

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

Cindy Richard, Principal
January 31, 2024



Principal's News

We hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with the joy and love that February brings. As we enter the second month of the year, our school community comes together and celebrates the end of Catholic Schools Week.

Important Dates:

- **February 1-3: Catholic Schools Week** Students will engage in special activities to celebrate our faith and community. Father Lee and Deacon Paul, Sister Esmerelda will be speaking to the students about vocations on Thursday and Friday will be celebrating our teachers and staff with a luncheon. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this show of support for our amazing teachers and staff.

Continued Principal News...



- **Catholic Schools United in Faith and Community**
- **February 9: Super Bowl Dress Down Day and food drive.** Students may wear their favorite sports jersey/colors and bring a can of soup to donate. We will donate to the Edgewood Food Pantry.
- **February 9: Winter Wonderland Family Dance 6-8PM** We have over 90 families joining us for a fun family night of community. It promises to be a wonderful evening and hopefully, the beginning of a new tradition.
- **February 14: Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday** Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day this year. The Elf program (grades PreK-1st grade) will be participating in classroom Valentines Day activities on the 14th. Grades 2-8 will be participating in any valentines' activities on the 13th to prioritize Ash Wednesday and its place in our Catholic community. On Ash Wednesday we will be attending a school wide Mass. We begin the season of Lent

with a special Ash Wednesday Mass. Students will have the opportunity to receive ashes and reflect on the significance of this season of penance and prayer.

- **February 15: Parent Meeting 6PM**
- **Feb 19-23: February Break No School** Enjoy this time to spend with family and friends.
- **Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year** It's time to secure your child's spot for the upcoming school year. Please send in your registration form as soon as possible. The registration fee must be included to confirm your spot for next year. Thank you.

We had a wonderful Catholic Schools Week Mass and Open House. It was wonderful to have so many new families come to see our school. It was the largest group of families we have had attend in a long time. It was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped make it a special day.

Reminders:

- Please continue to check your child's backpack for important notices and updates.

PreK 3 & 4 News

- Follow us on [social media links] for real-time updates and snapshots of school life. #stpaulprincipalri on Instagram and Saint Paul School of Cranston on Facebook.
- Remember to sign up for our Parent Group if you haven't already. Your involvement is crucial in building a strong school community.
- We will post all weather delays on Turn to Ten, on Channel 10 News, and you will receive a phone call or text. You can also sign up for alerts on Rhode Island Broadcasters. If there is any threat of bad weather, please pay attention to these methods of communication. If you are not getting these alerts, please notify Mrs. Keane in the office and we will check your contact information.

We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in the education of your children. Our gospel value for the month is love. May February be a month filled with love, learning, and spiritual growth.

In Peace,
Cindy Richard



Happy New Year and Welcome Back! It was wonderful to see the children's faces, smiling and ready to learn! We began our month with a look at the Gingerbread Man and then we investigated snow and how we stay warm in the snow. We have had a lot of science fun, learning about cold temperatures, and textures, like shaving cream and catching snowflakes. We have been very creative and learning about rhyming words!

We talked about mittens, hot chocolate and ended our month with a look at some polar animals. We have sent out our first progress reports for your children; these were based on observations of your child in the classroom. We are looking forward to February, where we will talk about the groundhog, hearts, healthy teeth and bodies and Valentine's Day. We will also celebrate Catholic Schools Week and have some special days planned for that week!

Kindergarten News

Happy New Year! January has flown by in Kindergarten! This month we started our Penguin unit in Science. We talked about where penguins live, that they are birds, and the parts of a penguin. We also filled in a Know, wonder, and learned chart. The students came up with things they already know about penguins and what they want to learn. We will finish this unit in February. In math,

we started working on writing and recognizing numbers 1-10 and ordinal numbers. We have been focusing on writing CVC words along with completing a sentence with a given prompt. In religion, we learned about God's gift of water and how God made all of us unique like a snowflake! There has been so much learning in Kindergarten this month and we cannot wait for what's to come in the next few months!

Next month, we are looking forward to learning more about penguins, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, and much more!



First Grade News



January has been a busy month for 1st grade. 1st grade has been learning so many new sounds to add to our reading skills. Recently, we have discovered verbs and have expanded our parts of speech. We also have learned about story elements and focused on characters, settings, problems, and solutions while reading

books. Also, Flashlight Friday has officially started here in 1st grade! This is when the students get to read in the dark with a flashlight every Friday. We love finding fun ways to read new books! In math, we tackled learning about fact families, and have started our unit about different types of graphs. In science, we started our unit on hibernation, migration, and adaptation. Students loved researching and learning about different animals through books, videos, group discussions, and even with our 5th grade reading buddies! Lastly, in religion, we have been learning about putting our trust in God especially when we are afraid or nervous.

Recently, 1st grade learned about the biblical story of Daniel and the Lions' Den to help us understand that praying to God can help us feel not alone.

We are looking forward to February and starting it off with Catholics Schools Week! We will be learning about mail and how to send letters. We will even be getting pen pals from another 1st grade class in Ohio! We are so excited for February!

Second Grade News



Happy New Year!! I can't believe we are halfway through the school year! We have been moving along in all subjects. For January, most second graders logged more reading hours than December. This earned the class an ice cream treat for exceeding their reading goals! We are thinking about next month's goals and rewards. In Religion, we have been learning about

the seven sacraments, specifically Baptism, the Eucharist, and Reconciliation, and Confirmation. We know we become children of God and members of the church at Baptism and the importance of receiving the Eucharist. At the end of the month, we learned that Confirmation seals us with the Holy Spirit and gives us strength and guidance. For Language and Literacy, we explored realistic fantasy, folktales, cause, and effect, and worked on comprehension skills. In Phonics, our class worked on vowel sounds that included long e (e, ea, ee, y), o (o, oa,ow), i (i, ie, igh, y), and r controlled (ar, or).

We worked on compound words and verbs (past, present, and future) in our practice. Our daily writing involved students' New Year's resolutions with goals for the new year, current events, letter writing, and paragraph planning. In Math, we completed Chapter 3 consisting of data and graphs.

Second grade practiced reading and interpreting data from a variety of charts and graphs with problem solving skills. For Social Studies, we discussed New Year traditions around the world, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ways of communication, and friendships. In addition, we have been role playing different scenarios that may occur throughout our day to help make good choices and develop our social emotional skills using our "Taco" Bout It strategy (Take Breaths, Ask for help, Calm words, Overcome).

In Science, we discovered snow and snowflake science. Our class learned how it is formed and the uniqueness of snowflakes. We had fun building snow structures with toothpicks and marshmallows. Additionally, second graders explored different kinds of inventions, especially robots. They wrote about their own robot inventions.

Next month, we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with some fun activities as we move into the Lenten season. We look forward to learning

about Lent/Ash Wednesday, Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day and enjoy Black History throughout the entire month.



Grade 3 News



The month of January is coming to a snowy and rainy end as we embrace the month of February with a warm heart!

In Reading, students are completing Unit 3, Volume 2 of our Reading Street Curriculum. This week, we are focusing on "How can people help animals in danger? We are reading the story titled "Sympathy of Whales" while focusing on the skill sets of generalizing and drawing conclusions. Students will expand this genre of

Fiction by exploring the text “He listens to Whales” to make connections. To further tie into the story, students wrote a News Article reporting on a current event or a personal factual experience that is newsworthy.

Currently in other subject areas, students will be taking their 17th spelling test on words suffixes that end in less, ness, ly, and full. Students will also be handing in their 16th week of homework! In Religion, third graders took their Unit test concluding Chapters 1-5. Students are looking forward to hosting Mass next month as it falls on Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day.

In Math, students have started chapter 4 on Multiplication! Students are very excited about this and ask if we can do Math all day long! So far, we have mastered the 0 and 1 tables. Students are very confident in the identity and zero property of multiplication. Third grade prefers to use the grouping method a.k.a Ms. G’s chocolate chip cookies to help solve the equation. Third Grade is looking forward to seeing what the month of February will bring. So far, we are looking forward to hosting our first Mass on February 14th along with celebrations of Valentine’s Day. Saint Paul will be hosting our first ever Family Dance on February 9th. I hope to see you all there!

As always, I would like to thank all the Parents/Guardians for their continued support of Saint Paul School.

P.S Third Grade is extremely pleased with their daily read aloud of “Because of Winn-Dixie” by Kate DiCamillo. We are currently on Chapter 12. Stay tuned!

Grade 4 & 5 News

As grades 4 and 5 have begun their blended classroom, someone walking in would be surprised to learn that they were not always together. The two classes are doing a marvelous job and being very cooperative and kind.

We celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul with our Pre-K buddies on January 25. We colored a picture about St. Paul’s conversion, had a chicken nugget feast and performed a skit, about the transformation of Saul into Paul, for our buddies and Mrs. Richard. It truly was a wonderful way to celebrate our patron saint.

continuing our work on algebraic expressions. It has been a good start to the new year and the 3rd academic quarter. 😊



Middle School News



Grade 6



In January, we switched teachers! Mrs. Davide is now the 6th grade teacher. It was an interesting transition, but all are settling in nicely. We have been hard at work in math and science. The students finished chapter 3, Cells: The Basic Unit of Life. They created their own 3-D model of plant and animal cells; it was a lot of fun! In math, we are

Grade 6 Social Studies: Students have been learning about the geography, history, and culture of the subcontinent of India. Students have learned about the winter and summer monsoon winds, the origins of Hinduism and Buddhism, and the rise and fall of the Maurya Empire. Students are currently reviewing the chapter in preparation for their Chapter Test. Next, we will be looking at Ancient China.

Grade 6 Literature: Students continue reading "The False Prince" by Jennifer Nielsen. Students have been practicing their summarizing skills, as well as their reading comprehension and retention. We are almost finished with this exciting story! Ask your learner if they think Conner's plan will work? Ask your learner if they think the 3 boys will be friends after the plan plays out?

Grade 7 Social Studies: Students learned about the major events leading up to the Revolutionary War. With a background of basic British government history, including the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights, students are looking at the acts passed by Parliament and questioning if these acts violated colonial rights as defined by British government.

Students then learned about the "shot heard round the world" as fighting broke out in Lexington and Concord. Now we are looking at the role played by the Continental Congress.

Grade 7 & 8 Literature: Grades 7 and 8 have joined up temporarily to read Lois Lowry's Newbery Medal winning classic, "Number the Stars". We are doing an in-depth analytical reading of this book, which tells the story of a young girl in Denmark during World War II who must make difficult and dangerous choices to help save her Jewish friend during Nazi occupation. We have divided the book into sections, and after each section, students have been working together and independently to complete their literary analysis of the section. This is a unit heavy on skill-building.

Grade 7 Skills: We are currently on Unit 9. Students have some time in class each week to study the terms and to finish their reviews in their booklets, and we go over the reviews in class. However, to ensure student success, I ask that students please review their vocabulary terms at home for about 15 minutes each night!

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students are learning about the sectional tensions between North and South leading up to the American Civil War. The War with Mexico made western lands plentiful but opened up the question of the expansion of slavery. Congress defers to popular sovereignty to answer the slavery question in the west, while the Fugitive Slave Act, the Kansas Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott Decision all served to add fuel to the flames in the days before war. Ask your learner, "what is popular sovereignty?"

Grade 8 Skills: We are currently on Unit 6. Students have some time in

class each week to study the terms and to finish their reviews in their booklets, and we go over the reviews in class. However, to ensure student success, I ask that students please review their vocabulary terms at home for about 15 minutes each night!

Grades 7 & 8 Religion

Students spend about an hour each week with Father Woodhouse and Faith Formation Director Julie Bradley to do an in-depth study of the Catholic Faith. Just this week, for example, students were brought to the Church to learn about the sacrament of baptism, where they witnessed a baby-doll be baptized by Father Woodhouse! While students continue to benefit from this weekly instruction, we continue to work on religion in the classroom as well. Students completed chapter 17 in their religion textbooks and continue to be tested weekly. This doubles as an independent reading course to boost students' skills in analyzing texts and practicing writing skills as well.



Physical Education

The students are making wonderful progress in PE in all grades. PreK 3 and 4 and Kindergarten have consistently been working on locomotor skills, gross and fine motor skills. We just started to learn how to kick and the proper form to use when kicking a ball.

Grades 1 and 2 have also been working on their kicking skills in more organized games where they need to aim at a target while kicking. They have also learned how to kick with the inside of their foot to pass a soccer ball correctly. We also had lots of fun before Christmas playing some fun Christmas themed games.

Grades 3-8 are working on their volleyball skills. They have learned the proper ways to strike a volleyball (bump, set, serve) and how to rotate during game play. Grades 3-5 used a beach ball to learn how to successfully keep the ball in the air while Middle School had some background with the sport and were able to use a regular volleyball. The students had fun learning the skills and did very well as volleyball is a challenging sport!

Spanish Classes

As we enter 3rd quarter, students have been working hard, especially our middle school students. Pre k and Kindergarten classes have been focusing on the winter season. We are almost towards the end of the winter season and will continue to learn most about spring. Students have been learning new vocabulary, reading short stories together as a class about the winter and have been practicing their writing and drawing skills. Elementary students have just finished the family unit and are now moving on to unit 3 which is our classroom unit. The students are learning more vocabulary about the classroom and participating in many conversations with their peers. Middle school

students are currently finishing Chapter 2 and are moving into Chapter 3 which involves a lot of grammar. Students have been taking part in conversations and translating short excerpts of the book into English. Students are starting the conjugation of verbs such as tener and AR verbs.

Art Classes

In January, all grades have been busy working on winter themed art projects.

✳️ Pre-K and K students are experimenting with different methods and materials such as pasted paper, painting, coloring, and combining all three in one. Grades 1 and 2 are learning about visual depth and storytelling in drawing. Grades 3 and 4 are learning to modify basic ideas in ways that express themselves and their creativity and improve drawing skills. Grades 5 and 6 are learning new drawing techniques and practicing painting while thinking conceptually and making the projects their own. Grades 7 and 8 are learning to draw in one-point perspective and further developing drawing and painting skills.

Library News

Welcome 2024!

In the younger grades (PreK through 3rd), we've had many enchanting literary adventures with stories like "Pizza with Everything On It" by Kyle Scheele, "Over and Under the Snow" by Kate Messner, "Ten on the Sled" by Kim Norman, and "Red and Lulu" by Matt Tavares. Alongside these tales, our little ones have been excited to learn some new songs like "Marmalade and Jam" and "My Thumbs are Wiggling".

Moving up the grades, our readers have been immersed in their read alouds. The 4th graders recently concluded their journey through

"James and the Giant Peach", while the 5th graders are nearing the end of "Maya and the Robot". In 6th grade, "Letters from Cuba" has been keeping students engaged, while the 7th graders wrapped up "Canyon's Edge" back in December. Meanwhile, the 8th graders are engrossed in discussions surrounding "The Giver", exploring its profound themes and narratives.

As we step into February, our focus turns towards more winter tales and spreading love throughout our library classes. Get ready for more heartwarming stories and engaging activities as we continue to foster a love for reading and learning among our students.

Please 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!

Computer News

In grade 1, our young learners are working hard at mastering their mouse skills, laying the foundation for their digital journey ahead. This month, they have joined grades 2-5 in the realm of digital citizenship, learning the importance of responsible online behavior and safe internet practices.

Meanwhile, in middle school, the students recently had a lesson on fake news and media literacy. Equipping them with critical thinking tools, they

learned to discern fact from fiction online. To reinforce these concepts, we played an interactive game called "Bad News", which was a lot of fun!

