

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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Cindy Richard, Principal

May 31, 2023



Principal's News

June has arrived and it is going to be filled with end of the year activities and programs. The year has flown by with a blur of joy and learning. Our students have demonstrated the ability to return to a "normal" school environment that has been enriched daily with the excellent teaching of our teachers. I have been so impressed with the level of commitment and professionalism that our teachers display daily. Our students are thriving and growing up so quickly. I recently observed all the classes and was amazed at the wonderful interactions and evidence of learning that I witnessed.

The Jungle Book production was a great success. Thank you to Mrs. Vargas, Mrs. Sandberg, and Mr. Larsh for all their dedication and commitment to producing an amazing show. The students were well directed, confident, and truly fantastic. The auditorium was filled with joy! Congratulations to everyone involved in the production. It was a highlight of the year.

The book fair was a fantastic success. Thank you to Mrs. Conroy for organizing it and for the parent volunteers. The library will greatly benefit with over \$2000 of funds for new library resources.

Continued Principal News...

The Walk-a -thon was also a huge success. It was a great day of community. The students raised over \$3,100.00 dollars! Thank you to everyone who supported the event. The funds raised will be used to directly benefit our school. Thank you. This event is vital to supporting our school.

Our Eighth graders will be graduating on June 8th with a graduation Mass celebrated by Bishop Hennings and Father Woodhouse at 5:30 PM. Please join us as we congratulate our eighth graders and support them to the end of their journey at Saint Paul School. We wish them luck as they transition to their new schools, and we want them to know they will always be welcome back to Saint Paul School.

The last day for the after-school program will be Wednesday, June 14th.

It has been an exciting first year for me serving as the principal of Saint Paul School. Our learning community has been collaborating to move forward with new technology, a new communication system, and many new initiatives that I will be sharing as we move forward. I can share that the academic year 2023-2024 will bring the introduction of technology initiatives and laptops for all students that are being donated by Saint Raphael School. There will also be a new communication system that will be up and running in the beginning of the academic year. This will provide a portal for parent/teacher communication, access to the classroom information and grades. It will be part of the FACTS system for payment we are currently using.

My hope is that this system will help with parent communication and involvement in our school community.

I am also hoping that more parents get involved in our Saint Paul Parent group. This year was a great success with our Santa Breakfast, our book fair, and our family Game Night. I would love to see more activities like these planned. When more parents participate, we can plan more events and opportunities to build community. I would love to see a Halloween event, a Family Day in school, and a Mother's Day Tea to list a few ideas. Please plan on joining us next year to be part of our vibrant parent group.

Registration is ongoing and some classes are almost filled. Registrations need to be handed in to save your student's enrollment for next year. Please send your forms as soon as possible.

We are looking for a Spanish teacher for next year so if you know of anyone who would like the opportunity to teach Spanish to our students, please let me know. It is a part time position that would be perfect for a Spanish teacher who wants to be a member of such a wonderful Catholic community!

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank you all for your support. It is truly a blessing to be able to interact and support your children every day. I will continue to keep everyone in my prayers. I hope you have a safe, peaceful summer filled with fun and family.

Please reach out to me if I can be of any help in your planning for next year. We are still holding the uniform raffle for any student that is referred to us by a current school member. Share the good news of Saint Paul School with a friend, a neighbor, or family member and be eligible for a \$250.00 uniform gift certificate!

Our summer office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's from 8:30-1pm. Mrs. Sanberg will be here to assist anyone.

Thank you for all you do to support Saint Paul School.

PreK 3&4 News



Happy May! We cannot believe that we made it to May! We had a great month, learning about the changing seasons around us! We enjoyed learning about the parts of a flower and how seeds grow and travel in the air during the springtime. We especially had a lot of fun talking about our moms and making them feel special. The May Crowning was a special way to celebrate Mary as a school community. Our butterfly and insect units were great fun, especially being able to search for them outside! We are finishing up our month with PreK 4 traveling to India and the PreK 3 going camping and everyone participating in our spring walk-a-thon! We are looking forward to June, when we talk about the beach and summer treats and taking a walk to Rhodes Playground! Remember that we will have our celebration on Tuesday, June 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the school playground!

Please watch for additional information!



Kindergarten News



Happy May! How fast did this year go? It feels like yesterday was the first day of Kindergarten and now we are inching towards our last day. The month of May had many memorable moments. We started this month honoring Mother Mary by having our May Crowning with the whole school. In class, we talked about the Blessed Mother and why she is so special to us. We then went on our Spring Field Trip to the Biomes! Kindergarten loved learning all about sea creatures and enjoyed touching stingrays, turtles, and horseshoe crabs. In ELA, we added many new sight words and worked on differentiating the letter sound e and i along with j and g. In math, we introduced the topic of addition and subtraction. We worked on using different strategies to help us when adding and subtracting. In Science, we started and finished our Butterfly Unit. We had 5 tiny caterpillars in our classroom that grew into 5 beautiful butterflies. We loved watching the life cycle of a butterfly transform right before our eyes. May also started our Backwards Alphabet Countdown to our Celebration Day! Some of our favorite days so far include picnic day, show and tell day, and our Q and U Wedding Day. We are looking forward to enjoying the last two weeks of Kindergarten and cannot wait to

share some of our favorite moments with all of you at our celebration.

First Grade News



May has flown by here in first grade! We are getting very excited for the end of the year. We kicked off our month with our awesome field trip to Biomes Biology Center! First grade had a fantastic time learning about different marine life and seeing so many various kinds of fish. In reading and phonics, we have been focusing on diphthongs and other vowel sounds as the year comes to a close. In math, we have mastered identifying and counting coins through songs, books, and "going shopping." First grade has also begun telling time to the hour and to the half hour. They are very excited to finally be able to read the clock in our classroom! Springtime has also inspired first grade to grow and study their very own plants. In science we studied the parts of the plant, the plant life cycle, and we even observed our own plants in our science journals. We have currently switched gears and are now exploring outer space! First grade has officially started their solar system unit. Most of us can now name all the planets in order from the sun! We will be blasting off and learning about other parts of the solar system for the rest of the year as well. These soon-to-be second graders are ready for summer!



Second Grade News



Wow! The school year is coming to an end so quickly! Second graders have grown so much throughout the year. This month, we have been honoring our Mother Mary in many ways. Beginning the month, we had a ceremony crowning Mary with some special prayers and songs. Congratulations to the second-grade students who celebrated their First Communion on May 7! Another happening, our second graders are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our published book. The title of the book is *The Kindness Club*. Each child contributed to creating a memory of our kindness acts throughout the year. I am so proud of each student for their hard work.

In Religion, students studied the importance and components of the Eucharistic Prayer. We learned more about our Mother Mary by discovering the Hail Mary prayer origin, praying the rosary, writing a haiku poem, and making special crafts.

In Language and Literacy, we explored different types of literature such as narrative non-fiction and realistic fiction. We discussed story elements such as plot and theme. We had fun reading and writing different types of poetry (acrostic, haiku, shape, rebus). By establishing main ideas with supporting details, we are perfecting paragraph writing in complete sentences.

For Math, our focus is money that includes counting on with money, making change, comparing amounts.

Additionally, we are working on telling time this month.

In Social studies, the class celebrated Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Students made a special You Are My Sunshine craft for Mom with canvas art that involved paint and fairy lights. We learned about the ways of honoring Veterans and the importance of their services to our country's history. In addition, we explored the evolution of the U.S. flag throughout the years. As well as the Star-Spangled Banner history. We had lessons on family responsibility, taking care of pets, and citizenship. For Science, the class investigated insects such as ladybugs, fireflies, and butterflies. We learned about the sun and the moon in relation to the earth including a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse. In addition, we discovered the phases of the moon. Second grade scientists explored caves, their characteristics, and their importance to earth science.

Ending the month, the class participated in the school walk-a-thon raising funds from sponsors. Afterwards, we enjoyed a snack and a movie. Thank you so much for your pledges!!

Next month, we look forward to special daily activities making more memories as we countdown to summer vacation!!



Grade 3 News



We devote the month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. In class, thanks to Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Rowell the students are allowed to take home a Religious tote bag called "Who is Mary." This activity is encouraged to be completed with students' families as they make a memory shrine to pray to Mary in their home. If your family has not received this Religious tote bag yet, it is making its way to your house as we continue to pass this along through June.

Another important news in Religion, we had two lovely 3rd graders who have made their 1st Communion and can now receive the body of Christ. Congratulations to Khloe and Elina!! Ollie will be making his first communion as well this coming summer. Also, in regards to other special occasions, I would like to wish the Happiest of Birthdays to Khloe, Griffin, Nico, and Ms. G who celebrate their birthdays in both May and June.

Third Graders have fully mastered their multiplication facts through the 10 tables and feel comfortable with the 11 and 12's. We have moved onto Division and are currently working on dividing by 5's. Students have also continued with multi-step word problems (within 3 steps) using division!

In Spelling, Third Grade has just finished their 32nd week of taking spelling tests! This past week was revisiting suffixes but using

-ment, -hood, -ish, and -y.

Furthermore, students just wrapped up unit

5 volume 2 interactive week 6 review.

Moving forward, Third Grades

looking towards having fun filled

days as we soak up the last few weeks

of School. One thing in

is our scheduled field trip to Old

Sturbridge Village with 4th

and 5th grade.

Grade 4 News

It is hard to believe that this is our last newsletter for the school year. It has been a pleasure teaching this group of children, who are kind, fun, smart, and a joy to teach.

The next few weeks will be quite busy, but I know the students are looking forward to all of the activities, especially our field trip on June 9th to old Sturbridge Village. Thanks to the Howe Education Fund, and Mr. Cruz as our bus driver, this field trip will not cost our families any money. Amazing!

The next couple of weeks will be busy in the classroom as well, as we continue to work on fractions, problem-solving, and measurement in math classes, as well as wrapping up our "tour" of the United States with the Mountain States and the Pacific States.

And lastly, a big thank you to the students in grade 4 for their help with our snack shop to support drama. The funds they raised, while learning how to run a small store, helped to purchase the sound system and props for the production of The Jungle Book. Congrats to all our cast and crew for an awesome show!

Grade 5 News



Can you believe this is the last newsletter for the 2022-2023 school year! This year has surely flown by, and fifth grade has learned a lot as well as made many memories! From field trips to special projects, to learning things that we said "I will never get this"....and the excitement when we did finally understand it, this year is truly a year that will not be forgotten.

Before we say our goodbyes for the summer, we still have time left to learn! Our final field trip will be to Old Sturbridge Village. We will be venturing off with our third and fourth grades friends and learning about the history of New England.

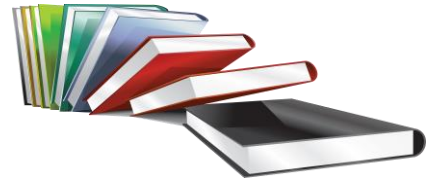
Speaking of history, we will be finishing learning about the middle colonies as well as learning about the Boston Tea Party. Sounds confusing but it is not an actual tea party! Learning about it all will surely be fun! In science we are going out of this world! We will be learning about outer space and the solar system! Everyone will pick their favorite planet and do a report on it. Watch out, you may see planets floating down the hall!

To keep up with our awesome grammar and reading skills we will be doing a report on sea creatures in class. Taking notes, doing research, and editing each others reports will surely get everyone ready for middle school!

This has been a great school year! I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!



Middle School News



Grade 6 Religion: This month's religion lessons focused on Mary, the Ascension, and Pentecost. During class we watched videos and completed worksheets to help us learn more about each one. Also, each student had the opportunity to take the holy tote home and enjoy prayers and activities with their families.

Grade 6 Social Studies: We have been looking at the period of early European exploration. Students have looked at how and why Europeans wanted to colonize North and South America. Students learned about how the Spanish were able to colonize South America by their guns, germs,

and steel. They looked at how the Protestant Reformation influenced many groups to flee religious persecution and come to the Americas. Ask your learner who Martin Luther was and what he did.

Grade 6 Literature: We are finishing book three of the Ascendence series, "Shadow Throne." Students have been practicing their independent reading and analysis skills more and more. Please keep in mind that students need to be reading a book of their choosing each night for at least 20-30 minutes, with a guardian's signature on their reading logs to confirm that the student did in fact read.

Grade 7 Social Studies Students have been learning about the Constitutional Convention and the roots of American Federalism. Students looked at the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, and the need to strengthen the federal government without concentrating too much power within that government. Students learned about the process by which the delegates of the convention drafted the US constitution, including the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan. Ask your learner about the roots of American Federalism.

Grade 7 Literature: Students finished reading "Little House on the Prairie" by Laura Ingalls Wilder. They also watched a biographical special about the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, including an in-depth analysis of her "Little House" books. Next, students will be practicing their essay writing skills in preparation for their Final Exams. Please keep in mind that students need to be reading a book of their choosing each night for at least 20-30 minutes, with a guardian's signature on their reading logs to confirm that the student did in fact read.

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students have continued learning about the age of Industrialization. Students learned about the rise of Unions, as well as the fear of Unions. Students looked at the mechanization of production processes, and the rise of Immigration at the turn of the twentieth century. Students will next be preparing to take their final exams and graduate!

Grade 8 Literature: Students finished reading "Little House on the Prairie" by Laura Ingalls Wilder. They also watched a biographical special about the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, including an in-depth analysis of her "Little House" books. Next, students will be practicing their essay writing skills in preparation for their Final Exams. Please keep in mind that students need to be reading a book of their choosing each night for at least 20-30 minutes, with a guardian's signature on their reading logs to confirm that the student did in fact read.

Grade 7 & 8 Religion

Students have had their recent classes taught by Mrs. Bradley, the faith formation director of Saint Paul Parish. Mrs. Bradley has been igniting the students' interests in Marian Devotions, as she has been guiding them through the study of Mary as not only the Mother of God, but also as a daughter. Students are being called to turn their anxieties to Mary, who serves as their advocate and mother in heaven.

Grades 6,7,8 Skills

This month the middle school grammar classes consisted of working on the IXL website for the purpose of reinforcing our grammar skills that we learned throughout the course of the school year. The sixth graders also learned several rules for capitalization and practiced those rules in their class

work. The end of the month consisted of reviewing for the final exam.

We continued our work with new vocabulary words every two weeks. We concluded our fifteenth and final unit at the end of May.

Grades 6, 7 & 8 Science

Grade six students culminated their ecosystem unit by creating a diorama of a particular ecosystem and presenting both the diorama and research to the class. Everyone did a great job presenting to their fellow classmates.

Grade seven and eight students read about motion and force. The students will conclude the year researching Isaac Newton's laws of motion and looking for examples that coincide with each law.

Middle School Math

The sixth-grade class has finished the year with most of their books and curriculum. With the year coming to a close, a focus on reviewing the topics that were overall harder for the class as whole has been our mission. Chapter 6 was one of the longest chapters and the one we spent the most time on, but it was taught thoroughly so the students are **more than** prepared. The final review has started and the pretest for the finals will be taken. They have been provided all the notes and material they need to be successful in their finals.

The 7th and 8th grade class have done group work for the fourth quarter. They have had competition with group leaders and 7th and 8th graders mixed up. Each group at minimum had two 8th graders, and an 8th grade group leader who I selected. The competition focused on teamwork, leadership, collaboration,

communication, and math comprehension. Each group had word problems to solve based on topics we have gone over in class and scoring was based on an explanation of the answer, and whose group answered first. We are now finishing with concepts of geometry and advanced functions.

Physical Education



As the year winds down, it is hard to believe how quickly it has gone by. As always, we have been busy and working hard in PE. Pre K 3 and PreK 4 and Kindergarten continue to work on their locomotor movements and spatial awareness during their warmup tag game at the start of every class. After tag, the students work on some gross motor and fine motor skills during station work or organized games. These skills include bouncing and catching larger bouncy balls or a small tennis ball, kicking, hula hoop, jump rope, rolling, tossing, and aiming. Many of the students have made great progress from the beginning of the year. It is always exciting to see the younger students achieve success when they have been working on a skill and finally succeed.

Grades 1 and 2 also start class with a warmup tag game to get their blood flowing and muscles warm. During the last few weeks of school, we will be playing many of the students favorite games they learned throughout the year. These games work on many sports specific skills such as throwing and catching, kicking, rolling, throwing to a target, striking and spatial awareness. A few of the students favorite games are Jedi Knight, Castle Ball and Gaga Ball.

Grades 3-8 will have their third round and end of the year fitness testing during the first week of June. The students will perform as many sit-ups as they can in one minute, and as many push-ups they can do until they cannot do anymore using the correct form. We just finished a wiffle ball unit and are currently learning how to play team handball. The last few weeks of school will be a review of many of the games we played throughout the year!

Library & Computer



We are coming to the end of an amazing year! This past month, the library was given new to us bookshelves and furniture to make the space even more amazing and bright! When students return in the fall they will find an updated nonfiction collection, new furniture and bright new shelves!

In Computer Class, we finished our digital courses and wrapped up with typing skills. Looking at where we were in the beginning of the year, there has been tremendous growth in each student.

In Library Class, we began our second annual Bookmark Contest! Every student will design their own bookmark (that they get to keep) based off a book they've read. Then in the second to last library class, students from another class will come and vote on their favorite bookmark. The bookmark with the most votes in each class will receive enough copies

of their bookmark to hand out to family and friends! The students loved this last year because everyone went home with two bookmarks!

As the summer quickly approaches, I encourage all students and their families to sign up for a summer reading program through your public library. Each library has their own unique program with special prizes and incentives. Kids can join more than one program if they choose and truly the rewards are amazing! Added bonus that it's free and the kids keep up with some reading! If you have any questions about summer reading programs over the state, feel free to reach out to me and I can guide you to the right place.

As always, library news can be found on the school library website: <https://sites.google.com/stpaulcranston.org/stpaulslibrary/home>

