

From the Administrator

Can you believe it? Can you believe that we will be finishing up our ninth week of school as this week concludes? Oh, how time has flown by!

I just wanted to remind everyone of a few important dates upcoming. November third will conclude the end of first quarter. With this in mind, please look for information in the next week or so pertaining to parent teacher conferences. Please note that the format is a little different this year. We had designated the entire day of November eighteenth as Parent Teach Conference Day. Due to feedback from our families and the wide variety of work schedules, we felt it most beneficial to offer times throughout the day. These conferences are vital to gathering updates about the current progress of your child as well as ask any questions to your child's classroom teacher(s).

I also wanted to pass on information of clarification in a few areas. As we enter a new quarter there are a few helpful tips to help everything continue to work efficiently.

1. Teachers ALWAYS assume that a student is to be picked up or go home by the same means each and every day. If there is a change to this plan PARENTS should send a note to school or contact the CLASSROOM teacher. Due to variety of different variables, this is the BEST means to make sure your child gets home safely.

2. Due to bussing schedules, our school day was shorten by fifteen minutes from last year. With this in mind, teachers have made every effort to make sure that the school day is ready to roll by 8am, our designated start time. As the cold, wintry weather is approaching I want to pass along encouragement to all families that having your child here a few minutes prior to 8am would be to their advantage allowing them time to unpack and get materials ready for the start of their day.

Thank you and God Bless. Tim Raddatz, Principal



CRY OF THE CARDINAL

October 30, 2020 — St. John Lutheran School Newsletter—Issue 4

This coming Sunday (Nov 1st) is going to be a very special day at St. John. It's a day when we're celebrating the completion of another milestone in our B.O.L.D S.T.E.P.S initiative. We're calling it "Celebration Sunday." You may recall that St. John has recently embarked on a venture to build a new and combined church and school campus. We're Building On a Legacy Devoted... to God and his Word (B.O.L.D). We're doing that by Supporting, Trusting, Encouraging, Praying, and Sharing (S.T.E.P.S). This Sunday, our church members will have the opportunity to step forward in faith and indicate their financial support of the initiative. Then, the building committee will get back to work with our architect and builder to turn our basic concept plan into a more firm site design, blueprint, and eventually brick and mortar and wood and paint. We've been sharing with our school families various updates now and then, but have intentionally held off seeking further involvement. We wanted our church members to take the initial BOLD STEPS - as they rightly should. But that's not to say that the non-member school families can't and shouldn't walk along with us. We know that you have a vested interest in our school. We know that you love the great educational opportunities we're able to provide - and the great staff of teachers and aides who provide them - all by the grace of God! So what can you do right now? Pray for God's blessings in this initiative! Be excited about the prospect of a modern, functional, and accessible school building within the next couple years, God-willing! By all means, ask all your questions! And I'm sure there will be open forums and regular updates along the way so that you feel like you're "in the loop." As Thanksgiving approaches, we have so much for which to be thankful. Our God always has been, always is, and always will be so gracious to us, his dear children. What great things we have to celebrate! In Christ's service and yours - Pastor Mike Gehl.

Hello! I hope that you are all well. A quick reminder that the last Wednesday of October (October 28th) the kids will be allowed to wear their Halloween costumes to school for the day. Please make sure that if your child comes to school in a costume that the following are observed: 1. A costume must be easy for the child to get on and off by themselves in order for them to go to the bathroom in it in a timely and easy fashion, 2. Your child must wear a layer of clothes underneath their costume that is weather appropriate in case your child decides that they would like to take it off during the day, and 3. That the costume be appropriate for school. Thank you very much!

Keep in mind that the last week of October on Thursday and Friday (October 29 and 30) there will be no school for the kids.

Last week for Religion the kids and I finished up a discussion of Moses and the 10 plagues. Over the past few weeks we have been learning about Moses growing up, being given a special job by God to go back and free God's people, and now the 10 plagues. This coming week, the kids and I will study how God parted the Red Sea and how he was with them in the desert... just like he is always with us every day.

This past week in Math we studied AB patterns, pattern block designs, sequencing, and we practiced our months of the year and days of the week songs. This last week of October, we will be practicing the same concepts just in a different manner.

Literacy found us looking at the letter S, practicing writing it, and also learning how to write the number 4. We also started to learn, and find, our second sight word in books. We learned the word SHE and that the sh together make the shhhhhh sound. The last week of October we will be learning and looking at the letter D.

Please remember as the weather starts to turn cooler to send children to school with hat and mittens. We still try to make use of our outdoor recesses. I hate to say this but I have too... but when the snow starts to fly (sorry for that white S word!), please send your child with snow pants and snow boots as well.

I wish you all a great start to the month of November! - Jamie Buss

Classroom News

How are we at the end of the quarter already? It feels like we just started school!

Preschool have really started to become comfortable with their classmates. This make for very interesting play time. It's fun to see all the ideas we have and how much they interact with each other. Needless to say we are working on our sharing skills and using our words when trying to play together (nicely).

We have just finished the letter D last week and will be starting on E next week. We are reviewing all the letters we have done so far during this short week. We have switched to focusing on 4, yellow and triangles at calendar time.

We have started to do some assessments on of how much we know and how school is going. I will use this base assessment to compare to our spring one. This will be a way we can see the growth of your child or if we have any areas of concern. The assessment will be discussed at our parent/teacher conferences on November 18. Mark your calendars! Feel free to bring up anything you have questions or concerns about at these conferences.

Remember to start sending a jacket as well as hats and mittens every day. The weather is very changeable and it's best to be prepared. For snow gear your are welcome to bring it each day or choose to leave it at school unless you think you will be using it at home. Some families choose to just get a second set of snow stuff so they don't have to carry it back and forth.

As always feel free to contact me with and concerns.

Mrs. Alexa Foelske

Mrs. Bunn's Classroom Information

In reading class, 2nd grade has been reviewing phonics rules, parts of sentences, and learning more about the strategies that good readers use especially when reading non-fiction texts. They did an amazing job with their independent reading goals this quarter and all of them had reached Star reader status long before the end of the quarter. I have a feeling this group is going to be reading a lot of chapter books this year!

The 3-4th graders have combined class for word work activities where we practice identifying word roots, prefixes, suffixes, and working with various spelling patterns. Then we separate for 3rd graders to a rapid review of material that wasn't covered in 2nd grade due to Covid along with starting on 3rd grade material. The 4th graders have been doing a quarter long study on identifying elements of non-fiction text like text features, cause-effect relationships, identifying main ideas and details, and comparing/contrasting descriptions. They also did a novel unit on the book, *A Taste of Blackberries*.

We did a number of picture book read alouds this quarter with a larger focus on one of my favorite authors, James Marshall. He is most famous for his George and Martha and Miss Nelson books. We also enjoy his versions of famous fairy tales.

In religion class, we learned about Jesus miraculously healed a royal official's son. This strengthened the faith of the official and all those who heard about this amazing event. The official learned that he can fully trust in God. We, too, can trust in Jesus for everything. He is true God and cares for our needs. We also prayed that God strengthens our faith and the faith of the people around us in the same way.

Classroom News

Mrs. Wicks' Classroom News

Our first quarter will be wrapping up this Tuesday, November 3rd. With the end of quarter will come assessments and report cards. Please also keep in mind that we will have parent-teacher conferences on Wednesday, November 18th. All families should expect to attend these. They will be especially important this year as we have had less parent and teacher interaction before and after school.

In the meantime, our class has been hard at work in all of our subjects. In Christlight, we have begun to here about the many miracles of Jesus as well as the things that he taught people. Both groups are beginning to see several math facts during their class time. First graders are adding a daily math fact practice sheet to their routine. Kindergarteners have been greatly enjoying the Superkids curriculum. So far they have met Superkids Cass, Oswald, Golly, and Alf. They are beginning to find medial and ending sounds as well as beginning to blend sounds together into words. First graders are working on digraphs such as sh, ch, and wh. This has been quickly increasing the level of our reading.

For music class we have learned the first verses of two hymns: "I am Jesus Little Lamb" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". Both are beautiful hymns with wonderful messages. You may hear your child singing them at home. In art, we have worked on lines and shapes as well as taking time to make special pictures for the soldiers that our first quarter donations are focused on. Our social studies has been focusing on the election. We are discussing what it means to vote, how voting works, and what some of the things people look for in a president are. We will touch briefly on a few of the issues in the current election but are much more interested in learning how to vote for our favorite pizzas and cookie flavors.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions about your child or their education. I am also happy to meet after school when you pick up your child at any time.

Mr. Raddatz's Classroom

Parents I wanted to pass on a few reminders as first quarter wraps up next week. Generally late or corrected work is to be handed in a week before the quarter ends, that day would be tomorrow. However with days off for teacher inservice I am extending the deadline through Friday. This extension mainly applies to our spelling and vocabulary work, but could also include an assignment or two that is being corrected. Due to this extension I simply ask that you send me an email or text message by Friday evening, listing the assignments that your child has completed and presented to you to be handed in.

As we look to make a "fresh" start next week I want to pass on a few encouragements to start your child off on the right foot. Every day your child should be bringing homework an assignment binder, which should be signed by me, confirming what assignments were given that day and when they are due. It is a good habit to get into to check this binder each afternoon or evening. Spelling and Vocabulary work is done through an online format. Last week the sign in credentials were sent home for you to have up date to the minute access of what work has and is being done. Each week the expectation is that ten activities, five for spelling and five for vocabulary, are completed.

Fastdirect is our Student Information System which allows parents access to online grades, student information, and a direct communication link to classroom teachers. If you believe that you don't have the necessary information to log in, please contact me directly to gain that information. The online platform is accessible from any computer or smartphone. The online grading portion will note grades in all classes as well as late or missing work.