



St. Mary School
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Fourth Quarter 2018 Newsletter

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Mary School is to provide a Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment, which enables students to attain religious and academic excellence.

Calendar Dates

Apr. 17	PreSchool, PreKindergarten and Kindergarten Round-up
Apr. 19	No School – Good Friday Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Apr. 21	Easter
Apr. 22	No School – Spring Vacation
Apr. 26	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 4
Apr. 27	Saturday Student Liturgy 5:00 Kindergarten
Apr. 30	Ag Day Grade 5
May 2	Grade 5 Mass in Sioux City with Bishop Nickless
May 3	All School Mass 8:45 Grades 5 & 6 – Pass It On and May Crowning Volunteer Appreciation Davis Dairy Kindergarten
May 4	First Eucharist 5:00 pm
May 10	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 3
May 16	Music Program 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm
May 17	All School Mass 8:45 Grade 2
May 24	All School Mass 8:45 Kindergarten & Grade 1
May 27	No School – Memorial Day
May 31	All School Mass 8:45 All Grades
June 5	Last Day of School-Report Cards Go Home

Principal-Mrs. Edge

I would like to thank all of those that contributed to the 16th annual Gala, “Elegance on Main”, whether it was reflected in time, talent, and/or treasure. The evening provided time for all to gather in Your Name for the good of all our children. Your continuous dedication and generosity over the past 16 years is vital to the success of our students and their families. This continuous support inspires us to continue the ministry of a Catholic education permeated throughout the day for all students.

The school year has gone quickly. I am grateful for the time I have been able to spend with the students, their families and the staff. This year has been filled with many blessings – student liturgies, Adoration, praying the Rosary, the Anointing Masses, listening to children read, working with speeches, class fieldtrips, school programs, Grandparents' Day, and prayer services among so many

other blessings. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Congratulations to Grade 5 and 6 students for their participation in the Modern Woodman Speech Contest. The students wrote, memorized and presented a 3-5 minute speech on the topic “Challenges Youth Face”. Those placing were Elyse Olson-1st, Ava Fischer-2nd, Macy Berte-3rd, Hailey Stalzer -4th, Jacob Girres-5th, Zach Theesfeld-6th, Keegan Groat -7th, Parker Sleiter-8th, Ava Detrick and Ava Newton-9th, Lily Allison-10th, and Karley Gascho-11th. Their teachers are Mrs. Dettmann and Mrs. Phillips. Gratitude is expressed to Vick Burgett, John Ford and Joan Kohlhaas for judging the speeches, to Trina Carda for timing the speeches and to Carolyn Ford for scoring the speeches.

PreSchool-Mrs. Howard

PreSchool students have been learning what a miracle is and listening to Bible stories about the miracles Jesus performed. In small groups, the students have worked on AB patterning with big and small paper plates and different colored fish. They are working on counting items and finding the number that matches. The PreSchool students are performing activities that help them to recognize letters and their sounds. The students are also learning about the title and author of a book. PreSchool students will be doing a study on seeds and plants as they watch the seeds grow roots and sprout.

PreKindergarten-Mrs. Mueller

The PreKindergarten students are learning how to correctly write the rest of the uppercase letters. Once all of the uppercase letters are learned, they will work on writing numbers 0-9. The students continue working on the proper way to write their first and last names.

The PreK students will learn the rest of the letter sounds and practice sounding out words for reading.

The students have been working on telling the teachers their birthday, middle name, and phone number. They will continue to recite these items.

The PreKindergarten students will learn to compare items based on size and weight. They will continue to work on classifying objects based on their characteristics and tell the reason behind the way they are sorted.

Kindergarten-Mrs. Gargano

Kindergarten students are enjoying the *I spy Lent* book and finding the pictures that are described in the reading for each day. As the students continue to read their Lenten book they are becoming more aware of the colors used to decorate the Church during this season.

In Reading, Kindergarten students will continue reading and writing their sight words. They will be

working on reading fluency, sequencing, retelling and comprehension. In Math, the students will be working on adding and subtracting up to 10. The Kindergarten students will be using different tools and strategies to help them when they are adding and subtracting. The students will continue working with 2D and 3D shapes. Kindergartners will also learn about weight and capacity.

In Science, Kindergarten students will learn about heat and light and what gives off heat and light and why people need it. The students will be learning about how things move and how they can make them go slower or faster. Kindergarten students will talk about daytime and nighttime and how the sky changes.

Kindergarten students will be leading the student Mass on Friday, April 5th and the Saturday Mass on Saturday, April 27th.

The Kindergarten students will have a field trip in May to the Humboldt County Fairgrounds where they will learn about the Davis Dairy Farm.

Grade 1-Mrs. Gotto

The Grade 1 class is learning that they can follow Jesus' example and pray anytime and anywhere. They will study Pentecost and learn about how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with His apostles when He went to Heaven and that the Holy Spirit is with us today. The students will learn that they receive many special gifts from the Holy Spirit and they can use these gifts to glorify God in all that they do.

Grade 1 students will begin Unit 6 in Reading. The theme throughout this unit is working together to achieve a common goal. Weather, family traditions, and holidays will be topics students will learn more about during this time. Variant vowels, silent letters, and three-letter blends will be taught during Phonics instruction. Comprehension strategies include rereading and visualizing. Author's purpose, cause and effect, and theme are skills students will be practicing.

Geometry will be the main topic this quarter in Math. Grade 1 students will be dividing shapes into halves and fourths. The students will be combining 2-dimensional shapes and identifying 3-dimensional shapes by their attributes.

In Science, Grade 1 students will be discussing characteristics of plants as well as animals. The students will discover similarities and differences between plants and animals of the same kind/breed.

Grade 2-Mrs. Bormann

In Religion, Grade 2 students are preparing to receive their First Holy Eucharist on Saturday, May 4th. The students are learning that Jesus is our one true savior and redeemer and He is ever present in the Most Holy Eucharist. This is an exciting time for the students. Please keep them in your prayers. Grade 2 will end the year with

our annual field trip to the Grotto of Redemption in West Bend.

In Math, the Grade 2 students are staying very busy. They are learning to add and subtract double and even triple digits. The students will also study geometry and be able to identify the attributes of triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and cubes.

Grade 3-Mrs. Gibson

I'm very proud of how much the Grade 3 students have accomplished this year! They have become fluent readers, creative writers, and critical thinkers. The remainder of the reading instruction will focus on identifying the theme, problems, and solutions of a selection. Some of the titles students will be reading include "King Midas and the Golden Touch", "Nora's Ark", and "Out of this World: The Ellen Ochoa Story".

The focus of Math instruction will be on fractions, multiplication, and division. Grade 3 students will develop a deeper understanding of equivalent fractions and fractions on a number line. The students will continue to utilize known strategies to multiply and divide basic facts. Some of these strategies include using helper facts, doubling, and adding groups to a known fact. Multiplication flash cards will be coming home on a regular basis.

Fourth quarter Social Studies topics include inventions, economics, and government. While learning about economics, students will discuss earning, saving, and spending money. They will participate in several activities to understand supply and demand, including keeping a "checkbook" and trying to save enough money to buy a treat.

The remaining Science units include natural hazards, forces and motion. Students will participate in many hands-on activities in these units including magnetic exploration and race car activities. There are also many online games that will reinforce what they learn.

Grade 4-Mrs. Dodds and Mrs. Edge

Grade 4 students will read more parables from the Gospels to help them better understand God's teachings. They will be learning how to live their lives as people of God. In making everyday choices the students will also see the need to strengthen their prayer life as they approach God with humility and ask for His mercy. Grade 4 students will discover that their prayer life requires their faith in God and in His promise of salvation. Our gospel readings this spring will teach them to follow in the footsteps of Jesus as He lived on earth. Our goal? Bringing love and goodness to the world!

Grade 4 Science topics include natural hazards and plant and animal structures. Students will be able to describe how many natural hazards occur and what humans can do to minimize the impact of these disasters.

The students will also participate in a design challenge to try to minimize the effects of an earthquake on a structure. While learning about plants and animals, students will focus on how both internal and external structures that enable living things to survive, grow, and reproduce.

In the upcoming quarter, Grade 4 students will work on gaining a meaningful understanding of multiplying a fraction by a whole number. Multistep number stories, with fraction operations, decimals, division, and interpreting remainders are also part of this unit. Students will use these skills to connect mathematics with their own world.

This spring, Writing will be all about poetry. Grade 4 has been reading a variety of poems and taking notes defining the features of poetry. Next, they will dive into metaphors and similes. One of the activities will include eating the candy “Pop Rocks” and writing similes about the experience. Students continue to read stories from their reading book. Some skills to be addressed are point of view, clarifying, analyzing, using context clues, genre, and text features. Everyone keep up your reading and learning!

Grade 5-Mrs. Dettmann

The fourth quarter brings so much activity to Grade 5. Not only will the students be wrapping up several standards and benchmarks within the classroom, but they also have many exciting field trips to look forward to. At the end of April, Grade 5 students will attend Agricultural Awareness Day with other area 5th graders at the Wright County Fairgrounds. The students also have the privilege of attending the annual Bishop’s Mass in Sioux City at the Cathedral of the Epiphany early in May. This is such a special time for all of the 5th graders in the Sioux City Diocese. And, of course, the students will also look forward to the annual 5th and 6th grade Des Moines field trip. This year will include visiting our State Capitol and the Blank Park Zoo.

In Religion, Grade 5 students will continue working through the meaning of scripture and the mystery of the Eucharist. They will also be taking the ACRE test (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education) which is always a great time for us to put our religious knowledge to the test.

In Math, Grade 5 students will be exploring more operations with decimals including multiplication and division. The students will also look more in depth into multiplication and division with mixed numbers. The year will end with geometric concepts.

Grade 6-Mrs. Phillips

In Religion, Grade 6 students are learning that sometimes people need others to remind them to do God’s will. They may forget to pray during times of joy and

happiness. Instead, they sometimes only seek prayer during their darkest times. The students learned in scripture that during times when things are going well for them, they forget to praise and thank God. The students are reading about how the Israelites forgot God and how He sent the prophets to remind the Jews of Israel of their poor behavior. They needed to be reminded, just as we do, that we should praise the Lord in all times...good and bad. The students are discovering ways in which Jesus Christ guides them all back to God. The students have learned that they are all to be the hands and feet of Christ, and that they are to draw those who are in need closer to God.

During Math, the Grade 6 students are completing the geometry standards with finding the area of a polygon on a coordinate plane. They are now moving on to the standards of statistics and probability. The students have just finished the lesson on deciphering what makes a statistical question.

Thank you to the Humboldt community and area businesses for donating to Brave Bags. The current Saint Mary Grade 6 class had a goal of packing 250 Brave Bags. Because of your generous donations our students were able to fill 276 Brave Bags which were delivered to Blank Children’s Hospital and Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity. Brave Bags would not be what it is without you. If you are interested in seeing pictures of the bags being packed or would like to find out more information on Brave Bags, please visit our website: www.bravebags.org

Music-Mrs. Caquelin

The auditions are done in Grade 3 and Grade 6, the parts have been given out, the notes and rhythms are being practiced and the students are preparing for the spring musicals that you won’t want to miss. Mark your calendars for St. Mary’s Spring Musical on Thursday, May 16th at 1:00 p.m. for Grades K-6 and 7:00 p.m. for Grades PS, PK, and K-6. The K-3 musical, “Dinostars: A Musical Variety Show” was written by John Jacobson and Mark Brymer. The Grade 4-6 musical, “Let’s Jam! It’s Our Band Reggae, Rock and more Express Musical for Young Voices”, was written by Roger Emerson and John Jacobson. Please plan ahead now to attend the St. Mary’s spring musicals on Thursday, May 16th at either time.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Mrs. Dieleman STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

Kindergarten students continue working on data collecting and graphing skills using various types of graphs. They utilize the online program Turtle Diary and use hands on activities to fine tune these skills. Students are working on keyboard skills using the online programs Typing.com and Typetastic.com. Students will explore meteorology as they study types of clouds, cloud formation, and the rain cycle. As Easter approaches, the

Kindergarten students will use the 4 C's (collaborate, critical thinking, communication, and creativity) as they work in teams to construct a nest for their "Peep treat". Kindergarten students will be introduced to Cubelets, magnetic blocks that snap together to make an endless variety of robots.

Grade 1 students reviewed internet safety and terminology as they browsed educational sites on the internet. Students learned about civil engineering and applied their expertise by creating a "road" for a Matchbox car out of paper towel rolls. They will use the Scientific Method to form a hypothesis, test their hypothesis, and report their results after completing various experiments. Grade 1 students expanded their knowledge on Cubelet modular robotics. They created helicopters complete with a rotating propeller, "scaredy bots" that "run" away from you, and a lighthouse with a rotating light.

Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 - Mrs. Havlik STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Grade 2 students will be working in Google Slides learning how to create a presentation. They will be creating five slides within their presentation and adding images and text boxes along with adding a background color. They are also working in Google Sheets creating a money math bar graph. Grade 2 students continue to work on their typing skills in Typing.com and Typetastic.

Grade 2 students will be working on a couple of STEM challenges. First, they will be designing their own playground and will be reading the book "The Most Magnificent Thing" by Ashley Spires and creating their own magnificent thing. When working on challenges in the STEM lab the students will be given a variety of materials to choose from. They will brainstorm by themselves or with a group, then plan their idea by sketching out the design. The students will build their creation, compare it with their original plan and decide whether it worked or not. For their playground design challenge they must have at least 3 structures. The structures must be stable and use at least 5 different materials. For their second activity, the students will be challenged with creating their own "magnificent thing". The students will get to create whatever they want and will share their completed projects with the class.

Grade 3 students will be working on an activity in Google Slides creating a presentation, "About Me." They will be creating 5 slides that include a title, favorite hobbies, favorite food, favorite color and a shapes slide. The students will select a theme for all slides, use a bulleted list for listing their hobbies, they will insert an image of their favorite food on another slide, and on their favorite color slide they will be using word art to type their favorite color. On the toolbar they will use the fill

color, border color, border weight and a border dash. Grade 3 will also continue to practice typing skills in Typing.com and Typing Club.

Grade 3 students will be doing a STEM activity learning about the construction and engineering design process by building a simple geodesic dome out of toothpicks and gumdrops. They will demonstrate how this kind of a structure can withstand a lot of pressure.

Grade 4 students will be reviewing how to log into their Google account on the desktop computers, download files, create a folder and copy and paste. They students will also be reviewing how to create bar and line graphs in Google Sheets.

The STEM activity for Grade 4 students will be a Mystery Bag challenge. They will be given a paper bag with several materials inside. The students will receive a card asking them to solve a problem. They must use the materials in their bag to build the object. Grade 4 students will be asked to explain the challenge, what different ideas they have for completing the challenge and then explain their design process and the outcome.

Grade 5 students are working on a project where they are inventors. They are to create something that they think would be useful to others. The students must start with a problem that their invention must solve. They will then write a script and create a 60 second commercial to describe their invention, how it works, and why they think other people would benefit from it. Grade 5 students will be working with Makey Makey, which is an electronic invention kit the students will use to make parallel circuits and create a circuit that has a switch.

Grade 6 - Mrs. Dix STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math):

Grade 6 students have nearly completed their Lego EV3 robotics construction and will be programming the robot to follow a series of commands. Grade 6 students will be participating in and collaborating through a lock box challenge where students will complete a series of STEM challenges and clues to get all the boxes opened.

The students will be designing a three page presentation for their Sixth Grade Prayer Service scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th.

Grade 6 students will begin partnering with two of our STEM Best partners, Hy-Capacity and the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital. The students will network with employees of these two businesses to gain foundational interests and skills. There will be collaboration between students and the employees in a classroom project.

