



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



December 20, 2023

*Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.*

Greetings OLMA Families, Faculty, and Staff:

Before we head off to our Christmas break, I especially wanted to share with you some of the photos from each of my Advent surprises with the classes (see below). It has been a whirlwind few weeks! I have enjoyed my time with all of the students so much. Getting to know them better through these fun activities is such a joy.

I wish all of you a peaceful, blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. I will see you in January!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith  
Principal

## **ZECHARIAH 9:9**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteousness and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thurs-Tues 12/21-1/2/24 – NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break**

**Wednesday 1/3/24** – Return to school

**Thursday 1/11** – Winter Arts Showcase – 6-8pm – Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at KSC

**Friday 1/12** – End of the first semester

**Monday 1/15** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – **NO SCHOOL**

**[CLICK HERE for the 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)**



## **THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of

Advent, which the Church calls “Gaudete Sunday,” meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

## ADVENT SURPRISES

Each class got a special Advent surprise with Mr. Smith leading up to the Christmas break. It's like our own version of an Advent calendar!



9th Grade -- Dodge ball against the faculty and ice cream treats



10th Grade -- Sword fighting against the faculty



11th Grade -- Baking cookies in the KSC kitchen with Ms. Avril and Mr. Smith



12th Grade -- Lunch from Five Guys and a movie



## STUDENT-ATHLETE FEATURE

Sophomore Alyvia Singleton has played on the Keene High School girls varsity hockey team for the past two seasons in the center position. During the summer months, she also plays with the Keene women's league.

**GOOD LUCK THIS SEASON ALYVIA!**







### TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS WITH CONANT HIGH SCHOOL

OLMA parent and Conant High School World Language teacher Kira Kangas is organizing a trip to New Orleans June 17-20 with Conant students. They currently have space for at least another 15 students, and have invited Mercy students to join them if they would like. The itinerary and price information can be found here:

<https://www.explorica.com/Kangas-208> For additional information, please contact Kira directly at kirakangas5@gmail.com.



Earlier this month, Madame Wilson's French classes made mannala, which are brioches shaped as little men and served in Alsace for **Saint Nicholas Day** since the 15th century. These treats are also baked in Franche-Comte and Lorraine, where they are known as Jean Bonhomme!

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Our Student Council sponsored a **Ping-Pong Tournament** over the past few weeks! They started out with 20 players, and the two students who made it all the way to the finals today were Ethan Lewis (Grade 12) and Parker Ederveen-Vahldiek (Grade 9). CONGRATULATIONS to both of them! The winner -- Ethan Lewis!

### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

We have lots of great OLMA gear available for your Christmas shopping!

#### Zeiger & Ollie Stores

These online stores are created by our own Miss Wilson and include fun merchandise specific to all of the Houses!

**AQUINAS**

**DROGO**

**JOSEPHINE**

**URSULA**

**NEW! Zeiger & Ollie OLMA Alpine store**



The OLMA **Jazz Ensemble** got everyone



into a festive mood by playing some Christmas tunes for the SJRS students last week!



Yesterday, we had a bit of The Great British Bake Off -- Mercy style! The best brownie competition pitted the Houses against each other. And the winner determined by our expert(?) panel of judges...Josephine! Ursula came in second, Drogo was third, and Aquinas came in last.











Newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:  
<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



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