

# ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org

Cindy Richard, Principal  
February 2026



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Families,  
It has been truly unpredictable and unexpected winter this year. Thank you for your flexibility and support as we navigated our way through the blizzard. Our teachers did a wonderful job providing learning opportunities to our students through distance learning. Safety is always our number one concern and with the changing conditions and resources it has made it very difficult to provide a safe environment. We are finally back to a consistent learning environment, and we are looking forward to the next few weeks of academic rigor.

The sun is out this morning as I am writing, and it is a sign of Spring ahead and the warmth and sunshine returning to us. The students may be struggling with the time change as we entered this season. Please try to have your student get a good night's sleep and plan to have a consistent routine around bedtime. Sleep is a very important element to learning and we appreciate your focus on it. Also, there is still some viruses going through our community.

If your child has a fever, cough, or stomach issues please treat them appropriately and keep your child home if they are demonstrating symptoms. Thank you!

As we enter the beautiful season of March, we are reminded of the many blessings that come with the changing of the seasons. At our Catholic school, March is a time to continue growing in faith, learning, and service. We are grateful for the strong partnership we share with our families in supporting our students both academically and spiritually.

**Our Professional Development Day has been cancelled to allow for more academic instruction time on March 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a regular scheduled school day on March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### Lenten Season

The season of Lent began this month and is an important time in our Catholic faith for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our students will participate in special prayers, classroom reflections, and Stations of the Cross to help prepare their hearts for Easter. We encourage families to take time for prayer together and discuss ways you can practice kindness and generosity at home.

I have noticed during pickup parents and students crossing the road without using the crosswalk. It is extremely dangerous to walk across the street out of the crosswalk. Our crossing guard is here to prevent any accidents from happening. Please walk the few extra steps to ensure your children's safety.

### Important Reminders for Families

- Students should arrive **on time each morning** so they can begin the day prepared for learning.
- Please check **backpacks and communication folders daily** for announcements and homework.
- If your contact information has changed, please notify the school office so we can keep our records up to date.
- As we transition toward spring, weather can still be unpredictable. Please ensure students come to school with appropriate outerwear such as jackets or sweaters so they can comfortably enjoy recess and outdoor activities.

We have our exciting reading week beginning on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year our theme will be the Olympics! Throughout the week, classes will take part in activities that highlight teamwork, global awareness, and of course the joy of reading. Your child's teacher will be sending home more information.

Our girls' basketball team enjoyed a very successful and joyous season. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Laurito for all the time and work they invested in our team. It has been a great addition to our school's offerings. We are looking forward to next year to

see them move up in their division.

Our admission process is open now and classes are filling up. Please remember to register as soon as possible and to take advantage of the discounted application fee by April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are hearing that many families are referring us to family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you. We are very proud of our catholic school and community and love hearing the good news is spreading.

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**Thank you for all you do to support our school and community. I am blessed to be a member of this strong Catholic community and am filled with gratitude.**

**In Peace,  
Mrs. Cindy Richard**

## PreK 3 & 4 News



Happy February! We had a short month of learning due to the historic blizzard we experienced after our vacation! We began with the groundhog and how shadows are formed! We talked about hearts and valentines, exploring how we all have feelings and learning to show God's love too. We worked to make valentines for veterans, made a valentine for our families, played some Valentine Olympics, and got to deliver our valentines to our friends' boxes, just like the post office does. The children have been working on building their vocabulary and improving their fine motor skills too! We are looking forward to March, when we will enter the season of Lent. We are excited to work on the concept of opposites, discuss St. Patrick's Day, experiment with kites and wind and we are looking forward to the spring weather.

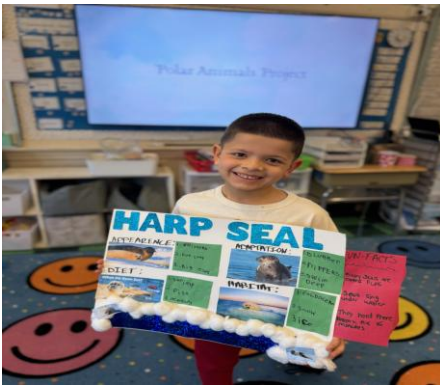
## Kindergarten News



Happy February! Kindergarten had many exciting activities throughout the month. At the beginning of the month we talked about Groundhog Day, traditions that happen on Groundhog Day, and even made a prediction on what Phil was going to see in the morning. We were sad to hear there are six more weeks of winter, but we had a great time learning all about Punxsutawney Phil. In the second week of February was the 100th Day of School where students participated in centers based on 100. Some of those centers included stacking 100 cups into a pyramid, writing what they would do if they had \$100, and creating a 100-gumball machine. Kindergarten had so much fun wearing their 100 things shirts and participating in the fun activities! Also in that week was Valentine's Day where Kindergarten passed out their Valentines and participated in many Valentines Day activities. In math, we started Chapter 4. Chapter 4 was working on numbers 1-10 and ordinal numbers. At the end of the month, we focused on ten friends to help us understand what numbers we can put together to make 10. In Science, we finished our Penguin unit. We learned about their life cycle and even watched a baby penguin hatch from their egg!

In March, we are looking forward to learning about St. Patrick's Day, Lent, and Easter. We will be participating in many fun learning activities based on these holidays. We have so many fun activities planned for this upcoming month!

## First Grade News



February flew by in 1st grade! We had some exciting events that made this month go by quickly. We started our month finishing our r-controlled sounds: -er, -ir, and -ur. In math, we began our unit on place value. We spent a lot of time counting by tens and ones to make numbers from 1-100. This unit went perfectly with our 100th day of school celebration! First grade got to create froot-loop necklaces out of 100 froot-loops! Most of the froot-loops were eaten before the day even ended. Also, in science we finished our unit on winter animals by doing a blubber experiment! We got to feel "Antarctic Water" with and without blubber to see if blubber really works. Additionally, they completed a Polar Animals Project! Each student researched and created a poster about a particular polar animal. The whole class worked so hard and did an amazing job! Lastly, 1st grade's fun Friday was taking their spelling test in the "snow"! They used shaving cream and their fingers to write their spelling words on their desks. It was a very exciting spelling test!

We are so grateful for the month of February, but we are looking forward

to a busy March and a fruitful Lenten season.



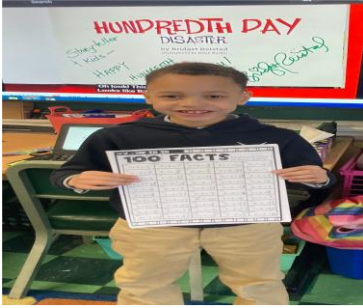
## Second Grade News



February is a short month filled with many events. Catholic Schools week kicked off the month with fun activities to celebrate our faith. On St. Blaise Day, Fr Woodhouse and Deacon Jay visited the classrooms for the Blessing of Throat. Our 100th day of school was action packed that included 100 exercises (10 repetitions of 10 exercises), 100 ways to be kind poster, and 100 math facts. For Valentine's Day, students dressed in Valentine's colors and passed out treats to their peers spreading love to others. Ending the month, we experienced the historic blizzard that extended our winter vacation. Students did a super job during the distance learning days.

In Religion, second grade learned all about the history of St. Valentine and

the ways he supported the Catholic religion. Students wrote about their Lenten promises and learned they will help them grow closer to God. For Math, we have moved into Chapter 4 that involves regrouping and adding doubles. In addition, we practice word problems that encourage reading and critical thinking skills. The class is engaged in these math lessons as we learn in different ways such as whole group, small group, and center work. For Language and Literacy, our readers learned cause and effect along with story elements such as character, setting, plot, and theme in our reading comprehension lessons. Each week, we have a class reader for one of our jobs that helps build confidence and increase fluency in their reading skills. Students continue to develop writing skills with practice in paragraph formation with main ideas and supporting details. We will continue to work on this daily with the use of graphic and paragraph organizers. Social Studies was full of current events and information learned this month. This includes Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and more. Throughout the month, we celebrate Black History with prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, and George Washington Carver. The blizzard offered a compare and contrast discussion of the blizzards of 1978 and 2026. In Science, during our heart science lesson, the class performed an experiment with conversation hearts using the scientific method. We predicted and formed a hypothesis about our experiment. This involved soaking the hearts into a variety of liquids. Then, we observed and came to a conclusion about which liquid would dissolve the heart faster. Next month, we look forward to keeping our Lenten promises, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and spring related activities.



## Grade 4

I am not sure if anyone heard, but we just had a historic blizzard! Haha!!! We certainly enjoyed our extra week away from school. Here are some snowmen that Grade 4 made for their PE class. So cute!



## Grade 3

February was a short month for third grade. We experienced a historic blizzard of 26' that accumulated more snow than 78'. We had virtual learning on Thursday and Friday. The students participated in at-home learning activities such as making ice cream out of snow for Science, reading to stuffed animals for Reading, and writing step by step instructions for how to pack a lunch for Writing.

The highlight for this month was when third grade hosted mass in the beginning of the month. Third grade is looking forward to what the month of March brings (hopefully Spring)!

While we were away, Lent began. We will focus on prayer, penance and doing good deeds as well as preparing for Mass on Friday. If you are available, please join Grade 4 at the 9:30 AM Mass. It is a wonderful way to increase your prayer during this holy season. Grade 4 will also be attending daily Mass every Friday during Lent and learning about the second commandment and the importance of using God's name with respect.

We continue to work on our multiplication skills. The best way to move on to higher level multiplication is to practice and learn our basic multiplication facts. Please continue to practice the times tables with your children every day.

Though it feels so long ago now, it is never too late to say thank you. Thank you for helping to make our Catholic Schools Week special. We are so grateful for you all and for the sacrifices you make each day to make St. Paul the wonderful school community that it is!

## Grade 5 News

Dear Families,  
February has been a month to remember! We are incredibly thankful for your support and flexibility during the historic Blizzard of '26 and during our distance-learning days. Your partnership made it possible for students to stay engaged and continue learning despite the weather challenges. We truly appreciate all you did to help your child log in, complete assignments, and stay on track.

In social studies, students are wrapping up their Presidents Project. They have been researching, organizing, and presenting their learning in creative and thoughtful ways. We are so proud of the effort and growth they have shown. In science, we are continuing our focus study of the human body, focusing on how organ systems work together. Students are making connections between structure and function and building a deeper understanding of how our bodies maintain balance.

Our writing assignments continue to strengthen students' skills. We are focusing on clear organization, strong evidence, and detailed explanations to support their ideas. We have also begun learning how to cite sources in our work.

In math, students are working hard to master their fluency facts while also diving deeper into the curriculum, learning the foundations of multiplication. We are building problem-solving strategies and strengthening conceptual understanding.

Thank you again for your continued support. We are looking forward to a strong finish to winter and an exciting March ahead!

Mrs. Neff

## Middle School News

**Grade 6 Skills:** We have just begun Unit 11!! As per usual, students will be making flashcards, playing Blooket, "I Have, Who Has?," and reading comprehension of the 20 unit words. Ask your child about a new word they have learned!

**Grade 6,7,8 Handwriting:** Since the arrival of the new year, all student written work submissions for Mrs. Gruebel's classes are being done in cursive. Students are enjoying the opportunity to apply their cursive skills in a real-world way, and many students have reported having switched to cursive for their journaling as well. We have been copying over the U.S. Constitution and will apply this knowledge in our upcoming Civics unit.



**Grade 6 Math:** Sixth grade has finished chapter 4 on Order of Operations. We have just begun Chapter 5, Integers! We are learning where numbers fall on the number line. We will be combining positive and negative integers using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We will be using this for real-world scenarios such as temperature and banking.

**Grades 6 Science:** We are finishing chapter 5 on cell division: Meiosis. We did a fun comic strip to show

understanding of reproduction of sex cells. We will be moving on to Chapter 7, The Evolution of Living Things. Students will be studying fossil records, evidence of evolution, Charle Darwin, and natural selection.

**Grade 7 & 8 Math:** Students have finally finished the chapter on 2-D geometry!! We are moving onto Percentages, Percent Increase/Decrease, Sales Tax & Tips, Discount & Markup, Commission, Simple Interest, and Compound Interest. Real world math for the real world!



**Grade 6 Social Studies:** February flew by! I am so happy to be back in class with all my students. Our class spent the month of February learning all about the civilizations of Ancient India, and we are continuing this unit into March. Students applied their knowledge of Geography and are able to explain how the civilizations of the region were influenced by the Indus River, and by natural barriers like the Himalaya Mountains and the Hindu Kush. Students looked at examples of Indian culture through the lens of religion, as they studied the origins of Hinduism and Buddhism, and the belief of reincarnation. Students analyzed the role of the caste system in Ancient India - ask your learner to describe the caste system. Lastly, students will be examining the roles of different rulers during the Golden Age of Maurya India. We have section quizzes every Friday (open notebook). We continue to also have Current Events once per week. We will have

our Chapter Test on Ancient India on Friday, March 20.

**Grade 6 Literature:** Students have been enjoying "The Runaway King", which is book 2 in the series by Jennifer Nielsen. Students are practicing character analysis skills and forming predictions. Students are also practicing skills of summarizing the text.

**Grade 7 Social Studies:** Students have learned about the growth of the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and now are studying the Southern Colonies. Students are analyzing how differences in geography make for differences in economy and culture. Students are also examining the different forms of governance for colonies. Ask your learner to describe the economic systems in the South. We continue to also have Current Events once per week.

### Grade 8 Social Studies:

Students spent February learning about the age of reform from the 1820s-1850s. Students have been learning about the Second Great Awakening, and the Reform Spirit. One of the major reform movements of the nineteenth century was the Abolitionist movement, calling for the immediate end to slavery. It was a divisive issue between North and South, and students are looking at how slavery was intertwined with American Geography, Technology, Culture, Economy, Society, and Politics. Students are gearing up for further sectional divisions which will lead to the American Civil War. We continue to also have Current Events once per week.

**Grade 6, 7 & 8 Religion:** Ash Wednesday was on February 18 and kicked off the liturgical season of Lent. Students are doing Lenten activities and reflections and will be attending weekly mass as part of our Lenten observance (Wednesdays). We participate daily in student-led school-

wide morning prayer, as well as student-led daily prayer and mass readings in Middle School (rotating schedule of leaders, so all get experience). We go to Eucharistic Adoration every Monday, and for Lent, we will be **doing a Weekly Saint Report** in place of our regular writing prompts. We will also be attending weekly Stations of the Cross. We also continue to shine Christ's light every Friday for Buddies.



**Grades 7&8 Science:** Our magnetism chapter is coming to an end... After we complete it, we will begin a chapter on sound. This will likely be the last chapter we study before beginning our Science Fair Experiments later this month.

**Grade 7 & 8 Literature:** We are 39 chapters into Little Women. Students have really gotten to know the characters and their attributes and are using their knowledge to form predictions. Students have been doing group reads of each chapter, where each student chooses a character to read for, and they read that character's dialogue out loud for the class. They are having fun with this "Dramatic" reading of the text, and it has been fueling more insight into their chapter Discussion Questions. Ask your learner to offer their predictions!

**Grade 7 & 8 Vocabulary/Skills**  
Students have been doing a great job with their Independent Research Papers. So far, students have completed 2 research papers and have started the process of taking notes for their third. Students are practicing their skills in research, summarizing, citations, and writing mechanics. Students also get generalized writing practice with their weekly Writing Prompts, which go home every Monday and are due back every Friday. Writing Prompts in March will be in the form of Weekly Saint Reports. In our Vocab Skills textbook, students have achieved mastery of the terms in units 1-3 and have tested for Unit 4. Students are now practicing Unit 5.

### Physical Education

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm through the blizzard and maybe even went outside to build some snowmen or had some fun sledding! In PE, we participate in Fitness February.

At the start of each class, students are given a fitness challenge. These challenges allow students to be introduced to various forms of exercise and to challenge their bodies to see what they are capable of. Although February was cut short this year, we were able to do planks, wall sits, 6 inches, hand stands against the wall, and wall climbs. I feel that it is important for the students to understand that PE is more than just playing fun games, and that exercise and being fit is important to live a balanced, healthy life.

The younger grades have been learning how to jump rope. We start with simple progression from learning how to swing a rope and stepping over it, to jumping over once, and working towards being able to do multiple jumps. This is a very difficult skill for some students to learn. Not only are they learning a new skill, but they also learn that not everything will come easy and to work hard and not quit and

eventually they will succeed. Every year I am very impressed with how the students progress and how much they enjoy jumping rope.

