

# ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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

John F. Corry, Principal  
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## Principal's News

As I often say to everyone over the last several months, I hope all is well with you and your family. It's sad to say, but we are coming up very soon on the anniversary of the day we no longer took our everyday lives for granted. It was last March when our world changed forever. And it was during the month before in February of last year when we just started to hear about the word coronavirus soon to be known more by the name, covid-19. Let's hope to God we don't have to have another anniversary on it next year!

On a brighter note, **Catholic Schools Week** begins next week. However, this year will be vastly different than years past. We usually begin the week off with our faculty and staff attending Mass on Sunday followed by an Open House at school for a few hours for both new and or existing families to visit and stop by. But not this year. Instead, we have developed a **Guided Virtual Tour** which will give new families the opportunity to at least see our school without having to visit in person--which we can't do at this time. But, beginning in April, we hope to start giving tours once again. Maybe by that time the vaccine will be more readily available for everyone.

## Continued Principal News...

And at least the weather will be getting better and we'll have all the windows open to let in the fresh springtime air! Please check our website at [www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org](http://www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org) for not only viewing the tour, but to see the latest updates on the weeks and months ahead.

**Registration Forms** will be going home on Friday, February 12, please be on the look-out for them in your child's backpack. We have kept the tuition the same for the 5th year in a row. The **Registration Fee** is still at **\$150** which we use to purchase books and computer license fees for every student. We hope to go back to our regular class sizes by next September, especially for our Pre-K 3 & 4 yr. old and Kindergarten programs.

It's also that time for families who are looking for Financial Assistance for the 2021-2022 school year to begin applying for aid. Go to [www.factsmgt.com](http://www.factsmgt.com) at a fee of \$35 to apply. It only takes 20-25 minutes of your time and depending on your finances you could receive anywhere from \$600 to \$1,500 worth of \$ assistance towards your child's tuition next year. Even if you don't get any financial assistance the first time around, because you applied you could and may still qualify for St. Paul Parish Assistance.

If you belong to St. Paul Parish and attend Mass there, you will also receive parish assistance too. And if you even belong to another parish in the Diocese that doesn't have a school, you can ask that Pastor if he can help you out with tuition for your child who is attending St. Paul School. They should give you something!

And last but not least, with February upon us, we should more than likely start seeing some snow heading our way. I can't see us going through February without something resembling snow or sleet in the coming weeks. And remember, we will contact the TV stations if we don't have any school or delays along with sending you both a text and a recorded message to your cell phone too. As I have said many times throughout the years, we don't follow either Cranston or Providence School District Schedules. My decision to cancel school or have a delay will rest solely on the safety of our students and their families along with our school faculty and staff.

**SAY CHEESE!**



*School Pictures  
Wednesday,  
February 3rd*

## Pre-K 3 & 4 News



Happy New Year and Welcome Back! It was wonderful to see all of 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 talked about mittens, hot chocolate and ended our month with a look at some polar animals. We will be sending home our first progress reports for your children; these are based on observations of your child in the classroom. We are looking forward to February, where we will talk about hearts and Valentine's Day. We will also celebrate Catholic Schools Week and have some special days planned for that week! We hope that everyone stays healthy!



## Kindergarten News



Happy New Year!!

Although we started this month off distance learning, kindergarten is happily back into their routine with some practice. We are super excited to have art class on Friday afternoons. This makes fun Friday even more special.

In Language and Literacy, we are working hard to build confidence in our writing. The children practice sight words in various ways. We continue to read together in our decodable readers as the children point to the words. They also identify sight words and other key words in the sentences.

We completed Math chapter 3 on positional words moving on to chapter 4 with grouping and comparing numbers and amounts (using words such as fewer, more than, less than, etc.).

This month, we celebrated Martin Luther King Day for social studies. The class learned why that day is remembered in history, about Martin Luther King, and the importance of equality among people.

For Science, our class explored polar bears. We discussed where they live, what they eat, how they sleep, their babies and their physical characteristics. Then, the class did a fun art project making a polar bear face using cotton balls. This included two polar bear facts to practice writing.

In Religion, kindergarten talked about how special and unique we are individually. In addition, we learned

how we can all work together as a whole to help others in need. Our center time includes math, writing, phonics, and word work. In centers, we try to make learning fun with a variety of activities and materials.

Next week, we will celebrate Catholic Schools week in some fun ways each day.



## First Grade News



Happy New Year! We are so happy to be back at school, learning and playing with all of our classmates. We just wrapped up chapter 3 in our math books and will begin to learn about different types of data and graphs in chapter 4. We are starting unit 3 in our religion books and will be learning about lent and the special sacraments Jesus gave us. We have been learning about nouns and action verbs in our phonics lessons and are continuing to practice writing using complete sentences, capital letters, and finger spaces. In social studies, we learned about who Martin Luther King Jr. was and wrote our own dreams for our country. We also learned about polar bears and wrote a prompt about what it would be like to be a polar bear living in the Arctic. We are looking forward to the month of February

where we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week, Valentine's Day, and the start of Lent!

## Grade 2 News



We are all so happy to be back in the classroom together after some time at home doing distance learning.

Everyone has been doing a wonderful job adjusting back to our usual classroom routines and expectations and I am so proud of them! While we have been back, we have focused on the season of winter and have done winter art projects throughout the month. In social studies we learned about Martin Luther King Jr, his impact on our world and how his dreams are still being lived today. Recently, we learned about the inauguration process and about our new President and Vice President elects. We were able to watch the inauguration together last week and it was a super cool experience for all of us!

In Religion, we just finished our unit on the sacrament of Confirmation and now we will be focusing on the different seasons that we celebrate in the Catholic faith. We are about halfway through Unit 3 in our Reading Street Books and our grammar focus for the unit will be different kinds of verbs.

In January the math focus was graphing. We have learned how to record data and turn it into different kinds of graphs, such as a tally chart, a circle graph, and a bar graph. In vocabulary, we have just started Unit 6.

February will bring Valentine's Day celebrations, Catholic Schools Week, and learning about Black History Month. We are all looking forward to it!

## Grade 3 News



Happy New Year!!

We began the new year distance learning. Everyone worked hard and most attended the Zoom meetings. We couldn't wait to get back to school and was thrilled to see everyone in person. We got busy right away, decorating our classroom with lots of different kinds of snowmen and snowflakes. In writing, we were very creative with all our different stories about winter. Many of us can't wait for another big snowstorm!

This month in Math we continued to learn our multiplication and division facts, all the way to the 12 table. We really showed off our math skills when we had a Math Bee at the end of the month. It was so much fun! In Social Studies, we began learning all about Antarctica and penguins. In Science, we finished our unit on clouds and began to learn all about the water cycle. In Religion we are learning about all the different parts of the mass, and as always, continue to try to be the best version of ourselves and followers of Jesus.

We celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. We read stories and completed activities that told us all about him. We also wrote about our own dreams for a better future.

We watched some of the presidential inauguration and completed some fun and interesting activities. We prayed for the future of our country and peace throughout the world.

## Grade 4 News

Happy January! In Grade 4, we've been very busy. In Science, we are in our unit on The Water Cycle and Weather. The class is really enjoying working with PowerPoint presentations and interactive slides along with their textbook. They are very strong in Science and seem to really enjoy it, especially after completing our units on Ecosystems and The Systems of the Body. In Social Studies, we are working on The Midwest and using many reinforcements materials on our Google Classroom as well as Freckle and EPIC. The class will begin shortly working on the mini projects that go along with states in the Midwest. We just completed reading the chapter book aloud, *Holes*. We then watched the movie and completed an end of book assessment. We are now onto the journey of *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. The class loves to read aloud each morning. They're working very hard on in and out of class behavior and responsibility, keep up the great work Grade 4!

## Grade 5 News

February? Is it possible that it is already February? Though this is a shortened month, Grade 5 is going to try to pack a lot into it. It all begins with Catholic Schools Week and some fun activities. You will find the schedule for each day at the beginning of this newsletter in Mr. Corry's notes. If you have any questions about Catholic Schools Week, feel free to contact me.

February means Fractions. Okay, that's not really true for most people,

but it is true for Fifth Grade. We will be delving into fractions and will be incorporating what we have learned in our previous chapters to our upcoming lessons. Please continue to have your children study and memorize their multiplication tables. This will greatly benefit your child in math!

Even though it is still winter, we will be studying and learning about plants. What do plants need to survive? Why do we need plants? What's up with the Venus Flytrap? These and other questions will be answered as we "dig" into this topic.

Since we have finished learning about its exploration, we will now focus on the colonization of the New World and how that has affected the indigenous people, trade routes and the quest for power by European nations.

In religion, our studies on the Sacraments continues with understanding the importance of the Eucharist.

Our read-a-loud book is Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. It tells the story of a young boy living in Flint, MI during the Great Depression. It follows what happens to him after he escapes from a foster home where he was mistreated. The students are very interested to see what happens to Bud now that he is "on the lam".



## Middle School News

### Grade 6

**Science:** We just finished classification. We are about to start a mini-unit on the dichotomous key. They will most likely have a small project due before vacation.

**Math:** We have learned about the least common multiple this past month. We are going to start looking at comparing fractions and using operations with fractions.

**Religion:** The students are having a great time learning about their ancestors in faith and the many different stories about contained in the book of Genesis. They are just about finished with their study into the early accounts of the patriarchs and matriarchs. As of now they are learning about events ranging from Abraham's great act of faith to the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers saving them from destruction and famine.

**Skills:** The students have been staying focused, while having fun learning the vocabulary contained in unit 4. As of now they are practicing and working very hard to memorize the material and prepare for their coming test. Once they master the material found in unit 4, they will push on to increase their skills with a new set of 20 words contained in unit 5.

**Social Studies:** We finished up our chapter on Ancient China. Students

took their Tests and did well - the class average was an 86. Last week, we started our next unit on Ancient Greece. Students will be learning about the geography, culture, government, and economy while comparing Greek civilization to the civilizations we already have learned about this year. Some terms from this unit are: democracy, peninsula, epic, acropolis, city-state, agora, and Hellenistic.

**Literature:** we continue reading "The Runaway King", by Jenifer Neilson. When we finish this book, we will read the next book in the series. Ask your child if they think Jaron is a good leader? Why or why not? Ask your child if they believe it is better for a ruler to be feared or loved?

### Grade 7

**Science:** We have been working with matter and just made oobleck. The students had to determine if oobleck was a solid or a liquid. We are going to start looking at the periodic table of elements this month.

**Math:** We have been doing well working with integers and their operations. We are going to have a quiz on integers sometime the week before February vacation.

**Religion:** The class has successfully finished learning more about the Scriptures. Their primary focus has been developing a deeper understanding about the four gospels, with a particular emphasis on some of the similarities and differences between the general contents of each of the 4 gospels. In addition to that they have been looking into what it means to evangelize, and the different methods to do so.

**Skills:** The students have been not only working hard, but having fun. They are practicing their skills and finalizing their knowledge of the

material in unit 4 with the use of games and competition. Once they have displayed a firm grasp of the material they will be evaluated, (which should be in the near future), and then continue progressing onto unit 5.

**Social Studies:** We have analyzed the causes of the American Revolution, and have been taking some time to discuss how the war played out. We have discussed the British and Patriot advantages and disadvantages in battle, and we have also been differentiating between "ideals" and "reality" when it comes to discussions of liberty. Students will have an upcoming essay in which they will analyze the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence.

**Literature:** We finished reading the book "Puritan Girl/Mohawk Girl" by John Demos, which was a nonfiction book chronicling the life of Eunice Williams, who was kidnapped at age 7 in the year 1704, and lived the rest of her life as a Mohawk. We compared the cultures and societies of Puritans and Mohawks, as well as the various geo-political activities at the time. Ask your child about Mohawk weddings and naming ceremonies.

## Grade 8

**Science:** The students have been learning about Newton's Laws of Motion. After the break, they will start to apply his laws to an egg drop project.

**Math:** We have been working on integers as expressions and finding the missing term to make the math sentence make sense. We will continue finding the missing variables in February.

**Religion:** The class has just finished up the material in Chapter 4, consisting in taking a deeper dive into the first three Commandments. In

addition to that, they are learning about Jesus' great commandment – To love God with your whole heart, mind body, and soul, and to love neighbor as yourself. They have really taken to the material and worked to understand it. Following the evaluation of this section they will be delving further in into the second section of the 10 Commandments, which are commandments 4-10, with a particular focus on chastity.

**Skills:** The students have worked hard after the long Christmas break and finished the work contained in unit 4. They have also recently been evaluated on the unit's material and are now onto the next challenge – unit 5.

**Social Studies:** We just finished chapter 8, which detailed Westward Expansion in the years after the Civil War and Reconstruction. We just started Chapter 9, in which we will look at the rise of industrialization and the effects of immigration and urbanization around the turn of the twentieth century. We will look at economic theories like laissez-faire economics, as well as government intervention such as the Anti-Trust act.

**Literature:** We finished reading Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women." Students generally did very well with their final exams for the tests. We spent a week or so looking at "Little Women" in film and tv, and compared the literature to the films with a critical eye. Next, we will be starting a unit on short stories and poetry.