

Saint John the Baptist Catholic School

Established 1914

Home of the Saints since 2018



School Newsletter
September 30, 2022

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Catholic Church & School
#SaintJohnSaints

The mission of Saint John the Baptist Catholic School is to educate God's children and promote Catholic values through academic excellence and service to others.

Upcoming School/Parish Events

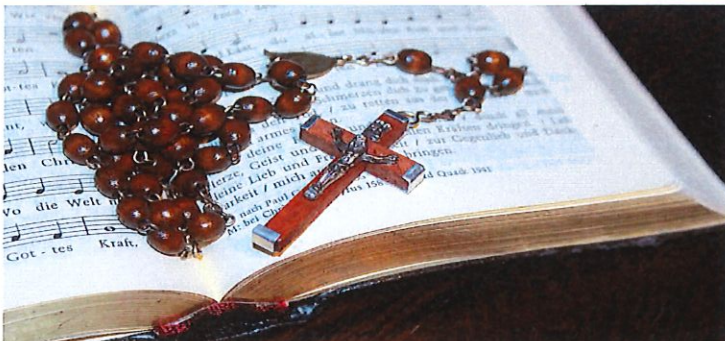
- October 4** - Animal blessing @ 2:30pm
- October 6** - 4K thru 4th grade field trip
Wilke's Pumpkin Patch
- October 7** - NO SCHOOL - Diocesan
In-Service
- October 12** - Fall Picture Day
- October 13** - Living Rosary after Communion
Service
- October 19** - Potato Bake/Walking Taco Bar
- October 20** - Parent/Teacher Conferences
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- October 21** - NO SCHOOL - Teacher
In-Service
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
10:30 am to 3:00 pm

School Staff Contact

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Living Rosary

Please join St. John students as they do the Living Rosary on Thursday, October 13th. It will be held in St. John's Church.



Picture Day

October 12 is picture day for St. John's School. Volunteers are welcome to help transition from class to class. Talk to Mr. Martinez if you would like to help.



Changing Weather

As the cold weather continues to get colder, please make sure to send your child(ren) in layers. It is easy to take off a layer or two, but they can not put on what they do not have.

Seroogy's Candy Bar Sale

The Seroogy's candy bars have been ordered! They should be delivered on October 7th. They will be sorted and ready to go home on October 10th.

Hello from 3K,

Wow we came in with a bang! As the newest class and teacher at St John's it's been an adventurous start to the 22-23 school year! And we're having fun with it!

In our classroom we are always learning. We learn through play, books, practicing skills, exploration and experiences. We have been focusing on settling into a routine and getting to know our classroom and schedule. There is much to learn when starting school for the first time.

Some routines we are getting good at... saying good morning and hello to new friends, following our schedule, lining up, sitting at lunch and eating and following directions. At times it's hard but it's getting easier each week.

Through play we have also discovered how to recognize our names, shapes, colors, letters and numbers. Beginning to recognize and categorize these is the start of our learning for this year.

In religion we have been learning about creation. We discovered that God created everything and that we can appreciate and be thankful for everything He created including us! We have explored His creation by looking at trees and leaves in September. Nature walks around the school, artwork of leaves and other creations with leaves have all helped us learn more about God's creation.

Finally, we are discovering more about our bodies through music and movement. It is fun to learn singing, dancing and moving our bodies during the day so we can get our wiggles out when we need to and sit to listen when it's time.

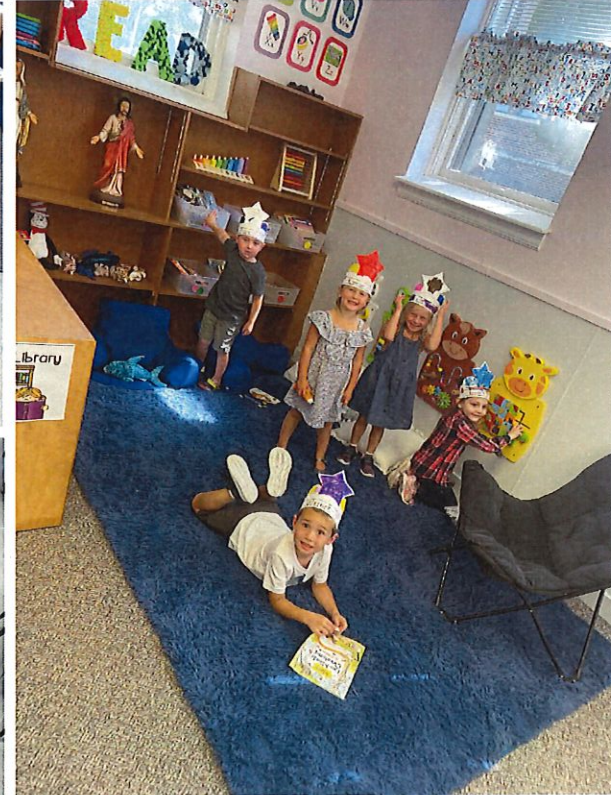


Hello 4K Parents,

What a great start to the year so far! The students have done such an awesome job transitioning from summer to school. They have shown such kindness to one another and to others in school. They are so creative in their play and work and are such a joy to work with!

We have started our ABC bootcamp and just finished the letter B! The students are doing a great job finding words that start with the letter of the week. (A-Apple, B- Bee)
In math, we are working on number recognition and counting!

We are looking forward to the field trip to Wilke's Dairy Farm in October!



Hello from the Kindergarten Classroom!

The past couple weeks the kindergarten students have been very busy, especially with adjusting to being back in school. I am very excited to see all of the students again and ready to take on the school year!

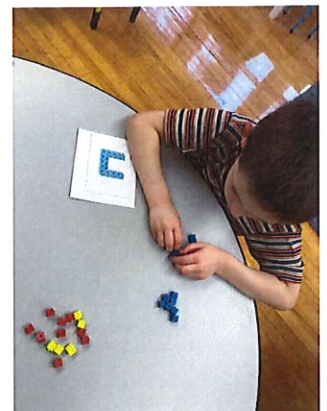
In math class, we have been learning how to count up to 10 and write numbers 1-10. The students are doing an excellent job of finding groups of objects and then drawing them to create their own number books. Students have also been working on using different types of "tools" pattern blocks, geo blocks, and cubes to build different structures.

In science, we have become WEATHER SCIENTISTS! We are observing the weather each day and making predictions on what the weather will be like. We know there are 5 types of weather and that there are 6 different ways we can describe the temperature. In addition, we are trying to solve a playground problem that two other "schools" have been having. We will be learning why a playground with dark pavement gets warmer than a playground with light concrete.

In religion, students have been learning about God's creation and that each thing that he made has a purpose and a unique design. Students also got to talk to Father Alan and he explained what was made during the six days of creation and that he rested on the last day. Although the students stated they do love watching tv and playing video games, they know that God has created even better things such as- rainbows, good weather, and the leaves they get to make piles out of.

Lastly, in reading, we have been learning about the letter C and O. Students have been working on writing and identifying uppercase and lowercase letters. We listen to songs and poems and students have to find all the words that start with the letter C and O. We are now moving on to the letter G/g!

-Mrs. Blume



Greetings from Grades One and Two~

We came to school one month ago ready to learn, and we have not slowed down yet! One of the first projects we started was a Time Capsule activity. Throughout the next few months we will record things about our First/Second Grade selves. Mrs. Werner will save the project to give to us at our 8th Grade Graduation so we can see how much, or how little, things will change over the years. One of the things we did was go on a fieldtrip to learn about the cost of some things. We saw from the sign at the R-Store that gas was \$3.59. We also stopped at the IGA and bought a gallon of milk for \$4.69 and at the Edgar Post office to get stamps for 60 cents each. It will be fun to see what these things cost when we graduate from 8th Grade! In Science, we are enjoying our role as Plant Scientists, observing plants to help scientists in the Bengal Tiger Reserve in India solve the problem of disappearing plants in that habitat. In Social Studies, we are learning about leaders like George Washington and Helen Keller. In ELA, we are learning more and more about the SuperKids as they help us grow in phonics and grammar skills. As well as a new Science curriculum this year, we have a new Math series~Illustrative Math. The program is helping us be math thinkers as we work together to solve problems. In Religion, we started the year with the Holy Trinity, focusing on God, the Creator. We learned about "original justice" and how peaceful everything was in the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world. This week, we are learning about angels. We hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of autumn!

~Grades One and Two



~Plant Scientists~
Solving Science Mysteries
around the world!



🍁🍂 Happy fall everyone! We're starting the school year in Religion 3/4 with some beautiful material to think about and take to heart. Sr. Dominic's Weekly Newsletter emails for the *Disciple of Christ, Education in Virtue* program will be featuring a different virtue each week and linking us to their new video series **Great to be Grateful**. On a daily basis, we are hearing very interesting stories on the Catholic Sprouts Be a Saint Kids Club. The club will be focusing especially on one saint each month with 4 challenges. For September, Bl. Carlo Acutis' challenges were: learn the "Morning Offering," set time limits on using technology for entertainment, learn/share about Eucharistic Miracles, and attend Eucharistic Adoration. For a heads up on October, the challenges with St. Thérèse of Lisieux will be: learn the "Hail Holy Queen," pray the Rosary, do something small with great love ❤️, thank your parents. Adding to the Catholic Sprouts challenges, St. John Saints have been challenged for the year to remember to work on a "sounds like" part of the Prayerfulness Virtue, which is "singing with your heart." We are looking forward to hearing our voices raised in joyful praise to Our LORD.

Math 3 is checking out several ways to approach multiplication. Some of the approaches we are using are expressions, equations, unknowns, groups, arrays. ELA 3 finished the section on sentences by sharing a personal narrative about playing in a football game. Grade 4 is joining Grade 3 in creating weekly idiom pictures that we will display with artwork that was created by Matthew Bergs just a few years back.

St. Vincent de Paul was our school's featured Saint of the Month. We hope you had a chance to offer a donation to a nearby St. Vincent de Paul store. A quote from Saint Vincent de Paul, *Letters*, is similar to another September Saint's quote "Pray, hope, don't worry," by St. Padre Pio. Here's St. Vincent's message-- "Strive to live content in the midst of those things that cause your discontent. Free your mind from all that troubles you, God will take care of things....Trust in Him, I beg you, and you will have the fulfillment of what your heart desires."
~Mrs. Bergs

Pray, hope, doNut worry!



Greeting from 4th, 5th and 6th Grade:

Can you believe it is almost October? The students have been doing so much. I am so excited to tell you about what they have been up to in the last 2 months!

Quick reminder-progress reports do come out next week.

The 4th graders have been so busy! In grammar they are just finishing up unit one which is about sentences. After we go through the lesson in their textbook as a class, the students enjoy practicing what they have learned in a program called IXL.

The 4th graders are also reading The Trumpet of the Swan as a class. We then discussing the vocabulary in each chapter to expose and increase understand to new vocabulary. We are also focusing on answering comprehension questions at the end of each chapter to make sure the students are understanding what they are reading. They really seem to be enjoying the story.

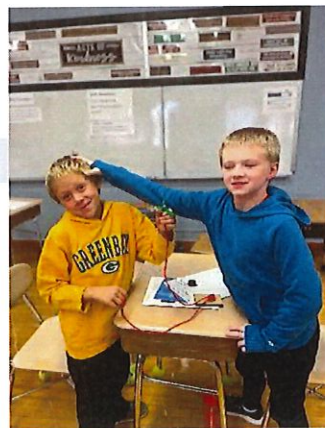
In math we are learning about multiples of numbers. Last year we purchased a new math program, Illustrative Math, that is very hands-on. They use the supplies provided with Illustrative Math. We can also use IXL to practice what they have learned.

In science we are studying energy conversions in science. We also started using a new science program called Amplify this year and they really enjoy it. In the last weeks we have been discussing systems and how they work. They used a simulation app to create all kinds of different systems. It was interesting to see what the students could make. They then created their own electrical systems using solar panels to make a fan spin (they are making them in the pictures below). They experimented with different forms of light to make their creations work better and what light didn't work at all. We have also discussed the importance of energy conversions and when it is used in the community.

I also have the pleasure of teaching 5th and 6th grade ELA. In grammar both grades are learning about nouns. Fifth grade is currently reading the novel Old Yeller and sixth grade is reading Where the Red Fern Grows, both oldies, but goodies. Both classes are enjoying reading. We have only been able to talk about what is going on in these novels for short time lengths, but we will be discussing these more starting next weeks.

Have a great weekend,

Mr. Tony



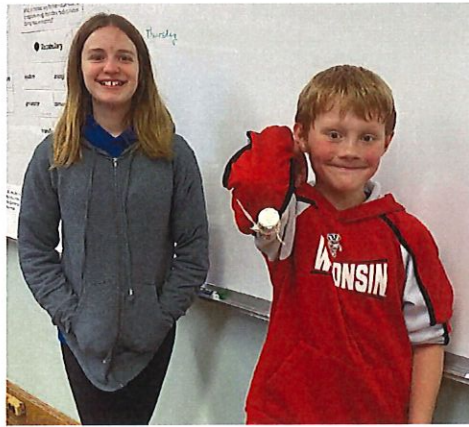
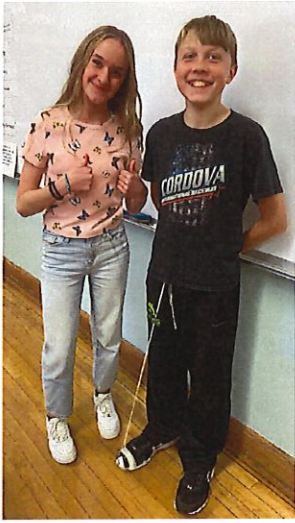
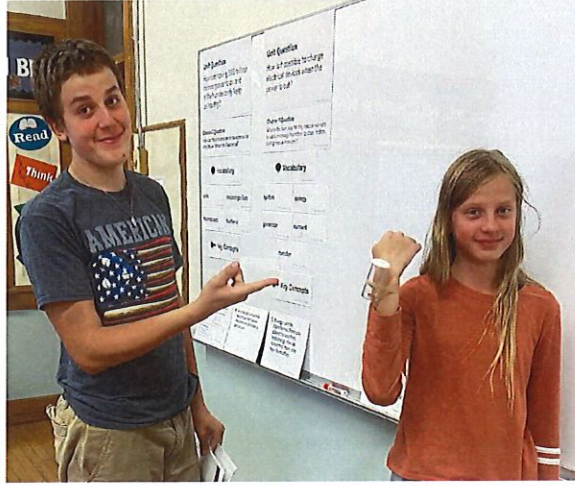
What a great start to the school year! It's hard to believe that we are one month into the school year already.

The middle school students have started on a high note. In 5/6 science, the class has been learning about bacteria and microorganisms. They have been making claims about modern medical procedures and determining whether evidence is relevant or irrelevant. Pretty high-level thinking, if you ask me! They started off the year with a worm dissection, as you can see in the pictures.

Similarly, the 7/8 graders are learning much more than the science of potential and kinetic energy. They have been using their evaluating strategies to determine whether evidence strongly or weakly supports a claim. As you will see in the pictures, the students worked with partners to create models of a human-powered generator. Alex is sporting a knee-brace energy generator. Abby is modeling a wrist generator. Parker demonstrates the elbow-brace energy generator, and Spencer is showing the stepping energy generator. Very creative ideas!

Finally, we celebrated the feast of St. Vincent de Paul this past week. We included a flagpole blessing, as well as a toy or book donation. What a great model to live by!

Until next month,
Mrs. Wozny



MRS. MICHILIG'S

newsletter

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

7/8 Social Studies:

In 7th and 8th grade, we have been learning about geography and the prehistory of man, discussing the ancient cities of Sumer, Mesopotamia, and Egypt.

5/6 Social Studies:

With the 5th and 6th grade, we have been delving in to the discovery of America and the conquest of the New World.

3/4 Social Studies:

In 3rd and 4th grade social studies, we have been learning about the geographical regions of the United States. This includes learning about landforms and natural resources!

5/6 Religion:

In our religion class, we have been discussing an overview of the Ten Commandments and have just begun learning about the First Commandment. We have also learned about God giving us the law.

5 Math:

In math class, students have been working on finding the volume of rectangular prisms with unit cubes and with mathematical formulas. We will be moving on to Unit 2 soon, where we will learn about fractions as quotients and fraction multiplication. I encourage students to keep practicing their multiplication and division facts so that they can be ready for our next unit!



5 Math



7/8 Social Studies



3/4 Social Studies

English Language Arts 7 and 8

Like Moses, English Language Arts students often do not feel eloquent or up to the task of reading and writing. Mrs. Wierzba explained God sent her, like Aaron, to help them out. Our goals for the year are to improve in our reading, grammar and writing skills.

So far, for reading, that has meant turning in our AR contracts, taking a STAR Reading test and starting the book The Secret Garden by Francis Burnett. Remember, with AR contracts, students should be setting goals and reading outside of class time (usually about 30 minutes a day). Check in with your student about their reading goal for the quarter. Are they on track? For example, if their goal was to read three books per quarter, are they almost done with the second one? The end of the quarter comes up quick! Has your student gone to the Renaissance site to take a quiz on the books they have read? Also, Parents, **watch for those STAR Reading test reports, sign them, and send them back.** We can address any questions you may have about those during conferences.

I am excited to read and discuss The Secret Garden together. We are about on chapter 5 as of this writing and learning to rephrase the discussion questions in our answers. Did you know this book is written by the same author who wrote Little Lord Fauntleroy, an adaptation of which is one of Mrs. Wierzba's favorite movies! Maybe we can celebrate when we finish the book by watching it in class and comparing the two stories. It's a great Christmas movie.

In grammar, we are covering the topics of nouns. We just finished section 1 in the Voyages 7 text supplemented by various exercises in both the Voyages 7 Practice Book and the red Exercises in English workbook. We even went to magazines to pick out some scenes and practice writing sentences with plural nouns.

As for improving our writing, we wrote a personal narrative (see pages 222-225 in the text) but some of us need to polish that up more by learning to better structure it with an introduction, body, and a conclusion as well as the proper way to write a quote or create dialog. Also, students should also be finishing up their rough draft for the Patriot's Pen contest. The rough draft will be due Oct 3rd which should give us enough time to revise those for the Veteran's Day program and to send in for the October 31st deadline on the contest entry.

Just like Moses and Aaron who endured with Israelites grumbling, I have heard plenty of complaining about all the work and all the stuff to keep track of and carry around as we begin our journey. No matter, God is with us! I only pray for the wisdom (and a few miracles) to help me lead this group to the promised land of honey-like speech and flowing sentence structures.

