

# ST JAMES-ST JOHN SCHOOL

Volume 1, Issue 7

March 2017

## From the desk of your Principal

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 2017-2018 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.

God Bless,  
Ms. Raposo



*continued on page 2*

## NOTES FROM NURSE ANNA

I am very excited about our upcoming activities in March for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Pennies for Patients program. Pennies for Patients is a fundraiser run by LLS, which encourages children to collect spare change to help with research in finding a cure for blood cancers. Through this three week program, the students will learn about leadership, service and what doing good for others can mean. Our school has raised \$36,000.00 over the past 7 years for Pennies for Patients through the generosity of our families! I am so touched and humbled every day to hear the stories of how our students are donating their own tooth fairy money, allowance money and money that they have been saving up to buy something special, to Pennies for Patients to help children like them. God Bless all of our students and families here at SJSJ!



## PK News



We have a busy month with lots to learn and do. We will be working hard on our letters, talking about St. Patrick's Day and learning about spring time. In science we will learn about changing weather and how we dress for weather changes. For math we will be learning about measurement.

Your children are beginning to understand that it is important to be respectful of others, responsible for themselves, kind to everyone and to always try their best. These are important social skills that will help them throughout their lives

## Kindergarten

There's something about the month of March that is fresh and rejuvenating. With flowers in bloom and warm weather on the horizon, what's not to love about this time of year? Spring hasn't sprung just yet, but it's just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I can't wait to trade the dread of scraping ice off of my windshield for the bliss of driving to work to the melody of birds chirping! Speaking of birds, in March the kindergarten children will be incubating chicken eggs. Hopefully by the beginning of April they will be watching the hatchlings grow.

February flew by and March is already here! As always, kindergarten has been a busy place and will be for the rest of the school year! We'll continue to practice our math and phonics skills, and we'll be talking about the season of Spring. The children have all shown evidence of progress in using their knowledge of letter sounds and sight words when they write. So many of them are reading, or just on the verge of reading! Thank you for practicing with them each night.

## Grade 1

In Like A Lion ---- March certainly does not know how to make up her mind!!!

In First Grade, things are heating up and we are thinking Spring. We are looking for those Spring signs, observing the moon and the stars, and learning about the wind. We are celebrating Dr. Seuss birthday with rhyming hats, a trip to the Zeiterion, and those famous Green Eggs and Ham. It is also the start of our book reports. Religion is a big part of our learning too as we prepare our hearts and minds

during the season of Lent. We will be saying a decade of our rosary each day, learning about St. Patrick, and creating our Trinity Shamrocks. We will be planting our Living Tombs too. Oh- those pesky tricky Leprechauns may also pay us visit. Social Studies will be taking us to each of the seven continents, learning about our own great state of Massachusetts, and our city. George Washington and Abe Lincoln are our two presidents that will help to understand slavery and Black History. Addition and subtraction for facts to twenty with both two addends and three addends along with telling time are two areas we will be working on. The students are becoming great story writers as we continue to develop those skills also----- Out Like A Lamb!!!!

## Grade 2

We have taken down our snowflakes and snow globes and we are thinking spring. This month we will begin a new unit in reading that focuses on being responsible and showing pride in all we do each day. We will practice telling time and counting money. Please continue practicing addition and subtraction facts at home with your child. In social studies we will work on map skills. We will continue our lessons in cursive writing. Everyone is doing a great job so far! Students this month will have a better understanding that Lent is a season of preparing for the celebration of Easter. We have many special projects and activities planned for St. Patrick's Day and the season of spring!

## Grade 3

March is here and it will certainly be a busy month! In Math, we will be finishing up our chapter on Statistics and Probability and begin a new chapter on Measurement and Time. Let's not forget to keep practicing our multiplication and division facts! In Reading, our stories will take us around the world as we learn about different cultures. We will use our mapping skills to locate the different countries we will be reading about. In Religion, we will continue to discuss Lent and how important it is to pray and sacrifice during this holy time. In Science, we will begin our Whale Unit! It is always fun to learn about whales, their migration, and the whaling industry that helped Massachusetts grow. We will end the month with a trip to the Whaling Museum to get to see all the things we will be learning about. In Language Arts, we will finish up our class book, Mr. Popper's Penguins and then enjoy watching the movie. We will complete a packet of assignments comparing and contrasting them both. Lastly, we will also try to fit in some fun art projects that will help decorate our classroom for the month and welcome in Spring!

## COMPUTER GRADES 4-8

It's hard to believe that we are already in March and spring is right around the corner! This month students be working with Google Docs to create posters on St. Patrick.

Later in the month, all classes will have a lesson on graphing. We will use Google sheets to create tables and then graphs on temperature changes from winter into spring. ~ Mrs. Rego

## ART AT SJSJ

March is National Art Education Month. We will celebrate this with a project in several classes titled "What I love about ART". This can be art done in a realistic form or abstract expression. It will be interesting to see the results.

The students will continue working on perspective drawings, abstract self-portraits, swirl art, crayon watercolor resists, printmaking, name aliens and much more. *Mrs. Wilson - Art Teacher*

## GYM AT SJSJ

During the month of March the children in Pre-K-3 will be playing new comb and soccer, grades 4 - 8 will also be playing new comb and basketball. Please remember extra sneakers!

## Grade 4

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 will be learning about ocean mapping, currents, zones, habitats, and life. 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 say, THINK SPRING!

## Grade 5

March appears to be a very active month; celebrating the end of winter, St. Patrick's Day, onset of Lent, and the kick-off to Pennies for Patients! In Social Studies, we will dive into celebrating world cultures. Discussion on world religions and values will be our main focus. In preparation for Lent and Easter, 5th grade will be completing a couple hands on projects to remind us of our Catholic foundation. In Reading, we will be wrapping up our Black History Month unit concluding the month with our student-driven motivational speeches aka Communications 101!

We have to opportunity to attend The Zeiterion Theatre on the 22nd to watch a production, The Freedom Train, a story of Harriet Tubman. In English, we will be preparing for our Unit 2 Assessment. 4th and 5th Grade will celebrate the end of March with a field trip to Gillette Stadium; proud home of our Super Bowl Champions!

## Grade 6

During the month of March all students will be writing both creatively and critically about the novels that they are reading. When the students write, they are always required to incorporate vocabulary and the elements of grammar that have been and are currently being covered. The reason for this is always to stress that the three subjects that I teach are related and not to be considered separate. By the time students are in the eighth grade, they have learned much about sentence construction and they need opportunities to practice what they have learned before they dazzle their high school teachers.

In other news National Junior Honor Society invitations will go out to seventh and eighth graders on March 10 to those who meet the 3.5 GPA requirements. Invitees will have approximately one and a half weeks to complete their applications. Then a faculty council will review the applications and students who are accepted for induction will be notified soon after that.

## MUSIC AT SJSJ

Happy March Everyone! We may be weeks away from spring, but luckily in music class for the next 4 weeks we are heading away from the crazy New England weather as we go “on the road” to explore different countries. We will travel (in our imaginations) to such wonderful places as Uruguay, Ireland, Bavaria, and Russia (to name a few) to enjoy the music, dance and culture of these beautiful countries. We are looking forward to wonderful adventures in Music Class! Get your passports ready and get ready for fun

## SPANISH AT SJSJ

## Grade 7

Middle School Science:

I am pleased to announce that 2 of our students won the 2017 Neuroscience for Kids drawing contest. Drawings from five countries (USA, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Canada) were submitted. Drawings were based and judged on the basis of originality, scientific accuracy and overall design.

<https://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/contest17.html>

Middle School Math:

Students in grades 7 and 8 will begin creating a resume for their chosen career. This is part of our finance class. They also will begin learning about how to manage a checking account.

Grade 6 students will begin learning about expressions and equations and how to solve them. We will begin with order of operations.

## Grade 8

### Religion

Grade 6 will continue working on the collapse and defeat of Israel and Judah and its aftermath.

Grade 7 is working on the Sacraments in great depth this month.

Grade 8 is continuing the study of the relationship between Rome and the workers of the world.

Also with Lent at hand we will be doing various activities and the Stations of the Cross during the Month.

### Social Studies

Grade 6 is continuing to study Ancient China. This is a rather long section but we should be able to finish it by the end of the month.

Grade 7 will continue the Constitutional Period and begin working on the Federalist Period. This time is often overlooked but very important in the study of our government.

Grade 8 is studying the Gilded Age and continuing working with topics from the Progressive Era.