

# ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

[www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org](http://www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org)

John F. Corry, Principal

November 30, 2020



## Principal's News

I hope everyone had a nice **Thanksgiving** under the present circumstances. With the restrictions now in place on how many people can get together, it certainly wasn't by any means a normal holiday get-together. Let's hope and pray that it will be the last time we ever have to have a day such as that again.

This has been quite the roller coaster of a month. We have had a few more cases of covid-19 this month as have many schools throughout RI. As I have mentioned several times in my emails, RIDOH has been back logged with so many positive cases this month that they are behind by days if not a week or more in some situations. But for all intents and purposes, since school started back on September 14 up until now, November 30, we have had to shut down only a couple of classrooms for a two-week period only a few times. Hopefully it will continue but, in the meantime, keep wearing those masks, keep your social distance whenever possible, and keep washing those hands on a regular basis.

As we move ahead to **Christmas** in the coming weeks, it's more important than ever that we maintain what we are doing.

## Continued Principal News...

Now with the great news about a vaccine being available possibly in the coming weeks, we should now have hope once again of maybe going back to something we once took for granted in our everyday lives which we now call *normal*.

On a brighter note, our Grade 8 students will be having their **Catholic School Exams** for attending Catholic High Schools throughout the state held on **Wednesday, 12/2** in their classroom beginning at 9 am. Because of covid-19 students will not be going to different Catholic High Schools throughout the state. All students even those not wanting to attend a Catholic High School in RI will be taking the exam. This exam will be considered as a Standardized Test for all students in Grade 8. It takes about three hours to complete.

With **Christmas Vacation** beginning on **Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve**, we don't have any other holidays before that time. Let's hope we can make it through the next three and a half weeks without any interruptions. By the way, the Christmas Break **goes until Monday, January 4** when students return to school. I will be having our maintenance person once again going from top to bottom of the school with a deep cleaning of every classroom.

Though we don't have any planned Distance Learning days on the calendar in December (next one planned on January 25), please remember that if we get a winter storm sometime next month, we would be doing distance learning with your child on that day instead. We no longer have to make up those days next June.

Unfortunately, we will not be having our **Annual Christmas Concert** this December because of covid-19. In my 15 years here at St. Paul School we only had to cancel once due to a snowstorm that day. However, Mrs. Larsh, Coordinator of the Early Learning Program (ELF), is working on a **Virtual Tour Concert** with faculty members in Pre-K 3 to Grade 2 that we may have ready for the bright lights before the Christmas Break. That would be a nice send-off to a new year and hopefully a better one at that.



Just a follow-up to the news about **Fr. Young** taking a leave of absence for personal reasons as I mentioned the other day. If you would like to send a card to him, they can be mailed to the rectory or dropped off at the school office to Mrs. Keane and she'll make sure they get to the rectory. I think he'd like that we were thinking of him.

## Pre-K 3 & 4 News



Happy November! This month has been a short month, but we have not been short in the excitement of learning!

The children enjoyed learning about scarecrows, squirrels and acorns, listening to the Little Red Hen and of course, Thanksgiving. We talked about being thankful for all the blessings that God has granted us. We continue to practice learning our letters and numbers and, in PreK 4, recognizing some sight words!

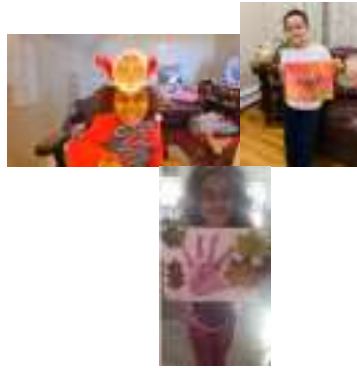
We have also been working on self-help skills and completing tasks independently! We will be sending home the rest mats to be washed over the break.

We are looking forward to December and talking about the season of Advent and Christmas.

We hope you all have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving break!



## Kindergarten News



Although this month was quite different in our kindergarten class, we still had fun and worked very hard. We began the month with our regular in-person learning, then had to move to Distance Learning which was a little challenging. With the support of parents, we were able to have a very productive learning experience. During the first week of November, we learned about Saints. We talked about who they are, why they are important, and what we can learn from their lives. After this religion lesson, children had fun coloring a picture of Saint Teresa who is the patron saint of our classroom.

In Science, we learned about animal habitats, many types of habitats, and how each animal has a home just like us. We also learned how habitats provide the animals with food, water, and a place to live. In Math, we enjoyed learning about 2d and 3d shapes. We learned which shapes roll, slide, and stacks. During our social studies lessons, we learned about Election Day and Veteran's Day. The class learned what Election Day is about, how we vote for a president and who is eligible to vote. We also learned to be thankful to veterans and how they helped our country. We had so much fun learning about Thanksgiving while in-person and distance learning. We learned to be thankful for our family and friends. With help from families, children made a thankful hat and a handprint turkey craft for our fun Friday

activity. Thanks to all who shared their pictures!

Next month, we will continue with our Reading Street Unit 2. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus and learn Christmas songs. While celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, the class also make fun crafts and projects to get ready for Christmas.

A Special Thanks to parents for all their hard work and patience during these past few weeks.



## First Grade News



Even though November brought us some unforeseen circumstances, everyone did a remarkable job with distance learning and completing their assignments every day on google

classroom. I have received a lot of positive feedback from many of you and it seems that all the children really enjoyed the arts and crafts projects we did, especially making the Thanksgiving turkeys. In math, we are learning how to add numbers up to 12 using many different strategies, such as ten frames, number lines, and patterns. In religion, we read about Ordinary Time and how the church celebrates Jesus' life and everything he taught us. We just finished the second story in unit 2 of our reading street curriculum called The Farmer in the Hat, which is a realistic fiction book about classmates putting on a play. Children practiced reading words with the long a sound and how to write proper nouns. In writing, we are continuing to practice using capital letters, punctuation, and finger spaces. The children completed several writing prompts about things that they thank God for, what they are doing for Thanksgiving, and a writing web on what they love about the holiday. Our scholastic issue this month was about gratitude and how we can feel thankful every day for the things we have, not just on Thanksgiving! Next month we celebrate Christmas and will be doing many fun activities to honor the birth of Jesus.

### Grade 2 News



November has flown by! There was lots going on this month. We started off the month learning about the election and talking about updates and results throughout the week. We also learned about why we celebrate Veterans Day. We discussed the

different branches of the military and each of their purposes. We have started Unit 2 in our Reading Street books. We are focusing on different kinds of nouns and realism versus fantasy. We are continuing to learn new spelling words and vocabulary words each week. We are ending the month in math by taking our first test on place value. In Religion, we are starting to learn about the seven sacraments and what they mean. We have spent the month celebrating Thanksgiving. We have discussed what we are thankful for and have done some fun writing and crafts. The kids even got to disguise a turkey and it was so fun to see what each student came up with! I am so grateful for this group of kind, respectful students. I am excited for all the holiday fun to come in December! Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!

### Grade 3 News



November went by very quickly! We were very busy learning and having some fun. We began the month discussing saints and all their wonderful traits. Then we made a saint person and listed some of those traits. We also decorated the room with cornucopias and turkeys. We made a "Thankful Tree" where we wrote all the things, we are thankful for on leaves. In Math, we finished our addition and subtraction units and have started practicing our multiplication facts. In Reading, we are continuing to learn our comprehension skills and strategies, focusing on one each week. In Social Studies, we finished our Community Unit. It was interesting to

learn about the three types of communities, urban, suburban, and rural. We drew pictures of each community and displayed them in our classroom. We all did a wonderful job! In Science, we began to learn all about weather. Soon we will be watching videos and reading many non-fiction books that focus on all different types of wild weather. Thank you to all the parents who sent in food items for our food bank collection. The class was extremely excited with how much was collected, especially knowing that they are helping someone in need. Every day we talk about how to be followers of Jesus, and helping others is on the top of the list! Happy Thanksgiving to all!! Please stay safe!!

### Grade 4 News

The year in Grade 4 is going so quickly! We are spending time in Language Arts on building our skill set. The class is working on many activities that go along with character, setting, plot, and authors purpose to name a few. We are also focusing on writing skills; they have a journal and write in a daily entry. We are working on our New England projects; they did a beautiful job presenting the first project on 11/17. Project number two for New England is due on 12/4. We are continuing to discuss the Northeast and work on our maps of New England and the Mid Atlantic. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

### Grade 5 News

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday. This weekend marked the beginning of the Advent Season. In religion, we will be focusing on this season that marks the beginning of a new liturgical year.



In science, we have been learning about cells. We conducted an investigation with one of the most basic living organisms-yeast. We continue our study of understanding how cells make up tissues, which make up organs, which make up organ systems, which work together to create organisms.



Social studies have turned us into explorers. We are beginning to learn how we all have come to live in the “New World.”

We have just completed our chapter two test in math. Next up- we will review division in chapter three.



## Middle School News

### Grade 6

**Science:** We just finished going over the scientific method and will be doing some hands-on projects to practice it more. So, look out for pictures on the school's Facebook page.

**Math:** We took a quiz on prime factorization before Thanksgiving break and started with the greatest common factor. We should be having a quiz on that very soon!

**Social Studies:** Students have been learning about the geography, culture, and legacy of the civilizations of Ancient India.

**Literature:** Students have been reading The False Prince.

**Religion:** The students are finishing their study into the second creation account found in Scripture. They are learning about the nature of sin, and just how attractive it can be, while at the same time learning about its eternally damaging effects. More importantly, through this review they are coming to a better understanding of how merciful God is and how much He loves them.

**Skills:** The students are finishing up Unit 3 and preparing for their coming test. Once they master the material found in Unit 3, they will then take a look back at the previous units and touch up on their skills.

### Grade 7

**Science:** We just finished learning about physical and chemical properties and changes of matter. We now will learn about different types of matter. We will be doing at least two hands-on activities, so please look for pictures on the school's Facebook page.

**Math:** We just started to learn about unit rates and unit prices. We will be having a quiz on those topics very soon. Next, we will be looking more into it. problem-solving.

**Social Studies:** Students have been looking at life in colonial America.

**Literature:** Their social studies have been reflected in reading The Witch of Blackbird Pond.

**Religion:** The class has successfully finished learning about the foundational principle of the Catholic Faith - the Blessed Trinity; and they are now set to move onto Chapter 4, where they will learn about God's covenant. Their primary concern in this next chapter will be learning how the 10 Commandments regulate and shape that covenant.

**Skills:** The students have finished their Unit 3 examination and are now preparing to reassess and review their previously studied units. Once they are fully prepared and have a full grasp of Units 1-3 as a whole, then they will take a cumulative exam on all of the vocabulary contained therein.

### Grade 8

**Science:** We just finished learning about the different forms of energy. We will be learning about energy transformations. They will be building paper roller coasters to demonstrate these changes. So, please keep an eye out on the school's Facebook page.

**Math:** We just went over ordering ration numbers. Now the students are focusing on operation with rational numbers. They will be getting quizzes about every week on the sections we go over.

**Social Studies:** Students have been learning about the Civil War,

**Literature:** they have been reading Little Women.

**Religion:** The class is building off their examination into the value of making good moral decisions and has been diligently studying and contemplating the Ten Commandments. They are learning how those same moral choices are framed and centered around the Ten Commandments. Additionally, they are coming to understand what a tremendous gift they truly are, and how they help us to remain *free*. Following, the evaluation of the Commandments the students will be diving into the road to perfection - The Beatitudes.

**Skills:** The students finished Unit 3; however, before proceeding to Unit 4 they will have to first display their mastery and comprehension of the vocabulary contained in the previous units. At this point they are now reviewing their previous units in order to prepare for a cumulative exam consisting of all the vocabulary words from Units 1-3.