

## Mrs. Bunn's Classroom

All students in grades 2-8 are currently working on readers' theater/plays in ELA. They are exploring the elements of plays, dramatic reading and how to use voice to bring characters alive, and the fairy tale genre as it is presented in these scripts. Since it is almost Valentine's Day, we are doing the "romantic" stories of Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, etc. with a twist. Gr. 5-8 will also be doing some work with rewriting and writing their own scripts.

All students in grades 2-8 also just completed a winter art project. They used God's art (sunrises/sunsets) as their inspiration, chose colors to paint a wash as their winter sky, and learned how to use tape to mask areas to be left white. These white areas were later transformed into birch trees with some watercolor shading and color pencil lines.

Please continue to check with your child each Friday to see their Friday folder. All students in grades 2-8 should be bringing home a folder with their corrected work and any notes that need to get to you this week. This is where most corrected assignments will be found. Please go over this work with your child. Also, this is one of the tools along with the online gradebook, that we communicate how your child is doing in their schoolwork. It is a good idea to check their online gradebook about once a week. Please talk to Mr. Raddatz if you need another copy of your log-in information.

## Mr. R's Classroom

In the next week or so there will be an additional resource that will be tried out on a trial basis. This new resource is Planbook.com. It is online software which allows teachers to provide parent and student with an online assignment book, lesson plan information if a student is ill, and several other additional resources. Please note that I too am familiarizing myself with this new software, so there may be a few wrinkles along the way.

As we are a few weeks into third, a few challenges have presented themselves. Our classroom has found itself in a place where we have not been consistently filling in our assignment notebooks, which has led to students scrambling to get work done, or working not getting done at all. We have also had some challenges in not submitting work that would reflect our best effort being put in.



## Soup'er Saturday Celebration!

From Noon to 3 pm at St. John Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall (in the basement)

Come and enjoy soups, fellowship, and play some fun board games.

All are welcome!

# CRY OF THE CARDINAL

Feb 9, 2021 – St. John Lutheran School Newsletter – Issue 8

## Pastor Gehl's Message

There is something exhilarating about hiking in the mountains. I know that when the wind chill is 20 below, most of you would much rather think about lying on a sandy beach looking out at a flat ocean with the setting sun in the background and holding a fruity umbrella drink in your hand than hiking in the mountains at 20,000 feet. But I would still prefer the mountains to the beach. (I am really dreading our retirement years when Aura Lee and I are going to have to manage being in a long-distance relationship, with her living somewhere on the Gulf Coast and my living in Wyoming, but we have got about 20 more years to figure out that problem.) Where am I going with this, you ask? We are in a "mountainous" time in our worship focus at St. John. This Sunday's lessons talk about Jesus going up to the Mount of Transfiguration. That is where his face shone like the sun and he displayed his glory as true God. The disciples thought it was exhilarating; they wanted to camp out up there on the mountaintop. But Jesus had his eyes focused on a different mountaintop - one far less scenic (it resembled a skull), but much more breathtaking. It was on Mount Calvary where Jesus' breath would literally be taken away and he had willingly lay down his life for the sins of the world - yours, mine, everyone's. Our worship focus shifts to that mountain over these next 40 days in the season known as Lent. As you have the opportunity, we would love to have you come and join us as we walk along with our Savior and grow in his Word during these next several weeks (and beyond). How good it will be to rediscover the amazing depth of his love for us as he humbled himself to walk the path to the cross so that he might purchase our forgiveness and make us fit for heaven. And how exhilarating that will be! In Christ's Service and Yours! Pastor Mike Gehl

Our Sunday services are at 7:45am and 10:15am with all-ages Bible study in between. During Lent, we also add a 6:30p service on Wednesdays with a different worship theme from that on Sunday. Please join us!



## Ms. Buss' Classroom News

Greetings!

I want to give a big thank you out to the parents for helping our letter show and tell kick off with a success. Each week (with the exception of this one with our Valentine's Day party) we do our letter show and tell each Wednesday. A sheet went out in your child's folder to give you the letter of the week. If you are in need of that info again, please just let me know and I will get that out to you.

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# Classroom News

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With the addition of our show and tell that is literacy focused, the kids have also been working on two specific sight words a week. This past week we worked on "IT" and "IS," the week before was identifying "YOU" and "AND," and the week before that was the words "ME" and "MY." The kids have already learned some previous ones in the earlier part of the year, and we will circle back to them and review them. We also have added a daily message into our morning routine where they get practice reading the sight words in the morning message.

The month of February also found another dynamic in our classroom called our DAILY BUILDING CHALLENGE. Each day the kids are given a new building challenge to be done with Legos or other material that is in our room. So far, we have made nests, our names, rockets, hearts, patterns, the tallest tower possible before it falls, and something that flies. As we go further, we will make some harder things (shh... do not tell the kids what they are because they find out the day of but on the list are things like rainbows, vases, a house, and a marble maze and much more!) These activities are geared to help them grow in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills as well as higher order thinking skills. They seem to really enjoy these new activities, so I plan to add more in during March as well. We have some new science materials heading our way, so I am excited to see them explore!

Our book order will be placed towards the end of this week so if you have any books you need ordered, please get that order in by February 12th.

If you have any questions for me in the meantime, please reach out to me! I am more than happy to be of assistance. Have a great few weeks!

## Mrs. Foelske's Classroom News

Since Valentine's Day is right around the corner here are a few things we LOVE in preschool: Jesus, dancing, magnatiles, and puzzles. Most of all we just love being at school and getting to have fun while learning. This week has been a review week allowing us time to do special projects and activities for Valentine's Day.

Next week we will be looking at the letter P and Mrs. Foelske's favorite animal penguins! We are still working on the number 7, color pink, and heart as our shape. For some of the preschooler's things have just begun to click. It is amazing to see students start to find our letters all over the place. Each student reaches that "ah-ha!" moment at different times so do not feel concerned if your child is not there yet.

Bible story continues to look at Jesus and his miracles. We are constantly reminded that Jesus is God by the amazing things he says and does. We talk about how these things make His disciples feel and how we would feel if we were there.

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# Classroom News

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100th day is next week Thursday (barring any snow/cold days.) Keep your eyes open for a fun 100th activity your child can do at home and bring to school. If you would like your child to bring their activity to school early or have your child attend on Thursday when they normally do not you are welcome to do so.

As always feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

## Mrs. Wicks' Classroom News

'Tis the season for cabin fever, and it has hit our Kindergarten and first grade students hard! Keep in mind that the weather has kept us cooped up for too long by this time of the school year (especially with the cold blast this week). We will be working on getting extra-large motor play indoors, and I encourage you to do the same at home.

Our cabin fever does make it harder for students to settle in for work time. This has been showing up both during classes at school and in the assigned reading and memory work brought back each night. I urge parents to stay on top of the nightly reading, book quizzes, and memory work with their students. While we have helpers available for some AR reading and book quizzes, their time is intended for those who are unable to accomplish work at home due to language barriers or technology difficulties. Anyone who is able to do their work at home should do so daily. Writing down the quiz score on the weekly homework paper also helps our morning check-in time to run much more smoothly and quickly. Many thanks to the families that faithful help their children every night, and great job to those who go above and beyond by reading extra books on a regular basis!

One annual tradition for cabin fever time that our class has is Book Bucket Bingo. This is an OPTIONAL activity designed to add a little interest to nightly reading and to expand the student's familiarity with different reading genres and authors. We have had several bingos already and many working on even more!

Parents may want to ask their students about our science unit for third quarter. We have started looking at a unit on Changes, which will emphasize an introduction to the scientific process. We will mix various substances together, recording observations before and after the mixing, making predictions on what will happen, and discussing why some things change and others do not. This unit will also allow us to discuss and observe the three states of matter and learn lots of new vocabulary. The class has been enjoying this hands-on unit!

# Valentine's Day

