

St. Joseph School Newsletter

Newsletter November 2011
Volume 1, Issue 3

Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent



Principal's News

What a beautiful month November is! It is a time to appreciate the beauty of the changing seasons and to be thankful for all of our God-given gifts. May each of us take time to reflect on the many blessings that God has brought into our lives.

The first quarter ended October 28th and report cards were sent home November 2nd. Be sure to take some time to discuss this report with your child and together set some goals for the second quarter.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Wednesday evening, November 9th and Thursday evening November 10th. All families should have scheduled a time during this conference period. Open communication between our teachers and parents promotes a positive educational community; there will be no school on Friday, November 12th.

As the weather continues to get colder, please be sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the colder temperatures. Encourage your children to wear hats and gloves both to school and when they go out for recess.

Student Council has been busy promoting service activities as well as school spirit. They are currently raising monies to help to pay for the murals being painted in the gymnasium. In addition, they are collecting Halloween candies for refugee and homeless families. Soon they will be opening up a school store to provide our students with various school supplies. Also, they designed student council t-shirts to wear on meeting days.

On Tuesday, November 15th we will have an Open House for all prospective Kindergarten students and their parents. If you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2012, please make plans to attend. It will be an enjoyable evening to meet the teachers and the students will participate in classroom activities. Parents will meet with me and tour the building if you choose. Then everyone will gather in the cafeteria for a hot dog dinner and visit with staff members and other Kindergarten parents. Please spread the word to any families who might have a prospective kindergarten student for the class of 2021. Encourage neighbors, family and friends to attend this Open House.

Finally, thank you to all of you who have generously donated your time during the first quarter. We're grateful for our Home&School Organization, the Blue and Gold Committee and all of the other volunteers who so generously share their time and talents with us.

Special blessings to all of you during this season of beauty and thankfulness!

Gratefully,
Dr. Nugent

Contents

Principal's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	3
Third Grade News	4
Fourth Grade News	5-6
Fifth Grade News	7
Sixth Grade News	8-9
Seventh Grade	10-11
Eighth Grade	11-12
Specials	13-18
Home&School	19

Upcoming Events

- ✓ November 1st
10:30 Mass-All Sts. Day
- ✓ November 2nd
10:20 Mass-All Souls' Day
- ✓ November 2nd-4th
Principals' Conference
- ✓ November 9th-10th
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ✓ November 11th
NO SCHOOL
- ✓ Kindergarten Kick-off
November 15th
- ✓ November 23rd-27th
Thanksgiving Break

Kindergarten News

Mrs. Haubert and Mrs. Hale



Thank you to the parents that helped with the Halloween treats. We all enjoyed them. The children had a great time wearing their costumes with their buddies and walking in the parade.

We have been working on letters *m, s, r, t, c, p, a, n,* and *d*. The next letters we cover will be *f, g,* and *i*. Your child should be able to recognize the following high frequency sight words *a, my, the, I, like, go* and *we*. The next words we will learn are *on* and *to*.

As you already know, the children will have a Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, November 22nd. We will spend November learning about what life was like for the Pilgrims and Indians that attended the first Thanksgiving. We will compare the clothes they wore, the food they ate, and how hard life was long ago with the way things are today. The feast coordinators for each class will be in contact with you soon to confirm your donations. We truly appreciate time, food, paper goods, etc. to make the Thanksgiving Feast possible. This is a special event the children always have fond memories of.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at conferences on November 9th and 10th.



First Grade News

Mrs. Ciraldo and Mrs. Tondra



The first graders are always quite busy and learning so many new things! We are working on more word families, rhyming, and writing words with digraphs, blends, and contractions. We're also writing compound words. When writing sentences, we practice identifying the naming and telling parts along with the nouns. Please continue the home practice of reading our weekly story and working on the vocabulary and high frequency words. Though we practice spelling words daily in class, practice at home is so beneficial. One way to practice is to write the spelling words in sentences. Look for word lists on Edline and weekly classroom newsletters.

Math lessons involve much fact practice in the form of flashcard games, fact sheets, and word problems/stories. We soon will include subtraction! Please help your child with memorizing the facts. The more practice, the better! We also are working on counting by 10's, counting by 2's, telling time to the hour, counting dimes and pennies together, identifying odd and even numbers, and identifying fractions.

The Social Studies focus is on our country's history, settlers, and Thanksgiving celebrations. The children participate eagerly during discussions. We will also learn about and then later create personal timelines. These will then be displayed during Catholic Schools' Week. In Science we will be finishing our unit on simple machines. Then we will learn the three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. Religion lessons involve learning about Baptism and the symbols associated with the sacrament. We also discuss how God made us to be good and holy. As the holiday approaches we will discuss how we need to thank God for all that He has given us, especially his Son.

Thank you so much for volunteering to drive and chaperone on our farm/hayride field trip. The children had a wonderful time! The trip was interesting and fun for all.

We are looking forward seeing all of you at conferences.



Second Grade News

Mrs. Stadelman and Mrs. Zaucha



We are beginning our first step in Reconciliation preparation. We will begin to talk about the choices we make every day. We try to evaluate the choices we make and determine which choices follow the way Jesus taught us and fit the Mission Statement of St. Joseph School. Also, we will learn the story of Moses and study the Ten Commandments. Please practice the Act of Contrition. The children know this prayer because we say it every day at the end of the day. It begins "My God..." and they should be able to take it from there.

We have a field trip planned for Tuesday, November 22 to Weathervane Theater. The children will be seeing a wonderful musical called Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. The story is a good example of forgiveness. Permission slips will be coming home the first week of November. The cost of the trip is \$5.00. If you would like to come on this field trip please return the permission slip and money for your ticket as soon as possible. There is limited seating at the performance and the spots will be filled in order of receipt.

In Science we are completing a unit on plants. The children will continue to make observations about the seeds they planted and placed in the sunlight and in the dark. Soon, we will be learning about animals with backbones and animals without backbones. The students will understand the adaptations that animals make in order to survive in an environment.

In Social Studies, we have been working on a mapping chapter to help the students understand what a state, country and continent is and to become familiar with the map of the United States of America. We will be learning about landforms such as an island, peninsula, and valley and work with landform maps. After landforms, we will learn about natural resources.

The Math Fact Café is a great site where the children can practice math facts, time and money. Please continue to have your child count the coins in your pocket, purse, wallet or money bowl. They should be able to identify each coin and tell the value of each.

It is so important for the children to be reading every night. The children should be able to read most of the words in the book that they choose. We are using the Five Finger Rule to pick out books in the library. If the children count five words on one page that they cannot read then they should save that book for later in the year and try it again. The second graders are working on a play for Johnny Appleseed. More information will be coming home soon with the date and time of the play. We hope to see you there!





Third Grade News

Miss Sibila and Ms. Marino

The first grading period has gone quickly. Students have adjusted well. Our routines are down pat, but we still need a few reminders. Please check and sign all math homework. Assignment books should be checked daily. Please check Edline for homework and grades. Helping with homework and studying for tests makes a big difference. Thank you for the time you spend with your child.

In Science, we are studying ecosystems. The students will learn about land and water ecosystems. We will also learn how plants and animals interact within an ecosystem.

Since November elections are near, in Social Studies, we will be discussing the elections, voting, and what it means to be a good citizen for our local, state, and federal governments. After visiting the Mayor in October, this should give us a better understanding of how our government makes laws and provides services for its citizens.

In Religion we will learn how to love, forgive, and heal as Jesus does. This will tie in with the Sacraments of Healing which we will be discussing. The third graders will be learning about the saints. They will be choosing a book to read about a saint and will be doing a project for it. Further information will be going home the beginning of November. The third graders will also be studying the Mass and learning the new responses.

We have a field trip this month. After our field trip of walking and exploring our local community last month, we will be visiting the past at Hale Farm and Village on Thursday, November 17th. Your child will need to bring a packed lunch and drink. Thank you for those who will be driving. Dress for the weather. We can only hope for a nice day!

We would like to thank all the parents who gave a donation at the Book Fair. The children will benefit greatly from your generosity.

The third grade community service project for this year will be contributing to the Ronald McDonald House. Our first project will be decorating placemats to brighten the spirits of the families who are staying there while their child is in the hospital. We will have other projects throughout the year.

We hope everyone enjoys their Thanksgiving weekend. We have so much to be thankful for. Students of the Week for October were as follows:

Room202

Peter Schmitt
Colin Watson
Kelly Baker

Room 200

Mia Marino
Ben Stapleton
Hannah Whitestine





Fourth Grade News

Miss Fearon

We have been very busy lately. Our Halloween party was very enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our party. Our hats go off to Mrs. Marcu, our room mother.

The focus of our Religion will be learning about the Beatitudes. The students will be learning about how the Beatitudes affect our lives today. We will be participating in several meditations and prayer services throughout the month.

We are working on the second theme in our Reading series. Each story in this unit is very interesting and highlights the benefits of teamwork. Ask your child about what we are reading. Please remember to ask your child about Accelerated Reader. We have changed goals for the second quarter.

The students are studying Science for the second quarter. We have Science books that the students will be using. We do many hands on activities. There will be projects that the students will be completing. We will start the quarter off by exploring the rainforest and how plants and animals are classified. Remember that we have a fieldtrip to the Cleveland Zoo and Rainforest on Thursday, November 17th. Our second topic will focus on how plants get their energy. We will be discussing ecosystems. Please take a look at the link on Edline for our Science textbook. There are many great tools that you can use to help your child understand the material being covered.

English will be mixture of activities. Our book activities will focus on different types of nouns. The students will be involved in several creative writing activities. Our journals will continue to be a weekly activity.

Math will begin to get a little more difficult. The students will begin to work on multiplication. Please practice your facts at home. I am beginning to ask students to have their homework signed. Please check the work and sign the paper. I realize that this is more work for you but we need to make sure that your child understands. I appreciate your help.

The students continue to work on Phonics and Handwriting. We are completing a Spelling unit every week. Please continue to check assignment books.

Each month, we will recognize students who are putting into action the Beatitudes. We are working on recognizing random acts of kindness in our classrooms. It will be wonderful to see everyone doing acts of kindness. It will truly make our classroom an enjoyable place to learn.

I look forward to seeing you at conferences. We can work together to help your child work to the best of his or her ability. Please remember that our classroom door is always open. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

We hope that you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Enjoy the time that you have with your family and friends.





Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Williams



It's hard to believe that we have already made it through the first quarter of school. It has gone very quickly. The students have settled in nicely. For the most part, they have been very good about completing homework and making up any missing work. Thank you so much for checking up on Edline. It's wonderful how quickly missing work is found and completed once it is brought to your child's attention. I believe Edline is a great tool to use in order to keep students on track and make them accountable for their assignments.

With the end of the first quarter, comes a new challenge for many of the fourth grade students. The second quarter will consist of mostly new material, unlike the review of the beginning of the school year. As difficulty increases, some grades may fall as well. We would expect to see many more B's and C's from the students as they work to master the new material.

If your child is performing to the best of his or her ability, a B or C is certainly not an unacceptable grade. While A's are always something to strive for, all students will not achieve them even though they are doing their very best. I believe that grades should accurately reflect the level of mastery and not be inflated.

With more difficult tests, studying at home needs to become a routine. Most students are doing a fine job with this. Reviewing at home with vocabulary and notes is so helpful. They should be asking someone at home to quiz them when studying for a test. This is a very good strategy.

They are really not able at this point to study effectively by themselves. Tests that require more studying will always be announced in advance so that there is ample time to review. We also do review in class. There are times however, when it will not be possible to study at home for a test.

These types of tests require careful attention in class. For example, Math can best be studied by doing the daily lessons and working carefully in class.

Once again, please continue to see that your child is completing daily assignments. Math is getting a little more difficult. Multiplication facts are being introduced in the current Math lessons, and memorizing is really a must. I will require more writing especially when answering Reading questions. The students need to focus on writing complete sentences that answer the question being asked. This is difficult for some of the students. Homework should be something that most children are able to do independently with only limited assistance from you. The amount of time spent on homework should usually be less than 40 minutes daily. If your child is struggling to complete homework independently, we need to work together to understand what is happening. Also encourage daily reading at home. I believe this is one of the most beneficial exercises a student can do.

We continue our recognition within the classroom of those students who show kindness and respect toward their fellow classmates. Certificates are sent home at the end of each month. Last month everyone received a certificate. The same has been true for the month of October. The students truly do treat each other respectfully in our classroom. They are a wonderful group and I enjoy spending my days with them.

I look forward to seeing you at conferences. It will be a good time for us to discuss your child's accomplishments, difficulties, and goals for the school year.

Thank you to all of you who will drive to the Cleveland Zoo and Rainforest. Thanks in advance to those who will drive on any of the trips this year. We couldn't do it without your help.





Fifth Grade News

Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. R. Wilson

We look forward to meeting with you on November 8th and 9th for parent-teacher conferences. It is hard to believe that it is that time already. Please remember that students are not to attend the conference. Thank you to our room parents who made our Halloween party a success in both classes. The students looked great in their costumes!

Students have been very responsible with their first quarter Accelerated Reading goals. Points will increase for the second quarter. Remember we are grouping for reading starting the second quarter. Both groups will begin with theme three which involves our changing Earth. The stories are science based and, the students seem to enjoy them from year to year. Students in each class will be working on the same and different activities. Mrs. McClellan's class will have a poster report due on this theme.

Social Studies' classes are reading about the Thirteen Colonies, the Revolutionary War, and our Founding Fathers. The students always show a great interest in this subject and learn a great deal about the founding of our country.

Math classes are learning about percentages in relation to fractions. When you have the opportunity, review these concepts with your child. For example, you could ask, "What percent of a dollar is 50 cents?" If your child is consistently missing more than four, please review their homework with them and sign it nightly.

We are moving on to the theme of Earth Science in Science class. We are learning about rocks and minerals. The students are classifying rocks and identifying how to identify a mineral. We will be then learning about the Earth's resources and how to protect them. This topic reinforces how we are to take care of God's creation.

The students all worked hard on our service project. They beautifully decorated cards for our friends at Summa in Hospice care. These cards will be passed out to those in Hospice. The students will be doing small projects like this throughout the school year. The students are working hard on learning the books of the Bible. This is new this year. Their first test will be over the first eight books of the Bible on Friday, November 4th.



Sixth Grade News

Mrs. Huber



A new quarter has begun- a fresh start! All classes will continue to learn more about the Gospel readings using the Visions magazines. We will also focus on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, along with starting to focus on Advent.

Reminders to students: ensure that all supplies are brought to class and effort is put into quality of work. Remember ALL test scores are taken twice, with the opportunity for corrections and extra point for parent signature.

8th Grade- Confirmation Practice: Sunday November 13th at 1:15p.m. Retreat is Monday November 14th in Nolan Hall/Church from 5:15-8:45. This will be a rewarding experience for all the 8th grades during this step in their faith journey. Confirmation is Sunday November 20th at 4:00p.m. There is limited seating (there are 50 Confirmation candidates!). The only "reserved" spots will be for the candidates, sponsors and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pew for parents. In class, the students will have shared their Saint reports and completed further testing as part of their preparation for receiving this sacrament. We also will continue to explore the history of our Church.



7th Grade- we will study Jesus' miracles. Also we will learn about Jesus' preaching about the kingdom and the meaning for individuals and our Church community.

6th graders will continue to learn more about our Jewish ancestors, including the story of the Exodus and the Passover.



MISSIONS

Mission money collected for October totaled \$ 267.19. Donations will be sent to Community Pregnancy Center and Treats for Troops. Thank you for your ongoing support. Our November Missions Casual Day is Tuesday November 22.





Sixth Grade News

Mrs. N. Wilson

Here we are, at the end of the first quarter and entering into the holiday season. What an exciting time in the sixth grade. I am very pleased with the enthusiasm of these sixth graders. They have adjusted well to Jr. High. Don't forget to replenish pens, pencils and paper as needed. Hopefully, your child told you all about our field trip to the Civic Theater. We enjoyed the talents of the Orchestra.

As we enter into the Second Quarter, be aware that new math concepts are being introduced. Continue checking with your child to ensure he/she is doing their daily lessons and bringing the math book home to review nightly. Spending 10-15 minutes a night reviewing the lesson taught that day will make a big difference. Quizzes are still given weekly, with a math test every two to three weeks. Please check Edline for homework, grades and links to the textbooks website. There are wonderful, and free, sites to help you review with your child at home.

Just a reminder: our field trip to Camp Christopher will be sometime next April or May. I do need parents to volunteer and help chaperone the students. If you would like to volunteer, you must be VIRTUS trained. You have time to do this if you act quickly. I will be happy to let you know the process.

A big "Thank You" goes out to Mrs. Willett for the wonderful ice cream cake and drinks from Dairy Queen. We had a fun time dressing up for Halloween and walking in the parade with our buddies in Miss Sibila's Third Grade. Hopefully, your child shared with you their experience in making rosaries with their buddy.



As always, please encourage your child to ask for help when needed. I am available in my classroom every morning from 8:00-8:20 am and during lunch.



Seventh Grade News

Mrs. Cottrill

It is hard to believe we are entering the 2nd quarter of the school year already! I am looking forward to parent teacher conferences so we can discuss the successes and challenges some students are facing. Most students have settled into a nice routine, and you can expect the pace of things to pick up somewhat during the next few weeks.



In 6th grade reading class we are in the second collection in our literature text, which focuses on the elements of plot and setting in the short story. We read one story per week and complete a variety of activities for each story, including an open-book test. One skill that continues to challenge many 6th grade students is how to answer open-ended reading questions. I have given the students handouts on strategies for answering these types of questions and we discuss the requirements frequently. Ask your student to see an example of his or her efforts in this area. In English class the 6th graders will begin studying nouns, pronouns, and adjectives. While the basic parts of speech are not new concepts, we do begin to study them in more depth at this point. Students are always surprised to learn just how many different kinds of pronouns there are!

In the 7th grade reading class, the students are in the midst of reading the novel *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech. It is the story within a story of a young girl on a journey in search of her mother. Along the way the book presents several messages:



Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins.

Everyone has his own agenda.

In the course of a lifetime, what does it matter?

You can't keep the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair.

We never know the worth of water until the well is dry.

The students and I have enjoyed discussing the meanings of these messages as they apply to the story, but more importantly, how they apply to *us* in our daily lives and in our encounters with our families, friends, and classmates. The meaning of names is one of the themes in the novel, and the students will be working in computer class to research the meaning of their names and will create name banners. The 7th graders will also be reviewing parts of speech in English class and continue to write a weekly journal entry. All classes have been given their Accelerated Reader requirements for the month of November. All students must read, test, and journal on one book by Nov. 21.



A big "thank you" to several 7th grade parents who supplied food, drinks, and paper products for our retreat and Halloween party:

Mrs. Fitzsimmons – pizza for the retreat and cupcakes for the Halloween party

Mrs. Stierl – donuts and fruit for the retreat, and delivering and helping to serve lunch

Mrs. Deckert – Juice boxes for the retreat

Mrs. Carlson – water

Mrs. Walck – paper products

Mrs. Lawrence – juice boxes for the Halloween party

Mrs. Meissner – chips for the retreat

I apologize to anyone I may have forgotten!

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving as we thank God for all the gifts in our lives.



Seventh Grade News

Miss Spalvieri



We had a wonderful time on our Seventh Grade Retreat on October 12th. Even a steady rain did not deter the students from having a great time. They participated in a lot of team building games and activities. The day helped us get a little muddier, and a lot closer. The staff at Camp Christopher did a nice job leading the students. Thank you to the many parents who volunteered and brought in snacks, drinks and food! Everything was terrific.

The Seventh graders have been learning about the Early Israelites. We have been reviewing a lot of the things the students learned in Religion class last year. We will be moving on to other ancient civilizations in our next unit such as Greece and India.

The Eighth graders have been studying the colonization of North America. We learned about the founders and reasons for colonization of the original thirteen colonies. The students are making advertisement posters for one of the colonies.

The Sixth graders just finished up their chapter on Egypt. Their projects on Egypt will be due on November 8th and will be on display during parent teacher conferences. We are starting a new chapter on the Indus River Valley and the beginnings of Hinduism and Buddhism.

I continue to enjoy my time here at St. Joseph School. The students are a wonderful blessing and I enjoy seeing them every day.



Eighth Grade News

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Watson





It is hard to believe that the first quarter has come to an end. It has been a very productive and positive start to the year. Again, please make sure your child has glue, scissors, and crayons. The student council will be opening a school supply store in November so your child can purchase supplies, at school, when needed.

If you are following the Washington D.C. payment schedule, the second payment of \$70.00 is due November 21st.

All three of the Language Arts classes have been busy writing creatively, reading, writing in journals, and studying parts of speech.


Eighth graders completed the novel, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton. This book does a wonderful job bridging the gap between rich and poor. It tells the story of two groups of teenagers whose bitter rivalry stems from socioeconomic differences. However, Hinton suggests, these differences in social class do not necessarily make natural enemies of the two groups.

The Greasers and Socs share some things in common. Cherry Valance, a Soc, and Ponyboy Curtis, a Greaser, discuss their shared love of literature, popular music, and sunsets, transcending—if only temporarily—the divisions that feed the feud between their respective groups. Their harmonious conversation suggests that shared passions can fill in the gap between rich and poor. This potential for agreement marks a bright spot in the novel's gloomy prognosis that the battle between the classes is a long-lasting one. Over the course of the novel, Ponyboy begins to see the pattern of shared experience. He realizes that the hardships that greasers and Socs face may take different practical forms, but that the members of both groups—and youths everywhere—must inevitably come to terms with fear, love, and sorrow. This novel is a favorite among the eighth graders. 

Seventh Grade students also completed a group read. They read the book *Walk Two Moons* written by Sharon Creech. Throughout this book messages are given to the two main characters in the book that brought about great discussions in class. One message that was given in the book was; *Don't judge a man until you have walked Two moons in his Moccasins*, another was *In a course of a lifetime, what does it matter*. Those were super starters for class discussions. The class discussed how no one could truly judge someone unless they experience that person's life, which is impossible! We talked about what was really important in our lives and some of the silly things that we get upset about. And, most importantly, we stopped to cherish the time we have with one another. 

The **sixth graders** have recently finished their study of science and technology and will begin a unit on Earth's structure. They will be studying Earth's formation, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and the rock cycle. In Science the eighth grade is starting a unit on motion and forces.

The **seventh graders** are continuing with their unit on weather in the classroom and should be working hard at home on their science fair projects. I will continue to monitor the progress in class and am available to any student for extra help.

The **eighth graders** and student council will be organizing a school-wide food drive. They will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products from the entire school. A flyer came home in the report cards. The drive is scheduled for November 7-10. Parents may also bring the items to parent-teacher conferences. The eighth graders will be packing the food at Blessed Trinity, and it will be delivered to 72 area families in time for Thanksgiving. All donations are greatly appreciated. THANK YOU! 

Play News

Once Upon a High School is quickly approaching. An email and a hard copy of the November practice schedule was sent home on October 27, 2011. The dates for the performance are as follows:

December 1, Performance for grades K-4 @ 1:00pm

December 2, Performance for grades 5-8 @ 1:00pm

December 2, Performance for Family, Friends & Parishioners!



Computer News

Miss Cosgrove

A Word about Edline

Parents, please make sure that you update you Edline account when needed. There are two ways in which to do this:

- ☑ At the beginning of each month an update screen appears for you to make any needed changes to the account.
- ☑ On the left of the SJS Home Page, in the "Account" section, there is a link called "Manage Account". This will also allow you to update information that has changed since the account was created...especially email addresses!

It is very important that you have selected the option to receive email from the school. Likewise, it is important to **activate both parent and student accounts**. I have noticed that some of the student accounts have been activated as parent accounts. This can lead to confusion especially in the upper grades when the classroom teachers expect to have each student activated with their own account.

If you have any questions, please contact me at acosgrove@saintjoe.org

Thank you☺



Kindergarten: We will be visiting the Internet visiting "Pumpkins" sites and "Pilgrim" sites. These will prepare us for our trip to the pumpkin patch and Thanksgiving feast. Also, they are helping us with strengthening our mouse skills, hand/eye coordination, and navigational skills.

First Grade: We are currently working in *KidPix* learning about the season of Autumn.

Second Grade: We have been working in *KidPix* creating individual slide shows entitled "All About Me". We have been using our word processing tools to write sentences and have learned how to insert graphics.

Third Grade: We have just finished working in *KidPix* creating autumn haikus. These are on display in the upper hallway. We are beginning a Thanksgiving web quest and will be visiting many Internet sites learning about the Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving.



Fourth Grade: We have just finished creating "How To..." flow charts in *MSWord*. This activity involved many technology skills: inserting/formatting shapes, graphics, and textboxes. These will be on display in the upper hallway. We are beginning a 3 slide *PowerPoint* presentation. These will include many technology skills: formatting slide backgrounds, titles, collecting/inserting/formatting graphics; and animation and transition.

Fifth Grade: We are researching saints and writing reports in *MSWord*.

Sixth Grade: We are creating hieroglyphics name posters in *PrintShop*.



Seventh Grade: We have just finished writing a report on the Renaissance. We are now researching the origins of our names and creating name banners in *PrintShop*.

Eighth Grade: We have just finished researching islands of the world and are now building a 12 slide presentation on our findings. This project is being integrated with Science and involves many upper level technology skills such as embedding videos, and inserting sounds.

Websites to peruse:

- ✓ www.spellingcity.com
- ✓ www.prometheanplanet.com
- ✓ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/>



Physical Education

Mrs. Guanciale

Physical Education Grading

Grades 3-8

As you have already noticed there has been a change in the physical education grades. I would like to use this letter to clarify the grades. Every class will be worth 10 points. The breakdown of points received will be:

Participation

- 2 points for warm-ups
- 4 points for the core lesson
- 1 point for cool downs

Behavior

- 1 point for sportsmanship
- 1 point for safety
- 1 point for conduct

10 points total



The students will also be graded on being prepared for class. (Appropriate clothes and shoes) I will give all students **20 points** at the beginning of the 9 weeks. Each time the student is not prepared for class, **1 point will be subtracted for no gym shoes and 1 point for appropriate clothes.**



At least one assignment/skill assessment will be given per 9 weeks. These assessments will be worth **20-40 points**. On skill assessments 10 points will be given out of 10 if your child scores in the top 15%, 9 points will be given out of 10 if your child scores in the 50% - 85 %, 8 points will be given if your child scores below 50%.

Also there are changes in dress for grades 2&3. All students will be given 5 minutes to change into their physical education clothes. They then will be given 5 minutes to dress back into their school clothes.



Physical Education Grading K-2

10 points per day

3 points for participation: (always – 3 sometimes- 2)

3 points for behavior: (follows directions first time, nice to class mates, takes turns)

3 points for sportsmanship: (follow rules of games and plays fair)

3 points for outstanding, age appropriate 2 points

2 points for safety: (puts equipment away quickly and quietly, walks to put equipment away, considerate of classmates)

2 points is prepared for class (gym shoes, dressed for movement)

10 points total

At least one assignment/skill assessment will be given per 9 weeks.

Reminder: First graders will need to wear their school uniforms on *Mass* days. They are to bring gym shoes if their physical education class is on Friday.



Music News

Mrs. Wenmoth



Kindergartners have been busy in music class! They have learned songs about pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns in conjunction with their field trip to the pumpkin farm. They also learned several other Halloween songs. We accompanied these songs with sound effects made by various classroom instruments. Next we will begin learning songs about Thanksgiving to help us celebrate our Thanksgiving Feast!

First grade learned about the percussion family of instruments. We even went to the band room to see the big drums and cymbals! Halloween and fall songs have been fun to sing this month. We start preparing for the Christmas program next!

Second grade has been working hard on their solfege reading skills. They can place do, mi and sol on the staff given a do clef, and can read solfege from the staff. They enjoyed making sound effects to Halloween songs as well.

Third grade learned the definition of rap, and wrote raps about fall. They performed them for the class, and got to watch the performances on the smart board. Their compositions are in the hall outside the music room. Stop by and see them.

Grades 4-6 enjoyed a trip to the Civic Theater to hear The University of Akron Concert Band. They heard some wonderful music. This field trip tied in perfectly with the conclusion of the fifth grade unit on instruments. Ask them about their favorite part, and I'll bet most of them say the visit from Darth Vader!

Grade 5 has completed their unit on Musical instruments, and invented one of their own. These are on display outside the music room, so stop by and take a look. I will save these at school for later in the year, when the first graders study vibration. The fifth grades will get together with first grade to show them how their instrument makes vibrations.

Grade 7 has begun Renaissance music, and sang a "catch" which is a humorous round. They learned the names of instruments that were invented during this time, and visited a "virtual Renaissance town" in computer class.

Grade 8 completed their unit on Blues and moved on to Rhythm and blues. They are currently watching a movie on the life of Alan Freed, the Cleveland DJ who came up with the name "Rock and Roll". The movie is an excellent way for the students to experience early rock music. They also get a feel of what the climate of the country was in the late 50's concerning race relations, the adults' reaction to this "new" music, and the young people's attempt to make rock music their own.

Advanced Band has begun learning Christmas songs for the program. The beginning band students are practicing away and attempting to master their first five notes. They are eager to show off in the Christmas program.



Beginning in November, students in grades K-3 will begin practicing for the Christmas program. They will all perform on Tuesday December 19th, so please mark your calendars.

Congratulations also to Gracie Coley who sings with the Summit Choral Society Children's program.

Art News

Mrs. Coley



With the first quarter ending, you will be seeing some changes in the art program. I am looking forward to second quarter and working alongside and watching your children grow academically, spiritually and personally. It is a blessing to be able to work with your children each week. Previously art was graded as a 100% participation grade. Ending the first quarter we moved in to more of a competency based grading procedure. Students will be receiving a participation grade each week as well as a "work in progress" and project completion grade. Their participation grade will be based on three components: following directions and classroom procedures, engagement, and attitude. Projects will be graded on the student's ability to adhere to the lesson objectives, mastery of materials and skills, neatness and the ability and willingness to work above and beyond the expected.

Students in the 8th grade are completing their stain glass projects. They will be completing a written critique showing how well they understood the lesson objectives: balance and color scheming. They will also be asked to thoughtfully reflect and write a strong paragraph explaining why they chose the symbols they did depicting their confirmation journey.

7th graders completed Op art designs and have started a stippling scratch art project. They will need supplies to create a weaving and I will be discussing what is needed with them next week.

6th graders are completing ocean realism/abstraction pictures and will be ready to begin a drawing unit. 5th graders are finishing a unit on the Impressionists highlighting Vincent Van Gogh and will be completing a written assessment over what they have learned as well as completing a self-critique.

4th graders are beginning a rain forest unit and are working on toucan drawings in oil pastel.

3rd graders are working on coil pots.

2nd graders have been working on some fun Halloween projects incorporating art principals: shape, line, color and space.

1st and kindergarteners have been working on seasonal projects and experimenting with a variety of media. Guided drawings and direction following are skills we will continue to develop along with tracing, cutting, and gluing. Enjoy this FALLtastic weather!



Spanish News

Mrs. Tomin



Buenos Dias!

It is hard to believe the first quarter is almost over. I can only say "So far, so good". I would like to encourage everyone to use Edline to keep up on the Spanish vocabulary and tests. Many times there will be a practice test on Edline that students can print off and complete. These practice tests are a good way to study, and I usually give extra credit on the test for students who bring the tests to class. If they cannot print the tests at home, they can usually do it in "Open Lab". They can also print the information from my room before or after school. If you have any problems or questions, please feel free to let me know.

Kindergarten is finishing colors and beginning a lesson on family terms.

1st grade is working on weather and seasons and will soon begin a lesson on clothing.

2nd grade is working on learning terms for classroom objects.

3rd grade is learning to discuss clothing and use basic adjectives.

4th grade has started conjugating regular -ar verbs and writing good sentences.

5th and 6th grade are continuing with the regular, present tense verbs with an emphasis on speaking.

7th and 8th graders will be doing a project about Central American food and learning to use direct and indirect object pronouns.

As always, please call or email at: btomin@saintjoe.org



Library News

Mrs. Rauber

The Book Fair was a success. Thank you to Mrs. Zuckett and all of the volunteers that helped during Book Fair week. Also thank you to the school families that supported the library by purchasing items at the Book Fair. Secondly, the school library received a donation in honor of Mrs. Kerr. The books purchased with this money will help build our non-fiction section of the library. Thirdly, the library also received a very generous donation from the Tom Sibila Family. Miss Sibila's brother donated over 350 new non-fiction books to our school library. These books cover a wide range of subject matter. The students at St. Joseph will certainly enjoy reading all of the new books that have been and will be added to our library by means of donations. Thank you for your continued support of our school library.



REMINDER: It's never too late to pay your dues! If you have not, please do so and many thanks to those who have!

The book fair this fall yielded a profit of just over \$1,160. The book fair profits are used to keep our library stocked with interesting and current books for our students. We thank Laura Zuckett for organizing the book fair as well as the following parents who helped make it a success:

Nidal Barakat	Kelly McIntyre
Sharon Feisthamel	Colette Mickle
Melissa Fitzsimmons	Emily O'Dell
Toni Haag	Amy Sprinzl
Kevin Hagen	Stacey Sharp
Kelly Lambert	Lisa Stierl
Lori Lawrence	Kari Tackett
Sara Lumley	Laura Ubelhart
Kathy Martucci	Dawne Wittbrod

Many thanks to all the families who have participated this year in calendar sales and most especially to those families who sold above and beyond three calendars!

All calendars have been distributed, so if you have not as yet turned in the money, you may still do so. If you have any calendars that you were unable to sell, please return them to the attention of Kristin Rizzo. If you want more calendars, please contact Kristin as well. Drawings start November 1, and money for calendars must be received in order to be a winner. There will be no retroactive payments for winning numbers not paid for.

The **drawing** for tuition credits will be held **after school in the parking lot on Wednesday, November 16, before the last bell.** For every three calendars sold, you get one chance in the drawing. Good luck! Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Home & School sponsors the Fall Skating Party which will be on Tuesday, November 22, at Rocky's. Our dues pay for rental of the skating rink as well as pizza, pop and cookies for everyone! So come and enjoy a free night out (skate rental is \$1; but you can bring your own)!

The Santa Shop will be open this year from November 29 to December 2. Each class will be scheduled a time to enable students to do their holiday shopping at prices to meet every budget. We have great donated and homemade items, so adults are welcome as well to shop during the "open" times when classes are not scheduled. Contact Kelly Lambert if you would like to contribute any items to Santa Shop.

Don't forget to utilize GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com. You can visit these sites for more information. Enter "St Joseph School – Cuyahoga Falls" then click "verify" (no period after "St"). If you do a lot of internet buying, please purchase through the GoodShop to see if the site participates. You still purchase directly from the retailer's website; however, if you go through the GoodShop portal, the school earns a percentage of the sale which is determined by each store. You can also get great coupons to use! Get more "bang for the buck" by purchasing gift cards through the certificate program and then utilizing them on-line. Participating retailers include: iTunes, Target, Amazon, Kohl's, Macy's, JCPenney, PetSmart, Sears, Walgreens and WalMart . . . just to name a few!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



We're on the Web!
www.saintjoe.org