August 2017 School News

Welcome Back! –

The faculty, staff and administration at SJNCS were excited to welcome back all our students after summer break. We look forward to an adventurous, exciting and blessed year ahead!
Did You Know?–

Great news! Two SJNCS graduates and current seniors at KCHS, Caroline Consoli and Nathan Geist, have earned the highest possible ACT Composite score of 36. Nationally, while the actual number of students earning the top score varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of 1% of students who take the ACT earn the top score. Please join us in congratulating Caroline and Nathan for this significant accomplishment. We can’t wait to see what the future holds for each of you!
Total Solar Eclipse –

The following activities took place in our school the week prior to the eclipse to help engage the children in this awesome celestial event.

- **Word Wall** - Students created Solar Eclipse Word Wall hanging in the front hallway of the school. Be sure to check it out!
- **Music** - Sun, moon, space and eclipse music has been piped through the hallways each morning and played in the lunchroom for the students.
- **Guest Speaker** - Mr. Vincent Diaz, grandfather to two SJNCS students and a real astronomer, spoke to the students in an all school assembly about the science of an eclipse and safe viewing.
- **Service Project** - Students made "eclipse cards" during art class for the residents of a local nursing home. Middle school students researched and then wrote out eclipse quotes to adorn the cards.
- **Teachers at every grade level** have engaged students in classroom lessons and activities related to the solar system and eclipses (including safe viewing).
STEM Scouts –

After school enrichment programs engage students in fun activities that create a desire to learn. SJN is offering STEM Scouts to students in grades 3-5 again this year. Thank you, Mr. Neal Drown, for bringing out the STEM Scouts mobile vortex to demonstrate a science experiment to our students and discuss just how fun science, technology, engineering & math can be. Student labs begin next week!
Leadership Council –

Congratulations to our 2017/2018 Leadership Council! Students interested in serving wrote an essay detailing their desire to serve and what it would mean to them. They were then selected by their peers. This year's representatives are: Eighth graders - Ella Renfree, Ella Myers, Regan Pugh, Emilie Murr, Lauren Scanlon and Ian McFarland. Seventh graders - Lexie Stempkowski, Ellen Falvey, Adriana Zablah, Ryan Theobald and Mason Burkhardt.
HABIT Program –

Since 2010, SJNCS has participated in the HABIT (Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee) program through the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. HABIT provides screened and trained dogs and their sponsors the opportunity to work in our school as well as area hospitals, nursing homes, etc. This enrichment program encourages reluctant readers, gives comfort, reduces stress, and promotes a positive relationship between dogs and humans. In the pictures below, Darby and her mom, Mrs. Denise Vermeulen, work with Kindergarten students by playing rhyming bingo. We are thrilled to begin our eighth year of offering this rewarding program to our students!