



St Joseph School

An educational ministry of the Diocese

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NEWSLETTER

Principal's Corner

We are on the home stretch, students PLEASE be diligent in doing your school work!!! There is very little time left in the school year and you need to continue to study and turn in all your assignments, please. Parents please follow up with your children and make sure that they are turning in all their assignments. If they score low on a test, ask them to request a retest or to do something to bring their grade up. The teachers are always eager to help and you know my door is always open if you need help. Congratulations to our students who were confirmed Friday night. It was a beautiful celebration coordinated by Ms. Papilla. Bishop Weigand was the celebrant for the evening. We are so proud of our students they read beautifully and did a wonderful job with everything they were asked to do. Sister Aster's choir was amazing as usual. Thank you to all our parents for driving our students to back and forth for practice and for the Confirmation Mass. Our STUDENTS are working hard preparing for the Math Bowl which will be on Saturday April 9th. We are so proud of the entire team! Congratulations to our Second Grade students for the great job they did animating the First Friday Mass. They did a fantastic job on the Readings and their behavior was excellent. We appreciate the hard work of our students and teachers preparing our students for Mass. God bless you and Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Registration Packets for next school year 2011-12 went out. Please make sure to turn in your applications as soon as possible with the registration payment in order to take advantage of the **Early Bird Registration Discount**. We are very excited about next school year and need to know who is returning in order to hold our class size at set numbers. Also, we have very limited

financial aid available. We ask that you turn in your request as soon as possible if you plan on requesting financial aid. *Please note:* Our process for Financial Aid has changed a little because we are no longer a "Parish" School, which means that there are more procedures to follow. We are directly under the Diocese and we are governed by a Board of Directors, as well as an Executive Director. Please turn in your financial aid paperwork promptly so that it can be reviewed and processed.

Thank you to our wonderful **Parent Club Officers** for spearheading our school fundraisers. **Coming up on May 21 is the SPRING BARBECUE Dinner. Please mark the date on your calendar.**

Thank you to our wonderful **CSAC officers Mrs. Holt, Mr. Nava, Mr. Djeda, Mrs. Juarez, Ms. Manela, Dr. Bass, & Mrs. Castaneda, Parent Club President.**

During the Season of Lent, we are supporting the Baby Bottle Project through the Sacramento Life Center. The program began March 9th and bottles should be returned on April 15, 2011. Also, Lent is an opportune time to show solidarity with our less fortunate brothers and sisters by donating canned food to the St. Vincent de Paul Program of our parish. They are in dire need of non-perishable items. Please, let us make this our Lenten offering.

April 6, 2011

Important Dates to Remember:

April 8, Fri	Stations of the Cross, 2:00PM
April 9, SAT	MATH BOWL (1st-4th Gr.) St. John Vianney
April 11, Mon	ALL SCHOOL PICTURES (Complete Uniform)
April 12, Tues	SPRING PICTURES
April 15, Fri	Stations of the Cross, 2:00PM
April 17, Sun	Palm Sunday
April 20, Wed	MIN DAY , Last day of school before Spring Break
April 22, Sun	EASTER SUNDAY
April 21-May 1st	SPRING BREAK
May 2, Mon	CLASSES RESUME
May 3-6	SPRING ASSESSMENTS

CLASSROOM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN (Ms. Papilla)

Greetings!

We are in charge of daily morning prayers during the month of May. We are reciting these prayers in class and will be practicing them daily. For the next 2 weeks, help your child review the Vocation Prayer. We are sponsoring the Family Mass in May.

Important reminders:

- Baby Bottles are due in class by Friday, April 8.
- Spring Pictures scheduled for April 12th; Free Dress only for those having their pictures taken

Sight Word Mastery certificates were given out last Friday. The class is doing very well with their Sight Words and their readings. Thank you for helping and encouraging your child with school work.

This week in **Religion** we will talk about the season of Lent. We finished our Stations of the Cross booklet. We are praying one station daily. Your child will take home his/her booklet; I encourage you to pray the Stations as a family. You may even have your child lead. In **Math**, we will learn about cones, some more problems, times of day and counting by 2's. In **Social Studies**, we will discuss the symbols of our country. In **Science**, we will discuss the weather. In **Language Arts**, we will review the sounds of Ww and Qq. This week we will read Decodable Book 11. Reading is part of daily homework. Listen to your child read the Decodable Books. Review the Sight Words with your child. It is important to master sight words to help in the reading process. A new set of Sight Words were given to the students. Our packet color is green. Do not forget to send the packet to class everyday. Sight Words this week: **good, them, call, help, old**
Thank you.

FIRST GRADE (Mrs. Rowell)

Greetings of Peace! Our class will present the Stations of the Cross on April 15th at 2:00pm in the Church. The Spring BBQ will be held on May 21st from 5:00pm -9:00pm. If you still need to complete parent hours, this is a great opportunity to earn them.

Curriculum updates for this week:

Language Arts: We are working on the ar/or sounds in spelling. We will review singular, plural, and possessive nouns in grammar. In reading we will work on selection vocabulary, review comprehension strategy clarifying and summarizing in a story, practice sentence dictation and writing capital letters.

Math: We are reviewing addition facts and telling time on the half hour, we will begin adding three single digit numbers, and number patterns.

Religion: We are learning about God's Gift of Families and Lent.

Science: We will finish our Unit on Matter, solids, liquids, and gases.

Social Studies: We are learning about Homes around the World, The White House and symbols of our country.

Have a blessed week,
Ms. Rowell

SECOND GRADE (Sister Josie)

Dear Second Grade Families,
Blessings to you in your journey of faith this season of Lent. My deepest thanks to the parents for giving their precious time to attend the Parents' workshop/meeting on March 25th. It was indeed a well attended meeting. Your presence is a manifestation of your love for your child to celebrate their First Confession and Communion in a very meaningful and special way. It will be a memory that they will always remember. God loves you.

Important upcoming events:

First Confession –April 16 @ 1:30 p.m.

Attire: Church clothes. Please come half hour before the time.

First Communion – May 14 @ 10:00 a.m.

Dress code –Boys: white long sleeves with black suit and tie or bow tie, black shoes & socks.

Girls: white dress, white shoes and socks or stockings, white veil. (Sister Josie will order the white veil)

Curriculum updates on this week: April 4-8, 2011

Religion – The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist

We learn about the Mass as a meal and a sacrifice. This week we review and practice the rites of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Mathematics – Fraction

We identify and write a fraction of a set. Estimate parts of a whole. Explore Probability. Solve problems by predicting the outcomes of activities.

Science – What is Sound?

Explain what makes sound and identify the body parts people use to make and hear sound. We learn vocabulary words such as sound and vibrate. They either name or mimic the sound of the object or animal in the picture. Explore Activity

Social Studies – People Make Rules and Laws

We discuss why rules and laws are important. We show illustration describing rules and laws.

Handwriting – Cursive

Lesson 1-5 Children learn the stroke in writing Capital and lower case vowels in cursive.

2nd Grade Language Arts (Ms. Nicholas)

Reading: We will be reading the story *Martin Luther King Jr.*, focusing on main idea and supporting details. We will be filling out KWL charts about facts we know, want to know, and have learned from reading the story.

Phonics and Spelling: We are working with words that have three letter initial consonant blends. These blends include, *scr, spl, spr, shr, squ* and *str*.

Grammar: We are reviewing types of sentences, *declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, and imperative.*

Writing: We are beginning persuasive essays. Students will be writing single paragraph essays persuading their audience about a chosen topic.

2nd Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Well, spring is here! Students will be talking about activities that they enjoy during the spring. We will be making flowers out of tissue paper. Please, help us by sending colored tissue paper with your child next week. We are also learning about action words/verbs in Spanish. Have your child review his/her vocabulary list every day in Spanish. Practice makes a difference! Thank you for all your support at home!

THIRD GRADE (Ms. Nicholas)

Hello 3rd Grade families!

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing weekend! This coming weekend is the Diocesan

Math Bowl competition for grades 1-4. We have three contestants representing our 3rd Grade. Jacob McBroom, Kasandra Basco, and Lydia Yoseph will be competing on Saturday, April 9th at 11:00 am. The competition is at St. John Vianney. Come out and support our students!

Here is a look at what is going on in the classroom.

Language Arts- Reading: We are working on fact and opinion. We still are doing centers around the room, splitting the students into smaller groups to get more one-on one attention at each skill being practiced.

Phonics and Spelling: We are working with the different spellings for the /aw/ sounds.

Grammar: We are reviewing proper nouns, and punctuation. Students will be cutting out nouns and complete sentences from newspapers and magazines, categorizing certain words into the correct category.

Writing: We are beginning persuasive essays. Students will be writing two paragraph essays persuading their audience about a chosen topic.

Science- We are beginning our Unit on Light. Students will be reading the beginning chapters and focusing on new vocabulary.

3rd Grade Religion (Sister Josie)

Gospel Reading in the 4th Sunday of Lent

We read and discuss the Scripture story of Jesus healing the Blind Man.

Acting it out and connect to life's journey on this Lenten season of grace. We talk about the Holy Spirit who guides the Church and teaches about the true message of Jesus. Chapter Review and test.

3rd Grade Mathematics (Sister Josie)

Geometry

We learn about Geometric shapes and figures. We identify the movement of a shape as a slide, flip, or turn. We recognize and draw congruent figures. Explore activity.

3rd Grade Social Studies (Sister Josie)

The Basic Government

We define government and describe the types of government. Panel discussion and illustration.

3rd Grade Handwriting (Sister Josie)

Cursive

The 3rd graders are working on different level according to their skills in cursive writing. They are encouraged to write sentences and scriptural verses in cursive. Most of them are almost done in writing the Alphabets and now getting ready to write scriptural verses. Composition writing in cursive will be introduced next week.

3rd Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Students are learning vocabulary related to following different commands given in the classroom. They will be creating original sentences using sentence starters in Spanish. They will answer questions orally using learned vocabulary. We will also talk about Capitalization and Spanish greeting expressions. Please, study the Spanish vocabulary list in preparation for the test next week. Thank you!

FOURTH GRADE (Mrs. Benson)

Greetings in Christ 4th grade families!

A big THANK YOU to Mrs. Escobar, Mr. Mison, the Rodriguez family, and the Jamilla family for driving and chaperoning our field trip to Mission San Francisco Solano. We had a great time, enjoyed beautiful spring weather, and most of all, we learned a lot! Our final field trip will be on May 18th, at Coloma, where we will see Gold Rush life and get to experience gold panning. I am still in need of drivers for that day too, so please let me know if you are available. This Friday, the 4th graders will be reading at Stations of the Cross at 2pm. Also, progress reports for the 3rd trimester will be sent home on April 20th. Please let me know if you have any questions.

In our studies we continue to be busy. In **Reading** we are starting a new unit titled "America on the Move." It will closely tie in with our Social Studies unit as well. We will work on increasing fluency and comprehension, focusing on story organization and fact and opinion. In **Language Arts** we will have our invention project presentations this week. I am very excited to see what they have created! We will also work on finishing out letters for the Great American Mail Race and we will learn about prepositions. In **Social Studies** we are finishing our chapter on immigration in the 1900's. Thank you for helping

your child with our family interview project. It was very helpful for the students to see how history ties in with their daily lives. In **Science** we are continuing our unit on electricity and magnetism. We have had a few very fun labs and will continue by seeing how electricity and magnetism tie together. We will need 2 compasses next week for another lab, so if anyone has one we can borrow, I would appreciate it!

Thank you for all your support!

Mrs. Benson

4th Grade Religion (Mrs. Elisa Cariaga)

We are learning about the two important virtues of our life the Theological and Cardinal virtues. "Theological Virtues" help us to become more like God while "Cardinal Virtues" are guidance/path of our minds and actions that will lead to a good life. We will recall the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation in the season of Lent.

4th Grade Mathematics (Mrs. Cariaga)

We will be exploring division with two-digit answers and a remainder, division answers ending with zero, and division with three-digit answers.

4th Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Students will be reviewing vocabulary related to body parts and family members during these two weeks. They will complete a crossword puzzle using Spanish word for the body parts. They will draw their shadow and label body parts. We will also talk about activities that they enjoy with their family members. Please study vocabulary for test. Thank you!

Upper Grades (Departmentalized)

FIFTH GRADE (Mr. Walker)

Special Events

Since we are in the Season of Lent, I just wanted to remind you all that St. Joseph School is celebrating the Stations of the Cross again this Friday at 2:00. If you would like to join us in the church to celebrate the Stations of the Cross on Friday, we would love to see you.

Also, if you have any parent hours that have not been logged, please contact me so we can get them logged. As always, thank you so much for all your

help and support this year. It has made this year a memorable one for me and the students.

God Bless,
Jim Walker

5th Grade Religion

This Week in Religion, we will examine the Sacrament of Holy Orders. We will take a close look at this Sacrament of Service, how it is celebrated, and why it is so important. We will also continue to examine the Season of Lent and reflect on how we are preparing ourselves for Easter.

5th Grade Literature

This week we will be reading a piece of narrative nonfiction about a group of students that decided they wanted to help save a rain forest. We will examine the author's purpose and how the use of certain words and phrases can be used to influence a reader's perspective.

5th Grade Language Arts

This week we examine strategies to write a persuasive essay. First we will learn a new kind of graphic organizer to help us organize our arguments. Secondly, we will learn how to use the organizer to write a first draft. Then, we will hold a "Writer's Workshop" to do our proofreading and editing. It should be very interesting.

5th Grade Social Studies

This week, we will continue our study of the Constitution. First, we will examine the powers and responsibilities of the 3 branches of government and its series of checks and balances. After that, we will discuss some of the arguments for and against the ratification of this new Constitution in America's early days. Then, we will examine how Early American heroes contributed to a growing sense of American Identity. Finally, we define patriotism and examine the ideas and events that stimulated its growth.

5th Grade Science (General Science) Ms. Lao

Our topic this week is on *Kinetic and Potential energy*. We will be defining and differentiating these two kinds of energy and find out its different forms. Then we will be discussing what electric energy is and how static electricity differs from current electricity. We will also learn how electromagnets work.

5th Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Students will review pairs of opposites in groups. They will be creating sentences using possessive adjectives and antonyms. They will be discussing the methods for telling time according to hours, quarter, half hours, minutes after the hour, and minutes before the hour. We will also talk about the different sports they enjoy. Please study vocabulary for test. Thank you!

5th Grade Mathematics (Mrs. Cariaga)

In lesson 73 we will be discussing and exploring the concept of Greatest Common Factor (GCF); and in lessons 78 - 79 we will learn the process of Multiplying Fractions with whole numbers and Dividing Fractions using the concept of Reciprocal.

SIXTH GRADE (Mrs. Cariaga)

6th Grade Mathematics (Mrs. Cariaga)

In lessons 10.6 and 10.7 we are learning the process of solving unit rates and analyzing similar figures using the concept of proportions.

In lesson 10.8 we will explore how to analyze figure, determine the percent of each figure and how to convert percent to fractions and decimals.

6th Grade Social Studies (Mr. Walker)

This week, we will examine the four ages of early Greece and the political evolution of city states. Then, we will examine the structure of Athenian society and the economy of Athens. Finally, we will read an excerpt from *The Odyssey*. We will then theorize why the myth of Odysseus's adventures was so ingrained into Greek society.



6th Grade Religion (Mrs. Papilla)

In Chapter 18, the class will learn how God's people struggled to maintain political and religious independence. In Chapter 19, they will learn about the coming of the Messiah.

6th Grade Science (Earth Science) Ms. Lao

The 6th grade topic for this week is on soil as a resource with many properties. We will be discussing soil formation and composition. We will also discuss the effects of human activity on soil

like how we pollute it and waste it. We will try to find ways wherein we can conserve soil.

6th Grade Literature (Mr. Walker)

This week we are reading a biography about Alvin Ailey. Alvin Ailey drew from the music from his heritage to add new elements to modern dance. During our reading, we will examine how a writer's "voice" is the unique way he/she uses words and phrases to evoke the personality of his subject and a response from his audience. We will also examine how sequence puts events in a logical order that a reader can follow.

6th Grade Language Arts (Mr. Walker)

This week, we will examine strategies for writing a research report. First we will determine how to properly research a topic from finding sources to taking notes. Then, we will examine and practice how to make an outline. Then we will examine how to use the main topics and sub topics from the outline to write a report.

6th Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Students will be learning vocabulary to describe things that are worth the effort, using diminutive for affection, and making direct comparisons. We will also talk about how in Spanish the infinitive is often used to describe general actions that are in process of completion. English uses the -ing form of the verb (present participle). They will use the infinitive verbs in sentences. Please, study vocabulary for the test. Thank you!

SEVENTH GRADE (Mr. Grillot)

Dear 7th Grade Families,

I am extremely proud of all our newly Confirmed students. Their commitment to their faith is both exciting and contagious. Congratulations to you! Looking at the calendar for May, the 7th Grade will be hosting the family breakfast for the month of May, so make sure you mark it down on your calendar.

7th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra (Mrs. Cariaga)

We will be learning how to solve equations with variables on both sides and explore the concept of solving two-step inequalities.

7th Grade Literature (Mr. Grillot)

During last week, the students learned how to outline a text with main ideas and supporting details, how to identify idioms, construct analogies, and analyze text that uses the cause and effect pattern. We used literature about Edgar Allan Poe to do this. This week we will identify recurring theme across Chapter 3 and prepare for our unit test over Chapter 3, which is on Friday.

7th Grade Language Arts (Mr. Grillot)

During last week, we learned about the different ways to use commas in a sentence. Our study of punctuation continued as we then looked at the correct use of underlining versus quotation marks. This week we begin a new unit on writing a research report. Students will conduct prewriting exercises to determine a subject, narrow it to a topic, and begin research.

7th Grade Social Studies (Mr. Grillot)

During last week, we analyzed the relationship between the church and the government in Europe during the Middle Ages and tested over the Crusades. In the coming week, we will begin studying the Bubonic Plague and the Renaissance Period. Students will be able to explain how the effects of the plague, war, and famine changed European government and describe the effects of the Renaissance in Italy.

7th Grade Religion (Ms. Papilla)

Congratulations to our 7th Graders on their Confirmation. May they continue to live in the image of Christ and may they experience God's faithfulness in every area of their lives.

7th Grade (Life Science) Ms. Lao

This week, the 7th graders will tackle the subject on the development of humans after birth. We will be talking about the different stages from infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. We will also discuss the "New View of the Old" and describe the factors that influence aging. Our chapter test is scheduled on Thursday, April 7th.

7th Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Students will be learning the present participle conjugations of the following verbs: to sing, to learn, and to live. They will be creating sentences using the conjugations of those verbs. They will

also talk about the future tense of different verbs and the imperfect tense. We will also review cardinal and original numbers to hundreds, thousands, and millions. Please, study vocabulary for the test. Thank you!

EIGHTH GRADE (Ms. Lao)

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

We have officially started the last leg of the school year, the 3rd trimester. Please constantly remind your child to be diligent and to keep up the good work. They are almost there. In fact, they've been starting a countdown to Graduation Day!

I will be sending out reminders to parents who still need to accomplish parent hours. Accomplishing parent hours is a requirement for your child to be cleared for graduation. If you cannot be available to help out in school activities, we are accepting donations of office or classroom supplies. Please provide a receipt so I can staple it in your parent hour log.

Thank you for your continued support to SJS!

Ms. Lao

8th Grade Science (Physical Science) Ms. Lao

We are wrapping up our chapter on *Acids, Bases, and Salts* this week with the discussion on neutralization reaction. We will also try to find out how salts form and explain what a salt is. We will be differentiating between soaps and detergents. We will also find out the uses of esters and explain how they are made. Our chapter test is scheduled on Friday, April 8th.

8th Grade Religion (Ms. Papilla)

Students will learn that one of the significant reforms of the Counter Reformation is the way we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

8th Grade Mathematics/Algebra (Mrs. Cariaga)

We will learn how to determine whether an ordered pair is a solution of a system of equations and to find the solution of a system of equations by means of graphing.

8th Grade Spanish (Mrs. Reynoso)

Students will be learning the present participle conjugations of the following verbs: to sing, to learn, and to live. They will be creating sentences using the conjugations of those verbs. They will

also talk about the future tense of different verbs and the imperfect tense. We will also review cardinal and original numbers to hundreds, thousands, and millions. Please, study vocabulary for the test. Thank you!

8th Grade Literature (Mr. Grillot)

During last week, we started a new unit on figures of speech. We worked to identify metaphors, similes, personification, and symbols. We read the "Tell Tale Heart" and studied fallacious reasoning. In the coming week, we will analyze how different figures of speech can influence a story and define a writer's style. To do so, we will read a few short stories and look at dialect, repetition, and other literary devices.

8th Grade Language Arts (Mr. Grillot)

During last week, we classified complement, pronominal, demonstrative, and comparison adjectives. We identified them in sentences and created our own sentences with them in it. In the coming week, we will test over the different kinds of adjectives (4/4) and then begin a unit on writing a research report.



8th Grade Social Studies (Mr. Grillot)

During last week, we analyzed the important of slavery for the South's societal and economic structure with a test over Chapter 10. Also, we explained the North and South attempts to compromise over the slavery issue in the years leading up to the Civil War. In the coming week, we will explain the role of groups in the anti-slavery movement and analyze the political issues that led to violence in Kansas as we study Lesson 2 of Chapter 11.

SPORTS

We will have a Basketball Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 8th in the gym from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. The basketball teams and coaches will be recognized. I appreciate all of the help and support from the coaches and parents. It would not be possible without all of your help. Thank you!

Altar Servers: No updates at this time.

Preschool News

April 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

We have been working with the letter “Nn” and the number 9. We have nine segment centipedes climbing up our wall. Don’t forget to take a look! Also, we completed the book “What Begins with the Letter P” and made Paula Pineapple. I had to find a more difficult word search for the children because they were getting bored with only four words! And, great news... the Pre-K class has discovered that they can read! Please give them the opportunity to read to you.

We have completed the first 8 Stations of the Cross coloring sheets and readings. Your son/daughter has been working very hard on making his/her own “Veronica’s Veil”. Please frame and display it when he/she bring it home.

The preschool T-shirts are completed and we could not wait to wear them! We wore them for the first time to the 1st Friday Mass, and we presented Sister Aster and Mrs. Peterson with theirs.

With warmer weather coming, we will have water play during outside time. Please plan on sending the following items with your son/daughter: swimming suits (one-piece only for girls), sunscreen, and flip-flops (for water use only). With that said, I’d like to take this time to send a reminder regarding summer dress code. Please no open toed shoes, tank tops, or short shorts.

Ms. Judy

