



St. Mary School
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March 2018 Newsletter

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Mary's School is to provide Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment, which enables students to attain religious and academic excellence.

Calendar Dates

April 20	Grades 5 Student Liturgy 8:45
April 26	Spring Program 1:00 and 7:00 pm
April 27	Kindergarten Student Liturgy 8:45
May 3	Grade 5 Bishop's Mass in Sioux City
May 4	Gr. 1 Student Liturgy 8:45 Volunteer Appreciation
May 5	First Communion 5:00
May 11	Grades 2 and 4 Student Liturgy 8:45
May 18	Grades 5 and 6 Student Liturgy 8:45 Pass it On and May Crowning

Principal- Mrs. Edge

Congratulations to the Grade 5 and 6 students for their participation in the Modern Woodmen Speech Contest. The students wrote, memorized and presented a 3-5 minute speech on the topic "Inventions that have Improved the Quality of Life". Those placing were Claire Weydert-1st, Rebekah Vaverek-2nd, Carson Sleiter-3rd, Alana Malo-4th, Keegan Groat-5th, Abby Bruening-6th, Jadelyn Greene-7th, Hailey Stalzer-8th, Mia DeWinter-9th, Macy Berte-10th, Parker Sleiter-11th, and Trever Stalzer-12th. Their teachers are Mrs. Dettmann and Mrs. Phillips. Gratitude is expressed to Vick Burgett, John Ford and Pam Tecklenburg for judging the speeches, to Jenean Smith and Barb Nelson for timing the speeches and to Carolyn Ford for scoring the speeches.

PreSchool- Mrs. Howard

PreSchool students completed an Easter coloring devotional book. Each page taught about Jesus and gave a short devotional. They are learning the songs, *Jesus Loves the Little Children* and *I'm In the Lord's Army*.

Students studied zoo animals in February. They learned facts about different animals, patterned with

animals, made a zebra headband and created a giraffe. A trip to a real zoo would make a great day trip!

Dr. Seuss' birthday was celebrated with a reading of *Green Eggs and Ham*. Students tried green scrambled eggs and created a graph showing whether they liked the eggs or not.

PreKindergarten-Mrs. Mueller

Handwriting: The students learned how to correctly write all of the letters of the alphabet and are now working on writing numbers.

Literacy: The students have been working on a sticker book that tells the Easter story. Each day, the students use their finger to follow along in their own small books as we read the words in the book. They are learning the flow of reading from left to right and turning pages.

Math: The students measured objects in our classroom using Unifix cubes instead of standard measuring tools.

Kindergarten-Mrs. Bruening, Religion-Mrs. Caquelin

The Kindergartners enjoyed their "I Spy" book and finding the pictures that are described in the reading for the day. The Kindergartners experienced Lent more fully by using their books, by noticing the colors they see in Church, seeing what Father wears, participating in the Stations of the Cross, and in prayer.

The Kindergarten students have been having fun sounding out the initial and ending blends in given words. They have learned many different vowel teams and the sounds that they make. It is fun to hear them reading with expression. I love watching their ability and love for reading grow!

In Math, the students have been putting the numbers 1-110 in order at different given areas. They are recognizing patterns within numbers to help them when starting with a number other than one. They are also working on recognizing the penny, nickel, dime, and quarter and their value.

Students are also working on recognizing and memorizing their address and a phone number in case of an emergency. Please work on this at home as well for additional support.

Thank you for all of your continuous support!

Grade 1-Mrs. Gotto, Religion-Mrs. Bormann

The Grade 1 students are learning that through Baptism we become Children of God and God's love is unconditional. God made us to be good and holy and if we love God, love ourselves, and love others we will be happy with God forever in Heaven

Students have begun Unit 5 in Reading. In the beginning part of this unit students were taught about r-controlled words during phonics instruction. Making and confirming predictions is the main comprehension strategy students have been practicing during this time as well.

In Unit 6, in Math students will learn to tell time to the hour and half-hour. Students will also be introduced to doubles and near doubles as strategies to use to solve math facts.

In Science, students have been reading how adult animals help their offspring survive. They have also made observations to conclude that young animals and plants are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

Grade 2-Mrs. Bormann

In Religion, the Grade 2 students are learning about the Liturgy of the Word. They have learned that during the first part of Mass, or the Liturgy of the Word, we hear readings from the Old and New Testaments. They also discovered that during the Gospel reading, read by the priest, we learn about the life of Jesus. Please keep the Grade 2 students in your prayers as they continue on their journey toward receiving First Holy Eucharist.

In Social Studies, the students created a personal timeline. They then displayed these and shared their timelines with the class. The students enjoyed learning and hearing about all the important events in each other's lives.

Grade 3-Mrs. Gibson, Religion-Mrs. Caquelin

The Grade 3 students are enjoying their books and finding the Bible verses that go along with each day. The word Lent means "spring." Participating in the Stations of the Cross during Lent helps us walk the journey with Jesus to the cross. Lent is a time when we think more about God's love and forgiveness. The forgiving father in the parable of the lost son was the

perfect example of this as we read in our textbook and the full version from the Bible.

In Reading, the Grade 3 students read several folktales and nonfiction stories. Students discussed how two versions of the same folktale, Nail Soup and The Real Story of Stone Soup, have similarities and differences. Students also listened to a funny version called Bone Soup. The students read several different biographies about inventors. They discussed how the inventors both saw a problem and created something to solve the problem.

The focus of Unit 5 in Math was on multiplication strategies and the concept of fractions. Students discovered many different ways to learn the basic multiplication facts, including adding a group, subtracting a group, doubling, and using helper facts. The focus of Unit 6 is on multiplication strategies for larger numbers, subtracting large numbers, and order of operations. Continue to practice math facts (addition, subtraction, and multiplication) at home to ensure your child can automatically recall these facts.

In Social Studies, students learned about different explorers and the areas they explored. The Grade 3 students read about the hardships the explorers faced.

In Science, the students are beginning the unit on forces and motion. Students will complete many hands on activities to learn about forces, speed, friction, gravity, and magnetism.

Grade 4- Mrs. McCullough

The Grade 4 students have been studying the Lenten season during Religion class. The students reviewed the meaning of Lent and chose to either sacrifice something for Lent or to work harder on something. Also, the students studied the days of Holy Week. In the next coming week, the class will review the meaning of Easter, the greatest celebration of all.

The students started Unit 4 in their Language Arts series. This unit has focused on the topics of government and leadership. The series provides a variety of genres to inform and entertain the students on the topics. Ask the students about "Ike" running for mayor. It was a very entertaining story!

The students attended their first field trip to the Blanden Art Museum. The boys and girls toured the

museum and had the opportunity to create a 3-D art project assisted by the Museum's Education Director. The students enjoyed their experience!

Grade 5-Mrs. Dettmann

The Grade 5 students have been studying the concept of the Profession of Faith and its origins. We've studied scripture from Matthew stating the story of Jesus appearing to the Apostles after His resurrection. Jesus understood that the Apostles were uncertain about what they were to do after He returned to His Father in Heaven. Jesus instructed the Apostles, "Go and make disciples of all nations." From here the students focused on the Apostles' Creed and its meaning.

In Science class, students have been learning all about Water on Earth. The water cycle is present in our daily life, and students have had fun realizing the path of water and its different forms (evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and sublimation). We will soon see how this ties in with weather cycles as well.

The students finished the Speech Contest. So much value was taken from the entire process: brainstorming, prewriting, writing, revising, editing, final versions and the presentation.

Grade 6-Mrs. Phillips

In Religion, the Grade 6 students have been focusing on the idea that listening for God's voice in our daily lives is difficult. It is often muffled by our busy lives. One way to stay in constant communication with God is to consistently be prayerful. Being prayerful will help remind us of God's purpose and will help us all develop a deeper meaning of our faith.

In Math class, the students have been finding the surface area of a rectangular prism and a triangular prism by using a formula. We have now added another dimension by finding the volume of a rectangular prism. Instead of simply using whole numbers, fractional edge lengths are now being taught, which adds a new dimension to figuring.

In Reading and Language Arts both the Grade 5 & 6 students have been covering many different aspects of the Common Core this past month with the writing and the delivery process of their speeches.

K-6 Music-Mrs. Caquelin

Auditions are done in Grades 3 & 6, the parts have been given out, the notes and rhythms are being practiced and the students are preparing for the spring musicals! Mark your calendars for St. Mary's Spring Musicals on Thursday, April 26th at 1:00 p.m. for grades K-6 and 7:00 p.m. for grades PS, PK, and K-6. The K-3 musical, "Feelin' Good" by Jill Gallina encourages children to take good care of their minds and bodies and help them develop a positive self-image. The 4-6 musical, "Off Their Rockers", by Jill & Michael Gallina has a theme based around TV dance competitions. The featured rock songs have made an invaluable contribution to our pop music culture.

Mrs. Dix-Technology and STEM Coordinator, Instructor for Grades 5-6

Mrs. Havlik-Technology Assistant, Instructor for Grades 2-4.

Mrs. Dieleman-Technology Assistant, Instructor for Kindergarten and Grade 1

Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Mrs. Dieleman Technology

Kindergarten students continued to work in the Microsoft Word program. Students practiced changing font style, size, and color. They were taught how to insert an online picture into the text and to change the size of it to fit properly. Students practiced typing using a fun typing game.

The Grade 1 students continued practicing their skills in the Microsoft Word program and typing on the home row. Students learned how to cut and paste using a shortcut on the keyboard, Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V. They practiced this with several interactive lessons. Students are fine tuning their typing skills with the online program, Typing.com. This program helps students type without looking at their fingers.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

The Kindergarten students built 2D and 3D shapes using toothpicks and Play-Doh, and they learned the difference between the sides and vertices of each shape. Students participated in a fun Lego Challenge where each student was given a challenge card, and he/she had to construct the object on the card out of Legos. Once completed, their classmates had to guess what each student had built. Students participated in a team building exercise where they were given a limited number of supplies and had to construct the tallest nest for their Peep chick.

First Grade students watched a short video on the simple machine, inclined planes (ramps). They were then divided into teams and constructed inclined planes of their own using Keva planks. Students have been working on different types of graphs. They sorted and counted conversation hearts using a bar graph and are currently working on Venn diagrams. Students participated in a team challenge where they were given a limited number of supplies and had to construct the tallest nest for their Peep chick.

Grades 2, 3 and 4 - Mrs. Havlik, Technology

The Grade 2 students have been learning how to create a graph in Google Sheets. They were given 20 M&M's to sort by color and amount to create their graph. Once they entered in their information they were able to customize their graphs by using different colors, fonts and font sizes. They have also been practicing their typing skills with St. Patrick's Day writing prompts. In Google Docs, they were given a card with a short paragraph and were to write about what Leprechauns do during the day.

Third grade students also did an activity in Google Sheets creating a graph. They were given a set of instructions with names and dollar amounts to graph. They had to label their columns, center, align, format the currency and then insert their graph. They have also been practicing typing in Typing.com.

Fourth Grade students have been working in Google Docs doing a formatting drill in which they are given a set of instructions to use several formatting options. They were given three paragraphs to type and had to format each paragraph differently by aligning, indenting, creating a bullet list and changing font size and style. They also learned how to select different line spacing. The students have also been using Typing.com to practice their typing skills.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

Second grade students worked in groups of 2 or 3 on a Keva plank challenge. They needed to work together to build a house, a bridge and then who could build the tallest tower without it falling down. This was a great team building exercise. Second grade also read the book "The Most Magnificent Thing" a story about creating something from an idea and seeing that it doesn't always work the first time, but to never give up. Students had to come up with their own idea of what "Their Most Magnificent Thing" is and build it with various materials.

The students in Grade 3 were given a Mystery Build Challenge. Students were put in groups and each group had to build whatever was on their challenge card. They were given a cost sheet in which they could only spend \$10.00 with different kinds of materials. When they were done, the other groups had to guess what the other groups had built. This was a great math, creative thinking and teamwork project. The students were also introduced to Scratch, which is a program where students can code different stories, games and animations.

Students in Grade 4 did an activity where they had to make legs out of newspaper to create a table. They had to figure out what would work best to support a heavy book using 6 pieces of newspaper and a cardboard top. They also had a fun activity where they had to mine a chocolate chip cookie. Each student buys their property (cookie), purchases the mining equipment (toothpicks, paperclip), pays for the mining operation (removal of the chocolate chip), and finally pays for the reclamation of the land. The student then receives payment for the "ore mined" (chocolate chips). The purpose was to safeguard their environment (cookie) and make as much money as possible.

Grades 5 and 6 - Mrs. Dix, Technology

Students have been practicing their typing skills with typing sentences in a Google document where they were required to set margins, insert a border, use word art to type their title, and insert clipart. Students typed 8 sentences in their document titled "Typing Trivia" and then cited their sources from where they inserted their clip art and finished by using spell check.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

Students in Grade 5 have been learning about circuits and have been learning circuit symbols and vocabulary. The students created circuits using foil, led bulbs, and coin batteries.

Students in Grade 6 have been building Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots and have been programming them to follow a path. This process helps students with understanding design and the use of writing code to make the robot move to a command. The steps included: creating, following a set of instructions, communication, and the need to write code.