

General Information

Interest Fair

Interest Fair is coming soon, Feb. 23rd! Many of the students have finished their papers and need only to polish them. Now is Phase II. Your child should focus on finishing the posters and the 3-dimensional display. During the actual event, each child talks about his/her project with two judges. While it doesn't need to be a formal speech, your child should be comfortable discussing the topic chosen. Practicing this discussion/talk is very helpful to them.

Also, remember to refer to the judges' rubric, which was sent home with the original Interest Fair information. The rubric is the guide we give to the judges for how to evaluate the children's presentations.

Catholic Montessori Week

We had a great celebration of the two aspects of our school which make us unique in the city. We are a Catholic and a Montessori School. Again this year, we combined the two in one big celebration. Montessori's Needs of Man tie in beautifully with the Corporal Works of Mercy. We began our celebration with an Assembly at 9:00 where the band, led by Sandra, got us in the mood. Leda and John led the Assembly by walking us through the week. We saw a film shot by Jim Reese of the fifth graders pondering the great feast of the Presentation in the Temple. We would later celebrate that feast with Mass on Thursday. We ended by a couple of songs by our Children's House and The First Twelve Days at SJMS. All in all, a fine start to the week.

On Monday we combined visiting the sick with the human needs of health and communication. We made cards for those confined to the Nursing Home in Thurber Village. They were taken there by Isabella Bocija. Tuesday we fed the hungry and pondered nourishment. We collected food for those in need and even remembered our feathered friends. Of course, the Erdkinder Spaghetti Dinner was a great success.

Wednesday's theme was sheltering the homeless and our physical need for shelter. We made pictures of houses in Art class and hung them in Ryan Hall for all to see. Our Mass on Thursday carried the theme of Burying the Dead and Spirituality. Father Vinney was our celebrant and those in attendance were able to pray for our special needs. Since it was also Candlemas Day, many students brought in candles from home to be blessed. Friday was the day we clothed the naked and thought of the need for clothing. We brought in baby clothes for the Christ Child Society to be distributed to those in need. And yes, it is Spirit Day. A great day for wearing SJMS apparel. We had a Spirit Filled afternoon by enjoying a visit from the Fire Department.

What a fun week! Can't wait until next year!

Spring Gala Project – \$1 Donations requested

We are requesting that each family send in \$1 to help us create our project for the Spring Gala auction. Rather than collecting "stuff" for a basket, Middle School teachers decided that we'd like to make a Stadium Blanket. The children have been drawing a scene representing

Summer, Winter, Spring, or Autumn. These will be compiled and sent away by computer and come back a Stadium Blanket. We thought it was a great idea!

To pay for the cost, we are asking that each family that is able send \$1 in to the classroom. Susan is managing this collection, so send the money to her. Thank you!

This year's Spring Gala fundraiser is March 10. We hope to see most of you there!

Valentine's Day

We are planning a small Valentine party for the children in the afternoon of Tuesday, February 14. Children may choose whether or not to give Valentines, however, most do. To avoid hurt feelings, and to insure that no students are left out of a group receiving cards, we remind the students that Valentines must be given to an entire group – so that they're *inclusive* rather than *exclusive*. This can be based on grade level and/or gender. (e.g. all fourth year boys, or all fifth grade girls, or all the sixth years). Attached to the newsletter is a class list to use for writing Valentines. Usually we have a treat and distribute and read Valentines. Occasionally, a family will express interest in sending a treat for the class. We request that anyone sending snacks touch base with Susan sometime before 2/10, to insure we don't get too much.

Miscellaneous

Students need the tools of the trade daily. They are running out of pens, pencils, erasers, and loose-leaf paper. Susan recommends a mechanical pencil or two with name on it. If the math notebook is falling apart, an inexpensive binder can keep the pages together.

No matter what the weather the field is muddy. It helps the classroom and the new carpeting in the hallways if each child has a change of shoes/boots and a plastic bag for the muddy ones.

This month is Black history month. There will be opportunities to learn about the contributions made by Black scientists, inventors, authors and others.

It is also a time to learn about Presidents.

Bill's Trip to Japan

Bill returned safely from Japan and had a wonderful time. He returned with maps and stories and photos! He is thankful to Susan, Karla, Nancy, Elma, and all the staff that supported his trip.

Academic News

Mathematics

We are almost finished with math facts. The sixth years have all finished. Only a few students have sets to do and these are multiplication and/or division!! We will keep reviewing the facts in several ways to maintain skills, but it looks like all will be done by the end of the month. Thanks to Michelle Daniel and Sonya Thesing and to the Middle School students who have helped out in the classroom.

Everyone is working on division. There are five levels and the groups change weekly. The work is usually done on Thursdays. Those who move to a new level know that the problems

will be harder and that they may need help. They also know that they may not do as well as they did on the previous level. Susan is available for helping, especially for those on new levels.

Sixth years have been introduced to addition and subtraction of integers. They are also working on all operations with mixed numbers. They have been requesting lessons more frequently for the skills on the math survey given every two months. The next survey of skills will be early in March. In February we will begin percent.

Fifth years have been working on fractions and have been introduced to all the operations but division. In February they will be working on perimeter and area.

The fourth years have been working on decimals. Some will begin using the decimal checkerboard soon. They have been studying the 7 types of triangles and the 6 types of quadrilaterals. In February they will be working on perimeter and area .

Geography

The sixth years present simple machine work each Wednesday. They may work in a group or alone. By the end of February they each will have presented the six simple machines.

The fifth years have done several researches on rocks and minerals, the three types of rocks, and the rock cycle. They will be doing summary reports in February. Several students are creating a Moh's scale of hardness box for the class.

The fourth years will be finishing up the series of experiments for static and current electricity and magnetism. They are also completing research on vocabulary and concepts for current electricity.

Geography Baseball is popular and has been neglected. We have started with a study of Africa. If you have a globe, atlas or world map, your child may want to show the game.

Grammar

We of course continue to work on grammar. We are currently studying prepositions with expectation that 6th graders work more on the mastery level. Fourth Graders are introduced to the concepts and 5th graders work and increase their knowledge. Grammar is a process. Most are enjoying the work.

Biology

The children who have completed the previous Anatomy work have received the new Anatomy packet for February and March. This new packet is due on March 30. I planned this work to be less intense since Interest Fair looms heavily on the minds of the children. We are studying the Digestive, Excretory, and Endocrine Systems.

Reading

Sixth year students will begin reading Catherine, Called Birdy, a historical fiction novel set in the Middle Ages, our next topic in history. This book provides great information on what life was like in the Middle Ages. Catherine narrates about the lives, the struggles, and the mindset of medieval people.

With the fifth year students, Bill decided to spend a little more time with the culminating activity for Gary Paulsen. Students have been making Gary Paulsen-themed mobiles, or putting

together a Gary Paulsen-themed collection of items (we call it a paper bag report). Now we're ready to get to the book mentioned last newsletter, Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile.

Nancy began reading to the fourth year students The Long Winter. Within the next week, each student will receive a classroom copy so that they can read on their own. Bill will assign sections to read and class discussion will follow.

Writing

We continue to focus on writing lessons that assist in writing the Interest Fair papers. February's monthly writing IS the Interest Fair paper, so continue to help your child polish that.

History

Fourth year students are reading about Ohio history using a textbook. We have weekly reading assignments that we then discuss together in a group. Once Interest Fair is over, we hope to be able to schedule a trip to the Ohio Historical Society.

Fifth year students are reading about early ancient civilizations (Sumer and Egypt) and how their cultures have contributed to our modern lives.

Sixth years are studying the Middle Ages. We will be looking at how the small Germanic tribes grew into the large nations of the Renaissance. This includes learning about knights, feudalism, the contributions of the Catholic Church, and people like Charlemagne and William the Conqueror.

Thank you,

Susan Walling – swalling@cducation.org

Karla McKenna – kmckenna@cducation.org

Bill Reed – wreed@cducation.org

Grade 4:

1. Anderson, Elias
2. Aurnou-Rhees,
Jordan
3. Bender, Garrett
4. Cochran, Seth
5. Danford, Maika
6. Fleming, Miles
7. Foley, Michael
8. French, Madeline
9. Hammond, Maya
10. Hessler-Burdick,
Noah
11. Jasper, Gabe
12. Johnson, Clint
13. Knueve, Jack
14. Lomax, Amirah
15. Nichols, Austin
16. Roth, Penelope
17. Thesing, Garrett
- 18. Tinapple, Joe**

Grade 5:

1. Beam, Mackenzie
2. Cook, Marlana
3. Daniel, Harper
4. Dugas, Claire
5. Eismann, Jacob
6. Ferguson, Claire
7. Fisher, Sam
8. Harpham, Lily Kate
9. Hohmann, Matthew
10. Miller, Erin
11. Mitchell, Reid
12. Prond, Emerson
13. Pyles, Danny
14. Rambo, Anna
15. Rieser, Grace
16. Rieser, Nick
17. Samuels, Joel
18. Sheehan, Allison
19. Sorrels, Adam
20. Thesing, Max
21. Tussing, Chloe
22. Vegas, Isabella
23. York, Kieran
24. Zucker, Morgan

Grade 6:

1. Clayton, Charles
2. Conrad, Xavier
3. Faller, Bob
4. Faller, John
5. Flynn, Luke
6. Flynn, Sidney
7. French, Olivia
8. Ingraham-Dwyer,
Ben
9. Menster, Nick
10. Nappier, Jasmine
11. Nelson, Maxi
12. Reardon, Isabella
13. Reed, Katie
14. Shuff, Anna
15. Spoon, Ryan