

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

Cindy Richard, Principal
October 31, 2024



Principal's Message

As we gather to celebrate the Thanksgiving season, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for the wonderful community we have here at St. Paul School. This time of year reminds us of the importance of giving thanks and sharing our blessings with one another. Our community has been very supportive with our food drive and Walkathon. Thank you. We had a wonderful Trunk 'Treat that was made possible by the hard work of many. Thank you.

Our new technology is installed, and the classrooms are all using it according to their appropriateness with their curriculum. It is amazing to see the enhancement of our teaching and learning. Our student computers are in the building and will be assigned to each student as appropriate. There will be a technology agreement coming home next week. It is truly an exciting time at Saint Paul School! We also have a fantastic new fence installed around our playground area. It is a great improvement, and we are very grateful to have it. Again, we have so much to be grateful for.

This month will be a busy one as we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are having our Thanksgiving feast on November 26th. Each teacher will be communicating what their class is responsible for as we move closer to the end of the month. Our feast is a special time of gathering as a community and giving thanks to our community and enjoying the fellowship of our community members.

Saint Paul School is also having a Christmas Pageant this year. I am very excited for the opportunity and there is still time to sign your child up. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like more information.

We have **NO SCHOOL Tuesday November 5th, Election Day. It is a Virtual Learning Day .**

There is also **NO SCHOOL on Monday, November 11th.** This is Veterans Day.

As the weather turns colder, please remember to send your student to school with a coat. We do go outside every day, weather permitting. Thank you.

Our Parent Group Meeting is on Wednesday, November 20th. Please come meet other parents and volunteer to participate in our many opportunities to help. We are planning to have a Santa's Workshop and a Morning with Santa this December. It is coming up fast and there will be lots of fun. Thanksgiving is a time for reflection, gratitude, and community. As we approach this holiday, let us remember the many blessings we share at St. Paul's — our dedicated teachers, supportive families, and wonderful students. Together, we strive to create a nurturing environment

where faith and knowledge flourish.

I personally am very grateful to be part of such a positive, nurturing Catholic school. Every morning when I arrive, I am reminded of the love and joy that fills our halls. This environment exists because of the commitment and hard work of our staff, teachers, and students and families. Thank you for ALL you do to make Saint Paul School a faith filled, nurturing, safe, Catholic school where our students experience outstanding teaching.

I have included a Thanksgiving prayer to share over the next month.

Thanksgiving Prayer for Children

Dear God,
Thank You for this beautiful day and for all the blessings You have given us.
We are grateful for our family, our friends, and our school.
Thank You for the food we eat and the love we share.
Help us to remember those who are less fortunate and to share our blessings with others.
May we always be thankful and kind, just like You.
Amen.



Follow our new Instagram Page

https://www.instagram.com/stpaulschoolri?igsh=MXNuNnY1ZmZ5anhveA%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

PreK 3 & 4 News



Happy October! We have really been enjoying our time working and learning together this month. We are continuing to work on routines, helping our friends and developing our fine and gross motor skills. This month, we talked about the changing leaves on the trees, fire safety, pumpkins and of course, Halloween! We have been enjoying meeting our different teachers for all our special classes too! We had a fun time visiting with the Cranston fire department, exploring Festival Farm, participating in our Walk-a-thon, and having some Halloween fun! As the weather grows cooler, please be sure to label all jackets/sweatshirts and have your child practice putting on/taking off their own coats!

Next month, we will talk about the fall season, squirrels, acorns, farms, and scarecrows. We will also learn about the Little Red Hen and of course, Thanksgiving!

Kindergarten News

Happy October! This past month has been very busy for kindergarten. We went on our first field trip to the farm

where we got to feed animals, go on a hayride, pick pumpkins, and have a picnic!

In Reading/Phonics we added new sight words to our list and have been working on reading and writing sentences. We also introduced blending sounds together to read a word. We also focused on counting how many syllables are in words and rhymes.

In math, we started chapter 2 which is about shapes.

In Science, we learned how pumpkins grow and the parts of a pumpkin.

For Religion we focused on the rosary and why it is important. We learned the three main prayers in the rosary (The Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Our Father). As a whole school we prayed a decade of the rosary together. We also talked about our Circle of Grace and how everyone has one! We ended the month with our Spirit Week, and we had so much fun showing our class and school spirit!

Next month we will be introducing new centers themed around Thanksgiving! Along with new and engaging centers themed to Thanksgiving, we will be learning about Thanksgiving, leaves during the season of Autumn, and patterns.



First Grade News

October has been such a busy but fruitful month here in 1st grade! We have had so much fun with fall festivities that time has flown by! We have finally learned all our vowels and short vowel sounds. Also, first grade

just started learning and practicing different math strategies to help us add! Some include: number lines, ten frames, and drawing pictures to help us solve math problems. In religion, our class has been learning and practicing to pray the rosary together for the month of the rosary. We love to share our prayer intentions and pray together as a class.

First grade had a blast at our Pezza Farm field trip! We fed all sorts of animals, went on a hayride, and even got to pick our own pumpkins! First grade also investigated pumpkins in science. We completed a sink or float experiment and talked about the different parts of a pumpkin by feeling and observing the inside of a real pumpkin. We have had such a great month, and we are looking forward to November!



Second Grade News



October has been an eventful month for Second grade. We have been enjoying the fall season with a variety of activities. The class had a wonderful time on our fall field trip to

Pezza Farm. We rode on a hayride, picked pumpkins, saw the farm animals, and enjoyed lunch together. Many second graders were in attendance for our annual Trunk or Treat event. Earning their daily punch on their positive behavior punch cards, several students have reached their 20-hole punch goal and earned a special treat. As a class, we are working toward increasing our monthly reading log minutes each month to achieve a reward. Ending the month, students experience fun halloween learning activities.

In Language and Literacy, we completed Unit 1: 1-5 in Reading Street. In review, we are building on our comprehension skills and types of genre. For phonics, students learned about open and closed syllables, inflected endings, and consonant digraphs. In writing, we practice daily with seasonal writing prompts in our journals along with Friday letters to families. Additionally, our class is beginning to learn about paragraph structure focusing on the main idea and supporting details. For Math, we moved from multiple addends to subtraction facts and the relation between addition and subtraction. We practiced estimation with candy corn estimating activity to see who came closest to the amount of candy in a vase.

In Religion, we discussed ways to be good disciples of Jesus. Second graders practiced praying the rosary for the month of October. The students discussed our Circle of Grace with an interactive lesson to teach about safety and boundaries with our bodies. Also, we did a fun pumpkin prayer activity with a writing opportunity.

In Science, in correlation with our class readings, we learned about earth science (desert and rainforest habitats), and life science (cactus plants and bats). Our class experiment, Magical Dancing Corn, involved a chemical reaction with water, baking soda, corn kernels, and vinegar.

For Social Studies, we began the month with fire safety lessons. To

celebrate Spanish heritage month, we read many books as we learned about their culture.

Throughout the month, second grade has been learning about Autumn in the U.S.

Next month, we are looking forward to All Saints Day and Thanksgiving activities.



Grade 3 News



October is coming to a busy but steady end as we embrace the month of November. This month we have shown how we can meet third grade expectations by handing in our 6th week of homework and taking our 6th spelling test. In Religion, we attend church regularly on top of doing extra focus activities such as the rosary procession led by Sister Emeraldalda and Mrs. Rowell. Students have taken 3 chapter religion tests thus far and we started Ch. 5 this week on "The Church Begins". In Math, students just wrapped up a very long and detailed chapter on place value. We are looking forward to starting Ch. 2 in addition with 2-4 digits. We are still working on attending virtual learning days via google classroom.

Furthermore, third graders have participated in a wide range of fun activities this month. Such as, the

Meadowfarms Fundraiser, decorating a desk pumpkin with your parents, Spirit Week, Halloween, and the Walk-a-thon!

Third grade is looking forward to staying productive as we gather to learn as much as we can this coming month. We are also looking forward to the Christmas Pageant rehearsals that also started this week. We will have two shows in the month of December, so stay tuned!



Grade 4



Happy Spirit Week! The fourth graders have had a lot of fun celebrating this week. They especially enjoyed spending time with their Pre-K 4 buddies on Monday. We shared the same class color and enjoyed working in small groups together. It was a great way to perform an act of kindness for the day.

Through reading our religion book and Bible stories, and even performing a skit about The Good Samaritan (the students really enjoyed the role of the donkey) we have been learning about all kinds of sin. We have learned that we can sin when we commit a sin and

when we omit helping someone in need.

We have been working hard on learning how to make change in math class. If you are able to practice this skill with your child at home, it will help to reinforce what they are learning in class.

We are continuing to work on the Middle Atlantic Region in social studies. Please ask your child to show you the motions they have learned to help them remember the capitals of all the states in the Northeast Region.

Grade 5 News

October has been busy for grade 5. We continue to practice and apply reading strategies in our daily reading. So far, we have implemented previewing a text, making predictions, and visualizing.

We have learned a new response to writing strategy called R.A.C.E, which stands for **R**estate the Question, **A**nswer the Question, **C**ite text Evidence, **E**xplain and Elaborate and **S**um it up. This strategy can be used throughout all subjects and includes sentence starters to support students.

Grade 5 has started 3-digit multiplication and has been practicing on assignments using CK-12 and Legends of Learning. Students are grasping the concept and have been successful when assessed at the end of a lesson with an Exit Ticket.

We continue to learn about Thermal Energy in Science, testing how molecules move faster in hot temperatures and slower in colder temperatures. We had a live demonstration using food coloring to see how quickly the color spread in the cup of hot water, and how it sank to the bottom in cold water.

We continue to work hard and be successful scholars!

Middle School News

Grade 6

Math/Science: Grade 6 has been working hard during October! In science, we discussed hurricanes and did a "Windproof Design" project. Students had to construct a structure with limited materials that could withstand strong (fan) wind gusts. They did a great job! They finished Chapter one in math and we are looking forward to multiplying decimals and exponents.

Grades 7&8 Math/Science: 7th and 8th grade have been hard at work! They learned how to plot ordered pairs on a coordinate plane. In science, we created Lab Safety posters, had a Chapter 2 test, and began work on Chapter 3- All About Matter! There are some fun labs planned for November...

Grade 6 Social Studies: Students finished their studies on Ancient Mesopotamia and took their chapter tests. Please make sure your learner showed you their test scores for their "Fertile Crescent" tests. Next, we have moved on to the exciting world of Ancient Egypt just in time for Halloween! Students are studying the geography of the Nile River, the power of the Pharaohs, the intricate web of myths that make up Ancient Egyptian religion, and some of the major accomplishments of the Egyptians.

Grade 6 Literature: Just as we finished our Social Studies unit on the Fertile Crescent, we finished our Ancient Mesopotamian adventure, "The Golden Bull." We were introduced to the Ancient Egyptians by reading an essay about "Mummy 1770" by Patricia Lauber, and will soon be starting our first book series,

"The False Prince" by Jennifer Nielsen.

Grade 7 Social Studies: We have been looking at the colonization of North America by Europeans. We learned about the Virginia Company and the rough start to Jamestown, Virginia. We looked at the colonization of Massachusetts by first the Pilgrims and later the Puritans. We looked at the founding of Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and the economic and social activities of New England. We will continue with our studies with the colonization of the Middle and Southern colonies.

Grade 7 Literature: Students have been reading the Newbery Medal Award winning book, "The Witch of Blackbird Pond" by Elizabeth George Speare. The book follows along our social studies, as our protagonist migrates from Barbados to Puritan Connecticut in 1687. Themes include ostracism, theocracy, government, and civics. Ask your learner whether they feel Kit made a mistake in coming to Connecticut.

Grades 7 & 8: Vocabulary: Both classes took their Unit 1-3 tests and have since started Unit 4. They are reviewing their terms in class with me daily during study period, but it is important that they review the terms at home each day as well.

Grade 8 Social Studies: The Civil War has begun in our studies, and we have been looking at this exciting period in US history from many perspectives. Students compared the Confederate Constitution with the US Constitution and are looking at how the war was fought and won by the Union.

Grade 8 Literature: In keeping with our Social Studies, we continue to

read Louisa May Alcott's classic coming of age tale, "Little Women", which is set during the American Civil War. Students are looking inward at their own personal burdens, and they are following the lives of the March family and friends to see how they rise to face the challenges that life gives them.

Grades 7 & 8 Religion: Students are completing Chapter 7 in their Religion books. They have been doing a lot also in preparation for All Saints Day, in which they were each assigned a Saint to portray to the entire school after having researched and written about their assigned saint. Lastly, students have been participating weekly in praying of the Rosary in class (Mondays are the Joyful Mysteries!) We also joined the other classes for a school-wide Rosary and continue to attend Mass monthly. **Reminder that confirmation age students must reach out to the Faith Formation office at Saint Paul's and register for classes if you plan to have them confirmed at Saint Paul's. Registration was on September 15th.



Physical Education

With limited space in Physical education, our lower grades have diligently been working on hand eye coordination and tossing to a target. We have been playing keep it up with balloons, working on that hand eye coordination and trying not to allow the balloon to touch the ground. We

have also been using bean bags and hula hoops, working on tossing the bean bag into the hoop. We have also played some fun games such as team bowling and jedi knight, which work on rolling, blocking, and dodging.

Grades 3-5 are finishing up the month with a Quidditch with Halloween being at the end of the month. The game is similar to team Handball, but with a Harry Potter twist.

Library



October has been a fantastic month in the library, filled with stories, songs, and seasonal fun! Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to:

Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4: The youngest students enjoyed a variety of interactive storytime sessions featuring books such as *When the Leaf Blew In*, *How Do Dinosaurs Trick or Treat?*, and *Dinosaur March*. We always kick off each visit with our lively Hello Everybody Song and wrapped up with a Goodbye Song. They also danced along to *Halloween Hustle* and created their own festive experiences with stories like *Knight Owl* and *Room on the Broom*.

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners joined in on the Halloween fun with songs and stories. They also enjoyed *Room on the Broom*, participated in the *Halloween Hustle*, and engaged in activities related to *Fall Mixed Up*.

1st Grade: First graders explored *Room on the Broom* through an activity where they designed their own fancy broom! They practiced their call numbers with letters and participated in activities from *Fall Mixed Up*. Their excitement is contagious!

2nd Grade: Second graders had a great time with *Knight Owl* written by local author Christopher Denise. We followed up the book with a fun creative craft activity. This hands-on approach encouraged their artistic expression while connecting with the story.

3rd Grade: Third graders focused on learning about the Dewey Decimal System, gaining valuable skills to navigate the library and locate books independently.

4th Grade: Fourth graders have been reading *James and the Giant Peach*. This classic story is sparking their imaginations and encouraging lively discussions about the characters and themes.

5th Grade: Fifth graders engaged in community-building activities, fostering collaboration and teamwork. These activities are essential for creating a positive library environment where everyone feels welcome.

Middle School (6th, 7th, & 8th Grades): Middle school students have been honing their research skills while working on their Saints presentations for November 1st. This project allows them to explore topics of interest deeply and develop their critical thinking and presentation abilities.



Computer Classes

Kindergarten: Kindergarten began the month working in stations, practicing a multitude of skills including typing, mouse clicking, and moving. They've made great progress and have now transitioned to the computer lab, where they're working independently on these skills. It is exciting to see their confidence grow as they navigate the technology!

1st & 2nd Grade: First and Second graders are building on their keyboard knowledge through a fun typing game that enhances their skills while keeping them engaged. They are enjoying the interactive nature of the game, which helps solidify their understanding of the keyboard layout.

3rd Grade: Third graders are focusing on independence by learning to log into their Google accounts and Google Classroom for assignments. This important skill will help them manage their work and communicate effectively in a digital environment.

4th Grade: Fourth graders are dual practicing typing and their knowledge of U.S. states. This integrated approach not only boosts their typing skills but also reinforces their geography knowledge in a fun and engaging way.

5th Grade: Fifth graders have dipped their toes into coding lessons, laying the groundwork for more in-depth projects coming up soon. They are eager to explore the world of programming and creativity through coding.

Middle School (6th, 7th, & 8th Grades): Middle school students are working diligently on the school newspaper, developing their writing, and editing skills. On other days, they are honing their research skills in preparation for our upcoming field trip to William Hall Library. During this visit, students will learn how to

effectively use their library cards for research purposes, expanding their access to valuable resources.

Spanish

All students have been working extremely hard in Spanish class. The elementary school has been finishing their numbers unit and have been continuously working on learning their colors. Grades 1-3 have been working with a new program called Language Nut which reinforces their vocabulary skills and listening skills. The kids really enjoy this program because it has so much to offer for their level. Grades 4-5 recently finished unit 1 which is the basic level of pronunciation of vowels and consonants. We have begun working on Unit 2 which focuses on "What is your name?" and "conversational skills". Middle school has been wrapping up their chapter and have learned how to tell time in Spanish and how to have a conversation using different adjectives.

