



St. Francis School

October 2020 Newsletter

Pastor's Message - Father Pat

I write our newsletter on this first day of return to school. I am grateful to Mrs. Sikora, Mrs. Oxley, our teachers and staff for their wisdom and dedication during this effort to open up after such a long delay. May God bless our St. Francis parents who worked so hard in teaching the children through virtual learning. Praise God for protecting our children during this terrible plague. These children have shown courage in dealing with the challenges of our time.

I pray that this year will bring joy and good health to our St. Francis School family. It is in such times as these that our Christian faith is tested. In hard times through God's grace, we find wisdom and strength to endure every trial. As St. Paul writes: "With God on our side, who can be against us"

From Our Principal - Mrs. Sikora

Good Samaritans:

K-2 Hera-Sophia Keeney

3-5 Ian Burns

Good Samaritans are selected based on demonstrated charity to others. This month's winners were recognized by Mrs. Sikora, Mrs. Oxley, Ms. Potter and Mrs. Martin. Congratulations Hera-Sophia and Ian!!!

The first month of the school year is behind us, and what a month! We adjusted well to the remote learning environment, but are happy to be back



in the building. During this pandemic, we have all sharpened our ability to adjust and be flexible as conditions change. This is not an easy task, as we all need to plan ahead (especially families with young children). I applaud our families, students and staff for maintaining composure during these times as circumstances unexpectedly change with short notice.

At SFS we have tried to ease the stress on our families by offering assistance programs. The Crisis Care program allows teachers to work with students in the building, and provides assistance to students in attending lessons. Mrs. Oxley arranged for families to receive free meals each week, and worked to have the free meals extended until December 31. Thank you Mrs. Oxley! Daycare assistance is available too. We encourage families to apply for the daycare benefits offered under the CARES Act to children of essential workers. The list of qualifying essential workers is extremely long, so there is a good chance many families would qualify. Once qualified, daycare is free, and the school receives an additional financial boost, as well. Mrs. Oxley has the details.

It is wonderful to see the children in the building. The preschoolers are adorable, and have done a fantastic job of adjusting to school life. In grades K-5 we have been administering the NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Growth assessment. The MAP Growth helps teachers understand what students know today, so goals can be set to improve growth throughout the year. **Students cannot pass or fail this test.** We will administer MAP again in the Winter and Spring.

I am so proud of our students for their work on the ST Math program. Students in grades K-5 have been utilizing ST Math to enrich skills since the beginning of the school year, and collaborative preschool students will



begin later in the year. ST Math's icon is a penguin, named Jiji. Our Title I teacher, Mrs. Gallagher, adopted a stuffed animal penguin who will stay with the class that has the highest weekly participation. This week's winner is the Kindergarten class!!! Congratulations!!!

We will have to change some of our traditional October events. The Oktoberfest and Family Hot Dog Day will be cancelled, and the Book Fair and Picture Day will be postponed.

A big THANK YOU to Mrs. Lago for creating this beautiful newsletter!

I pray everyone has a happy and healthy October!!



Preschool- Ms. Libby

Welcome families to St. Francis preschool! We are excited to get to know our new friends and jump right into learning!

In October we will work on the letters A, B, C and D. We will have fun apple activities, pumpkin math, talk about fire safety and learn important fire safety tips!

We are looking forward to a fun year of learning and playing together!

We would like to wish Sadie Palmer a very Happy October Birthday!



Preschool - Ms. Burns

Welcome to Preschool! We have been doing an amazing job this month learning how to be flexible and learn in a new environment. Our preschool parents have done a fabulous job of logging into Remind each day to participate in activities with their children. We are also beginning to use Schoology as well. I'm so proud of everyone and their hard work! We have been learning about our colors and the letters A, B, and C. We have also started our study starter of "Tubes, Tunnels, and Water Pipes". We are all learning together daily, and we are very excited for a fun year of learning!



Preschool - Ms. High

Theme: Tubes, Tunnels, and Water Pipes

First, I want to thank all my preschool families and students for keeping up with the assignments on Remind and continuing to send me pictures. I love seeing the students' creativity! This month we are beginning to use Schoology. Remember to login using the website Kanawha.schoology.com using either safari or google chrome. Our new study is Tubes, Tunnels, and Water Pipes. Children learn so much by investigating and exploring their environments. Please continue to look for examples of tubes, tunnels, and water pipes in your home. We are working on



the letters A, B, and C, and practicing writing our names. We will also be having a weekly Show and Tell every Thursday using the letter of the week. GoNoodle is already a class favorite. I am really enjoying getting to know all my students and parents. Good relationships are the foundation for a successful learning environment; I am so thankful to all of my families for their positive communication. It's going to be a wonderful school year.



Kindergarten - Mrs. Lopez

Welcome Fall!! We are all adjusted well to virtual kindergarten, but are excited to be back in the classroom. Students have been busy learning letters and sounds in phonics. This coming week students will get their first decodable reader. Please have the students read the decodable reader books daily and initial the calendar on the back. Thank you in advance for your help. In Math, we are making AB patterns, sorting shapes by color and shape, writing our numbers, and working in ST Math. In reading, we are learning new words, reading our student books, and learning how to access Think Central online.

I would like to recognize the top three ST Math players for logging the most time and completing the most puzzles. Congratulations to Harper, Landon, and Jonah!!! Thank you for your hard work, keep it up! We have several kids that are celebrating birthdays for the months of September and October. We would like to wish a very happy birthday to Felicity, CJ, Shelby, Cameron and Evelyn!



First Grade - Ms. Potter

The students are off to a wonderful start in first grade, and we are happy to have them back in the classroom! The word that Mrs. Lago and I use every day to describe the children is "amazing"! They did very well listening and following directions during our Zoom lessons. We are so proud of them and thankful for our wonderful first grade families! Without your help and support remote learning would not have been possible!

In religion, the students have been learning how God created the world and all people. They have been discussing ways that they can be kind and caring to others. We've enjoyed their interesting ideas on how to show that they are kind and caring to their families and friends. We see and hear their kindness toward each other during our lessons!

The reading story this week is *The Storm*. The children have enjoyed this story about a grandfather who visits his grandson and his dog during a storm. We've discussed different types of storms and instruments used to measure weather. Now, they are looking forward to taking their second reading test on Think Central. They did a great job on their first one!

In math, the students are identifying most and fewest on a pictograph, ordering sets from smallest to largest and identifying sides and angles of triangles and



squares. They have also been practicing writing their numbers neatly and correctly. They did an excellent job on their first math assessment!

Please continue to review vocabulary words to the reading stories and encourage your child to read the decodable readers to someone each day. Thank you again for your help and support at home!



Second Grade - Ms. Grishaber

What a happy month!! I love the month of October and all things fall but on top of that, being back at school has completely changed the game! I am so happy to be here with these kids and the rest of the school. We are doing great with our masks, with keeping our materials to ourselves, and so on. I am cleaning the room each day (multiple times a day), we are washing hands frequently, and hand sanitizer is like gold. Progress reports went out this month and while we did do some individual assessments and got plenty of grades in, there is nothing like in-person instruction where I can work with these kids. I am so glad to be here and really get to know them and be able to better serve them. I am doing everything I can, as well as the rest of the school staff, to keep this building clean and our students safe. I am always available for



contact on DoJo but you may also email me or call the school to reach me. We are going to have a GREAT month! Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Thank you!



Third Grade - Mrs. Forrester

Happy October! Our third graders did great learning virtually for the month of September, and we're all excited to be back in the classroom. We are keeping up with our Math, Reading, and English, and the students are becoming more independent each day. They are all working hard towards their AR goals already. Congrats to Kylie and Delilah, who have already met theirs! Everyone else has until the end of the quarter to complete it- and I know they will do their best. I'm also proud of Graham and Audrey for their time spent on ST Math- they each have beat over 100 puzzles from just a few weeks of working. Well done, you two!

I want to sincerely thank you all for supporting me from home each week. It makes everything SO much more smoothly for our students. Have a wonderful October!

Mrs. F



Fourth Grade Mrs. Martin

Welcome Fall! Fourth Grade students became well-adjusted to our remote learning, but are happy to have moved into our classroom. We began our month with the Feast Day of the Guardian Angels and the Feast Day on Sunday of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of our school.

September 17-23rd was Constitution Week. We began with a Guest Speaker introducing the Constitution and a lesson on the flag. Each student received a copy of the Constitution and a mini US Flag.

All students need to make our Accelerated Reader goal which is a requirement and a Reading Test Grade of 100 percent. Also, ST Math is challenging any classroom that averages 60 minutes per week to a JiJi box. A percentage of ST Math will be averaged in with Math grades. The end of our First Nine weeks is November 2.

Please encourage your child to read each night and to reach their AR goal. Thank you for your patience and understanding during our remote learning. Have a great October!





Fifth Grade - Ms. Lodge

Happy Fall!

I cannot believe it is already October! Fifth grade did very well during our daily Zoom meetings. Students actively participated and engaged in lessons. I am very proud of the way they adapted to virtual learning, and I am also proud of the way they easily transitioned to in-person learning. Great job, students!

Congratulations to Mia Cloer and Nana Agyiri for reaching their Accelerated Reading goal. Students should be practicing daily on ST Math for AT LEAST 15 minutes a day AND reading a book of their choice to work towards their Accelerated Reading Goal. I look forward to seeing every fifth grader reach their goal!

ST Math is having a contest that runs through the end of October. It is looking for a class that averages at least 60 minutes a week. If every student in our class participates, we should meet this goal! Let's go 5th Grade!! I hope everyone has a great month and Happy Halloween!





Blessings
From All of Us
at
St. Francis School

