



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequannock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

Dates of Interest:

3/1/17
School Mass @ 9 AM
Ash Wednesday

3/17/17
School Mass @ 9 AM

3/20/17
11 AM Blessing

3/24/17
Stations of the Cross
@ 2 PM

4/3/17
Staff Retreat ~ No
School

From Sister Marie.....

Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service

The theme for Catholic Schools' Week was Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service. Just walking around the school you can understand how Holy Spirit School embodies these traits.

Faith: *'For nothing is impossible with God.'* Luke 1:37

The students are constantly growing in their faith through Religion classes, School Masses, and frequent visits from Father David in the classroom. Father David is also enriching the faith of the eighth grade by teaching them Religion once a week.

Knowledge: *'For the Lord gives us wisdom and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.'* Proverbs 2:6

Our students will be showcasing their knowledge in our Second Annual Quiz Bowl during Catholic School's Week. This gives the students an opportunity to apply the knowledge they are given by the teachers in a fun Game Show! Please come watch all of our grades prove their smarts!

Service: *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* Acts 20:35
Recently, the students at Holy Spirit School were able to put service into action. Our Tag Days have helped us to serve others in the community. Our school was able to donate Noodle Soups to The Homeless Bus, and the student decorated inspirational stickers to put on the soups for the people receiving them. Also, each student was to bring in a toy, hats, gloves, or \$1 to help people in need during the Christmas season.



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequanock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

Pre-K 4

The Pre-K4 children are busy learning sight words in Reading. We are starting to read some words. It is amazing to see how the children are progressing so quickly.

In Math class, the children are identifying the numbers 1-6. We are also writing the number words too. Pre-K4 is learning how to sequence events that happened first, next, and last.

In Science class, we are learning about some animals. We have discussions about their habitat, and what they eat, and where they live.

In Religion class, we concentrate on learning about God. We are so excited to learn that God created so many wonderful things.

In Social Studies class, we are discussing where we live and learning about some states and countries. We are using a map and a globe to find the states and countries.

Kindergarten

In kindergarten, we are understanding how much God loves us and wants us to make the right choices. We discuss sharing with friends and family. We are continuing to have a morning meeting/circle time that allows each student to share special items and talk about their likes and beliefs.

In math, we are learning the numbers and number words. We are using ten frames and started learning about estimation. We have been counting up to 100 by ones, fives and tens everyday!

We are reading everyday! We read big books all together and then read from the big science and social studies textbooks in the afternoon. The students are reading to me, using little readers during centers and answering comprehension questions. Students are learning more sight words and practice spelling them about 3 times a week! We are learning about nouns, verbs, blends and digraphs!

Centers involve reading activities and occur

in the afternoon everyday!

In science, we are discussing the different seasons and landforms like mountains and valleys. We are also learning about textures and characteristics of rocks.

We are learning about needs versus wants in social studies. We are continuing to be good citizens and use kind words towards our classmates as well as help out in the classroom.

First Grade

First grade is continuing to excel! In phonics, they are now working on their long vowel sounds.

In Reading, they are about to begin their 3rd Unit and are enjoying the challenge of the stories getting harder and longer. They have been learning things such as main idea, sequence and author's purpose!

As for Spelling, they are progressing through their 2nd grade level spelling book quite well. They are already on Lesson 16 working on words with inflected endings!

Grammar, the first grade has just finished nouns and is now moving on to verbs. They love taking apart sentences and identifying what the words are.

They are becoming great writers, as they are also working with the writing and editing process. Some of the first graders have submitted samples to the Suburban Trends already!

In Math, the children are currently working on place value up to the tens place and expanded form. They are loving it!

As for Religion, the first grade is focusing on the importance of Pentecost and recognizing the fact that the Holy Spirit was sent to us to be our helper in this world.

In Science, the children have just completed a chapter on habitats and animal adaptations. They are excited to learn about the environments around them!

Lastly in Social Studies, the first grade has just wrapped up Unit 2 on communities and the importance



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequanock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

of leaders and laws to make a community work smoothly. All in all, first grade is having a great time seeing how far they have progressed already and are extremely motivated to learn all that lies ahead for this year!

Second Grade

Landforms



Language Arts & Writing: We have officially begun working in 'Guided Reading' groups where children read leveled 'chapter' books with me in small groups while the other students work on different tasks related to our language arts stories and skills. The students have been excited to get a chance to use Raz-Kids. Raz-Kids is an iPad/computer add-on to our guided reading series from Readinga-z.com. Students read books from their personal leveled library to ensure that they are reading 'just right' books for their reading level. This marking period we have been busy little writers. We have been writing short stories using winter starter prompts and a roll & write outline. This technique is where we roll a number on the number cube and it tells us what character, setting (place & time), problem we will be writing about. This makes

all of our stories unique and it is a fun way to get our creative juices flowing.

Mrs. Prior's 2nd grade Language Arts class has been studying about singular and plural nouns, irregular plural nouns, and possessives. In our next grammar unit we will explore verbs. The children are encouraged to use acquired grammar skills in their writing. The students have written about what December means to them. They also wrote about Rudolph with a green nose and the mystery of the moving Christmas stocking. Next we will do some fun writing about snow and some nonfiction writing too!

Math - We finished our units on adding & subtracting two digit numbers with and without regrouping. We are almost done with graphs, median, mode, range. We have also integrated the iPads with math by solving word problems and checking our answers with QR codes. Our next topic in math will be Geometry/shapes.

Mrs. Prior's 2nd grade Math group has completed a unit on addition and subtraction with regrouping. We have been integrating some multiplication and the students completed their first multiplication rhyme book using the three times tables. We will do more of these fun books that combine math and writing in the future. Currently we are finishing a unit on data and graphing which is always a fun topic in math. The favorite part of math class for the students is still the challenging problem of the day!

Science - We love our animals! In science we are learning about different habitats and what animals and plants live in each one, and how they all adapt to each habitat. We will be using our writing skills to publish our first book from studenttreasures publishing. In this book we will use research skills from the use of science textbooks, safe internet links, brainpop videos and print sources to get all the information we need to write about habitats!

Social Studies - We learned about producers, consumers, and how to reduce, reuse, and recycle our manmade and natural resources. Our highlight of our social studies unit was learning all about landforms.



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequanock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

After reading and doing activities on different landforms we made our own! Using shoeboxes, clay, felt, foil, sandpaper, and construction paper, we put our knowledge to the test to create our own landform creations!

Third Grade

The 3rd Graders have been working very hard and showing great effort these past months gaining many important skills. They will officially begin using their erasable pens and writing in cursive throughout the entire day in the next coming days. They are very excited.

The students have completed two more Reading Units and continue to enjoy reading each story. They have read both fiction and nonfiction stories and it is hard to tell which is a favorite. The students seem to love them all. Along with example based comprehension questions, each story the students are asked important critical thinking questions. The students provide excellent thoughtful answers.

The 3rd Graders will be completing a book study of *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. The students will read about Wilson Bentley who was the first man to photograph a snowflake. This book will not only be used in Reading class, but in Science and Religion class as well. The students will discover how snowflakes form and that each snowflake is beautiful and unique, just how God has created them.

The students are continuing to become great writers. Their sentences and paragraphs are expanding and becoming full of details as the weeks go on. The next writing will be a comparison essay in which students will compare themselves with a partner. After the students create a Venn Diagram, they will be taking the information and turning it into an essay.

In Math, the students have just finished the multiplication unit. They are becoming multiplication super stars! The students have been using their flashcards to master each fact. The students are also continuing to be challenged with multi-step word

problems. They are excited to begin the next chapter of graphing.

In Religion, the students have been learning about the Apostles and the early Church. They continue to be reminded that, just like the Apostles, we are also great followers of Jesus.

Science continues to be a favorite among the students. During the Ecosystem Unit, the students read about each of the different ecosystems around the world and created a brochure of their favorite environment. The students also completed an experiment to see how a whale adapts to its cold environment. The students loved it!

In Social Studies, the students studied how people make communities special by celebrating their cultures and traditions. They also discovered the United States is made up of many different environments and each have their own characteristics. The students did an amazing job on their hemisphere project, creating their own representation of the hemispheres.

Fourth Grade

The students in Language Arts have yet again been very busy bees. We have completed 2 whole units of our Reading Series and we have LOVED all of our stories. We even completed our first novel study. The students in Mrs. Baldo's group read *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride* which left us laughing with each chapter of our book. The students in Mrs. Hickey's class read *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* which taught us about the true meaning of loving others. We have learned many Reading skills such as cause effect and drawing conclusions and we are always learning about them in a fun and different way which helps us remember them. In our grammar class we are becoming experts on verbs and boy do they leave us tired with all their "action"! Lastly, for Writing we are becoming stronger writers. Mrs. Baldo's class has just published and learned about a "How-To" writing. Mrs. Hickey's class has just completed a Research report about a person in history.

We are beginning what will prove to be a very



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequanock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

exciting Unit in Science.....ROCKS AND MINERALS! We are learning how rocks are classified, how to identify minerals using properties such as color, texture, hardness, streak, and luster, and how the Rock Cycle works.

We are finishing up our lessons on the westward expansion of this continent in the 1700s and 1800s, and are about to embark on an exciting virtual field trip across the 5 regions of the United States to learn about the climate, natural resources, and landforms that are present in our country today.

In Math, we have just completed a division unit and will begin the study of fractions next week.

Fifth Grade

Much like our 4th grade friends, the 5th graders have been even busier of worker bees in Ms. Baldo's Language Arts class. We are on our second unit in our Reading series and we especially loved reading and solving our first mystery called, Missing Links. We have learned some new Reading skills such as generalizations and inferences which were hard at first, but we conquered them with our hard work and persistence. We too, laughed our heads off with our class novel, Mercy Watson to the Rescue. Kate Di Camillo is a VERY funny author. In grammar we too have been very tired as we are catching up with all those verbs. They definitely keep us busy. Our writing is getting very strong as we perfected our How-To and Persuasive essays.

Mrs. Benway's fifth grade Language Arts class feels great pride in having completed their book of personal narratives. It is over 80 pages and includes illustrations from all the students. We have submitted it for publishing are excited to see it come back. In addition, we continue reading *Wonder*, by RJ Palacio. Reading this novel has been a cathartic experience, and I am so happy we have the kind of community we have at Holy Spirit to experience this together. Students are making connections, engaging in valuable discussion, and are becoming pros at finding figurative language.

Students have also been presenting their "Missing Person" Biography book reports, and are enjoying listening to their friends present. In Grammar, we have finished our unit on nouns and are starting to learn about the different types of verbs and all their tenses.

In math we are exploring the world of fractions! In the two classes we are working on the real-world applications of addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. The 5th graders will be working on completing several projects this quarter. Each project discovers how fractions are used every day in the world around us.

Social Studies has taken us all over and we had so much fun! We spent the most time in Spain and learning how Columbus sailed from Spain to find a shorter and quicker way to the Indies. Oh what fun we have had and we can not wait to see where else our studies take us.

The 5th grade scientists are learning all about Sir Isaac Newton and his 3 Laws of Motion. I am very proud to say that the students have a wonderful understanding of the Three Laws and that we are able to have great discussions about the practical applications of the work of Sir Isaac Newton. The students are now well versed in the concept of inertia and are adept at explaining its role in what occurs to you when you are riding in a car that comes to a sudden stop!

Sixth Grade

In Math students are starting the unit on integers. We have learned what integers are and how we use them to represent values in our everyday lives. After we complete our exploration of this topic in mathematics, the students will demonstrate what they have learned by completing several integer projects such as, balancing and maintaining a budget and completing research on how integers affect everything we do.

In Social Studies we are studying the Ancient World. We have moved through Ancient India and China. Mr. Price gave a presentation on his trek to Nepal. The students enjoyed seeing many of the things



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequanock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

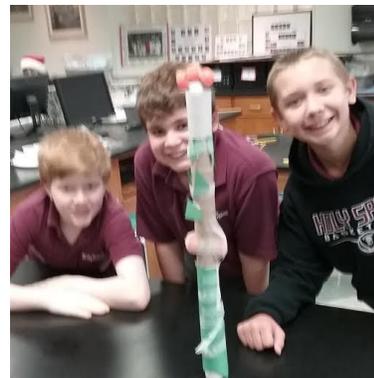
they had read about. They were also surprised to see that many things about life in the Himalayas had not changed since ancient times. The students are working on creating a family tree to increase their understanding of the extended family in Ancient China.

In Religion we are spent the major portion of our time on the Liturgical Year. Groups drew their interpretation of the Year and presented it to the class. We've worked on the 10 Commandments and now are studying the Old Testament.

In Language Arts students have been working on figurative language. Students have been using different types of writing to identify the eight types of figurative language. At the end of the unit students will create their own writing using one or more types of figurative language. On February 28 the students will be bringing in their "Bottle-Head" Biography on a famous American President.

Like the fifth grade, Mrs. Benway's sixth grade LA students have also completed their personal narrative book, together voting on a title and dedication. They are anxiously awaiting receiving the final published work in a month's time. The students have also learned about all the various genres and sub-genres in literatures, and enjoyed a short science-fiction story by Ray Bradbury, *All Summer in A Day*. The story takes place on Venus, where the sun only shines for one hour every seven years. The students then watched a short video of the story that they compared and contrasted to the written form. The sixth graders are also having fun presenting their movie trailer book reports. They have really impressed their teacher with their creativity and use of technology. In Grammar, the students have been learning about the different types of pronouns and when each are used.

Students in grade 6 participated in a pre- Christmas STEM challenge. *Photo on the next column*



Seventh Grade

In Social Studies we are have reached the American Revolution. We've progressed through the colonial period studying the Declaration of Independence and the Battles of the Revolution. Before Christmas break we watched parts of the movie 1776 and got to witness John Adams and the 2nd Continental Congress in action.

In Religion we are studying about sin and free will and God's promise of a Messiah. Previously we had studied the seasons of Advent and Christmas as well as the rest of the Church year.

In Language Arts the seventh graders have been working on Author's Point of View. Working in groups the students have created comic strips depicting the 5 types of point of view. Students have also used different forms of media to identify the author's point of view. At the end of the month students will be bringing in the "Box Biography" on a famous African American to celebrate Black History Month.

The 7th grade Pre-Algebra students are currently learning about ratio, rate, unit rate and proportions.

Eighth Grade

The entire 8th grade is looking forward to Teacher for a Day.

The grade 8 Pre-Algebra Math group is working on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and Mixed numbers using positive



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequanock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017

and negative signs.

The grade 8 Algebra group is solving absolute value equations and graphing inequalities in the coordinate plane.

In 8th Grade Literature and Language Arts we've been working on comparing articles that have different views of the same subject. We also are reading "Flowers for Algernon" and learning how an author creates a character. For grammar, we have started using Khan Academy. Khan Academy is a "A personalized learning resource for all ages which offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom."

Art

Art has been very busy! Kindergarten just finished up their snowman with tissue paper background. 1st grade also created similar snowmen concentrating on small motor skills and hand eye coordination. 2nd grade is working on their diamond stars and learning how to read a ruler. 3rd grade is working on their flowers inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe. They are recreating the flower in construction paper and the adding shading to it. 4th graders are creating star bursts that will have a 2D shading in it. 4th through 8th graders have been learning about shading techniques and they will be using those skills in the up coming projects. 5th grade is doing some fabulous work with their candy treats drawing the wrapper of their favorite candy (of course without the candy inside!). 6-8th have started the half an animal face and will be starting the 5D point circle (fisheye) they will be creating squares and rectangles all going to the 5D point in water color.

Computers

In the Pre-K classroom, we have been using the iPads to help us learn how to read, as well as some basic math functions.

The Kindergarten has been typing up their sight

words in creative sentences, as well as learning how to create Power Point presentations about their favorite animals.

First, second and third grades have been creating dynamic slideshows using pictures, animations and sounds. The first presentations were about animals and then we branched out and got more advanced and created "all About Me" presentations, using all the skills we have learned.

In Fourth through Seventh grades, we learned how to create slideshows in Power Point and Google Slides. We learned how to share our Slides presentations through the use of e-mail and did a number of projects ranging from our favorite animals, to our favorite songs in which we included either a hyperlink to the song (Power Point), or we embedded the video in the Slides presentation. Each of these presentations included pictures, animations, transitions, sounds and links.

Once this unit is complete we will begin with learning how to use Microsoft Excel and Google sheets to create calendars, schedules and perform calculations using formulas we input into Excel and Sheets.

Music

This year in music we have been continuing to explore new musical concepts in rhythm, melody and style. Students have been working on listening and identifying different musical instruments by ear only. Grades PK-4 have been learning American Sign Language to accompany their music and to better understand the impact hearing loss can have on someone's ability to understand and participate in music. Grades 5-8 have been learning more about the brain and its function in processing music. We continue to learn music from multiple cultures and genres as well as practicing for Masses.



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike
Pequannock, New Jersey 07440

Class News

March 2017