

ST JAMES-ST JOHN SCHOOL

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2016

From the desk of your Principal

Our school year is off to a great start. The children have been living witnesses of our mission: Together we will teach children to see the world through the eyes of Christ and to model the lives of the Saints in a rigorous academic environment. They are studying and practicing the virtues. They are participating in prayers at Mass. They are being kind and loving. They are learning, thanks be to God! Thank you for your commitment to Catholic Education.

In the coming month, I look forward to spending more time in the classrooms through teacher evaluations for formal observations but, as I walk through the halls, check student work, and review progress reports, it is evident to me that learning in a variety of modalities is occurring each and every day. Instruction is being individualized and differentiated. Our teachers take seriously their responsibilities as professional educators, and they care deeply for their students, your children.

Our walk-a-thon is scheduled for October 7th and we

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NOTES FROM NURSE ANNA

5 Steps to Your Healthiest School Year Ever!

1. Start off strong with a healthy breakfast. A good breakfast provides energy and will help keep you alert and attentive in class. Highly sugared foods leave you feeling tired soon after eating.
2. Drink plenty of water. Water is the best fluid to stay hydrated without the added sugar found in some juice and soft drinks.
3. Wash your hands often. Keep hands away from your face, mouth, and nose where germs can enter your body.
4. Boost your immune system. Get plenty of sleep and eat colorful fruits and vegetables every day. Think variety and rainbow colors!
5. Get at least 30 minutes of exercise every day – at recess and at home. Go for a daily walk with a friend, a parent or your pet. Exercise helps our bodies to be strong and flexible.



Please be on the lookout for more information on the JDRF walk for Type 1 Diabetes on October 15th.

hope you can join us for the fun event. Finally, we look forward to another popular event on the 28th of this month, our PTO Family Halloween Party at St Mary's South Dartmouth Parish Center at 6pm. Parents and children are invited dinner, fun, and dancing. All are invited to come in creative costume. Additionally the 8th grade class will have a Haunted House for all to visit, all proceeds going towards graduation expenses. We would like to thank Fr Rodney and St Mary's Parish for allowing us to use their parish center for our event. Our Halloween Parade will take place Monday October 31st at 9am, please join us in the schoolyard.

Stay tuned for more information about the great things happening at St. James-St John this year! May Jesus and the Holy Spirit protect and guide the students and staff of St. James-St John School always.

Blessings,
Ms. Raposo.

PK News



The preschool students have settled into the classroom routine. Every day there are more smiles and fewer tears! Each week we will concentrate on a letter, color, number and shape. We are also practicing how to use our words to solve issues with our friends.

In October our theme will be the farm. We will learn about farm animals, apples, pumpkins, corn and scarecrows. Our class will be taking a field trip to Patchet Brook Farm to visit a working farm. At the end of the month we look forward to our Halloween parade.

Kindergarten

We have quickly moved into fall and will soon be into the holiday season. We have had a great start to school. Our students are getting into a routine and great things are happening in the classrooms. We ask that you check your child's folder daily for notes and information.

In school, students are learning how to be responsible for their folder and homework. Parents please help us with this. Promote responsibility and value for education by completing all homework tasks and giving your child some responsibility with returning items to school each day.

Grade 1

Happy Fall!!! The cooler temperatures are so refreshing and the children will be celebrating this beautiful time of year with a trip to Young's Farm and Apple Orchard. We will be incorporating our apples and pumpkins into our math, science, reading, and writing curriculum. Trees, leaves, and bulb planting will also be incorporated into our curriculum. We are continuing with our addition and word problems. We will also be learning about our own Massachusetts Folk Hero-Johnny Appleseed along with Christopher Columbus. I hope you all enjoy this beautiful time of year with all its colorful glory.

Grade 2

Second Grade had a wonderful first month of school! Everyone is adjusting to a new school year. We are happy to welcome Mia Giorgianni to our class. In October, our math lessons will concentrate on place value to 100. Please keep reviewing addition and subtraction facts at home. In religion we will learn about the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Our stories in reading will help us discover what we can learn from exploring new places and things. In social studies we will do a unit on jobs and the economy. We are looking forward to our field trip with kindergarten to the Harvest Festival at St. Bernard Church. Hope everyone has a Happy Halloween!

Grade 3

October is here! The leaves are changing and the weather is getting cooler. We have a lot to learn and new projects to enjoy. In Math we will be finishing up a chapter on subtraction and begin a new chapter on multiplication. We are all very excited to begin this new skill. In Reading, as we begin Unit 2, our stories will focus on animals as the main characters. In English/Language Arts we have been learning about sentences. We will be using that knowledge to begin writing personal narratives and descriptive paragraphs. In Science, our first chapter has us learning about plants. We will now be planting seeds and keeping Plant Journals to track our plant's growth. We will be continuing our Social Studies chapter on the Native Americans and discuss the arrival of the Pilgrims as we study the early development of Massachusetts. As the month comes to a close, we will enjoy making Halloween art projects and enjoy a Halloween Party. October is going to be a fun month!

COMPUTER GRADES 4-8

We are off to a great start this year! All students have been getting reacquainted with the chrome books and using Google classroom. We have been working on making presentations using Google Slides. Students in grades 6-8 created a comic strip presentation illustrating a favorite part of a book they read over the summer. Grades 4 and 5 created a slide show on their adventures over summer vacation. Over the next few weeks, we will be working on improving research skills and citing sources. If time permits, I hope to incorporate an activity on Christopher Columbus as well as a Halloween project this month.

- Mrs. Rego

ART AT SJSJ

Fall is upon us and the Art Projects we do in the Fall are simply amazing. We will be using all different mediums for our projects, from crayons and watercolors, to chalk, oil pastels and colored pencils. All of the vivid colors of fall, shades of red, orange, yellow and brown will be used in every project we do this month. Leaves, pumpkins, fall trees, scarecrows, witches and much more will be our themes. We will also be studying several famous artists from Art History.

I also want to remind all the parents, once our Art to Remember brochures are sent home, to look closely at them and get your orders in right away. The order forms are due back at school on October 27th. Art to Remember is going very well and I can see the enthusiasm of our students as they complete their artwork. This is a wonderful way to purchase a keepsake of your child's art. *Mrs. Wilson - Art Teacher*

GYM AT SJSJ

During the month of October children in grades 4-8 will be playing kick ball and soccer. Pre-K-3 relay races and line soccer. Please keep in mind that on bad weather days, gym classes are held in the CYO building and children will need to bring an extra pair of sneakers to change into in order to play on the court. Wishing everyone a safe and Happy

Halloween! 🍬

Grade 4

Happy October everyone! It doesn't seem possible that time has passed so quickly. The students of Grade 4 have made the BIG adjustment to life in the intermediate grades on the "big side of the building". We have met with our 1st Grade Buddies and it felt really different being the "Big Buddy Helpers". It is not as easy being the responsible big kids as we thought it would be.

We have covered number sense in Math class and are going into a quick review of addition and subtraction skills mixed in with geometry skills. We will be learning about Earth Science during Science class and about our government and the history of the Pilgrims in our country in Social Studies class. In Religion class we will be learning about the Beatitudes and how to live them. Our first field trip will be to the Whydah Pirate Museum in West Yarmouth on Friday, October 28, and it promises to be very interesting!

Happy Halloween to all!

Grade 5

Welcome to Fall everyone! As we welcome this cooler weather, 5th grade will be busy with our academics and "spooktacular" activities! We will be combing the fundamentals of a science lab with a hands-on, science-based, messy and fun activity fitting for the month of October. We will be discussing life science and will introduce labs to our monthly activities. In Reading, we will discuss various skills such as fact and opinion and cause and effect. Our goal will be to complete our first unit in our 5th Grade Reading series. In Religion, we will continue learning about Jesus' mission and relating the material to every day experiences. We will hold group discussions on what are attainable goals for 5th graders to help the Kingdom of God grow. Lastly, the 4th and 5th graders are looking forward to our field trip to Whydah Pirate Museum on October 28th! Please consider chaperoning for our festive day out!

Grade 6

Wow, the year is already passing quickly! All three grades did very well on their summer reading tests, and the 8th Grade enjoyed their very own Ceremony of Twelve based on their reading of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Later this year I will be taking the 7th and 8th grades to a performance of that book in a one person show, which I know they will enjoy. In literature we are starting the year with poetry and I'm looking forward to reading the poetry they write based on what they learn about the elements of poetry in class.

On October 15th my family and I will be walking in the Diabetes Walk in New Bedford around Buttonwood Park. We walk in honor of my daughter who has Type One Diabetes. It is my hope that lots of middle school students and their families join us for a great cause. This would also be considered a type of community service for those considering induction into the National Junior Honor Society. We will be decorating T-shirts the week before the walk; students will need a blue (robin's egg shade) shirt to join our team, the Sophie Lovers.

MUSIC AT SJSJ

In October, all Music Classes will start to feel the rhythms of Fall. We spent September discovering things that bring Music to Our Ears and how important using our ears for listening is. We will continue our journey in listening by exploring the various seasonal sounds we hear at this time of year. This will be done with music and also with instruments as we will be creating “sound effects” with our instruments. We will also be adding our traditional Seasonal Songs as well as some very fun October “carols”! And, of course, we will be bringing our ever popular song “October Rocktober”! Get ready for fun! ☺

SPANISH AT SJSJ



Hola

I would like to start out by saying that things didn't go as I had planned in September. I had written in last month's newsletter that the students will be learning the seasons days of the week and the months. I decided that a better way to start the year was to teach the students the alphabet and the sounds of the letters. The younger students have been working on colors. So for the month of September that's what the students have been working on.

For the upcoming month of October the students will be learning about the different seasons, the months of the year and the days of the week in Spanish. I can honestly say that they have been hard at work. I have asked all the students to please have with them a binder or a folder and composition notebook where they can keep all their Spanish work and be organized.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and do not hesitate to contact me.

Gracias,
Mrs. Muñoz

Grade 7

Middle School Math:

We have just wrapped up unit 1 in Geometry. The middle schoolers have a good foundation on lines and angles. They are able to measure angles, identify angles and are able to tell relationships among points, lines, and planes. We will take a short break with geometry. We have begun digging into our Algebra 1 books in grade 8, Fundamentals of Algebra in grade 7, and Progress in Mathematics in grade 6.

Middle School Science:

All of middle school is enjoying the new science world magazines that I have purchased to incorporate within all 3 classes.

Grade: 8

Students have been working cooperatively on “Stop the Invasion” project. Their job is to report the progress of the invaders (an infectious disease), their effects on the body, and the body's responses as it defends itself against the disease. They will then present their live news broadcast in 3 segments.

Grade: 7

Students have been learning about living and nonliving things. We talked about Redi's and Pasteur's experiments. We have been working on taxonomy and will be moving on to domains, kingdoms and the kingdoms within the domains.

Grade: 6

Students have been learning about the Earth, Moon, and Sun. We have been discussing what causes day and night, gravity and motion in our solar system, and lastly, how does the moon move across the sky? We will be observing the phases of the moon and we will be working on mini projects regarding the phases of the moon.

Grade 8

October is a very bust month for grade 8. The children plan the Haunted House for the annual Halloween Party, It's always good to see them come together.

Religion

Grade 6 will continue working on the Book of Genesis moving on from creation to the story of Abraham

Grade 7 is currently working on the Holy Trinity and will explore the different Persons of God.

Grade 8 is doing a comprehensive review of the Commandments both from a historical and modern perspective.

Social Studies

Grade 6 is doing well in beginning to put together section outlines.

They are currently studying the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia Grade 7 is continuing with the Age of Exploration and will begin to look at the settlement of the English Colonies in North America.

Grade 8 will conclude their study of the Civil War and begin to look at the aftermath of the war and Reconstruction.

