring Gala, or shopping at some of their favorite stores.

Annual Fund Drive

When: *September - November*

Who participates: *Parents, alumni, grandparents, staff, and teachers*

Organized by: *Development Office and parent volunteers*

The Annual Fund is the school’s largest and least labor intensive fundraiser. All parents, grandparents, staff, teachers, and alumni are asked to contribute generously cash and/or gifts in-kind for the educational programming that makes SJMS the exceptional school that it is. Specifically, the Annual Fund provides operating funds to the school to meet the needs of the classrooms and those that support their work. Brochures and pledge cards are mailed in September. A phone-a-thon will occur later in the fall. Families are expected to participate in the Annual Fund at an amount that is meaningful to them. Whether it is \$5, \$50, \$500, or \$5,000, all donations are meaningful to the Annual Fund. Last year, the annual fund raised over \$35,000.

Fall/Spring Book Fairs

See full description under Family Association Events and Volunteer Opportunities.

Erdkinder Class Trip Fundraisers

See full description under Classroom and Curriculum-Based Activities.

Gallery Hop Babysitting

When: *First Saturday of the month during Short North’s Gallery Hop*

Who participates: *Erdkinder students, Erdkinder teacher, children*

Organized by: *Erdkinder teachers and students*

As one of their fundraisers, Erdkinder offers babysitting on the first Saturday of the month during the Short North’s Gallery Hop. While your children are having a fun evening at school, you can head over to the Gallery Hop in the Short North—stroll on High Street, stop by some galleries, and eat out at one of your favorite restaurants—or spend the evening somewhere else. Look for information from Erdkinder!

Spring Gala

When: *Saturday evening in March*

Who participates: *Adults only—parents, staff, teachers, neighbors, friends, etc. are all invited to attend*

Organized by: *Spring Gala Committee (parent volunteers)*

The Spring Gala is an annual fundraising event held in March off site. Organized by dedicated parent volunteers, the Spring Gala raises money for operating costs of the school as well as tuition assistance. The lovely evening includes a silent and live auction, which features weekend getaways, tickets to sporting events, gift cards to local restaurants, and much more. Each classroom also creates a unique project (painting, quilt, book) that is auctioned off. In 2010, the event raised over \$50,000 for the school. Invitations will be mailed after winter break. There is a charge to attend this event. Gather up your friends and family and attend this wonderful adult-only evening.

Winter Festival

See full description under Family Association Events and Volunteer Opportunities.

Shopping at Your Favorite Stores or for your Favorite Items

Box Tops for Education

When: *Year round*

Who participates: *All members of school community*

Organized by: *Art teacher Roxanne Holonitch*

Give back to the school through the things you may already buy. Families are asked to cut out labels from all participating General Mills' products and turn them into the school office. Box Tops are collected and mailed in to help support the Paint Club with funds for additional supplies. For each Box Top collected, the school earns 10 cents. Collecting Box Tops is an easy way to help out!

Campbell's Labels for Education

When: *Year round*

Who participates: *All members of school community*

Organized by: *Art teacher Roxanne Holonitch*

Give back to the school through the things you may already buy. Families are asked to cut out labels from all participating Campbell's products and turn them into the school office. Campbell's Labels are collected and mailed in to receive points that are good toward receiving a variety of products. Teachers are able to use the points to choose items from a catalogue.

Store Rewards Programs

When: *Year round*

Who participates: *Parents, staff, teachers, friends, and family*

Organized by: *Family Association volunteers*

Various stores have rewards programs that benefit local schools and organizations. SJMS is signed up for a number of these programs. We encourage parents, friends, staff, teachers, neighbors, etc. to designate SJMS as the recipient of these rewards. Shop at your favorite stores and support SJMS!

Kroger Rewards Card

Register your **Kroger Plus** card by registering online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Go to "Create an Account" and follow directions. After enrolling you will receive an e-mail with final instructions. Sign in, go to "Community Rewards," and search for St. Joseph Montessori School using the NPO code: **81070**. Proceeds from the Kroger Rewards program will benefit St. Joe's Tuition Assistance.

Giant Eagle Advantage Card

Register your **Giant Eagle Advantage** card by calling 1-800-474-4777 and provide our school code: **4754**. Giant Eagle offers points that can be used to purchase school products.

Target Credit or Debit Card

Register an existing **Target** credit card by calling 1-800-316-6142 and provide **School ID: 14089**, sign up for a Target credit card and provide school ID, or bring a canceled check to any Target store to sign up for a debit card that will debit your current bank account when you use it to make a purchase at Target and provide school ID.

CLASSROOM AND CURRICULUM-BASED ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, parents have several scheduled opportunities to learn about what their children are doing in their classrooms.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

When: *November, March, and May*

Who participates: *Parents and teachers*

Organized by: *Teachers and parents*

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held three times per year, with the May conferences being optional. Parents will receive information from their child's teacher regarding scheduling. Conferences typically last fifteen minutes and offer parents an opportunity to discuss their child's progress.

Curriculum Night

When: *One evening in the fall*

Who participates: *All levels, parents, and teachers*

Organized by: *Staff and teachers*

Curriculum night is designed for children and their parents. Held one evening in the fall, curriculum night allows students to share their work with their parents. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to gain a better understanding of how and what their child learns. Teachers are present but please note that this is not a conference. The goal is for the parent and child to work together in the classroom.

Parent Education Night

When: *Several times per year*

Who participates: *Parents of all levels (childcare is available)*

Organized by: *Staff and teachers*

Parent Education Nights focus on educating parents about the Montessori philosophy and education. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Speakers range from teachers and staff to outside Montessori educators. Information regarding each Parent Education Night will be distributed closer to each date.

Special Subjects Night for First Graders

When: *One evening in the fall*

Who participates: *First grade Primary students and their parents/guardians*

Organized by: *Staff and teachers*

The Special Subjects Night is geared for students in their first year in Primary classrooms. During this evening session, the art, gym and health, music, and Spanish teachers introduce parents to their curriculum.

The school offers numerous special events, programs, and activities during the school day and in the evenings throughout the year.

Children's House

CH Holiday/Special Lunches

When: *December, April, and May*

Who participates: *CH, parents, and teachers*

Organized by: *CH Teachers*

Three times per year, Children's House classrooms have "special lunches." The first two are held in the classroom, while the last one is an outdoor picnic lunch held at Jeffrey Mansion Park in Bexley. For the December and April Holiday Lunches, students come up with a menu, make the food, set the table, etc. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to utilize their practical life skills. A couple of parents are needed per classroom to assist the teachers. Teachers make arrangements for the food for the end-of-the-year picnic lunch. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the May picnic lunch. The fee for all three lunches is \$15; teachers will collect the money in the fall.

Pumpkin Patch Trip

When: *Morning in October*

Who participates: *CH students, teachers, and parents*

Organized by: *CH teachers*

In October, Children's House students take a field trip to an area pumpkin patch/fruit farm. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their child. It is an opportunity for parents to observe and engage with their children in a different environment. The children demonstrate their knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural world, as well as their emerging independence and friendships. Information about this event will come directly from classroom teachers.

Children's House and Up

The Montessorian

When: *During recess once per week*

Who participates: *All levels, teachers, and staff*

Organized by: *Art teacher Roxanne Holonitch*

The Montessorian is our award-winning school newspaper. Published four times per year, the newspaper includes news of school activities, alumni updates, puzzles, jokes, and more. Students write and edit articles, take photographs, and assist with layout of the paper. All are invited to participate—any student, staff member, or teacher!

International Children's Week

When: *Last week of October*

Who participates: *All levels*

Organized by: *Teachers*

International Children's Week is celebrated in lieu of Halloween. Children are introduced to the seven continents through celebration and exploration of diverse cultures and their peoples. Each day, classes focus on one or two continents; they learn about and share customs, stories, songs, costumes, food, and artifacts. Children eagerly anticipate the coming days and what foods they will try. Through this exploration, the children begin to see the commonality of children all over the world.

International Children's Day Parade

When: *Friday in October*

Who participates: *All levels, parents invited*

Organized by: *Staff and teachers*

This event is held outside (weather permitting) on Friday morning of International Children's Week. Children wear costumes from their chosen continent and parade in celebration of the week and the cultures they have explored. Allow approximately one hour for this event when it takes place outside. In inclement weather, it takes place inside Ryan Hall. The costumes do not have to be intricate or authentic. They range from a hat and flag to an authentic traditional costume from a specific culture. Older students assist younger students in the parade. Parents are invited to watch the parade.

Children's Day Carnival

When: *Friday in May*

Who participates: *All levels, teachers, staff, and parents*

Organized by: *Staff and teachers*

The Children's Day Carnival is a long-standing tradition at SJMS. This event is primarily organized and conducted by staff and teachers. Parent volunteer assistance is requested for donations of items. Volunteer help is also needed at the event. This activity, which takes place during school on a Friday afternoon, includes a lunch as well as carnival-type games and prizes. Children purchase tickets for lunch and games.

Kindergarten and Up

Techno Trek

When: *Friday afternoon in May*

Who participates: *Kindergarten through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Staff and teachers*

This is a walk-a-thon around a course on school grounds to raise additional dollars to buy computer hardware and software for classrooms. Students are encouraged to sign up sponsors to pledge a flat dollar amount or an amount per lap. The event is optional, but has become a popular one. It is designed to secure gifts from friends, relatives, and neighbors. You will receive flyers and pledge sheets. This event is conducted by school personnel and volunteers during the school day and typically raises over \$10,000.

Primary and Up

All School Masses

When: *Several mornings during the year*

Who participates: *Primary through Erdkinder students (unless parents choose to not have their children participate)*

Organized by: *Teachers and Sacred Heart Church*

Several times per year, students attend mass at Sacred Heart Church. Primary through Erdkinder students are able (but not required) to attend. Parents are welcome!

Cookies and Carols/Spring Concert/Band and Bells Concert

When: *Throughout the year*

Who participates: *Primary through Erdkinder*

Organized by: *Teachers, especially Music teacher Sandra Matheny and parent volunteers*

The school holds several concerts throughout the year. These are school-wide evening events (with dress rehearsals during the day for students to watch). Our talented students show off their musical, drama, and dancing skills to the wider SJMS community. News of each concert will be sent home with students.

Interest Fair

When: *Evening in February*

Who participates: *Primary through Erdkinder students*

Organized by: *Teachers (Family Association organizes and sponsors the judges' dinner)*

Interest Fair is an academic event that takes place one evening in February, with preparation by students over several months. Children do research on any topic that interests them and prepare a research paper, display board, and 3-D project. During the fair, students in Middle School and Erdkinder are judged by volunteers (past parents and students, professionals, community members, neighbors, parents, etc). Participation on the primary level is voluntary. On the Middle School level, the display board and judging is voluntary, while the research paper is required. On the Erdkinder level, research paper, display board, and judging are all required. The Family Association organizes a meal for judges, which is held prior to the event. The projects are AMAZING!

Talent Show

When: *Evening in May*

Who participates: *Primary through Erdkinder students, parents/families are invited to attend*

Organized by: *Erdkinder teachers and students*

Primary through Erdkinder students are invited to show their talents to the wider school community. One of Erdkinder's fundraisers, this is not a traditional talent show; there is no competition, but a lot of fun! Talents range from karate demonstrations and one-act plays to dancing and singing. Interested students can sign up to perform.

Erdkinder

Erdkinder Class Trip Fundraisers

When: *Year round*

Who participates: *All levels, parents, depending on the fundraiser*

Organized by: *Erdkinder teachers, parents, and students*

As part of their practical life curriculum, Erdkinder students learn the value of money by raising funds for their annual class trip. Whether it is babysitting during Gallery Hop weekends, selling interest fair boards, washing cars, having a spaghetti dinner, baking and selling baked goods, or hosting a school dance, students try to earn between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year for their trip by providing services that we can support. Please check the school calendar, look for their flyers, and help out in any way you can.