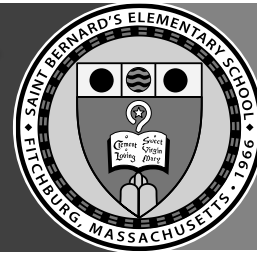


# WHAT'S NEW

## St. Bernard's Elementary School News



January 2024  
Issue 80

# JANUARY

*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 children continue to celebrate the gift of Baby Jesus, the Holy Family and eagerly await the arrival of the Magi who followed the Star to Bethlehem. Learning continues – letters, numbers, and printing their names. The shape for January – a star!

**Kindergarten** Happy 2024! The Nativity Play was a wonderful way to end the year. Kindergartners continue to focus on how they can give of themselves to others in the New Year. In the classroom, they will be working collaboratively in centers where they can put together all that they have learned in a way that is F-U-N!



**Grade 1** Our curious scientists will be exploring air and weather. They will explore the natural world using simple instruments to observe change and by completing hands on activities. Air and how it works comes first and then on to water.

**Grade 2** Our Second Graders were excited to once again pair up with some familiar friends before the holidays. Our younger and older student Book Buddies became reacquainted with one another and are now

looking forward to working together with a new focus. Guided by our *FOSS (Full Option Science System)* lessons, students will have the opportunity to explore, investigate and experiment together with our older students serving as mentors.



**Grade 3** The New Year begins with our readers exploring the theme *One of a Kind*. Each week students will be reading stories that delve into why individual qualities are important, what makes every human unique and what science has revealed about Earth and its neighbors. Each story will help answer the essential question, *Why are individual qualities important?*

**Grade 4** Students are making wonderful progress. They are working hard to follow directions and the rules of the classroom – so many new challenges and responsibilities *"upstairs!"* The New Year begins with a poetry unit in English that culminates with a project that is both educational and fun! Ms. G could not be more proud of Fourth Grade!



**Grade 5** Fifth Grade Bernardians were honored to participate in *Wreaths Across America* at The

*Massachusetts Veterans' Cemetery* in Winchendon on December 15. Students were given a lesson on the significance of the event and then joined thousands of other volunteers across the country who solemnly placed wreaths on the graves of those who have served us all. Thank you to DC Roy and the FFD which provided transportation for our students and staff.



**Grade 6** Sixth graders have been learning how to decode chemical formulas, describe matter with several types of *SI* measurements, and energy's role in the changes they observe in matter. *SI* is the *International System of Units*, known by the abbreviation *SI* (from French *Système International*), and is the modern form of the metric system.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS CONTINUED

**Grade 7** Geographers complimented their study of Canada by reading "*Anne of Green Gables*," a beloved novel that took them back in time to Prince Edward Island. Their next destination will be the islands of the West Indies. Students will plan, (but not pay for!), a real vacation with several destinations in the Caribbean. In Literature, they will be reading both fiction and non-fiction books dealing with the history of sugar in Cuba and other Caribbean islands.



**Grade 8** Eighth Grade Science students began *The Mystery Element Project* which was

finished after vacation. Their task was to complete a slide deck that presents pictures and information about their mystery element. Classmates, using what they have learned about matter and the elements, will attempt to identify the element based on clues in the slide deck. Happy chemical sleuthing Grade 8!

**Nurse's Corner**  
There will be shark sightings in our classrooms as



Nurse Julie begins lessons on dental care with our students. Our very own Bernardian *Finn the Shark* will be out and about with toothbrush in fin to help teach how to keep smiles healthy. Stay tuned for more to come!

**Religion 4, 5 & 6** Advent found these students working with central themes of our faith. Grade 4 was discovering the secret to true happiness by studying the Beatitudes, Grade 5 examined the phrases found in the Apostles Creed that define our beliefs, and Grade 6 considered how best to listen for God's voice in their hearts the better to discern His will for each of them.



**French** Our oldest language students made Christmas cards in French for their parents. With plenty of paper, markers, crayons, glue sticks and lots of decorative supplies like ribbon, twine and chenille at their disposal, Eighth Graders made cards that were *spectaculaire!* And, of course, best of all were their wonderful sentiments in French! *JOYEUX NOEL* and *BONNE ANNEE* were only the beginning!

### Blue & Gold Club December Winners

\$250.00 Ms. Brittany Roy

\$100.00 Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Pineda

\$75.00 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Laughlin

\$50.00 Ms. Brittany Brassard

\$25.00 Ms. Catherine Githaibi



## Coming Events

**Wednesday, Jan. 3**

School Re-opens  
Diocese of Worcester Financial Aide Portal Opens

**Jan. 8 – Jan 26**

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Testing

**Monday, Jan. 8**

Pre-K to Grade 8 Enrollment Opens for 2024-2025 for Bernardian Families

**Monday, Jan. 15**

**NO SCHOOL**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

**Thursday, Jan. 18**

Trimester 2 Progress Reports

**Jan. 28-Feb. 2**

Catholic Schools Week

**Wednesday, Jan. 31**

Pre-K to Grade 8 Enrollment Opens for Waitlisted Families



## ~ BERNARDIAN LIFE AT STB ~

### Second Step

Students from Pre-K to Grade 8 are participating in this program, new to STB, to help them develop better skills for learning challenges, making good decisions, handling strong emotions and getting along with others. Second Step skills are designed to help students both in and out of school.

### Casual for a Cause

Bernardians were out of uniform and in red, white and blue to support *Wreaths Across America* on December 6. Thanks to the generosity of our community, STB donated \$325 to *Wreaths Across America 2024*.

### Great Holiday Giveback 2023

STB was one of the community organizations chosen as a winner from many nominated in IC Credit Union's *Great Holiday Giveback 2023*. IC's gift of \$1,000.00 will be directed towards the Pre-K playground project coming this spring. We thank IC members and team members for choosing STB as one of their recipients this year!