



St. Patrick School News

March 29, 2009

The latest news from some of our St. Patrick School classrooms

The Nursery Program

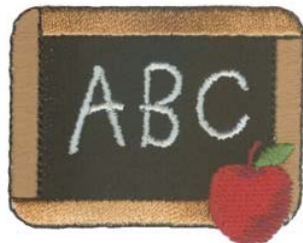
Mrs. Mulligan and Mrs. Frend

This past month, the children have been learning the first letter of their names. Each day, they practice tracing their first names as well. The children also learned about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in honor of Presidents' Day and completed projects relating to them.

Each day at circle time, the children recite "The Pledge of Allegiance" and the "Hail Mary" prayer. They learn about the weather, the four seasons, and the days of the week. Each day we read a theme or learning-oriented book. The children are learning their shapes, numbers, colors, and letters.

An integral component of the nursery curriculum is to teach social skills. The children learn how to take turns and play cooperatively with each other, as well as how to wait their turn and raise their hands.

This month, the children will learn about the season of Spring. We will discuss fun and beautiful things we see and do in Spring such as; playing outside, enjoying the sunny weather, watching the grass and trees grow and turn green as well as seeing flowers start to bloom. The children also made St. Patrick's Day projects. Each day the children enjoy coloring, painting, playing and singing with their friends.



Please check out our website at www.spssmith.org and go to the early childhood link for up-to-date information about the nursery program. There are still openings for September in the Nursery and Preschool programs.

Pre K

Mrs. Van Slyck & Mrs. Comito



This month the children worked on projects relating to St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day. They are learning that Lent is a special time to prepare for Easter. We've discussed how it is a time for celebrating new life and growth in people, plants, and animals. We all agreed that we are ready for spring We can't wait !!!

First Grade

Mrs. Verso & Mrs. DiPaola



During this season of Lent, the first grade children have been talking and writing about the things that they are doing to get ready for Easter. Many of the children have added extra prayers, acts of kindness, and generous deeds to their list of things to do. The children have, also, created several art projects for Lent. Please stop by the classroom to see them.

In Science, the children are currently working on the rain forest unit. Many books have already been read about the rain forest and the animals that live there. Later in the unit, the children will be creating their own 'Rain Forest Animal Trading Cards.' We are also expecting a visit from a friend who lived in the rain forest.

Our current math unit is money. The children are learning the names and values of coins. The first graders are also practicing how to count coins. The children cannot wait for the culminating activity which will be our class store.

Second Grade

Mrs. Bubolo & Mrs. Spina

We are so happy to have received Reconciliation! This has been an extra special time for us. In class the second graders have written beautiful stories about Lent. These are hanging in the hallway. March had the second grade anxiously awaiting St. Patrick's Day. Many fun activities surrounded this day. Second grade is hoping for warmer weather and the many exciting Spring events that will occur.



If you are interested in a Christ-centered education in a warm and supportive environment, please visit us to see what we are all about. St. Patrick School follows the New York State Curriculum for all academic areas as well as the Rockville Centre Diocesan curriculum. Our school serves students and their families in nursery school through eighth grade. For more information on St. Patrick School, visit spssmith.org or call 724-0285.

Class 3-2 Soars Through Time and Space!

Mrs. Tighe & Mrs. Curran

The third grade students in Class 3-2 have been busy studying the solar system and the stars these past few weeks. They have built dioramas of the solar system using a variety of materials and lots of imagination! The students also researched famous African Americans for a biography report for Black History Month. They are stepping back in time to understand the important contributions many African Americans have given to the world today. They will share their research at a "Publishing Party." They also learned about the early explorers on Earth and how they ventured to new lands. But, what the students enjoyed the most was meeting a true-life traveler, adventurer and hero they got to know by writing to his unit of soldiers in Iraq. They met Sergeant Turchyn in uniform

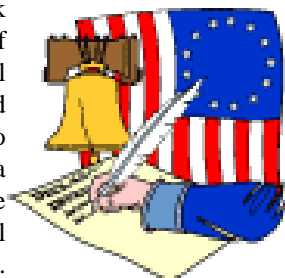


and were able to ask him questions and see actual pictures of Iraq. It was a day they will always remember. Soon, the third grade students will be doing their own traveling. They will venture back in time to the time of Christ and they will be acting out the Stations of the Cross for the school on April 7th.

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Dizinno & Mrs. Darmanin

The fourth grade has stepped back in time when the Declaration of Independence was signed. They all wrote scripts themselves, assigned characters and planned scenes to bring history to life. They did a wonderful job of re-enacting these historical events in class. Social studies has never been so much fun.



In science they are exploring the earth and how it was formed by glaciers. They are realizing that the earth is continually changing with forces like wind, water, earthquakes, and volcanoes. We were blessed with some new great DVDs on these subjects and they have made the science lessons really come to life.

Lent is a time of reflection and the students are preparing for the death and resurrection of Christ. They have discussed ways to examine their conscience and are aware of all their words and actions during this time of preparation.

Spring is here and we are all excited.

5th & 6th Grade Science

Mrs. Guerriero

This month in Religion, 5-1 has been focusing on studying about Lent, as well as Holy Week and Easter. They started off the Lenten season by receiving ashes together with the entire school on Ash Wednesday. All of the students are sacrificing something for Lent, such as their favorite snacks, video games or television shows, or are doing something extra for Lent, such as saying extra prayers, reading from the Bible, or going

to extra masses. They do these things to remember how Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice of dying on the cross to save us from our sins.

In Science, both 5th and 6th graders are starting to prepare for the upcoming Science Fair, scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd. They are all following the scientific method to complete their experiments like actual scientists! Their planning includes formulating an idea, hypothesis, purpose, materials, and procedure. The conclusions will be presented at the Science Fair next month!

In addition, the 6th graders are studying erosion and weathering. They enjoyed various hands-on experiments and demonstrations of different forms of erosion, such as dust storms, demonstrated by blowing through a straw on a sample of soil at different speeds and intensities.

The 5th-grade classes are learning about matter. Here is a fun science website about matter (solids, liquids, and gases) that they explored on the SMART Board:

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/studyjams/matter_states/



5th-6th Grade Language Arts

Mrs. DiSpaltro

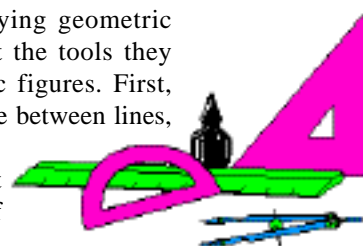
Our fifth and sixth graders are eagerly awaiting the start of their final book clubs of the year; both sixth grades have advanced book clubs which are facilitated once a week by two of our school parents. One of these parents spoke to the sixth graders last week about Mock Trial. On Thursday, March 19th, the sixth graders attended the dress rehearsal of St. John the Baptist High School's production of the musical "Children of Eden." We put our "critic" hats on upon our return!



6th Grade Math

Mrs. King

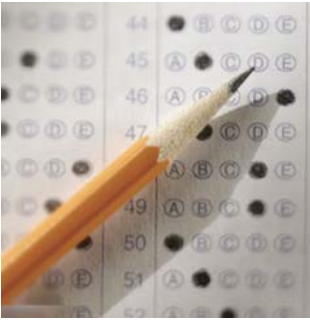
Sixth graders are studying geometric concepts and terms to get the tools they need to classify geometric figures. First, they examine the difference between lines, line segments, and rays. Next, they learn about angles and special kinds of angles. They then explore and classify different kinds of polygons. Finally, they investigate congruence, similarity, symmetry, and transformations.



Did you know that St. Patrick School is a founding member of the Catholic Middle School Athletic Association? Students in grades 6 through 8 compete in soccer, cross country, basketball, baseball and volleyball.

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Ms. Hammer, Mr. Reina, Mrs. Izzo, & Ms. Cowley



Math:

The eighth graders took the New York State Math test on March 10th and 11th. They have worked very hard over the past few weeks in preparation for the test. The seventh graders are currently working on area, perimeter, circumference, area of circle, square roots, irrational numbers and the Pythagorean theorem.

English/Language Arts:

The seventh grade is reading their anthology, starting with "An American Childhood." They are reviewing the steps that all good readers take. They are working very hard! Eighth grade students are continuing to read "Birdwing," and are working on their descriptive paragraphs. They are doing a great job!

Science:

Both the seventh and eighth grade worked very hard on their science fair projects. The science fair was on Thursday, March 12th. The eighth graders worked in groups to create their ultimate earthquake proof buildings. They were very impressive!

Social Studies:

The seventh grade is starting work on the era of Sectionalism in American History. They will study the events that divided our nation in the mid-1800s. The eighth grade is finishing its work on World War II, and will begin to study the Cold War. They are currently working on a group project in class in which they are creating their own poster to persuade civilians to contribute to the war effort at home.

Spanish:

The students are working on their Spanish speaking brochure this week. The students picked a country, and have been creating beautiful brochures to promote that country. They had a lot of fun completing them.

Springtime in Art

Mrs. Albanese

Students are very busy getting ready for the Spring Art Exhibit. This year the students will be showing their work all matted and framed. A special company is coming in to help with a new kind of display. Parents will have an opportunity to purchase their child's work for a low price. Twenty percent of the sales goes to supplies for next year. We have tried framing some of the work so far and it looks fabulous!

Some examples of art for display include string art, Modigliani self-portraits, Monet gardens, and Van Gogh sunflowers. Be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 12th to see the NEW art exhibit along with the always great Spring Concert.



Student Council

Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Dizinno, & Mrs. DiSpaltro

This past December, thirty-six St. Patrick School students were inducted to the Student Council. They were inducted at our First Friday Mass. Michael Clinton and Olivia Verhulst are our President and Vice President respectively. There are three representatives from grade four through grade eight. They are a very hardworking group of students. They are presently working on a school wide assembly to celebrate Earth Hour that will take place on March 28th. They had a very successful secret candy cane sale for the month of December, they collected and prepared toiletry kits for the Veterans in Northport V.A. Hospital. The boxes that contained the toiletry kits were decorated by the students of St. Patrick School. At our Open House for new families in January, many of our members were tour guides for the families. In the month of March, the Student Council had a daffodil sale for cancer. We are very proud of the Student Council members for their concern and efforts to help others. That is what Student Council is all about.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009!



St. Patrick's Day is always very special for eighth grade students at St. Patrick School. Each year, the soon-to-be-graduates are presented with a St. Patrick School pin during the 9 AM Mass as a remembrance of their years in the school. The Mass is followed by a reception in Canning Hall. Congratulations to the Class of 2009!

Pin Day 2009

