

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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Cindy Richard, Principal
November 30, 2022



Principal's News

December is here and it is going to be a very busy and joyous month. Our Gospel value for the month is love. Christmas is the celebration of the feast of God's love entering the world in a unique and special way. It is also the time to reflect on the fact that God loves each of us and that we need to share that love with others. We do this as a community by treating each other as family, with dignity, and respect. We strive each day to do all things through the value of love.

Our Saint Paul Parent Group had a meeting in November and the idea of a Santa's photo opportunity came up. The thought is to have Santa be available for photos before school on the last day of school before Christmas. This is December 22nd. I would love to be able to offer this, but I need help for it to happen. We need a parent volunteer to be Santa for this special opportunity. We would also love to have some parents volunteer to help with cookies or donuts. We do have a photographer who is willing to take photos and a wonderful parent has purchased a Christmas photo background for us. Please let us know if you are willing to help with this event.

Continued Principal News...

Another parent volunteer opportunity is available. We are now happy to be able to welcome parent volunteers back to help during our lunches. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, please let me know.

Our next Saint Paul Parent Group meeting is on January 18th, Wednesday at 6PM. Please plan on attending and being part of this group. It is a great way to participate in and support our school. Opportunities for the spring include a family potluck dinner, a games/movie night, a middle school dance and supporting our 100th Anniversary event on April 22nd.

Our December calendar is included in this newsletter. It is very exciting that the whole school will be attending the ballet on December 16th to see *Twas the Night before Christmas*. Please note that December 22nd is a half day with dismissal at 11:30. There will be no Aftercare that day.

The students will be able to show their Christmas spirit by wearing Christmas socks on this Friday, December 2nd. On Friday December 9th they may wear Christmas colors and December 22nd will be our Christmas sweater/top day.

I hope that every family will be able to spend time together this Christmas and to be able to celebrate the joy of the birth of Jesus. Please remember that Christmas is the season to give love.



*The Faculty
and Staff of St.
Paul School
wishes everyone
a very Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year!*



PreK 3&4 News



Happy November! We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving Weekend! We had a harvest full of learning this month, as we have been working on our letters and numbers!

We have been talking about farms and scarecrows, learning about the classic story of The Little Red Hen and of course, Thanksgiving! We had some fun science experiments, and some new art activities as well. Our feast was a great success and we are very grateful for all of the generous donations that our families made! The children made some fun memories.

As we enter into December, we are looking forward to the holiday season and a Christmas field trip! We will continue to learn about Advent, Christmas decorations, traditions around the world, the Nutcracker and the birth of Baby Jesus.



Kindergarten News

Happy November! This month was full of learning, laughter, and giving. In reading/phonics we've been focusing on a specific letter each week. We talk about the sound it makes, words that start with that letter, and add new sight words along the way. This month we've added the words have, is, little, and a. In math, we finished our geometry unit. This unit focused on 2D shapes, 3D shapes, and patterns. In science, we talked about the parts of a leaf and we went on a leaf hunt. After our leaf hunt, students had a leaf investigation. In Social Studies and Religion, we talked about thanksgiving and what giving thanks means. Students were then able to write what they were thankful for along with a pie craft.

In December, we are looking forward to all the Christmas festivities! In our classroom, we will be focusing on sharing kindness. We have a Christmas tree in our classroom that is used as a kindness tree. Any time I catch a student showing kindness to another peer or teacher, they add an ornament to the tree! During this upcoming month, we will be learning about Advent and what each candle represents.



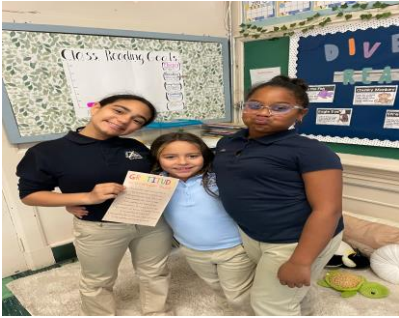
First Grade News



November was a quick but fruitful month for first grade! From learning new long vowel sounds to many addition strategies, we have been super busy. We also started a collaboration with fifth grade called "reading buddies." Fifth grade comes into our classroom to help first grade do some activities and read to each other. Our reading buddies have been such a great help and awesome role models for the first grade. With all of our Thanksgiving festivities, time has flown by.

In December, we are continuing to learn new sounds such as the long o, u, and e. We also are learning to build and read contractions. First grade has also started a Reading Goal Challenge! This month we are trying to read uninterrupted for 5 minutes each day with a focus in decoding tricky words. In math, we are going to be learning about subtraction and new strategies to help us solve subtraction equations. Also, this month we will be learning about Advent and the importance of Christmas. We have our room decorated with our advent wreath and our Elf on the Shelf. Our elf, Candy Cane, will be helping first grade be on our best behavior. We are all excited for the Christmas festivities that are coming up in the next few weeks, such as our STEAM day and our trip to see the Nutcracker ballet.

First grade is looking forward for this busy month!



Second Grade News



November had a great start by going to mass on All Saints Day. We celebrated the Saints with a special project and visits from the upper grades sharing Saint history with us. During this month, we have been busy in all subject areas.

In *Religion*, we learned about the seasons of the church year. Being in ordinary time and as we approach the Advent season, we are followers of Jesus. Additionally, we discussed living in faith and expressing gratitude for our blessings.

In *Language and Literacy*, we had lessons about distinguishing between realism and fantasy literature. The class has practiced paragraph structure with main ideas and supporting details along with reading comprehension. As we read in our reading groups, we are improving our fluency in reading. We continue to work on grammar skills such as sentence structure and use of proper nouns.

For *Math*, in chapter 2, we learned about place value, number words, rounding to the nearest ten, and comparing.

In *Science*, we explored bats around the world including their behavior and habitat. In correlation with our readings, we learned types of natural disasters and their causes.

For *Social Studies*, our class discussed the importance of teamwork and working together. We learned about veterans for Veterans Day. For Thanksgiving, we have learned about pilgrims, Native Americans, and thanksgiving traditions around the world. We talked about the Mayflower voyage, clothing, foods, and more then made a comparison of children then and today. As a class, we enjoyed authentic native american flute music and saw hoop dancing.

Ending the month with our special Thanksgiving feast, the class made turkey hats and placemats to use as they shared a meal together. Thank you for your contributions to make this feast possible.

Next month, we will be preparing for the birth of Jesus during Advent with Christmas fun.

Grade 3 News



Gobble, Gobble, Gobble, and just like that Thanksgiving is over!

November was an exciting but fast month for 3rd grade. In Reading, students participated in two Reader's Theatre scripts. The first was historical fiction on how the Pilgrims came to settle into the Colonies. The second was an animal fantasy about Turkeys trying not to be Thanksgiving dinner! Students thoroughly enjoyed this and really brought their characters

to life! We are looking forward to doing Reader's Theatre again in the future. In Math, students have been working really hard on their 3 digit and 4-digit addition and subtraction problems. Students have been paying close attention to carrying and borrowing. Third graders are also experts now at writing their own math word problems!

In Writing, students completed their very own Fairy Tale by using the writing process. This took some time but the end results were "happily ever after".

The Third-Grade students really reflected on our gospel word of "Giving" this month. We participated in our own Thanksgiving Feast with 4th and 5th grade and had a blessed time. Third grade also celebrated Principal's Day with the whole school by surprising Mrs. Richard and giving her a classroom made gift. Third grade has much to be grateful for this month and moving forward we cannot wait to celebrate Jesus' birth and all that December has to bring.

Grade 4 News



November has been a wonderful month full of our Gospel Value of Giving and being grateful. We had a wonderful time celebrating our Feast of Thanks with Grades Three and Five. We are most appreciative to those families who contributed to this feast with food, supplies and prayers.

Thanks for helping to make our day so special!

This Advent, Grade Four will be praying a decade of the Rosary each day for the members of our school community and their special intentions. Each intention will be added to our wreath of prayer and will be remembered throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you have a special intention, you would like Grade Four to add to our wreath, please let Mrs. Vargas know.

The students are doing a great job learning about the states and capitals found in each region of the United States. We have also begun learning about one of the foundations of democracy, authority, through a program provided by the Center for Civic Education.

We have begun our new read-a-loud book Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien. The students are curious to discover how Timothy will survive "Moving Day". Will Mrs. Frisby get help from the rats? Is Farmer Fitzgibbon ready to plow? These questions and more will be answered as we continue this harrowing tale.



Grade 5 News



November was a thankful month for fifth grade and it's already over! On All Saints Day we got to do the readings for mass. The students did an amazing job! They were confident and proud as they read and brought up the gifts. We joined third and fourth grade for a Thankful Thanksgiving feast. A great time was had by all! The students enjoyed having a special feast with their friends in other grades at school. We were also very thankful for the "pie feast" that we got to experience with the entire school! We all participated in a prayer service in the auditorium before Thanksgiving break followed by a special apple pie treat!

We learned about the history of the Macy's Day Parade! The students were eager to learn new facts each day about the parade. Did you know the first Macy's Day "balloon" was actually a marionette? After they became Macy's Day Parade masters, we made our own balloons and had our own parade! Fifth grade did an amazing job with this project and I was very proud of them!

In math we have been working on multiplication. Three digit by one digit multiplication was a breeze! Now we are onto two digit by two-digit multiplication. We can't wait to begin this new challenge!

Cells, mitochondria, chloroplasts and much more! We are onto chapter 2 in science where we will be learning about cells, tissues, and organs. This is

a very interesting chapter and we can't wait to see how our body works!

In religion we are starting Chapter five which is about the Sacrament of Baptism. We will be doing a mini project in class about Baptism! Stay tuned for pictures!

In social studies we have begun Chapter two as well. In this chapter we will be learning about who the first Americans were and how they lived. We will be comparing how the first Americans lived to how we live now.

November was fun and fast! We are thankful for our families, school and church. Now we are ready for December and all of the fun and learning that it will bring!

Middle School News



Middle School Math

6th The sixth-grade class are gearing up for their midterms as they finish up the last chapter before their big test. The mid-terms will consist of their first four chapter and the last on word problems. Going over all concepts in each chapter and the skill of reading comprehension through the word problems. Read comprehension becomes important through high school and during standardized tests so it is definitely important the kids to master.

7th & 8th The 7th and 8th graders have been within one class but at different paces. We have been able to learn the same topics so far throughout first quarter. For the second quarter we

have split the lessons and have had alternate days. One day is for 7th and one day for 8th. This has worked effectively so that during the day in which the lesson for their grade is not taught they are taking notes and applying their new found knowledge on their class work. Learn and Apply! We repeat this method and then take our exams to test what is retained then review and move on. We've been able to cover so much ground and the students have reacted well to this.

Grade 6 Science: The students learned the different aspects of animal and plant cells. They researched the functions of all components of the cells and had fun illustrating and labeling each cell. A job well done.

Grade 6 Religion: The students read the stories of Cain and Abel, Noah, and the tower of Babel. All stories dealt with turning away from God. We realize, though, that God's forgiveness and love can overcome evil.

Grade 6 Social Studies: We have been discovering the history of Ancient India. Students have been learning about the geography, culture and religion of this Asian subcontinent while also making comparisons between this ancient culture and the other ancient cultures we have studied so far this year. Students learned about the city planning of Mohenjo Daro, the conquest of the Aryans, and the records kept in the Vedas. Students also learned about Hinduism and Buddhism. Next, students will be learning about Ancient China. Our chapter test on India will be sometime before Christmas Break.

Grade 6 Literature: We have continued reading Jennifer Nielsen's "The False Prince". Some strengths we have been building on are making

predictions and comparing characters. Ask your learner who they think will be chosen as the Prince.

Grade 7 Social Studies: We have been looking at the European colonization of North America. We looked at the reasons for the development of the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. We looked at the "push" factors that led many to migrate to the New World, such as religious freedom, trial by jury, and representative assemblies. We also have learned about the differences between Charter Colonies, Royal Colonies, and Proprietary Colonies. Ask your learner to explain the differences between the colonies.

Grade 7 Literature: Students have been reading Elizabeth George Speare's "The Witch of Blackbird Pond", set in colonial New England. We have been tracing many connections between the literature text and our social studies content as we discuss the persecution of the Quakers, the colonization of the Caribbean and New England, and the different social roles of men and women in the seventeenth century.

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students are now learning about the many reform movements of the nineteenth century as well as the emergence of an American literary identity. Students studied the Second Great Awakening and the domino effect the religious revivals had on the development of benevolent societies and charitable associations. Students also have been introduced to various American authors as we discussed the development of purely American literature.

Grade 8 Literature: We continue to read Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women". We are coming to the end of Part One, and will be watching episode one of the PBS television series to compare how they envisioned

the characters and conflict versus how the show producers envisioned them. Students have been doing daily writing prompts in conjunction with their reading as this book encourages them to do a lot of self-reflection. It also serves as a primary source for our studies on the nineteenth century.

Grade 7 & 8 Religion

Emphasis has been on Jesus' New Commandment to love one another. We recently took our chapter 3 test and will be moving on to chapter 4. Students will also be learning about the special season of Advent as they are encouraged to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.

Grades 6,7,8 Skills

This month the middle school grammar classes focused on verbs: action verbs, those with or without a direct object, linking verbs with subject complements, and main verbs with helping verbs. It was a challenge to distinguish the difference between direct objects and subject complements.

Grades 7 & 8 Science

The students had practice using a three-beam scale to measure mass of an object and a graduated cylinder to measure its volume. They used that information to calculate the object's density. Also, we focused on the element of oxygen. The students researched the element and presented their information in various ways, i.e., a mystery clue with an illustration, a 3D model, a logo or symbol, a poem, or an essay from internet research.

Physical Education



The year seems to be flying by. I hope everyone had an amazing Thanksgiving. We continue to be busy in the gym working on all of our skills in the lower grades. The students in Pre-k-2 are really focusing on hand eye coordination along with perfecting our locomotor skills.

Grades 3-8 just finished up Gaga ball and some fun Thanksgiving themed games which worked on throwing accuracy. In the coming weeks we will be starting to work on some floor hockey skills and end the unit with some gameplay.

The students continue to make progress with their muscular strength and endurance. Grades 3-8 have just finished up fitness testing where they had to perform as many sit ups as they could do in one minute and as many proper form push ups they could do until they could not do anymore. The first round of fitness testing went very well and the students are eager to beat their first round scores when we test again at the end of February.

Library & Computer Classes



Some exciting news to share! We have begun our hybrid classes this month! Grades 1-8 alternate each week between being in the library and the computer lab. This is providing some

much needed exposure to computer skills as well as keeping things fresh and exciting during library class.

Computer Class

1st, 2nd & 3rd grade began their computer class lessons by practicing logging in and out of their school Google computers and navigating basic computer functions. 4th, 5th and 6th graders have been working on developing muscle memory in their first typing course. These courses are meant to build base level skills that we can build on easily in the future.

Library Class

In the younger grades, students learned some pretty silly turkey and Thanksgiving Songs in class! We read stories including “No Turkey for Thanksgiving” by Jacqueline Jules where we learned that every family is diverse and may celebrate Thanksgiving with all sorts of different foods! We also read “Who Will Carve the Turkey this Thanksgiving?” by Jerry Pallota where we discussed that even though many animals are capable of doing the job, only a grown up should be in charge of that task!

In 4th and 5th grade library class, we continued reading “James and the Giant Peach” by Roald Dahl and with 6th grade “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis. I hope to finish these books by Christmas Break!

Middle school grades have begun their Digital Citizenship Courses which is a perfect crossover between computer and library. This course begins by establishing a base knowledge of how to use a computer and then covers topics such as cyber bullying, recognizing safe websites, and navigating online communication. All skills that are very relevant in today's tech forward world.

Bookworm Club has been growing each week! The Bookworm is a club for students in grades 4 - 8 who love reading or are looking to strengthen their reading skills in a group setting. We are currently reading books from the 2023 RICBA Nominee list.

A friendly reminder that students in grades K - 8 have begun checking out books from the library. Students are allowed to check out 1 book at a time and must return the book before checking out another.

More information can be found here sites.google.com/stpaulcranston.org/stpaulslibrary/home

