

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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Cindy Richard, Principal

March 28, 2024



Principal's News

It's hard to believe that April will soon be here. We have been busy preparing for Easter and participating in our many academic activities. The seventh and eighth grade participated in the Living Stations which was attended by the school community. They did a wonderful job, and it was the perfect way for us to prepare for Easter. Father Woodhouse, Fran Rowell, and Sister Esmeralda worked with the classes, and we are grateful for their dedication and hard work.

As a Catholic school community, we are blessed to have the opportunity to journey together in faith, nurturing the spiritual growth and development of our students. Let us use this Easter season as a time to deepen our relationship with God and to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the blessings we have received.

Amidst the joy of Easter egg hunts and family gatherings, please remember the true meaning of this sacred holiday. May we carry the light of Christ's love within us and share it with others, spreading hope and joy to all those we encounter.

Continued Principal News...

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Please remember to turn in your application and deposit for next year. Our classes are filling up quickly! Thank you.

The Scholastic Book fair is returning this month. It was a very successful event last year and we hope it is again. There will be more information coming home soon. The dates are April 22nd-April 26th. We will also have a Parent Wine and Cheese Night on Thursday, April 25th. This is a fun night to socialize with parents in our community and to shop for books. This is an adult night, and we will be serving wine and cheese! A big thank you to Mrs. Conroy for her hard work and commitment to this event. Parents are also needed to help with the bookfair. Please email Mrs. Conroy at Sconroy@saintpaulcranston.org if you would like to volunteer.

There is NO School on Monday due to it being Easter Monday. Our Spring Break is from April 15th to April 19th. Report Cards go out on April 4th. The mornings are very busy in each classroom. There is a great deal of daily activities and learning that occurs between 8:15 and 9:00. Please make an extra effort to have your students here by 8:15. I do not want our student to miss any learning time. Physical Education,

Spanish, Library and Art are all scheduled during this timeframe. I know there are days that you cannot avoid being late, but it is repeated tardiness that interrupts learning. Thank you.

Please remember that the school uniform is expected to be worn every day. Sneakers are ONLY allowed on PE days.

Our teachers have been working very diligently and putting in a great deal of time to provide a wonderful enriching Catholic education for our students. When you get the chance, please thank them for all their efforts!

Our Gospel value this month is forgiveness. As we go about our daily lives, please look for opportunities to teach this important Gospel value to your student. I know I will be looking to practice it more regularly.

God's Word calls us not only to forgive people once or even seven times but to forgive them seventy times seven (Matthew 18:21-22). This number represents God's grace and unconditional love for us. Our Christian faith requires that we offer each other the unconditional love Jesus Christ delivered to us.

I hope you have a renewing and restful Easter. I am grateful for the daily expressions of concern and care I witness everyday as part of this community.

In Peace,
Cindy Richard

PreK 3 & 4 News



Happy March! We cannot believe we have finished the month of March; our students are making us proud every day with the way they have continued to explore and make good choices! We have seen so much growth and learning in all the children! We learned all about opposites and the children still recognize them daily! We even had a little “March Madness” where we had fun with some STEAM activities! Our look at St. Patrick’s Day and rainbows was so much fun; the leprechaun even visited the PreK 4 room! We are finishing our month with a look at the wind, kites, and Holy Week. We have been on a Lenten journey, teaching the children about prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We were very lucky to have Mrs. Rowell come and share some time with us!

We are looking forward to April, where we will celebrate Easter, Baptism, learn about animal babies and animals that hatch from eggs, studying rain and how it happens and some exciting events for Reading Week!

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter!

Kindergarten News



Happy Spring! We had quite an exciting month of learning! We started off the month with a book tournament that lasted all the way to March 27th! We read 16 books to start and each day we voted for our favorite. Just like March Madness, the winners of each day moved onto the next round. We enjoyed so many new books with many laughs and we were very excited to find out what our favorite was at the end! We then sprung into St. Patrick’s Day where Kindergarten talked about the shamrock and how it can help us remember the Holy Trinity. We also talked about St. Patrick himself along with fun leprechaun writing and math activities. In Math we started Chapter 5. Chapter 5 is all about numbers 11-31. Students were able to learn different methods of counting such as using ten frames, ten rods and ones units, and making groups of 10. Towards the end of the month, we talked about Easter and the Easter story. The middle schoolers performed the living stations of the cross where we watched the story of Good Friday. Kindergarten students also participated in two writing assignments based on the Easter season where they talked about bunnies and easter eggs.

In April, we will begin learning about addition and subtraction in math, adding more sight words to our list, and begin practicing for our end of year celebration!



First Grade News



March has been a productive month for first grade. We have been learning so many new sounds, including vowel teams. This past month we have also been focusing on adjectives and created adjective rainbows for everyone in our class! In math, we finished our place value unit, and started our unit about using hundreds charts. First grade has been practicing adding and subtracting 10 by using a hundreds chart. We also used the hundreds chart to review skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. In science, we began our unit on the states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. We tested how these states can change by experimenting with soda and pop rocks. In religion, we have been focusing on this Lenten season. We have been adding to our Lenten chain almost every day with a prayer or an act of kindness we witnessed. Additionally, we learned about St.

Patrick's life and how a clover's three leaves can remind us of the trinity. This month also has been filled with some exciting events in first grade. First, we finally sent out our letters to our pen pals in Ohio! We will be hearing from them hopefully soon. Also, March is our Shoe-Tying Challenge Month! I have challenged all 1st graders to learn to tie their own shoes during this month for a class prize. We have been practicing all month and our 5th grade buddies have been helping us too! Lastly, we began music classes once a week! The students have been having so much fun learning about new instruments and singing new songs. With all this excitement, March has flown by, but we are ready to take on April and spring weather!



Second Grade News



Happy Spring! Second grade began March with their religious Lenten journey. As a class, we have discussed ways we can bring our hearts closer to

God. As we welcomed Spring, second graders were so excited to learn new things. We ended the month with a family engagement Build-a Rainbow project to express creativity with a home connection. In addition, our ELF program had a spring STEAM day for students to explore and learn in fun ways.

In Religion, our class continues to learn all about the Lenten Season with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Students made their Lenten promises and our class along with our middle school reading buddies attended the Stations of the Cross every Friday. Also, we learned about St Patrick and St Joseph. In Math, Second grade has been working hard to master double digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are learning in a variety of ways, especially with the use of base ten blocks. For Language and Literacy, we have been discussing plot and theme, inferential thought, compare and contrast, repetition, and narrative poetry. We have daily reading to practice fluency and vocabulary.

Students are developing writing skills with use of parts of speech such as adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns. With a focus on one main idea, the students are given writing prompts on current topics such as their Lenten journey, rainbows, leprechauns, St Patrick's day, and spring. Using graphic organizers and brainstorming has been helpful to inspire and engage the students in their paragraph writing. For Social Studies, we learned about Easter traditions.

To celebrate women's history month, we read inspirational stories about the determination and kindness of influential women. Also, we discussed communities and moving to new places, the reasons we might have to move, and feelings associated with this. In Science, we explored amphibians and their habitats with a comparison of frogs vs. toads. We talked about types of weather

involving storms with lightning, thunder, and windy weather. Socially and emotionally, second graders are still in need of problem-solving skills. As a class, we go over ways of coping with different techniques that can be used to successfully manage situations they may face. We are developing a collaborative culture within our classroom.

Moving into April, we are looking forward to Reading week with many fun activities that inspire and encourage a love of reading.



Grade 3 News

March is coming to a rainy end as we embrace more sunshine in the month of April. Third grade focused much of their academics to Religion during this Lenten season. We focused on the different seasons during the Church year, the Three Days, and Lent. Students attended each station of the cross every Friday. We were also audience members of Live Stations of the Cross presented by the 7th and 8th graders. Great job to the middle schoolers, Father Woodhouse, and Sister Esmerelda for their directing abilities. Students are swiftly moving along in their other academics as well. In Math, students will be learning their 8 multiplication tables next week! The Third graders are absolutely thrilled to be applying their learned multiplication tables in their everyday life and to make those connections. In Spelling, students just took their week 26 spelling test on the syllable pattern of CV/VC.

Third Grade enjoyed all the Easter themed Reading activities and arts and crafts that came along with the month of March. We are looking forward to seeing what the month of April will bring!

Grade 4 & 5 News

Happy Easter!

It is hard to believe that it is already April. Spring fever must have struck, as one of the students came to me and declared that school is almost done for the year. Though it is closer to summer, I reminded him that we still have over a quarter of school left. This then led to a fraction discussion/lesson. Math truly is everywhere!

Speaking of math, division and fractions are the order of the month. As we navigate through fractions, we are also reviewing our computation skills for multiplication and division.

Our read-a-loud book is A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. We are wondering what IT is while embracing who WE truly are called to be.

BIG announcement!!! Global Fun Day is in full swing. We have begun learning about various countries of the world and will be presenting these projects on Monday, May 6 at 1:00pm in the auditorium. Come see what we have been discovering about France, Kenya, Egypt, Colombia, Argentina, and India.

Middle School News



Grade 6

Grade 6 Social Studies:

We are wrapping up our studies on Ancient Greece and moving on to Ancient Rome! Students will be learning about the geography, government, and culture of Rome, and this will help them later as they learn about Rome's long-lasting effects on our culture today.

Grade 6 Literature: We are continuing our reading in "The Runaway King".

Grade 7 Social Studies: Students have mastered the structure of the Federal Government outlined in the constitution. They have learned about the formation of political parties. Next, they will be learning about the Jeffersonian Era.

Grade 7 & 8 Literature: Students just finished reading the play based off the "Diary of Anne Frank". They did performances in class and did a great job!

Grade 7 & 8 Skills: Grade 7 is on unit 12. Grade 8 is on unit 9. Please make sure your learner is reviewing terms every night.

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students have finished the Civil War and Reconstruction. Next, they are learning about the settlement of the American West. Ask your learner about the Homestead Act.

Grade 6 Math: This month in math, we are focusing on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive & negative integers. We have

been using number lines to help visualize absolute value.

Grades 7&8 Math: This month we have started a new online math program; Khan Academy. This allows students to work at their own pace in the level they are most comfortable with.

Grades 6,7&8 Science: Everyone has started research on their science fair project! Every class is going step by step to create a testable science experiment. Most of the work will be done during class. The Science Fair date is scheduled for May 3. I cannot wait to see the end results 😊

Grades 7 & 8 Religion

Students finished work in their religion books. Great job! They also did a great job with their "Living Stations" presentation.

Physical Education

Physical education has been 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 finished a basketball unit. Grades 3, 4, and 5 had some fun with lead up games such as Knock Out and Around the World. Middle school was able to play some half court and full court games. In the coming weeks, we will be having some fun with Gaga Ball and Floor Hockey.

Spanish Classes

All students in Spanish class have been preparing for Easter! Pre-k to 2nd grade has been making their special Easter cards and learning new Spanish Easter vocabulary! The rest of the Elementary students have been finishing Chapter 4 on activities and AR verbs. We are now going into Chapter 5 which is the Numbers unit! Middle school has been finishing learning about AR verbs and are finishing the Movie "Selena." Selena passed away at the end of March 1995. This is a perfect time to pay homage to her and to listen to her story!

Library News

Welcome to the spring season at our library!

In our PreK 3 and 4, Kindergarten, and 1st-grade classes, we have been diving into enchanting tales about Spring and Easter. Some favorites include "Turkey's Eggcellent Surprise" by Wendi Silvano and "Bunnies on the Go" by Rick Walton.

Meanwhile, our 4th graders recently embarked on a thrilling journey with "James and the Giant Peach," immersing themselves in Roald Dahl's magical world of adventure and friendship. In 5th grade, we concluded our journey with "Maya and the Robot," a captivating tale that not only entertained but also introduced the exciting world of coding. We were fortunate to have Mr. Conroy visit our class after finishing the book, sharing valuable insights, and inspiring our students to explore the endless possibilities of technology and coding.

As for our 8th-grade students, they are still working through "The Giver." This dystopian tale challenges our minds and encourages deep reflections on society, individuality, and the pursuit of truth.

Reminders!

- Our book fair is coming up! Students will be sent home with a flyer next week. Our fair dates are April 22-25. Look out for a separate email if you would like to volunteer!
- Remember to return your library books so that others can enjoy them too. Responsible reading ensures a well-stocked library for everyone. Only Grades 3 and up can take their library books home. Younger grades will have their library books stored in their desks at school, where they can read during free time or designated reading periods.

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

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the library!

SPS Parent Group

Hello SPS Families,

We hope you are all doing well and enjoying the arrival of spring! The SPS Parent Group recently held a meeting on March 14, 2024, at 6 pm via Zoom, and we are excited to share some highlights from our discussions:

School Dance:

The school dance was a huge hit! We had an amazing turnout of over 90 families, showing just how much fun and excitement our school events bring to everyone involved.

Book Fair:

We are excited to announce that our annual book fair will be held during the week of April 22-25, 2024, offering a fantastic opportunity for students to explore a wide selection of literature and ignite their love for reading!

Your Involvement:

- We are seeking volunteers for events and initiatives year-round. Your time, whether an hour or a day, matters.
- Interested in leading a Spring Club? Let us know!
- Interested in assisting with next year's Cross-Country teams, let us know!
- Support is also needed for lunchroom duty, especially during the 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm second lunch period, Monday through Friday. Reach out to Mrs. Richard if you are interested.
- NEW- Afterschool is looking for some extra hands. If you are available any days between 2:15-5:30, please reach out to the office.

Upcoming PTA Meetings:

Our upcoming PTA meetings are scheduled for April 11th and May 16th, both at 6 pm.

We encourage all parents to attend as we discuss upcoming initiatives and ways to further support our school community. Your input and participation are invaluable to us!

REMINDERS:

- Friday, March 29th - Good Friday- No School
- Monday, April 1st - Easter Monday – No School

- April 15th - 19th - Spring
Break – No School