

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal
September 30, 2021



Principal's News

For all intents and purposes, things have been going fairly well for the past month. Students are once again getting accustomed to everything from their class schedules to still maintaining all the requirements of covid-19 restrictions and recommendations.

We sent home some paperwork a couple of weeks ago for parents to look over and to sign-off on. It was a check-off once more of our protocols with covid-19 but more importantly, it was the guidelines all schools are following in regards to **Travel**, both **Domestic** and **Internationally**. We still have families who have not returned these forms. It's extremely important that everyone knows the rules and what needs to be done if you are traveling, especially out of the country. We've already had a situation where a family had traveled outside the United States and was preparing to have their child come to school without being tested. Fortunately, we were made aware of it before it happened. We can't have this! Families need to follow the protocols and guidelines that are in place for the safety and well-being of everyone. These are not our rules, but the CDC and RIDOH's!

Continued Principal News...

And as for our new uniforms we now get from Tommy Hilfiger, hopefully everyone has ordered their child's uniform by now. I realize many families had their orders back ordered, but things should be better by now. Remember, ALL uniforms must have the St. Paul School logo on them. We will be enforcing the policy on the wearing of shoes with the school uniform. Sneakers are worn on the two Gym days with their gym uniforms, not with their regular school uniform.

We had our **Distance Learning Day** last week and according to the teachers, it went pretty well. If your child still doesn't have a computer at home, we have Chrome Books available to borrow if needed.

1st Quarter Progress Reports will be going home tomorrow, 10/1. Please make sure you look it over, sign it, and have your child return it to school. We want to make sure you are involved in what he or she is doing as well at school.

Our **Parent/Teacher Conference** is coming up on **Wednesday, October 6 from 7:30-3:00. No School or Distance Learning that day. Once again, we will be doing this conference by either phone or zoom meeting.** Due to not knowing who is vaccinated or not vaccinated, and especially meeting face to face over a period of 20 minutes, it's better to weigh on the side of caution. Paper work should have already been sent home to you to schedule your time with your child's teacher. Times are set for 20 minutes per family. If you need to speak further with your child's teacher, please make arrangements with them later.



Columbus Day
Monday, October 11
No School

Picture Day
Friday, October 15

Teacher Professional Day
Monday, October 18
No School or Distance Learning

Flu Clinic
Tuesday, October 26
Open to both students and their families
2:30-3:30
School Auditorium

Fall Walk-A-Thon
Friday, October 29
Begins @ 12:45

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Pre-K 3 & 4 News



We made it through the first month of school! It has been great to be back in the classroom! We have been busy learning about our routines and our new classmates. We spent the month of September talking about Eric Carle, our school and learning about ourselves. We even had some fun with apples, and learned that we can be scientists! We have practiced many skills, including writing our names, patterning, sorting, book skills and our fine motor skills as well. As the weather begins to change, please remember to continue having your child practice putting on their own coats and zipping them independently.

We are looking forward to October, where we will learn about the fall, fire safety, pumpkins and of course, Halloween! We will be able to attend our first mass of the year in October and celebrate the rosary this month as well! We will have some fun and exciting activities and we can't wait to share them with you!



Kindergarten News

These past few weeks have flown by in Kindergarten! We have almost reached the top of our Mask Hero Chart and when we get to ten, we will have an Ice Cream Party! This month we have been focusing on working together, creating wonderful bonds with friends, and having fun while learning. During our Morning Meetings we love to sing songs about the Alphabet and the Days of the Week. For the Autumn months we will add a new song about leaves to our collection! In Math, we have been working on sorting by color, shape, and size. Last week we even got to sort M&Ms by color after reading the book "Caps For Sale". One of our favorite learning activities is our Reading/Phonics Centers. We have been using Playdoh, pom poms, magnets, and sand to work on writing our letters along with using the writing center to work on writing our sight words I and am.

The last week of September was our Apple Week! We got to try so many different apple treats, learned how apples grow, and labeled the parts that make up an apple. This month, we will be learning more about the fall season such as pumpkins, leaves, and of course, Halloween!



First Grade News



Happy Fall! First Grade students have been working hard this first month of school. They are learning a lot about responsibility and following directions. So far, they have already worked on writing their letters and numbers correctly, beginning and end sounds of words and adding single digits. They have five sight words each week and did very well on their first spelling test.

We had "Apple Week" with many different Apple activities including seeing, feeling and tasting the parts of an Apple (we didn't taste all the parts).

First Grade students are also enjoying their specials; Gym, Computer, Library, Spanish and Art.

We have many great things planned for October!

Second Grade News



This month, Second Grade is adapting to our classroom and our schedule. We started the month with a watercolor painting of our best summer ever and a writing prompt. The students shared an All About Me assignment to better know one another. Our class talked about what a Great Classroom Looks, Feels, and Sounds like. Then, we

developed a class contract from our discussion.

In *Language and Literacy*, we are working on Unit 1 in Reading Street and in the vocabulary workshop book. Throughout the month, we have been reading with comprehension skill activities. For Phonics, short vowel sounds, long vowel sounds, and consonant blends. Daily, we practice our writing and grammar skills with writing prompts and a variety of assignments.

For *Math*- Second grade is working on adding numbers up to 20, double facts, and three to four addends.

In *Religion*- We were so excited to attend Mass with the school. In class, we have learned about the Holy Trinity with readings and a cross activity. We discussed the importance of prayer and practice with our daily prayers. We learned ways of being good disciples of Jesus.

Science-Using the scientific method, the class performed an apple volcano experiment and recorded our findings. We learned about the apple tree life cycle working on reading comprehension. Also, we learned about stars and the solar system.

Social Studies- We learned about ways to be a good student, different types of communities, friendships, and conflict resolution.

In Centers, students work independently on literacy and math skills with materials and manipulatives to strengthen their understanding of classwork for the week.

Next month, we are looking forward to fire prevention week, celebrating Spanish heritage, and many fall activities.



Grade 3 News



We are all adjusting well to 3rd grade. We began the year spending time getting to know one another, especially as we welcomed a new student and an old friend to our class. I have enjoyed learning about each and every one of my students.

We have begun our reading program and so far, have read some narrative poems, fables and a tall tale. Together we created a poem about losing electricity. After some creative brainstorming, our class also had the opportunity to write their very own fable. They all did a wonderful job!

In Religion, we learned about Saint Joseph, which is our classroom patron saint. We also have been reading about Jesus' life and ministry. We discussed ways to live as his followers. The students also wrote their own Back to School Blessings!

In Social Studies we are learning about map skills and communities. In Science, we completed a unit on Germs and learned all about staying healthy, especially during the coronavirus.

I am so excited to continue the year with my awesome 3rd grade students who love to learn! I look forward to talking with everyone at Parent/Teacher Conferences which will be held on October 6th!

Grade 4 News

Happy Autumn!

It has been a pleasure meeting your children this year. They are delightful and inquisitive. It promises to be a wonderful year filled with learning and fun.

You may have already heard that we have begun to learn about rocks and minerals. Through guided investigations, and the use of mock rocks, we will explore the properties of earth materials.

In religion, we are learning about how to follow the Good News in our daily lives. Our curriculum is focused on understanding the Ten Commandments, which will help us in this journey.

In math class, we are focusing on understanding place value and its role in understanding numbers. We have worked on comparing numbers and making number lines and will be reviewing how to make change. When you go to a store, please have your children try to figure out what the change will be. Not only will it reinforce what they are learning in school, it will give them real world practice of a life skill.

In Language Arts we are learning about comprehension, vocabulary, grammar and spelling while reading our stories. We also read a chapter from a chapter book each day. The students have been enjoying these read-a-loud books. We finished **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume and have moved on to **Holes** by Louis Sachar.

Grade 5 News

We have covered a lot in fifth grade so far! Between activities, quizzes, tests and much more, it has been eventful.

We cover 6 subjects a day; We start our day with morning prayer and the pledge of allegiance. We then go right into religion. So far in religion we have had a quiz on chapter 1, which covered Jesus sharing God's life with us. We learned that there are three divine persons in One God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We also learned about the Blessed Trinity, reading stories about Jesus' life and who the Apostles are! The quiz on this covered chapter 1 and contained 10 questions. Everyone did great on this! Today, we did an activity on trust and what it means to trust others. The whole class participated in this activity and some even wanted to go a second time.

After this we cover vocabulary. We have focused on reviewing Parts of Speech which include nouns, verbs and adjectives. After we mastered that, we then covered Synonyms and Antonyms. When we were done reviewing these important things, we then jumped into unit 1 and focused on our 12 vocabulary words. These words are blunder, cancel, continuous, distribute, document, fragile, myth, reject, scuffle, solitary, temporary and veteran. Each student was assigned one word and had to draw a picture that goes along with their word to share with the class!

We next have math. We have been learning about chapter 1 which covers what is a billion, place value to billions, standard form, word form and expanded form. We have been taking our time to cover these important things and make sure that we understand every part of this chapter. Practice makes perfect!

Language Arts is in the middle of the day. Here we go over reading, writing, grammar and spelling. We had a skill lesson before the first story we read. This skill lesson included a short story called From Homer Price by Robert McCloskey. After this, we jumped into the first story we read, which was

From the Diary of Leigh Botts by Beverly Cleary. We had a lot of practice on this book before the test. Everyone did amazing on the test which goes to show how interesting this story was! After this story, we read another short story by the same author, Beverly Cleary, called The Rampanion. We now moved onto our next story called Faith and Eddie which is about a girl and her dog. We are halfway through this story and seem to be loving it.

In social studies, we are still covering chapter 1, The Land And The People. Here, we have covered things such as landforms, natural resources and their uses, energy resource maps, population maps throughout the United States, and the change in culture and why we benefit from living in a country with many different cultures. It has been so interesting to go over things from the past and be able to connect it to the present together as a class.

Lastly, we cover science. Science has been very interesting and enjoyable! We have our first test covering chapter 1 coming up. Chapter 1 we have covered why we classify and the reasons behind it, the six kingdoms of living things, vertebrates and how we classify them, invertebrates and how they are classified and lastly, how other organisms such as plants are classified.

Through these 6 subjects we have learned many new things and are excited to see what the rest of the school year has in store for us!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 6

Math – Students started the year with a review of place value, exponents, and comparing and ordering decimals. We are working on adding and subtracting whole numbers and

decimals, as well as problem solving. Students will continue with practicing of division and multiplication of decimals.

Science – Students began the year with a packet about hurricanes. They learned many interesting facts about hurricanes. They continued with the study of different types of clouds, and tracked the clouds on a daily cloud chart. We will begin the study of the moon and phases of the moon as well as science as an inquiry.

Social Studies- We have been looking at the history of the Fertile Crescent. Students can identify the Fertile Crescent on a map, and can identify the conditions that allowed for civilizations to develop. Students have looked at the significance of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Mesopotamia, as well as the significance of the Mediterranean Sea in Phoenicia.

Literature-We have been reading The Golden Bull by Marjorie Cowlie, about a brother and sister living in Ancient Mesopotamia during a drought. Students have been using historical fiction to reinforce their Social Studies unit.

Skills-The class is really fun and dynamic, bursting with a lot of good energy. They are getting to know their new material and familiarizing themselves with both the format and structure of it all. They have recently finished Unit 1 and are now studying the words in Unit 2.

Religion-The students just finished Chapter 1, where they studied the basics of truth, namely, that all truth can find its root in Scripture and Tradition. Scripture being inspired by the Third Person of the Trinity - the Holy Spirit - means that it is without error, and thus a safeguard against any deceit. Tradition on the other hand, is more analogous to a mighty river; the waters of the river are powerful and fluid only when they are running within the confines of the river banks. Without the river bank the river ceases

to retain its power, fluidity, and direction, and as a consequence, it also ceases to be a river. Like the river, Tradition is firmly grounded, while at the same time it is always fluid and developing in order to help lead and guide the faithful, during the ever-changing times, cultures, and generations.

Grade 7

Math – Students started the year with a review of decimals and integers. Their review included estimating strategies, addition and subtraction as well as multiplying and dividing decimals. They will continue with comparing and ordering integers as well as the order of operations and distributive property.

Science – Students started the year with a packet of interesting facts about hurricanes. The students continued on with the study of types of clouds. They kept a daily chart recording the types of clouds they saw each day. We recently studied about mixtures and solutions. The students are going to start learning about the phases of the moon and chart the phase of the moon each night.

Social Studies- We learned about the Ancient Americas. We compared and contrasted the large empires of the Aztec, Inca and Maya. We also looked at the traditions of various Native North American tribal groups, including the Iroquois Confederacy. Students can identify the locations of various groups on maps, and discuss how geography influenced their development. Next, we looked at how feudalism, the Crusades, the plague, and the Renaissance primed Europe for exploration. We learned about kingdoms of West Africa - Ghana, Mali, Songhai, and Benin - and their acquisition of wealth and power. We focused on how different groups interacted on a global scale, as Europeans, Africans, and Arab traders from the Middle East exchanged goods and ideas.

Literature-We have been reading short stories that supplement our Social Studies, such as "I Am a Native of North America" by Chief Dan George, "Inside the Aztec City of Tenochtitlan - a Visual Essay", and an African folk tale called "All Stories are Anansi's." Soon, we will begin reading our first novel of the year, "The Witch of Blackbird Pond", by Elizabeth George Speare.

Skills-The class passed the rigors of their first test and are now onto their next challenge. They have moved on to Unit 2, ready to tackle all of the challenges it entails.

Religion-This class has been great and so interactive, due to all the class participation. They recently finished up Chapter 1, learning about the importance of Faith. What they are specifically learning about with regards to the term Faith, (as discussed in Christianity) is that it is a gift from God that enables us to live a completely new and transformed way of life. Furthermore, Faith, and/or trust can also be seen as a door that one must pass through in order to enter into that transformed life. The students really seem to be grasping the concept and desiring to know more about it.

Grade 8

Math – In September Grade 8 started using algebraic expressions and the order of operations. They reviewed using integers, the absolute value, and adding and subtracting integers. They recently had a quiz on multiplying and dividing integers. Grade 8 will complete chapter 1 by studying powers and exponents as well as the properties of numbers. Chapter 1 test will be soon!

Science – Grade 8 began science this year with a packet about hurricanes and continued with the study of

clouds. Scientific inquiry was the next topic. Students the studied about process of scientific inquiry and developing a hypothesis. The students recently had a quiz on the nature of inquiry and scientific laws.

Social Studies- We have looked at the evolution of American society in the wake of Industrialization. We learned about how the Second Great Awakening made way for nineteenth century reform movements such as temperance, prison reform, education reform, abolitionism, and women's suffrage. Ask your eighth grade who Lyman Beecher believed was responsible to fix society's problems - they will be able to tell you. We have also spent some time looking at the emergence of an American literary identity, with some emphasis on transcendentalism in keeping with our literature unit.

Literature-We started off the year reading "Which Way Freedom?", which tells the story of Obi, an escaped slave turned Union Army soldier during the American Civil War. Currently, we are reading Louisa May Alcott's book "Little Women," which was written in the nineteenth century and serves as a great primary source for students to use to enhance their understanding of their Social Studies material. Ask your eighth grader to name each of the four March sisters, and to briefly describe their "burden." Students recently did essays expressing their own personal burdens, as well.

Skills-The class is doing great thus far, and is progressing well. They have recently finished Unit 1 and are now studying the words in Unit 2. And more importantly, they are displaying a great deal of enthusiasm and teamwork during their study times.

Religion-It has been an interesting year thus far, but the class is learning so much and moving right along. They are learning about the basics of moral decision making, while at the same time experiencing how to put it into

practice. They are also learning and developing the skills necessary for being both a good teammate and leader. Through this, they are starting to realize that in order to succeed they need to be other-centered versus self-centered. Lastly, they are also developing a better appreciation for the concept of sacrifice; and more specifically, what it means for parents and other leaders to sacrifice for the betterment of those in their charge. Although the students have had their hurdles, they are definitely learning and growing in their understanding and capabilities.

Library News



Our first month back to school has flown by and we have been having a lot of fun in our updated Library space!

In Grades 3, 4 and 5 we have been learning Library Skills. This includes learning genres of books, how to find books, how to treat books, and the general library know-hows. The younger grades have also been learning basic library etiquette. We do story time; we dance and they have helped me decorate our big beautiful tree with their apple creations!

Grades K-8 will also be getting their own library cards the last week of September! Up until now, the students have only been able to browse our collection. The first week of October is when they can begin checking books out of the library.