



# St. Joseph/St. Robert School Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF MRS.  
DURKIN

AUGUST, 2025

The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this takes place through a rich path made up of many ingredients. True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life.  
— Pope Francis

Dear SJR Families,

As the Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us—and as The Byrds so memorably sang in 1965—to everything there is a season. In every community, there are times of coming and going.

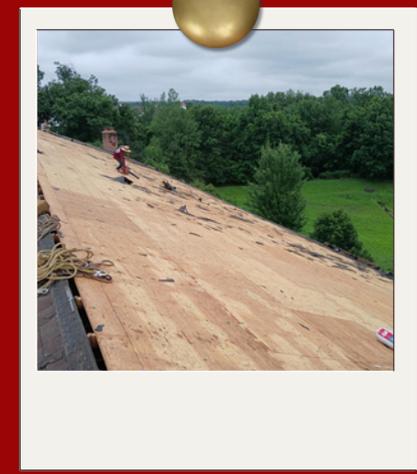
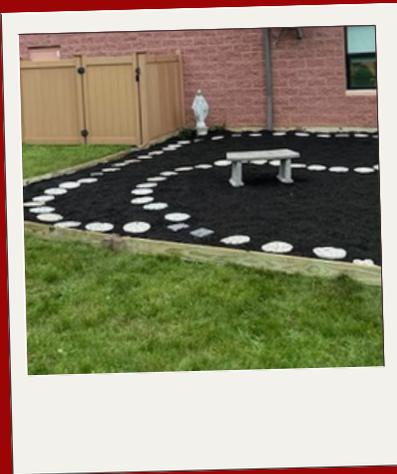
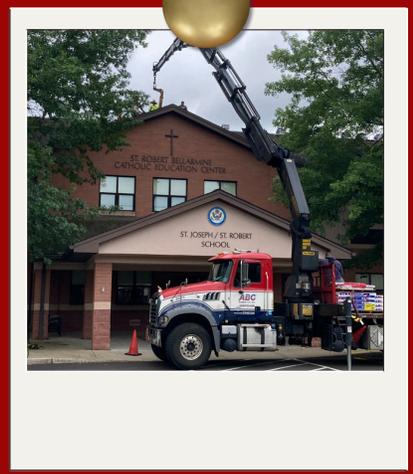
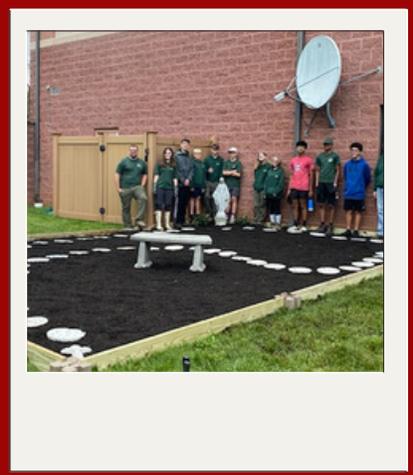
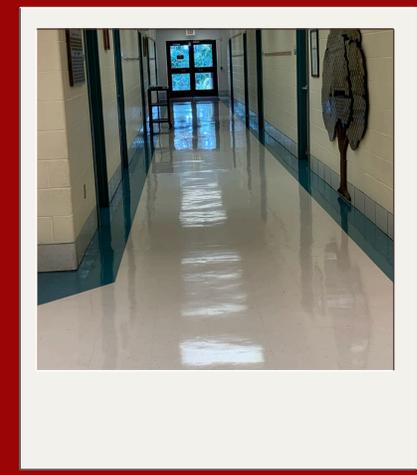
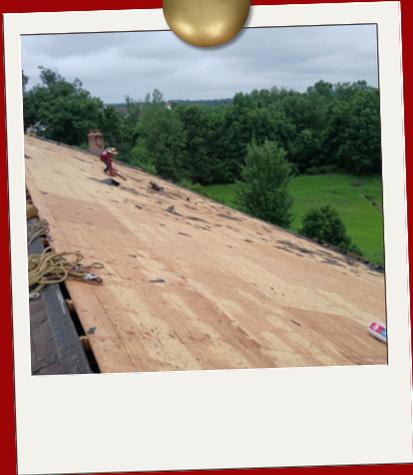
It was a joy to celebrate our Class of 2025 at graduation, though we will certainly miss them this fall. We also bid farewell to two beloved faculty members, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Barnes, who are beginning their well-earned retirements, as well as our longtime band teacher, Mr. Larry Rumpf, who retired at the end of the school year. Their dedication, care, and many contributions have left a lasting mark on SJR.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome new members and celebrate some other changes in our school. Mrs. Nadine Plomchok will join us as our 7th/8th grade ELA and Social Studies teacher, bringing a rich background in Catholic education and a deep passion for helping middle school students grow as readers, writers, and thinkers. Her commitment to preparing students for a smooth and successful transition to high school makes her a wonderful addition to our team. Mr. Kevin Miller will be stepping in as our new instrumental and band teacher, and we look forward to the talent, energy, and creativity he will bring to our music program.

We are also thrilled to announce that, due to increased enrollment in first grade, we have added an additional first-grade classroom. Miss Bertram will be moving from kindergarten to lead this new class and continue guiding our students in their early learning journey.

I am so looking forward to seeing our new families at our New Family Orientation on the 20<sup>th</sup> and welcoming everyone back to school soon!

Gratefully,  
Mrs. Durkin



New roof? Check. Smooth parking lot? Check. Shiny floors and a peaceful new prayer garden? Double check!  
 And it's official - We're a proud 2025 School of Distinguished Instruction!  
 We've been busy all summer and we can't wait to welcome you back!



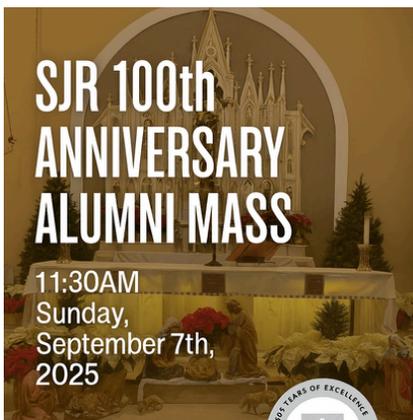
## In This Newsletter:

Please plan to take some time to review the information in this newsletter. You'll learn more about:

- Kicking off our 100<sup>th</sup> Year!
- HSA's Mabel's Labels sale
- Ongoing opportunities for you to participate in the HSA.
- Club Information for the Fall (Robotics, Yearbook, Sign Language, and Drama Club.)
- CYO sports information
- Popsicles with the Principal - our last early childhood playground meet ups.

Additionally, the following important information is being repeated should you need it.

- How to get your volunteer clearances and what clearances are required
- The change to our school uniform for students in grades 5-8 and the policies to address non-compliance with the dress code
- Our New Family Orientation
- Our Summer Reading Challenge and how to join in if you haven't already.



# SJR 100th ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI MASS

11:30AM  
Sunday,  
September 7th,  
2025

St. Joseph's Church



Reception  
in Church Hall

**All current and former students, faculty, staff, and families are encouraged to join us at 11:30 Mass at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. to open our 100<sup>th</sup> year of Catholic education! A Reception will immediately follow.**

Registration Link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkmIOgzLAG73aKplMCbF4bhOKrHNRRAnDurNkU-R6uuHoA0Q/viewform?usp=header>

Submit Photos of your time at SJR School  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/SFbBST628rkMEwx5>



## Home and School

The HSA is currently seeking Event Chairs to lead several exciting activities for the 2025–2026 school year! An Event Chair serves as the leader of a planning committee and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the event—from early planning and coordination to ensuring everything runs smoothly on the big day. We are looking for volunteers to chair the following events:

- Trunk-or-Treat (10/17)
- Hayride (10/25, for 7th & 8th Grades)
- Christmas Ornament Sale (Date TBD)
- Sweetheart Dance (2/7)
- Phillies Home Opener (Date TBD)
- Christmas/End-of-Year Collection for Specials Teachers

If you are interested in chairing one of these events or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to: Diana Klein [dbdemp@gmail.com](mailto:dbdemp@gmail.com)

### Mabel's Labels:

We love our Lost & Found... but we'd love it even more if it stayed empty!

Get ready for the new school year and help all of your child's belongings find their way home by labeling them with Mabel's Labels—and help SJR at the same time. We earn 20% of every purchase. See flyer below for ordering information.



# Support Our Organization

Get your kid's labels with our logo on them!



**K Williams** 

mabel's labels  
**FUNDRAISING**

## HOW TO ORDER:

1. Head over to [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com)
2. Search for our organization  
**SJR - HSA (Warrington)**
3. Click Shop Now, and **Logo Label Pack** will be one of the first options

Go to [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and choose our organization from the list!



## Fall Clubs and Sports

SJR CYO fall sports registration remains open until this Thursday, 8/14/2025. The fall sports offered are:

- cross country for boys and girls grades 1-8
- soccer for boys and girls grades 3-8
- volleyball for girls grades 5-8.

Please use the following link to register:

<https://stjosephstrobertcyo.sportngin.com/register/form/899242343>

Additionally, football for boys grades 4-8 and cheerleading for girls grades K-8 are offered through the Bux-Mont Saints. More information about their program can be found at [Buxmont Saints > Home](#)



### Robotics Club

For the second year, Alliance Holdings of Horsham is sponsoring our robotics club. Registration information went out to families with a student in grades 6-8. The team will be comprised of up to ten students who will be working to compete in the Lego Robotics Challenge this winter. Please register asap.

### ASL Club

Mrs. Durkin, who in addition to being a principal is also a nationally-certified American Sign Language interpreter, will be leading an ASL Club for students in grades 3-5 on Tuesdays in November. Look for a flyer once we're back to school.

### Yearbook Club

Please see the flyer below for how students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade can join in the work and fun of creating our yearbook!

### Drama Club

We've got a new production—and so much more!

Students will learn theater skills, onstage and behind the scenes.

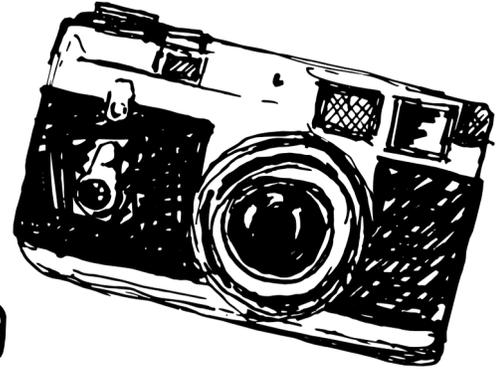
Get ready to create, perform, and shine! Look for information to come from our new director, Mr. Ryan Keegan.

# Yearbook Committee

Grades 6-8

We are looking for creative students interested in helping design this year's yearbook.

There will be opportunities for students to be **photographers** and **page designers**.



If your student is interested, please email Kathleen Rosenello

([kathleenrosenello@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenrosenello@gmail.com))

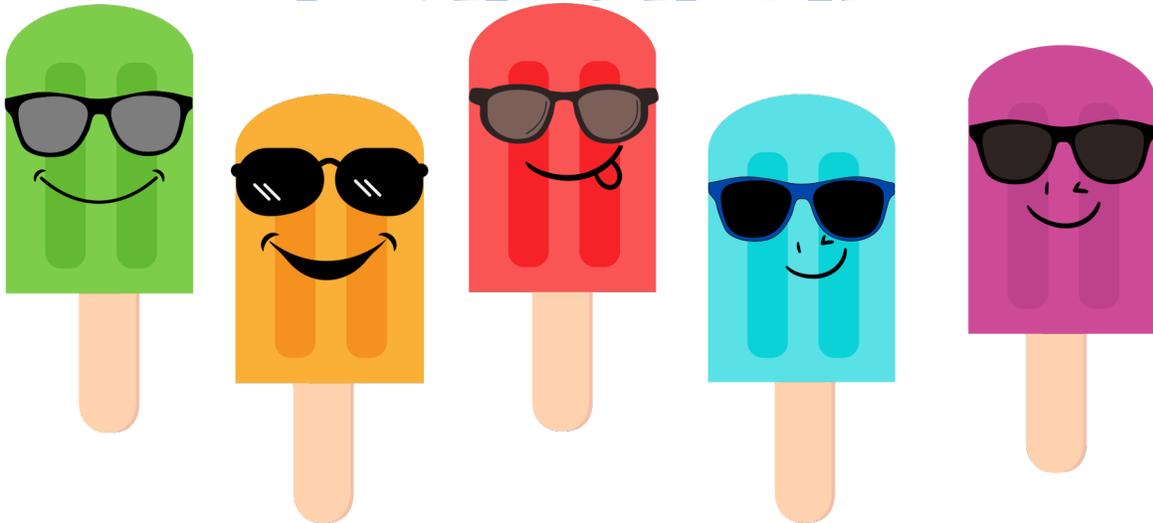
by 8/25 for more information.



Please join us for

**POPSICLES** with your

**PRINCIPAL**



We invite all of our Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students to come and enjoy a cool treat at the SJR playground with Mrs. Durkin!

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH 10:00 AM -**

**11:00 AM**

**AND/OR**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21ST 6:30 PM -**

**7:30 PM**



## Volunteering at SJR

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at SJR. We couldn't do what we do without you! Consider how you might want to be involved. There are opportunities to:

- help with Home and School events
- chair a Home and School event
- assist with lunch/recess duty regularly or every once in a while
- monitor the office phones and front door while the staff takes a lunch break
- chaperone a field trip
- share your area of expertise with a class
- Proctor an after-school club

These are just some of the opportunities you might consider. All volunteers are required to have the following clearances:

- PA Child Abuse Clearance
- PA Criminal Clearance
- A signed Disclosure Form

Volunteers who have regular contact with students are also required to take the Safe Environment trainings through the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These can be online or in-person. Please see the flyer below for more details. Summertime is the perfect opportunity to get your clearances!





## How to Obtain Your Clearances

### All Volunteers Need:

PA Criminal Clearances, PA Child Abuse Clearances,  
Signed Disclosure Form (Available on our School  
Website)

#### PA Criminal Clearance

To obtain a Pennsylvania State  
Police (PATCH) Criminal history

Report go to

<https://epatch.pa.gov/home>.

#### PA Child Abuse Clearance

To obtain a Pennsylvania Child  
Abuse History Clearance online,

go to

[https://www.compass.state.pa.us  
/cwis/public/home](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home).

#### Safe Environment

Volunteers, like lunch monitors, coaches, or helpers in classes, who have regular contact with children are required to complete parts one and two of the Safe Environment training within 90 days of beginning their volunteer work.

- Part I: Protecting God's Children, is offered regularly at sites throughout the Archdiocese. The training provides basic facts about child sexual abuse and adults' roles in prevention. [Register here](#) or at [archphila.org](http://archphila.org) the Office for Youth and Protection.
- Part II: The Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse, is available online at our Training Institute. This training provides an overview of Archdiocesan reporting procedures for suspected child abuse and Pennsylvania Child Welfare Laws. The training should take you approximately one hour to complete. [Register here](#) or at [archphila.org](http://archphila.org) the Office for Youth and Protection.

#### Additional Info

If you were living outside of PA any time over the past ten years, you will be required to obtain an FBI/fingerprint clearance. Please reach out to the school office.

When completed, please send all documentation  
to the school office.



## Uniform/Dress Code

At SJR, our school uniform is a visible expression of our commitment to order, respect, and a faith-filled learning environment.

The uniform consists of modest, neat attire that reflects Catholic values of dignity, simplicity, and self-respect. It also signifies each student's place within a community united by shared beliefs and a common mission.

An added benefit of school uniforms is the simplicity they bring to daily routines—eliminating the need to choose outfits each morning or debate what's appropriate to wear.

Please see the updated uniform chart below. Starting this summer, Flynn & O'Hara will offer an optional khaki skort as part of the summer uniform for girls in grades 1–8. The current kilt for grades 5–8 will be phased out and replaced by a plaid skort. However, students may continue to wear existing kilts if they meet the dress code requirements for length.

Please note that this policy will be enforced for students of all ages/grade levels in the school. It is part of your responsibility to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for school each day.

We'll be sending home reminders if a student's uniform—including infractions related to jewelry or makeup—isn't in line with the dress code. If the issue continues, older students will receive demerits and I will be in touch with parents of the younger students. As you shop in the summer for new or used uniforms, please make sure everything fits well and that skirts are a modest length—no more than two inches above the mid-knee.

**SJR Summer Uniform  
Spring Through Early Fall**

	<b>Pre-K &amp; Kindergarten</b>	<b>Girls 1-4</b>	<b>Girls 5-8</b>	<b>Boys 1-4</b>	<b>Boys 5-8</b>	<b>Girls &amp; Boys 1-8 GYM uniform</b>
<b>Shirt</b>	gym t-shirt	white or maroon uniform golf shirt	gym t-shirt			
<b>Pants/Skirt</b>	uniform gym shorts	khaki walking shorts	Maroon plaid skort OR khaki walking shorts	khaki walking shorts	khaki walking shorts	uniform gym shorts
<b>Socks</b>	white crew socks	White/black crew socks	maroon knee socks or tights	White/black crew socks	White/black crew socks	White/black crew socks
<b>Shoes</b>	sneakers	all white or all black sneakers	Bass oxford style tie shoe or black & white saddle shoe	all white or all black sneakers	all white or all black sneakers	sneakers
<b>Accessories</b>	–	brown or black belt	–	brown or black belt	brown or black belt	–
<b>Other</b>	<p>no nail polish no make-up</p> <p>natural colored hair boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.</p> <p>No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.</p> <p>Minimal Jewelry: One religious medal necklace. Girls: Stud earrings</p> <p>One ring</p>	<p>no nail polish no make-up</p> <p>natural colored hair boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.</p> <p>No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.</p> <p>Minimal Jewelry: One religious medal necklace. Girls: Stud earrings</p> <p>One ring</p>	<p>no nail polish no make-up</p> <p>natural colored hair boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.</p> <p>No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.</p> <p>Minimal Jewelry: One religious medal necklace. Girls: Stud earrings</p> <p>One ring</p>	<p>no nail polish no make-up</p> <p>natural colored hair boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.</p> <p>No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.</p> <p>Minimal Jewelry: One religious medal necklace. Girls: Stud earrings</p> <p>One ring</p>	<p>no nail polish no make-up</p> <p>natural colored hair boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.</p> <p>No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.</p> <p>Minimal Jewelry: One religious medal necklace. Girls: Stud earrings</p> <p>One ring</p>	<p>no nail polish no make-up</p> <p>natural colored hair boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.</p> <p>No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.</p> <p>Minimal Jewelry: One religious medal necklace. Girls: Stud earrings</p> <p>One ring</p>

**SJR Dress Uniform – Late Fall through Early Spring**

	<b>Pre-K &amp; Kindergarten</b>	<b>Girls 1-4</b>	<b>Girls 5-8</b>	<b>Boys 1-4</b>	<b>Boys 5-8</b>	<b>Girls &amp; Boys 1-8 GYM uniform</b>
<b>Shirt</b>	gym t-shirt uniform gym sweatshirt	white Peter Pan collar blouse OR white turtleneck	white Oxford blouse OR white turtleneck	white dress shirt or white turtleneck	white dress shirt or white turtleneck	gym t-shirt uniform gym sweatshirt
<b>Pants/Skirt</b>	gym sweatpants	maroon plaid jumper OR navy uniform pants	maroon plaid skort OR navy uniform pants	heather twill pants	heather twill pants	uniform gym shorts and gym sweatpants
<b>Socks</b>	white crew socks	maroon knee socks or tights (dark dress socks with pants)	maroon knee socks or tights (dark dress socks with pants)	dark crew or dress socks	dark crew or dress socks	White/black crew socks
<b>Shoes</b>	sneakers	Bass oxford style tie shoe or black & white saddle shoe	Bass oxford style tie shoe or black & white saddle shoe	suede Bass oxford or black oxford style dress shoe	suede Bass oxford or black oxford style dress shoe	sneakers
<b>Accessories</b>	–	burgundy V-neck sweater or vest	burgundy V-neck sweater or vest or maroon ¼ zip	brown or black belt  burgundy V-neck sweater or vest	brown or black belt  burgundy V-neck sweater or vest or maroon ¼ zip	–
<b>Other</b>	no nail polish no make-up natural colored hair  boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.  No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.  Same jewelry policy as above.	no nail polish no make-up natural colored hair  boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.  No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.	no nail polish no make-up natural colored hair  boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.  No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.	no nail polish no make-up natural colored hair  boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.  No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.	no nail polish no make-up natural colored hair  boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.  No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.	no nail polish no make-up natural colored hair  boys' hair trimmed neatly above the collar and out of eyes.  No outlandish or trendy hairstyles. No shaved designs in hair.



### Playground Meet Ups:

Please be sure to see the schedule below so that families with students entering Pre-K -1 grade can meet up at the playground for our final get-togethers! It's a great way to stay connected or meet new friends before the new year.

### New Family Orientation:

If you are new to the SJR Community, please plan to attend our New Family Orientation on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. in Monsignor Marley Hall. This is an important informational evening for parents/guardians.



### Summer Reading Fun Continues!

There's still plenty of time to join the fun, explore new stories, and help us grow our reading total even more! Whether it's at the beach, in the backyard, or before bedtime—every page counts!



### Want your class to win the GRAND PRIZE?

Classes need 100% participation to qualify—so make sure everyone gets involved! Let's cheer each other on and see which class can rise to the top! Let's keep those pages turning, SJR readers—you've got this!



If your child hasn't joined in the challenge yet, no worries! There's a smidge of summer left before school starts. Please see the flyer below....it's never too late to join in!



# Reader Zone



## GOAL-BASED READING PROGRAMS

are an important tool to help students build reading skills. We are using an internet-based system called Reader Zone for our reading programs.



- 👍 No more paper reading calendars!
- 👍 Use a smart phone app to log reading.
- 👍 See your student's reading progress in real time.



### SEARCH FOR "READER ZONE" AT YOUR APP STORE.

Install the Reader Zone app for Android, Apple or Amazon device. Make an account and add your reader(s). Join our reading program with our code: **939ed**

Please let us know what questions you have. **Happy Reading!**  
**Mrs. Jacobsen (jjacobsen@stjstr.org)**

# SJR Playground Playgroup



**Come join us on the playground to meet and play with your classmates and their families this summer!**

**WHO:** Families of students entering Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade for the 2025-26 School Year

**WHEN:** Alternating Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings, Weather Permitting (see attached calendar)

**WHERE:** SJR playground

Please contact Kathy Williamson ([kwilliamson@stjstr.org](mailto:kwilliamson@stjstr.org)) or Becky Moran ([m.rebecca.tate@gmail.com](mailto:m.rebecca.tate@gmail.com)) if you have any questions!

# AUG 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

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Playgroup  
@ 6:30PM

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Playgroup  
@ 10AM

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23

Playgroup  
@ 6:30PM

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Playgroup  
@ 10AM

31