

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal

October 31, 2019



Principal's News

We had a pretty busy October. From Field trips to flu shots to our school being evaluated by the **New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)**. We receive our School Accreditation from them as all public, private and parochial Schools do every 10 years. It's a lot of paperwork and Standards (15) that must be followed from curriculum being taught to technology to even safety issues which are addressed. We have to write what's called a *Self-Study Report* which basically is a reflection of who we are and what we do and teach as a school. The Faculty & Staff have been working on it for over a year now. Both Mrs. Larsh and Mrs. Vargas were the editors of this report and did a tremendous job putting it together. A Visiting Team of five members representing NEASC came last week over a period of four days and evaluated our school on those 15 standards. We just received their report back and the great news is they were very impressed with our school and gave us an excellent report back. Once again, we are approved and accredited by NEASC for the next 10 years!

Continued Principal News...

Now with November upon us, holidays will be fast approaching. By the way **All Saints Day** is tomorrow hosted by Grade 6. And on Monday, November 4, **1st Quarter Report Cards** will be going home. Please make sure you sign-off on them and have them returned to school the following day.



Our After-School programs are up and running from Art, Creative Writing to Spanish and Boy's Basketball. Beginning on Tuesday, November 12 you can add the **Drama Club** to that list. Both Ms. Higg and Mrs. Vargas will begin Drama practice for Grades 4-8. Haven't heard yet what next spring's production will be but I know it will be a good one whatever it is.

Weather Alerts

Though we haven't even had our first snowflake yet we might as well talk about it anyway and how parents will be contacted if school is closed or delayed this winter.

For many of our new parents please be aware that **we do NOT follow** either Providence or Cranston School System schedules. Even if one or the other school districts cancels or delays school that day please wait until you are contacted by me on either your cell phone or by TV/Radio.



We pay for a service to contact you by phone (text, voice, and email message) and also belong to the RI Broadcasters Association which will air our notices about canceling school--such as "*St. Paul School No School Today.*"

At the same time be aware that I have a habit of calling off school the night before if the weather forecast determines that a storm is pretty much on the way. Hopefully this would be a big help for you in not having to race around and trying to find someone to watch your child first thing in the morning as you prepare for work.





Pre-K 3 & 4 News

It's hard to believe that October is already over! Our PreK classes have settled into their routines very nicely and we have been learning a great deal about the fall season. We talked about pumpkins, changing leaves, acorns and scarecrows. We became fire safety experts and enjoyed having the Cranston Fire Department come to visit us. We especially had a great time exploring the farm and pumpkin patch at Pezza Farm! We ended our month with our Halloween parade, visiting the residents of the Scandinavian Home and attending Mass on All Saints Day. We are looking forward to November, where we will learn more about farms, the Little Red Hen and of course, Thanksgiving! Please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet for our Thanksgiving feast!



Kindergarten News

October has been a busy and fun month in Kindergarten. We learned a lot about apples and how they grow.

We had an Apple taste test and realized that most Kindergarteners liked yellow apples the best!

As a class we made applesauce and we realized what good chefs we have in our class. We even did a science experiment to see if our apples floated or sank.

We celebrated Fire Prevention week by learning about fire safety and getting a visit from the Cranston Firefighters.

In religion we learned about the Holy Trinity and how it resembles a candy corn, three parts in one.

In math we have been learning all about 3D shapes and all kinds of patterns. Students are loving creating their own patterns and adding on to mine each day.

In Science we each picked a leaf from outside to do a leaf reporting project on. We talked about all the different colors that leaves turn in the Fall and we even measured our leaves.

First Grade News



October has been a very busy and exciting month in first grade. In math, we have been working on adding and subtracting up to 20. We finished Unit 1 in our reading street series which was all about different types of animals. In religion, we are learning about Jesus followers and the ways that we can be a follower of Jesus. This month we celebrated the feast of Saint Francis who also happens to be our classroom saint. We got to watch a movie about Saint Francis and do a few arts and crafts activities about him as well. We also watched Father Young do the blessing of the animals which our class really loved! In our ELF program, we got together and learned about fire safety with the

Cranston Fire Department. We learned a lot of useful information from the firefighters and really enjoyed looking at the fire truck! This month we began Spanish with Mrs. Nunez. We are currently reviewing concepts that we learned last year in Kindergarten such as colors, numbers, and ways to greet someone. To end the month, we went on a field trip to Pezza Farm with pre-k 3 and kindergarten. The children had the opportunity to feed the farm animals, go on a hayride, and pick pumpkins!



Second Grade News



We have been having so much fun in Second Grade this past month! Fall has arrived and we have been learning about pumpkins in preparation for our first field trip of the year to Pezza Farms! We have been learning about how pumpkins grow and all the different things we can do with pumpkins. October also brought us Fire Safety week. We had a class discussion about how we can be prepared and safe in case of an emergency and had a visit from the fire department.

In Religion, we started off the month learning about the Holy Trinity and how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit guide us through life. We also started talking about sacraments, as some of our friends will be receiving their first communion in the near future!

In Math, we are continuing our unit on addition and learning about different ways we can add. We have more recently been working on adding 3 or 4 numbers together.

In Reading, we learned about how to make a complete sentence and different kinds of punctuation to use at the end of sentences. We have also been reading many different stories and learned how to identify the main characters, setting, and main idea. We just finished reading "Flat Stanley", which we loved so much we decided to read the next book in the series. We are still continuing to rock our spelling test each week and I am such a proud teacher!

I am always so blown away with the kindness I see in the classroom and around school from this class. I am very excited for what is to come in November for my bright second graders! Have a safe and fun Halloween!

Grade 3 News



October was a very busy and fun month for Grade 3. In reading and writing we wrapped up Unit 1 in our Reading Street Program and began Unit 2. We continue to work at home on a mystery story book report on a

cereal box. Everyone will have a chance to show and share their finished project. I can't wait!!

In Science, we finished our unit on weather and will soon begin to study clouds. We also learned all about pumpkins, made a jack-o-lantern, counted and ate pumpkin seeds, and made a pumpkin volcano erupt!

In Social Studies, we learned more about map skills. We researched Native Americans and read books and plays in preparation for our field trip to Pequot Museum on October 11th. It was an informational and enjoyable day! We also completed many activities that taught us about Fire Safety.

In Religion, we are always reminded to be followers of Jesus. We created a pumpkin patch of good deeds and decorated the wall outside our classroom.

On Halloween, we had a blast playing Halloween Bingo using candy corn for markers. We also decorated paper pumpkins and read Halloween stories to our Kindergarten buddies. For a special treat we ended the day with popcorn and a movie!

Next month, we look forward to Thanksgiving and many fun activities. We will be talking a lot about all the people and things we are thankful for.

Grade 4 News

October has been a busy month for fourth grade. The students have shown great growth this month. They have especially enjoyed learning about the Woodland Indians and visiting the Pequot Museum in Connecticut. Upon entering the Pequot Village, they exclaimed, "Whoa! This is awesome!" And they were hooked. They were respectful, curious and excited- a true, winning combination. A special thanks to Mrs. Lopez for her help chaperoning this field trip.



Speaking of field trips, we will be attending a performance of A Christmas Carol at Trinity Rep on November 14th. Please be sure to sign your child's permission slip.

The students enjoyed reading Holes by Louis Sachar. They are already wondering what their next read-a-loud book is going to be.

We will soon be concluding our investigations concerning rocks and minerals. The students have learned how geologists test rocks for the mineral calcite. (Ask them what happens when calcite comes in contact with a cold acid.)

Grade 5 News

October has been a busy and exciting month for Grade 5. In Language Arts, we've just completed reading The Long Path to Freedom, based on the courageous journey of Harriet Tubman. We are beginning a research project based on the Underground Railroad which will continue over the next few weeks. We are also completing our book reports based on Walk Two Moons. They've chosen to create scrapbooks, dioramas, timelines, and more. I can't wait to share the finished products.

After a wonderful field trip to the Pequot Museum, we have just booked *A Christmas Carol* at Trinity Rep. we're very excited and thankful to share this holiday experience. We will be choosing our last field trip in the Spring and continuing to raise

money in our snack shop for our next adventure. There are still openings in our Drama Club which begins on 11/12 from 2:30-3:45pm every Tuesday. Emails went out in regards to sign up, please let me know if you have any questions. Looking forward to another great year of Drama!



Middle School News

As we approach the end of the first quarter, the Sixth Grade Math Class is preparing for a chapter test covering Whole Numbers and Decimals which will be taken on Monday, October 28th. The Order of Operations and the Distributive Property are the two topics being addressed in the Seventh Grade Math Class while the Eighth Grade Class is revisiting the Properties of Numbers.

The Story of Joseph and the way by which God chose to protect His Chosen People from famine is the Sixth Grade Religion Class' focus this week. The Seventh Grade Religion Class has just started an introductory chapter discussing the Blessed Trinity as being central to our Catholic faith. The Eighth Grade Class continuing its' study of the Ten Commandments with its' study of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments.

Grade 6 News

Skills- The students are currently working on their unit four words. They had their unit 2 test on November 1. Their report cards reflect

the grade that the student received on units one, two, and three tests.

Science- Grade 6 is currently learning about producers, consumers, decomposers, food web, and food chains. They will also start to learn about owls and will be dissecting owl pellets. From the owl pellets, they will be classifying the bones to figure out what the owl had for dinner that night.

Social Studies- Grade 6 students have started work on Ancient Egypt. In **Literature**, they have started reading the Ascension Trilogy.

Grade 7 News

Skills- The students are currently working on their unit four words. They had their unit 2 test on November 1. Their report cards reflect the grade that the student received on units one, two, and three tests.

Science- In science, the students are finishing learning about the moon phases and eclipses. They will be having a test on the moon within the week. The next unit the students will be focusing on is DNA and inherited traits.

Social Studies- students have been learning about colonization of North America. In **Literature**, we have been reading "The Witch of Blackbird Pond."

Eight Grade News

Skills- The students are currently working on their unit four words. They had their unit 2 test on November 1. Their report cards reflect the grade that the student received on units one, two, and three tests.

Science- The students just finish their paper roller coasters in class which help the student learn about energy transformations. The students will be to be spending more time in the science lab with their new unit of study. The new unit is about STEAM education. To help make this unit as

effective as it can be, I am asking students to save and bring in any cardboard, shoe boxes, various sizes of plastic bottles, plastic milk cartons, paper towel/ toilet paper rolls, newspaper, and other recyclable materials.

Social Studies, we have been looking at the reform movements that emerged after the Second Great Awakening.

In **Literature** we have continued reading "Little Women."