

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal
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Principal's News

Well, we're almost there! Only about seven weeks left in the current school year. As we look back on how we started the school year last September, who would have thought we would be where we are today--and thank God for that! Things are certainly looking up as we move forward in the weeks and months ahead. For instance, we can now have students sitting three feet apart vs. six feet since last Monday, 4/26. From everything I have been hearing lately, more good news will be coming soon. And as for the vaccine, everyone should have the opportunity to be vaccinated before school starts next September. Let's hope so. Things are definitely looking up.

I have included once more the upcoming dates for both May and June. Several parents have asked me if I have the times on when some of these activities are taking place since my last Newsletter. Here are the updates:

- **Ascension Thursday Mass**
5/13 9:30am grades 1-8
- **Last Distance Learning Day--Monday, 5/17-- Only students in the Pre-K 3 & 4 program and Kindergarten** attending school that day (No buses running).

Continued Principal News...

- **Walk-A-Thon Friday, 5/28**— Students will gather in each classroom. Each class will walk in separate groups with their teachers.
- **Memorial Day--Monday, 5/31--** No School
- **Wednesday, 6/1--Final Exams** begin for **Grade 8 students**-- Schedule will be sent home in late May.
- **Class of 2021 Graduation--** Wednesday, 6/9 @ **5:30--St. Paul Church**--Students need to arrive at 5:00 to the school auditorium with their cap & gown.
- **Thursday, 6/10--Final Exams** begin for **Grade 6-7 students**-- Schedule will be sent home in beginning of June.
- **After-School Care--Ends on** Friday, 6/11
- **Pre-K 3 & 4 Program Ceremony--Tuesday, 6/15--** Outside ceremony with parent (s) arriving in car to back of school (one vehicle per student) at 11:30.
Children will be lined up with Mrs. Larsh and Mrs. Bolanos by Canning Hall.
- **Kindergarten Ceremony--** Wednesday, 6/16--Same as Pre-K 3 & 4 ceremony.
Children will be lined up with Mrs. Nunez and Mrs. Laurito by Canning Hall.
- **Field/Picnic Lunch Day--** Thursday, 6/17--McDonalds or Burger King lunch.
If parents wish to make a donation of water/juice and store-bought desserts it would be appreciated.
- **Last Day of School--6/18--Mass** at 9:00--Early Dismissal @ 11:30

As for **Registration** for the 2021-2022 school year. We are almost full in our Pre-K 4 yr. old program as well as Kindergarten Grade 1, 2, and 4. As I mentioned before, even with the new restriction of desks being only three feet apart from each other vs. six feet, we will still be limited in our classrooms with students.

Hopefully everyone knows by now that we are switching over to **Tommy Hilfiger** with our **School Uniforms**. An email just went out the other day on how to order uniforms once again. As for the current uniform, you can drop it off in a bag (specifically pants, sweaters, and gym uniforms) to be donated to a school one of our staff members knows of that could use them at the end of the school year.

Covid-19 Quarantine Restrictions
And last but not least, though things are looking better with restrictions being loosened up with Covid-19, any parent/guardian (s) visiting a state that is on Rhode Island's list of a positivity rate of 5 percent or higher, you must either quarantine at home for 10 days with no testing or 7 days with testing and returning after receiving a negative test result (copy given to your child's teacher). This is NOT our restrictions; it is the RI Dept. of Health (RIDOH) and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) quarantine guidance restrictions. I've mentioned this before. I'm assuming everyone is following these guidelines!

And finally, now that the Governor has begun to give his okay for things to get back to somewhat normal, especially outside, it's a good time to bring back our **Annual Walk-A-Thon** once again. It will be on **Friday, May 28**. *Permission and Pledge slips* will be going home next Friday, May 7. (masks will still be worn). Let's have a good turnout for it!

Pre-K 3 & 4 News



We had an amazing month of April learning! We had so much fun with Easter activities, including our Holy Week lessons and having Mrs. Bradley share her story with us! The children enjoyed our Easter egg hunt and we carried that theme into the following week, learning about new life and animals that hatch from eggs! The children did a great job during our Reading Week celebrations too! They loved walking over to Hall Library and participating in our letter scavenger hunt! We finished out the month with a look at how rain is good for our environment.

In May, we are getting ready to celebrate our moms! We will take a look at how flowers grow, learn more about caterpillars and butterflies and other insects. We will also be getting some other surprises ready for the students as well!



Kindergarten News



April has been a fast month especially with spring vacation. During reading week, kindergarten enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate. Our special author was Eric Carle. The children were excited to bring in their own books. Each child had the opportunity to read it to the class. A special highlight, we were thrilled to take a trip to the library. The librarian was so kind to read a couple of stories to us outdoors. One inclusive story, *The Anywhere Farm*, by: Phyllis Root ; Illustrated by: G. Brian Karas, kept the children engaged and inspired. Our class continues working on writing improvements. Kindergarten is making a class book next month. As we work to meet our publishing deadline, we are busy finalizing our rough drafts. In Math, we are moving on to Chapter 6 that involves tables, graphs, and fractions. For social studies, we talked about earth day and ways we can all contribute to the care of our world. Since the end of the year is coming fast, we are practicing our graduation song. Everyone is doing a great job with this and having some fun with it. Next week, we will be busy planting our vegetable garden. We will discuss the planting process and vegetables that we can grow in our own garden.

First Grade News



I hope everyone had a great April vacation! It's hard to believe we only have 7 more weeks left of school! This month we wrapped up unit 4 in our Reading Street series and just began our last unit which is all about great ideas. We finished learning about place value in math and will be learning about extending addition and subtraction facts next in chapter 6. In Science, we learned about Earth Day and the ways we can help to keep our Earth clean. In religion, we learned about the Last Supper and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Before April Vacation, we celebrated Reading Week and did an author study on one of our favorite authors, Kevin Henkel. Each day we read a new story by this author and then completed an arts and crafts project and writing activity to go along with it. We also got to take a trip to William Hall Library which the children loved. I am hoping to plan at least one more field trip there before the school year ends! Just a reminder, we will be attending mass on Ascension Thursday, May 13th at 9:30. Children are allowed to wear their gym uniforms.



Grade 2 News



April went by so quick! We started off the month celebrating Easter. Mrs. Bradley came to talk to the class about Holy Week. We learned about how Jesus died and resurrected for us. We also did some fun bunny crafts and read some Easter stories. We also had some fun activities and spirit days during Reading Week. The class had a great time walking next door to William Hall Library and read some Earth Day books with Miss Elise. The class also loved being able to spend the day before April Vacation in our pajamas, playing Disney Jeopardy!

We have finished Unit 10 in vocabulary and will be moving towards the last few units over the next several weeks. In Religion we have been learning about the Ten Commandments and how to make good choices like Jesus did. In science we have started learning about animal life cycles, and will finish this up during the month of May.

We are about to take our Unit 4 test in Reading. During this unit, we learned about adjectives and adverbs. The kids also worked on comparing and contrasting. In math, we just took our Unit 5 test on subtracting two-digit numbers. This is always a tough concept but the kids did an awesome job learning and understanding it! We will be starting our unit on money and time during the month of May.

It is hard to believe that there are only 7 weeks left until summer, but I am

excited to see what is to come for the rest of the year. Second grade has lots of fun stuff planned and I know the class is excited to finish out this crazy, unpredictable year on a high note!

Grade 3 News



Third grade accomplished a lot during the month of April.

In Reading, we continued to read about boys and girls from different cultures, while completing Unit 5 of the Reading Street Program. We incorporated those stories as we learned even more about different countries and cultures in our Social Studies Unit. I also read aloud books about Cinderella from different countries. The students picked a country that they wanted to learn more about, completed a project at home, and shared that project with the class. As always, everyone did a fabulous presentation!!

In Math, we continued working with equivalent, comparing and ordering fractions. In Science, we finished our unit on energy and have begun our unit on plants. We did some activities to recognize Earth Day and even did some planting. These plants will be a surprise for someone special!

During reading week, we participated in many enjoyable activities. We walked to William Hall Library to hear a few stories about food, enjoyed reading to our favorite stuffed animal and had a blast watching cereal box

dominos in our pajamas! Jack, Emma, and Ethan represented Grade 3 in the 3rd – 5th grade spelling bee. They all did an amazing job!! Everyone enjoyed our daily D.E.A.R. time and look forward to the next time, which I promised would be very soon.



Grade 4 News

Welcome back! We have just begun our Fourth Quarter; we are focusing on continuing to focus on completing important activities in each subject area. In Science, our topic is All About Matter. We are working on a power-point and many reinforcing activities and videos that go along with this topic. In Language Arts, we are working on Walk Two Moons and Harry Potter. The class is really enjoying venturing into the Wizarding world of Hogwarts, they especially love the voices of each character as we read the story aloud. Each day the class completes a journal entry, we are spending time on the five steps of the writing process. I'm wanting them to become very comfortable with brainstorming, first draft, revise, edit, and the final draft. The class is really improving with each writing assignment, great job Grade 4!

Grade 5 News

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that we are in the final quarter of the school year. The students have been working hard and it is paying off. Grade 5 was able to accomplish something last quarter that no other class I've had the pleasure to teach has done- the ENTIRE class made honors! What an accomplishment. Now our challenge is to try to do the improbable again this quarter. I believe they are up for the challenge.

We have begun a new read-a-loud book called Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes. This story is set during the turbulent times in Boston leading to the Revolutionary War and tells of a young apprentice silversmith who interacts with some famous Founding Fathers. It is the perfect book to read at this time, as we have begun our studies about the American Revolution in social studies class.

We continue to learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in religion class. We will pray the Rosary each week for our special intentions this May, the month of Mary. It's a beautiful way to honor Mary and ask for her intercession with our prayers.

In math we have just finished up adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. We will move on to multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers next. At the same time, our studies in science correlate with some math concepts as we have begun finding the volume of objects.

As we have done all year, we will continue to work on our growth mindset.

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible!"



Middle School News

Grade 6

Social Studies: we are looking at the ancient cultures and civilizations of the African continent. We are learning about the geography of Africa, and the migrations of Bantu-speaking people.

Literature: students are doing their independent reading units where they select their own books to read from the school library, read them, and write book reviews to share with the class. Ask your child what book he or she chose.

Science: The students are learning about natural resources and electricity. They will be conducting small projects in class to learn more about these topics. They are reading from a National Grid magazine too.

Math: The students have been working on adding and subtracting fractions. They will have a quiz on adding and subtracting fractions on Friday, May 7. They will also be learning about multiplying and dividing fractions as well. A study guide for finals will be upload on Google Classroom on Monday, May 3rd for the students to start preparing for the test. The final will be scheduled for some time in June. The students are allowed to have an 8.5" by an 11" piece of paper as a cheat-cheat on their final.

Religion: The students have made it out of Egypt and the desert wanderings with the people of Israel and are now on Chapter 9; where they will be learning about Israel's growth into a new nation and kingdom. They will also be learning and writing about new saints each week, utilizing their vocabulary within the writing in order to make new heavenly friends, while at the same time practice their vocabulary skills.

Skills: The students are moving along nicely and really expanding their vocabulary. In the midst of their learning new words, they, (like the other classes) will also be tapping back into the older material, in order to begin preparing for the cumulative exam. In order to keep them engaged we will be continuing our use of games and other unique methods of learning, such as vocabulary workouts and sports.

Grade 7

Social Studies: We are looking at the presidency of Thomas Jefferson. We have a focus on civics as well, as we discuss the pros and cons of expanding or limiting the powers federal government.

Literature: Students are in the early stages of their research projects where they are choosing their topics, finding and selecting relevant written sources, reading, summarizing, and writing about a topic of their choosing.

Science: The students are learning about DNA. They will have a lab in class on extracting DNA from strawberries on Monday, May 3rd. The next topic of study will be simple machines. The students will create their own Rube Goldberg Machine

Math: The students are currently learning about two-step equations and will soon be learning about inequalities. They have a math quiz on

sections 2-5 and 2-6 on Friday, May 7. A study guide for finals will be upload on Google Classroom on Monday, May 3rd for the students to start preparing for the test. The final will be scheduled for some time in June. The students are allowed to have an 8.5" by an 11" piece of paper as a cheat-cheat on their final.

Religion: The class is moving into the material contained in Chapter 9, which focuses on how to actually walk out the Christian life. More specifically, they will be leaning the importance of the beatitudes and how they, (along with prayer) are the keys to success in the matter. In addition to that the kids will be taking a deeper dive into the many levels of the greatest prayer ever composed – the “Our Father.”

Skills: The students have made it to Chapter 7 and are continuing to learn new words and concepts to add to their vocabulary arsenal. They will be continuing to use skits, jeopardy and other games to facilitate and enhance their learning and comprehension of the material. This will be extremely important in the next couple of weeks while they begin to prepare for the upcoming finals that are right around the corner.

Grade 8

Social Studies: Students have been learning about World War I, both overseas and on the home front. Students also learn about the 1918 Influenza epidemic, as well as about the rapidly changing technology and culture of the times.

Literature: Students read arguments both for and against conscription, and drafted persuasive arguments for a debate. Next, students will be looking at short stories and poetry in our Literature anthology.

Science: The students are starting a STEAM project. They will be designing their shoebox mini-golf course and creating their business plan.

Math: The students are still learning about graphing and solving inequalities. They will be having quizzes almost every week on the topics we are learning about in class. A study guide for finals will be upload on Google Classroom on Monday, May 3rd for the students to start preparing for the test. The final will be scheduled for some time in June. The students are allowed to have an 8.5" by an 11" piece of paper as a cheat-cheat on their final.

Religion: The students are doing great and working on getting back in to the swing of things after spring break. At this point, the class is going to be continuing to familiarize themselves with the saints along with diving in to Chapter 7 and the study of the early church. Throughout this time, they will hopefully be able to better understand the true concept of sonship and what it means to be born of the Spirit.

Skills: The students will be beginning a brand-new chapter while at the same time taking a look back the previous chapters in order to begin preparing for the final at the end of the year.