

# ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

[www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org](http://www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org)

Cindy Richard, Principal  
April 28, 2023



## Principal's News

Spring is here and there's an energy in the building. The students are busily engaged in learning and enjoying getting to be outdoors and enjoying our new playground. The playground is completely installed and the students are loving the new addition to their outside time. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the installation and fundraising for this. It is a wonderful addition to our school!

Our bookfair has been a great success. We met our goal, and the library and classrooms will benefit by your generosity. They will receive extra books because of the fair's success. A special thank you to Mrs. Conroy for organizing the fair, it was a big project to take on. Thank you to the volunteers who helped all week. It was amazing to see the joy on our students' faces when they came with their class to the fair. This is the first of many bookfairs in our future. It was a great week of reading at Saint Paul's with the classrooms focused on reading and their activities surrounding ready.

May brings many exciting opportunities to our community.

## Continued Principal News...

We will begin the month with a May Crowning on Tuesday, May 2nd at 8:45AM. The Middle School will attend Mass on Friday, May 5th and our all-school Mass will be on Ascension Thursday, May 18th.

The very exciting new activity happening is our Spring Play. The Jungle Book will be presented on May 19th at 7 PM. The students and Mrs. Vargas and Mrs. Sanberg have been working very rigorously to prepare for this production. Come out and see a great play and support our students. They are amazing and it will be a very special night. It is so fantastic to be able to have a play at school again.

Our next PALS meeting is Wednesday, May 24th at 6:30. Please plan to attend and being part of our wonderful Saint Paul Parent Group. We will be planning our end of the year activities. We would love to have your input. We are finishing off May with our Spring Walkathon on May 26th. The details are included on an attached flyer. The Fall Walkathon was a huge success so I know the Spring Walkathon will be even better. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to help for part of our day.

The spring is always very busy but every day I take a few minutes to make sure I am seeing and acknowledging all the good that is happening every single day at Saint Paul School. Our wonderful teachers work so hard and are committed to providing an excellent Catholic education to our students. I am fortunate to witness this happening daily to see the love grow within our community. This really is a very special place for your children to learn and grow in their faith.

Our registration is ongoing and some of our grades are filling up. Please send in your registration as soon as possible so we can guarantee all your children a spot for next year!

It is truly a blessing to be at Saint Paul School every day. Thank you for your support.

## *In the month of May we honor Mary*



## PreK 3&4 News



We had an amazing month of April learning! We had so much fun with Easter activities, including our Holy Week lessons and having Mrs. Bradley share her story with us! The children enjoyed our Easter egg hunt and all our Holy Week activities, as well as leading a school prayer service!

The children did an excellent job during our Reading Week celebrations too! They loved walking over to Hall Library and participating in our letter scavenger hunt! We finished out the month with a look at how rain is good for our environment and using our new playground equipment! In May, we are getting ready to celebrate our moms! We will look at how flowers grow, learn more about caterpillars and butterflies and other insects. We will also be getting some other surprises ready for the students as well!

## Kindergarten News



April has flown by here in Kindergarten! So many exciting activities and learning have been

happening this past month. In Phonics we focused on letters H and L along with words ending in double l and initial blends. In math, we finished chapter 5 which was about numbers to 31. We worked on using different methods to count to 31 as well as writing these numbers. The last week of April, we began our chapter about addition. The students are very excited to learn how to add numbers and objects together. They are doing an amazing job with this chapter so far. In religion, we talked about the three most important days in the church year and Easter. We talked about why Easter is important and what we do to celebrate this special time. During our last week of April, Kindergarten has become home to five new caterpillars. We began our Butterfly unit talking about the life cycle of a butterfly, the parts of the butterfly and completing a KWL Chart (What we know, what we wonder, and what we learned). We will fill out the learned portion once our caterpillars turn into butterflies. The students will be completing an observation journal throughout the process, and we will watch our caterpillars become beautiful butterflies soon.

Next month, we are looking forward to our Spring Field trip, learning more about butterflies, learning about Mary Jesus' mother, and beginning to prepare for our celebration in June.



## First Grade News



First grade has been working hard all this month! We started off the month with many Easter activities. The students had a visit from the Sight Word Easter bunny! They had to find all of our sight words hidden on eggs around the classroom. We also did a peep experiment, where we observed peeps in various liquids overtime. Some first graders also got the opportunity to read during our Holy Thursday prayer service. This was a very special moment for first grade, because it was their chance to show how well they can read, especially on such an important day of the year.

In phonics, we have been learning about Diphthongs and have discovered that we already know so many words with those sounds! In math, we started our chapter about shapes and solid figures. In honor of Earth Day, first grade learned about how to properly recycle and compost. We are now preparing for our seed and plant unit, where we will observe the life cycle of a plant in our own classroom!

We are looking forward to May and to the end of the school year. First grade will be very busy learning new sounds, time, and money next month. We will be preparing for second grade!





## Second Grade News



With Spring vacation, April was a short but busy month for Second Grade. We celebrated Jesus this month through Holy week and Easter. Our class participated in the Holy Prayer Service with ELF. This included prayer readings to honor Jesus's life and sacrifice. Second graders are having a blast playing on the new playground. During Reading week, we dedicated each day to a special theme such as silly sock day, pajama day/ cereal box donation, wearing positive words, and more. Our book fair was a huge hit with the students. It is wonderful to see so much excitement about books!!

In Religion, second graders wrote each day about the Holy Week events such as how they would feel and what they would say to Jesus if they were there. In our book, we learned about showing love and respect to others. Many students will be making their first communion next month, so we studied the importance of the Eucharist and how special it truly is. For Math, we have been working hard on mastering regrouping with subtraction, chain operations, and problem-solving skills.

In Language and Literacy, as we began a new Reading Unit, students learned how to determine plot/theme and what they represent. We learned more about different types of pronouns, contractions, and applying them to their writing. In Phonics, we have studied double vowels, long o sound (oa,oe,ow) and digraphs ph,gh,nk,ng. Second graders are about

to become authors by writing a book to be published. As we work to meet our publishing deadline, we are busy finalizing our rough drafts.

For Social Studies, we learned about Easter traditions, being different, and Earth Day. In Science, the class learned egg facts along with coloring easter eggs. Students learned earth facts and layers of the earth. As we learned about the earth, we learned about ways to care for the earth by recycling, reuse, and reducing.

Next month, our spring field trip will start the month as we look forward to celebrating Mother Mary in many ways, publishing our book, and outdoor activities.



## Grade 3 News

April has come and gone quickly but Third grade is welcoming May!

In Reading, students have been exposed to historical inspired and nonfiction texts. They discovered how Basketball was invented and were truly surprised (as students are avid basketball players during recess). Students worked on persuasive pieces in Writing using the P.I.E technique and held great debates.

In Math, students are learning their 8 and 9 tables and have mastered their 0-7 tables! Students have continued with 1 and 2 step word problems focusing on the givens, goals, labels, and equations to be able to solve their tricky work problems.

In Spelling, students are on their 28th week of taking spelling tests! This week we are focusing on Homophones. Also, this week students are able to enjoy Saint Paul's 1st Book Fair as it ties into Reading week!

Third graders will be learning new reading strategies to help them with their higher order thinking comprehension abilities.

Third graders are now enjoying their lovely new playground during recess time and are absolutely enjoying every minute of it! Students also enjoyed their Spring Break and created new memories with their family and friends!

Third Grade is looking forward too and welcoming what May has to offer us!

## Grade 4 News



Happy Spring! Grade Four has loved playing on the new playground equipment. It is such a joy to see them enjoying the outdoors and truly playing with each other.

We have been busy this Reading Week! Grades 3-5 tied Earth Day into our festivities as we read *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, planted seeds in soil, created our own truffula trees, wrote how we could help the earth, discussed the theme of the book and enjoyed watching the movie. Not to mention, we attended the Book Fair, read with our Pre-K-4 buddies, and Dropped Everything And Read (DEAR).

We are wrapping up our work with division and will begin to work on probability, fractions, measurements, graphs and lots of other fun math skills.

We finished our read-a-loud book A Single Shard. It truly was a beautiful story about eventual acceptance and belonging.

The students did a wonderful job on their Southwest Region mini projects. Next up, the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes Region.

## Grade 5 News



April showers bring May flowers! Can you believe May is almost here? April showers came at the perfect time because Fifth grade planted flower seeds for Earth Day! We hope they will be sprouting just as May begins.

Our theme for Reading Week this year is "The Lorax". The Lorax teaches us how we need to be kind to the earth. During this week we read the book, as well as watched the movie "The Lorax", planted flower seeds, cleaned up trash around the school yard, made bookmarks and did a Lorax craft. The Rhode Island Resource and Recovery Center also came by and gave a great presentation about recycling to third, fourth and fifth grades. During this week we also read and learned a lot about keeping the earth clean because we only get

one earth! Going along with the "earth theme" in science we are learning about ecosystems, what makes them and how they "work".

In math we have moved on from adding and subtracting fractions to multiplying and dividing them. This is a tricky task but with hard work and practice fifth grade will pass with flying colors.

In social studies we finished learning about the explorers that came to the Americas and are moving on to American Colonies. The New England Colonies are up first, and fifth grade is excited to learn about them since we live in New England!

We are continuing our Mondays with adoration in the afternoon. The students enjoy this time where they can clear their mind and talk to God. In class we will be learning about how we celebrate our Penance and Reconciliation and how we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Did you know that during these times we turn our hearts and minds to God? Each day as we pray, we are doing as God would want us to do and becoming closer to him.

Fifth grade is excited for what we have coming up and cannot believe the school year is almost over. Stay tuned for our Mother's Day project!



## Middle School News



**Grade 6 Religion:** This month's religion lessons focused on leaders who made a difference in the lives of the Israelites. We read about Joshua and the fall of Jericho, Deborah, who was the judge who was chosen by God to remind the Israelites to keep the covenant, and Samson, also a judge, who was known for his great strength. Next month we will turn our attention to Mary.

**Grade 6 Social Studies:** We have been looking at the ancient cultures and civilizations of North and South America. Students have explored the different geographical regions of the Americas including the deserts, mountains, plains, forests, jungles, rainforests, and tundra. Students have been paying close attention to how geography influences a culture from style of dress, diet, and building materials for homes. Students have also been looking at nomadic tribes versus stationary groups. Ask your learner about some of the different Native American cultures they have learned about, such as the Aztec, Inca, Maya, Anasazi, Iroquois, Mohawk, Mississippians, etc.

**Grade 6 Literature:** Students have been continuing to read both independently and audibly the third installment of Jennifer Nielsen's Ascendance series, "Shadow Throne". King Jaron's country of Carthy is wracked with war with the neighboring countries of Avenia and Mendenwal. Avenia has even gone so far as to kidnap King Jaron's closest friends. Will Princess Amarinda be able to sneak through enemy lines to secure help from the country of Bymar? Will Jaron give up hope when

he fears what he loves most may be lost forever? Ask your learner about this exciting fantasy tale!

**Grade 7 Social Studies** Students have finished their unit on the American Revolution. They learned about the major battles and turning points in the war, as well as the differences in advantages and disadvantages held by the British and American forces. Students are also looking forward to their upcoming field trip on May 16, when they will be able to walk the first battlefields of the American Revolutionary War and explore the visitor center. Students are now learning about the consequences of the war. How does a new nation create a government from scratch? Who is the government meant to serve, and how? How do the ideals of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness translate into a ratified constitution? Students will next be looking at the origins of American Federalism, in the wake of the failures of the Articles of Confederation. Some questions that will come up include, where does a government's power come from? How can powers be separated, but still effective?

**Grade 7 Literature:** Students have been reading "Little House on the Prairie" by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Students have been practicing their independent reading skills by listening to a chapter read aloud, then reading the next chapter independently. Comprehension is being assessed by worksheets, and so far, student comprehension has been very good! Parents should be seeing this work go home - about two worksheets should be going home per week with scores related to their reading comprehension. Students also participated in fun activities for each day of Reading Week.

**Grade 8 Social Studies:** Students just wrapped up a fun unit on the settling of the American West. They engaged with a PBS series called

"Frontier House" which documented three modern families who agreed to live on Montana homesteads with only technology that would have been available to homesteaders in or before 1883. Students learned about the Homestead Act, the relocation of Indigenous American groups, the ranchers' rights, and the challenges faced by the Americans who hoped to be able to survive on the American frontier. Now, students are starting a unit on the Rise of Industry. Students will be learning about how industrialization and urbanization changed the face of the United States politically, geographically, economically, culturally, and technologically.

**Grade 8 Literature** Students have been reading "Little House on the Prairie" in conjunction with their unit on homesteading on the American Frontier. Many of the challenges faced by the Ingalls family mirror the challenges students have learned about in Social Studies class. Students have been practicing their independent reading skills by listening to a chapter read aloud, then reading the next chapter independently. Comprehension is being assessed by worksheets, and so far, student comprehension has been very good! Parents should be seeing this work go home - about two worksheets should be going home per week with scores related to their reading comprehension. Students also participated in fun activities for each day of Reading Week.

### **Grade 7 & 8 Religion**

April was a very busy month! Students attend Eucharist Adoration each Monday, and during the season of Lent, students went to Stations of the Cross every Friday. Students also have been reciting and memorizing the "Saint Michael" prayer each day, to build upon their catalog of Catholic prayers. At this point in the year, all students have been saying a daily Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace before

meals, and now the Saint Michael prayer. Students also have been working on their community service goals, as Jesus commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Students helped the ELF program by setting up their yearly easter egg hunts and were buddies for younger grades when going to mass. We also have started chapter 6 in our Religion Books, in which we look at the 7th-10th commandments, and what they mean to us. Next, the Month of May is the Month of Mary! Students will be participating in devotions to Mary and will practice praying the Rosary.

### **Grades 6,7,8 Skills**

This month the middle school grammar classes focused on clauses and verbals. The sixth graders practiced identifying simple, compound, and complex sentences as well as trying to locate the main and dependent clauses. The seventh and eighth graders learned the three types of verbals. They practiced identifying participles, gerunds and infinitives and learned what part of speech each one represented. We continue to work on new vocabulary words every two weeks. We concluded our thirteenth unit at the end of April.

### **Grades 6, 7 & 8 Science**

Students completed their science experiments, the write ups, and the presentation of information on the science boards. All did a splendid job! Congratulations to the following winners:  
Grade 6 1st pl - Alex Briones and Julien Arteaga  
2nd pl - Daniel Graham  
Grade 7 1st pl - Mila Cedeno  
2nd pl - Elijah Amoury  
3rd pl - Wyatt Eldredge  
Grade 8 1st pl - Andrea DeLosRios and Layla Ali Rose  
2nd pl - Lauren Gleekia



## Physical Education



Grade six students began learning about the world's various biomes and their ecosystems. Students will have the opportunity to investigate one specific ecosystem and recreate it. Their projects will be due in early May.

Seventh and eighth graders began the unit on motion. They will be learning about speed, velocity, and acceleration.

## Middle School Math

The sixth grade has started learning how the fraction bar is a symbol for division. When the numerator of a fraction is divided by the denominator, the quotient is expressed as a decimal. So, any fraction, even those whose denominators are not powers of 10, can be renamed as a decimal. Then they learned how any fraction or mixed number can be renamed as a decimal, so the opposite is true; any decimal can be renamed as a fraction or as a mixed number. The students were then able to express decimals as fractions or mixed numbers in simplest form.

The 7th and 8th grade have started GRAPHING! One of the most essential concepts to understand moving forward in their math journey. We went over the lessons of ordered pairs, x-axis, y-axis, Y-intercepts, X-intercepts, slopes, Y-intercept form, and standard form. They learned all the meanings of the words and concepts then had an abundance of practice on the graphs identifying intercepts, points, and slopes.

I cannot believe that the year is winding down so quickly. We have not changed much in PE since the last newsletter as we are continuing to work on our skills.

PreK 3 and 4 are continuing to work on fine and gross motor skills. I have introduced tennis balls and bean bags for them to practice more of their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination.

K-2 have just begun a parachute unit where we will be working on cooperation and following a sequence of directions.

Grades 3-8 are finishing a floor hockey unit and will be starting whiffle ball next week.

## Library & Computer



What a beautiful month we have had as we welcome spring!

In Computer Class, we talked about the importance of being safe online and what we need to do if we ever feel uncomfortable. We also discussed why learning about computers is a fundamental skill we should all learn for today's world.

In Library Class, we read another crazy turkey story "Turkey's Eggcellent Easter" by Wendi Silvano where we disguised our turkey behind a beautifully decorated egg afterwards. 4th and 5th grade made Book Spine Poetry this month to celebrate Poetry Month which was hilarious and well received.

The Bookworm Club has ended for this school year! Thank you to all the kids who participated and came! I look forward to next year when we do it again!

Lastly, a BIG thank you to all the parents who volunteered for the Book Fair! We had an amazing turnout and am so appreciative of everyone's help! We raised over \$500 for the school through this fair!

As always, more information can be found on the library website: <https://sites.google.com/stpaulcranston.org/stpaulslibrary/home>





Shoutout to the “Sweet & Sour Sisters” AKA- Lucy, Rosie and Hilary- for their amazing business initiative. They helped raise money for the St. Paul Drama Club by running their own concession stand over the weekend! Well done, ladies!

