



PRESCHOOL

Happy November St. James! It's hard to believe it's November! The year feels like it is flying by! We have been keeping busy in the preschool room with our Thanksgiving activities and stories. We worked on thankful trees and discussed what we are thankful for. Students also got a chance to get messy creating their turkey handprints! We are continuing to discuss what it means to be thankful at this time of year and to be thankful for all that God has given us. We look forward to the holiday season!

KINDERGARTEN

Wow, where has time gone? We have passed the 50th day of school already. We will be hearing about "The Little Red Hen" making bread, and having some fun acting out the story in our classroom. Every morning at calendar we read a poem called, "Pum, pum, pum, pum, pumpkin pie." Has your child shared this at home? As we prepared for Thanksgiving we learned about the Pilgrims' long journey on the Mayflower. We have so much to be thankful for. I hope you had a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.



FIRST GRADE

Another great month of learning and fun with these little turkeys. Working hard to fulfill our virtues - showing courtesy with others has been a big topic for us.

SECOND GRADE

What a blessing our school year has been so far! We continue to do our very best to always be our best! I love to see just how much these kiddos love to learn and be at school. We even got to participate in the Gospel Reading! We will begin learning all about the Advent season...a time to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

We will focus on things that help lead us down a prayerful path during such a special season. We will also be traveling the world learning about the different holidays celebrated during this time! Our "plane" will be boarding starting next week through weeks of fun travels!! We are looking forward to continuing our 2nd grade journey! Keep shining, 2nd grade!



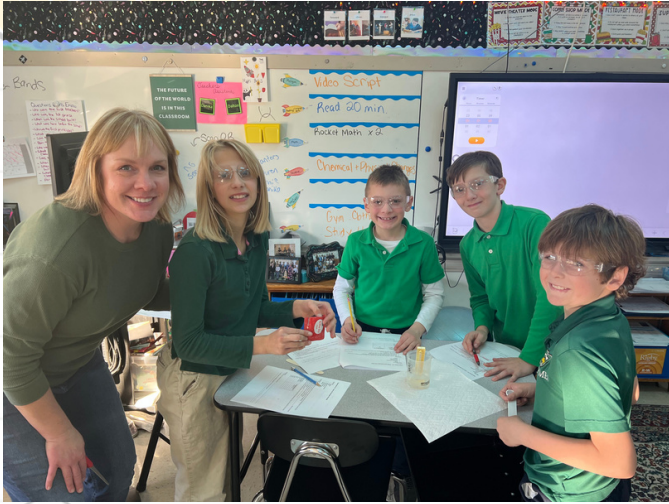
THIRD GRADE

We welcomed November in with a wonderful lunch to celebrate our Veterans. Many thanks to those who serve or have served for our freedoms. All of the students were so respectful and extended their gratitude to the veterans who joined us for lunch. We are loving our STEM time with 2nd Grade! It's exciting to see young minds grow right in front of our eyes! Our Balloons Over Broadway parade was a huge success! Thanksgiving is always such a special time - please know how grateful I am to be a part of your child's journey. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be with them daily and see sparks of joy and growth in each and every one of them. As we enter December, we are eager to prepare for Jesus' birth - we are so excited for this magical and special time!



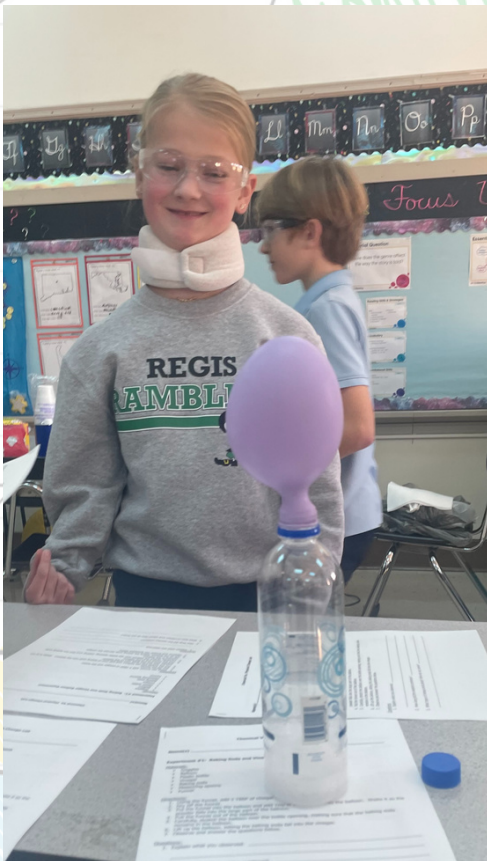
FOURTH GRADE

I can't believe it's already November! In math this month, we have been learning strategies and properties to divide by 1-digit numbers. In religion, we have been talking about creation and the Holy Trinity. We will be starting our first novel study, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, very soon. Along with the book, students will get a chance to design their own chocolate bar/candy. In ela, we have been learning about regular and irregular plurals. In science, we started our third unit on waves and information transfer. Students will get the chance to make waves using a coiled spring slinky. In social studies, we started our Ice Age unit and the migration of the first Americans. I am so thankful to have your children in my class and I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving.



FIFTH GRADE

I can't believe it's already November! November has been wonderful and I am thankful for all of you and your children. Our favorite activity this month was participating in a lab about physical and chemical changes led by Mrs. Simet.





MUSIC

Students are working hard on their songs for the “Christmastime Around the World” program. Each class is singing and/or playing songs from a different country. K: Caribbean 1: France 2: Germany 3: Mexico 4: England/Netherlands 5: Africa We are looking forward to sharing these songs with you on December 13th!



LIBRARY

The Halloween and Thanksgiving books have been put on display. Kindergarten has been reading poetry from a book called *The Frogs and Toads All Sang*. They especially enjoyed the humor in the story *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*. First Grade is continuing to work on *Aesop's Fables*. Second grade is reading selections from *The Children's Book of Heroes*.

Third through Fifth Grade have started chapter books. Third Grade is reading an abridged version of *Treasure Island*. We are loving this classic story filled with adventure on the high seas. In Fourth Grade, we started a chapter book called *Framed!* The students are enjoying this fast paced mystery/spy story about an art theft. Fifth Grade is reading *The Princess and the Goblin*, a book that inspired fantasy genre giants, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. The themes of courage and faith are woven throughout this story that is foundational to the fantasy genre.

Please help your student(s) to remember to return their books on their designated library day or when they return from an absence.





TECH



Kindergarten has transitioned to working with Starfall as a website and continues to work on mousing. First Grade is also continuing to improve their mousing skills, especially through letter and number tracing, and is reviewing technology terms.

Second through Fifth Grade students have gone over internet security. With phishing and mannerless online interactions becoming more common plus increasing password security issues, I consider this to be one of the most important lessons I teach. Please follow up with your student(s) on your family's expectations for online behavior.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade also completed a mousing exercise with Kleki drawing software to create ornaments for a Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree is a traditional Advent decoration. It tells the story of Jesus coming to earth over the course of 25 days.

Fourth and Fifth Grade students have worked on some basic research projects with the databases in Badgerlink, Wisconsin's online library. They have also been practicing copying and pasting exercises.

Please keep in mind that when allowing students to be on personal devices at home, I recommend that 1) the device be kept in a public room at all times 2) there be a time limit on how long the student can use the device 3) there be protective software downloaded to the device or that the parental controls settings on the device be changed to make the device more child friendly. Please remember to send headphones with your student on Mondays for technology class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. I am so grateful to be teaching at St. James. In PE, K-5 have been working on their hockey skills. My objective for this unit is for the students to work together as a team and practice using hockey equipment. Control is an important element in this unit and my hope is that students will be able to learn self-control in many aspects of their lives outside of Physical Education. I emphasize playing hard, but play to keep the opponent safe. Kindergarten through fifth graders are using hockey sticks with foam blades. The students have been playing very active hockey games such as Gates and Gatekeepers, Dog Catchers, Number Call Hockey, Noodle Hockey, and 4 Goal Hockey. Please remind your child to bring gym shoes and change of clothes for 4th and 5th graders on the days that your child has PE.

