

Mrs. Bunn's Reading Classes
Grades 2-8

This quarter was a nail-biter! All students have high yet attainable goals for their independent reading goals and I was concerned that many would not reach their goal by the end of the quarter. Thankfully, many surprised me by doing some "super-reading" the last days of the quarter. (I do recommend daily reading sessions rather than marathon sessions at the end of the quarter. :) Everyone made their minimum goals and many, many students also achieved STAR reader status. Traditionally, 3rd quarter is a tough quarter in regards to maintaining motivation and balancing busy schedules. I'm proud of everyone's efforts this quarter!

Here are some noteworthy accomplishments:

2 Million Words Read: Arlen Wicks

1 Million Words Read: Barrett Lemke, Lincoln Cisler

*Many are getting close to the million word mark!

Grades 2-4: These students read over 2600 books so far this year! That is very impressive for 13 students considering many of those are chapter books!

Grades 5-7: These 8 students read about 800 books so far this year. Again, this is very impressive considering the majority of these are chapter books!

I look forward to seeing what totals we have at the end of this school year! Both the grades 2-4 and grades 5-7 classrooms are on track to achieve National Honor Roll status. It would be very exciting to have two classrooms get this accomplishment!



CRY OF THE CARDINAL

April 9, 2021—St. John Lutheran School Newsletter—Volume 11

Message from Pastor Gehl

Remember the "olden days" when we celebrated about one holiday per month? It's gotten to the point where we can barely keep up. I'd probably feel like I was turning into a lush if I were to celebrate every single national "fill-in-the-blank-with-your-beverage-of-choice" day. (Is it a coincidence that national beer day is April 7th and national alcohol screening day is the 8th???) I'd be much rounder if I celebrated every single national "this-food-or-that" day. Take a gander at nationaldaycalendar.com if you want to experience some information overload.

Here in New Testament times, God gives us the freedom to worship on any day we choose. But typically, for the past two millennia, Christians have chosen to worship on Sunday. It's not just a matter of priorities - let's worship on the very first day of the week - but it took no time at all for followers of Jesus to gather on that day because of the great event that took place. On one very significant first day of the week, just after sunrise, people discovered that a certain tomb was empty. Jesus' body was nowhere to be found... until it was! He appeared alive - that morning, that afternoon, that evening, and for the next several weeks! Sunday became known as "the Lord's Day."

It was amazing once again to celebrate the Lord's Day with so many of you! It was amazing to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus that guarantees the forgiveness of all our sins. Salvation is won! Heaven is ours! Boy does that give us cause to worship! What reason that gives us to gather together as Jesus' modern-day-disciples! So now, don't turn the calendar from Easter so quickly, but re-assemble each weekend to celebrate the Lord's Day. Does it really matter in the grand scheme of things that this Sunday is National Cheese Fondue Day? Hardly! Does it really matter that this Sunday is a re-celebration of the Easter victory? Absolutely! Come and join us!

In Christ's service and yours - Pastor Mike Gehl



Classroom News

Hello, Everyone!

The start of April has found Mrs. Foelske and myself (and our classes of course!) starting to record songs and stories for our "Grandparent's Day" program. We will not be doing an EC Grandparents Day in person this year (and we are hoping next year finds us back in person), but a video is being made of some of your kiddos favorite animal themed songs and stories! We will be recording through April, so please watch as we get closer to May because we will eventually have a link that we can share with you - and then you can share it with grandmas and grandpas.

Thank you for all the egg cartons that you are giving me! Keep them coming please! I have many however I am still looking for more. In May, when my class builds the Great Wall of China with them, I want it to be as big as we can get it. They would love that! If they knew (which they don't as most of their challenges are a surprise until the day of) I know that they would thank you too AND tell you how much fun it is going to be! They don't know it yet, but some of the challenges coming up in April for them to take part of include making and playing with slime, starting to look at and find things in hidden pictures, painting, playing Twister and of course building out of play-doh, rocks, blocks, and so much more! So much fun! Each of these challenges is geared to build science, math and engineering skills as well as give them practice with working with different tools and materials.

In a few weeks here, I will be starting our final assessments of the school year since this is 4th quarter. I will be in touch with you if there are any concerns that stand out to me. Next week, we will be on the final letter of the alphabet, letter Z. After that, we will work on reviewing letters and sounds, sight words and rhyming. We continue to cover different math concepts as we go as well. Some kiddos have started to read basic reader starter books and seem very excited about that!

If you have any questions in the next few weeks, please reach out. As always, I wish you a great next few weeks ahead! Jamie Buss



Mrs. Foelske's Classroom News

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* Spring has sprung! Preschool is counting down the letters, colors, numbers and shapes we have left to learn. Whether this spring will be a slow and rainy one or a quick sunny and warm one is yet to be determined. Either way its hard to believe we only have 7 weeks of school left.
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* We have made our monthly changes in the classroom. We now have new toys with the pirate ship and pizza parlor being the biggest hits. We are finishing up letter V and our Bible story about Jesus death on the cross. (Easter came a bit early this year so we are behind the church calendar.) We have started on the number nine, and two colors, brown and black. We have also started our last shape diamond, however our calendar time songs calls it a rhombus so be prepared to have your sock knocked off with their big fancy vocabulary.
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Classroom News

* We have begun practicing and recording songs for a special spring program that will be sent out to our families digitally. Normally Preschool and Pre-K would have had a Grandparents Day back in February or March but we passed on that activity this year knowing how well attended it has been in the past. We didn't want to pass around all those lovely spring colds or covid. However we wanted to still give families a chance to see your kids in action. Most likely we will get you a link to the recording in a similar way to the Christmas program. Keep your eyes peeled for a link around mid May.
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* Please remember that with our Wisconsin spring the weather can be very changeable. How quickly it can go from being chilly in the morning to hot in the afternoon. Please send your child with clothes and shoes that will work for the whole day. (Now might also be a time to double check that any spare clothes in your child's backpack still fit them.)
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* Lastly start thinking about next year and your Pre-K plans. It is very helpful and encouraged even to register for next year early. This gives us an idea of class size and can keep you in the loop with your child's teacher over summer.
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* As always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Mrs. Alexa Foelske
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Mrs. Wicks' Classroom News

Our fourth quarter is well under way with lots to keep the kindergarten and first grade class busy and enjoying our time together. We have recently made crosses to display at St. John's Easter breakfast. Our 'Changes' science unit is now wrapped up. We got to learn a little about the states of matter and physical and chemical changes. We saw steel rust, made eggs bounce, had fast-expanding vinegar and baking soda solutions, and grew crystal eggs. Throughout all of our experiments, we learned to make predictions and observations, recording our findings as we went. Our next unit will give more opportunities for observations and recordings as we examine plants- including their life cycle, parts, needs, and more.

In our Superkids (English Language Arts) class, we have been talking a lot about smoothing out our reading and adding expression to our voices. Kindergarten had the chance to try reading parts of a play to the preK friends, which was a good warm up for Grandparent's Day. We are planning on having an in-person Grandparent's Day for grades K-8. Our two grades will each be putting on their own play based on a favorite picture book. Parents are not expected to make costumes, though parts may be sent home for extra practice if your student is having a hard time learning their words.

One housekeeping note: please note that our 4th quarter reading goals must be met by Friday, May 21st in order for students to participate in a Sports Reward Afternoon away from classes during the last week of school.