

# ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal

October 30, 2020



## Principal's News

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. Well we made it through another month. We've had as many of you know already our first experience with COVID-19. And more than likely it won't be our last time. We pray until the day a vaccine comes out. In the meantime, we will continue to enforce distance spacing in hallways and classrooms, mask wearing at all times, hand sanitizing, and open windows (with the heat on as well to take off the chill!). You may want to send in with your child a sweatshirt or sweater as the days grow colder.

On more of a *positive* note, not sure that word is appropriate to use anymore, I wanted to remind parents that with November around the corner, to be aware of the School Calendar. The month of November is very busy with Election Day, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving weekend and another Distance Learning day ahead. It's the busiest month on the calendar by far. However, there is a *misprint* with **Election Day on Tuesday, 11/3**. As you know, we follow RIDE's calendar for schools in RI, buses will not be running that day.

## Continued Principal News...

We are planning on doing a deep cleaning of the school that day and will not have students attending from our Pre-K 3 & 4 yr. old program and Kindergarten class. There will also not be any distance learning for Grades 1-8 as listed on the calendar. If anything, I would prefer as one who taught U.S. History and Civics Class (citizenship & government) before for students to follow what is happening on the local news stations in regards to the Presidential and local Elections instead.

As we always do in the month of November, we plan on having a **Dress-Down Day** for the **Local Food Pantry**. With many families still feeling the effects of having their jobs either eliminated or hours cut back because of COVID-19, I can't think of a better way of helping families through the holidays than making sure they have enough food to put on their table be it for the holidays or any day for that matter.

**First Quarter Report Cards** will also be going home on Friday, November 13.

### 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 cancelled or delayed this winter. But before we do that, now with distance learning as part of the curriculum, when there is a snow day, students will be doing distance learning along with their classroom teacher on that day. Snow days will no longer be needed to be made up in June. That is another reason why we and other schools have planned on practicing distance learning now so we will be better prepared for it later.

Just last week when we had a distance learning day, we had students who had forgotten their Gmail account and hadn't told their teacher they didn't have a laptop or chrome book at home (even after I have sent out emails since last August informing parents on the status of whether they had a computer at home for their child). Most of the 25 chrome books we currently have now are already held for some families. I'm still waiting for the 25 I ordered to arrive soon. Let me know now and I'll set one aside for your child when they arrive.

As for contacting families on a snow day, we pay for a service to contact you by phone (voice, text and email) and also belong to the RI Broadcasters Association which will air our notices about canceling school such as "*St. Paul School No School Today*" on local TV.

Please know that I have a habit of calling off school the night before if the weather forecast pretty much determines that a storm is on the way. Hopefully this would give more families the opportunity to try to find someone that evening to watch your child the following day rather than first thing in the morning as you prepare to go to work.



November 1<sup>st</sup>  
Masses- 8:00, 9:30, 11:30am  
Korean Mass 2:00pm

All Souls Day- November 2nd  
Mass 7:00pm



## Kindergarten News



## PreK 3&4 News

Happy October! We have really been enjoying our time working and learning together this month. We seem to have our routines all worked out, and we have been making new friends. This month, we talked about the changing leaves on the trees, fire safety and pumpkins. The children have loved our outdoor classroom times as well. We try to get outside twice a day, once being a directed teaching time, using stories and other materials, and a second time as a time to develop our gross motor skills! We were also excited for some Halloween fun!

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



This month in Kindergarten the children are continuing to learn about our classroom routine and expectations. They have also done a great job learning during our morning meeting each morning. They have been doing a great job practicing the days of the week and the months of the year using Sign Language at the same time.

In Science, the children had a great time doing their pumpkin Investigation project with Mrs. Laurito and Mrs. Luz. They cut open a pumpkin, and everyone had their plate of pulp and seeds. After they finished exploring the pulp and the seeds, each of them received a pumpkin worksheet and made their guess about the weight of the pumpkin. Then they used a ruler to measure the pumpkin circumference.

This month we also learned about leaves. We went for a nature walk and each student was able to pick out their own leaf and bring it to the classroom. They glued and labeled the parts of the leaf.

In Art/Science for the "Pumpkin Fizz Art Experiment" first, they spread a water and baking soda mixture all over a pumpkin cutout. Then, they dipped 2 cotton balls (1 in an orange food coloring/vinegar mixture and 1 in a yellow food coloring /lemon juice mixture). When the children applied the color mixtures to the baking soda,

they saw bubbles and heard a fizz from the chemical reaction. They did a great job!!

In Religion we talked about God creating the world and gave us water and everything we have. We also learned about the Holy Trinity. For our Spanish lesson we learned the colors and we will continue learning about colors and other Spanish topics. In Math they have been learning about sorting by colors, shapes and size. They are also learning math problem-solving strategies to help us get ready for our next Chapter.

They have also been doing a great job practicing their sight words for our Reading Street Unit 1. We are almost done with this unit and very soon will be moving to Unit 2.

Finally, we are more than halfway through filling our buckets with pompoms and we are working very hard towards earning our Cookies Day!



## Grade 1 News

These last few months have flown by in first grade! We have earned two rewards so far in our marble jar and are working towards free recess next. Even though Halloween looked different this year in school, we still made the most of it and had a blast in class! We had a Halloween dress down day and ate treats while we watched the movie Halloweentown. We also celebrated election day by having our own election in class. Instead of voting for presidents, we voted for our favorite Halloween candy. Each student had their own ballot to fill out. When everyone finished voting, we made a bar graph to determine the winner. The Halloween candy that won was Starburts, with 8 votes.

We just finished Chapter 1 in our Sadlier math books which was all about numbers and ordinals. Chapter 2 will be about Addition facts to 12. We are almost done with Unit 1 in our Reading Street series which is all about wild and tame animals. We just finished our fifth story called 'Get the Egg' which the children really enjoyed. In Religion this month, we learned all about the Holy Family and the blessed trinity. Please have children practice their prayers at home, especially Hail Mary and Our Father!



## Grade 2 News

It has been a busy, unpredictable year so far but nevertheless, we are having fun and learning a lot in second grade. Over the past month and a half, the kids quickly adjusted to new school and classroom rules and have also done a wonderful job building a respectful classroom community.

We learned all about our classroom saint, Saint Teresa of Calcutta before starting our Religion curriculum. Currently, we are focusing on The Blessed Trinity and learning about what each member of the trinity stands for.

We are finishing up our first chapter of math, which has been a review of many first-grade addition and subtraction methods. We will be moving onto place value very soon.

We are also finishing up Unit 1 of our reading curriculum. We have been learning all about story elements such as character, main idea and setting. The kids have also been learning new spelling words and vocabulary words each week. The class loves to review for spelling the day before our test by playing Sparkle, a fun and energetic spelling game!

With the fall season upon us, we have been learning about the pumpkin life cycle and reading many fall themed books together as a class. We are also starting to discuss the upcoming election and why we vote. We are ending off the month celebrating Halloween with some fun activities. I am looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings with this awesome group of kids!



## Grade 3 News

Well, this year began very differently, to say the least, but we still managed to have a very busy and fun month. In reading and writing we wrapped up Unit 1 in our Reading Street Program and will begin Unit 2. We continue to work at home on our mystery story cereal box book report. Everyone will have a chance to show and share their finished project. I can't wait!!

In Science, we finished our unit on Germs and learned all about staying healthy, especially during the coronavirus. We also learned all about pumpkins, made a jack-o-lantern, ate pumpkin seeds, and made a pumpkin volcano erupt!

In Social Studies, we learned map and globe skills. Everyone can now label a compass rose and read a map. We began learning about different types of communities. Soon we will use our knowledge of map skills to make some maps of our own of all the types of communities we studied. We also completed many activities that taught us about Fire Safety.

In Religion, we are always reminded to be followers of Jesus. We read about many saints and completed some activities in preparation for All Saints Day on November 1st.

On Friday, the day before Halloween, we had a blast playing Fall Bingo and decorated a Halloween crown. For a special treat we ended the day with snacks and a movie!

Next month, we look forward to Thanksgiving and many fun activities. We will be talking a lot about all the people and things we are thankful for.



## Grade 4 News

Happy Fall! Even though you receive my weekly updates, I've added a few things to the monthly newsletter. The class is settling into Grade 4 well, we are continuing to review behavior, focused on respect and responsibility. They completed a unit on both on their Google Classroom. We are focused on being very routine based with calming music used throughout the school day. We begin each day with a prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance. They then begin their day, starting with copying in homework and beginning their assigned morning work. Throughout the day we work on Religion, Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, Spelling, and Vocabulary Workshop. We are also focusing on the steps of the writing process: brainstorm, first draft, revise, edit, and the final draft with illustration. I'm looking forward to seeing all of their progress through this year in the classroom as well as on Google Classroom!

## Grade 5 News

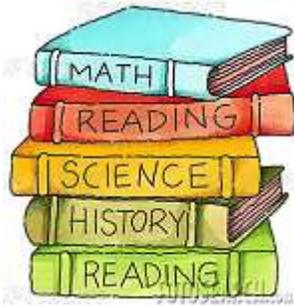
I hope you all have a Happy Halloween! I can't believe that it is almost November.

The students have handed in their Explorer Projects. They will be presenting them all next week. I am looking forward to seeing all their hard work.

We have just completed our work on classifying organisms. We will move on to learning about cells and tissues, and eventually the systems of the human body.

This week in religion, we will be learning about the patron saint of our school, St. Paul, and the patron saint of our classroom, St. Maximilian Kolbe.

We continue our read-a-loud book, Walk Two Moons. It is a beautiful story of a young girl's journey, with her grandparents, across America and all that can be revealed through a good story.



## Middle School News

**Grade 6 Social Studies** - we have been learning about Ancient Egypt. We have been looking at the geography, government, religion, culture, and legacy. They will have a Test in early November.

**Literature** - we have started reading the novel, "The False Prince." Students will be using this text to work learn about character development, plot, and resolution, as well as foreshadowing.

**Science:** The students are learning about the scientific method that is used in experiments. We just took a quiz on identifying the independent and dependent variables in an experiment. We will begin to go over scientific questions and hypotheses this month.

**Math:** This past month we went over the divisibility rules and exponents. We just took a quiz on exponents. We will start going over

prime numbers and prime factorization.

**Religion:** The students have just finished learning about the first creation account in the bible. Through their study of the creation account they learned that God is the creator of all things and that He made humans with a special dignity and likeness to Himself. In the next few weeks, they will be learning about how to be good stewards of creation, as well as the nature of sin.

**Skills:** The students are finishing up Unit 2 and preparing for their coming test. They have been working very diligently and studying hard and are very confident about the test. Moreover, due to their countless repetitions with the material in Unit 2, they can't wait to move onto the next set of vocabulary words contained in Unit 3.

**Grade 7 Social Studies** - we have been looking at the 13 American Colonies, their differences, and their interdependence. Our focus has been on how the Atlantic World was a connected, globalized mercantalistic system that affected nations and peoples from across the globe.

**Literature,** we have been applying our knowledge from Social Studies to the reading of "The Witch of Blackbird Pond" by Elizabeth George Speare.

**Science:** We just finished learning about climate change. We just took a test on climate change. We will now start a unit on structure, properties, and interaction with matter.

**Math:** We just finished learning about fractions and how to multiply, divide, add, and subtract them. We just started a unit on ratios and proportional relationships.

**Religion:** The class has recently finished chapter 2 and come to a better understanding about the importance and nature of the Church. They now know that the Christian Faith since the beginning has always been grounded and supported by the three pillars of Scripture, Tradition,

and the Magisterium. They are now onto chapter 3 learning about the mystery of the Trinity.

**Skills:** The students have finally finished Unit 2 and are now moving on to Unit 3. They are in the beginning phase of Unit 3, and their principle focus is familiarizing themselves with the vocabulary words and concepts.

**Grade 8 Social Studies:** We have been looking at the increasing tension and sectionalism in the years before the American Civil War. In Literature, we have been reading "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott, and have been using the book to aid in our understanding of the nineteenth century.

**Science:** This past month the students have been learning about a common ancestor. They have been doing different activities related to the topic. They will be having a test on this material in the next couple of weeks.

**Math:** We are going over chapter four in the textbook about Real Numbers. They review prime factorization and how to write terminating and repeating decimals as a fraction. We will begin to look over comparing and ordering rational numbers

**Religion:** The class has recently finished learning about the importance and value of making good moral decisions. Because our choices in life mold and shape who we are, (for better or worse) it is vital that we continually work to listen to our consciences and choose the good, rather than the bad, and not so good. They are now beginning to dive into learning about some of the foundational principles of the Faith - the Commandments and Beatitudes.

**Skills:** The students just finished Unit 2 and are now moving on to Unit 3. As of now they are in the beginning phase of Unit 3, primarily familiarizing themselves with the vocabulary and information.