

**Saint John the Baptist
Catholic School**

Established 1914

Home of the Saints since 2018



School Newsletter
January 30, 2024

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Facebook St. John the Baptist
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

January 29 - February 2 - Catholic School Week

January 30 - Pre-School Open House

January 31 - 3K field trip to Starks Floral

January 31 - 4K - 8th grade field trip to Wausau

January 31 - Regional Spelling Bee @ Horace Mann

February 5 - Jesu Vesperi @ 5:30pm - 7:00pm

February 8 - Camp Forest Springs Field Trip

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

February 17 - Father/Daughter Dance

Jesu Vesperi

"Jesu Vesperi" is latin and is translated to "Evening with Jesus". Hosted by the Archangel Youth Group, we invite kids of all ages, parents included! You do not need to sign up, simply show up, have fun, and enjoy great fellowship!

Pre-School Open House

St. John's will have their Pre-School Open House tonight at 6:30pm. Please make sure to spread the word and we hope to see lots of new 3K families there!

Regional Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Elizabeth Bergs, Drew Murkowski and Abby Halama for qualifying for the regional Spelling Bee. Good luck!!! BEE sure to be practicing.

Cold Weather

Wisconsin weather is nice enough to allow us to use outside as a big fridge, but playing in a fridge can get cold! Please make sure to send your child(ren) with the appropriate weather gear: jackets, gloves, hats, boots and warm clothes. We have extra gloves and hats in the office if forgotten. If a student forgets their snow gear, they will not be able to play in the snow.

School Staff Contact Info

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Quarter 2 Grades

If you have not done so already, please make sure to sign and return the envelope you received with your student(s) grades.

AR Point Club

Please check out the email for all the point clubs.
Quarter 2 SCRIP WINNER IS:

Kash Gajewski!!



3K JANUARY NEWS

Snowflakes + Snowpants + Mittens = FUN!

Our 3K group has been anticipating snow and we finally got our wish! The snow came and after recess the 3K students looked like little snowmen themselves with rosy cheeks and all. We couldn't build a snowman outside as the snow didn't pack but we did build a snowman on our classroom wall each adding a part to complete it. Along with winter comes cold and so indoor recess was the rule for a time then but we played indoor games, played with playdough, and made an art project.

We began the new year of learning with a review of the letters we already learned and then began our next letter which was the letter M. We had fun singing and doing some motions to a song about Fred the Moose who liked to drink juice in his bed. We are starting to learn a little bit about words that rhyme. We also made a fun project using the letter M that became the face of a moose and its antlers were made from the outline of their hands. They also were able to cut and glue with this project. Each moose was unique and very cute!!

We have enjoyed some fun books like "There was a Cold Lady who Swallowed Some Snow" and also "The Mitten." We also heard the Bible story David and Goliath and learned how brave David was and how he trusted in God. We are identifying shapes in our classroom and learning how each are different. A game of snowman shape bingo was played for a fun way to learn some shapes. Another song and dance movement we learned was the "Penguin Dance" which helps us learn our left from our right.

We share in a variety of classroom jobs now where different students have that responsibility for a week. They are very excited to find out what their job is for the week and take it pretty serious. They might be the line leader, plant waterer, flag holder or messenger among other important tasks that help them learn responsibility.

We are looking forward to a big week at the end of this month - Catholic Schools Week. We celebrate the gift of being part of a Catholic school and all the wonderful opportunities it holds. We thank and appreciate everyone that helps in that effort for our children to grow in their faith and values.



OUR MISSION

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January newsletter

4 YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

Hello everyone!

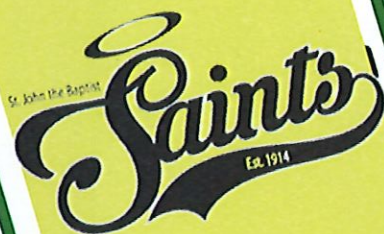
Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent and is Valentine's Day. We have our 4K celebration on Monday FEB. 12th and not Wednesday FEB. 14th.

CLASS NEWS

Phonics: We will be done learning new letters!! In February we will start practicing sight words!

Recess: Last week was so chilly at school and we enjoyed the indoor recesses! Now we can have our outdoor recess back. For us to go we need all of the proper snow gear to keep us safe.

Please send your child(ren) with snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves. The school office does have extras. **Please** bring snow pants and boots because the office may not have many extras of those.



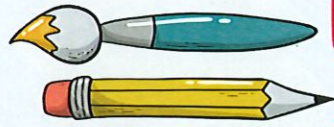
St. John the Baptist
Saints
Est. 1914



Reminders

- 1/28-2/3 Catholic Schools Week (CSW)
- 1/30 Pre-school Open House 6 pm
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday
- 2/17 Father/Daughter Dance @ Rib River Ballroom 5:30-7:30 pm
- 2/23 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service





HELLO FROM THE K/1 HOMEROOM!

Hello from the kindergarten and first grade homeroom! The kindergarten started Catechesis of the Good Shepard this month- how exciting! We are looking forward to Catholic Schools Week and our first field trip this year!! The students do a great job working together in the morning and at play time. They are all also so excited to volunteer for any task- especially serving in Church! Both groups of students have brought the gifts up during Mass this month!

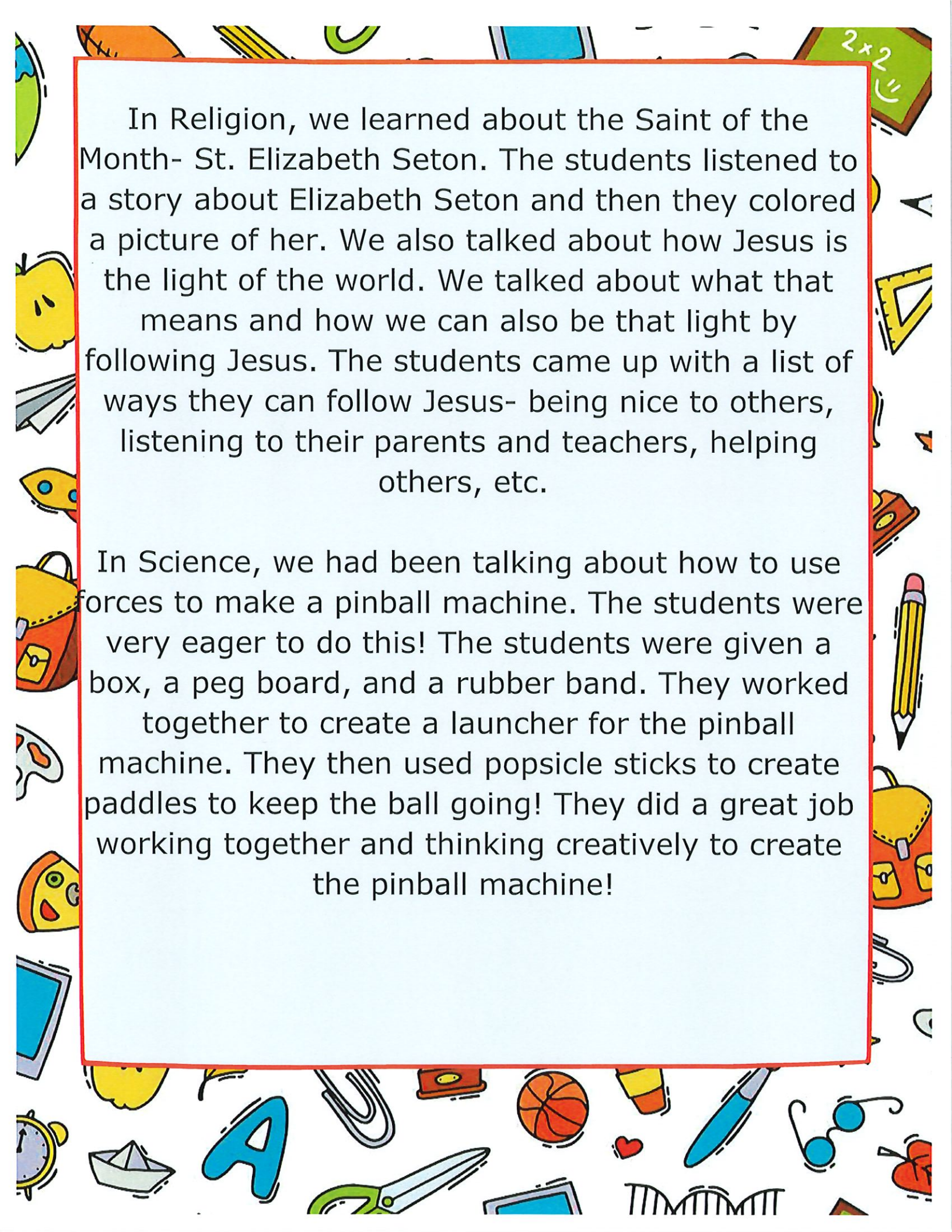


Kindergarten

In Superkids, the students have now met all of the Superkids! We will continue to read about the adventures they go on. The students have also been writing more too! We read a story about the Superkids going fishing at a pond, the students then wrote about something at a pond and drew a picture to go with it!

In Math, we are continuing our work on adding and subtracting. We have also been working on story problems that could be solved with addition or subtraction! They are very quick to decide which one is needed! We have also been working on all the ways to decompose a number. The students use cubes to ensure they have found all the ways.





In Religion, we learned about the Saint of the Month- St. Elizabeth Seton. The students listened to a story about Elizabeth Seton and then they colored a picture of her. We also talked about how Jesus is the light of the world. We talked about what that means and how we can also be that light by following Jesus. The students came up with a list of ways they can follow Jesus- being nice to others, listening to their parents and teachers, helping others, etc.

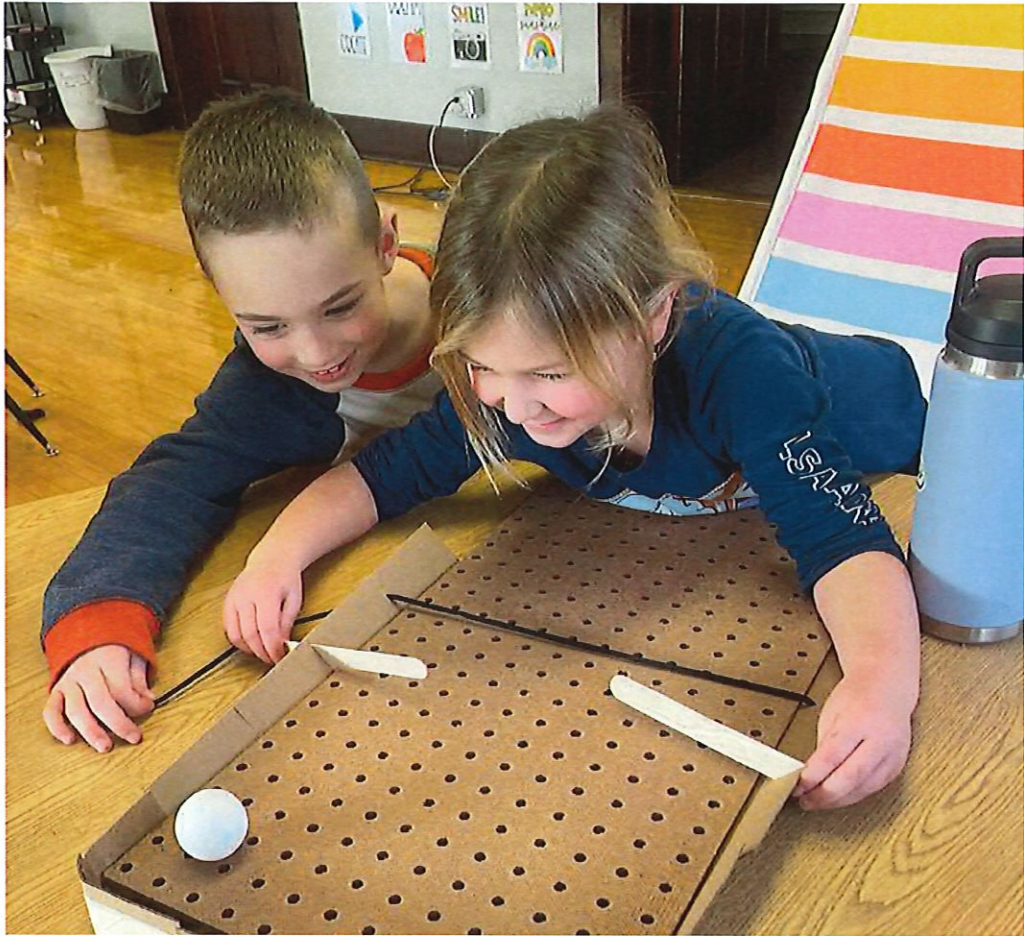
In Science, we had been talking about how to use forces to make a pinball machine. The students were very eager to do this! The students were given a box, a peg board, and a rubber band. They worked together to create a launcher for the pinball machine. They then used popsicle sticks to create paddles to keep the ball going! They did a great job working together and thinking creatively to create the pinball machine!



First Grade

In Superkids, we have started focusing more on long vowel sounds. The students used their super secret readers to uncover pictures whose names have a long vowel sound. For example, they would read the word pin and then uncover the e at the end of a pin to make it pine! They would then see a picture of a pine tree! This made learning long vowels a little more exciting! We also read a magazine about signs and all the different things signs are used for. The students read about a sign with a red line across it which means you cannot do something where the sign is posted. The students then made their own do not signs! They were very creative in making their signs!

In Math, the students have been learning how to add tens to two digit numbers. They learned to solve these by counting by tens or they would use cubes to find the answer. Once they got comfortable with these problems using cubes, they all decided to solve by counting by tens. They also learned about greater than, less than, and equal to. The students compared numbers and decided if a number was greater than or less than another number. They would find the answer by checking the tens place in each number.





January Newsletter

Grade Two

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.

The above statement is the mission statement of our school. It appears on our website, Facebook page, and on many other communications from our school and staff. We recite the mission statement daily after morning prayer and pledge. In this week's newsletter, we challenge you to look for ways everyone at St. John the Baptist Catholic School works to live out our mission.

THIS MONTH

In Math, we wrapped up our study of strategies to add and subtract 2-digit numbers. Klayton and Cooper like using base-ten blocks, and Max prefers lining the numbers up by place value. Next we are going to apply those strategies as we explore 3-digit numbers. On the phonics side of Superkids, we have been studying some more complicated consonant and vowel patterns with silent letters. While learning to become better readers is important, we really like Superkids because the stories contain "Lasting Lessons" about how we treat one another, behave, contribute, and act as good citizens of our classrooms and communities. This month we learned how important it is to respect our friends' ideas and opinions, even if they are different than ours. Sometimes we might even change our own opinions if we listen! We also saw that it is ok to be friends with someone from another team, even if we may have to play against them. Sometimes we see our competition as "the enemy" when they are just kids like us who like to play their game!

TWISTED TALES

Another part of Superkids we really enjoy is Book Club. This month we read "Betsy Who Cried Wolf" which is a twist on the familiar "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" tale. Of course tales are written to teach a moral. The moral of the story fit right in with our Superkids lasting lessons this month-it is ok to be different and still be friends. During our time with first grade, we continued to explore some more twisted tales. We even had a surprise visit from Alexander T. Wolf, aka the Big Bad Wolf, who shared with us his version of the tale with the book "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs."





January Newsletter

Grades One and Two

THIS MONTH

In Science, we wrapped up our study of plant and animal survival learning about how polar animals get through the coldest times with a Mystery Doug lesson and a Really Wild Animals video. Next we will be looking at the sky to learn why it looks different to people at different times and in different places. In Social Studies we are starting a new unit on geography. Our goal will be to choose an environment and find reasons why it is a good place to live. In Religion, we are learning about our January Saint of the Month, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. We also continue to prepare for the Second Grade's First Reconciliation on January 31st. As always, please continue to pray for us! In writing, we looked back at our visit from Lupita to write letters to her about the kind things we did.

LETTERS TO LUPITA

You may remember our visitor in December: our friend Lupita. She challenged us to keep track of the kind things we did from the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe until Epiphany. We wrote our letters to Lupita after Christmas Break to let her know of the kind things we did. We were excited to receive letters from her thanking us for our good deeds and sharing a picture of her cousin Juan Diego's tilma.



LADYBUG WARRIORS

This month we spent some time reminding ourselves how precious everyone is in God's eyes as we talked about the March for Life that Mr. and Mrs. Martinez attended. We watched an animated video called "Skiff and AJ's Fantastic Voyage." In the video, inanimate objects Skiff (the incense boat) and AJ (the aspergillum) find out the amazing life of a baby before it is even born. From the video: You are 40 weeks older than you think! We also read "The Grouchy Ladybug" and learned how we can be Ladybug Warriors for Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, by praying that through her intercession all babies will be born happy, healthy, and holy. We hope all of you will join us by praying the "Hail Mary" every day!

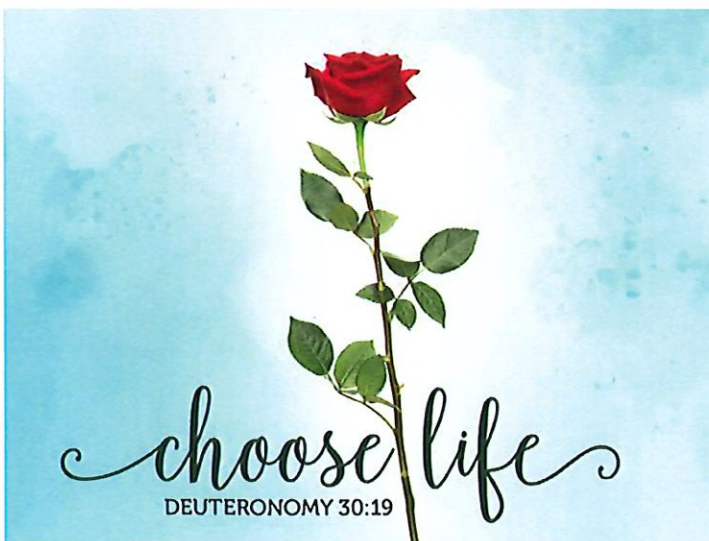


❄️ Happy 2024!

We started out 2024 with Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. We have been saying our **Prayer for Students**. The remaining challenges with Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton are to **thank a teacher, to pray for those hurt by divorce, and to invite a friend to Mass**. With the Our Life With Jesus Religion text, we briefly touched on how amazing Jesus' ministry was before we moved on to discovering more about His great sacrifice for each and every one of us. Every time we go to Mass, we participate in that great gift from God which is also the greatest prayer of the Church. Relevant Radio has a thoughtful video series with Father Rocky called "Eucharistic Encounters" in preparation for the National Eucharistic Congress happening July 17-21 this summer in Indianapolis, Indiana. You can still sign up for those at relevantradio.com or you can find the playlist here <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmbOMIGogVmOI8iE-fJQ3NYIYqZQMYFEP>

Math 3 moved on from solving 2-step problems to relating multiplication to division. It's time to really get those fact families down. ELA 3/4 now is on the topic of adjectives. As we learn more about all those parts of speech, Mad Libs may be in our near future. In Social Studies 3/4 we are in the Southeast Region, and we will be learning about a time of great suffering in our nation's history. In Reading, we have learned how different it was for kids years ago like it was for Billy in Owls in the Family. We are almost to the end of hearing all about Billy's adventures with his owls, Wol & Weeps 🦉🦉

🎵 The Music K8 entries have been sent off for consideration for the cover contest. Before being sent off, there was a buzz of excitement as students voted. Here are our favorites from each class: Lennon Gajewski-Kindergarten, Adie Kunze-Gr 1, Max Kaiser-Gr 2, Memphis Laven-Gr 3, Evelyn Albrecht-Gr 4, Drew Murkowski-Gr 5, Lily Wozny-Gr 6, Elizabeth Bergs-Gr 7, & Spencer Wendtland-Gr 8.



God of all goodness, you have entrusted us with the gift of life. Help us to appreciate that gift from the first moments of conception to the last breaths of old age. Send your strength to all those who defend the unborn, the weak, and the dying. May your Holy Spirit touch the hearts of those who are tempted to choose the way of death rather than life. Grant that your people may always be a sign of your love in the world. Amen.

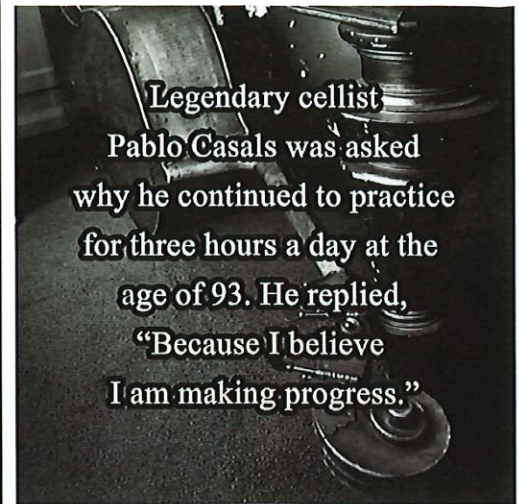
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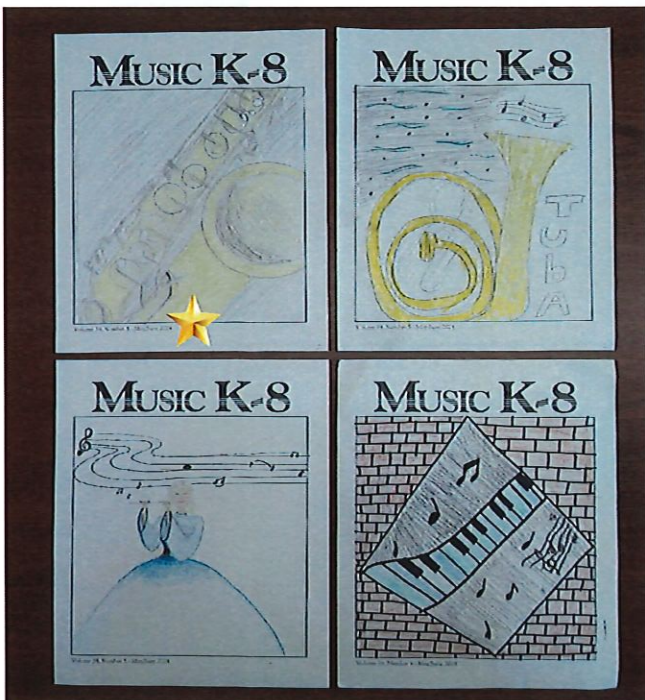
🎵 Our Music K8 Cover Contest entries from Kindergarten thru Grade 5, from left to right, top to bottom. 🎵



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.



🎵 Our Music K8 Cover Contest entries
 Grade 6 thru Grade 8, top to bottom,
 along with a couple of fillers 😊 🎵



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January 2024



Mrs. Marcis' Classes

Be sure to discuss changes in the following classes while Mrs. Mielig is enjoying her new baby. We are keeping an assignment notebook and our materials we need for the day in our desks.

Social Studies 5-6

We have finished up the Unit on Medieval Europe, ask your students about the burnt cakes we discussed in class. See if your parents can find the countries in Europe too.

Math 5

We will begin a new unit on place value and decimal operations.

Decimal Place Value Chart

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones		Tenths	Hundredths	Thousandths
Fourth digit	Third digit	Second digit	First digit	.	First digit	Second digit	Third digit

SplashLearn

ELA

Your students should bring home their descriptive and persuasive essays this week. If they read them to you, you can guess what they are describing or trying to talk you into. Like buying a finger treadmill or eating at Timmy's Restaurant.



Geography 7-8

We just completed studying what Europe was like during the Schism times where our church was divided. Events that happened in the Catholic church where it was divided. Now we will go beyond the Enlightenment and Revolutions in Europe. Upcoming we will study Europe Today and Northern Eurasia.



School Newsletter



This Month In 7/8 Homeroom

January was a busy month for the middle school! Not only did the students participate in the Quiz Bowl, they also competed in the school Spelling Bee. The end of the month brings with it the end of the 2nd quarter and Catholic Schools Week! Keep working hard, students!



Quiz Bowl 2024



Upcoming School Activities

- Catholic Schools Week
- Camp Forest Springs!
- Saint of the Month

Middle School Subjects

Students continue to work hard in Math. Sixth grade has been learning about dividing with fractions. 7th just started adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers. 8th graders will start a new unit on functions.

In Science, 5/6 grade students are learning about the interactions between liquids that mix and those that don't mix, such as some salad dressings. The 7/8 graders continue their study of the rock cycle by comparing Earth to Venus.



Notice the Emulsifier on the right end: lecithin will make oil and water mix!



A Note From Ms. Wozny

I am so proud of the 2024 Quiz Bowl team! It takes a lot of courage to be in front of an audience and compete in an academic contest against other schools. Thank you, students, for doing your best! Now we can enjoy some winter fun at Camp Forest Springs!



<https://edgarcatholic.org/stj/>

One Final Word...

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Patriots Pen Essay Contest and the NERR Spelling Bee at St. Mary's!!!

Patriots Pen Essay winners:

1st: Cecilia Mills

2nd: Elizabeth Bergs

3rd: Aiden Berens

Honorable Mention: Spencer Wendtland, Siara Schoeder, Abbigail Halama, and Elliana Wendtland



St. John's Spelling Bee Finalists:

Abbigail Halama, Elliana Wendtland, Elizabeth Bergs, Drew Murkowski, Isla Conway and Alternate: AliMae Martin



NERR Spelling Bee results:

Elizabeth Bergs - 2nd Place!

Moving on to the next round with Elizabeth - Drew Murkowski and Abbigail Halama

Congratulations!

Hello from Art,

Exciting News! Saint John's won five placings (see bolded names below) in the first level of the **2024 Wisconsin Department of Land and Water Conservation poster contest**. This year's theme was "**May the Forest Be With You, Always**"

Kindergarten-1st Grade: 1st Place: Grace Schuebel (Stratford), 2nd Place: Madeline Lawrence, 3rd Place: Nathan Arneson

2nd-3rd Grade: 1st Place: Ruth Braunel, 2nd Place: Kashton Gajewski, 3rd Place: Henry Shook (Stratford)



4th-6th grade: 1st Place: Faith Wuthenow, 2nd Place: Eve Heidenreich, 3rd Place: Gabriella Chestovich

7th-9th Grade: 1st Place: Elizabeth Bergs, 2nd Place: Cece Mills, 3rd Place: Ellie Wendtland



Congratulations to those winners and thanks to all who participated.

Our Marathon County Dept. 1st-3rd place winners will each receive a trophy, and the 1st place winners will receive an art kit along with their trophy. I've attached pictures of the first place posters from our school. These 1st place winners from each category will be advancing on to our Area Contest, which is scheduled for February 6th in Rhinelander. The 1st place winners from each category at the Area Contest will be notified, and their posters will move on to the State Contest on March 6th in WI Dells.

Students also have been very busy working on their masking tape animals, creating Valentines for Veterans (and family) as well as decorations for the upcoming father daughter dance. (See next page for photo collage). Rutie even led art class one day excited to share an alphabet project she learned about where letters are made into fun creatures with legs and faces using thin strips of (accordion) folded paper.

We look forward to sharing all these beautiful creations with those we love!

Mrs. Wierzba



Physical Education Newsletter

Elementary school has been working so hard on their gymnastic skills this month and they are loving it. Middle school is finishing up their health unit and they will be heading to mats for gymnastics as well! Here are the 3rd and 4th grade boys spelling out GO WILD CATS.

