

ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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John F. Corry, Principal
November 30, 2017



Principal's News

Hopefully everyone had a very filling Thanksgiving. I can't believe it's going to be December tomorrow and just three weeks away from **Christmas Vacation!** But before we get to that point, we have a few important dates to set aside for you to be aware of.

Tomorrow, **December 1st**, we have our **Mingle & Jingle Night** out at Canning Hall from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. Members of the Home & School Association have planned a night out for parents to enjoy an evening of refreshments and baskets to bid on. More info on the Mingle & Jingle in the Home & School section.

Progress Reports for the **2nd Quarter** are going home on **Friday, December 8th**. Please make sure you look over your child's progress report and sign-off on it. We seem to be having several of these reports either not being returned or lost? It's important to see how your child is doing now to avoid any issues come next spring when time will not be on their side to improve their grade. May want to ask them for it when they get home that day. We will be having **Mass** this day as well hosted by Grade 5 at 9:00 am.

Our **Annual Christmas Concert** is on **Wednesday, December 13th** beginning at **6:30** directed by Mrs. Donovan, our Music Teacher. It seems every year this show keeps getting better and better. The students have been practicing for several weeks now. And don't forget the ending of the show with students performing the **Nativity** scene.

Continued Principal News...



New England Patriot's Raffle

The drawing for two tickets to a Patriots game on **Sunday, December 31st** at **1:00 pm** (*New Years Eve*) against the New York Jets will be held in the school auditorium at 8:15 on Friday, **December 15th**. One of the Pre-K students will be doing the honors. I still have tickets available for \$5 if you are interested. We only had 300 tickets printed up, so the odds are pretty good on winning the tickets! I hope to have them all sold before the drawing. It's for a good cause after all, the money we raise will go towards the **Playground Fund!**

Christmas Vacation & Thursday, December 21st (*Santa Claus*)

Speaking of Christmas, our *last day of school* is on **Thursday, December 21st** with the annual arrival of **Santa Claus** at **9:00 am**. Students can wear their Christmas outfits or casual wear that day. Before school is dismissed, we will be having a Christmas Prayer Service in the school auditorium at 2:15. You're welcome to join us! Please be aware that there will be **NO After School Care** on this day.



Safe Environment Training

We will hold one more session at the school on **Monday December 11th** at 4:30pm for new volunteers. Please bring a valid picture ID/driver's license and \$5.00. Please RSVP to Mrs. Yattaw.

If you are renewing your certification, please watch the Safe Environment Training video on the Saint Paul School website. Once you have completed the viewing, please bring \$5.00 and a valid picture ID/Driver's license to Mrs. Yattaw, to complete the BCI check.



Home & School Association

Don't forget!

Holiday Mingle & Jingle

Fri. Dec. 1, 6-9:30pm
** Tickets available at the door \$30/person**

Thank You All for your generous Donations

For more info contact Claire
coachbaggs@gmail.com



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Pre-K 3 & 4 News

November was a time where we “harvested” a lot of learning! We enjoyed talking about farms, the Little Red Hen and of course, Thanksgiving! We loved baking bread with Mrs. Keane, who pretended to be the Little Red Hen. The children learned about the first Thanksgiving, and how hard the pilgrims worked.

We did lots of literacy and math during this month as well! We especially liked eating with everyone at the Thanksgiving feast; thank you to all of the families that donated time and items to our feast!

We ended our month with a review of shapes and colors; this is a great way to enter December as we see so many beautiful shapes and colors of the season! We are looking forward to the holiday season in the classroom, our Christmas concert and celebrating Jesus’ birthday!



Kindergarten News

My how November has flown by! We have been very busy this month in Kindergarten. We filled up our good kindness bucket and got to celebrate with a popcorn party!

At the beginning of the month we had an awards ceremony where we acknowledged all the students who have had perfect attendance, so far this year.

Students have been loving Spanish class. They are learning colors, numbers, letters, and even parts of the body! In Religion, we made cross necklaces and before Thanksgiving we created pictures of what we are thankful for. In Science, we cut open a pumpkin and took a look at what was inside. We even cooked the pumpkin seeds and had a taste test. They were a big hit!

The students worked very hard this month on their Me On The Map books. We

discussed where we lived, from our towns, to our state, country, and even our planet. For Thanksgiving, students made turkey headbands to wear to our Thanksgiving Feast which was such a success thanks to all the parents. It has been a great month!



Grade 1 News

First grade was very busy preparing for Thanksgiving. We've been writing in our journals about our favorite food and all the things we are thankful for. Once again, it seems that mashed potatoes and corn are our favorites and we are all thankful for our families and pets.

I will send home your child's Fall journal this week for you to enjoy. Our walk to the Library was a big success. We learned about the Pilgrims long journey on the Mayflower and how difficult it may have been for families on that voyage to a new land.

One of the highlights of this month was our Thanksgiving feast with the children in Pre-K through Grade 2. Everything was great! I'd like to thank all our families for their time, supplies and food that made our celebration a success.



In Reading Street, we will continue working on our long vowel sounds. We will also be reading about dinosaurs next week - always a favorite in first grade. Please continue to read with your child every day if possible and record their readings on their reading log. Like anything, children learn so much by practicing and it's a great time to spend quality time with your child. If you need books to read, please let me know and I can send home some books for you.

In Math, we are working on our subtraction skills. This is a new skill for many first graders and we'll need lots of practice!

Finally, it's hard to believe that it is time to begin preparing for Christmas. Mrs. Donovan has already begun practicing for the Christmas show which is scheduled for December 13. And we have many Christmas activities planned for this month. It's a very exciting time for first graders.

Grade 2 News

Second grade has been very busy this past month. The students made cards for the Veterans that live at Scandinavian Nursing Home. We were also able to share the play "The Strongest One" with the school. Our class traveled class to class to perform the play. They designed the costumes with Mrs. Liu in art class. They also created a song with Mrs. Donovan in music class. It was so great to be able to invite parents and families to our class, so we could show them all the hard work our class put into our production.

We also learned about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe. The class was able to have a virtual tour of the Plymouth Plantations which gave the students a better understanding of what life was like for the early settlers. The students were excited to make special headpieces for the Thanksgiving feast.

In Religion, we have been talking about the word *Eucharist* which means "to give thanks". We have shared different ways we can thank God the Father for His many gifts and blessings. We have also talked a lot about the seasons of the church. Thank you for your support and donations. God bless!



Grade 3 News

We can't believe how fast November flew by! This past month in Math, we continued practicing subtraction. In our reading program, we learned about compound words, possessive and plural-possessive nouns, and contractions. We have been incorporating all of these in our daily writing. In Social Studies, we began Unit 3 which focused on the Wampanoag and Hopi Native American tribes. We compared both tribes' way of life, including their environment, food, houses, and clothing. We made our own Kachina dolls, which the

Hopi natives used to help welcome the Kachinas (spirits) during their Bean ceremony every February.

As Thanksgiving approached, we each wrote about something we are thankful for. Some examples included plants, cake, steak, and backpacks.

At the end of the month, we had a special field trip to Trinity Repertory Company's production of A Christmas Carol. The performance was amazing and we all had a great time.

We have been practicing every day for our Nativity presentation. We can't wait to share it with you next month at our Christmas Concert!

Grade 4 News

Grade Four was excited to see **A Christmas Carol** at Trinity Repertory today with grades three and five. Please ask your children what they thought about this play.

Thank you to all families that contributed to our class basket for the Mingle & Jingle Event this Friday. We appreciate your support.

In Religion, we have been learning about the

Sacrament of Reconciliation and will participate in this healing sacrament on Monday, December 4th.

We are continuing to explore the various properties of rocks and have just concluded a calcite quest through investigation. Though our room may smell of vinegar, we are now able to say which of our rocks contain the mineral calcite!

Social Studies is keeping us busy in many areas. We are learning about the Middle Atlantic States and also continuing to work on Global Fun Day with our groups.

Our read-a-loud book is *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. The students are very interested in the rats' story and how they came to live on the Fitzgibbon Farm.



Grade 5 News

Happy December! We have entered a very busy time of the school year. We saw *A Christmas Carol* at Trinity Rep today. We are very excited and it's leading us into the holiday season.

Grade five has been working on many small and large projects. They're working on their precept posters. Based on the book *Wonder*, they chose a precept, "words to live by", and are sharing what that means to them and to the main character, August.

We are also working hard on our Global Fun Day information and spending time researching information on the assigned countries. We look forward to sharing all of their hard work with you.

The class has just finished an inspiring story called *The Passage to Freedom*, detailing the journey of Mr. Sugihara and all those that he saved during WWII. The class is now preparing a research writing assignment based on someone in history that has made a difference. They're truly interested in this assignment and love discussing the characteristics of a hero and what that means to them.

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Middle School News



Sixth Grade News

In **Science**, sixth grade students have finished chapter 9 in Life Science, dealing with classification. They had a test on this chapter on Wednesday 11/29.

In **Vocabulary**, the students have their second unit review test on Friday 12/1. This test deals with units 4, 5 and 6 in their vocabulary books.

As we approach the midpoint in the second quarter, the sixth grade **Math** class has started a section on the multiplication of decimals.

The sixth grade **Religion** class continues its' study of the Old Testament, specifically a unit on the

Israelites' conquest of Canaan.

In **Social Studies**, we have started exploring the rich history of Ancient Egypt and Nubia. We have been paying close attention to the wealth of primary sources left behind by this great civilization, such as art, tombs, and mummies.

In **Literature**, we have just finished the abridged edition of Charles Dickens' masterpiece, David Copperfield. The students are currently directing their attention to the art of writing, as they embark on the challenging journey of compiling their own life stories in the same style of Dickens, in which they not only recount major events that have happened in their lives thus far, but also formulate predictions for their futures.

Seventh Grade News

In **Science**, seventh grade students just finished chapter 17, which dealt with nuclear and renewable energy. We had a test on that chapter before we left for Thanksgiving break. We just began a new chapter on Tuesday 11/28.

In **Vocabulary**, the students are on the unit review in their

vocabulary books, which deals with units 4, 5 and 6. They had the unit review test on Wednesday 11/29.

In **Math**, the seventh grade class is currently studying the method for solving one-step equations, using the Properties of Equality.

The seventh grade **Religion** class has been focused on a chapter tracing the history of God's promise of a Messiah.

In **Social Studies**, we have just completed our unit on early New England history, and students' research essays displayed great care and effort. We are moving forward now to learn about the colonization of the middle colonies and the southern colonies.

In **Literature**, we have completed "The Witch of Blackbird Pond" and will begin a new novel to enlighten us to the setting and context of the American Revolution with Avi's "Night Journey."

Eighth Grade News

In eighth grade **Science**, the students finished chapter 19, which dealt with the formation of the solar system. They have begun a new chapter dealing with the universe. We are on section 2 of this chapter.

In **Vocabulary**, the students recently took a quiz on the unit review and began unit 7 in their vocabulary books. All the grades for these quizzes can be accessed from any computer. Simply have your student log onto the Sadlier website.

Using the order of operations with rational numbers is the area of interest of the eighth grade **Math** class at the present time.

The eighth grade **Religion** class has recently started a chapter on the study of the rise of the early Church, following the Ascension of Jesus, under the direction of the Apostles through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In **Social Studies**, we have been following up our discussions about social movements and the roles of individuals in a society with the start of the American Civil War. Some themes that are permeating this unit are bias, justice, and freedom.

In **Literature**, we are finally coming to the end of the beloved classic, "Little Women." Later in December, we will be viewing the 1994 film adaptation, and students will do a project in which they employ a critical eye to the film to critique its accuracy to the novel.



ART Class

Grade 8

Mastering drawing skills. Drawing is the foundation of visual arts. When drawing, students have to focus on the actual lines and shapes, instead of the symbolic representation that we often carry around in our heads.

Grade 7,6,5

In some Native American cultures, a Dream catcher is a handmade object, decorated with sacred items such as feathers and beads. It filters out bad dreams and only allows good thought to enter our minds. Students learned how to create their own dream catcher by painting, accessorizing and weaving paper plates.

Grade 4

Wall hangings, head-dresses, belts, you name it. Weaving with the yarn, learning about pattern and design.

Grade 1, 2

Learned how to make "My very own Thanksgiving Book" out of paper bags. Students illustrated the pages with stories about what we are thankful for at home and at school.

Grade K

Traditionally, totem poles were carved by different tribes from the trunk of a tree. They recorded family and clan histories in an artistic and symbolic fashion. The Grade K Totem Pole is made of animal masks/personifications of each student. We used paper plates and cut out paper to accessorize the totem Poles many segments.

PreK

The Rainstick is a musical instrument. It is believed to have been invented by the Mapuches and was played in the belief it could bring about rainstorms. Students made their own Rain Sticks decorating with tissues paper and glitter.

Preschool

Happy Turkey Banner. The students decorated each banner with turkey feathers made of tissue paper, glued eyes and all the other elements together to make a Happy Turkey Banner.

The STEAM Project

Grade 6

Students learn about different structures; commercial, residential, public versus private spaces. What is Architecture in general?

Grade 3

Students designed a game. They made rules and instructions describing step by step, how the game is played. They created a prototype with hand made elements, needed for the game (cards, dice, etc.) and made a final presentation to Mrs. Liu and Mrs. Patterson.

Grade 2

Worked hard on designing and executing masks and hand made the costumes for the traveling performance "The strongest One" in collaboration with Mrs.Reed.

