



St. Mary School
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Second Quarter 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

- Nov. 21 1:15 Student Dismissal
- Nov. 22 & 23 Thanksgiving Break - No School
- Nov. 25 Sunday Student Liturgy 8:45 Grade 4
- Nov. 30 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
- Dec. 1 Craft and Vendor Event 10-2
- Dec. 1 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 6
Chili Supper and Bake Sale – Brave Bags and Meals From the Heartland 5-7
- Dec. 6 Music Program in Church
1:00 Grades K-6 /7:00 Grades PS-6
- Dec. 9 First Reconciliation Camp 9:45-12:00
- Dec. 12 First Reconciliation 6:00-7:00
- Dec. 14 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5
- Dec 21 All School Candle Lighting Service 12:15
1:15 Student Dismissal
- Jan. 4 All School Mass 8:45 Teachers
- Jan. 11 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 4
- Jan. 18 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 3
- Jan. 25 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
- Jan. 27 -Feb. 2 Catholic School’s Week
- Jan. 27 Sunday Student Liturgy 8:45 Grade 6
Pancake Breakfast 8:30 – 12:00
- Feb. 1 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
- Feb. 8 All School Mass 8:45 Kindergarten
- Feb. 15 Teacher In-Service/ No School
- Feb. 19 Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:00
- Feb. 21 Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:00
- Feb. 22 No School
- Feb. 23 Saturday Student Liturgy 5:00 Grade 1
- Mar. 1 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
- Mar. 2 Daddy/Daughter Dance
- Mar. 6 Ash Wednesday Mass 8:45 Grade 3
- Mar. 15 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5
- Mar. 22 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 4
- Mar.29 All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1
- Mar. 30 Gala - Saturday Student Liturgy 4:00 Grade 2

Principal-Mrs. Edge

The school year is off to a wonderful start! Many of the classes have planned and participated in their first student

liturgy of the school year. The first Anointing Mass was held Friday, October 26, with the students serving a meal to those joining us for lunch. We have also celebrated Grandparents/VIP Day with Mass and a gathering in the gym. The children enjoyed sharing this day with those that they love. The students are gathering items for the Food Pantry during the month of November. There is much excitement as we move into the Advent season and prepare for the Christmas program. Please join us for the Christmas program on December 6 at 1:00 p.m. for K – Grade 6 and at 7:00 p.m. for PreSchool – Grade 6 in the Church. Refreshments will be served following the 7:00 p.m. performance.

PreSchool-Mrs. Howard

PreSchool students will be reading Bible stories from the Old Testament. The class will also be listening to the Nativity story.

The PreSchool class will do different activities to learn about the 5 senses. The students will use different items to practice counting to 5 and recognizing numerals 1-5. Another focus will be on fine motor skills, such as, cutting on a straight line. While working on literacy, students will be recognizing capital letters and listening for their sound.

PreKindergarten-Mrs. Mueller

The PreKindergarten students will learn how to write the uppercase letters D, H, M, N, and Z. They will start learning to recognize and write the letters in their last name.

PreKindergarten students will learn to recognize numbers 11-20. They will practice sorting and classifying objects into groups with similarities.

PreKindergarten students will continue to practice recognizing upper and lowercase letters as well as letter sounds. They will learn about rhyming words and continue to listen to songs, poems, and rhymes.

Kindergarten-Mrs. Gargano

In Religion, the Kindergarten students are learning that we are all called by God to be saints. The class has been studying the following Saints: Juan Diego, Nicholas, Francis of Assisi and Elizabeth Ann Seton. Kindergarten students are learning the meaning of the word, vocation, and how we may be called by God to do something special. Kindergarten students are learning the Hail Mary prayer.

In Reading, the Kindergarten class will be reading and learning about different genres of text; fantasy, fiction and informational text. The comprehension strategies we will be working on are visualizing and asking and answering questions. We will continue working on segmenting and blending words. Skills we will be working on will be remembering key details about what we read, who are the characters, what is the setting and what are the events that took place.

In Math, Kindergarten students will continue working on counting to 100 by 1's and 10's, writing their numbers to 100 and adding with sums to 5.

In Science, the class will be learning about plants and animals and animal habitats.

Grade 1-Mrs. Gotto

Grade 1 students are learning that God is our creator and He made all things good, including us. The students are learning about the Sacrament of Baptism and realize that this sacrament makes them children of God and welcomes them into the Church family. As Advent approaches, Grade 1 students will be learning about the Holy Family while preparing their hearts for the coming of Jesus.

In Reading, Grade 1 students will be spending the next few weeks discussing changes over time. Students will delve deeper into how each of them has changed since they were babies. Plant life cycles, where food comes from, and what life was like long ago will also be discussed in Reading and Social Studies this quarter.

In Phonics, students will be introduced to the "magic e" rule that occurs in CVCe words. Past and future tense verbs, commas in a series, and apostrophes in contractions will be worked on in Grammar.

Grade 1 students will be starting Unit 4 in Math. In this unit, students will be introduced to measuring lengths of different objects. They will also be representing data with bar graphs and using base-10 blocks to build. Addition fact strategies taught will be adding doubles, making combinations of 10, and mentally finding 10 more and 10 less than a given number.

Grade 2-Mrs. Bormann

In Religion, Grade 2 students are busy preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The students are focusing on key words such as conscience, free will, choice and sin. Along with that the students will become familiar with the 10 Commandments, the Act of Contrition, and the steps to take when receiving the sacraments. Grade 2 children will receive this sacrament for the first time on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, accompanied by their parents and other family members. This is a very formative time in each child's religious journey. Please continue to pray for those preparing to receive the sacrament.

In Math, the Grade 2 class is working hard on gaining fluency with basic facts. The students are utilizing many different strategies and activities to help them increase their accuracy and gain confidence in Math. These include flashcards, games and computer apps. In Math the class is also working on place value, counting coins and telling time.

In Reading, Grade 2 students are working on word attack skills, sight words and fluency. They are also spending a lot of time focusing on their comprehension skills, such as predicting, main idea and key details, asking and answering questions and visualizing. The Grade 2 students enjoy taking home books to share with their family and reading aloud to our volunteers. The students love the opportunity to have this

one on one time. Great gains are being made in Reading and many students are transitioning into reading chapter books.

Grade 3-Mrs. Gibson

The Grade 3 students had a successful first quarter! The students are doing a wonderful job with responsibility, organization, and participation. Mr. Buhs, a student teacher, will be with us during the second quarter. He comes to the classroom with experience as a teacher associate and coach. Mr. Buhs and I are excited to watch the students grow and learn.

Reading instruction continues to focus on developing comprehension and vocabulary strategies across a variety of genres. Some of the titles students will be reading include "The Race for Presidency", "Protecting the Islands", and "Jane's Discovery". The students will practice finding the theme of the story, the author's point of view, and main idea and details while reading stories in whole group and small groups.

The focus of Math instruction will be on adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers. Students will use a variety of strategies and materials to develop a deep understanding of these operations. They will continue practicing quick recall of subtraction facts using flashcards and xtramath.org. Your child should be practicing subtraction facts at home on the nights they aren't assigned a home-link.

The Grade 3 students will continue to learn about Life Science. This quarter the students will learn how plants and animals depend on each other, interact in their ecosystems, and adapt to their surroundings. They will also discover how traits are passed on from parent to offspring and how the environment can impact living things. Students will participate in a variety of hands-on and online activities to help teach these concepts.

The focus in Social Studies will be on holidays. Students will learn about a variety of celebrations from around the world. The Grade 3 students will research a holiday from another culture and present the information to the class. Students will compare and contrast our holidays to the holidays from other cultures.

Grade 4-Mrs. Dodds

In Religion, Grade 4 students are reviewing the Ten Commandments. The class is looking closely at the first three Commandments as they tell us how we are to respond to God's presence in our lives. We are discovering that obeying them is key to our relationship with God! Grade 4 students will be planning and presenting the Mass on Sunday, November 25th.

Grade 4 students will be studying the Southeast Region of the country in Social Studies. Students will learn about the early times, the land, climate, and many resources of the Southeast. They will also delve into the early explorers, and other important leaders from the Southeast that have impacted the history of the United States. The Civil

War, the Reconstruction Period, and the Civil Rights Movement will be incorporated throughout this unit.

Math will be focusing on fractions. The students are learning to recognize equivalent fractions and will soon be moving on to comparing fractions. They will also work with representing fractions in different ways, which includes the use of decimals.

In Science, students will focus on energy. Students will learn that energy comes in many forms and can change from one form to another. The students will participate in a variety of hands on activities to reinforce these scientific concepts.

Grade 5-Mrs. Dettmann

Second quarter will bring many exciting studies and events to our Grade 5 classroom. We will begin our monthly field trips to Springvale Independent Living. The students will be interacting with the residents, and they always share a fun craft and great conversation. We will also be hosting a chili supper and bake sale with the Grade 6 class on December 1st to raise funds for Meals from the Heartland, with bake sale proceeds going to Grade 6 and their Brave Bags project.

In Religion, Grade 5 students will continue to dive deeper into the sacraments, focusing intensely on the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). Along with the sacraments, the students will focus on how they receive the precious gift of God's grace, reiterated by the story of Saul's conversion.

Math will bring many new challenges to Grade 5 during the second quarter. Fractions will be explored on a new level, moving beyond simply adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators, but instead working with unlike denominators and then solving the operations of multiplication and division of fractions.

Grade 6-Mrs. Phillips

In Religion, Grade 6 students will be studying what it means to know that God has a plan for them. The students have read how the Israelites wandered for forty years in the desert before God led them, under Joshua's leadership, into the Promised Land. They will go on to discuss that the forty year journey is a reminder of their own life's journey. Every day brings opportunities for them to experience God's presence and live as Covenant people.

In Social Studies, Grade 6 students will be discussing the lifeline of the Nile. They will learn how the Nile was both beneficial and disastrous to the Egyptian civilization. They will also describe and explain the importance of pharaohs and pyramid building in ancient Egypt.

Don't forget about our Brave Bags project! Brave Bags are care packages that we make for children who are hospitalized for any extended period of time. This year we have a class goal of making 250 Brave Bags that will be delivered to the Fort Dodge Trinity Medical Center and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. Items

needed include: markers, crayons, colored pencils; coloring books; crossword and puzzle books; pens, pencils and highlighters; small notebooks and sketch books; chap stick; card games and playing cards; hand sanitizer; gum and mints; nail polish; travel size toiletry items; fuzzy socks and slippers; small new stuffed animals; water bottles, toothbrush and toothpaste; new hair ties, headbands and small brushes; new hats (baseball cap style); Lego sets, matchbox cars, Barbies, play dough, and small toys; books (picture or chapter); and monetary donations (purchase drawstring bag, etc.). Please consider donating to Brave Bags and helping us make a difference in a child's life! If you would like to see pictures or find out more information you can go to www.bravebags.org.

Grades 5 and 6 students will be hosting a chili supper and bake sale on December 1st to raise funds for Meals from the Heartland, with bake sale proceeds going to Grade 6 and their Brave Bags project.

Music-Mrs. Caquelin

Simon Shepherd is missing! It is census time in Bethlehem and Simon is nowhere to be found. Bethlehem's best judge, Trudy Justice, is the only one who can preside over such a baffling case, while lawyers Matt Hemlock and F. Lee Maybe fight it out to discover whodunit. There's a suspicious Innkeeper and Caesar Augustus himself is summoned away from his palace as a witness to solve this riddle. Please mark your calendars to join us for the St. Mary's Christmas Musical, "The Mystery of Simon Shepherd" by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson, Thursday, December 6, 2018 in the St. Mary's Church. There will be two performances. A 1:00 p.m. performance will include students in Grades K-6. The evening performance will feature PreSchool, PreKindergarten and Grades K-6 students. All are welcome. Please come and enjoy the reason for the season!

Gala Classroom STEM Projects

Students in Grades 2-6 went to Studio Fusion in Fort Dodge to work with owner, Heather Applegate, to create a glass piece that will be added to a wind chime students are making for the Gala's live auction.

Students in Grade 4 have been using ink and watercolor pencils in creating their quilt blocks. They have enjoyed learning from Mrs. Seltz, owner of Tillies Quilts in Fort Dodge. They visited her quilt shop the same day they went to Studio Fusion.

Grade 5 students have been learning about branding and logos and have been designing their brand using their initials and adding their logo to their design. They walked to Humboldt Engraving and met with owner, Renae Dreyer, to learn about laser engraving. Students were given the opportunity to print their names on a wooden coin at the shop. Grade 5 students will be using this design for their classroom created auction project.

Grade 6 students have been working with wood in designing a 30"x30" wall hanging. They have been working

with angles and layout design of the project. Once finished, the students will be working with experienced woodworkers to cut, sand, stain and layout the pieces.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Mrs. Dieleman STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

Kindergarten students are practicing typing and learning how to use the Shift Key and Caps Lock key to make upper case letters. Students are working on highlighting text and changing the font style, font size, and font color in the Word program. In the Tux Paint program, students utilized their mouse skills as they created a Halloween scene. Students created a scarecrow out of Play-Doh and common household materials. They used Keva planks to construct a bridge, the peg board and golf tees to create a maze for a ping pong ball, and Legos to free build. Students will use the Word program skills they have learned thus far to create their Christmas gift for their parents.

Grade 1 students are working on typing text and inserting pictures into the Word program. Students continue working on typing with their fingers on the Home Row keys using the online program typing.com. They are learning how to cut and paste using the Ctrl+C - Ctrl+V shortcut. Grade 1 students did leaf rubbing to better visualize the parts of the leaf. They were introduced to Cubelets, robot blocks, to create robots that light up, move and rotate. By working with the Cubelets, students get hands-on experience about how to work and collaborate as a team. In December, students will work on their Christmas gifts for their parents.

“Hour of Code” week is December 3rd.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will use programs such as code.org and Tynker.com where they learn to code using visual code blocks that represent programming concepts.

Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 - Mrs. Havlik STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Grades 2-5 students are participating in “Hour of Code” during the week of December 3rd. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science and computer programming. The students will use programs such as code.org, Tynker.com and Scratch.com where they learn to code using visual code blocks that represent programming concepts.

Grade 2 students continue to practice their formatting skills and will also be designing their own Christmas card in Google Docs. The students are participating a science activity, “Pumpkin Pie in a Bag”, where they will use their senses to follow the recipe instructions in creating their pie. Next, the students will be using a Binary Decoder Key that uses their first and last initials to make binary bracelets. Finally, the Grade 2 students are building and designing with Keva planks, wooden thin blocks. They will use the Keva Plank Brain Builder task cards to practice. The students are put in groups

of 2 and must build what is on the task card. They are given 5-10 minutes to build and the other groups will decide if they built their object correctly. The cards range from beginner to expert level.

Grade 3 students continue to practice typing and formatting skills while using word processing activities in Google Docs. They have also been working in Google Drawings designing their own posters for “Safety Tips when Trick-or-Treating.” Students are learning the difference between a browser and a search engine. Grade 3 students will also be creating their own circuit using conductive copper tape, LED lights and a coin cell battery to make a Christmas card that will light up.

Grade 4 students are learning how to create tables using Google Docs. They will be adding titles and images to their tables. Students are also learning the difference between a browser and a search engine, what search engines are used for and they will understand how to use words in narrowing their internet search. Grade 4 students will be learning how to create a 3D Christmas ornament using an online CAD program called Tinkercad. The ornaments will be printed using filament on the Makerbot 3D printer.

Grade 5 students have been working on a Google Drawing project creating posters. They are creating three different posters of their choosing from a book/movie, family tree, board game, dream home layout, neighborhood map, inspirational quote, and a Google Doodle. Students are also working on Mondrian Art with Google Sheets. This is where they are resizing rows and columns and merging them together then adding borders and filling in their new boxes with color. Grade 5 students will be creating a woodworking Christmas gift to take home.

Grade 6 - Mrs. Dix STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math):

Grade 6 students will be participating in “Hour of Code” during the week of December 3rd. Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science and computer programming. Students will use programs such as code.org for block coding and Tynker.com to learn python code.

Grade 6 students will be practicing their keyboarding skills using online typing programs. The students will type in Microsoft Word documents and Google Docs to further learn tools and formatting of the Microsoft and google programs.

Grade 6 students continue to learn about circuits and will learn how to make a wearable circuit. They will be creating a woodworking project in December. This is a surprise so I will not say much about this.