



St. Mary School
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Third 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

Jan. 27 -Feb. 2	Catholic School's Week
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 4-7:30
Feb. 21	Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences 4-7:30
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. 8	Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Mar. 11	Speech Contest
Mar. 12	Speech Contest
Mar. 15	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 5 Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Mar. 22	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 4 Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Mar.29	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 1 Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Mar. 30	Gala - Saturday Student Liturgy 4:00 Grade 2
Apr. 5	All School Mass 8:45 Kindergarten Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Apr. 12	All School Mass 10.00 Grade 6 – Anointing of the Sick Mass Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Apr. 19	No School – Good Friday Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Apr. 21	Easter
Apr. 22	No School – Spring Vacation
Apr. 26	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 4
Apr. 27	Saturday Student Liturgy 5:00 Kindergarten
May 2	Grade 5 Mass in Sioux City with the Bishop
May 3	All School Mass 8:45 Grades 5 & 6 – Pass It On and May Crowning
May 4	First Eucharist 5:00 pm
May 10	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 3
May 16	Music Program 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm
May 17	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
May 24	All School Mass 8:45 Kindergarten & Grade 1
May 27	No School – Memorial Day
May 31	Last Day of School All School Mass 8:45 All Grades

Principal-Mrs. Edge

The theme for Catholic Schools Week, Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed, summarizes the essential values that are found at St. Mary School. Our students, teachers and staff work together as engaged learners, dedicated servants, and compassionate leaders. These shared qualities help to form the whole child spiritually and academically. I would like to extend my gratitude to the families, parishioners, community members, and alumni for giving their time, talent and treasure to support a Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment. We kicked off Catholic Schools Week with a Sunday student liturgy on January 27 prepared by Ms. Phillips and the Grade 6 students. The School Board sponsored a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Center. Monday – Student Appreciation, Tuesday – Community Day, Wednesday – Wear Your Team Day, Thursday – Teacher and Staff Appreciation, and Friday – Alumni Day.

Students in Grades 1-6 participated in a “Keeping Christ in Christmas” poster contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Students placing in Grades 1 & 2 were Mickey O’Hern, 1st, Maggie Lensing, 2nd and Maesyn Kirchhoff, 3rd. Students placing in Grades 3 & 4 were Olivia Harklau, 1st, Tyson Crahan, 2nd and Jade Coar, 3rd. Students placing in Grades 5 & 6 were Jayden Ramirez, 1st, Irlanda Cruz 2nd and Ava Detrick, 3rd. First place winners received \$25 and were able to donate \$25 to their favorite charity, second place winners received \$15 and were able to donate \$15 to a charity and third place winners received \$10 and were able to gift \$10 to a charity.

PreSchool-Mrs. Howard

PreSchool students will be learning about the life of Jesus and how Jesus wants them to live. The students will continue working on sharing, asking each other questions and following directions.

The students will be working on learning the letter names of capital letters and their sounds. They will work on copying patterns and counting up to 10 objects. PreSchool students will be studying polar animals, such as, penguins and polar bears.

PreKindergarten-Mrs. Mueller

PreKindergarten students will be learning how to correctly write the letters C, G, Q, K, Z, and Y. They will continue to practice writing their last name and tell the name of the letters in their last name.

The students now have a grocery store in the classroom. This center will be used to learn numbers by looking at the price tags on the food and using the cash registers. They can use clipboards to write grocery lists.

PreKindergarten students will continue to practice number recognition and counting objects.

The students will practice greeting their friends at the beginning of their day by using different kinds of greetings such as hand shake, fist bump, wave, or giving a hug.

Kindergarten-Mrs. Gargano

Jesus prayed to God the Father. Jesus taught us to pray to God the Father too in the Our Father prayer. Kindergartners have learned line by line the Our Father and also have talked about each line and its meaning. “Hallowed” means holy Kindergarten students heard the Bible story from Matthew 22:34-40 about “The Greatest Commandment”. This Commandment teaches us how to love as God wants us to.

In Reading, the Kindergarten students will be working on asking and answering questions, retelling stories, making connections (text to text and text to self), and improving their writing skills.

In Math, the students will continue working on counting to 100 by 1’s, 5’s and 10’s. We will discuss what number is greater, less than or if they are equal to and the signs used when comparing numbers. We will also work on recording and analyzing data. We will also begin working on recognizing 3D shapes.

In Science, the Kindergarten students will start the unit of Earth Science. In this unit we will be discussing land, water, air, weather and the four seasons.

We will be celebrating the 100th Day of School, Valentines Day and Dr. Suess’ Birthday.

Grade 1-Mrs. Gotto

The Grade 1 students are learning the different ways in which we can pray. They know that when they send up their prayers they are asking for God’s help with their needs here on earth. The students are also learning of God’s great forgiveness. During the upcoming Lenten season, the Grade 1 students will spend time learning and reflecting on the Stations of the Cross.

In Reading, Grade 1 students will be spending most of the third quarter learning about animals. The students will learn how animals’ bodies help them, how animals help each other, how animals survive in nature, and different ways people work with animals. Alphabetical order, prefixes, open syllables, and compound words will be addressed. Asking and answering questions as well as visualizing while reading are two comprehension strategies Grade 1 students will be practicing.

In Science, Grade 1 students will also be learning about animals. Students will research how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. Then students will take what they learned about external parts to design a solution to solve a human problem.

Grade 1 students will be starting Unit 5 in Math. Students will be introduced to place value. Students will be

using base-10 blocks to practice place-value concepts. Children will also be applying their understanding between tens and ones by exchanging dimes and pennies. Finally, students will use a variety of strategies to add and subtract 2-digit numbers.

Grade 2-Mrs. Bormann

In Religion, Grade 2 students are exploring the parts of the Mass. The students will focus on the *Liturgy of the Word* and the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*. The students will learn that the Liturgy of the Word contains readings from both the Old and New Testaments. They will also come to discover that the Gospel centers around the Life of Jesus here on Earth. As they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, they will focus on the Liturgy of the Eucharist and dig deeper into the miracle that occurs at each Mass, when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is such an amazing time for the students to learn and grow more deeply in their faith. Please continue to pray for them as they prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, to be received on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

In Social Studies, Grade 2 students have been studying our founding fathers. They are learning about how we fought for and gained our independence to become the county of the United States of America. They will continue to explore how our country expanded westward. They will learn that life was not always easy for these early settlers but they adapted to survive in their new environments. Grade 2 students will conclude this unit by studying a timeline of the important events that helped form our country into what it is today. They will then make a timeline of their own lives, picking out the important events that have shaped them thus far.

Grade 3-Mrs. Gibson

The Grade 3 students have been learning how St. Francis of Assisi followed Jesus Christ by devoting his life to helping the poor, sick, and dying. He spread Christ’s message of healing and love to everyone he met. The students have been using St. Francis of Assisi as a role model while learning how to be caring, compassionate and forgiving.

Grade 3 students will continue to focus on a variety of reading comprehension strategies while reading different genres. Some of the titles students will be reading include “Nail Soup”, “The Talented Clementine”, “Amazing Wildlife of the Mojave”, “and Hot Air Balloons”. They will practice finding the author’s point of view, cause and effect, and compare and contrast while reading stories in whole group and small groups. Students will also spend time comparing and contrasting different versions of the same fairy tale.

The focus of Math instruction will transition from adding and subtracting to multiplying and dividing. Grade 3 students will continue to learn strategies to multiply and

divide basic facts. Some of these strategies include using helper facts, doubling, and adding groups to a known fact. Multiplication flash cards will be coming home on a regular basis. Students will also learn about geometry, specifically quadrilaterals, area, and perimeter, in the third quarter.

In Science, Grade 3 students will learn about weather, climate, and natural hazards. Students will create weather tools to record, analyze, and predict various components of weather. Student will also research weather conditions across the country and make observations about the climate patterns. While studying natural hazards, students will create and test possible solutions to reduce the impact of natural hazards.

Grade 4-Mrs. Dodds

Grade 4 students have been learning about the two great mysteries of our faith: the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery. The students have also been reviewing the Ten Commandments and the Seven Sacraments. Please review these with your students at home.

Grade 4 students will continue to focus on energy and natural resources this semester. Students will learn about the different sources of energy and fuels that humans depend on. The Grade 4 students will research how the use of these energy and fuel sources impact the environment.

Grade 5-Mrs. Dettmann

In Religion, Grade 5 students will continue to explore the Sacraments, particularly, Baptism and Confirmation, and focus on the blessings of God's grace given forth. Studies of saints like St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Katharine Drexel will guide our studies and lead by inspiration.

During the third quarter, The Modern Woodmen Speech Contest is introduced, developed, and presented for the entirety of the quarter. This is a huge time of growth for our students, and most come to realize that they are capable of accomplishing tasks that they once felt they couldn't. This year the speech contest is scheduled for March 11 and 12. Details will be given throughout the quarter to keep you up to date.

In Science, Grade 5 will dig deeper into the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and zone our studies into Earth's Systems. This will include the Geosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Biosphere. We will learn not only about each system, but also how they interact and how they are affected by animals and plants.

Grade 6-Mrs. Phillips

In Religion, Grade 6 students are learning about the journey of the Israelites. This journey reminds us that we don't travel as individuals. We travel with a community, with other members of the Church. The students are learning that

although we cannot bring about God's Kingdom of love, justice, and peace solely on our own, we can *help* build that Kingdom by praying with others and loving others as Jesus did.

In Math, Grade 6 students are starting to work with percentages. The students will discover how to convert fractions, decimals, and percentages. The students will also be finding the sales tax and sale price after a discount.

Grade 5 and 6 students have started to work on researching and constructing their speeches for the Modern Woodman Speech Contest that will be held in the Parish Hall on March 11th and 12th. The students are to prepare and memorize a three to five minute speech on the topic of, "Challenges Youth Face." The contestants will be judged on their organization of the material, their delivery and presentation, and on the speeches' overall effectiveness. Everyone is welcome to come and watch all of the hard work that will be put into these speeches!

Music-Mrs. Caquelin

Kindergarten through Grade 6 students continue to prepare for weekly liturgies. All music students participate in winter songs from their music textbooks, understanding rhythm and practicing sight reading.

Gala Classroom STEM Projects

Students in PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-6 have been working on creating their classroom Gala projects during STEM class. Each classroom will have a different item on the live auction. There is one large item being created by students in Grades 2-6. This was part of the field trip they went on last fall to Studio Fusion in Fort Dodge.

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

Students kicked off 2019 with a review of internet safety. Kindergarten students watched a Netsmartz video and discussed ways to stay safe online. Students continue practicing typing and using the Shift Key and Caps Lock key to make upper case letters. Students are becoming more comfortable highlighting text and changing the font style, font size, and font color in the Word program. They will build on their programming skills utilizing the online program Code.org. Students will measure and record data with a fun Valentine's Day activity. Kindergarten students will construct snowflakes out of marshmallows and toothpicks, and make an igloo for a Lego guy out of marshmallows as well. They will have a Lego challenge using Lego Challenge Cards. Part of the STEM class will include students' Gala project.

Grade 1 students reviewed internet safety. The three rules to stay safe online include: ask a parent before going online, don't talk to people you don't know, and only visit websites that are just right for you. Students will continue typing text, inserting pictures, and copying and pasting in the Word program. Students continue typing properly with their fingers on the Home Row keys using various online programs. They will build on their programming skills using the online program Code.org. Grade 1 students will explore finger prints, expand on their Cubelet knowledge and construction, and work on their Gala project. Students will participate in various STEM challenges throughout the quarter

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

Students in Grades 2 through 5 are reviewing Internet Safety. The topics being discussed are Cyberbullying and Going Places Safely on the Internet.

Grade 2 students are practicing their typing skills using programs such as Typetastic and Typing.com. They will continue to do this throughout the rest of the year. The students will also be learning how to create a bar graph in Google Sheets. They are given 20 M&M's to sort by color and amount to create their graph. Once they enter in their information they are able to customize their graphs by using different colors, fonts and font sizes. They are working in Google Docs with picture inequalities learning math and how to use the shift key function on their keyboards for > < and = to. They will be doing a STEM activity called Cupid's Bow and Arrow and will be making a bow out of craft sticks and dental floss. Q-tips will be used for the arrows. The challenge is to see the distance their arrow will travel. They will have 4 trials to see how well their bow's work.

Grade 3 students are using Typing.com and Typing Club to practice typing and will be using these websites throughout the year. The students will also be working on creating a spreadsheet in Google Sheets. They will be adding coins together for 5 different students and imputing the names and totals of each student into a bar graph. Students will also be doing a STEM activity creating paper heart sculptures. They will be measuring out 11, 7 and 5 inch strips that will be 3/4 inch wide. They will then bend them into heart shapes and build a structure that must stand on its own. The students will also be doing an activity called "The Mystery Build Challenge." Students will be put into groups, and each group will receive a challenge card that they must build. They will be given a cost sheet in which they can only spend \$10.00 with different kinds of materials. When done the other groups must guess what the other groups built. This will be a great math, creative thinking and teamwork project.

Grade 4 students are practicing formatting and typing skills in Google Docs typing out a paragraph. They learn how to indent, make a bulleted list, change text to appear in two columns and other basics like changing font

style, color and making it bold or italic. They will also be working in Google Sheets learning how to create bar, line and pie charts. They also will be working in Google Slides creating a robot animation presentation using 4 slides. Each slide must have a background image and the robot and one other image has to be animated in each slide. The students will also be learning about Origami and will be creating a Valentine Origami project.

Grade 5 students are working on typing in Google Docs by creating a "Typing Trivia Checklist." The students will learn how to set margins, choose a border, type their title using WordArt, include clipart and cite where they found the pictures. Fifth grade students will also be creating a paper quilling project. They will learn the art of rolling, shaping and gluing paper together to create beautiful pictures. Students will talk about the history of quilling, which was an intricate paper rolling hobby in the 18th century.

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

Grade 6 students will be working with Lego Mindstorms in programming a Lego robot and working with computer code to move the robot along a line with turns. Grade 6 students will be creating a presentation about Internet Safety in reviewing etiquette and online safety. The presentation will include online safety rules that are taught to students in all grades from Kindergarten through Grade 6. Students will continue to build on typing skills through typing programs in various websites.