

Principal News

Welcome back - Autumn greeting - **Happy New Year** - Winter greeting - Spring greeting - Happy summer holidays



Dear Parents

The attentive reader of Principals News will notice that the editorial team has changed the publication dates. In the future, the originally planned Christmas edition will be replaced by a New Year's edition.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone at Skt. Josefs School and kindergarten. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and holiday season, and hopefully, recharged their batteries, ready to start again in 2024. The dark hours are diminishing, and the days are getting brighter as we move further into winter.

However, it is still dark in the morning, and it is important that everyone takes care of each other during drop-off and arrival at school in the morning. Many of you experience chaotic traffic conditions around the school before 8:00 am. This requires patience and goodwill from both drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to help each other ensure that dangerous situations do not arise.

Unfortunately, we often experience dangerous situations in front of the school. I therefore urge especially drivers to be extra aware that they have a special responsibility for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, on their way to school.

This is best done by

- Dropping off children before 7:50 am (they need to be ready in the classroom at 8:00 anyway!)
- Avoiding dropping off children at the curb along Frederiksborgvej between the roundabout and the driveway after the kindergarten. It blocks traffic and creates dangerous situations when other drivers choose to overtake.
- Dropping off children farther away from the school, for example, at the library or on the other side of the park, and letting the children walk the last stretch. There is supervised group walking to school.
- Respecting and taking care of our dedicated school patrols, who help pedestrians cross the road every morning.
- Following the instructions of our service personnel, who assist every morning in ensuring safe conditions for everyone.

Also, be aware that the **parking lot at St. Laurentii Church** is for school staff parking only and should **not** be used for dropping off children. It creates dangerous situations if there is outgoing traffic from the lot, and it is also the agreed-upon condition with the owner of the lot.

With the outline of this, I expect that we can reduce the number of dangerous situations and create a better flow in morning traffic - for the benefit and joy of everyone!

Highlights from the recent and upcoming events

December was filled with Christmas activities. On December 1st, the school was decorated, and the great competition for the **best-decorated Christmas classroom doors** was held. There was great creativity, and the judges had a hard time selecting the winning classes. There were simply a lot of beautiful doors, as you also have been able to see on our Instagram advent calendar. The winners in the three possible categories can also be found on Instagram.

We had a beautiful **Lucia day**, where 4.A paraded and sang for the whole school. In connection with the assembly, we handed over an impressive amount of DKK 99,821 from the charity week to Caritas, who will forward the money to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to improve conditions for the children in the camps.

On the same afternoon, the **SFO held a Christmas gathering**, with many parents participating - thank you for that!

I had the pleasure of hosting an **online Christmas bingo**. Many classes from both the Danish and international departments participated. 6.C won the honor and Christmas treats for the class.

We also had the great pleasure of presenting an animation of our **new school yard**. We are delighted to upgrading our outdoor area to modern and inspiring environments with opportunities for activities and relaxation. The link to the animation can be seen on ForældreIntra.

We expect the work to start in the spring, and everything should be ready for the first day of school after the summer break in 2024.

Last, but not least, we had a wonderfully beautiful and solemn **Christmas conclusion in a crowded Roskilde Cathedral**. The priests collectively told stories about angels, we sang Christmas carols, the school orchestra performed, and I had the opportunity to wish the entire school a Merry Christmas.

When we return after the Christmas break, we will mark **Epiphany** with joint assemblies on January 5th. The day is an important event in the Catholic calendar and marks the end of Christmas.

In January, the upper school is busy with **midterm exams in the Danish department**, where students have the opportunity to practice for the actual final exams. It is important to practice both the discipline of taking exams and to test one's academic level so that both students and teachers know where to focus.



At Skt. Josefs School, it is very important to us that we teach our children and young people the value of gratitude. This can be gratitude for the fact that our existence is fundamentally safer than many other places in the world, but also for the small things in everyday life.

Do we remember to say thank you when someone smiles at us? When someone helps us, holds the door, or pulls out the chair? Do we remember to be grateful for someone helping when we are upset, or saying congratulations when we have a birthday or achieve something we have worked for?

At Skt. Josef, we appreciate communities and the deeds we perform daily that contribute to making the school a pleasant place for everyone.

Queen Margrethe also spoke about gratitude in her just-held, traditional New Year's speech - gratitude for the warmth she has always been met with. Subsequently, she announced that she is stepping down as the Queen of Denmark and on January 14, 2024, will hand over the throne to Crown Prince Frederik.

A historic moment in Denmark's more than thousand-year-old monarchy. A historic event that we will surely remember exactly where we were when we heard the news. That kind of thing is also worth being grateful for.

If you want to see more about what's going on at Skt. Josefs School, please follow us on Instagram and Facebook!

*New Year greetings from
Martin Kofoed
Principal*

