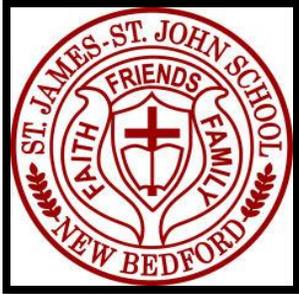


St James-St John School Newsletter

February 2016

Ms. Cristina Raposo
Principal



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

One of the great blessings and privileges we share as members of the SJSJ community is our Catholic identity. No matter your own family's faith and belief practices--the Catholic principles, values and foundations at SJSJ help foster an outstanding environment for growth, love and learning for all of us! The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. We begin the season of Lent with Mass and the distribution of Ashes. Father will remind us that prayer, almsgiving, and fasting are three things the church asks

us to do during Lent. Each family will receive a Pennies for Patients Box, which will help to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The money collected will be given to find a cure for the unlovely disease. Perhaps your family could gather at some time each day to say a Hail Mary together for a special need. Maybe your family would fast from some dessert one night a week or DO something nice for someone. You are in my thoughts and Lenten prayers.

Love,
Ms. Raposo

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Nurse Anna's Corner

February is Heart Disease Awareness Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. and also the #1 killer of women, killing more women than all forms of cancer combined. In the U.S., one woman dies every minute from heart disease.

We all have special women in our lives making it extremely important to be educated about heart disease. The symptoms of a heart attack in a woman may consist of sweating, nausea, pressure and jaw pain, all of which can easily be brushed off as being "stressed out" or "getting the flu". It is important to know that the symptoms of a heart attack are different in women than in men and may also differ between women.

Due to the snow storm on February 5, we were not able to wear red on National Go Red for Women Day. For the past few years, the faculty, staff and volunteers have made a donation on behalf of the school to this important campaign. We have rescheduled the wear red to school day to support the AHA for February 26th. Please visit the AHA website at www.heart.org and www.goredforwomen.org for information.

Computer News

This February will bring some exciting projects for the upper grades in computer class. When students are not working on their social studies projects, they will be able to create valentines for Veterans. They can make these using Google Docs and I will print and mail them to the local veteran's center. In addition, students will be doing a project called the Heart of Mathematical Thinking. In this project they will learn how to create graphs in Google Sheets.

Pre-Kindergarten News

This year, the month of February is a month of celebrations for our preschoolers beginning with Catholic Schools Week. The students will enjoy different themed dress downs each day. Our students will get to meet and listen to a local author, meet with their 5th grade buddies and celebrate our school family all week.

With the celebration of our 100th Day in preschool, Valentine's Day and vacation week it will go by quickly. We have a celebration planned for Valentine's Day and encourage you to send valentines for your child to share with their classmates.

February is also the international month of friendship which we will honor with discussions, stories, and encouragement on how to show love and kindness to friends.

Kindergarten News

Time is moving rather quickly and we have reached a halfway mark of the year. In February we will reach 100 days of school. I am looking forward to the second half of this school year as we begin to take even bigger steps towards Kindergarten graduation. We are so excited to have each and every one of you and thank you for giving us the opportunity to be part of your child's life. The children are learning new things every day.

This month the children will be learning why we celebrate Black History, President's Day, Ground Hog's Day, and Valentine's Day. So, as you can see our month will be filled with many activities and will pass very quickly. Remember to stop and take a minute and tell your child how important they are to you.

First Grade News

Love is in the air!!! February is love month in First Grade. It is also the beginning of our Lenten journey. We will be celebrating our 100th day too with activities and goodies. We will be incorporating chocolate into our writing, math, and poetry. We will be finishing our bodies and moving into shadows. Groundhog Day is a great day to begin shadows and the phases of the moon. Oh-the Groundhog did not see his shadow so a early spring is in the forecast.

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Second Grade News

February looks to be a very busy month in second grade. Our fourth unit in reading will look at how things change and how things stay the same. Our science lessons will continue with this theme as we learn about life cycles of plants and animals. We will start the month learning about geometry and end the month working with money and telling time. In religion we will learn about the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The children will learn that at each Mass we celebrate what Jesus did at the Last Supper. We are all looking forward to the Young People's Concert at the Zeiterion, Catholic Schools Week, and many other fun things month.

Portuguese News

I will be out on maternity leave mid-February to about mid-March. Pre-K through 2nd grade we will continue the alphabet and their Portuguese dictionaries when I return. 3rd grade has already begun to put together their Portuguese calendars and will continue to do so during my leave. 4th grade will work in groups to research a fact about Portuguese culture each week and provide a drawing to go along with each fact. 5th & 6th grades will be designing a floor plan of their "Dream house" according to the house vocabulary they learned in their grade level this unit. 7th and 8th graders will create a menu and ordering script utilizing food vocabulary, ordering at a restaurant, asking how much something costs and being able to respond. I am available via e-mail for any questions regarding their assigned projects.

Third Grade News

The weather may not feel it, but February has arrived! It will be a short month, but we plan on packing it with lots of learning. In Reading, we will begin a unit on different cultures. Our stories will take us around the world to learn about the people in different countries and their traditions. We will be finishing up our division facts in Math! We will continue to practice these and our multiplication facts all year. The Animal Projects are here and they are amazing! We are all enjoying the presentations from each other and learning a lot of fascinating facts about the different animals. We are writing all our subjects in cursive now and doing an awesome job! We find that it is faster to write in cursive than to print. In Language Arts, we begin our next class book as we read together Mr. Popper's Penguins. There will be several activities and writing assignments to go along with this great book. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and our focus in Religion will be preparing us for Easter. We will also spend some time making art projects to decorate our classroom for Valentine's Day and also enjoy a week off! Wishing everyone a restful vacation week and a Happy Valentine's Day!

Fourth Grade News

As February rolls in we are busy working our Social Studies projects! We are finishing up the unit about USA Government and have also begun the unit about history. In Science we will be learning about how living things survive in their environments and the adaptations they have to help them to survive. In Religion class we will be learning about Lent and Easter, followed by the Ten Commandments. And last, but not least, we have started learning how to divide using LONG DIVISION. This is a difficult operation, but we can master it! Wishing everyone a happy Valentine's Day and a happy, fun, and healthy upcoming vacation week!

Fifth Grade News

This year is flying by! February will be filled with lots of fun and academic activities. In Social Studies we will be working on our economic and political systems assessment corresponding with our text readings. In Reading, we will be practicing our comprehension skills in sequence, summarizing, visualization, fact and opinion, and prediction. Our main focus in January has been celebrating the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. I was really impressed with the way the students embraced the lessons and our class free-read of his biography. In February, we will continue with a supplementary unit on Black History. We will read another class free-read on Harriet Tubman and hold discussions on influential Black members of our U.S. History including Jackie Robinson, Frederick Douglas, Barack Obama, and Sojourner Truth. We will conclude this unit with a field trip to the Zeiterion Theatre to watch a play about Rosa Parks.

Art

The first week in February is going to be a very busy time with our school celebrating Catholic Schools Week. I look forward to doing some fun Art things during the week. February is still a winter month and we will be doing Art lessons that are Winter themed and there will also be some Valentine Art in the lower grades. The Middle School classes will be finishing Optical Illusion art in bright colored markers, Self Portraits in pencil and Tessellations in oil pastels. One of the lessons I will be working with and incorporating into many of the Art classes this month is the "Color Wheel" or "Color Theory" They will learn the 6 main colors, primary and secondary, warm and cool colors, complementary colors, analogous colors, tints, and shades.

Physical Education

Reminder, we still have many children not bringing in an extra pair of sneakers on gym days, they are not allowed to step onto the court at the CYO building without changing the shoes! During the month of February the children will be playing line soccer and hockey, along with running laps and exercises!

Middle School English/Language Arts

As a parent and a teacher, I enjoy reading articles that share perspective on the use of electronics and social media by our tweens and teens. I thought that the article I am sharing below articulates some principles that really make sense for families.

Wishing you an enjoyable February break.

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/6-resolutions-every-family-with-tweens-and-teens-should-make-in-2016>



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Middle School Math and Science

Middle School Science

Grade: 6 Students worked on a project cooperatively on Newton's Laws of Motion through roller coaster physics. The objective is to have a marble take the greatest amount of time to get from the top of the first hill to where the roller coaster ends. They had a lot of fun with this project.

Grade: 7 have just finished their 3-D model of the Digestive System. They all did an amazing job! They also presented their Organ Trail Wanted Posters. This is displayed in our middle school hallway. Next chapter we will be learning about the Circulatory System. They will be constructing a 3-D model of the human heart out of clay.

Grade: 8 began their new book on Motion, Forces and Energy. Students will be introduced to measuring motion and acceleration. The students presented their Wanted Scientist projects. All projects are displayed out in the hallway.

Middle School Math

Grade: 6 students are going to begin evaluating algebraic expression. They will apply the order of operations to evaluate algebraic expressions when values for variables are given. They need to continue to practice their multiplication and division facts.

Grade: 7 students have been working on solving inequalities. We are working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing inequality equations using variables.

Grade: 8 students will continue to work on solving multi-step equations with grouping symbols and variables on both sides.

Middle School Religion and Social Studies

Social Studies

Grade 6 Will be continuing their study of Ancient China and finishing another project.

Grade 7 is currently looking at the New Republic Era and the War of 1812.

Grade 8 is finishing the Gilded Age and moving on to American Expansion.

Religion

Grade 6 Will be studying the breakup of Israel

Grade 7 Will continue to study the Commandments.

Grade 8 is finishing up the Church in the Middle Ages and starting the development of the Church in the New World.

Music

January was filled with lots of travel in Music Class as our Preschool through 5th grade classes traveled the globe on our Musical Journey. We visited many beautiful countries like Thailand, India, Germany and the good ol' USA. We enjoyed each country in a different way and got a sense of not only each country's music, but also of their culture. It was a great adventure and we had a whole lot of fun!

February will bring us back to our Music Class as we begin our journey into Music Theory. Each year we open up our "Music Folders" in our brain and we add to it. It is fun seeing what we remember, and we look forward to adding new musical knowledge. All classes will enjoy this series all at an age appropriate level. Get ready to see our SJSJ Beethoven's appear as they explore the world of music theory. It is going to be a Musical Month for all classes for sure! ☺