

Blessed Sacrament School Newsletter

“A Feinsein Leadership School”

Newsletter January 1, 2021
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<http://www.blessedschoolpvd.com>

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“Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.” –Martin Luther King Jr.

Principal's News

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas vacation was restful and rejuvenating. As we look back on 2020, I think we can all agree to be glad it is in the past. Hopefully, 2021 will see a return to more customary times.

After Thanksgiving, we experienced an uptick in cases. We had several staff members and students test positive between December 3rd and December 18th. After working closely with the RIDOH K-12 contact tracing nurses, we concluded that Blessed Sacrament School was not able to completely avoid the Post-Thanksgiving Surge. The good news is that none of the cases were transmitted at school, but most likely from travel and Thanksgiving gatherings. I suspect the Christmas season will yield a similar outcome, so out of an abundance of caution, we will stay in distance learning mode until January 11th.

If you did travel, or gather with people you don't normally live with, please consider getting a Covid test before returning to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents, please keep in mind that January marks the beginning of re-registration for the 2021-2022 school year. The registration packet will be going home in

Financial Aid:

Dear Families: Please remember to log-on to our FACTS Page to apply for financial aid for the 2021-2022 school year. Priority is given to families who apply on time and verify early!

the January 15th Friday folder. There is a \$100.00 registration fee. Please return the completed application by Friday, January 29th, so we can begin planning for the next school year.

God Bless,
Mr. Weber

Catholic Schools Week Events:

Monday, February 1st- Crazy Hat Day-\$2.00 for the Bishop's Keep the Heat On.

Tuesday, February 2nd-School Spirit Day: Students may wear red & gold.

Wednesday, February 3rd- Teacher Appreciation Day.

Thursday, February 4th.-Student Appreciation Day.

Friday, February 5th- Super Bowl Dress Down.-Details will Follow.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 29th: Dress Down Day-Sponsored by grade 4.
- ◆ February 5th-2nd Qtr. Report Cards Go Home.

Upcoming Events

January 4-8, 2021-School re-opens. Distance Learning for All Students.

January 11th, 2021-In-person learning resumes for all students. 2nd Qtr. Progress Reports Go Home.

January 15, 2021- Registration packets for 2021-2022 go home.

January 18, 2021- Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School

January 19th -22nd, 2021-Mid-Term Assessments

January 31, 2021-Catholic Schools Week Begins.

February 1, 2021-Registration for new families begins.



Pre-Kindergarten News

During the month of January the preschoolers will be exploring snow and ice through **literacy** and **math** activities, **science** experiments, **art** projects and **music**. We will also learn all about penguins this month. We will continue our bi-weekly **Spanish** lessons with Mrs. Rosmery and our weekly Bible lessons.

Kindergarten News

Happy New Year! We will begin 2021 with a few fun new changes, such as journal writing, a "Mystery Pic," and nightly homework. The "Mystery Pic" is an exciting way for students to learn more about letters, sounds, and rhyming. Each day, a student will have a turn to draw a picture of a noun or action verb. Bring it in the next day with three clues, such as, the beginning and ending sounds, how many syllables in the word, and/or what it may rhyme with. The ideas are endless! Homework will be given Monday – Thursday. It is a review of what your child did in class that day, and should be

completed independently. We will continue Module 3 in **Reading**. Please practice these high frequency words: an, did, has, he, in, it, me, put, ran, she, sits, with. In **Math**, we will work with numbers to 100, and begin addition and subtraction. Please continue practicing the Sign of The Cross, *The Lord's Prayer*, and *The Hail Mary*. January is a great month for leaning about penguins, ice, and snow! The kindergarteners will be making penguin crafts, and experimenting with ice and snow! We will be sure to send pictures and videos!

First Grade News

In December at our Christmas grade 1 holiday gathering, the students enjoyed candy canes, Christmas hats and gifts from our Bishop Hendricken Family! So appreciated! Our **science** study in December featured a look at the keen observation skills of a scientist as he/she uses the 5 senses to observe. Students were provided a mystery bag and used their hand lenses and senses to describe the features of each mystery item. They then organized the materials by characteristics. What a great job they did in classifying the items! In **math** we are now continuing to make a 10 to add; explain addition strategies; and solve word problems with facts to 20. In **reading** we are reading fiction and

stories about domestic and wild animals. We were recently learning about mammals and will continue to examine animal groupings in our study. In **writing** we will be working on a nonfiction research piece about a favorite animal. This will include online and book research. During **art** class this season, Ms. Maria was instrumental in working on two very unique crafts with the students that included a framed picture of the Holy Family, and a small canvas handprint that turned into adorable snow people. These special gifts were given to the first grade parents for Christmas. Thank you Ms. Maria!!! May all the Blessed Sacrament Community have a blessed and very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Second Grade News

Happy New Year! The cold winter months are a great time for learning and **reading**. We will begin Module 4 and the children will read texts about storytelling. We will talk about some of their favorite storybook characters and lessons they can learn from them. We will begin Topic 5 in **math**. The children will learn to add using regrouping, which will be both challenging and exciting. For continued academic progress, please read nightly and review new **math** topics taught.

Remember to visit HMH and [savvasrealize.com](https://www.savvasrealize.com) for extra **reading** and **math** practice. Grade 2 will continue to work as disciples of Jesus. We will prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation. We will discuss the Ten Commandments and learn the Act of Contrition. I am looking forward to the winter months and watching your children meet with academic success.

Third Grade News

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."
-Martin Luther King Jr.

As we begin the New Year, we will focus on the "Twelve Days of Christmas," which actually come between Christmas Day and the Epiphany. We will **write** snowy stories, and winter cinquains. As we approach Catholic Schools Week, we will also write about what makes Blessed Sacrament School so special!

In **math**, we will continue our study of multiplication and division, and write our own multiplication and division stories for each other to solve! During **science** class, we will continue to learn about weather, climate, and the different instruments that meteorologists use for their weather forecasts.

Fourth Grade News

Throughout the month of January, 4th Grade will continue to be challenged and have fun in all subjects! In **Reading**, students will continue to learn new spelling and vocabulary words and practice reading comprehension. We will be focusing on reading fairy tales and myths, and identifying elements of drama, figurative language, and point of view when reading. In **Writing**, students will be working on writing a narrative essay about a person who made a difference in the world. During **Math**, we will be practicing

different strategies to divide. To help with division, please practice using division and multiplication flashcards at home with your child. In **Science**, we will learn about ecosystems, food chains, and ways organisms adapt to survive. During **Social Studies**, we will be focusing on the geography and history of the Northeast region, and the American and Industrial Revolutions. In **Religion** class, we will be learning about the Ten Commandments and following God's Law.



Fifth Grade News

We have been delving deeper into more difficult content in 5th grade! We are working hard as we explore new texts and synthesize **mathematical** concepts. In **math**, we are using larger numbers as we solve long division and multiplication problems. With practice, we are becoming mathematicians! We are delving into **literature** as read for meaning and identify different text structures and visualize what we read. Annotating our books help us notice and note as we read and learn information. Ask your child about the world's tallest building. As we travel through time in **social studies**, we are learning about the first colonists and settlers. That first winter was a difficult time for the colonists as they persevered.

In **science**, we are focusing on biology concepts! We enjoy completing book projects on our MyOn book platform. We are growing in our faith as we understand the sacraments as symbols of God's love for us. What is on the horizon for grade 5? **Reading** current events and non-fiction passages, math computations including division and multiplication with decimals, science experiments to bring more meaning to vocabulary words and history lessons to connect us to the early Americas. Sounds exciting, doesn't it? We will accomplish all this and more while being in our heavenly Father's loving care.

Grade 6 News

Happy New Year! In 6th grade we will be starting the year off with a recap of what we have learned so far this year. During the month of January, students will receive a lot of review along with helpful resources to help with his or her success. For **Reading and ELA**, we will continue reading "*The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*," along with learning the background, vocabulary and all of the characters. Students are expected to read along in class and will have homework assignments each night. The students seem to be enjoying it very much! In **Math**, we will be reviewing what we have learned in Chapters 1 and 2 for our midterm exams. For **Social Studies**, we will finish Chapter 3 as well as work on an individual project on Egypt. This will be our midterm exam. In **Science**, we will finish up our discussion on solids, liquids and gases and review the topic of energy. Students will also have a project in science for their midterm exam. In **Religion**, our discussion on Advent will continue as well as reviewing for our midterm on Chapters 1 through 6. Together as a class, students will continue to collect for our care packages to soldiers as well as other ways we can help in our community. Continue to stay safe everyone!

Middle School Spanish

We are taking a comprehensive approach to teaching our kids Spanish. Along with giving them the tools to learn new words, we are writing short stories that the students will present to the class. Every week, the students will be assigned a story topic which uses the vocabulary words in that chapter. The students will then have to research new words and will practice written and spoken Spanish. By encouraging their creativity, the students will learn (not memorize) words that they use in everyday conversations.



Middle School Social Studies

Grade 7: Students are finishing a unit on European competition in North America and begin a unit on the American colonies taking root. Students will learn about the first English settlements in America. Students will identify the new settlements that developed in New England as a result of Puritan religious practice. There will be reading assignments, study guides and quizzes.

Grade 8: Students will finish the unit on *A Nation Divided* and begin a unit on the Civil War. Students will identify the states that supported the Union, the states that seceded, and the states whose loyalties were divided. Students will explain why Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. There will be reading assignments, study guides and quizzes.

Middle School Skills

Skills: We are going to move through unit 7+8 of our vocabulary workshop books through the month of January. The students have done well so far in skills. They must remember the importance of studying consistently. In addition to using the vocab workshop books, we have gone over additional study techniques, including how to use their online resources. It is my hope that by practicing using these vocab words in everyday language, we will improve their knowledge of the words and prepare the students to do well on the PSAT's and SAT's.

Middle School Literature

7th Grade: Upcoming in literature we are going to be reading *"The Giver"*. We will be discussing character development, locating themes, and reading comprehension. There will be periodic quizzes to ensure the students are doing their reading at home. We will also move forward in our writing workshop books. The students are presenting their "Short Story." We will continue writing in our journals with a focus on expressing our thoughts and explaining a series of events.

8th Grade: Upcoming in literature we are going to be reading *Flowers For Algernon*. We will be discussing character development, locating themes, and reading comprehension. There will be periodic quizzes to ensure the students are doing their reading at home. We will also move forward in our writing workshop books. The students are presenting their "Short Story." We will continue writing in our journals with a focus on expressing our thoughts and explaining a series of events.

Middle School Religion

Grade 7 Religion – In December, we completed the *Truth Revealed*. We learned about Advent, the symbolism of the Advent wreath, and the candy cane and prepared for Christmas. Throughout Advent, the students performed good deeds as gifts to others and Jesus. They recorded these good deeds virtually on a Good Deed Christmas Tree and in person via a beautiful paper link chain which we hung on our door. Each link was a good deed connected to another good deed. I was proud of their effort and enthusiasm in this beautiful project. In January, we will learn the parts of the Mass and study the Blessed Trinity. *Mrs. Murphy*

Grade 8 Religion – In December, we will continue our Unit exploring how we can nourish God's gift of faith. In addition, we will learn about Advent and prepare for Christmas. Throughout Advent, the students performed good deeds as gifts to others and Jesus. They recorded these good deeds virtually on a Good Deed Christmas Tree, or in person via a beautiful paper link chain which we hung on our door. Each link was a good deed connected to another good deed. I was proud of their effort and enthusiasm in this beautiful project. In January, we will learn the parts of the Mass, God's Laws, and our love for God and others. *Mrs. Murphy*

Students of the Month-January

Preschool: Anastasia Odunusi
Kindergarten: Randy Defex Jr.
1st Grade: Gabriel Medina
2nd Grade: Lorr Etienne
3rd Grade: Theodore Weiner
4th Grade: Andrea Piril
5th Grade: Liliana Cubellotti
6th Grade: Kate De La Cruz
7th Grade: Javenus Dorbor
8th Grade: Daniel Mancebo
Congratulations to All!



Middle School Mathematics

Grade 7 Math - In December, we learned about Exponents, Factors and Fractions. We also continued our Word Problem Wednesdays to practice real-life applications of Math and problem-solving skills. In January, we will switch to *Finance Friday*, following a scholastic curriculum for Middle School, by applying Math to budgets and finances. We will finish our work with fractions and delve into Precision and Measurement. *Mrs. Murphy*

Grade 8 Math - In December, we entered the world of Real numbers and the coordinate plane. We continued having Word Problem Wednesdays to practice real-life applications and problem-solving skills. In January, we will switch to Finance Friday, following a scholastic curriculum for Middle School, by applying Math to budgets and finances. We will continue working in the coordinate plane with graphing and geometric transformations. *Mrs. Murphy*

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**The Hope of the
Harvest is in the
Seed.**

We're on the Web!
<http://blessedschoolpvd.com>

Middle School Science

Grade 7: Students have begun a unit on The Human Body System. Students will learn what the important nutrients are that your body needs, and how materials are transported through the body. There will be vocabulary exercises, reading assignments, online investigations and quizzes. All students have an online account and the website URL is www.pearsonrealize.com.

Grade 8: Students will begin a unit on Forces and Motion. Students will learn how different types of forces affect motion and how velocity is related to speed and acceleration. There will be vocabulary exercises, reading assignments, online investigations and quizzes. All students have an online account and the website URL is www.pearsonrealize.com

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