

# ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

[www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org](http://www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org)

John F. Corry, Principal  
November 30, 2021



## Principal's News

Hopefully everyone had a nice Thanksgiving last week compared to last year. As we now turn the page to the month of December, we can only hope that things will continue to get better in the weeks and months ahead. The month of December as it is, is a short one. We only have about three and a half weeks of school before the **Christmas Break** which begins on **Thursday, December 23. We return to school on Monday, January 3, 2022.**

Unfortunately, we are still unable to hold our Annual Christmas Concert. Until RIDOH gives the okay for everyone to be in large crowds again, we will hold off on scheduling this event. Although sporting events are able to have crowds gathering in a stadium, with being a school and children just beginning to get the opportunity to be vaccinated, we have to wait until further notice. Let's hope we have it next year. Even though we may not be having our Christmas Concert, we'll still look pretty festive around here.

Before I forget, just a reminder to our Grade 8 students and their parents. If your child wishes to attend a Catholic High School in the Diocese of Providence, the

## Continued Principal News...

**Catholic High School Placement Exam** is scheduled on both Saturday, 12/4 and 12/12 from 8:00am to 11:00am. Students would need to take their exam at the high school of their first choice. More information will be forthcoming.

We've been fortunate so far with any students testing positive for covid. Just a few cases so far. With the holidays now upon us and families getting together more now, we can only hope that it stays that way. And with children between the ages of 5-11 now being given the okay by the CDC to receive their vaccination shots, things may even get better in the months ahead. I've already had a couple of parents asking me about wearing masks. Until we get the okay from RIDOH and anyone else for that matter on mask wearing in the medical community, we will continue to wear our masks at school.

By the way, in last month's Newsletter I wrote about how we handle any school cancellations or delays. However, in the past few days I've had several parents asking me about our school cancellation policy. I'm going to send out once more what I wrote last month. For the record, I truly hope that parents are taking the time to read the Newsletter we send out each month. We take the time to write it. *Please take the time to read it.*

## Weather Alerts

Though we haven't even had our first snowflake yet, we might as well talk about it anyway and how parents will be contacted if school is closed or delayed this winter.

For many of our new parents please be aware that we do NOT follow either Providence or Cranston School system schedules. Even if one or the other

school districts cancels or delays school that day, please wait until you are contacted by me on either your cell phone or by TV/Radio.

We pay for a service to contact you by phone called School Messenger (text, voice and email message) and also belong to the RI Broadcasters Association which will air our notices about canceling school on TV/Radio--such as "*St. Paul School No School Today.*"

At the same time be aware that I have a habit of calling off school the night before if the weather forecast determines that a snow storm is pretty much on the way. Usually after the 6:00-6:30 News. I do this so that families can prepare for the next day instead of trying to find someone to watch your child first thing in the morning as you prepare for work yourself.

And don't forget, we don't have to make-up snow days anymore. Now that we have **Distance Learning** in place, students will either have class-work via Google Classroom or work planned ahead of time that was sent home earlier. I told teachers to only plan for work in the mornings. Students can go out and help with the shoveling or just enjoy playing in the snow like we used to as kids for the rest of the day!



## Pre-K 3 & 4 News



Happy November! We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving Weekend! We had a harvest full of learning this month, as we have been working on our letters and numbers!

We have been talking about farms and scarecrows, learning about the classic story of The Little Red Hen and of course, Thanksgiving! We had some fun science experiments, and some new art activities as well. Our feast was a great success and we are very grateful for all of the generous donations that our families made! The children made some fun memories.

As we enter into December, we were able to work with Sr. Esmeralda on an Advent retreat. We will continue to learn about Advent, Christmas decorations, traditions around the world, the Nutcracker and the birth of Baby Jesus.



## Kindergarten News

Happy November! We have been enjoying our time learning and working together this month! We have

been focusing on working collaboratively with our peers and developing our fine motor skills. This month, we talked about leaves on the trees, Veterans Day, and of course Thanksgiving! Thank you to all the families who helped to support our Thanksgiving Feast! Kindergarten has been working very hard on their sight words and we have learned two new Sight Words this month (to, a)! Next month, we will be talking about Advent, Christmas, different types of patterns, and physical properties through many hands-on activities.



## First Grade News



First Grade continued to work hard throughout the month of November. We spent a lot of time recently sharing things that we are thankful for. We've been adding thankful feathers to our classroom turkey "Mr. Thankful", with each feather containing one thing that each student is thankful for.

First Grade continues to learn letter sounds, which include blends and digraphs. We are now taking the words we have learned and are starting to put them in sentences. We are reading stories that are filled with many of the words we are learning and our reading is getting stronger and stronger every day.

In math, First Grade learned many different strategies to add numbers. We were able to be hands-on and use cubes to help and a number line to count on. We added numbers that were doubles like  $2+2=4$ , and we even did doubles plus one like  $2+3=5$ . Math is fun because we get to work with partners...it is always fun to learn something new when you can do it with a friend.

First Grade had so much fun creating their "Turkeys in Disguise". They all came out so great that you would never know there are turkeys hanging in the hallway. We also celebrated our own Thanksgiving Feast and felt very blessed for all of our many blessings this holiday season.

We look forward to many more fun activities in December!



## Second Grade News



November had a great start by going to mass on All Saints Day. We celebrated the Saints with a special project and visits from the upper grades sharing Saint history with us. During this month, we have been busy in all subject areas. In Religion, the class had the opportunity to visit with

Sister Esmeralda and the sisters from the Virgo Magnificat Convent in West Greenwich, RI. They talked about the upcoming Advent season and made a beautiful Advent wreath for our classroom. In class, we learned about the seven sacraments and living in faith as well as Gratitude.

In Language and Literacy, we had lessons about distinguishing between realism and fantasy literature. The class has practiced paragraph structure with main ideas and supporting details along with reading comprehension. As we read in our reading groups, we are improving our fluency in reading. We continue to work on grammar skills such as sentence structure and use of proper nouns. For Math- In Chapter 2, we learned about place value, number words, rounding to the nearest ten, and comparing.

In Science- Going along with our reading, we explored the ecosystem of a pond, beavers, and turtles.

For Social Studies- Our class discussed the importance of teamwork and working together. We learned about veterans for Veterans Day. For Thanksgiving, we have learned about the pilgrims and Native Americans. We talked about the voyage, clothing, foods, and more then made a comparison of children then and today. As a class, we enjoyed authentic native american flute music.

Ending the month with our special Thanksgiving feast, the class made turkey hats and placemats to use as they shared a meal together. Thank you for your contributions to make this feast possible.

Next month, we will be preparing for the birth of Jesus during Advent with Christmas fun.

## Grade 3 News



November went by very quickly! We were very busy learning and having some fun. We began the month discussing saints and all their wonderful traits. Then we made a saint person and listed some of those traits. We also decorated the room with cornucopias and turkeys. We made a big turkey and wrote all the things we are thankful for on its feathers. We enjoyed making cards for Veteran's Day to show our appreciation for all those who have served.

In Math, we finished our subtraction unit and have started practicing our multiplication facts. In Reading, we are continuing to learn our comprehension skills and strategies, focusing on one each week. We made author's purpose "pies" to learn about the reasons an author writes.

In Social Studies, we focused on the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Native Americans and compared their way of life, including their environment, food, houses, and clothing. We decorated Native American headbands and Pilgrim hats and wore them to our Thanksgiving Feast with a twist. The feast was a lot of fun, we made butter and ate corn muffins, popcorn, and cranberry sauce. We even had delicious sugar cookies! Thank you to all the parents who donated food, drinks, and paper products, it was greatly appreciated.

In Science, we began to learn all about weather. Soon we will be watching videos and reading many non-fiction books that focus on all different types of wild weather.

Thank you to all the parents who sent in food items for our food bank collection. The class was extremely excited with how much was collected, especially knowing that they are helping someone in need. Every day we talk about how to be followers of Jesus, and helping others is on the top of the list!



## Grade 4 News

This Advent, Grade Four will be praying a decade of the rosary each day for the members of our school community and their special intentions. Each intention will be added to our wreath of prayer and will be remembered throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you have a special intention you would like Grade Four to add to our wreath of prayer, please let Mrs. Vargas know.

The students are doing a great job learning about regions and capital cities for each state. They will learn about the Woodland Indians of the Northeast in the coming weeks.

Please continue to test the students on their times tables. They practice each day to hone their skills, but more reinforcement at home will help greatly.

We have begun our new read-a-loud book, Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of

NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien. The students are curious to discover how Timothy will survive "Moving Day". Will Mrs. Frisby get help from the rats? Is Farmer Fitzgibbon ready to plow? These questions and more will hopefully be answered as we continue this harrowing tale.

## Grade 5 News

November has been a very busy and eventful month for 5th grade! Grade 5 has been learning so many new things. We are learning about explorers in Social Studies and recently finished completing our explorer reports as well as many other things. It has been so amazing and rewarding to see the talent from each and every student and how creative they can be!

We have completed the next few topics and units in all of our subjects - Religion, Vocabulary and Language Arts. We are always reminded to be a follower of Jesus, especially during our Circle of Grace lesson, where every student learned many new and important things to follow. We also recently had a test on chapter 2 in Science, which was all about cells.

During math, we have been working hard on addition and subtraction properties as well as their rules. We also have been learning estimating, and addition with three or more addends. This has been a fun topic especially since the students can relate this to real life while shopping! We recently had a homework assignment which included the students finding prices of food that we can eat on Thanksgiving and showing how we can add them using the properties and tools that we have learned in class! This will be helpful for the students to use while they are holiday shopping.

November has definitely flown by, and we cannot wait for December which means the holiday season, yay!

Grade 5 is patiently waiting for an elf to join the classroom. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and has a healthy and happy holiday, and New Year!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

**Middle School Science-** All three grades learned about and reviewed safety and equipment in the science lab so we could begin to use it. Our first lab consisted of the process of water traveling through living things. We used celery, baby's breath, lettuce and carnations. We cut the items on an angle and placed them in glass containers with water and food coloring. After 24 hours the students observed the changes and found that each item turned the color of the food coloring, they were placed in. The students all did very well with this lab and I am excited to get them in there for bigger and more intricate labs.



**Middle School Math-** All three grades still continue their life skills assignment weekly. This past month they were given the opportunity to work overtime or go to a concert with friends. They also had to deal with getting a flat tire on the way to work and the cost of it. Our class store will begin after Thanksgiving break. This will not be a store to purchase real items. The students will be learning how to make change on top of their specific grade assignments.

## Grade 6

**Math:** The sixth grade has been working hard on estimating products in the hundreds and thousands place. They will begin to incorporate this skill into making change for our class store that we will have after Thanksgiving break.

**Religion:** The students are just about to finish Chapter 4 where they are learning about the effects of Original Sin; and how ever since, humanity has struggled tremendously and continued to fall away from God. Some of the circumstances and stories that the class has gone over are: Cain and Abel, Noah and the ark, and the tower of Babel. In this upcoming chapter they will learn about their ancestors in faith.

**Skills:** The class is just about done preparing for their first Unit cumulative exam. They have been doing so well in their preparations, that I have no worries concerning their success. Once complete they will be back on their standard vocabulary training plan.

**Social Studies:** We are wrapping up our unit on Ancient Egypt and Nubia. Students will be taking their chapter 3 test next Friday, and will be given class time to study and review.

**Literature:** We have started reading the next book in the "Ascension Trilogy", the "Runaway King." Prince Jaron is now King, and he needs to come up with a plan to prevent Carthya from falling into a civil war.

## Grade 7

**Math:** The seventh grade has been multiplying integers and will begin multiplying decimals after Thanksgiving break. This skill will help them when working with money in our class store.

**Religion:** The class is just finishing up learning about the first part of the Gospel message. That they were created by, with, though, and for love; and because of that God formed a covenant with humankind, and revealed ways to be faithful to that covenant. After being tested on this material they will step into learning about the next two pieces of the Gospel that can be summarized in two words: captured and rescued.

**Skills:** The class is finished with their first unit exam and is now on to some new material. Like 8<sup>th</sup> grade it will be a nice change of scenery getting back to the single chapters again.

**Social Studies:** We have been looking at colonial America and are comparing the differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies. We are also comparing the difference between Royal, Proprietary, and Charter colonies. Ask your child what a charter is, and ask them about the Magna Carta!

**Literature:** In keeping with our Social Studies content, we are still reading the Witch of Blackbird Pond. Students are seeing examples of things we've discussed in history, such as King Charles I and the Connecticut Charter, reflected in this work of historical fiction.

## Grade 8

**Math:** The eighth grade has been working with multiplying integers and will begin multiplying decimals after Thanksgiving break. This skill will help them when working with money in our class store.

**Religion:** The class has just finished Chapter 4 where they learned about the obligations and challenges the Great Commandment and the first three commandments of the decalogue place on us. The Ten Commandments teach us how to relate lovingly to God

and one another. The first three commandments reveal to us who God is and how we are to respond to His love. By studying each of these commandments the students have not only learned how to love God more fittingly, but they also have learned more specific ways to follow the teaching of Jesus in the Great Commandment. In this next chapter they will be taking a deeper dive into understanding how to best live out the fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments.

**Skills:** The class has just finished their first Unit, or cumulative exam and are now on to the next unit of words. It will be a nice change of pace getting back to single chapters with only sets of 20 words, rather than going over large numbers of previously learned words.

**Social Studies:** We have been looking at the dissolution of the Union, and the events leading up to the Civil War. Students have been looking at election maps, political cartoons, and primary sources. Ask your child who the "little giant" was.

**Literature:** We are finishing up reading Little Women. We will close out this unit with some book report activities, and will also be watching some of the film versions of the book in class.



**Our ELF Program celebrated with their Thanksgiving Feast.**

