

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal
February 28, 2020



Principal's News

As we prepare for the March winds, I believe we may be over the worst of it so far-winter that is. It really hasn't been that bad of a winter from what we have experienced in the past. Now that we are going into March, I already have had several families asking me when school is getting out so that they can begin to plan for summer vacations or camps. As it stands now, and it shouldn't change (I already factored in snow days in our schedule), our **last day of school will be on Friday, June 12 with dismissal at 11:30.**

Our enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year has already begun as you hopefully know. Many families have already sent in their Registration Forms for next year along with new families as well. If you haven't registered, please do ASAP. Some classes are almost full. For instance, Kindergarten only has *one more spot* available and Pre-K 4 is just shy of being full too.

And most importantly, don't forget to apply to www.factsmgt.com if you are looking for financial aid. It's extremely important that you begin the process now. The cut-off date for this financial aid from the Diocese of Providence is March 31st!

Continued Principal News...

As I have stated many times in my past Newsletters, it only takes 20-25 minutes of your time to fill out your information on the website. Depending on your finances, you could get anywhere from \$650-\$1,500 worth of assistance towards your child's tuition. By the way, if you are looking for Parish Aid, you have to apply to www.factsmgt.com first.

Now that we are entering March, it's a crucial time for students to really focus on their class work. When I was in the classroom, I would always make a point of telling students that this is the time to make sure you step it up in any classes you may not be doing well in. There is only a little over *three months* left of school (minus spring break) and with 3rd Quarter Progress Reports going home on Monday, March 2, time is slowly slipping away on catching up on a class you may be having difficulty with. Now is the time to check with your teacher on any missed work or extra work you can do-not at the end of May or a week before school gets out!

Make sure to check out the school calendar in March. With March being one of those months where winter sometimes won't let go and waiting for spring to arrive, we'll try to spice up the month with a few events planned for the students. Such as our Middle School **Science Fair** on Friday, March 20 from 1-2 pm in the school auditorium. Parents are welcome to attend even if your child isn't even in Middle School yet. It's a good time to just check out what students are doing in the upper grades and to stop and chat with one of the teachers in Middle School.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

We've been invited by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee which happens to have a St. Paul School alumni on the committee to participate in the St. Pat's Parade on **Saturday, March 21st**. Schools across the state have been invited. This year's theme is "*The Counties of Ireland.*" **The parade begins at 12:00 pm and last 1.5 hours** ending at the RI State House. Participating groups need to check in at St. Pius V School at 49 Elmhurst Ave in Providence between 10:00 and 11:30 am.

I need to know if any families wish to participate in this parade before I get back to them. For the record, we will need at least 20-24 students to participate (in their school uniforms) with their parents. I can't tell them we have that many students to come only to have 6-8 students showing up. That happened several years ago when we were in the Gaspee Day Parade in 2017. The St. Paul faculty & staff showed up but only *four students!* That won't happen again.

If you are interested, please let Mrs. Keane know in the School Office by no later than Friday, March 6.

Mr. Corry

Pre-K 3 & 4 News



Happy February! It was a short month, but it was packed with learning! We are working on patterning, sorting and identifying sight words. We learned about keeping our bodies healthy, keeping our teeth healthy, how our hearts work, and how we care for our friends during Valentine's Day. We were so excited to "deliver" our valentines to each of our friends. Pre-K 4 even created a Vet Clinic in their dramatic play area this month too, so they could learn how to take care of sick animals. We are looking forward to March, where we will take a look at opposites, St. Patrick's Day, wind experiments, and rainbows.



Kindergarten News

February has been full of love in our kindergarten class!

In Kindergarten, we celebrated our 100th day this month! Students made shirts and brought in 100 items! It was a great day of counting and fun.

Religion lessons have been about love and kindness to all while working on our social and emotional skills. We have learned loving one another, helping others, and showing compassion are part of the foundation of our catholic faith.

One way to show our love, we had a Valentine's Day classroom celebration! The class enjoyed expressing their love for their peers. Thank you to all who participated.

We have added science to our classroom center rotations. This allows students to see that science is everywhere through various ways.

The class earned an ice cream party through our reward system. We are busy working on our next goal which is to be determined.

Next month, we will be caring for our indoor garden. Our little botanists will learn how to nurture and cultivate the seeds to mature into plants. We will relate this to many of our educational topics such as religion, science, and social studies.



First Grade News



The month of February flew by in First grade! Through our marble jar we earned free recess and are now working towards earning a class treat. We won the canned food drive contest hosted by the Cranston Rotary Club and will be having a pizza and a movie party! We celebrated the 100th day of school on February 3rd and did many fun activities and projects to celebrate. We had a Valentine's day party and had cookies while passing out our Valentine's Day cards to our friends. Lastly, we went to mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. In Math, we began chapter 7 which is all about Geometry. Students should continue to study 2D and 3D shapes at home. We will be having our unit 7 test the second week of March. In Religion, we learned that Jesus is the light in our lives and that we can spread that light to others by being kind, respectful, generous, giving, etc. We also spoke about Lent and the things that we can sacrifice. We began unit 4 in our reading street series, which is about the different things that we treasure. In Social Studies we read about what the world could be like in 100 years and also read about Abraham Lincoln. In STEAM, we built burrows out of Legos in honor of Groundhogs Day and also did a candy heart taste test

Second Grade News



February flew by with everything we had going on in second grade! We started off the month celebrating the 100th day of school, celebrated Valentine's Day a couple weeks ago, and now we have just entered our Lenten season. This past week we have talked all about Lent, Ash Wednesday, and have made our Lenten promises. February is Black History Month, so throughout this month we have learned about many important African American figures who made a difference in our world.

We just finished Unit 3 in our reading street unit and took a test on everything we have learned this week. We have been practicing going back into the text we are reading to find the evidence to answer a question. We will continue to do this in Unit 4. We have also been learning about different kinds of verbs and how to use them in our writing.

In math, we are finishing up our unit on place value and will soon be starting two-digit addition and subtraction. We have learned all about the tens place and the ones place and the value of each digit. Along with our next unit, we will also be touching upon graphing.

We have our Magic School Bus: Live field trip coming up in April. Make sure you send in your permission slip and payment! February was a jam packed, fun month but I am excited to

see what March brings in second grade!



Third Grade News



This month went by quickly and was packed with many activities to celebrate the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day. We thought of heartfelt acts of kindness, wrote them on a heart that we decorated and placed them on the bulletin board.

In Reading, we learned all about penguins and read non-fiction texts. We learned about text features and graphic sources and practiced finding and identifying each feature and source in many books. In Science, we began our unit on Energy. We had so much fun with our chocolate kiss experiment that involved heat energy. We also have been practicing cursive writing, which we really enjoy.

In Social Studies, we continued to learn about the three types of communities, rural, suburban and urban. We also celebrated Black History. We watched videos, read books and passages, and completed activities, including a book report, involving famous African Americans,

such as Ruby Bridges, Jessie Owens, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and several others. To celebrate their birthdays, we read about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

In Math, we are learning about different types of graphs and how to record, compare and plot data. We also continue to practice our multiplication and division facts. We look forward to our first Math Bee next month!!

Fourth Grade News

Welcome back from vacation. I hope everyone had a wonderful, restful week away from school. It seems inconceivable that March is right around the corner. This week brought the beginning of the season of Lent. We will be focusing on how to live a more holy life and thinking about what we can do to help our Lenten promises come to fruition.

The students in grade four are doing a wonderful job on their multiplication skills. We are working very hard on how to complete problems with two digits in the multiplier. Just a reminder that students should continue to practice their multiplication facts every night. This is such a huge help in all the math that we will be doing this year...and next!

Our travels through the country have brought us to the Southwest Region of the United States. Students have completed maps, learned about each state's famous rivers, capitals, plants and resources. They are continuing to work on mini projects about the region. Those mini projects must be completed by March 3, but can be handed in before the due date if they are completed early. Some students took advantage of the week off and completed all the projects already!

This March we will be focusing on simple machines and the impact they have on our daily lives.

We will be wrapping up our read-aloud story **Maniac Magee** and sampling Tastykake's Butterscotch Krimpets- Maniac's favorite food!

Fifth Grade News

In Grade 5, we've continued to stay very busy completing our Social Studies project, Global Fun Day. The kids are completing their work and getting excited to present their countries! In class, we've just completed the Middle Colonies and headed to the South. We are beginning the geography of the South as well as the growing conditions and the reason for growing cash crops versus being a self-sufficient farmer. My class loves learning about how our country was founded as we head to the American Revolution.

In Science, we are continuing to center on the importance of Ecosystems. We are beginning chapter 6 which highlights Changes in Ecosystems and how those changes affect living things. Looking forward to a busy and fun Spring. Remember our show, May 15th at 6:00pm. The Jungle Book!

Middle School News



Grade 6 Science: This past two months in science the students started to prepare for the science fair. All due dates related to the science fair is posted on Google Classroom. The science fair will be on Friday, March

20 from 1-2 pm at the school. In addition to the science fair, the students just started a unit on weather and climate.

Grade 6 Skills: Before the break, the students just took their unit 8 vocabulary test. The grade for that test is posted on their Sadler Connect accounts. The unit 9 vocabulary test is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Grade 7 Science: This past two months in science the students started to prepare for the science fair. All due dates related to the science fair is posted on Google Classroom. The science fair will be on Friday, March 20 from 1-2 pm at the school. In addition to the science fair, the students are finishing learning about matter.

Grade 7 Skills: Before the break, the students just took their unit 8 vocabulary test. The grade for that test is posted on their Sadler Connect accounts. The unit 9 vocabulary test is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2020.

Grade 8 Science: This past two months in science the students started to prepare for the science fair. All due dates related to the science fair is posted on Google Classroom. The science fair will be on Friday, March 20 from 1-2 pm at the school. In addition to the science fair, the students are still studying the electromagnetic spectrum.

Grade 8 Skills: Before the break, the students just took their unit 8 vocabulary test. The grade for that test is posted on their Sadler Connect accounts. The unit 9 vocabulary test is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2020.

Grade 6 Religion class has completed a chapter in which Solomon has succeeded his father, David, as the king of Israel, and will rule in a different manner than his father. They will be tested on this chapter today.

Grade 7 Religion class has started a chapter which focuses on the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, in his roles of Helper and Guide in the plan of humanity's salvation.

Grade 8 Religion class has begun a chapter explaining how the abuses within the Church would lead to the Protestant Reformation.

Grade 6 Math class has finished a section on Exponents and their utility in multiplying. Following a test on this information, the class moves to a study of Prime factorization - a very useful skill.

Grade 7 Math class will be working with factors, exponents, and fractions and witnessing their utility when working in Scientific Notation.

Grade 8 Math will be graphing equations with two variables by using the y-intercept method.

Grade 6 Social Studies: our class is working on Ancient Greece. Ask your child to tell you about the geography of Greece! Ask your child to tell you the cause of the Trojan War!

Literature: we finished reading "The Runaway King". We are starting "The Shadow Throne." Book reports came out awesome!

Grade 7 has been working hard on their research papers. Ask your child, "what is your thesis?"

Grade 8 Social Studies: we have been looking at the Civil War. Ask your child to tell you about civil war photography!

Literature: We have been enjoying "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Ask your child, "do you think Huck is racist?"