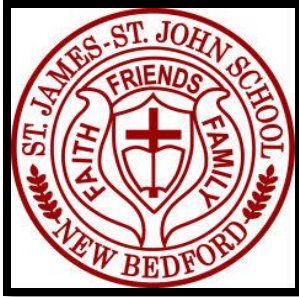


St James-St John School Newsletter

May/June 2016

Ms. Cristina Raposo
Principal



Principal's News

Dear Parents,

The end of the school year is almost here! Where has the year gone? As I reflect on this past school year, I realize that I am blessed to be the instructional leader of such a wonderful school family. Our Catholic identity and strong family relationships unite us. Our strong test scores acknowledge our academic successes. Our children are our greatest assets. Thank you for choosing to send your children to St. James-St John School.

Thank you to the teachers and staff who unselfishly give of their time and talent to educate our children.

God is good all the time!

During the summer months, be sure to make time for learning and make time for

family meals. This is a good time for children to learn communication skills. Establish a family reading time. Other summer ideas- Play math games or investigate science through the wonders of nature. Make math problems out of every day events. On your vacation, take advantage of any learning opportunities. Help your children grow to be life-long learners. And as you play this summer, don't forget to pray. Attend Sunday Mass. If you are traveling, find a Catholic church to help your children learn firsthand about our universal church. Pray as part of your bedtime ritual. Don't let your faith slide in the summer.

Have a wonderful summer and I will see you in August (if not before).

God Bless,
Ms Raposo

Contents

Principal's News	1
Nurse Anna's Corner	1
Pre-Kindergarten News	2
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	3
Fourth Grade News	3
Fifth Grade News	3
Sixth Grade News	4
Seventh Grade News	4
Eighth Grade News	4

Nurse Anna's Corner

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is quickly approaching. During the next few weeks, I will be sending home notices requesting updated immunizations or physical exams for the 2016-2017 school year. It is very important that I receive the information that I request as soon as possible especially if I note that it is mandatory for the specific grade that the student is entering. There are several mandatory requirements for the State of Massachusetts for certain grades and if the documentation is not returned before the first day of school, the student will not be allowed to stay in school on the first day of school per the State of Massachusetts guidelines. Please let me know if you have any questions at amanny@sjsjschool.com.

Spring Concert

On a side note, all the students have been working awfully hard to prepare for the *Matthew Benoit Scholarship Spring Show*. **Don't forget to save the date – May 20th!** It will be a great evening with talented performances, yummy food, Chinese auction items, gift baskets and our lovely class projects up for auction! This fundraising event is a great way to be involved in our school community and assist families of St. James St. John School.

Computer News

It's hard to believe that we are so close to the end of the school year. The time has sure gone by quickly. We will be wrapping up the social studies projects and working on some fun projects over the next few weeks. If you are looking for fun and safe computer games for rainy summer days, consider Knowledge Adventure (<http://www.knowledgeadventure.com/>) or Learning Games for Kids (<http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/>). I hope everyone has a great summer!

Pre-Kindergarten News

Our school year is quickly coming to a close. It is hard to believe but there are only about 30 days left in the school year. We are looking forward to the Spring Concert on May 20th and the Art Show on May 17th. We are also planning a field trip to Buttonwood Park Zoo towards the end of May.

The Preschool Bake Sale is planned for Friday, May 27th. We will be asking for donations (cookies, donuts, cupcakes) from our preschool parents. Volunteers will also be needed to run the Bake Sale. This year our Preschool Stepping Up celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7th at 9 A.M. in the school cafeteria. The children have grown a lot and learned so much! Please save the date, you won't want to miss the show.

Kindergarten News

Hopefully, spring weather will stay for a while. The children are making progress in all areas of the curriculum. This time of year is always bittersweet for me. I am so excited to see how much the children have grown and how prepared they are for the next step on the academic journey and I am also sad to say goodbye to the children and their families.

Though the school year is ending, opportunities for children to learn and parents to facilitate development are plentiful, particularly in the summer months. Here are a few ideas to help you think about simple ways to promote children's growth in each of the key domains of development. Self-Esteem and Independence • Since the pace of summer is typically slower, allow time for children to do as much as possible for themselves (e.g., eating and cleaning up, washing, dressing, and packing a backpack). The resulting increase in independence will promote self-esteem AND help prepare the child for new responsibilities at school next year. • Sharing ideas provides an opportunity for children to discover the value of their contributions. Summer often brings more time with extended family and friends, which encourages important social interactions.

First Grade News

Happy Mother's Day!!!

May is such a beautiful time of year with Earth's entire splendor. Right before our eyes, we will be observing the life cycle of a butterfly. We will be growing and observing our planted seeds. We may even plant sunflowers in our garden for our new first graders in the Fall. We continue with our weather unit and incorporating it into our writing and art. Our math skills will be challenged with money, geometry, and adding two digits. We also are looking forward to honoring you, our mothers, with our Mother's Day Brunch.

In June, we will be wrapping up our school year with our academics. Wow!! Where has the school year gone! We will be celebrating our accomplishments with ice cream and our trip to Somerset Creamery. We will also be remembering our dads with our special gift for Father's Day.

I am so proud of all my first graders and all they have accomplished this year. We will be celebrating our accomplishments with ice cream and our last field trip to Somerset Creamery. I am wishing all of you a very happy, enjoyable, and relaxing summer.

Second Grade News

The end of the school year is coming quickly! Stories in our last reading unit will look at traditions and celebrations that are important in our lives. In math we will finish a chapter with 3-digit addition and subtraction and then learn about fractions and probability. Religion classes will focus on how we live our faith. Many second graders will be making their First Communion during the month of May. The children are very excited and we hope they have a very blessed day. Have a wonderful and safe summer

Portuguese News

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the last weeks of the school year! It was such a pleasure meeting and being able to work with such a wonderful group of kids! For the final weeks PreK- 2nd will make it to "Z" in their Portuguese dictionaries. Grade 3 will be learning about fruits and vegetables in Portuguese. Grade 4 will complete the current unit on verbs involving recreational activities. Grade 5 will also complete their unit on "Market place foods". 6th grade will finalize their sit on different types of stores. Grades 7-8 will continue learning descriptions and conclude with a project of them describing themselves. Have a great summer!

Third Grade News

The weather is warmer and the days are longer! It feels good to enjoy some time outdoors. We are still very busy in 3rd grade. We will be finishing up our last unit in Reading. These stories will focus on our freedom and what it means to be free. In Math, we will be ending our fraction chapter and begin a chapter on geometry. We will continue taking our timed tests in multiplication and division to make sure we know all our facts for 4th grade! We will also be finishing up our Social Studies projects on Massachusetts. It has been informative learning how our state was developed. In English/Language Arts we will be finishing up our parts of speech and are now able to identify all the words in a simple sentence. We will read our last class book together and complete writing assignments to go along with it. Speaking of writing, we will be putting the finishing touches on our Writing Journals that will be sent home at the end of the year filled with all our creative talent! In Science, we will be studying the weather and keep a Weather Log to compare data. We will also be creating some beautiful tissue paper butterflies to decorate our classroom and also complete our Mother's Day projects. We hope all our moms will enjoy our gift and have a wonderful day! It's been a wonderful year in 3rd grade! We have learned so much and enjoyed each other. We will see you all in 4th grade!

Fourth Grade News

First of all, we wish everyone a HAPPY SPRING with plenty of warm weather! In Social Studies we are working very hard on the last pieces of the integrated assessment projects. We have worked very hard on these projects and they are looking good! In Science we are learning about the Digestive, Circulatory, and Nervous Systems of the human body, and it is very interesting. Be sure to ask your fourth grader to show you how big a stomach is when it is not stretched out, you might be very surprised! Fractions are being mastered in Math class. Now that we understand them, we are learning to add and subtract fractions.

We would also like to mention a great field trip that we went on with the fifth grade. We all traveled The Hall at Patriot Place, and it was awesome. While we were there we saw all the great items in the Hall and we also got to work on selecting players for a "new expansion team". We would like to thank Mr. Dee for joining us and making this trip extra special too!

Again, Happy Spring to all!

Fifth Grade News

Upon starting to write our final newsletter, I could not help but reflect on what a wonderful year I have had with 5th grade. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of our time spent together! As we conclude our year, we will be wrapping up multiple on-going projects in Social Studies and Religion. In Science, we will conclude with physical science; discussing topics of mass, velocity, and motion. I am hoping to sneak in one more fun lab before the year ends, as well! There are a few end-of-year projects I still have up my sleeve and would love to accomplish with 5th grade. I hope everyone has had an influential and enjoyable year! I wish all my 5th grade families a wonderful summer!

Art

A special thank you to my St. James/St. John School family for all of your thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time for me and my family. Your support has been immeasurable and it has meant so much. I am looking forward to coming back to school to teach ART once again, after April School vacation.

May is almost here and we will be busy in ART class planning for our ANNUAL ART SHOW. It is a little earlier this year, so mark your calendars. The ART SHOW will be held on May 17, 2016, from 6:30 - 7:30. Each student will be picking out the 3 pieces of ART in their portfolios that they feel are their very best as well as perhaps their favorite projects they did this year. There will be ribbons given out in each grade level. We will also have make an take projects going on in the library, for any student that wants to participate. I hope to see you all there.

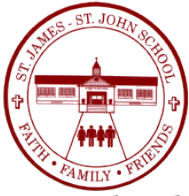
Physical Education

Wow! I can't believe it's that time of year already! It's been my pleasure to have your children in P.E. It has truly by a great school year. During the month of May and June we will hopefully be outside enjoying the weather, playing basketball, kickball, new comb, and other games. I would also like to take this time to wish all of our SJSJ. Families a safe and wonderful summer! Enjoy

Middle School English/Language Arts

It's already that time of the year that seemed eons away when we began last August. Each of the classes is finishing their respective novels and will have a piece of writing to do that encourages them to write creatively about what it is about the novel that speaks to them.

Since we are very close to finishing the vocabulary book, the final exam for vocabulary will take place this month. The students will be given a list of specific words that will be on the test.



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Eighth grade parents, it's been a pleasure to work with you and your children. When we have the same students for three years, it's a pleasure to watch them grow and change into the people they are. I wish them and you happiness, success and health for the future!

Middle School Math and Science

I cannot believe we are approaching the end of this school year. As we are entering our last month of school, we will be wrapping things up with final exams. I will be giving final exams to all 6 classes. These final exams will consist of all the materials we worked on this year. They will receive a study guide late May to help prepare for the final exams. We will be working and going over the study guides together in class.

It has truly been an honor being the middle school math and science teacher here at SJSJ.

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

and



Middle School Religion and Social Studies

May is a very busy month for Grade 8. There are many activities beginning with the class retreat and preparing for graduation. In addition we will continue to work on both religion and social studies. In Social Studies we will be looking at the Great Depression and World War II.

Grade 7 will be completing their final Social Studies project during May. We will be studying the industrialization in the North and the growth of an agricultural economy in the South. In Religion we will continue to study Catholic Social Teaching.

Grade 6 is moving from Ancient Greece on to Ancient Rome in May. In addition they will be completing their final Social Studies Project. They have done a very good job. In Religion the story of the Bible will continue and we shall begin to look at the New Testament.

Music

May has arrived and it has come into SJSJ in a hugely musical way! The Spring Concert Theme has been unveiled, all the classes are Rockin' and Rollin', and we are on our way to a spectacular show that brings back the "Fabulous Fifties"! This is going to be a show to remember for sure! With that being said, our May music classes will be filled with "rehearsals" as we continue working on our songs and our new dance moves! Each classroom is preparing their own song, and we will of course have our "All School" songs as we fill the auditorium with the wonderful sounds of Rock and Roll! It is going to be a blast from the past!!! Get ready to be dazzled! ☺ See you all on May 20th!