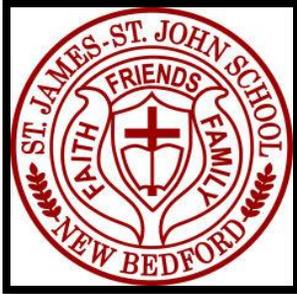


St James-St John School Newsletter

March 2016

Ms. Cristina Raposo
Principal



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

Spring is around the corner! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this year and all of our programs and fundraisers a success. Our PTO continues to find great ideas to support our students and our school programs.

Safety and good choices are always a valuable lesson. Please lead your children by example and use the crosswalks provided. Please do not park in the crosswalk or pull up on the sidewalk to drop off your child. We are here for the safety and protection of all students. Thank you to all our parents that help with morning recess and thank you to those of you that consistently observe and follow our rules.

I would like to remind you that re-enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year is well underway. Thus far, we've had a very good response and are re-enrolling our current families earlier and at a higher rate than ever before. However, our goals cannot be met without your help. Our goal is to grow SJSJ School with more great kids and families. With your help and commitment to the future of our school, we can make that a reality. We cannot do that without your hard work and dedication to success. Please consider sharing information about our school to your friends and family and to re-enroll, please download the forms from our website or see Ms. Raposo or Mrs. Mitchell in the front office.

Love,
Ms. Raposo

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Nurse Anna's Corner

Pennies/Pasta for Patients time is here!

This will be our 6th year participating in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies/Pasta for Patients fundraiser which raises money to fund research to find a cure for blood cancers. Last year, SJSJ raised an amazing \$6,363.90 which placed the school in 3rd place in the New England area thanks to our incredible students, families and staff! We will be kicking off the fundraiser with a school wide assembly with a leukemia survivor on Tuesday, March 8 and the 2015 Man of the Year for LLS, Liam Fitzgerald, (also known as "the fist bump kid") on Thursday, March 10 followed by several events over the next few weeks. Please be on the lookout for a calendar of events.

Computer News

It's hard to believe that we are already in March and spring is right around the corner! This month students in all grades will continue working on classroom assignments for their integrated social studies projects. We will also be working with Google Docs to create posters on St. Patrick. Later in the month, students will have a lesson on graphing temperature changes as we transition from winter to spring.

Pre-Kindergarten News

March will be a very busy month with a lot to do. We will continue to work on our letters and numbers, while working on math, writing and reading skills. This month we will learn about spring time, St. Patrick's Day and leprechauns! We will be talking about the season of Lent and what it means to us.

The children are learning to use their words and to try to solve problems with their friends. This is a very important social skill. We continue to discuss kindness, respect and responsibility, all traits that will help them their entire life. With the weather changing and the children growing, we will be sending home the extra clothing for updating. Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Kindergarten News

March is a very busy month for kindergarten. In math we will be working on coins. To help the children learn the names of the coins and their values we will have a store in our home living center. With this in mind I would like to ask the parents to send in any empty food containers for our store. This is also the time for our most exciting lessons in science Egg Hatching. I believe we will be getting duck eggs this year. Lastly in reading we will be reading and discussing adventures.

First Grade News

In Like A Lion-Out Like A Lamb!!

We are marching on in 1st Grade. We continue with our Lenten journey and various Lenten activities that are helping us to grow closer to Jesus. We will be learning about St. Patrick and how he taught others about the Holy Trinity.

We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday by joining others in Reading across America. We continue with our mapping skills and learning about Massachusetts' history and symbols. In science, we continue with our Moon Journals and our Weather. Reading is taking us to new stories and adventures. We will even be trying to capture some of those tricky leprechauns too.

Happy Spring!!

Second Grade News

We are all thinking spring in the second grade. This month we will begin a new unit in reading that focuses on being responsible and showing pride in everything we do. We will practice telling time and counting money in math. In social studies we will continue with map skills and in science we will study plant life. Students will also learn that Lent is a season of preparing for the celebration of Easter. We have many special projects and activities planned for this month. We wish everyone a beautiful Easter!

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

March is here and what a busy month we have in store for us! In Reading, our stories will take us around the world as we learn about different cultures. We will use our mapping skills as we locate the different countries we will be reading about. We will learn about some of the traditions that other countries have as well. In math, we will be finishing up our chapter on Statistics and Probability and begin a new chapter on Measurement and Time. We will, of course, continue to practice and use our multiplication and division facts! In Religion, we have been discussing Lent and how important it is to pray and sacrifice during this holy time. Our Lenten journey will end with the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter. We will also be discussing the Sacraments and the important role they play in our Catholic lives. In English and Language Arts, we will begin learning about Adjectives and Adverbs. We will use them in our creative writing and see how much more interesting our stories are by using them. In Science, we will begin our Whale Unit. We will learn about whales, their migration, and the whaling industry and how it helped Massachusetts grow. We are also planning to visit the Whaling Museum. We will end the month by finishing up our classroom book, Mr. Popper's Penguins. We will then watch the movie and complete a packet of assignments comparing and contrasting both. With all this work to do, we will try and save some time for some fun art projects that will help decorate our classroom for the month. Wishing everyone a blessed Easter from Grade 3.

Fourth Grade News

As the month of February draws to a close, we hope to see a quick change to a sunny and warm spring! Long division is just about mastered now, and soon we will be working on fractions in Math. We are making good progress with our Social Studies projects, and have learned about our government and many things about the history of our country. We will soon be exploring the regions of the USA. In Science we are learning about animals' adaptations, and we will soon be designing an animal with unique adaptations to enable it to survive in its habitat. In Religion class we will be continuing to learn about the Ten Commandments. It is going to be great to end the month off with a special field trip to Patriot Place at Gillette Stadium, we can hardly wait! In closing, we would like to wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter.

THINK SPRING!

Fifth Grade News

March appears to be a very active month; celebrating the end of winter, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and the kick-off to Pennies for Patients! The students are anxiously waiting to dive into our EcoColumns for Science. We will start with the terrarium portion this month. Hopefully by the end of the month and into April we will be able to sustain the aquarium portion. In Social Studies, we will dive into celebrating world cultures. Discussion on world religions and values will be our main focus. In preparation for Easter, 5th grade will be completing a couple hands on projects to remind us of our Catholic foundation. I hope everyone has a blessed Easter with their families!

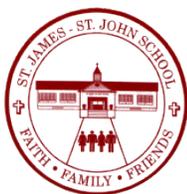
Art

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

Physical Education classes during the month of March will consist of newcomb Volleyball and handball for grades 4 thru 8, and newcomb volleyball and the in and out game played with hula hoops for grades Pre-K thru 3. Please remember to bring your extra sneakers! I would to take this time to wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Middle School English/Language Arts



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It's that time of the year when students (and teachers) are ready to shake up the routine a bit! March is the month that we take a break from our middle school literature anthologies and immerse ourselves in a different novel for each grade. Accompanying the reading of these novels will be a variety of activities that will have students engaged and interested - I hope!

The sixth graders will read *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen; the seventh graders will read *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel and the eighth graders will read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusac.

Have your middle school student keep you posted on our progress.

Middle School Math and Science

Science

Grade: 6 Students are learning about the phases of the moon. Students worked on an activity where they created phases of the moon model as seen from Earth and also worked on a mini investigation project.

During the investigation we discussed hypothesis, background information, procedures, data, data analysis, and conclusion and students recorded their answers.

Grade: 7 Students are learning about our circulatory system. They cooperatively created blood in class.

They started out with plasma and then included salt, red blood cells, white blood cells, and concluded with platelets

Grade: 8 Students are learning about acceleration. They will be describing the motions of an object as it accelerates, calculate acceleration, and describe what graphs are used to analyze the motion of an accelerating object.

Math

Grade: 6 Students will translate and evaluate algebraic expressions and translate and solve simple equations and inequalities. They will compute using order of operations. Students will also use formulas and solve problems of many types, including those that use more than one step.

Grade: 7 Students will work with decimals. They will also learn to express large and small decimal numbers using scientific notation, multiply and divide numbers with positive and negative exponents, and rename metric units of measure.

Grade: 8 Students will begin a new chapter and be introduced to inequalities. Students will work with inequalities and compound inequalities, including writing, solving, and graphing one- and two-step addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division inequalities.

Middle School Religion and Social Studies

Religion

The season of Lent and Holy Week is during this month and we will be doing several activities both as a school and in individual classes during this month. In addition we will continue with our regular curriculum.

Grade 6 is studying the breakup of Israel and the takeover of the region by the Assyrians.

Grade 7 will continue the study of the sacraments and the importance that play in our lives.

Grade 8 is currently working through the Reformation and its aftermath. We will continue this to the enlightenment and the beginning of the Church in the New World.

Social Studies

Grade 6 will continue their study of Ancient China and the corresponding project.

Grade 7 will be moving to the Early Republic Era and the Age of Jefferson.

Grade 8 will be doing a project on the Presidential Election, this should be interesting. Grade 8 will also be studying the American Expansion during this month.

Music

March rolls in with the continuation of our Music Theory section in all Music Classes. All students have been engaged in learning about Notes, Beats, and Rhythms throughout the month of February. This month we will add Staff Reading, Tempo, and Dynamics to our musical folders of knowledge. We will also be incorporating our Boomwhackers into this series in order to create some pretty awesome songs together. Looking forward to a Musical March! And special thanks to those of you who participated in our Classroom Talent Shows. What fun it was to see all of you shine either on or off the stage. Great job everyone!

We're on the Web!
www.sjsjschool.com

and

