



St. Patrick School News

May 31, 2009

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

Nursery

Mrs. Mulligan

This month, the children are learning about the season of Spring. At circle time, we are discussing fun things we do in the Spring such as; play outside, go to the park, and go on walks. The children have been learning about how God makes the rain so that the grass, trees, and flowers may grow. We are completing a fun project in which the children are planting flower seeds. Each day, they will water them and watch them grow. Once the seeds have bloomed, they will take them home to enjoy with their family. We are also completing a flower and butterfly unit. The children have been learning about the different stages of a butterfly as well as the different parts of a flower. The children are learning a new variety of songs and listening to books that relate to Spring as well as concepts relating to color, shape, and number recognition.



Pre-K

Mrs. Van Slyck

The pre-school students from Mrs. Mulligan's and Mrs. Van Slyck's class visited the kindergarten classroom to participate in a cooperative learning experience. We were invited to use their Smart board. The students from both kindergarten classes welcomed us with open arms. They were proud to help the pre-schoolers with the new learning experience. The Smart board provided the pre-schoolers with opportunities for problem solving while enabling the children to practice skills and become more independent. It also developed self-help, social language, cognitive, and motor skills. We can't wait to be invited back and visit our friends in kindergarten and learn new things.



Did you know . . .

St. Patrick School is a founding member of the Catholic Middle Schools Athletic Association. St. Patrick's students in grades 6 - 8 compete in soccer, cross country, basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball.

Second Grade

Mrs. Bubolo & Mrs. Spina



Second Grade is so proud! The students have received their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful day shared with family and friends. All the children did a great job. The day began with pictures in the classroom. After a most reverent and prayerful

Mass, the children processed back into school, for more pictures and congratulations. The classes are now looking forward to receiving the Eucharist each week at Mass. Back in the classroom, the children are busily writing spring stories. They have completed time lines of their lives. Look for these beautiful displays in the hallway.

Third Grade

Mrs. Tighe

Class 3-2 Pays Tribute to Its Super Heroes

Class 3-2 was busy in May getting ready for Mother's Day. In Writer's Workshop, the students wrote why their mothers were super heroes and gave them super hero names and powers. Their stories made Moms laugh and cry at their publishing party as they recited each one to the audience of Moms. They shared



danish, muffins, fruit and "tea" with their Moms. For Mother's Day, the students worked hard on their Moms' presents - flower pens in decorated flower pots. It was a day to remember. Class 3-2 has also been busy learning about Mexico. For Cinco de Mayo, both third grades shared some Mexican chips with salsa and guacamole and tried their hand at a parrot pinata. They made maracas and learned Mayan math. They made Aztec masks and learned some Aztec God names. Science came into play with the volcanoes of Mexico. Finally, Mrs. Diaz came in to teach both classes some Spanish words and some interesting facts about plantains.

In the following weeks ahead, Class 3-2 will be learning geometry and measuring, life science, famous inventors in social studies, life lessons in religion, and letter writing to the President of the United States.

Third Grade

Mrs. Curran

As the school year winds down class 3-1 is busier than ever. We are covering the human body systems, fractions and how if we love ourselves we please God.



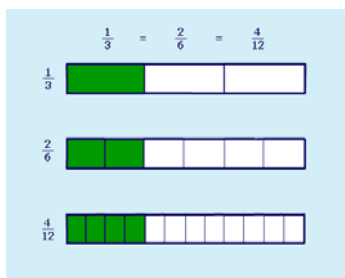
We will finish our study of Mexico by the end of the month. We have studied the holidays, language, history and cultural differences. The children really enjoyed our Cinco de Mayo celebration.

The class has been doing wonderfully practicing different writing techniques. They have made huge strides in sentence structure, paragraph formation and writing essays. I must say I am very proud of them.

It is necessary to thank all of their parents. The way that they help their children and the school is a tribute to Catholic education.

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Darmanin & Mrs. DiZinno



The fourth graders had a very busy month! We finished preparing for our last New York State Test and completed it on Friday, May 8th. It was such a relief to close that chapter of the fourth grade curriculum. Now we can spend the rest of

this year getting ready for the next big step - fifth grade. Our study of fractions continues in math and we are really getting the hang of it. The topic for science is weather and we have been busy charting and graphing weather conditions for the past week. We spent a great deal of time honoring Mary this month and culminated that with the May Crowning on Wednesday, May 20th. We began our study of the Civil War in social studies.

In Language Arts, we will be assessing our grammar, comprehension and reading skills. In addition to that, we wrote a piece titled "What Makes a Good American" in honor of Memorial Day.

We have some exciting learning experiences to look forward as the days fly by and we make our way toward the end of fourth grade!

Christ, the greatest of all teachers, inspires the faculty of St. Patrick School to develop a deeper awareness of our lives as a journey of faith. Inspired by His example, blessed by His teachings, and nurtured by His love, we continue our journey of faith in devotion to our ministry as teachers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and supported by our faith, we work with families to nurture faith, to inspire an awareness of the presence of God, to encourage self-esteem, to form Christian values and independence, and to respect the uniqueness of each individual.

Sixth Grade

Mrs. DiSpaltro

Mrs. DiSpaltro's homeroom collected donations and purchases of school supplies for African students as their class service project. Sister Rose Lanzone and her *Something for Seniors* group, who are regularly sending supplies to Ghana, Africa, were very grateful for the generosity on the part of these very enthusiastic students. Some students made bracelets to sell at the Car Show to raise money for the exorbitant postage to ship these supplies to Africa. The rest of the postage funds came from a Dress Down Day held at St. Patrick School. Sister Rose included our class picture in the shipment, and we hope we hear back from the children! Mrs. DiSpaltro commends students in her homeroom for "living their faith!"



St. Patrick School Class 6-1 sent school supplies to fellow students in Africa as their class project.

Guidance

Mrs. Mulligan

As part of the character education program, "Peace Works", I have gone into Mrs. DiSpaltro's and Mrs. King's sixth grade classes. In class, I discussed the topic of stereotypes and students were asked to give examples of stereotypes. Students completed an exercise in their Peace Works book on stereotypes and answered questions accordingly. In Mrs. Darmanin's and Mrs. DiZinno's fourth grade classes, we discussed the topic of responsibility as well as effective problem solving techniques.

I will be going into Mrs. Verso's class this week to teach a lesson on how we are all different and unique. I will be discussing how we need to be kind toward one another. The topic of bullying will also be discussed. I will read a book to the children about this topic as well.

I continue to see students individually regarding any personal, academic, or social issues they may be having. I encourage parents to call me at 724-0285 if they feel their child may benefit from such services. I continue to serve as a steering committee member for Middle States. We have made a lot of progress to date regarding Middle States but there is definitely more work to be done. I also continue to meet as a child study team member in which we meet each week.

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Guerriero

The 5th and 6th graders did an amazing job at the Science Fair last month! Check out the pictures of some of their awesome projects!

The 5th graders are currently studying Using Forces. They kicked off this topic by doing a hands-on experiment about force and motion using tennis balls to roll and throw. The students explored concepts such as force, friction, and work, and they had a ball doing it!

The 6th graders are learning all about earthquakes. One interesting website that they visited to see some visuals about earthquakes and faults was Savage Earth: The Restless Planet: Earthquakes: www.pbs.org/wnet/savageearth/earthquakes

In Religion, 5-1 studied the liturgical calendar. Each student researched how a holiday or feast day from the liturgical calendar is celebrated in another Christian country, and wrote a paper about what he or she discovered. The finished products, complete with beautiful covers and pictures, are displayed in the hallway outside their classroom come check them out!

The class is also focusing on Living God's Word. They are discussing topics such as good and bad choices, and having God guide us to make good choices. The class will honor Mary during the month of May as well.

Mrs. Guerriero and 5-1 hope everyone had a happy and relaxing Memorial Day!



Student Council

The school year is quickly coming to an end. The Student Council has been very busy and it too is quickly coming to an end. The students have been a wonderful group of young people to work with. We have accomplished so many projects. During the spring we sold daffodils for cancer and we put on an assembly for the entire school for Earth Hour. Every student council representative actively participated in this production. We had original poems, raps, a slide presentation, and speakers from the eighth grade. It was our first assembly and it was a success! Just recently we sponsored Spirit Week for the students of Saint Patrick's. The week ended with a talent show presented by the student council. The students did an awesome job with so little time. We had first, second and third place winners. Our sixth grade girls, Isabelle, Julianne, Tara and Kelly took first place dancing to "POP." Second place went to Jack, Mike Ward and Mike Falabella, playing the guitars and drums. They rocked the house! Third place ribbon was given to Gabrielle Caberto for her singing. Thank you all!

Finally, we are in the home stretch. Again, the students are giving of themselves. They are selling baked goods and raffles to raise money for the eighth grade scholarships. This is our last and final project for the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Dizinno, Mrs. DiSPaltro and I (Mrs. Martin), would like to thank all our eighth grade representatives for a terrific year. It was a pleasure getting to know all of you and working with you. We congratulate you all on your upcoming graduation and wish you nothing but good luck and best wishes in your next chapter in life High School. May God Bless you all. Our sincerest wishes to Michael, Olivia, Holly, Jack, Chris, Jonathan, Mark and Tim. Thank you All! Have a wonderful summer!



If you are considering a Catholic education for your child, consider St. Patrick School. For more information, call 724-0285 or visit the school website at sps-smithtown.org.