



# The Tiger's Eye



Hunting Down the Latest Tiger News

St. James High School, St. James, Missouri

## Voters Will Decide Prop TIGERS April 4

By Conner Mills  
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St. James registered voters who plan on voting on the April ballot will notice a new proposition. Superintendent Tim Webster and Communications Director Beth Keyes have been working to get Proposition Today's Investment Gets Educational Rewards for Students (Prop TIGERS) proposition ready for voters.

Prop TIGERS' goal is to retain and maintain the St. James School District by raising the local tax levy to increase school funding. According to Webster, a levy is a property tax that

collects an approved dollar amount based on the assessed value of a homeowner's property. Levies are often confused with bonds. A difference is that bonds are used for big structures, like the high school auditorium project, and a levy is used for paying people, in this case teachers, and small structures/maintenance like repairing roof tiles.

A levy is collected through property tax, which is determined by the house owner's assessed value of their property. For example, a higher-

paying household will have higher property tax versus a household making less per year.

Prop TIGERS' objective is to retain quality staff by helping raise teacher salaries to keep quality staff from leaving for higher paying jobs, as well as to maintain the facilities in the school district. Examples would include ceiling tiles, and other small maintenance topics.

St. James' current tax levy percentage is 2.75%, which is the legal minimum in the state of Missouri, the

average is 3.64%, and the highest recorder is 6.49%. There are 518 schools in Missouri and only 63 of them work at 2.75%. Prop TIGERS will raise the levy percentage by 65 cents to 3.40%, putting St. James in fourth place within the Four Rivers Conference. Every penny of the 65 cent raise equals \$14,000 dollars, which means that the 65 cent raise will equal approximately \$928,000 dollars that will go towards the school district. The St James school

See "Prop TIGERS" on page 2.

### Treece Wins SOTM

By Paige Sells  
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In 2022, Carla Treece won 'The Tiger Leading The Way' certificate at St. James High School for staff member of the month for December.

Treece is a custodian and full time bus driver. She oversees all the other custodians and does work at all three schools within the district.

She originally worked at Boys and Girls Town, and then she came to work for the school district. She has been doing this job for 13 years. Her favorite part about her job is being able to work with the kids and teachers and making sure that the buildings are cleaned and safe.

She expressed what she feels about winning the award. "Well, it makes me feel good. That you know, people, you know, actually think I do a really good job, but like I said, it's not just

See "Treece" on page 2.

### New Teacher Wins TOTM

By Savannah Smith  
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Alec Conner is a new teacher in St. James High School and, just in his first semester, won Teacher of the Month for December. Conner was ecstatic about the award.

"I was shocked. I was really shocked. I have a lot of anxiety, you know, most of the time when I'm teaching, so it made me feel really good when Mr. Webster gave me the award. It meant a lot."

Mr. Conner came to St. James because he was looking for something new, and St. James always has something going on, like games, events, and plays.

Conner talked about how he liked the day-to-day creativity of teaching, and getting different thoughts and perspectives of a story.

Conner is from a small town in Manitoba called Flin Flon. He graduated from Missouri State

See "Conner" on page 2.

### Fulton and Gus Join STJHS

By Dionna Lynch  
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At the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, two new staff members were welcomed into the St. James High School. Chelsie Fulton and her three year old goldendoodle Gus joined the Tigers as our new school counselor and therapy dog. Fulton is the guidance counselor for students with the last name A-J.

In college she earned a Bachelor's degree in History Education at College of the Ozarks and a Masters in School Counseling at Missouri Baptist. Before coming to St. James, Ms. Fulton worked at Salem High School for seven years, five of those years spent as a history teacher.

"I loved being a teacher. I loved history, but I just felt like my heart was in building relationships more with kids and just helping them . . . In a classroom setting you get to

See "Gus" on page 2.

### STJHS Updates Policies

By Mariah Perkins and Becky Daniels  
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Now that students have entered second semester at Saint James High School, due to recent issues revolving around wifi, bathrooms, and cell phones, the administration has decided to make a few changes and enforce more strict rules.

Devin Johnson said, "The cell phone policy has always been in place. It's been in our handbook ever since I've been here that students are not allowed to use cell phones during instructional time, unless they're directed to by their teacher for education purposes. We've always allowed cell phones to be used in the hallway and at lunchtime."

Additionally, all work must be completed on the district-issued iPad while at school. Personal phones are not a replacement for their iPads when iPads are not charged.

Teachers have been directed by administration to enforce this handbook policy and to be more consistent from class to class. Students who do not follow this policy will begin seeing discipline referrals.

The wifi has been taken away for students' personal devices due to students' gmail accounts being hacked. Students may no longer connect their phones to the school's wifi.

A letter was sent to parents and guardians January 2 revealing these new changes, as well as bringing attention to a new issue. Students have been witnessed sharing bathroom stalls. According to the letter written by Johnson, "There is no reason for more than one student to be in a bathroom stall for health and safety reasons. Students have reported that the reason students are

See "Policies" on page 2.



Via St. James High School Facebook  
Carla Treece is the head custodian. Here, Treece is posing with her certificate for winning staff member of the month for Leading The Tiger Way.



Via St. James High School Facebook  
Last month, teachers voted for English teacher Alec Conner as TOTM. Here, Conner poses with his certificate of appreciation.



Submitted Photo  
Chelsie Fulton (right) joined the St. James counseling staff this year with her service dog Gus (left). Fulton and Gus's office is in the counseling center at St. James High School.

# Second Front

• **“Prop TIGERS” continued** district plans on putting most of the \$928,000 towards increasing teacher salaries. “That’s the main point. We want to make sure that we keep these quality staff members here, and we attract ones in the future to come here and work and teach,” Keyes said. The rest will be put into the district’s “Fund 4” which is used at the end of the year to determine what maintenance or changes to buildings need to be made before the next school year.

The amount that the average taxpayer in St. James will have to pay per month and annually will be different for each family. However, after the raise, the average taxpayer will pay \$11.95 a month, or \$143.42 a year in taxes.

Webster’s main concern for the campaign is the possibility that some people may spread false rumors. “My hope for this entire campaign is that people can just hear the truth. If the community decides to support it, that’s great. If they don’t, then that’s not what the will of the community was this year. But I just hope they can honestly go to the polls and say, I heard the truth.”

Keyes is now able to register any High School students turning 18 to vote in the April election. She believes that this election is a good way for seniors voting for the first time to be involved in the community. “And I think, for especially our seniors who are going to be voting for the first time perhaps that just making them active, engaged citizens of our community and wanting them to get to the polls and vote regardless of which way they sway.”

To get Prop TIGERS on the ballot, Keyes and Webster had to get it approved by the school board in December, then this month they are doing various filing work with representors in other counties, since the district spans multiple . The campaign is the next step and will last between 6-8 weeks. The election will be on April 4 of this year.

If you or anyone you know has questions regarding Prop TIGERS, you can email Tim Webster and Beth Keyes at [twebster@stjschools.org](mailto:twebster@stjschools.org) and [akeyes@stjschools.org](mailto:akeyes@stjschools.org). Webster and Keyes are also both open for in-person discussion anytime.

## Lady Tigers Win Sullivan Tournament

By Julia Jacobs  
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On December 12, the St. James’ Lady Tigers brought home first place in the Sullivan Varsity Tournament.

The first game was against the St. Francis Borgia Knights. The Lady Tigers won 66-28, moving on to the next round.

The girls ran a close game against the hosting team, the Sullivan Eagles, ending the game with a Tiger win of 43-35, advancing to the championship game.

The championship game was against Owensville. They won with a score of 46-44.

Sophomore Lydia Kemnitzer and

• **“Trece” continued** me. I can’t do this by myself. It takes all of the custodians to do this job.”

There is, at the moment, a couple of listings for custodial jobs with the school. Characteristics she said they look for in people are taking pride in what they do, having good morals and values, and like to work around kids. They also need to be able to communicate with the teachers and have the mindset of wanting to do the best they can.

She is very thankful that she was awarded the award and very honored.

• **“Policies” continued** going into bathroom stalls together is to vape.”

The letter stated teachers have been instructed to send those students for an office referral, which will carry a first offense of up to 4 days of Alternative Classroom Setting (ACS), or ISS. Subsequent offenses may result in Out of School Suspension (OSS).

• **“Gus” continued** build relationships with those students every single day. But as a counselor, you get to build relationships with everybody,” said Fulton.

“I knew I wanted to transition to become a counselor and I’ve always wanted to be able to have the opportunity to bring a dog with me.

Fulton said that Gus is “sassy” but full of love that no one can deny. Fulton explained how having Gus “provides an outlet for students who can’t talk to me or their friends or somebody about something and it just provides them unconditional love and support. There’s no judgment. It’s just somebody there to comfort you without any strings attached.”

The St. James staff and students have been happy to welcome Gus and Ms. Fulton. Staff and students are welcome to visit Fulton and Gus in the counseling office, or you can contact Fulton at her email address: [chelsie.fulton@stjschools.org](mailto:chelsie.fulton@stjschools.org).

• **“Conner” continued** University in Springfield with a bachelor’s degree in the Science of English Education.

This year will be his eighth year teaching. Before coming to St. James, Conner taught in Salem, Missouri, for seven years.

senior Livi Herron made the All-Tournament Team, and junior Kendall Costoplos was named Tournament MVP.

Coach Kristin Lorts said, “This is a special team who has some big goals, and as a team we are ready to accomplish them. It should be a fun and exciting rest of the season.”

According to the Ozark Sports Zone, as of December 28, the Lady Tigers were ranked #2 in the state out of all class 4 schools. As of press date, are competing in the California varsity tournament and are in the second round with a recent win against Eldon.

## “Christmas Night” Helps Russell House

By Maddy Tinsley  
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On December 16, 2022, STJHS Junior Class Officers hosted a “Christmas Night” fundraiser in the St. James High School Auditorium to collect items to donate to the Russell House.

With the help of Beta Club, FBLA, FFA, Art Club, and other volunteers, they collected hundreds of personal hygiene and toiletry items.

This evening included; How The Grinch Stole Christmas movie, games, crafts, hot chocolate, and pictures with Santa Claus.

According to Junior class officer Zoey Bliss, they “raised a ton of toiletries and made a big difference.”

What motivated Bliss to do this was when she was in the elementary school

they had always done something for the kids for Christmas, so she thought it’d be a good idea to do the same for the St. James High School students.

Bliss said the biggest challenge “was trying to get people there, just because it was so close to Christmas, but it was still really good.”

Bliss thought overall it was a good experience for all who had attended the main events and all of the help she had to raise a good fundraiser.

Bliss wants to do this again in the future. “I definitely think we can get a bigger turnout if we did this again.”

The junior class, as well as all St. James High School classes, are still collecting items for the Russell House until Courtwarming.



Erica Kinkead Photo  
“Christmas Night” was held on December 16 where many clubs put together a fun event for all students to participate in. Here, Juniors (from left) Amy Berkelman, Zoey Bliss, Joseph White, Elijah Barnett, and Ganon Ambrose show the toiletries they will be donating to the Russell House from the event.

## Gaming Clubs at STJHS

By Royal Newton  
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The Gauntlet Gaming Club is run by Mr. Mike Harris, who has been sponsoring since the early 2000s. Mr. Josh Cahill also helps with both this club and the Medieval Club.

The Gauntlet Gaming Club is more board games and roleplay games (RPGs) while Medieval Club clashes metal on metal, using swords and armor.

The club’s member count has changed year to year. Currently, 15 members participate in the club. These clubs are lesser known from other clubs at St. James High School. The Gauntlet Gaming Club is a

creative hub where students can express their imagination and create bonds.

“It was always set up that we would have a tabletop that we would play on so that we could have actual interaction between the different students right there.” Having a club with people who share similar ideas and hobbies is a great way to help students open up, make friends, and expand their ideas.

Both clubs are free to join. While best at the beginning of the year, they are always welcoming new adventurers.



Becky Daniels Photo  
Medieval Club, coached by Mike Harris (background) has regular meetings to conduct live action role play in the activities room. Here, (from left) Joey White, Adam Drewry, Gavin Morland, Josh Adams, Justin Taylor, and Cooper Armstrong play “bridged,” a game when two teams fight in a narrowed pathway.

## Door Decoration Winners Announced

By Kaylee Kraczek  
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On December 5, the St. James High School had a door decorating competition, every teacher and their Tiger Time students participated to win donuts on January 5 during Tiger Time by winning one of the three categories.

The contest ended December 16 Judges were Mrs. Abel from the elementary, Mr. Metcalf from the

middle school and Ms. Sandusky. Winners were Mrs. Lorts with Most Creative, Mrs. Daniels with Funniest, and Mrs. Hodge with Most Christmas Spirit.

STUCO Sponsor Mrs. Shultz said, “The reason we do these types of competitions is because it helps get teachers and students more engaged, and everyone likes to try to win.”