

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

Cindy Richard, Principal
May 31, 2024



Principal's News

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we near the end of another enriching academic year here at Saint Paul School, we reflect with gratitude and joy on the many blessings we have experienced together as a school community. It has been a year filled with growth, learning, and faith-building moments, and we're thrilled to share some highlights with you.

Academic Achievements: Our students have excelled academically, demonstrating their dedication and hard work in various subjects. From mastering mathematical concepts to exploring the wonders of literature, they have shown remarkable progress and a thirst for knowledge that inspires us all. Our Spanish, Art, library, Computer, and Physical Education classes enriched each student's learning.

This month we were thrilled with our middle school Science Fair and Egg Drop Demonstration, the fourth and fifth grade Global Day and all our many Elf program activities to include a France Day and a campout with an exploration day and a picnic day. Many classes have experienced field trips. The middle school went to Battleship Cove and the third, fourth, and fifth grade went to the

Continued Principal News...

State House. Earlier this year the entire school attended the ballet, *The Night Before Christmas*.

Faith Formation: At the heart of our school's mission is the commitment to nurturing our students' faith. Throughout the year, we have provided numerous opportunities for spiritual growth, including weekly Mass, prayer services, and service projects. Our students have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm, deepening their relationship with God and living out the values of compassion and service. We are grateful for the religious enrichment Father Woodhouse and Saint Paul's Faith Formation Program have contributed to making our school a stronger Catholic faith filled school.

Community Engagement: This year, our school community came together in beautiful ways to support one another and those in need. Whether through fundraising efforts, donating to local charities with food drives, or participating in outreach programs, our students, parents, and staff have embodied the spirit of love and solidarity that defines our Catholic faith.

Special Events and Celebrations: Our students' experience has been enriched by the many special celebrations we have enjoyed this year. This Fall we had our Walk-a-thon, Trunk n' Treat, our Thanksgiving feast, Breakfast with Santa, our Family Dance, Spelling Bee, Catholic Schools Week, our wonderful school play (*Willy Wonka*), our kindergarten Mother's Day Tea just to name a few. It has been a whirlwind of community and fellowship. I also want to make sure to mention our Cross Country Team. It was a fantastic season for our runners. We have celebrated our students' talents, creativity, and achievements,

creating lasting memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Gratitude and Recognition: We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff, whose tireless efforts have made this year a success. Their passion for education and love for our students are truly commendable. We are blessed to have teachers and staff who give above and beyond their job description every day. We also express our gratitude to our supportive parents and guardians, whose partnership and involvement are invaluable. We marked the conclusion of another successful academic year with various end-of-year celebrations. From graduation to class picnics and field day celebrating friendships and achievements, these events provided opportunities for our students to come together in joy and camaraderie.

We will miss our graduates and they know they always are welcome back to Saint Paul's. Congratulations to them!

Looking Ahead: As we bid farewell to another school year, we eagerly anticipate the adventures that await us in the year to come. Next year is going to bring some exciting additions to our school. We will be enhancing our technology by providing laptops to our students and we will be enhancing our curriculum by transitioning technology into each classroom with new projectors and monitors. There will also be a student information system for parents to access classroom information and to improve our communications. There will be more information to share as school begins in the next academic year. We have also hired a very experienced

fifth grade teacher with a strong background in math and science. With faith as our guide, we embark on the journey ahead, confident in the knowledge that God's grace will continue to light our path.

In closing, let us remember the words of Saint Catherine of Siena: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." May we continue to inspire and be inspired by the light of Christ, shining brightly in our hearts and in our school community.

Wishing you all a blessed and joy-filled summer.

In Peace,
Cindy Richard

PreK 3 & 4 News



Happy May! We cannot 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 to celebrate Mary as a school community. Our butterfly and insect units were great fun, especially being able to search for them outside! We are finishing our month with PreK 4 traveling to France and PreK 3 going camping and to 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 invite families to our celebration on Tuesday, June 11th at 9:00 a.m. in the school auditorium; this is the final day of school for our students, and they are**

immediately dismissed following our program that morning! Please watch for additional information!



Kindergarten News

Happy May! How fast did this year go? It feels like yesterday was the first day of kindergarten and now we are inching towards our last day. The month of May had many memorable moments. We started this month honoring Mother Mary by having our May Crowning with the whole school. In class, we talked about the Blessed Mother and why she is so special to us. We also celebrated Mother's Day by having a Mother's Day Tea Party! It was a beautiful and special day. In ELA, we added many new sight words and worked on differentiating the letter sound e and i along with j and g. In math, we introduced the topic of addition and subtraction. We worked on using different strategies to help us when adding and subtracting. In Science, we started and finished our Butterfly Unit. By the end of the month, we had six beautiful butterflies named Stripes, Angel, Sprinkles, Violet, Sam, and Inchy. We loved watching the life cycle of a butterfly transform right before our eyes.

May also started our Backwards Alphabet Countdown to our Graduation Day! Some of our favorite days so far include picnic day, show, and tell day, and Tie Dye Day.

We are looking forward to enjoying the last two weeks of kindergarten and cannot wait to share some of our favorite moments with all of you at our Graduation.



First Grade News

May has been a long and busy month for first grade! This month we have finished learning all our diphthong sounds! We also have been writing our own books and practicing our story telling skills. In math, we completed our unit on money. We learned the names, faces, and values of all the coins. Students even went to our own class shop to practice using coins! Now, we have moved on to telling time. We learned how to tell time by the hour and by the half hour. In science, we completed our plant unit! We ended our unit by observing the Zinnia plants we grew in our classroom. We also compared baby jalapeño and tomato plants by using a Venn diagram. Additionally, we started our last science unit on the solar system! So far, we have talked about the planets, stars, the sun, the moon, and more. We created our own solar systems, constellations, and soon our own planets! We have been having so much fun this month, but we are also preparing to be second graders. We are looking forward to June and all the exciting end of the year activities.

Second Grade News



Wow! The school year is coming to an end so quickly! Second graders have 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 crowning Mary with some special prayers and songs. Congratulations to the students who celebrated their First Communion on May 5! Another happening, our second graders are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our published book from Studenttreasures Publishing. The title of their book is *FRIENDS*. Each child contributed to creating a memory of friendships and what friendship means to them with illustrations. 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 nonfiction and realistic fiction. We discussed story elements that include 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 on money by counting on, making change, and comparing amounts. Additionally, second grade is working on telling time this month in various ways. In Social studies, the class celebrated Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Students made a special You Are My Sunshine craft for Mom with canvas art that involved paint and fairy lights. We learned about the ways of honoring Veterans and the importance of their services to our country's history. In addition, we explored the evolution of the U.S. flag throughout the years. As well as the Star-Spangled Banner history. We had lessons on family responsibility, taking care of pets, and citizenship. For Science, the class investigated insects such as ladybugs, fireflies, and butterflies.

Second graders explored components of plant and animal cells with a comparison for life science. We discovered the classification of animals that include vertebrates and invertebrates.

Next month, we look forward to celebrating the Sacred Heart of Jesus and special daily activities making more memories as we countdown to summer!!



Grade 3 News



The 2023-2024 academic school year for third grade is coming to an end. This school year in particular flew by. Students are still focusing on their major subject areas such as Math, Religion, Reading, Spelling, Social Studies, and Science.

In Spelling, students will be taking their week #34 on prefixes, suffixes, and endings. Students are currently reading a nonfiction story called "Talking Walls for the People" which specifically focuses on text features. Students were highly interested in learning about the definitions of glossary, diagram, index, and subtitle headings.

In Social Studies, third grade students presented their state projects. All students did a fantastic job on these and it was fascinating to learn about the 5 fun facts they choose about each state. Grades 3-5 attended the State House as a recent field trip. Third Grade thoroughly enjoyed participating in the mock trial for the House and to vote on legislation.

Myself and the rest of third grade are looking forward to the fun filled activities that June will bring as we come to the end of the school year. I will miss you my third-grade squish-melons but I am looking forward to seeing you next year in fourth grade! Happy Summer! Love, Ms. G



Grade 4 & 5 News

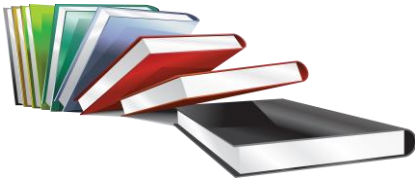
May has been jam packed with some amazing things. We began by joining our PreK-4 buddies in song for the May Crowning to ring in the Month of Mary.

Grade 5 then read for the Mass of the Ascension of Jesus the following week.

The school watched the incredible performances of our talented actors and actresses as they performed a dress rehearsal of Willy Wonka for them, and later that same day for family and friends. Congratulations to all who helped to make Willy Wonka such a success!

To cap the month off, grades 3-5 went to the State House where they were lead on a tour of our state's capital where they saw the original charter to set up the colony of RI and participated in a mock session of the House with Rep. McNamara. It was an amazing field trip. Special thanks to Mr. Cruz for supplying safe passage!

Middle School News



Grades 6th, 7th, & 8th

Math/Science: It is finally the end of the year! The science fair was a huge success! We will have completed the Egg Drop Challenge on Wednesday, May 29th. We are all gearing up for finals in science and math. Even though it was not a typical year, we all learned a lot. I look forward to many more fun activities in the future. Have a great summer 😊

Grade 6 Social Studies: We have finished our last Ancient World unit on Ancient Rome! Students learned about the geography, culture, and government of the Ancient Romans

and took their Chapter 7 Tests.

Students have been busy studying for their final exams, which will test them on all the information we have covered this year. Their final exams focus on major themes of their studies, such as the roles that rivers play in providing fertile soil for planting a surplus of crops, rather than on small details. As the year ends, I want to thank all of you for sharing your wonderful children with me! They have learned a lot this year! Please remember to submit their registration forms for next school year!

Grade 6 Literature: Students finished "The Runaway King" and will be working on book reports due the last week of school. They will have ample class time to work on this project in class. Students have come far this year with their skills in reading comprehension and summarizing. Next year, we will focus on identifying themes and relating literature to places and time.

Grade 7 Social Studies: Students wrapped up their studies this year with a unit on the early Industrial Revolution, and how regions in the Northeast industrialized by establishing factories along the fast-running rivers and streams. We contrasted this industrialization with the agrarian economy of the South, especially the significance of the cotton crop. Students have since been busy prepping for their final exams, which will test them on all the major topics we have gone over this year. Please remember to turn in registration forms for next year!

Grade 7 Literature: Students have been finishing their independent reading units and completed book reports to reflect the themes of the book that they chose to read. We had a great year, and I am looking forward to having your learners return next year for eighth grade so we can read "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott! (They already visited her house on their sixth-grade field trip!)

Grade 7 Skills: Students finished Unit 14 in their vocabulary books and are ready to move on to the next vocabulary book for eighth grade. Their test booklets have been returned to them.

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students finished their studies this year with urbanization, unionization, and immigration. We read through primary sources about urban life at the turn of the 20th century and examined the role of graft and laissez-faire on the wealth gap during the Gilded Age. Students have been preparing for their final exams, which cover all the major material we have gone over this year.

Grade 8 Literature Students completed their independent reading unit with book reports, and they did a great job! We also read an excerpt of Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" and did a short research report on the effects of this novel on US policy regarding food safety. They have come such a far way this year and I am so proud of each and every one of them!

Grade 8 Skills: Students have completed up to Unit 12 in their vocabulary books and have had their test booklets returned to them.

Grades 6,7&8 Science:

Grades 7 & 8 Religion Students continue to meet weekly with Father Woodhouse, Mrs. Rowell, and Sister Esmerelda. Students have also been studying and prepping for their religion final exams, in which they will be writing a prayer and writing a reflective essay based on the Ten Commandments.

Physical Education

As the year winds down, it is hard to believe how quickly it has gone by. As always, we have been busy and working hard in PE. Pre-K 3 and PreK 4 and Kindergarten continue to work on their locomotor movements and spatial awareness during their warmup tag game at the start of every class. After tag, the students work on some gross motor and fine motor skills during station work or organized games. These skills include bouncing and catching larger bouncy balls or a small tennis ball, kicking, hula hoop, jump rope, rolling, tossing, and aiming. Many of the students have made great progress from the beginning of the year. It is always exciting to see the younger students achieve success when they have been working on a skill and finally succeed. Grades 1 and 2 also start class with a warmup tag game to get their blood flowing and muscles warm. During the last few weeks of school, we will be playing many of the students favorite games they learned throughout the year. These games work on many sports specific skills such as throwing and catching, kicking, rolling, throwing to a target, striking and spatial awareness. A few of the students favorite games are Jedi Knight, Castle Ball and Gaga Ball. Grades 3-8 will have their third round and end of the year fitness testing during the first week of June. The students will perform as many sit-ups as they can in one minute, and as many push-ups they can do until they cannot do anymore using the correct form. We will finish the year playing some of the students favorite games, and as always, looking forward to ending the year with a fabulous field day.

Library

Happy warm weather & Spring season!

I want to begin by thanking everyone for their support during the bookfair in

April! We reached our goal of over \$3500 in sales on our last day during the Sip and Stroll event! This is the biggest and only fundraiser we have for the library and every bit counts! Because of our success, over 400 new books have been added to our library collection for the following school year!

Our annual bookmark challenge is underway! Grades 3 and up create a bookmark based on a book they have read. A different class will then come in and vote on their favorite one. Those with the most votes will receive enough copies of their bookmark to hand out. In the end, each student gets two bookmarks to keep: their own and the winners!

This year, instead of the bookmark challenge, 1st and 2nd graders participated in a Flat Stanley Adventure. After reading the book, each student created their own Flat Stanley to then bring on an adventure. I was so impressed by all the fun places they brought their paper friends! We had visits to Newport, karate and gymnastic classes, Dunkin Donuts, 5K races, lots of ice cream visits and more! This prompted a lot of discussion about our state and where we go!

As for our eighth-grade students, we finally wrapped up "The Giver" and are now watching the movie. We will have just enough class time before they graduate!

Thanks for a wonderful year!

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

Spanish

As the academic year is coming to a close, students have been enjoying their final weeks of classes. These students have worked hard, and I am so proud of all their accomplishments. Pre k and kindergarten classes have wrapped up the animals unit and are going on to the final unit which is learning about different foods. Elementary students have been finishing the movie "Encanto" and are ready to finish their last unit, which is based on different types of Spanish Culture. 4th and 5th graders have been finishing their numbers and telling time units and are ready to go on to the next unit, which is Culture of Mexico and Spain. Texts will be provided by the teacher! Middle school students have just wrapped up on learning interrogative words. For the next few classes left they will be working on a comprehensive packet on AR verbs. This packet will help them prepare for the next level of Spanish next year!



REGISTRATION OPEN
St. Paul Parish
Vacation Bible Camp

June 24th-28th
8:30am-11:30am

All children currently in PreK (age 4) through grade 4 are invited to camp, students currently in grades 5-7 are invited to be crew leaders (small group leaders), and students currently in grades 8-12 are invited to lead activity stations such as outdoor games, art, skits, music, snack and more. Student-leaders who participate all week can earn up to 25 community service hours while having fun! The cost is \$50/one camper, \$75/two sibling campers, \$100/three or more sibling campers. There is **NO FEE** for student-leaders, but donations of any amount are gratefully accepted.

Registration forms are available at the entrances to the church and in both the rectory and school offices. For more information contact Fran Rowell in the Faith Formation office at 941-5576 or faithform@saintpaulcranston.org.



Positions Available

We are looking for teacher assistants for Pre-K and Kindergarten for next year and positions in the afterschool program. If you or anyone you know that may be interested, please contact Mrs. Richard.