

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

Cindy Richard, Principal
September 30, 2024



Pastors Message

Greetings!

As pastor of Saint Paul Church, I am pleased to announce a new initiative. Sr. Esmeralda and I will be meeting with every family who has a child attending Saint Paul School. This will give us an opportunity to get to know you and an opportunity for you to get to know us! Meeting times will be assigned via email in the upcoming weeks.

For planning purposes, please know that we will begin with families of older students first; meetings should last approximately 15 minutes.

We are looking forward to our meeting and to a great academic year!

Father Woodhouse

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

As the leaves change and we embrace the beauty of fall, we are reminded of the blessings in our lives. October is a month filled with many exciting events, opportunities for growth, and moments for reflection.

**Monthly Gospel Value:
Compassion**

This month, we focus on the gospel value of COMPASSION. We encourage families to discuss what it means to show compassion to ourselves, others, and God. Let's work together to cultivate an environment where everyone demonstrates compassion.

October is also the month dedicated to the **Rosary**. We encourage families to pray the Rosary together and discuss its significance in our faith. We will be joining together to pray the rosary on Wednesday, October 23rd at 1 PM.

Our Meadow Farms fundraising ends next Tuesday. We are asking everyone to please participate in this event that benefits our school. Even if it is just having your immediate family participate, the school will benefit, every little bit helps. We are giving a drone to the highest seller next week, so this is your chance to win the big prize!



This month is filled with activities. Please check your calendar that is attached. Please remember that October 14th is Columbus Day and October 15th is a Staff Development Day. There is no school on October 14th and 15th. October 15th is a Virtual Day. Your student's teacher will be communicating with you about the specific details for their class. October 25th is Parent /Teacher Conference Day. **There is no school and it is a Virtual Learning Day.**

Spirit Week will be the last week of October. A schedule of daily themes will be sent out as we get closer to the end of the month.

We will be having our Trunk or Treat Celebration on October 18th at 6PM in the school parking lot. It was so much fun last year, and we can't wait to celebrate with you this year.



Please remember to put the Parent Group meeting on your calendar. We are meeting on the 16th at 6PM. Come join our community planning and hear about our exciting plans!

It is truly a blessing to be part of the Saint Paul community. Our students demonstrate love and concern for each other every day. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we nurture our children's faith and education.

In Peace, Cindy Richard

PreK 3 & 4 News



We made it through the first month of school! It has been great to be back in the classroom! We have been busy learning about our routines and our new classmates. We spent the month of September talking about our school and learning about each other. We even had some fun with apples and learned that we can be scientists! We have practiced many skills, including writing our names, patterning, sorting, scissor skills, book skills and our fine motor skills as well. As the weather begins to change, please remember to continue having your child practice putting on their own coats and zipping them independently.

We are looking forward to October, where we will learn about the fall, fire safety, pumpkins and of course, Halloween! We are planning some fun fall activities too! We will be able to attend our first mass of the year in October and celebrate the rosary this month as well! We will have some fun and exciting activities, and we can't wait to share them with you!

Kindergarten News

Happy Fall! The first month of school has flown by! We have had an amazing month of learning. During the month of September, we worked on many fine motor skills such as cutting on a straight line, gluing paper to create a craft, and writing on or in between lines. We also worked on

recognizing letters, introducing the sounds each letter makes, and added two sight words to our list (am, I). In math, we started Chapter 1 which is all about sorting objects based on their size, shape, and color. Our favorite math activities were sorting M&M's based on their color and sorting stickers based on their shape. In Religion, we learned about God's gifts and how we celebrate them. During the last week of September we began our apple unit. We talked about the life cycle of an apple and the parts of an apple. Later this week we will be doing a taste test to see which apple we like best!

In October, we are looking forward to learning about 2D and 3D shapes, adding more sight words to our list, fire safety week, and participating in Halloween stories and activities.



First Grade News



First grade has had a fun and busy first couple weeks of school! Everyone is so excited to be back in school and to see all our friends again.

We started off our year by making classroom family bracelets. This went along with creating our classroom promises that help us make good choices in the classroom. We have started reviewing and learning more about our vowels! Each week we have been focusing on a new vowel sound to strengthen our literacy skills. We had our first spelling test ever, and everyone did amazing! We also have been reviewing our numbers and number words in math to prepare us for more addition and subtraction problems in the future. In religion, we have been focusing on God's creation, especially people! We have talked about our school and classroom community and what makes us each special and unique. First grade is looking forward to October!



Second Grade News



This month, second grade is adapting to our classroom and our schedule. Second graders shared an All About Me assignment to get to know one another. Our class discussed what a Great Classroom Looks, Feels, and Sounds like. Together, we developed a class contract to uphold from our discussion.

In Language and Literacy, we are working on Unit 1 in reading and our vocabulary workshop book.

Throughout the month, we have been reading with comprehension skills activities. For Phonics, we are working on short and long vowel sounds, closed syllables, and consonant blends. Daily, we practice our writing and grammar skills in our writing journals and a variety of assignments.

For Math, the second grade is working on adding numbers up to 20, double facts, and three addends.

In Religion, we were so excited to attend Mass with the school. In class, we have learned about the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family with readings and a cross activity. We discussed the importance of prayer and practice with our daily prayers. We learned ways of being good disciples of Jesus. Additionally, we talked about Saint Teresa of Calcutta and all the wonderful ways she helped people.

In Science, using the scientific method, the class performed an apple volcano experiment and recorded our findings. We learned about the apple tree life cycle while working on reading comprehension. Also, we learned about space including stars, astronauts, and the solar system.

For Social Studies, we learned about ways to be a good student, different types of communities, friendships, and conflict resolution.

In centers, students work independently on literacy and math skills with materials and manipulatives to strengthen their understanding of classwork for the week.

Next month, we are looking forward to fire prevention week, celebrating Spanish heritage, and many fun fall activities.



Grade 3 News

Welcome to 3rd grade for the 2024-2025 academic school year. Students have nestled nicely into their new roles as third graders. August and September have glided past as we now move forward into October.

Students are handing in their third week of homework tomorrow as well as taking their third spelling test on plural endings. Students have begun Religion and have already taken their first religion test! Students were excited to start Ch. 1 in Math on place value after wrapping up a review on 2nd grade skills.

Third grade is looking forward to staying productive as we gather to learn as much as possible this year. We are also looking forward to all the fun fall festivities and activities that come with the month of October.

Grade 4

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for a month. Grade 4 has been hard at work learning new expectations and procedures for this school year. Our most important rule is all about respect. We are to have respect for ourselves (work to our best ability), respect for others (treat people the way we want them to treat us), respect for our school (clean up after ourselves), respect for time (do our work in a timely manner and not waste time) and respect for God (prayer, Mass, Adoration). Once we become proficient in these things, our school year will run smoothly, and we will learn so much.

Grade 4 has been learning about the New England region. As many of you know, they have New England **mini-projects due by October 11, 2024.** Please check students' folders for more information about this task.

We attended Adoration for the first time this month and the students did a

wonderful job praying for their special intentions. We had our first religion test and have begun our second chapter in the book.

We completed our first read-a-loud book, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume. The students really enjoyed the adventures that surrounded Peter and his brother, Fudge. We have begun to read Holes by Louis Sachar. Already, the students are wondering what will happen to Stanley.

Grade 5 News

September has been a very busy month for students in grade 5. We have established routines and rituals and have taken a deep dive into Reading and Math.

We have started the year off with a book study in Reading. Students are enjoying the book "My Teacher Is An Alien," a novel by Bruce Coville. We have been integrating active reading strategies such as making predictions. This comprehension skill is used to check for understanding in order to anticipate what will happen next in the book.

We will continue to integrate active reading strategies along with identifying story elements throughout the year.

In Math, we are starting the year with Numbers and Operations. Students have been introduced to two math platforms, Legends of Learning and Prodigy. Assignments are geared towards the standards being instructed and delivered in a fun, engaging way.

Thank you to all for welcoming me to St. Paul School. We have a great year ahead of us!

Middle School News



Grade 6

Math/Science: It has been a nice, easy transition into sixth grade! Even though we have a small class, we dove right into academics. We are half-way through our first chapter in math already! In science, students have been working on growing their own crystals, which is fun to watch the changes every day.



Grades 7&8 Math/Science: We started our school year doing a fun STEM project! Students were tasked with designing and building a chair made solely from cardboard, which could withstand the weight of themselves. They were only allowed to use some string and cardboard. They certainly got creative and were graded on function, shape, and aesthetics. It was a fun way to transition into a new school year 😊



Grade 6 Social Studies: We have been studying hard learning about the geography, government, culture, and economy of Ancient Mesopotamia.

Students can identify the Fertile Crescent on a map and have looked at how the geography affects the lives of the people who lived there. Ask your learner about "Hammurabi's Code".

Grade 6 Literature: Keeping with the theme of our Social Studies, we have been reading "The Golden Bull", a tale of Ancient Mesopotamia. Siblings Jomar and Zefa leave the familiarity of their farm to live in the great city of Ur. They experience many challenges along the way. Ask your learner what a lyre is.

Grade 7 Social Studies: Students have been learning about the early exploration of the Europeans, as Europeans attempted to find a direct trade route with Asia. Students also learned about the ancient peoples of north and south America and are poised to learn about the interactions between the native Americans and the Europeans.

Grade 7 & 8 Vocabulary: We just started Unit 3 in Vocab. We do daily vocabulary drills and exercises in class but students MUST study their vocabulary terms every day at home, too.

Grade 8 Social Studies: We are looking at the increasing tension between the North and the South that will eventually lead to the American Civil War. Students looked at how the war with Mexico, the Dred Scott Decision, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act all heightened tensions.

Grade 8 Literature: We are about twelve chapters deep into Louisa May Alcott's coming of age classic, "Little Women". Students have been doing character studies as well as introspective work about conquering their "bosom enemies" and being the best versions of themselves every day. Ask your learner who their favorite character is and why.

Grades 7 & 8 Religion: Students have just started chapter 3, which is all about the Holy Trinity. Students also did a candy corn inspired craft about the Holy Trinity. Students attended adoration every Monday at the church and participate in daily prayer and monthly Mass. Be sure to reach out to Saint Paul Church's Faith Formation program directors if your learner is eligible to prepare for any sacraments.

Physical Education

Welcome back everyone! As you may have heard, Canning Hall is temporarily out of commission so Physical Education is off to a slightly different start. PE is either being held in the auditorium or outside. The students are adapting to the change and doing their part to stay safe and still have a quality lesson.

PreK and K have started working on spatial awareness, balancing, and gross motor skills. We are working on locomotor movements such as skipping, galloping, and sliding, and learning some different yoga moves along with how to do a sit up and a push up. These movements are modified based on the student's age and ability.

Grades 1 and 2 start the class with a tag game for a warmup, followed by a stretching routine. Their focus skills that we have been working on are rolling to a target and throwing to a target.

Grades 3-8 start class with either a 2-minute jog or 5 minutes of jump rope skills for a warmup, followed by a stretching routine. The students have finished a kickball unit and a soccer unit. We are just starting two hand touch football in the middle school while grades 3-5 are learning how to throw and catch a football correctly. Besides original sports, the students will also participate in other fun lead up games that work on sport specific skills such as throwing, kicking, striking, and dodging.

As we look forward to getting back into Canning Hall, Physical Education

is off to a great start and is giving us time to enjoy the great weather by being outside. I am looking forward to an amazing year!

Library



Welcome Back to the Library!

We've had a busy and exciting start to the school year! Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to:

Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4:

Our youngest students enjoyed interactive storytime sessions with books like *The Pigeon Has to Go to School*, *Little Blue Truck Back to School*, and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. Each visit starts with our *Hello Everybody Song* and ends with our *Goodbye Song*.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade:

Kindergarteners and first graders learned about book care and library rules through stories and activities. They also enjoyed creating bookmarks and listened to *How I Became a Pirate*.

2nd Grade:

Second graders got creative with bookmarks and coloring activities while enjoying stories like *The Pirates Next Door* and a fun animated adaptation of *Too Much Glue*.

3rd & 4th Grade:

Third graders were introduced to the Dewey Decimal System to help them navigate the library. Fourth graders

completed a reading survey to share their interests and started reading *James and the Giant Peach* with me!

5th Grade:

Fifth graders began the year with a reading survey and are excited to dive into new projects and book discussions.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grades:

Our middle school students kicked off the year with a reading survey and are gearing up for their roles in the school newspaper.

Big News for Middle School!

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, and we're partnering with Cranston Public Library to ensure all middle schoolers get a public library card. In October, we'll be taking a trip to the public library, where students will explore the resources available to them. Please make sure to return the form if you want your child to get a library card!

Computer Classes



Each grade is exploring new skills and building on last year's knowledge. Here's what we've been working on:

Kindergarten:

New this year, our kindergarteners have added computer class as one of their specials! They are getting hands-on experience with Chromebooks and learning the basics of computer use. They practiced navigating through Chromebook stations and will continue to develop their understanding of computers and technology. If you have a laptop at home, I encourage you to let them

practice using a mouse by playing some fun games on AbcYa.com!

1st Grade:

First graders are practicing their mouse skills and learning computer terms and vocabulary. They have also been introduced to some fun, interactive games to help them get comfortable using a computer.

2nd Grade:

Second graders are improving their typing skills with *Typing Rocket*, focusing on letter recognition and keyboard layout. They've also been practicing writing their usernames and log in info.

3rd Grade:

Third graders have re-joined *Typing Club*, where they're practicing their typing skills and learning to sign in independently. These foundational skills will support their future work in technology.

4th & 5th Grades:

Both grades are focusing on developing digital literacy. Fourth graders reviewed last year's content and are now working on enhancing their typing abilities.

Middle School (6th, 7th, & 8th Grades):

Middle school students are diving into our school newspaper project. We're honing their research, writing, and editing skills while preparing for the production of the first issue of the school year. They're also refining their computer skills, including navigating *Google Classroom* and using digital tools for assignments.



Spanish

As our first month of school is ending, students at Saint Paul school have been working very hard in Spanish class. Elementary school students have been learning their ABCs, numbers, one through ten, in basic greetings in Spanish. They have also been taking part in educational videos as well. We have been using the big screen quite often which breaks up the lesson by singing our ABC and number songs. Middle school students have been working very hard every week. We meet twice a week, and we are getting so much more accomplished. They have learned so many new vocabulary and are learning new grammar concepts, such as “ tener que and hay Que, adverbs and new verb conjugations.”