



St. Patrick School News

February 28, 2010

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

Pre-K

Mrs. Van Slyck

I would like to thank all the families that visited our classroom during Catholic Schools Week. The children worked very hard in preparing their art projects—which are on display in the hallway and outside our classroom. Once again thank you. The pre-k program recently introduced basic math



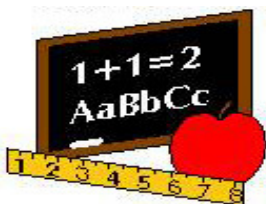
concepts into the curriculum. Our goal is for students to build new mathematical knowledge. We will explore, examine, and make observations of these basic math concepts. The children are so eager to learn new things. This year the children have been discovering God's love and are deepening their relationship with God.

Nursery and Pre-K3 Programs

Mrs. Mulligan & Mrs. Frend

The children have been very busy this past month. The week of January 31st, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. We had fun with Pajama Day and Crazy Sock and Sweatshirt Day. The children in the nursery program have been learning their shapes, colors, and numbers as well as an introduction to letters. Each day, the children say the Hail Mary prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. They learn the weather, season, and the calendar as well. Structured free play is an integral component of the nursery program. The children have been very busy completing Valentine, Presidents Day, and Groundhog Day projects, as well as projects that reinforce color, shape, and number recognition. Religion is a very important component of our program and is incorporated daily into our curriculum.

In the PreK3 program, students are busy writing their names. Each week, they learn about a different letter, its corresponding sound, as well as words that begin with this letter. We have introduced introductory addition concepts where the children complete projects that reinforce addition. Each day at circle time, the children say the Our Father prayer. They too learn about the seasons, weather, and calendar. Religion is an integral component of our PreK 3 program as well and is integrated daily. Math, Social Studies, and English concepts are also integrated with the curriculum.



First Grade

Mrs. Verso & Mrs. DiPaola

The first graders have just finished celebrating Catholic School Week with the rest of the children in St. Patrick School. Along with many fun activities, the first graders collected many pairs of mittens, warm hats, and new scarves for Parish Outreach. The week ended with a wonderful Mass and pizza party with the children from the religious education program.

In science, the children in first grade are finishing up an integrated unit on penguins. The classes read, wrote, and talked about penguin facts. The children also performed several hands-on experiments with ice and learned a poem called the Penguin Cha-Cha. The children also created a graph of their favorite penguin. It was a lot of fun!!! Ask a first grader about what he/she learned.

In Social Studies, the children are currently reading mini-biographies about Washington and Lincoln. They are



learning to pick out important information and make notes. In math, the first grade classes just started the unit on ones and tens. And, In Language Arts, the children continue to read and write every day. If you would like to see some of their most recent writing samples, please stop by the classroom.

Second Grade News

Mrs. Spina & Mrs. Bubolo

We are anxiously preparing for Reconciliation, which is at the end of this month. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as this special day approaches. In other areas we are continuing to work on ocean projects and learning about life under water. We wrote creative stories about ocean life. Second grade continues to be fun and productive.



For more information on St. Patrick School, visit www.spssmith.org or call 724-0285.



Third Grade **Mrs. Scholldorf**

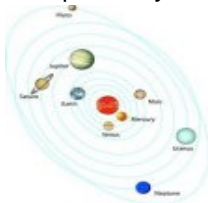
Mrs. Scholldorf's third grade students are preparing for the Lenten season, learning about the 2010

Census, "traveling" to China for a celebration of culture and traditions, and presenting 'biomercials' of inspiring heroes. Students recently had a grand opening of their class economy bank!

Third Grade **Mrs. Curran**

In the past month, Class 3-1 was busy writing and working on projects relating to Catholic Schools Week. They wrote prayers for peace, essays on what it means to be Catholic and made ribbon magnets to support our troops. The children brought in amazing models of our solar system, each one more creative than the last! The children made tactile models, and wrote about each space object covered. Some of them light up, move and play music! This is true authentic learning.

We have begun our study of the culture of China. Each child will be making a timeline of the dynasties that existed in China since 2200 B.C. Combining technology with our studies has created true excitement in the children. We also had a visit from the Animal Rescue Center of the Hampton Bays. The children learned about different bird



species, repairing injuries so they could return to the wild and how our treatment of the environment affects animal life. The third graders are eager to learn and truly appreciate the love they have from their classmates, families and God.

Fourth Grade **Mrs. Dizinno & Mrs. Darmanin**

The Fourth Grade classes had a wonderful time during Catholic School's Week. They wrote very impressive essays explaining what "dividends" they receive from the faith, discipline, morals, and knowledge they are exposed to here at St. Patrick School. This assignment made them appreciate a very special thing - the gift of a Catholic education - and they expressed this to their families very eloquently.

The Fourth Grade State tests will be given in late April and early May this year and we are on a quest to prepare and do our very best. We are spending a great deal of time working on grammar and writing skills. We are also in "The Math Zone" every day for more than an hour, but we are sure all our hard work will pay off.

We are having a great time with our study of adaptations in animals and plants. Hands-on experiments always make it more interesting, as well as a visit from the Wildlife Refuge Center of the Hamptons.

The year is half over and we have accomplished so much, but we are still on a "mission" to prepare for fifth grade!



Grade 5 Religion **Mrs. Guerriero**

In religion, Class 5-1 learned about God's grace. Students worked on a project titled *Sanctifying God's Grace Helps us Follow Jesus*. The students each researched a Catholic organization that was formed to care for others as Jesus would. Look for their reports hanging in our hallway.



Grade 5 Religion **Mrs. Pacinello**



The fifth grade is currently working on an in-class project entitled *The Road to Emmaus*. The students are imagining that they are one of the disciples walking on the Road to Emmaus. They are to tell about their experience when they met the "stranger" on the road. They will then illustrate their story, putting themselves in the picture.

5th & 6th Grade Social Studies **Mrs. Pacinello**

The students are currently learning about how religious freedom played a major role in the settlement of Plymouth Plantation. The students will work on a web quest, or an interactive computer-based lesson to learn about the voyage of the Mayflower, and how the Pilgrims *mistakenly* landed in Plymouth, instead of Virginia!



The sixth grade students are enjoying the wonders of ancient China! Our class has learned about Qin Shi Huangdi and his clay army. They have explored the mysteries of the Great Wall of China. We have explored the contributions of the Chinese, and discussed their legacy of thought. This week, the students will share their research projects on such topics as silk production, bronze tool and weapon making, as well as biographies of important Chinese people

7th & 8th Grade Social Studies **Mr. Delia**

This month in Social Studies the eighth grade will be learning about American society in the 1920's. Much focus will be on the economic factors that led to the Great Depression. Students will get a sense of the problems facing Americans during the Great Depression by reading first hand accounts and analyzing photos from this period in American history.

This month in Social Studies the seventh grade will be learning about the presidencies of George Washington,

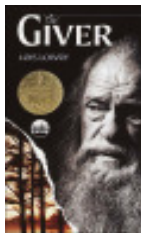
John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. The students will analyze the contributions of each of these presidents by examining primary documents and speeches given by these presidents. The students will also learn about the problems facing the young nation at the end of the eighteenth century.



Seventh & Eighth Grade

Ms. Cowley, Mrs. Reina & Mrs. Izzo

Eighth grade students have received their high school acceptance letters, so it is an exciting time for them. In science, they are continuing to work on their technology based projects for the science fair. In ELA they are preparing for their presentation of "The Shack" for English class. They are trying to raise money to help pay some of the cost of their graduation trip. The students are truly enjoying this project, they are preparing scenes, and organizing music to bring the book to life. In math the eighth grade is focusing on geometry. Our seventh graders are preparing for their English class readings which were postponed. They are also raising money for their field trip with Mrs. Izzo and Ms. Cowley to see *Wicked*. The students have finished the book *The Giver* which was enjoyed by all. The students are also working online to create a class book that will include pieces from each student. The seventh grade is working on geometry right now as well as working hard to prepare for the COOP exam for next fall.



Art

Mrs. Albanese



The art room is busy and getting quite messy. Fifth grade is constructing Picasso sculptures with found objects. Eighth is cutting up collages. Fourth is weaving bits of yarn, beads, and ribbon.

The Mona Lisa is being painted by first graders. Third grade is learning about perspective with Edgar Degas ballet stage backgrounds.

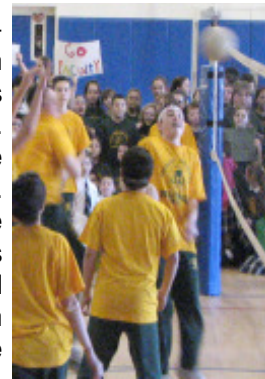
Seventh grade is practicing their drawing techniques. Ancient Egyptian temple figures are being used as reference for sixth grade artists.

The After-School Ceramics Workshop adds to the excitement in the art room right now.

Physical Education

Mrs. Manfred

News from the Gym: The 8th grade-faculty volleyball game was an exciting highlight to Catholic Schools week. The kids did a great job. Everyone had a good time, the cheering was loud and enthusiastic. Watch for the annual Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart events scheduled for February 24th and 25th. We learn about heart health and how to help ourselves while helping others.



Guidance Program

Mrs. Mary Mulligan

As part of the "Peaceworks" character education curriculum, this past month, I have made classroom presentations in Mrs. Pacinello and Mrs. Gurriero's 5th grade classes. The topic of bullying was discussed. I presented three scenarios that involved three different bullying situations. The children were asked to role play the scenarios. We brainstormed possible solutions to bullying. We also discussed important people that a student could speak to if they are being bullied. Some of these people include; their teacher, their counselor, and their parents. We discussed the importance of telling someone. We also discussed proactive ways one can deal with a bully. I also made classroom presentations in Mrs. King's and Mrs. Dispatro's sixth grade classes. In these classes, we discussed the topics of respect, perseverance, and generosity. The children completed activities relating to these topics. I went into Mrs. Scholldorf's 3rd grade class as well. In 3rd grade, I discussed the topic of responsibility. Children were asked to share with the class, responsibilities they have at home and at school. The children completed an activity relating to this topic as well.

I continue to meet with students both individually and in groups on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays I work as the nursery school teacher. I continue to serve as a steering committee member for Middle States Accreditation as well as a member of the child study team. I am also a member of the Parent-Teacher Partnership.

If you would like me to meet with me regarding any social/personal or academic problems your child may be having, please call me at school at 724-0285 or email me at spssmith.org and go to the Public Services section of the web site.

Did you know ?

St. Patrick School is a founding member of the Catholic Middle School Athletic Association. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 compete in cross country, soccer, basketball, volleyball and baseball.