

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

John F. Corry, Principal
May 31, 2022



Principal's News

Well, we're almost there! Considering how we started, to now, it's been quite an improvement as far as dealing with any Covid issues. It almost feels like a distant memory on what we had to do these past two years. From quarantining classrooms to checking for symptoms each day, how did we do it. But we did and as with everything in life, we made it through as we always do together.

I've already had a few parents asking about the **School Office hours** for this summer. As you know, I will be moving on soon. The new Principal will be starting on July 1. Not knowing what his or her hours will be I can only assume that they will be here several days a week getting familiar with the school amongst other things. The summer hours will be posted at some point once they are settled in. Go to our website at www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org for the calendar of days the office will be open or closed due to holidays or vacation time.

In the next couple of weeks, we have many events planned.

Continued Principal News...

From graduation ceremonies to field trips to students taking their Final Exams. Please try to schedule any doctor or dentist appointments after school hours if you can.

Once again, I have included a schedule of events for the remaining weeks ahead. I've added some more information since the last Newsletter.

Grade 8 Final Exams begin--Tuesday, 5/31

Schedule of exams were sent home to both parents and students last week

Middle School Field Trip--Tuesday, 6/7

New Bedford Whaling Museum--students need to be here NO LATER than 8:15 am or the bus will leave without you!

Class of 2022 Graduation--Thursday, 6/9 @ 5:30--St. Paul Church

Students should be arriving at the school auditorium at 5:00. They can put on their caps and gowns at that time.

From there we will go over to the church sacristy and meet up with the faculty & staff before the procession into church.

Grade 6 & 7 Final Exams begin--Friday, 6/10

Schedule of exams will be sent home in the next week or so.

After-School Care--ends on Friday, 6/10

Pre-K 3 & 4 Program Ceremony--Tuesday, 6/14

The closing ceremony for Pre-K 3 & 4 yr. old program will be on **Tuesday, June 14 at 9:30 am** in the schoolyard out back. We will make sure that chairs are kept 3 feet apart from one another (families can get closer obviously if they wish too) as still recommended by RIDOH. If it rains, we will hold the ceremony in the school auditorium. Children will be dismissed after the ceremony with their parents.

Kindergarten Ceremony--Wednesday, 6/15

The closing ceremony for Kindergarten will be on **Wednesday, June 15 at 9:30** in the schoolyard out back. Chairs will be kept similar to Pre-K ceremony as well as dismissal after the ceremony. As with the Pre-K 3 & 4 yr. old program, if it rains, we will hold the ceremony in the school auditorium.

Field Day/Picnic Lunch--Thursday, 6/16

(Fay Field--11:00-1:00)

We'll provide Pizza and water for the students that day. If any parents would wish to make a donation of juice/water and store-bought desserts it would be appreciated. If you'd like to donate anything else \$\$, that would be great too! It wouldn't be a bad idea if you'd like to have your child bringing in a beach towel to sit on. Not many picnic tables at the field.

Last Day of School--Friday, 6/17

Early Dismissal @ 11:30

We will have our final School Mass of the year at 9:30 hosted by Grade 3. Students will begin to be dismissed at 11:15 on buses.

PreK 3&4 News



Happy May! We can't believe that we made it to May! We had a great month, learning about the changing seasons around us!

We enjoyed learning about the parts of a flower and how seeds grow and travel in the air during the springtime. We especially had a lot of fun talking about our moms and making them feel special. The May Crowning was a special way for our Early Learning Foundation to celebrate Mary. Our butterfly and insect units were great fun, especially being able to search for them outside! We are finishing up our month with PreK 4 traveling to Canada and the PreK 3 visiting the zoo! We are looking forward to June, when we talk about the beach and summer treats and taking a walk to Rhodes Playground! Remember that we will have our celebration on Tuesday, June 14th at 9:30 in the school playground!

Please watch for additional information!



Kindergarten News



The month of May flew by in Kindergarten! There were so many wonderful memories and learning experiences throughout the month. One of our favorite learning experiences was our Butterfly unit. We adopted caterpillars at the beginning of the month and watched them grow into a beautiful butterfly. We recently released our butterflies into nature and our Kindergarteners were very excited to see them go. We also started our Backwards Alphabet Countdown to summer! Some of our favorite days so far include Watermelon Day, Rainbow Day, and M&M Day.

Kindergarten has been working extremely hard in math and phonics. The students have been working on addition and we will be moving into an introduction to subtraction. In reading/phonics, we have introduced 4 new sight words. The students have been working on increasing their reading fluency and levels. In Religion, we have been talking about Mary and how in May we celebrate her. At the beginning of the month, we had a beautiful crowning of Mary with Pre-K, 1st, and 2nd Grade.

First Grade News



WOW! In a blink First Grade will be coming to an end! We have been extremely busy preparing for what we will need to be successful in Second Grade.

In Reading/FUNdations, we have been learning many sounds in words that help us to become better spellers, writers and readers. We continue to practice blends and digraphs in words, but have also added words with glued sounds and understanding what happens when we add the suffix -s to the end of a word. We have added many new words to our "Trick Word" list that is posted on the closet doors. These words are hard to "tap" out so we have them hanging in the room for easy reference.

In Writing, we have been working on another piece based on the story "The Day the Crayons Quit". We are writing a letter trying to convince our favorite crayon not to quit. Be on the lookout for these letters coming home.

In math, we have learned new strategies to add, subtract and find the missing addend. One way is to "counting on" and another way is using a ten frame. We will be starting a Chapter on shapes soon.

At the beginning of May, we were able to celebrate the 'Crowning of Mary' with Pre-K - 2nd Grade. It was fun! We ended the celebration with bubbles and munchkins. We have also

been able to go to the Art Room with Kindergarten and do art together.



Second Grade News



Wow! The school year is coming to an end so quickly! Second Grade has grown so much throughout the year. This month, we have been honoring our Mother Mary in many ways. Beginning the month, we had a ceremony on the church lawn crowning Mary with some special prayers and songs. Congratulations to the many second graders who celebrated their First Communion on May 1! Another happening, our second graders are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our published book. The title of the book is *Second Grade Vocabulary Parade*. Each child contributed to create a memory of our class project, the vocabulary parade. I am so proud of each student for their hard work.

In Religion, students studied the importance and components of the Eucharistic Prayer. We learned more about our Mother Mary by discovering the Hail Mary prayer origin, praying

the rosary, writing a haiku poem, and making special crafts.

In Language and Literacy, we explored different types of literature such as narrative non-fiction and realistic fiction. We discussed story elements such as plot and theme. We had fun reading and writing different types of poetry (acrostic, haiku, shape, rebus). By establishing main ideas with supporting details, we are perfecting paragraph writing in complete sentences.

For Math, our focus is money that includes counting on with money, making change, comparing amounts. Additionally, we are working on telling time this month.

In Social studies, the class celebrated Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Students made a special craft for Mom with cereal boxes, paint, and fairy lights. We learned about the Red Tails in WW2 honoring a veteran's 100th birthday Victor W. Butler. We had lessons on family responsibility, taking care of pets, and citizenship.

For Science, the class investigated insects such as ladybugs, fireflies, and butterflies. We learned about the sun and the moon in relation to the earth including a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse. In addition, we discovered the phases of the moon. Second grade scientists performed an experiment involving sunscreen, construction paper and the sun. The results proved that sunscreen does indeed protect skin from harmful UV rays.

Ending the month, the class participated in the school walk-a-thon raising funds from sponsors. Afterwards, we enjoyed a snack and a movie. Thank you so much for your pledges!! Next month, we look forward to special daily activities making more memories as we countdown to summer vacation!!



Grade 3 News



What a lovely month with so much to celebrate! We honored the Blessed Mary with prayers and activities. We also said a decade of rosary every day. We made a very special craft to celebrate our own moms and planted some flowers for them.

In Reading, we have completed Unit 6 of the Reading Street Program. Our spelling words are getting more difficult, but everyone continues to work hard and do very well on the assignments and tests. We also walked to Williams Hall Library for story time and hope to go again one more time in June.

In Math, we are learning fractions. The class is doing well with this concept and did an excellent job on their fraction flag banners. We also continue to practice/learn our multiplication facts, especially tables 6-9. In Science, we finished our plant and solar system units. We started to learn all about the ocean and sea animals. In Social Studies, we each picked a Northeastern state and completed a report to share with the class.

In Writing, we were paired up and interviewed each other. Soon, we will

write biographies and share them in groups outside on the lawn on a beautiful sunny day. In Religion, we completed our saint projects and shared them with the 6th and 7th graders.

The walk-a-thon was a remarkable success, lots of fun, and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all that sent in donations.

We are all looking forward to the next few weeks in June to wrap up our year as 3rd graders and prepare for 4th grade. Our countdown to summer begins on June 1st with a fun activity planned for each day. It is all extremely exciting! The class is mostly looking forward to hosting mass on the last day of school. I am sure everyone will be fabulous!!

Wishing a happy and safe summer to all!

Grade 4 News



It doesn't seem possible that this school year is drawing to an end. It has been a pleasure teaching your inquisitive, funny and amazing children. I'm looking forward to our next three weeks, because we still have a lot of learning to do. We just began a new chapter book called Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech. The students are already hooked!!

We are continuing to work on our state capitals and learning about the regions of our country. In religion, we will conclude our study of the Ten Commandments.

In math, they are doing an amazing job with comparing and ordering fractions, finding the GCF and will soon be working on adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators. In science, they have been working on STEAM activities with their buddies in Pre-K 4. The care and love they show their buddies is heartwarming!

Grade 5 News

Fifth grade has been so busy this month of May! We have been moving along in all of our lessons and preparing for the end of the school year.

In vocabulary we have been focusing on introducing each word in the new units, focusing on learning its definition, the synonyms and the antonyms that go along with each word, as well as preparing for our spelling and vocabulary tests. Within the week, we prepare and practice these new units by doing shark fin, making flash cards, matching the meanings, and playing around the world. The students have been doing wonderful with this.

In Math, we have been learning about factors, fractions, the GCF (greatest common factor), the LCM (least common multiple) and the LCD (least common denominator). The students have been doing great with this as they love learning new strategies.

In Language Arts, we are reading out loud the story "Missing Links". This story is all about finding the context clues to figure out who solves the mystery. The students have been doing a great job "reading between the lines" to figure out what the story is about. This story is also teaching us that many words could have more than one meaning and that finding the clues in each surrounding sentence is important when deciding what is correct. As always, we are working on

continuing to learn our comprehension skills and strategies daily.

In Social studies we have been learning about the New England Colonies. It is nice for the students to be able to learn about the history of certain places, cities and states that are so close to us and the ones that they hear of daily and for some, have even visited! On the side, the students have also been working on a president report where they had the opportunity to pick one president of their choice and research the history, the family, biographical overview, politics and the major accomplishments of that president.

Lastly, in Science we just finished up our chapter on interactions in ecosystems and had a test. We will now be moving onto changes in ecosystems.

Fifth grade is looking forward to the walk-a-thon on Friday May 27th, and for the end of the school year!

Middle School News

Grade 6 Skills: The class is on unit 10 and they are doing very well. Their abilities in vocabulary are coming along and they are having fun in the process. Soon they will begin preparing for their final exam, seeing that it is right around the corner. It will be a lot of work, but they are definitely up to the task.

Grade 6 Religion: The students are continuing to dive deep into the Old Testament, learning about all of our ancient family biblical history. At this point in their study of salvation history, they are learning about the Israelites initial entry into the Promised Land, and their many ups and downs therein. Some of the highlights they have been hearing about are how all things are possible when we trust in God. They saw this in the story of Joshua and the Israelites

taking down the walls of Jericho. Another exciting principle they learned is that we as human beings can be extremely fickle and have a tendency to fall away from God. They witnessed this while hearing of the many different Judges that were raised up for Israel, in order to lead them back to God and get them back on the right track. They now know that like our ancient forefathers, we have to be cognizant of our weakness and always remember to rely on God.

Grade 6 Social Studies: We are learning about the geography, culture, government, and society of Ancient Rome. Students can identify the Italian Peninsula on a map, explain the founding myth story about Romulus and Remus, identify 2 bad emperors and 1 good emperor of Rome, and can describe what the daily life of the Romans was like. We will be learning more about Pompeii, and then will begin to review for final exams.

Grade 6 Literature: We just finished reading the book "The Color of my Words" by Lynn Joseph, about a 12 year old girl growing up in the Dominican Republic who is faced with tough choices and all the typical challenges of growing up.

Grade 7 Skills: The class is coming to a close and they are now on chapter 10, working very hard to learn this new set of words. We have incorporated new games into the equation, that have not only been very fun, but competitive and effective. They have really been enjoying their time with these new ways of learning. Soon they will be moving on and refreshing their knowledge in order to prepare them for their final exam. I have no doubt that they will all do extremely well.

Grade 7 Religion: The class has been doing very well as of late. They have been learning about how Jesus, being both God and man, had the power to restore all things, however and

whenever He saw fit. Nevertheless, His power was not used for Himself, but for a specific purpose. He exercised His power and authority in order to restore the broken and bring all of creation into right relationship with God. Because some people think Jesus' healing miracles are relegated to the past, the emphasis was being put on both the historicity of Jesus working these miracles, but more so, on the fact that this is still the reality now. Jesus still has this power and authority and He exercises it liberally if we only say yes to Him. The students are now well aware that Jesus can and does work miracles – big and small – just as He did when He physically walked the earth 2,000 years ago.

Grade 7 Social Studies: We have been learning about the Revolutionary War. Students can compare the advantages and disadvantages of the British and the Colonists. They can identify the differences between regular army, militia, and mercenaries. They can also explain the major causes of the American Revolution. Soon, we will look at the war's consequences.

Grade 7 Literature, we have been reading "Woods Runner" by Gary Paulsen. 13 year old Samuel needs to track down and find his parents, who have been captured by the British in the American Revolutionary War. Samuel meets civilian spies, farmers, and militia on his way to New York City, where most prisoners of war were being held by the British.

8th Skills: Similar to their religion projects, they have been putting in phenomenal work on their stories. They have all written unique and exciting stories, nevertheless, at this point they are attempting to put the finishing touches on them and close them out with a proper ending. Each student has shown tremendous growth throughout the process and become a much better writer. Let us hope and

pray that they carry this into their high school careers.

Grade 8 Religion: The class is closing out their Saint Paul career on a high note. They have been working hard and really growing. Firstly, they dedicated much of this last quarter to really learning what the good news is – or in other words, what the Church means by the "Gospel." Together as a class we worked through and unpacked Father John Riccardo's book "Rescued", which is a detailed, and yet very simplified explanation of the Gospel. He unpacks it in such a way that makes it both understandable and meaningful. Secondly, they have been putting in great work on their final projects, chipping away on them day after day. Lastly, the class has been mentally preparing to leave Saint Paul's for good. The students are working through the different emotions and feelings that come with graduating, such as: saying good bye, walking the halls for the last time, taking the next step, ending a chapter of their lives, and much more. Continue to pray for them as they navigate this new experience.

Grade 8 Social Studies: We have wrapped up our major studies for the year with the Great War, or WWI. Students can identify the cause of World War I, and were also able to explain the alliance system and how it pulled much of the world into the war. Students are now reviewing their study guides for their final exams, as well as preparing for their exciting trip to the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Grade 8 Literature: Students really enjoyed reading the Diary Of Anne Frank play, in which each student was assigned a different speaking role. Ask your child which part they read for. After reading the Anne Frank play, we watched a touching documentary about the life and death of Anne Frank, where students were given a chance to learn about the holocaust.

Middle School Science



The middle school students have been very busy in Science. They started a greenhouse in the classroom with seventy-two pods including four different flowers, four different herbs and four different vegetables. They watered and monitored their growth in the greenhouse and then transplanted them to biodegradable pots. Out of seventy-two pods all but five grew. The sixth grade weeded and cleaned out the garden area outside to get it ready for planting. On our first sunny and non-windy day seventh and third grade planted the sixty-seven growing plants into our outside garden pots. They also played wheat grass that Pre-K4 started in their classroom. The middle school with continue to take care of the garden until school is out for summer, then the church youth group will take over. Middle school also played their own sunflowers to take home and started growing green beans in homemade greenhouses. Lastly in Science we had five caterpillars that we were observing on the butterfly life cycle. Unfortunately, they did not survive.



Middle School Math

Middle school has been able to incorporate a lot of math into our science activities these last couple months. Measuring, problem solving and recording. Middle school math students have also been working on Math Buzz activities which review many different types of Math getting them ready for the next unit and their final exams.

Physical Education

It has been a very busy year in Physical Education class. As the year is winding down, I cannot believe how quickly it went by.

Pre-K 3 has been consistently working on their locomotor skills. I have recently introduced very basic tag games where they need to perform their locomotor skills and also avoid being tagged by the pool noodle. We have also practiced striking a balloon and keeping it in the air, tossing bean bags into a target, and throwing balls at a target. We are learning to follow directions, and cooperate with each other during games.

Pre-K 4 is also working on perfecting their locomotor skills during a warm up tag game before every class. We also have a fitness component part of class where the students need to practice their squats, push up and sit ups. We have moved on to cooperative, and organized games where the students must work together on a team.

Kindergarten and First Grade have been working on gross motor skills, along with fine motor and sport specific skills throughout the year. We have also been working on our jump rope and hula hoop skills. We will continue to work on overhand throwing and dribbling a bouncy ball in the weeks to come, while also playing some super fun games that the students have learned this year. A few of their favorites are Jedi Knight, Castle Ball, and Scooter City.

Second graders have just finished up a kickball unit. The students continue to work on their fitness skills during each class and really strive to get better and stronger. In the coming weeks, we will be working on stations where the students will participate in activities which will work on many of the skills they have learned throughout the year.

Grades 3 - 8 have just finished a wiffle ball unit. I was very impressed with their batting skills, and some students were even able to successfully pitch an inning or two. We also worked on volleyball skills and learned how to rotate during a game. The students had a blast playing Gaga ball which is a relatively new game that many people are not familiar with. It is a version of dodgeball where the ball remains on the ground. Players may strike the ball with their hand and try to hit another player's shoes. The game is fast paced and played in a pit (which I made). In the last few weeks, we will complete our last round of fitness testing and play some of the students favorite games to end the year! I cannot wait to see how much the students have progressed from the beginning of the year.