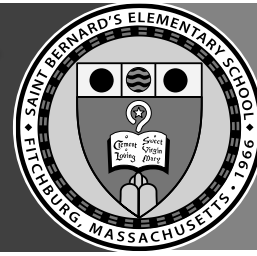


WHAT'S NEW

St. Bernard's Elementary School News



March 2022
Issue 64

March

*Inspired by the motto
"Deeds not Words," St. Bernard's
Elementary School is a Catholic
community of faith, learning and
service joined in living Gospel values.
In partnership with our families,
we strive to develop both academic
excellence and compassion for others
in our students.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS



Pre-K Our littlest Bernardians are learning how to grow their hearts and let Jesus guide them through this Lenten season by not giving up something, but by doing more for others. They are learning to pray more, give more and what the word Sacrifice means to them. Pre-K is also being observant as they decide if the weather is looking like a LION or more like a LAMB in March.

Kindergarten February was busy with the Celebration of 100 Days of School and St. Valentine's Day. The children made Valentine Cards for the residents of Sunrise Senior Living Center in their Memory Care Neighborhood. The residents were so happy to have a Valentine at their place at dinner time. This is truly what giving of ourselves looks like - doing something to make someone happy and doesn't have to cost anything. The theme of *Giving of Ourselves to Others* continues as our children prepare for Lent.



Grade 1 The days are growing longer, the sun seems just a bit brighter and science lessons continue with a focus on the properties

of light. Our students will be investigating how light beams travel and change direction and even how this phenomenon allows animals to see. They will plan and carry out experiments using light and mirrors and meet design challenges based on what they've learned. Finally, they will think about how light helps with communication and then explore ways to communicate with each other over long distances using light.



Grade 2 March is a very special month for many of our Second Graders! They will be making their First Reconciliation on March 29th here at school with Fr.

Dolan. First Reconciliation is the first of two sacraments that our children will receive as they prepare to make their First Holy Communion in May.

Grade 3 Reading continues to help our children grow as individuals as they increase their academic skills. Third Grade's current unit is "Smart Choices" which asks our readers to consider the question "What choices are good for us?" Whether it be children moving to a new town, starting a new school or animals adapting to their habitat, these stories help students develop insight about many different ways to meet challenges.

Grade 4 Lent is a time of reflection – about who we are and how we become the persons we are called to be by God. Fourth Graders are learning how the Holy Spirit guides us as we grow in holiness. Each child becomes more aware of their own conscience – the voice inside our minds and hearts that helps us as we work to make good moral decisions.



Grade 5 Work has begun on the book our Fifth Graders will publish in the spring. Their book has the tentative title of "1000 Gifts of Kindness" based on a project being completed about sharing 1000 of something with others. February 9 was the 100th day of school for Grades 1 – 8 here at STB but the Fifth Grade also calculated that it was their 1000th day in school as an STB student! That was cause for great celebration of their 1000 days in school!!!



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS CONTINUED

Grade 6 World History scholars will be embarking on another journey through time to Ancient China as they learn how China emerged as a great empire with a rich history and complex culture. In Religion, Sixth Graders are examining the role of King Solomon and learning how the Israelites forgot God who brought them out of exile in Egypt. The prophets were sent to them by God to call them back to Himself. The message of those prophets continues to speak to us today.



Grade 7 Seventh Graders continue to explore the Beatitudes as a living guide to our Christian calling. In Science, they have taken a quick trip into the physical sciences to explore electricity and discover how charged particles have an indispensable role in our world. Our students are learning about the amazing power of electricity by investigating the invisible force that a balloon rubbed on a student's hair exerts on a can, building and troubleshooting simple circuits and determining the flow of current using diodes.



Grade 8 Basketball and Gaga Ball without the younger children underfoot and sharing a takeout supper from the 99 Restaurant were wonderful ways for our oldest Bernardians to start February vacation. Our Eighth Graders are almost always busy working hard in their classrooms or being of service to others in the school. This was their evening to have fun with each other and Mrs. Maki – who it turns out is very good at Gaga Ball!

Art Snowmen, valentines, groundhogs, polar bears, even dinosaurs! Classes across all grades have been using these themes as they work to develop their skills using mixed media. Construction paper, ribbon, crayons and watercolors were elements of a wide variety of projects that challenged our students as they brought color and whimsy to our Art room, hallways and even the refrigerators of our homes.

French Vive le francais! Our 7th Grade scholars are tackling the job of writing negative sentences in French. It's so easy in English – just use the word "not" to turn a sentence into the negative. However, there are so many more things to think about in French. Our students are coming to grips with all the challenging nuances of French!

Coming Events

Feb 28 - March 4
STB Celebrates
Read Across America

March 2
Ash Wednesday Liturgy

March 11
Trimester 2 Closes

March 17
The Wearin' of the Green
Casual For A Cause
Trimester 2 Report Cards

March 18
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Teachers' Professional Development

March 24
Spring Picture Day – Out of Uniform!

March 17 - 31
Book Madness Tournament
Pre-K – Grade 8

March 25
Mass for Life
Grades 7 & 8
St. Paul's Cathedral, Worcester

March 25 - April 1
Scholastic Book Fair

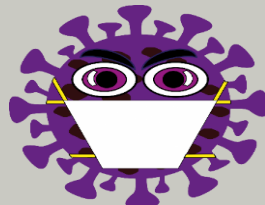
March 28
Half Day – NOON Dismissal
Parent Teacher Conference

~ BERNARDIAN LIFE AT STB ~

The Sisters of the Presentation offer competitive Ministry Grant each year. STB has been awarded multiple grants to support educational technology but this year's award is sure to bring joy to every Bernardian. STB received a PBVM grant of \$2,500.00 directed towards the installation of swings on our playground.

Casual for A Cause on Feb. 3 raised \$340.00 for the Fitchburg-Leominster Animal Control to help support the mission of caring for local cats and dogs as they wait patiently for their forever homes!

Vaccine Clinics at STB. A total of 254 adults and children received 1st, 2nd or booster vaccinations with Moderna or Pfizer vaccines at six Community Health Connections COVID 19 Vaccine Clinics since last August. STB will continue to offer its facilities to CHC as long as there is a need and will provide lollipops for all! *Deeds Not Words*



Penny Wars Classes from Pre-K to Grade 8 had a grand time competing to see who would claim victory. Pre- K downstairs and Grade 6 upstairs are the champions of this favorite Bernardian event. Every Bernardian wins as proceeds go towards the installation of swings on our playground. Thank you to all our Bernardian families and friends who gathered pennies, silver coins and currency to raise \$3,151.79 in this biennial fundraiser. Thank you to Mrs. Winnie Rivard who wrangled all those coins and kept the tally!