

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org
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John F. Corry, Principal
January 27, 2012



Principal's News

It certainly has been a very strange winter. Fortunately, we haven't had to deal with any major snowstorms so far this winter (hopefully, I didn't just jinx us!). All in all, it's been a very productive year, students are pretty much settled in and working on projects (Science Fair), studying for tests or working on book reports-as they should be.

Registration Forms went home two weeks ago for the 2012-2013 school year-can't believe we are discussing that already, but it is of the most importance that we do know who is returning next fall. For instance, our *Pre-K* is already full with a waiting list in effect. Pre-School (3 yr. olds) is filling up as well with Kindergarten not too far behind. As you can see, it is vital that we hear back from you sooner-than later. With **Open House** coming up this weekend, and continuing throughout the week, we expect a good turnout (several *new* families have called ahead already prepared to visit).

Continued Principal News...

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, it is crucial that you apply as soon as possible to **FACTS** for financial assistance www.factstuitionaid.com. In many cases, the more families that apply from our school at this time, the better the chances you may have in receiving financial assistance. The longer you wait, the less of a chance you may have-everyone should apply-you have nothing to lose except your time (about 30 minutes!).

OPEN HOUSE

Speaking of Open House, a full schedule of events is listed at the end of this newsletter. We have a pretty full schedule next week. Even though our **Open House is on Sunday, January 29th from 10:30-1pm**, we will still be available to give tours throughout the week to any new families interested in having their child attend our school. I say this to you so that if you happen to know someone interested in our school, please have them contact the school office to set up a tour.

CURRICULUM

We are currently in the process of aligning our curriculum with **Common Core State Standards**. It's a significant process as well as an increase in the purchase price of books we will be ordering this spring-after we have an accurate count of students committed to attending St. Paul School this fall. We will begin with both *Math* and *Skills* with grades K-8.

Home & School Association

Please join us for two special events in February. The Saint Paul Family Dance will be held on Friday, February 10 from 6:30pm until 8:30 pm. There will be fun, music, dancing and light refreshments. Tickets are \$5.00 per family. On Friday, February 17th come and join us for Saint Paul School night at the Providence Bruins. The P. Bruins will be playing the Hershey Bears at 7:05. Each child will receive a Providence Bruins hat. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Please contact Caroline LeStrange ASAP for tickets.

Wanted: Labels for Education coordinator. Labels for Education is a program which helps schools earn supplies and products for their school by collecting labels from food products (Campbell, Post, Dannon, Pepperidge Farm and more.) This is an opportunity for someone to work from home to help the school. The coordinator would need to collect labels, count and send in the labels and coordinate special promotional opportunities. For my information about the program, check out LabelsForEducation.com. If you might be interested please contact Caroline at moakri@cox.net or 785-9476.

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Preschool News

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a great start to the New Year. January has been a great month to get back into our routines and back to learning. We had a great time experimenting with snow and ice, exploring winter animals like penguins and polar bears and pretending that shaving cream was like snow. We even did some science with hot chocolate and blubber. We also worked on our math skills, using mittens and gloves. We have been working hard on writing our names, letters and numbers. We finished our month with a visit to Hall Library and our January artist of the month, Botticelli.

We are looking forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with the rest of the school. We also can't wait to help the residents of the Scandinavian home celebrate Valentine's Day by singing some songs that we have been practicing with Miss Dorazio and her guitar.

Pre-K News

Pre-K has been busy this month studying the life habits of animals in winter. We've also talked about how we keep warm in winter and some of the fun things we like to do!! We read "The Mitten", by Jan Brett and acted it out. The children stuffed themselves under one of our tables and pretended it was the white mitten. What fun they had squishing themselves together.



We're rounding out the month with our traditional 'Book-Swap'. Please remember to have your child choose a gently used book of theirs, sign and date it; wrap it in tissue to be ready to swap on January 30th. A special book will be read by Owen's mom, Mrs. Monaghan. On a certain word-(snow) the book is passed to their neighbor and at the end of the story, it will be the book the child will keep. It is just a small way for the children to remember a friend they met when they were in Saint Paul's Pre-K in 2012.



K A & B News

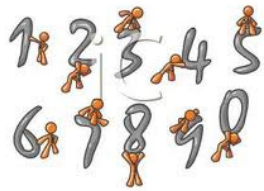
We cannot believe that January is almost over! Kindergarten has many exciting events to look forward to in February. Next week is Catholic Schools Week! Please refer to the schedule sent home for the week's daily events.

On Monday, February 6th, Mrs. Rezendes will be returning to school! Although we cannot wait, we are sad to see Mrs. Sheridan go. She has done a wonderful job in these past few months!

If school continues without any snow days, the 100th day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th. Please start brainstorming ideas with your child for the 100th day museum collection. We are now more than half-way done with our school-year!

On Valentine's Day this year, Pre-School, Pre-K, KA and KB will be performing next door at the Scandinavian Home. We have been practicing almost every day and are looking forward to this special performance! Keep a look out for more news to come!

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Grade 1 News

In Math, we've been working on using strategies to subtract, including counting back and using a number line. We did a great job working with fact families last week. Next week we'll start working on Geometry and fractions. We'll also begin planning for our 100th day of school, which should fall on February 8.

This week, we began learning about Rhode Island. We really enjoyed reading "R is for Rhode Island Red", which was written and illustrated by Rhode Islanders. Our "Made in RI" bag was filled with interesting things including Play-Doh Mr. Potato Head, a Dells Lemonade cup, a P Bruins shirt and coffee syrup (which we tasted at snack). We wrote about a RI place we would like to visit. Our favorites were Waterfire, the Newport mansions and Block Island. I think we could be working on our RI projects for weeks. There

really is a lot to learn about in RI.

In Science, we will begin keeping daily weather charts to track our "winter weather". It will be interesting to predict whether the ground hog will see his shadow next week!

In Reading Street, we enjoyed Arnold Lobel's "Frog and Toad Together". We read many of his "Frog and Toad stories during the week and even watched one of his movies. After vacation, we will continue to read about changes in nature. The play "Where Are My Animal Friends?" will address hibernation and migration. We'll learn about how to put on a play and start our poetry study. This will be the end of Unit 3.



Grade 2 News

Second grade has been working very hard and I'm excited about starting the third quarter. I hope the students continue to show effort and do their best work. In Math, we have

been talking about money. We have been doing activities to help us recognize coins and how much they are worth. We have learned a new game called "A Fast Buck" which helps us race to a \$1.00 with a partner. This game helps with mental math and reinforces money skills. The students will be working on a math project in the next few weeks. They will each create a poster about a particular coin or dollar. The students are looking forward to doing this project.

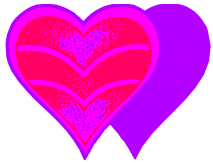


In Religion, we have been using our new book entitled "Call to Celebrate Reconciliation". We have been talking about signs of God's love and how God shows His love to each of us. We know that one of the greatest signs of God's love is that when Jesus showed us that even when we turn from God's friendship, God will forgive us.

Next week, we have been invited to read at morning prayer. If your child is reading, please have them be at school on time that day.

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Thanks! In Reading, we are finishing up Unit 3 and each student will be getting a new reading book to use until the end of the year. Also, starting in February I will be offering "extra help" to those students who may need extra practice with classroom skills. I will be available on Wednesday mornings at 7:30am. God Bless!



Grade 3 News

We have returned from vacation with a great deal of energy and are hard at work. In religion, we began our study of the church and our part in it. Our cursive writing is really coming along. We are using it exclusively-no more printing!

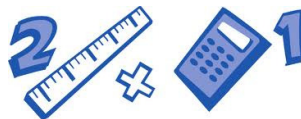


We have completed 2 units in our vocabulary books. Hopefully we're using these new words every day in our daily speech. In social studies, we are continuing our study of the middle

passage and from there, we'll move into the study of slavery. To begin that part of our unit, we will be reading "Freedom's Wings" by Sharon Dennis Wyeth.



Our class will begin a survey next week to discover the most dominant eye color at St. Paul School. The survey will give us experience with the fourth way of gathering data, which is the third step in the scientific method. It is imperative that every student memorize the multiplication tables, because our math lessons now involve solving number sentences by long division.



Grade 4 News

Grade 4 is working on problem solving strategies and 3-digit by 2-digit multiplication. Continuing to practice their math facts each night makes an enormous difference in their understanding of these concepts.



On Wednesday, grade 5 joined us on our trip to Old Sturbridge Village. The students truly enjoyed everything they experienced. Not only was this a great tie in to RI History class, but the students were able to apply information they learned about pottery from reading *A Single Shard* to the livelihood of New England potters.

We have concluded our reading of *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. Though we will miss reading this story, the message will continue to resonate in our hearts.

We continue to work as scientists in our study of earth materials. Next up...calcite quest!



Grade 5 News

Winter is upon us! Fifth grade is working very hard as you can see from our wonderful awards ceremony. The class has worked extremely hard and I have seen an improvement in almost every major academic area. Keep up the great work!

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In Science, we are focusing on our new Foss kits on Food and Nutrition. This program is a huge hit. Our first investigation focused on the amount of fat we can find in our food. We used our many tools and investigation journals in helping us find out which food products contained the most fat per their grease spot. We then used a centimeter grid and compared the results between the four groups. We were surprised by the difference between our predictions and the final outcome. We can't wait to begin the sugar test next week.



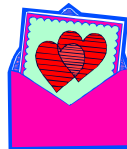
In Social Studies, we are focusing on our Explorer projects. Each student has been assigned an explorer and they are writing a letter to the queen asking to lead the next expedition to find a new land. They are working extremely hard on their maps, letters, and self portraits. The queen is

looking forward to reading these amazing reports!

Middle School News



Grade 6 Social Studies- The "Great Race" has begun. Students are beginning a journey around the world using the criteria assigned in class. The class will be making stops on three continents and researching different landmarks along the way. Additionally, students are keeping track of expenses, miles traveled, time zone changes and rate of travel. As part of our unit on Ancient China, they are required to make three stops in China before returning to Rhode Island. This is a challenging assignment and help from home could make all the difference for them. Good Luck!!!



Grade 6 Skills- Currently studying unit 14. In sixth grade science the students have finished chapter 5 entitled Heredity. The students are now

putting the finishing touches on their science fair projects and once the fair is completed we will begin a new chapter. In literature we are continuing to read *Night of the Twister*, by Ivy Ruckman.

The sixth grade Religion class is presently studying the division of the nation of Israel following the death of King Solomon.

The Order of operations, changing mathematical expressions from word to phrases to numerical expressions are the topics in sixth grade Math.



Grade 7 Social Studies. We have begun a study of the Revolutionary War with a focus on the military strategies employed by the British and the Continental Army. This includes a study of the diplomatic efforts of John Adams and Benjamin Franklin as well as a thorough study of important battle maps. Additionally, students will consider the role of women and minorities in the war and what it meant in the broader subject of civil rights.

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Grade 7 Skills-- Currently studying unit 13 in vocabulary. Sentence diagramming and creative writing are also a part of our weekly skills classes.

In seventh grade science the students have finished chapter 20 entitled, The Environment and Human Health. We began a new chapter entitled, Aquatic Ecosystems, and we continue to work on our science fair projects. In seventh grade literature we have finished reading "The Pig Man" by Paul Zindel; we will begin a new novel on Monday.

An overview of the Seven Sacraments is currently the topic of discussion by the seventh grade. In the coming weeks, the class will study each of the seven sacraments in detail.

The identification of rational numbers and their graphing are the subjects being addressed in the seventh grade.

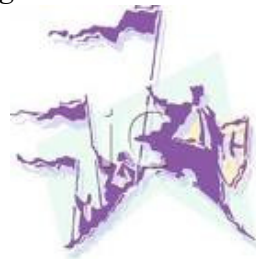


Grade 8 Social Studies-- Students are concluding a quick but profound look at Reconstruction of the South after the Civil War. The

focus is on the long term effects on Civil Rights in the U.S. Next up will be a unit on the Industrial Revolution and its effect on our daily lives. It will include a viewing of Modern Times, a silent film featuring Charlie Chaplin. The students explore this question: "How come we are all so busy with all of the "time-saving" inventions of the last 100 years?"

Grade 8 Skills-- Currently working on unit 12 Creative writing has begun.

In eighth grade science the students are continuing with chapter 19, which looks at our solar system, as well as finishing up their science fair projects. In literature we have finished reading "Animal Farm", by George Orwell.



The Crusades, the Inquisition, and their impact upon the Catholic Church are the focus of the eighth grades studies.

Lastly, the eighth grade Math class is focused on the simplification of irrational square roots.



Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Science

All of the middle school student's will be participating in a science fair on February 1st, in which everyone is invited. The students were given information outlining the process and have chosen a topic which they were interested in. They have been given time in school to research and work on their projects, but most of the work should have been done at home. All students are expected to participate and this will be a major part of their third quarter grade. After the projects are judged the top entries from each class will participate in the state science fair held in March, at CCRI. Middle school students in grades 6-8 who have won may enter the junior fair individually, or with a team project. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a judge please contact me at, wwarner@stpaulri.org.

