

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal
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Principal's News

Let's hope we have seen the last of any more snow storms or Polar Vortex cold fronts coming through. It hasn't been too bad of a winter, but with spring officially here now, I would rather see more spring like weather coming around.

As you hopefully know, our **Registration Forms** went home last month for the 2019-2020 school year. As I've stated many times in the past, it's crucial that we know on whether your child is returning to St. Paul School next fall. In the past we have had several parents not informing us on the status of their child until as late as August! We can't continue to plan our school year on this notion. Even if you do not have your **Registration Fee** of **\$150** at this time and are planning to enroll your child, please send in the registration form anyway. Just let Mrs. Keane know and you can pay it the following month. We can at least begin to prepare our plans for next year (staffing, ordering books, and supplies, etc.).

Hopefully anyone looking for financial assistance got their information into FACTS (www.factsmgt.com) this month. As of now, the window has closed on any families looking to receive aid from FACTS (Diocese of Providence). Any aid from this point on from FACTS will be from whatever emergency funds they may still have available this coming summer.

Continued Principal News...

A list of the following graduation dates and ceremonies are included in this month's Newsletter. Families have been asking me so they can make plans for the summer. With the month of April days away with spring break just weeks away as well (4/15-4/19), the month of June will come up fast.

Graduation Dates & Ceremonies

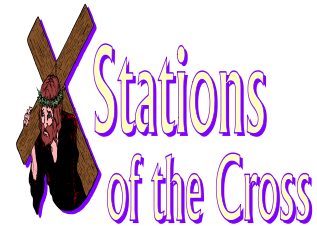
Graduation Mass for the **Class of 2019** will be held on **Thursday, June 6** at **5:30 pm** in **St. Paul Church**. An **Awards Ceremony** and refreshments for the graduates and their families will be held in the school auditorium immediately after Mass.

The **Closing Ceremony** for **Pre-K** and **Formal Graduation Ceremony** for **Kindergarten** will be on **Wednesday, June 12** beginning at **9:00** for **Pre-K** and **Kindergarten** immediately following at **11:00 am**. Children will be dismissed after each ceremony with their parents.

Our **Annual Field Day** is scheduled for **Thursday, June 13**. Students will walk to **Fay Field** in the morning returning by noon for **Hot Dogs and Chips** in the school cafeteria along with plenty of other desserts and refreshments.

And as for our **last day of school**, it will be on **Friday, June 14** with **dismissal at 11:30 am**. We will be having **Mass** that morning at **9:00** followed by the **Award Ceremony** at **10:45** in the school auditorium. Buses will be available.

No School tomorrow, Friday, March 29th, it's a **Teacher Professional Day**. Teachers will be working on our upcoming **New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation (NEASC)** visit next October.



April 4th & April 11th @ 1:15



April 15th - 19th



April 19th





Pre-K 3 & 4 News

Happy March! The month certainly came in like a lion, but it feels like it's going out like a lamb. The children had a month full of learning about opposites, St. Patrick's Day, the wind and rainbows. We did a variety of science experiments this month and also enjoyed having our March Madness time, where we explored several different STEAM activities.

We are looking forward to April, hopefully with some warmer weather!

We will discuss Easter, eggs, new life, rainfall and umbrellas. Be on the lookout for an upcoming field trip permission slip! Please remember to complete and send in your registrations for next year; many of our younger classes are quickly filling up and we would not want you to lose your spot!



Kindergarten News

During the month of March Kindergarten celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. We read a ton of Dr. Seuss books and did a few fun art activities to go with them. We made puffy a paint Lorax (shaving cream, glue, and orange dye). We read "Oh the Places You'll Go" and made hot air balloons with what we wanted to be when we

grew up. We talked a lot about rhyming and made up our own silly words. We also created our own Dr. Seuss characters! We began the celebration of Lent and learned about what a special time it is to talk and pray with God. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day and made a list of all the things we are lucky to have in our lives. With our ELF group we did our March Madness where we traveled to different classrooms doing fun science, math, and movement activities. We happily welcomed Spring together and made 3D flowers to decorate our hallway!

First Grade News



Happy Spring!! We have accomplished a lot this month in first grade. We began our fourth unit in our reading street series which is all about things that we treasure. In Math, we wrapped up our unit 7 lesson on geometry and will begin to learn about money and time next, which the children are very excited about. In Religion, we have learned about walking in the light of God and making choices that God would be proud of us for. We also learned that everyone makes mistakes sometimes and as long as we pray and say we are sorry, God will forgive us. This month the children learned about the writing process and the 5 stages of writing, which became very helpful when writing our classroom book. We worked very hard on it and can't wait

for our parents to see it! For our Spanish lessons this month, Mrs. Pena taught us how to say the days of the week. We also learned how to say 2D shapes in Spanish which tied in with our geometry lessons. We got to create a house using triangles, circles, squares, and rectangles and even labeled them in Spanish. Lastly, in our ELF program, we got to participate in a variety of S.T.E.A.M activities which we enjoyed very much. Our classroom favorite was trying to build a tower out of plastic eggs!



Second Grade News

Second grade was very excited to participate in our Lent Project this year. Both grade 2 and grade 3 are collecting school supplies and other items for St. Dominique School in Marigot, Haiti. I'm so proud of our students! In Religion, we have been keeping track of our kind deeds on our Lent Calendar. We have talked about the important things we do during Lent: Pray, Fast, and Give. The students are participating in the Stations of the Cross each Thursday afternoon. In Math, we have started learning about money. I have encouraged all my students to practice counting their change in their "piggy banks" so it can help reinforce their skills. My students are also working on a classroom book entitled "All About Us". The students will be writing about themselves and illustrating their writing pieces too. All families will have an opportunity to buy their own copy of the book. Thank you to my parents for all your

continued support! May you have a prayerful Lent.

Third Grade News

Happy Spring!!

This month our class was very busy honoring Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph, our classroom Patron Saint. For Lent, the class says a decade of rosary every day, participates in Stations of the Cross on Thursdays and gave up treats during school. We are also collecting basic needs and school supplies for students that attend St. Dominique School in Haiti.

In Reading, we are working on improving our comprehension skill and strategies. We began Unit 5, which includes stories about children from all different cultures. Reading these stories is a great introduction to our Social Studies unit on Cultures. In Science, we studied matter and magnets.

In Math, we completed our chapter on graphs. We thought of a survey question and collected data from students and teachers in grades 2, 4 and 5. Using that data, we created a bar graph and poster. We also learned about time and measurement.

Our math bee was held on March 26th. The students were fabulous and knew many of their multiplication facts! All the students worked very hard writing and illustrating their pages for our class book that will be published. We are so excited and can't wait to see the completed bound book!!

Fourth Grade News

Happy Spring! Our first year of our looping experience has been exciting and eventful. The class is finishing up their class books and will be sending them out to the publishing company next week. Looking forward to reading their published stories. In

Social Studies, we've just begun a unit on the Midwest, the class is reading and researching landforms, animal, and plant life in the Midwest and eventually how it was settled. We've just finished our lessons on the South and they'll be presenting their Native American research papers on tribes in the Southern regions during the time of early settlement.

After completing Harry Potter, we've taken a break from the wizarding world and are into Maniac Magee. The class is very invested in our chapter books and love reading and discussing the books together as well as working on writing assignments that deal with the themes and characters of the book. In the Spring, after our performance of Lion King on May 17th, we'll be planning an end of the year field trip. More information to follow once it's booked.

Fifth Grade News

Grade 5 students have been working hard on creating their own books to be published by Student Treasures Publishing. Each student chose a topic, near and dear to his/her heart, and researched seven separate items about that topic. They are very proud of the work they have done so far.

The students have been enjoying our read-a-loud book *A Single Shard* and have learned a bit about creating pottery. This information will come in handy when we visit Sturbridge Village, in June, and attend a session on pottery making in the New England Colonies.

In math, we have been working on adding and subtracting fractions, mixed numbers and whole numbers. We will next tackle multiplication and division of these same kinds of numbers.

During this Lenten season, we have been participating in our own "March Madness Bracket" which is focused on saints. This Lent Bracket teaches students about two different saints each day and the students vote on who

they believe should advance in the brackets. Let's just say, Mrs. Vargas' Bracket was busted by day four.

Sixth Grade News

Social Studies: Students spent the week learning about Athens and Sparta, two Greek city-states with many differences. Sparta placed an enormous amount of emphasis on an individual's duty to the city-state, and maintaining military strength, whereas Athens placed emphasis on art and literature. Their essay this week will ask them to compare the two, and discuss whether they have more similarities or more differences. Ask your child to explain how the attitude of the people of Athens led to their downfall?

Next week, students will work on Chapter 6 Section 4: The Spread of Greek Culture. To prepare for this section, ask your child who their heroes are? Are there people living today or in the past whom they admire? Why are they your child's heroes? What can your child do to become more like them? The essential questions for this section are: What role did the conquests of Alexander the Great play in spreading Greek culture? What advances in science did the Greeks make after Alexander's death? The key terms of this section are: barbarian, assassinate, Hellenistic. The key people and places are: King Phillip, Macedonia, Alexander the Great, Alexandria, Euclid, Archimedes.

Terms to review are: peninsula, epic, acropolis, city-state, aristocrat, tyrant, democracy, tribute, immortal, philosopher, tragedy, agora. Key people and places to review are: Sparta, Persia, Marathon, Athens, Pericles, Parthenon, Socrates, Homer, Solon, Troy

Literature: Students have completed the entire Ascendance Trilogy by Jennifer Nielsen. Ask your child about their favorite character, and if they have a preference for one of the three

books over the others. Next, we will begin an exciting Independent Reading Unit, in which students will learn and review skills in choosing a book to read on their own from the library. We will be taking a walking field trip to the William Hall Library next week to select books. Students will be expected to report on their book selections at the end of the unit.

Vocab- In Vocabulary, the students are working on unit 11 and will be having their unit test before vacation. As previously mentioned you can follow your students progress in Vocabulary by signing into their Sadlier account.

Science- Congratulations to all the students for all the hard work they put into their science fair projects! The students have started a unit on owls. In this unit, they will learn about different types of owls, the owl's food web, how owls hunt, and about owl pellets. Before we go on break, the students will be dissecting owl pellets.

Math-Currently, the sixth grade Math class is finishing a section demonstrating the two methods of subtracting mixed numbers and will be beginning to use them in equations. In their Religion class, they are learning about the effect that Israel's division into two kingdoms negatively impacted their relationship with God.



Seventh Grade News

Vocab-In Vocabulary, the students just took their unit 10 test. The

students will be starting Unit 11 this week. As previously mentioned you can follow your students progress in Vocabulary by signing into their Sadlier account.

Science- Congratulations to all the students for all the hard work they put into their science fair projects. The students are currently working in groups and learning about different types of water pollution. After learning about water pollution, we will start a unit on nonrenewable energy.

Social Studies: Students have been looking at the creation of the Articles of Confederation, and the origins of American Federalism. Special care and attention is being paid to terminology. Ask your child to explain what a government is, what a constitution is, what a republic is, and what the term "bicameral" means. Ask your child what the main goal of the founding fathers was in the creation of an American central government.

Literature: Students have selected books to read and report on in an Independent Reading Unit. The goal of this unit is to support students as they select books that they are interested in reading along the lines of theme, genre, length, and reading level. I want students to enjoy reading and to have necessary skills in selecting books based on their personal preferences. Ask your child what book they have selected, why they selected it, and how they plan on reporting on it.

Math-The seventh grade math class has been performing the four basic operations with fractions and their usage in real world situations. In Religion, the seventh graders have started a chapter explaining Jesus' s role as Savior and its' relationship to salvation history.

Eighth Grade News

Social Studies: We have moved from the frontier to the big cities! The theme of this unit is Industrialization, Urbanization, and Immigration - specifically, how these themes are

interdependent on one another.

Students did an activity this week to demonstrate how factories contributed to immigration and urbanization - the formation of cities. Ask your child what happens when a developer builds a factory in the early 1900's. Students this week are looking specifically of the challenges of the immigrants coming into a newly urbanized and industrialized United States, such as a voyage in steerage, screenings at Ellis Island, and dangerous work in the factories. As we enter the age of photography and modern reporting, students have had access to a wide array of primary sources to aid in their understanding. Students used newspaper articles reporting on the sinking of the Titanic, as well as primary sources related to the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Ask your child about the challenges immigrants faced. Ask your child to compare the challenges of frontier life with the challenges of city life.

Literature: Students continue to be mature readers of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, in which themes of racism, responsibility, adolescence, nature, society, and civil disobedience abound. Ask your child how Huck Finn has changed over the course of his travels so far. Ask your child about Huck Finn's attitude towards the King and the Duke, versus his attitude towards Jim. Ask your child about why Jim feels guilty about an interaction with his daughter.

Vocab-In Vocabulary, the students took their unit 10 test last week. The students will be starting Unit 11 this week and will have their unit 11 test before the break. As previously mentioned you can follow your students progress in Vocabulary by signing into their Sadlier account.

Science- Congratulations to all the students for all the hard work they put into their science fair projects. This month the eighth graders will be doing an egg drop project. From this project, the students will learn about motion,

force, gravity, acceleration, and the conservation of energy.

Math- A review of Rational numbers has been the focus for the eighth grade Math class as they begin their study of Formulas and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Religion- In Religion, the class is finishing one of the saddest period in its' history. The Crusades, The corruption within the Church, and the violence of the Spanish Inquisition will lead many people to questioning their faith. However, the papacy of Pope Gregory VII and Pope Innocent III will be instrumental in reforming the Church and its' practices.

Just a few reminders: Middle School Students are required to complete Community Services Hours. These hours are to be completed by May 1st and contribute to their final grade in Religion. The final payment of the eighth grade Graduation fee of \$150.00 is due on Friday, March 28th.