ST. PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

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Cindy Richard, Principal
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Principal's Message

As the season of Thanksgiving and gratitude begins, we take a moment to reflect on the many blessings within our school community. November invites us to pause, pray, and give thanks—for our families, our students, and the gift of faith that guides us each day.

We enjoyed a joyous and successful Spirit Week and Walk-a-thon. The spirit was alive and well in the classrooms and all the classrooms did a wonderful job participating. Our Shoe Drive is going strong and there is still time to donate your gently worn, used, or new shoes until November 13th.

Our Walk-a-thon was very successful and raised over $4,500.00!!!!!! Thank you for your generosity in supporting the fundraiser. Please know it is very much appreciated.

The Meadow Farms Fundraiser was a big success, and the orders will be delivered on November 18th. There will be more information on how to pick up your orders as we get closer. Thank you to everyone who participated. Our student with the most sales is Aurora Fortes who won the tablet. Congratulations!

Parents please do not pull into the front parking lot when dropping your students off in the morning. It is very dangerous because students are walking in and crossing that area to enter the school. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe!

Our Lost and Found is beginning to gather many new items already. Please make sure names are written on the tag of all uniform items. We do not want you to lose an expensive uniform item.

Our monthly Mass will be this Friday, the 6th at 9:30 AM and will be hosted by the fifth grade. All are welcome to attend.

There a quite a few students who arrive late every day to school. The learning day starts at 8:15 and your student is missing important classroom learning time if they are note. We have begun having Monday morning all school meeting time in the auditorium every Monday morning. While we understand sometime life happens and you arrive late this should be the exception, not the practice. Please make the effort to have your student arrive on time in the mornings, thank you!

This is a gentle reminder that there are **NO FOOD DELIVERIES** allowed in school. This has become a problem for us because our staff cannot be tracing food orders or managing delivery of food to students. This should happen only in an emergency. Thank you for understanding.

We are excited to invite you to our **Fall Family Festival on Saturday, November 7, from 1:00–3:00 PM!** Join us for an afternoon of fall fun, including crafts, a build-your-own caramel apple bar, a pie-baking contest, and more! Admission is free, and cookies will be available for purchase.

November 11th is Veterans Day and there is **NO SCHOOL.** Our Thanksgiving Feast will be held on November 24th, Tuesday. More specific information will be coming home through our classroom teachers. This will be our last day of school before Thanksgiving. **NO SCHOOL on November 25th.**

This month, our students will focus on the virtue of gratitude, learning how to recognize God's goodness in all things. We encourage you to share moments of thankfulness at home as well—perhaps through family prayer, acts of kindness, or a "gratitude jar." Thank you for your continued partnership in nurturing the hearts, minds, and spirits of our children.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we take time to pause and reflect on the many blessings God has given us. Our school community is truly one of those blessings — a family of faith where children grow in wisdom, kindness, and love.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving
Good and gracious God,
We thank You for the gift of family and friends,
for the joy of learning and the wonder of each new day.
Thank You for the teachers and staff who guide our children with care,
and for parents who nurture them with love and faith.
Bless our homes with peace,
our hearts with gratitude,
and our hands with generosity toward those in need.
May this Thanksgiving remind us that every good gift comes from You,
and that a thankful heart is the greatest gift we can share.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I am grateful for being a member of the amazing Catholic community of amazing teachers and staff.

In Peace,
Cindy Richard

PreK 3 & 4 News



Happy October! We have really been enjoying our time working and learning together this month. We are continuing to work on routines and develop our fine and gross motor skills. This month, we attended our first mass, we talked about the changing leaves on the trees, fire safety, pumpkins, and Halloween!

Thank you to all the families who helped to support our Fall Walk-a-thon and those that were able to chaperone our field trip to Adams Farm! We have been enjoying meeting our different teachers for all our special classes too! We were also excited for some Halloween STEAM fun with our buddies!
Next month, we will talk about the fall season, squirrels, acorns, farms, and scarecrows. We will also learn about the Little Red Hen, and of course, Thanksgiving!



Kindergarten News

Happy October! This past month has been very busy with kindergarten. We went on our first field trip to the farm where we got to feed animals, went on a hayride, played with all the playground equipment, picked pumpkins, and had a picnic! In Reading/Phonics we added new sight words to our list and have been working on reading and writing sentences. We also introduced blending sounds together to read a word. We also focused on rhyming words. In math, we started chapter 2 which is about shapes. We have been focusing on 3D shapes and introducing 2D shapes. In Science, we finished our apple unit and began learning about how pumpkins grow and the parts of a pumpkin. In Religion we focused on the rosary and why it is important. We learned the three main prayers in the rosary (The Hail Mary, Glory Be, and The Our Father). We also talked about the Holy Trinity. We used a candy corn to help us understand the concept of Three Persons in One God. We ended the month with our Spirit Week, and we had so much fun showing our class and school spirit!

Next month we will be introducing new centers themed around Thanksgiving! Along with new and engaging centers themed to Thanksgiving, we will be learning about Thanksgiving, gratitude, leaves during the season of Autumn, and patterns.



First Grade News



October has been such a busy but fruitful month here in first grade! We have had so much fun with fall festivities that time has flown by! We have finally learned all our short vowel sounds, and we are practicing our beginning and final blends. Also, first grade just started learning and practicing different math strategies to help us add! Some include number lines, ten frames, and drawing pictures to help us solve math problems. In religion, our class has been learning

and practicing praying the rosary together for the month of the rosary. We love to share our prayer intentions and pray together as a class. We also talked about our Circle of Grace and how important it is.

First grade had a blast at Adams Farm field trip! We fed some animals, went on a hayride, played on the farm, and even got to bring home our own pumpkins, apples, and apple cider! First grade also investigated pumpkins in science. We completed a sink or float experiment and talked about the different parts of a pumpkin by feeling and observing the inside of a real pumpkin. We have had such a great month, and we are looking forward to November!



Second Grade News



October has been an eventful month for Second grade. The class has been enjoying the fall season with a variety of activities. Second graders had a wonderful time on our fall field trip to Adam's Farm. We rode on a hayride, picked out pumpkins, saw the farm animals, and enjoyed playing opportunities together. Ending the month, students showed school spirit by participating in Spirit Week that included the Fall Walk-a-Thon. In *Language and Literacy*, we completed Unit 1: 1-5 in our reading curriculum. In review, we are building our comprehension skills and types of genres. For phonics, students learned about open and closed syllables, inflected endings, and consonant digraphs. In writing, students practice daily with seasonal writing prompts in our journals along with Friday letters to families. Additionally, our class is working on paragraph structure focusing on the main idea and supporting details.

For *Math*, we moved from multiple addends to subtraction facts and the relation between addition and subtraction. The class practiced estimation with a candy corn estimating activity to guess the candy corn in a jar.

In *Religion*, students discussed ways to be good disciples of Jesus. Second graders practiced praying the rosary for the month of October. The students discussed our Circle of Grace with an interactive lesson to teach about safety and boundaries with our bodies. Also, we did a fun pumpkin prayer activity with a writing opportunity.

For *Science*, in correlation with our class readings, we learned about earth science (desert and rainforest habitats), and life science (cactus plants and bats). One of our class experiments, Magical Dancing Corn, involved a chemical reaction with water, baking soda, corn kernels, and vinegar. Another experiment introduced states of matter by dissolving candy corn in different liquids.

For *Social Studies*, we began the month with fire safety lessons. To celebrate Spanish heritage month, we read many books as we learned about the culture.

Throughout the month, second grade has been learning about Autumn in the U.S.

Next month, we are looking forward to All Saints Day and Thanksgiving activities.



Grade 3



Our third graders have had a wonderful month filled with lots of learning and fun! In spelling, we have been learning about syllable patterns (V/CV and VC/V), final syllable *-le*, and compound words. In reading, we have been practicing identifying main ideas and supporting details, sequencing events, and recognizing problems and solutions in stories. In math, we are wrapping up adding two- and three-digit numbers with and without regrouping, as well as solving word problems. We are excited to begin learning subtraction with and without regrouping next! In writing, we have been working on descriptive and persuasive writing.

In religion, we have been learning about God's love for us and how Jesus teaches us to love, care for, and respect others. We also learned about Jesus' ministry and how His words and actions show God's love, while talking about ways we can follow His example in our everyday lives. In social studies, we are wrapping up our geography unit, where we learned about cardinal directions, different landforms, continents, and the bodies

of water that border them. In science, we are also finishing our weather unit! We learned about sky conditions, precipitation, wind, different climates, and tools used to measure weather. We even tracked the weather throughout the month to see what patterns and changes we could notice! Aside from all our learning, we had a fun-filled Spirit Week and enjoyed participating in our Walkathon and celebrating Halloween with our classroom party! It has been a wonderful month in third grade, and I am so proud of all the hard work our students have been putting in. We are looking forward to another great month together!

Grade 4

Happy Spirit Week! The fourth graders have had a lot of fun celebrating this week. They are very excited for the Walk-a-thon on Friday, but even more excited for Halloween on Saturday night.

We finished reading Holes by Louis Sachar and will watch the movie next week. The students will then choose to create a game based on Holes, to write a missing chapter to include in the book, or to make a Venn diagram comparing the book to the movie.

Through reading our religion book and Bible stories, and even performing skits from our favorite parables, we have been learning about all kinds of sin. We have learned that we can sin when we commit a sin and when we omit helping someone in need.

We have worked hard on learning how to make change in math class. If you can practice this skill with your child at home, it will help to reinforce what they have learned in class. We are now continuing to work on addition and subtraction, the first two basic operations.

We have completed learning about the Middle Atlantic States. Ask your child to show you the motions they have learned to help them remember the capitals of all the states in the Northeast Region.

We have begun our study of Mock Rocks to help us to understand about earth materials. The students have enjoyed breaking their mock rocks apart to understand that they are made up of many ingredients, in the same way that rocks are made up of minerals.

Grade 5 News

It is hard to believe it is November! October was an exciting month for us in Grade 5! We started our first novel, *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson, and are learning about life in late 18th century America. We are also using *Scholastic News 5/6* and have looked at some amazing stories about History Makers. The first was a wonderful biography of the late, great Jane Goodall, a woman who did so much for our world. We are working our way through understanding grammar concepts- nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, capital letters, punctuation, conjunctions- in preparation to write our first 5-paragraph essay in December! We also learned MLA format for writing headings and essays.

We have started our first topics of fifth grade math- rounding numbers, adding with 3 or more addends, decimals greater than one, comparing and ordering numbers, addition properties/subtraction rules, subtraction with zeros, and larger sums and differences.

We completed our first social studies project in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day. We focused on key Native American leaders of a variety of tribes in the United States. The students worked together and presented some very interesting information. They did a fantastic job, and I am very proud of them.

Grade 5 picked our classroom saint...St. Anthony. We are very confident that we will never lose a thing for the whole year! We are looking forward to hosting school mass on Friday, November 6. Please join us if you can!

Middle School News

Grade 6 Math: We have finally finished Chapter 1! We will be beginning Chapter 2, which is all about multiplication of whole numbers and decimals. We will touch on exponents, scientific notation, and multiplication patterns.

Grade 6 Science: This month, we learned to use the triple beam balance to measure the amount of mass in an object. Students also completed a "Scientist Graveyard," filled with the tombstones of famous scientists. They are currently on display in the 3rd floor hallway. Next month, they will be learning to use a graduated cylinder and possibly a microscope, if time allows.

Grade 6 Religion: Students will be completing chapter 4 in our book, "God Promises to Help People". Next chapter is "The Patriarchs: Gad Chooses a People." Fun stuff!!

Grade 7 &8 Religion: Students completed "Lesson 2" in their Religion textbooks. Our main ideas from the lesson are that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are both sources of truth. We learned about all the books of the bible and their roles in our understanding. We also discussed the holy trinity and the various ways that God has revealed the truth to us. October is also a time when we are called to pray the rosary, and Middle School has been praying the rosary every week, including one week with our second-grade buddies! Middle school also had a wonderful exhibit for our Rosary Show and Tell. Thank you to all the families who contributed to this special display.

Middle school students attend weekly Eucharistic Adoration (every Monday.) Middle school students also take turns reading at the daily 12:05 mass on Fridays, starting with grade 8. Ask your grade 8 learner on which Friday they are scheduled to read at daily mass. They would love their families to come and support them! Students continue to lead daily prayer in the classroom as well, and on Mondays, middle school leaders lead the entire school in prayer, announcements, and the pledge of allegiance.



Grade 6 Vocabulary skills: Students are just finishing Unit 3 in their books. They will be taking a cumulative Units 1-3 test soon, before moving on to Unit 4. Ask your student if they know what *barrage, queue,* and *slake* mean!

Grade 6 Literature: Students have been reading "The False Prince" by Jennifer Nielsen. Our learning goal right now is to build a love of reading as well as confidence through engaging with the text with character analyses, comparisons, predictions, and reflecting. Ask your learner who they believe Conner will choose to be the False Prince.

Grade 7 & 8 Math: We have finished a mix of Chapter 1 from both the 7th grade and 8th grade textbooks. We are taking a short break from the text now, to concentrate on becoming masters at adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions! Afterwards, we will continue with Algebraic expressions and equations.

Grade 7&8 Science: This month we have done e few science labs! We used the triple beam balance to determine the amount of mass in an object. We also used graduated cylinders to calculate the volume of an irregular object using water displacement. We will be moving on to changes in matter and energy and matter next month. I am sure there will be more hands-on labs to work on.

Grade 6: Social Studies: This month, students learned about the geography, culture, government, society, technology, and economy of the Fertile Crescent. Students can identify the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and can explain how they helped the development of cities. Ask your learner to tell you one accomplishment of the Assyrians! Students took their Chapter 2 Test on Friday October 30th. Next, students will be learning about the exciting culture of Ancient Egypt.
We have section quizzes every Friday (open notebook). We continue to also have Current Events once per week.

Grade 7 Social Studies: Students are focusing on the geographical, cultural, technological, political, and social forces behind the colonization of the New England Colonies. Students are differentiating between Pilgrims and Puritans, for example, and their respective reasons for migration. Students are looking at the economic factors such as mercantilism and are drawing connections between the New England of the past and the New England we all live in today. Students are also drawing connections with our Literature work. We continue to have current events every Monday.

Grade 8 Social Studies: Students have covered the Industrial Revolution and the rise of King Cotton in the south, along with the social and economic implications. Next, we are learning about the consequences of the acquisition of land from Mexico from the Mexican American War. Students can explain what the Wilmot Proviso was, and how it led to disagreements in congress that would eventually lead to the adoption of popular sovereignty. Students are noticing how political parties can change and form over time in response to social, cultural, and economic factors. Students have been looking at primary sources such as political cartoons and photographs. Please ask your learner to explain a consequence of the war with Mexico to check their understanding. We continue to have current events every Monday.

Grade 7&8 Literature: Students are reading "The Witch of Blackbird Pond and getting a good idea of what life was like for the Puritans living in Connecticut in the 1600s. Students are continuing to read with the background themes of ostracism and scapegoating informing their contextual understanding of the text and are documenting their literature connections in their literature response journals. Students also had a special guest visitor to the class, when Ms. Cori visited us and demonstrated how crochet, to help us build connections with the main character, Kit, as she learned to knit to keep her hands busy while entertaining guests. Students have section quizzes for every 4 chapters, and have most recently completed their chapter 5-8 quizzes. We have accompanying vocabulary terms for each section of the book. Ask your learner to explain what they feel has been the most challenging thing Kit has had to overcome so far. Ask your learner to predict what will happen next now that Kit and Hannah have discovered one another.



Grades 7&8 Skills: Students have been working on vocabulary terms in relation to "The Witch of Blackbird Pond." Students review the terms along with their definitions and a picture that represents the meaning. Students are reviewing their terms as homework - they have a list of different options for how to review their terms. Students are also working on their first research papers of the year. Students have selected their own topics and have located sources both online and in print. Students are learning how to cite sources, summarize, paraphrase, form a thesis, and argue their thesis. Students also have weekly writing prompts that go home each Friday and are due each Monday.

Grades 6, 7, 8 Handwriting: Grade 6 students are working on their cursive alphabet and focusing on their pen grip. Grades 7&8 are working on reflective cursive writing prompts by tracing an Abraham Lincoln quote and then writing in cursive their response or reflection on the meaning of the quote.

Art

October was a busy month in Art. We did a color unit. Students learned what primary and secondary colors are. We also learned about warm and cool colors and created warm and cool trees and butterflies. Students also learned how to add value to their artwork by using black to shade, adding white to tint, and adding grey to tone. Students also learned about complimentary colors. We had a great month and are excited about November projects.

Library

PreK 3 & PreK 4

Our youngest readers continued celebrating fall with pumpkin-themed stories! We read *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins* by Dianne Ochiltree, *Halloween Hustle* by Charlotte Gunnufson, *Runaway Pumpkins* by Teresa Bateman, and *How Big Could Your Pumpkin Grow?* by Wendell Minor, inspiring us to imagine just how BIG our pumpkins could get! We also enjoyed *Turkey Trick or Treat* by Wendi Silvano, following Turkey and his barnyard friends as they came up with clever costumes.

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Students in Kindergarten through Second grade began checking out books last month to bring back to their classrooms. Everyone is doing a wonderful job remembering our book-care rules and becoming responsible book borrowers!

Kindergarten students also enjoyed *Halloween Hustle* by Charlotte Gunnufson and its accompanying dance. Ask your learner to show you how to groove to the beat! Second graders read the spooky favorite *Creepy Pair of Underwear!* by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown, and designed their own creepy pairs of underwear. Their imaginations certainly did not disappoint!

3rd Grade

Third graders began listening to *Unsettling Salad!* by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown. We are now preparing for our RICBA reading journey. Students must read at least three of the 20 nominated books to vote in the statewide election. We will choose three titles to read together, and students are welcome to explore more on their own!

4th & 5th Grade

Between the Monday holiday and my absence this month, we had limited library time, so we focused on book checkouts and helping students find books they are excited to read. We will begin our RICBA reading journey soon!

Middle School (6th–8th Grade)

Our middle school journalists published the first edition of the **School Scoop Student Newspaper!** You can find it on the school library website through the link under my photo on the staff page. Students are already working on the next edition, expected in December, while continuing their research papers.

Computer

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students practiced mouse skills through fun educational games, learning to click, scroll, and navigate the screen. These foundational skills help build confidence and independence!

1st Grade

First graders practiced typing and keyboard skills, becoming more familiar with the keyboard layout and locating letters.

2nd Grade

Second graders learned to log in to their school Google accounts using their new email addresses and passwords. These skills will prepare

them for future digital learning activities.

3rd–5th Grade

Students enjoyed a Halloween-themed Google pixel art activity and solved a Dewey Decimal riddle sheet, combining technology, creativity, and library skills!

Middle School (6th–8th Grade)

Students continued working on the *School Scoop Student Newspaper* and their research papers, strengthening their writing, research, and digital skills.