

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

Cindy Richard, Principal
February 28, 2023



Principal's News

March is upon us, and it is a very busy month. The school is busy with our Lenten activities and preparing for Easter. The upper grades are attending Mass once a week and participating in Stations of the Cross. This is the time of year we teach our children to be to be more like Jesus and to use this time to become closer to God.

Every grade will be participating in Easter activities in their classrooms and Sister Esmeralda is facilitating a retreat for all grades.

Our school is participating in the Rotary Club of Cranston Annual Food Drive. Food pantries are at their lowest levels following the holidays and need nonperishable items. Please donate a nonperishable item beginning March 6th through March 20th. The classroom that collects the most food items will celebrate with a pizza party donated by the Rotary Club. This program helps our local foodbanks and it is a great way to support those in need. Thank you.

Continued Principal News...

Our registration has started for the 2023-2024 academic year. Please send in your registration with your payment to secure enrollment. Some of our lower grades are filling up very quickly so please be sure to do this soon. This is also the time to submit your financial aid forms through FACTS. It is very important to complete this process early so your family can benefit as much as possible in this process. For Financial Aid/Tuition Assistance please visit www.factsmgt.com (*click on the Parents and Students link*).

Our Saint Paul Parent Group is meeting on March 15th at 6:00 PM. We will be making plans for our Spring Middle School dance and the Spring Walkathon/Field Day. Please plan on attending and participating in our wonderful community.

There is a faculty Professional Development Day on March 17th. There will be **NO SCHOOL** on this day. We are working with a consultant company in developing additional curriculum for Saint Paul School. This is an exciting opportunity for the school to expand and update the great teaching that is happening in our classrooms. We have been given this opportunity through the Diocese of Providence Catholic School Office and are very grateful to participate in this process. I will share more information as we navigate this fantastic opportunity.

The classrooms will be updating their technology in the next few months. We will be adding appropriate additional resources in each classroom to enhance the learning experiences of our students. We have updated the computer lab with new headphones and Mrs. Conroy is doing wonderful work with our students.

Please remember to use the appropriate drop off spots in the morning. It is very dangerous if you pull into the front parking lot. Our students walk across that area to get into the front door. Thank you.

There are many new and exciting things happening in our community! Thank you for all you do for our school. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a generous caring Catholic community. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I am always available by email or phone.



Stations of the Cross

Fridays during lent at

1:30

PreK 3&4 News



Happy February! We had quite an exciting month of learning! We began with celebrating Catholic Schools Week and then we talked about the groundhog and shadows (we got an early taste of spring and a blast of cold weather!) We talked about hearts and valentines, exploring how we all have feelings and learning to show God's love too. We worked to make valentines for veterans, made a valentine for our families, and got to deliver our valentines to our friends' boxes, just like the post office does. We ended the month with entering into the season of Lent and a look at our teeth and keeping our bodies healthy! The children have been working on building their vocabulary and improving their fine motor skills too!

We are looking forward to March, where we will continue learning about the season of Lent. We are excited to work on the concept of opposites, discuss St. Patrick's Day, experiment with kites and wind and do an author study too!



Kindergarten News

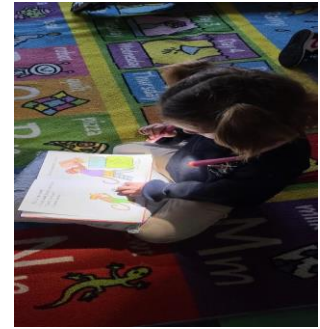


Happy February!

Kindergarten had many exciting activities throughout the month. We started the month with Catholic Schools Week. We began the week with our Community Service project and ended the week with Teacher Appreciation. The students colored a flower pot and were able to deliver it to any staff member in the building. They truly enjoyed making their teachers smile. The second week of February was the 100th Day of School where students participated in centers based on 100. Some of those centers included a Hershey Kiss 100 Chart and creating a 100 gumball machine. The following week was Valentine's Day and the students were able to participate in Valentine's Day themed centers. These centers included a color by number, a craft, and a sorting/graphing activity. In math, we completed Chapter 4. Chapter 4 was working on numbers 1-10 and ordinal numbers. In Science, we started our Polar Bear unit. We started to talk about what we already know about polar bears, what we want to learn, and the parts of a polar Bear. Next month we will be starting Chapter 5 in math which focuses on numbers 11-31, we will continue to learn about Polar Bears, and we will be talking about St. Patrick's Day!



First Grade News



February flew by for first grade! Starting with Catholic Schools Week to the hundredth day of school to Valentine's day, we have been busy each week! We have been learning so many crucial sounds to expand our reading. We began our weekly "Flashlight Fridays." On these days students may bring in a flashlight from home so we can read in the dark! We are learning about comprehension strategies to help understand what we are reading. The five Ws have helped us organize how to retell a story. In math, we have been expanding on place value. First Grade has been working hard distinguishing their tens and ones places. This past month, the students have also been learning how to take care of their teeth and the different parts of their teeth, especially since most of the students are losing all their baby teeth! Also, first grade has continued to pray the rosary, a decade at a time, and we have had important group discussions about being at a Catholic school. We participated in a service project with the rest of the early childhood classes at St. Paul's. First grade donated birthday candles for our birthday bag service project. It was a great way to teach kids to serve those in the community in small ways. Next month in March, first grade will begin their preparation for Easter by learning about the season of Lent through books, bible stories, group discussions, and more. In phonics we will continue learning new vowel sounds and patterns. We will also continue place value as we learn about

two digit addition and subtraction. Some historical figures first grade will be learning more about are Abraham Lincoln and Jackie Robinson. We are so excited for March!



Second Grade News



We kicked off February with Catholic Schools Week. During this week, students celebrated our parish, community, students, vocations, families, faculty and staff in a variety of ways and activities. For charity, we participated in Birthday Bag donations. The ELF program collaborated by putting together birthday party items in these bags for the less fortunate. Second grade was so happy to celebrate St. Blaise with a Blessing of the Throats. St Paul School celebrated families with a super fun family night. We played fun games and had desserts! It was a blast for all! In Religion, we have learned more about the sacrament of Confirmation and the Holy Spirit.

Our class learned all about the history of St. Valentine and the ways he supported the Catholic religion. Currently, we are moving toward Lent

so we are discussing Ash Wednesday and

introducing the beginning of our lenten journey. For Math, we have moved into Chapter 4 that involves regrouping and adding doubles. In addition, we practice word problems that encourage reading and critical thinking skills. The class is engaged in these math lessons as we learn in different ways such as whole group, small group, and center work. For Language and Literacy, our readers learned cause and effect ; plot and theme in our reading comprehension discussions. Each week, we have a class reader for one of our jobs. This additionally helps build confidence and increase fluency in their reading skills. The class continues to develop writing skills with practice in paragraph formation with main ideas and supporting details. We will continue to work on this daily with the use of graphic and paragraph organizers. Social Studies was full of current events and information learned this month. This includes Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day, President’s Day, and more. Throughout the month, we celebrate Black History with prominent figures such as Martin Kuther King, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, and George Washington Carver. In Science, during our heart science lesson, the class performed an experiment with conversation hearts using the scientific method. We predicted and formed a hypothesis about our experiment. This involved soaking the hearts in a variety of liquids. Then, we came to a conclusion about which liquid would dissolve the heart faster. Our 100th day of school was action packed. We performed 100 exercises(10 reps of 10 exercises), designed 100 ways to be kind poster, and completed 100 math facts. For Valentine's Day, second graders made stained glass heart key chains and decorated their valentine bags for an art activity. We passed out valentine cards and enjoyed some special treats.

Next month, we look forward to Lent, St Patrick’s Day, and Spring.

Grade 3 News



February, what a month! Third grade hosted their first school Mass. A big thank you to Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Rowell for all of their help, support, and guidance. Third Grade also celebrated Groundhog’s Day, the 100th Day of School, and Valentine’s Day! Special happy birthday wishes to Genesis, Charlie, Andrew, and Jenayah!

In Spelling, students just wrapped up their 20th week of having spelling words. In Math, students started Multiplication and have already mastered their 0 and 1 tables. In Reading and Social Studies, students read a fascinating story about Ruby Bridges and wrote an independent summary.

Third grade just earned another twenty classroom compliments and will be cashing them in when we return from February break. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and fun February break! Third Grade is looking forward to all the possibilities and opportunities that March will bring.

Grade 4 News

Hopefully, everyone had a wonderful and restful February Break. It's amazing that February is over. This year, however, it looks like March will

be coming in like a lamb, instead of a lion!

The month began with the students enjoying Catholic Schools' Week and competing in a schoolwide spelling bee. Congratulations to all the spellers of fourth grade, especially Charlie, Jolinn and Dionis, who represented us so well.

The students have been learning about the Ten Commandments, specifically the first three, which help us to show respect to God above all things. We will be continuing our study of each of the remaining commandments, which help us respect others.

In math, the students have been doing a wonderful job learning about multiplying with two-digit multipliers. Next up, division!

In social studies, we have completed learning about the costs and benefits of Authority. We will move on to the next Foundations of Democracy topic-Privacy.

Students have been learning how to use microscopes and how to prepare and view slides under the lens. These investigations are introducing us to the building blocks of life- cells.

We are reading a new book, The Whipping Boy, by Sid Fleischman and have learned that even the greatest of enemies can become friends when people learn to work together and show respect to one another.

Grade 5 News



February was fun and fast for fifth grade! Catholic Schools week was a great success! Everyone got to participate in activities such as bingo as a whole school and fifth grade took pride in cleaning up the outside areas of trash. We are ready to march into March, but hope the groundhog was wrong with his prediction of 6 more weeks of winter!

I hope this warm weather sticks around until spring because we will be learning about plants in science! We have seen that some plants have been tricked with this warm weather and have started to bloom! In this chapter we will be learning about how plants make their own food, reproduce, what stems and roots do for a plant and also what affects plant growth.

This month in social studies we will be learning about the explorers that came to the Americas. Trade routes during this time were very important, we will learn where the trade routes were and how they came upon them. We will also be learning about the important role that Spain played during this time period.

We are still working on building our vocabulary each week with new words. We have come to love the game's memory and "I have, who has..." to help learn the definitions. In ELA we are continuing to learn about the plot in a story and text structures. Our grammar skills are also continuing to grow! We will be continuing to work on contractions and will move on to verb tenses.

In religion we have finished up on the Sacrament of Confirmation. We didn't know that you choose a sponsor to "watch over you" for your confirmation, similar to how your God Parents "watch over you" for your Baptism. Next, we will be learning about Eucharist and how Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life. It will be interesting to learn about all that the Eucharist represents. We will also be learning about the season of Lent as it has come up upon fast!

For math we are learning about how fascinating fractions are. Equivalent fractions, fractions in their simplest form and mixed number fractions are coming up. This all sounds tricky but fractions can't fool fifth grade! We hope everyone has a happy and healthy March!

Middle School News



Grade 6 Science: We began a new unit on the interactions of living things. We learned that all things are connected in a web of life and their environment can be biotic or abiotic. We are beginning to focus on the five levels of environmental organization: the organism, population, community, ecosystem, and biosphere. We will continue to delve deeper into the nuances of each level.

Grade 6 Religion: We continued to focus on the Israelites, their enslavement in Egypt, and how Moses, with God's guidance, has led God's people out of Egypt. We read passages from the Book of Exodus and completed worksheets that

reflected on the actions of Moses and the Israelites and how we can relate their struggles to our lives. We will end the month of February concentrating on Ash Wednesday and the meaning of Lent.

Grade 6 Social Studies: We have wrapped up our studies of the Ancient societies of Europe, North Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Students' cumulative test was on February 28th. Next, we will be exploring the societies of the Islamic world, West Africa and the Americas.

Grade 6 Literature: We have continued reading the Ascendence series by Jennifer Nielsen, paying attention to character development and setting. We also recently read "The Dog of Pompeii", a short story that fit into our mini-unit on Ancient Pompeii.

Grade 7 Social Studies We have been looking at the Revolutionary War. Students examined the causes of the war, as well as the events of the war itself. Students have been comparing the military advantages and disadvantages of each side, and learning about the key turning points of the war. Students will also be looking at the lasting effects of the Revolutionary War.

Grade 7 Literature: We decided to read a Rhode Island classic by Avi, "Something Upstairs." It is a supernatural historical fiction thriller set right in Providence, Rhode Island, narrated by a middle schooler. Filled with time travel, research, and even ghosts, this book is a window into Rhode Island's past.

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students have been engaged in the Civil War. Students have already examined the causes of the war, and have now been learning about the events of the war itself. Following this unit, we will look at the Reconstruction period. Ask

your learner what the "Anaconda Plan" was and whether it was successful or not. Also, ask your learner about the diet and wartime experiences of Civil War soldiers.

Grade 8 Literature: We are coming to the end of Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women", which will culminate in a viewing party of 3 film versions of the book. Student Assessments of the book are due by March 14, and they will also have a cumulative exam on the book. Students are comparing the character's burdens at the beginning versus the end of the book, and identifying areas where the characters have experienced personal growth. Students are also being asked to identify themselves within the literature, as they compare the experiences of the March Sisters and Laurie with their own life experiences.

Grade 7 & 8 Religion

We have been going from commandment to commandment in depth and exploring how each commandment calls us to honor God through honoring the dignity of ourselves and others. We recently completed chapter 5; thus, we have looked at the 1st-6th commandments. Students have been doing a great job coming up with ways in which they can follow the commandments in their own day-to-day lives.

Grades 6,7,8 Skills

We began the month with Catholic Schools' Week and part of the celebration was a middle school spelling bee. We are proud to announce the winner of the bee to be Alexander Briones, grade six student. A job well done!

This month the middle school grammar classes focused on adjectives and adverbs. We discussed comparative and superlative forms of

adjectives and adverbs, articles and proper adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, and avoiding double negatives. The students were able to identify adjectives and adverbs in the sentence and identify the word it modifies.

Grades 7 & 8 Science

Students continued working with the periodic table. This month they focused on the metals and nonmetals in the table. Also, each student researched the element Uranium and performed different activities to get familiar with that element.

Physical Education



Physical education has been pretty busy. Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4 and kindergarten continue with locomotor movements and have had some fun riding the scooters for some cardiovascular and muscular endurance activity.

Grades 1 and 2 have worked on soccer skills and are starting some stations to increase gross motor skills. They are working on throwing and catching a tennis ball with a scoop, tossing and catching deck rings and learning how to jump rope.

Grades 3-8 have just begun health class every Tuesday. We have learned about the wellness triangle and the 3 components of health (physical, mental, and social). The wellness triangle is important because each aspect of our lives somehow ties into this triangle. We have just started learning about germs and how to stop the spread of germs. We are learning

how our immune system works and different way to keep our immune system strong and healthy. In PE, we are on our second round of the team sports. We have just finished our kickball unit and have begun soccer.

Library Class

February was such a short month with the number of days and then having vacation! At the beginning of the month, we began with some fun stories like “Tiptoe Tiger” by Jane Clark and then “One Zillion Valentines” by Frank Modell. “One Zillion Valentines” is a charming story of two friends who work together to bring valentine surprises to all their neighbors and then each other! We discussed in class how it can be really special to make valentine cards for our friends and family to show them we care. In other grades, we read “Turkey’s Valentine Surprise” by Wendi Silvano and we’re finishing this month with the story of “Elmer” by David McKee.

In grades 4 and 5, we are working on library skills with the nonfiction section of Dewey Decimal. Learning about how libraries catalog their books gives students a general understanding of where to find materials they need for projects or topics they’re interested in.

In grade 6, we finally finished “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis. We discussed the comparisons of the characters to what we know in real life and then we finished the book by trying some Turkish Delights! We all agreed that while the treats are delicious, they are not worth selling out your siblings.

In grades 7 and 8, we continue working on creating our own website. This serves for both computer and library classes.

The Bookworm Club is back in action! We meet every Wednesday after school till 330pm. The kids have started recommending books to one another that they are reading and its overall a great time!

Lastly, I am so excited to share that we will be having a school wide Book Fair in April! I will be sending information home over the next month and requesting parent volunteers the week of the fair.

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

