

# ST JAMES-ST JOHN SCHOOL

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2016

## From the desk of your Principal

October was a great month. I continue to be amazed by the commitment and generosity that our staff show every day. They are constantly looking for ways to go the extra mile for our students. We are very lucky to have them!

I would like to give a big thanks to all the parents who helped with the festive Halloween Party and classroom treats. Everyone really enjoyed them! A special thank you goes to Patricia Matos and Helena Alfonso who were the chairs of this event and Father Rodney of St Mary's Parish of South Dartmouth who allowed us to use his hall.

In this month of giving thanks, I like to reflect on those blessings for which I am grateful. These include: the students, who come to school prepared to do their best each day; the parents, who make those home sacrifices that prepare our students for learning; the teachers, who dedicate time and energy to excellent instruction and to the creation of a positive learning environment; the staff, who handle all those small details that keep the school running smoothly for students and teachers. May you find things to be thankful for during this holiday season. Wishing you a

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Blessings,  
Ms. Raposo

Parent and Alumni Testimonials

Do you like St James-St John School? We could really use your help. The marketing committee is looking for parent and Alumni testimonials that may be used in brochures, Facebook, our website and marketing information. Please consider writing one and submitting it to me at [principal@sjsjschool.com](mailto:principal@sjsjschool.com). We appreciate it!!

## NOTES FROM NURSE ANNA

When to keep your child home

In order to limit the spread of infectious diseases among the students and staff and to aid in your child's recovery with less chance of re-infection and relapse, it is important to keep your child home when they are sick. Here are our guidelines for when to keep your child home:

\*Temperature of 100 or greater

\*Vomiting

\*Diarrhea

\*Productive cough

\*Green or yellow drainage from nose, eyes or ears

\*Oozing skin rashes

Students may return to school when all of the above mentioned symptoms have been absent for 24 hours and without taking any medication for 24 hours. If your child is on an antibiotic, your child should be on them for 24 hours before returning to school.



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## PK News



Our field trip to Patchet Brook Farm was a great time. The weather was beautiful and the children enjoyed the hayride, spooky woods and pumpkins. It was fun to have all the parents join us!

November is a short, busy time. We are working on our letters and numbers and have completed up to the letter J and the number 10. Daily we work on listening skills and following directions. We are also working on seasonal songs, poems and finger-play.

The children are becoming more independent. You can help your child develop their independence by encouraging him/her at home. Encourage your child to dress themselves. See if they can fasten snaps, buttons/zippers and put their shoes on.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Kindergarten

The month of October was a great month in kindergarten! We did a lot of learning and exploring! We have had such an amazing fall! Our class has been working on learning High Frequency Words and letter sounds.

In November we will begin talking about health and nutrition. We will learn what is good for us and why it's important to eat healthy meals. We will also talk about family and Thanksgiving. Please remember to read for at least 20 minutes each night.

As the weather continues to get colder, the children need to dress warmly so that they are able to enjoy their outdoor play. It is important that they learn to dress independently. Please take time to show your child how to do up zippers and snaps on their winter jackets. It is also helpful to remind your child about the order in which to get dressed (mittens last so that they can do up their coat and backpack!). It is a good idea to practice these skills at home when you are not rushed for time. Thank you again for all your help and support.

## Grade 1

The leaves are changing to the beautiful colors of Fall and there is a chill in the air just reminds me of all the natural beauty we have around us. Fall is a great time in first grade. We are very busy working with apples, leaves, trees, our garden, and bulb planting. We are incorporating all these themes into our daily work. This month we are excited to be going to Plimouth Plantation to learn about the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. Thanksgiving is a time when we are thankful for all the gifts that have been given to us. In keeping with this theme, we will be collecting food items to donate to those in need and we will also be making and trying our Stone Soup. Also, the soup will be delivered to those in need. We continue to work hard in our math. The children are working on addition, word problems, graphing, measuring, and subtraction. They are also working hard with reading and writing. Enjoy this beautiful time of year. A time of giving thanks to all and for all we have.

## Grade 2

November is a very busy month in second grade as we are preparing for our Thanksgiving Feast. We have many fun projects and interesting things to learn about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Our stories in reading will focus on how we can all work together to make the world a better place. Writing projects will focus on our many blessings. In math students will learn to read and make graphs. Please remember to keep practicing addition and subtraction facts. In religion we will start to learn about the Old Testament.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## Grade 3

The weather is getting cooler and the days are getting shorter. Fall is definitely here and so is November! We will be very busy learning many new things this month. In math, we will continue learning our multiplication facts and will be introduced to division.

We are excited to learn this new math skill. In English/Language Arts, we will continue learning parts of speech and use our writing skills to write friendly letters. We are hoping to connect with another catholic school and confirm pen pals. In Science, we begin a new chapter on animals. We have a lot to learn and will also be starting an animal research project. Our Social Studies lessons continue to focus on the Pilgrim's arrival in Massachusetts and their interaction with the Native Americans. As we prepare ourselves for Thanksgiving we will discuss and write about the many things we are thankful for in Religion. It's going to be an exciting month! Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving from Grade 3.

## COMPUTER GRADES 4-8

Computer Grades 4-8: It's almost Thanksgiving! Students in all grades will be working on a project to illustrate what they are thankful for at this time of year. In grades 6-8, students are also working on their social studies assessments. Grade five will be completing their brochures on the Five Themes of Geography. The fourth grade class has been working on honing their research skills. They went on an internet learning hunt, and this month they will learn about citing their sources. - Mrs. Rego

## ART AT SJSJ

-- Thank you to everyone who participated in purchasing Art to Remember products. This fundraiser benefited our school greatly and also benefited the students that were able to purchase their amazing artwork as keepsakes.

Fall is a really beautiful time of year and November is a month when we celebrate what we are thankful for.

Thanksgiving will

be here before we know it and it is one of my favorite holidays. I wish everyone and their families a most blessed Thanksgiving season.

Of course in ART we will be making turkeys, but we will also be making totem poles, scarecrows and fall flowers and pumpkins. We will be studying how the Native Americans communicated thru art symbols. This

November is our Presidential election and our 7th and 8th grade students are designing and completing Political Posters. These posters can be about the current candidates using positive words, but they can also be a poster about a current policy or platform, as well as a poster about a past president. Ask them about what they are doing, it has been

quite interesting. They will be receiving a grade from Mr. Malloy for Social Studies for their poster. **Mrs. Wilson -**

**Art Teacher**

## GYM AT SJSJ

The month of October feels like it has flown by. We still have many children forgetting their extra sneakers on gym days. Please keep in mind that on cold and rainy days our gym classes are held in the CYO building and they will need to change their shoes in order to enter the building. During the month of November grades 4-8 will be playing basketball and hand ball. Grades Pre-k-3 will be playing relay races and line soccer. I will like to wish all of our SJSJ families a Happy Thanksgiving!

## Grade 4

Grade 4 students are moving right along in all areas of academics. Math class is finishing up with addition and subtraction skills and will soon be moving on to multiplication skills, including multiplying by 2-digits. Students have been working on learning about and understanding the steps to follow on the "Road to the White House." It will be very interesting to follow the election and the Electoral College results!

Science class is moving on to the topic of Earth Science, and will be putting our knowledge about the Scientific Method to use soon. Our field trip to the Whydah Pirate Museum was awesome, and it was really interesting to see and learn about all the artifacts and how they are recovered. It was also fun to learn what the life of a real pirate was like. We will be going, with our Grade 1 Buddies, to Plimoth Plantation and the Mayflower on a field trip right before Thanksgiving. This will help us with our Social Studies projects as we will be completing a project about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag from what we learn. It will also be a fun trip!

Wishing everyone a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## Grade 5

5th grade will be hard at work in November. In Social Studies, we will be completing our first unit for the Diocesan Social Studies Assessment on the 5 themes of Geography. In Religion, we will start exploring the 7 sacraments and will discuss each thoroughly throughout this unit. In Science, we will wrap up our chapter on living things and classification, and start our discussion on Ecology and different animal adaptations. In the realm of ELA, we will be working with types of nouns; using them correctly in our writing pieces and identify the discussed types throughout our general curriculum. With the collection of vocab words we have accumulated in both our Vocabulary and Reading subjects, 5th grade will utilize said vocabulary in our daily writing. In Reading, we will practice with an array of comprehension skills such as, sequence order, comparing and contrasting, and author's purpose. On a side note, please consider attending the Matthew Benoit Christmas Scholarship Dinner on December 4th at White's of Westport! Please look for more details as the date approaches!

## Grade 6

During the month of November we are recalling the parts of our lives and the people in our lives for whom we are grateful. In the sixth grade we write something on the board for which we are collectively grateful each day. Sometimes we are thankful for something as simple as being able to wear gym clothes and participate in gym on Thursdays, and some days we appreciate our friends or our health. The students really enjoyed expressing their gratitude individually for our Thanksgiving tree in the foyer and many asked if they could note more than just one thing. Our students at SJSJ are very conscious of noting the good in their lives.

Between now and Christmas the students in the National Junior Honor Society are going to be conducting a toy drive to support the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation which gives out toys and supplies to military families. Their storage facility on Cape Cod burned down last week with toys for 800 children of military families inside. When I saw this story on the news, I felt very moved to assist those families and children. Please stay tuned for more information, and thank you in advance for your generosity.

## MUSIC AT SJSJ

October was filled with the “sounds of the season”. We had such fun as we used our instruments, our voices and our ears to explore the many different ways that music and sound are a part of our everyday lives! As November kicks in, we will bring in the sounds of a different season...the Christmas season. We will begin the preparation of our Christmas program and we will fill the air with beautiful holiday songs. It will be a joy to hear each classroom bring a little holiday magic to SJSJ as they prepare for our traditional celebration. Get ready to hear some caroling as we begin to “Deck the Halls” in Music Class.

## SPANISH AT SJSJ



## Grade 7

### Middle School Math:

#### Grade: 6

Students will begin learning about multiplication patterns, factors and exponents, and scientific notation. They will also estimate and compute products using larger whole numbers and decimals.

#### Grade: 7

Students will begin working on writing and simplifying numerical and algebraic expressions. They will be able to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations and model and solve 2-step equations.

#### Grade: 8

Students will begin working on operations with matrices. They will use matrices to organize data and will be able to add, subtract, and multiply 2 matrices and be able to perform scalar multiplication.

### Middle School Science:

#### Grade: 6

Students will begin to design and build a vehicle for exploring the surface of a planet. They will be working cooperatively to identify the geological features that are found on the planets and moons of our solar system. As we continue working on exploring space, the groups will brainstorm ways to build their space vehicle and begin to sketch a model before actually building it.

#### Grade: 7

Students have begun their chapter lab project on becoming a disease detective. The groups have already begun researching their childhood disease. They will create a survey to hand out to people of different ages to find out what they know about the childhood disease. The groups will also be working together to collect their data and incorporate their findings in a lab report.

#### Grade: 8

We wrapped up human biology and the class did an outstanding job presenting their infectious disease with a live news broadcast. We are now moving on to chemical interactions. Students will learn how atoms of elements react with one another to form compounds. In this chapter project, they will work cooperatively to create models of chemical compounds. Their models will demonstrate how atoms bond in ionic compounds and in molecular compounds.

## Grade 8

### Religion

Grade 6 is continuing their study of the Old Testament with the story of Moses and the Exodus.

Grade 7 is studying the Holy Trinity and working with several writings about the Trinity

Grade 8 continues the early history of the Church from Pentecost to the journeys of Paul.

### Social Studies

Grade 6 has just completed their work on Mesopotamia and is moving ahead to the study of Ancient Egypt.

Grade 7 is continuing the Colonial Period. We will also be taking a field trip to the Freedom Trail this month.

Grade 8 is finishing up the Reconstruction Period and moving on to Westward Expansion.

