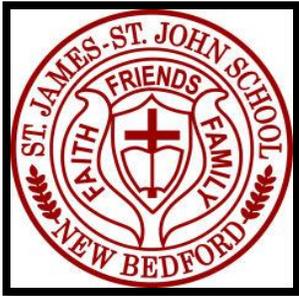


St James-St John School Newsletter

April 2016

Ms. Cristina Raposo
Principal



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

Happy spring to everyone! It seems surprising to say that this school year has absolutely flown by. However, it is now April and we only have two months left of the 2015/2016 school year. Even though only a short time is left please remember that school should be your top priority. It is still important for your child to get a good night's rest and come to school ready to learn.

and weaknesses and then our teachers can strategize how to meet those needs during the coming year. Please make sure your child is on time to school those days, has plenty of rest at night, and eats a healthy breakfast. All of our students and teachers have worked diligently to prepare your child for this test. We want our students to "show what they know" on those days. Please encourage your child to do their very best.

Important Dates:

Grade 8 will graduate on Monday June 6th, Kindergarten will graduate on Tuesday June 7th at 6pm and PK will graduate on Tuesday June 6th at 9am. Our last day of school for grades 1-7 is Wednesday June 15th.

Love,
Ms. Raposo

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During the month of April, after school vacation, grades 2-8 participate in *Iowa Assessments*. The *Iowa Assessments* have been designed, developed, and researched to support a variety of important educational purposes. These purposes require the collection and use of information that describes either the individual student or groups of students. The testing this year is being conducted in the spring to use the results to help us assess student strengths

Nurse Anna's Corner

Happy Spring! Vision and hearing screenings are almost complete on all students. Please return the doctor's treatment plan if you have received a referral for any failed screenings. I need all paperwork returned to me by the first week of May so that I can complete my state survey. I will soon begin doing postural/scoliosis screenings on all students in grades 5 to 8. This is a state of Massachusetts mandatory screening that must be done every year by the school nurse. I will send home a notice of when I will begin doing them.

Computer News

Welcome Spring! April is National Poetry Month. In fact, this April marks the 20th anniversary of National Poetry Month set by the Academy of American Poets. In recognition of this event, students will be working on poetry projects in computer class. Upper grades will create a slideshow "poetry slam" where they will create presentations that use graphics and text to enhance their poems. Younger students will write poems about the different elements of spring. They will then be able to add clip art and color to their work.

Pre-Kindergarten News

Spring has arrived!!! April will be another quick month due to the vacation. By the end of April the children should be familiar with all of the upper case alphabet letters and also all of the hand signs in America Sign Language for those letters! We practice the signs daily and have also learned some signs for family members, pets and food.

The students have enjoyed listening to the Pete the Cat stories and can even sing some songs from the stories. They are getting good at listening for the beginning sounds of words!! We are continuing to build our math skills with shapes, sorting, counting and money. Counting and patterns are part of our everyday learning at calendar time.

Towards the end of the month, the students will be taking a field trip to the Zeiterion Theatre to see Where the Wild Things Are. Please remember, we do try to go outside daily. Please make sure your child has an extra sweater or sweatshirt if needed. Let us know if you would like it to stay at school.

Kindergarten News

WELCOME . Hopefully our chicks have arrived by now. In April the children in kindergarten will be learning about Earth Day. To go along with this unit of study we will also be learning about the importance of recycling. In science this month we will discuss what plants need to survive and how they change throughout their lives.

First Grade News

April Showers Bring May Flowers!

Can you feel it-Spring is in the air. Spring signs are everywhere. What a beautiful time of year. We will be celebrating in God's creations with the awakening of the Earth and Earth Day. We are continuing to learn about our weather. In math, we are well on our way to sums and differences to twenty, along with adding 3 addends, and time and money. We will be creating new stories, reading new stories, and reinforcing phonics skills. We are also looking forward to our Bake Sale.

Happy Spring!!

Second Grade News

Happy Spring! This month we will start working with 3-digit numbers. Students will read, count, expand, and write whole numbers to 1000. Stories in reading will continue to teach us about being responsible. In our last chapter in religion we learned the importance of the Liturgy of the Word in the celebration of the Mass. Our next chapter will teach us about the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is getting very close to First Communion for many of our students. The children will also plant flower seeds and complete many spring projects.

Portuguese News

Pre-K -2nd grade will continue learning the alphabet and vocabulary words in Portuguese to add to their Portuguese dictionary. 3rd grade will be completing their Portuguese calendar. 4th-8th grades will be presenting their projects to the class upon my return.

Third Grade News

It's hard to believe that April is already here! The days are getting longer and spring is in the air....finally! It is a short month, but we plan on packing it with lots of learning. We will be finishing up our Whale Unit in Science and enjoy a trip to the Whaling Museum to get a hands-on lesson on everything we have been learning about. In Reading, our stories continue to take us around the world to learn about other cultures and traditions. In Math, we will be finishing up our chapter on Time and Measurement and begin learning about Fractions. This will involve many activities and games to help us understand this new concept. We are still practicing our multiplication and division facts and are trying to increase the amount we can complete during timed tests. In Religion, we begin a unit on the Mass. We will focus on the different parts of the Mass and the Mass responses. We will end the month with Iowa Testing. These tests will involve many of the skills we have learned throughout the year. With all of this work, we will also enjoy a week off.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable vacation week from Grade 3!

Fourth Grade News

April is upon us, and hopefully we will soon be enjoying nice, warm Spring weather! Students in Grade 4 have been working very hard, and are now busy on the third and final unit of the Social Studies Integrated Assessments. These projects are coming out very nicely, too! We have also completed the Animal Adaptation Projects, and we are now presenting them to our classmates. It is very interesting to see the adaptation combinations created by everyone. All these projects have kept us very busy! In Religion class we are working on the Ten Commandments. In Math we are working on using fractions, and in Science we will be learning about systems of the human body.

Happy Spring!

Fifth Grade News

Happy Spring Everyone! Signs of spring are everywhere in 5th grade! The terrarium portions of our EcoColumns are growing nicely. We will soon be learning about the aquatic phase to add to our hands-on Science experiment. In Social Studies, with the help of Mrs. Rego in Computer class, we will be exploring our own nationalities; learning about our heritage, traditions and culture. Everything will be wrapping up before we enjoy April Vacation! We will soon be completing Unit 3 in Reading and take our mastery test on our practiced comprehension skills and vocabulary, as well as completing our current units in Grammar and Vocabulary Workshop. I hope everyone enjoys there April Vacation... let's pray for beautiful weather!



Art

Although we did not have the harsh snowy winter of last year.....I know we are all ready for Spring to come. When we think of Spring in doing Art Lessons, there are so many new and fresh things that come to mind. April Showers brings May flowers, flower projects from 3D to understanding and learning about the famous artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Butterflies done in watercolor as well as sculptures, Birds and plants in oil pastels and colored pencils. Earth Day is April 22, 2016 this year and some of the classes will be doing "Recycle, Reduce, Reuse" Art projects. We will also be doing stained glass crosses as well as Pointillism fish. I will be bringing in some famous works of Art by Grant Wood and Andy Warhol. The school year is going so quickly that soon we will be preparing for our annual ART SHOW!!

Physical Education

Happy Spring! Hopefully during the month of April we will be able to have some of our gym classes outdoors! During this month the older children may be playing basketball and Newcomb and grades preschool through 3rd grade will be playing Newcomb and the In-N-Out game!

Middle School English/Language Arts

Welcome, April vs. Welcome April! One of these uses April as a noun of direct address; one issues an imperative to welcome the month of April. Do you know the difference? Commas matter.

After reading a recent set of essays I am reminded of my purpose and function here at St. James St. John School: to persist in teaching students that good writing truly matters. When one writes for an audience, especially one made up of readers who don't know the writer, the writing is a direct reflection of that person. The reader likely notices misused punctuation, incorrect capitalization and poor spelling. In a situation where there is any type of competition - a job or award perhaps- the weakest writer might not get the job or win the award. Convincing students that their writing matters is becoming more challenging as they use social media on a daily basis, and they communicate through texting, assuming that "no one cares" about the quality of their writing.

As the English and language arts teacher, you have my word that I will continue to prevail upon our students to proofread, to spell well - no excuses, to write in complete sentences, and to be thoughtful about what they write before they hit SEND.



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Middle School Math and Science

Middle School Math

Grade: 6 Students are working on Integers. They are learning about opposites and absolute value of integers, compare and order integers, and use rules to compute them. Students will be using order of operations with integers and evaluate expressions and solve equations with integers.

Grade: 7 Students are learning all negative exponents and how negative exponents represent decimal place value. We will also be working on Scientific Notation. Scientific Notation is a convenient way to write and compute with a very large or very small numbers.

Grade: 8 Students are learning all about Inequalities. Students are applying what they know about solving multi-step equations to solve multi-step inequalities. They will also be learning about solving and graphing compound inequalities.

Middle School Science

Grade: 6 Students are learning all about our solar system including the sun, inner and outer planets, comets, asteroids, and meteors.

Grade: 7 Students are enjoying learning about the circulatory system. They will be using the microscopes to see the different types of blood and learning about blood transfusion. They will be able to see what an artery and vein look like through a microscope too!

Grade: 8 Students are learning about forces. They will use Newton's 3rd Law to design a vehicle that moves without the use of gravity or a power source such as electricity. How will they be able to create a vehicle move without pushing or pulling?

Middle School Religion and Social Studies

Religion

Grade 6 In the coming month Grade 6 will continue the Old Testament study focusing on the work of the prophets during the destruction of Israel and Judah.

Grade 7 will continue their study of the Sacraments and the early days of the Church

Grade 8 is starting to look at the development of the Catholic Church in the United States and its growth during immigration.

Social Studies

Grade 6 Ancient Greece is going to continue to be the focus of study during April. The student will also begin their last project focusing on Ancient Greece and Rome.

Grade 7 is beginning a new era in American History. The Age of Jackson and the start of industrialization will be the two main topics this month.

Grade 8 students will be finishing their election projects which have been going very well. They are going to begin looking at the causes that led to World War I.

Music

What a great month we had in music class! March was filled with great knowledge as we began our section on Music Theory. We learned many of the basic ideas of music as we learned about the Treble Clef, the Bass Clef, and the quarter note, to name a few. We even made a connection to the popular song "It's all about that bass, 'bout that Bass. No "treble"! The month of April begins with the completion of our section on Music Theory...and then it will be time to "unveil the Spring Concert" theme and begin practicing our songs! This is a very exciting time for all students and we will welcome spring in a very musical way! More info on to come, but for now save the date for our Spring Concert on May 20th!! Get ready to be "dazzled"!