

# OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."



December 15th through December 19th

St. Joseph Community School's mission is that we are here to lead students to their fullest potential. We focus on four main categories: *academic excellency, faith, leadership, and service*. All of these categories are meant for them to thrive and also encounter Christ while on their journey.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCY

### FAITH

### LEADERSHIP

### SERVICE

*Proverbs 27:17*



What are you waiting for?

**START YOUR PATH HERE**



*"At St. Joe's, my faith was cultivated and intertwined with academics, volunteering, and athletics, and truly everything that we did. This was so valuable and formative during my growing up years, alongside what I was learning at home and at church about my faith."*

**Lydia Gessner // Class of '16**



# UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

All Month - Kindergarten Cocoa Stand

## Monday, December 22th

- 12 Days of Dress Up -
- 12 Days of Giving -

## Tuesday, December 23rd

- 12 Days of Dress Up -
- 12 Days of Giving -
- Advent Prayer Service at 8:30am
- 2 hour Early Out at 1pm

Have a very merry Christmas!!

\*Visit our school [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!\*

## UPCOMING ACTIVITY EVENTS

None this week!

Visit the activities [calendar](#) to see any changes or more information!



## OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:45am

Breakfast is served 7:45am-8:00am

School day begins 8:05am

School day ends 3:15pm



## WEEKEND MASS

### Saturday Mass Times

4pm at Holy Family

6pm at IC in North Washington or St. Boniface

### Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

9am at Holy Family



# MEET THE TEAMS

## *Early Childhood Team*

### 3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: A FUN WEEK OF LEARNING!

Colors- gray, pink, and purple  
Letters- Jj, Xx, Qq, and Ss  
Numbers- 6, 9, 7, and 0  
Shapes- Hexagon and Oval

We continued to work on our rhyming words and focused a lot on patterns. We talked about how patterns can be anything done together more than one time. Then we practiced identifying different patters we can make. We did SMART activities in our room this week including: flamingos, helicopters, stable table and we learned a new move called popcorn. We also worked with tactile trackers and focus sticks. We learned some new vocabulary this week and also read a story with Ted about The Dinosaur Park. We practiced our listening skills while listening to the story and then worked on our retelling skills with Ted. We also were able to attend the Christmas store to pick out a gift for our families. Then we worked hard to make another special gift for you. - **Mrs. Schueth**



### 4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Letters- X, Y, Z  
Numbers-6, 9, 12, 20  
Shapes-rectangle/prism, crescent, pentagon, oval  
Nursery rhyme- Baa Baa Black Sheep

During Station Rotation this week the preschoolers worked on number and letter identification, sorting items by sound, and fine motor skills. We enjoyed a trip to the kindergarten cocoa stand and going 'Christmas shopping' for our parents. The preschoolers finished the tree study by talking about tools people use for woodworking and trying out some wooden instruments! We end each day with some math time and this week the preschoolers created patterns, worked on counting, talked about shapes, and identified numbers. At snack one day, the preschoolers did some taste testing with different colored carrots: yellow, red, orange, and purple!

#### Upcoming dates

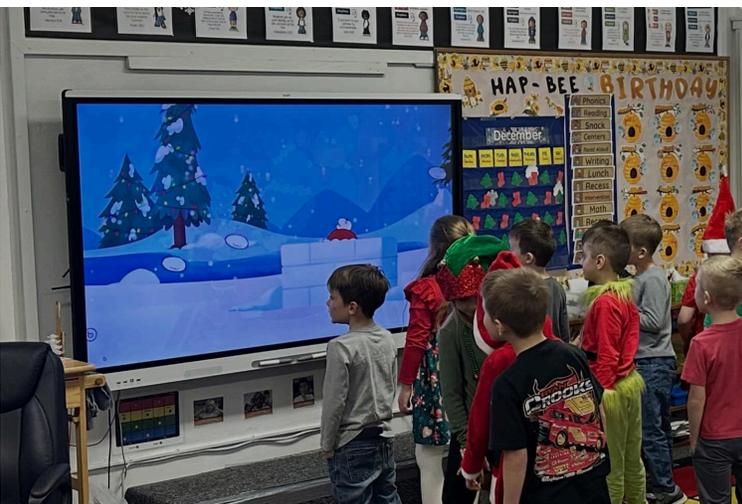
**December 23-** Early out

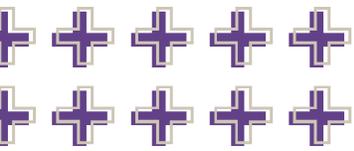
**December 24** - thru Jan. 2- no school for Christmas

**January 19** - No school for professional development

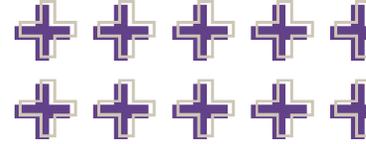
**January 25-31** - Catholic schools week

**January 29** - **ALL** preschoolers will need a cold lunch - **Mrs. Abbott**





# MEET THE TEAMS



## Early Childhood

### KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS:

We have been enjoying our weekly all-school Advent prayer services this month. What a blessing it is to gather as a school family to contemplate the real gift of this holiday season; Jesus. We learned the heart words, "you", "are", and "do" and practiced writing the letters q, x, and y. We continued our work with addition sentences as we learned to use the plus and equal signs to replace the words "and" and "is" in our joining stories. We can say 2 and 3 is 5 or we can say  $2+3=5$ . The gingerbread exchange letters continue to come in and we've enjoyed learning about which parts of our country are likely to get snow this time of year. Have a great week!

- Mrs. Flugum



### FIRST GRADE INSIDE SCOOP:

Happy Sunday and welcome to the fourth week of Advent. We have had some busy weeks leading up to Christmas and the excitement is filling the air. Last week we finished up our Christmas stories in writing. In math we are working on counting to 120 using 10's. Any extra practice at home counting forward or backwards would be great! In phonics we have worked with the letter r and l in small group rotations. We also have been working on our Advent books and getting ready for Christmas by reading Christmas stories and discussing the true meaning of Christmas as well. The students have been enjoying their dress up days and activities. We wish you and your family a very safe and happy Holiday Season! God Bless - Mrs. Heying

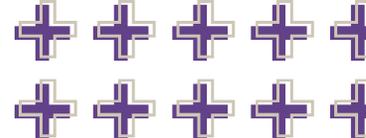
## Elementary Team

### SECOND GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

This week the second grade class prepared for mass celebrating the third week of advent. We are reminded of the journey that Mary and Joseph took towards Bethlehem. We are also reminded that God is with us in our journeys during this Advent season. The class moved into mental subtraction after learning about mental addition. We read the book Elevator Magic as we learned how to subtract by tens. We enjoyed some fun science lessons including Could you build a real house out of cookies and candy. -

Mrs. Rochford





# MEET THE TEAMS

## *Elementary Team*

### THIRD GRADE:

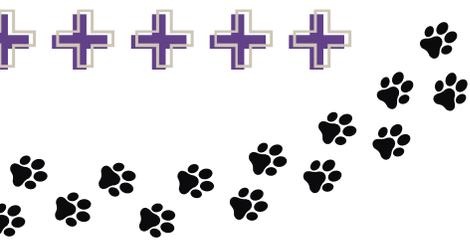
We finished Topic 5 this week and took our assessment. Our introduction to patterns in multiplication went well. Week 3 of Advent brought more thinking about how we are getting our hearts ready for Jesus's birth. The prayer service reminded us to be joyful and bring joy to others. Our class really stepped up by bringing items for our part of 12 Days of Giving. We brought joy and smiles to the Rotary when we sang on Thursday! Comparing stories by Janell Cannon has been interesting- so many similarities and a few differences. Each one has an awesome message of friendship and kindness. Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and blessed new year. - **Mrs. Herold**



### FOURTH GRADE:

This week was filled with meaningful learning and joyful moments in our classroom. Students were challenged to sell 2 bundles of their Night with St. Joes tickets. In doing so they will earn a ticket to an upcoming Mason City Toros home game, meet the team, and sit on the bench during warm ups. On Tuesday, students participated in Reconciliation, taking time to reflect, pray, and receive the Sacrament. It was a special opportunity for students to focus on forgiveness and spiritual growth. In Religion, we have been learning about Advent and preparing our hearts for Christmas. Students have been creating an Advent folder while exploring the important messages of Hope, Peace, and Joy. These discussions have helped students connect their faith to this sacred season. During our Interactive Read Aloud, we continued our author study of Janell Cannon and enjoyed reading Crickwing. Students made thoughtful connections between this story and other books by the author, especially noticing her detailed illustrations and strong character messages. In Math, students took their Unit 7 test, focusing on using estimation strategies to multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers. They have worked hard building confidence with these skills. We finished our week by heading off to the pub to sing songs for the Rotary group. Students enjoyed spreading some holiday cheer as they uplifted their voices and the spirits of the attendees. As we look ahead to the upcoming holiday season, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who attended our Christmas Concert. Your support means so much to our students and helped make the evening truly special. Warm regards, - **Mr. Larsen**

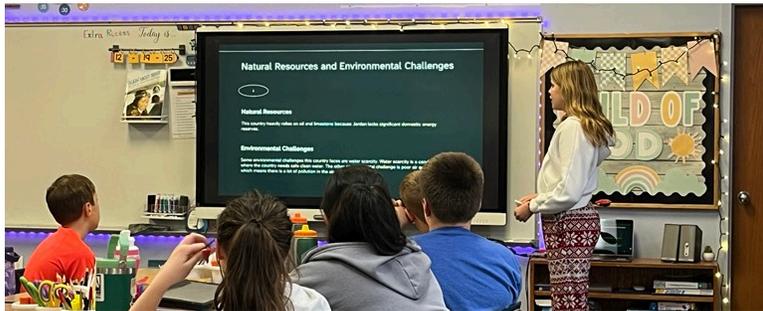
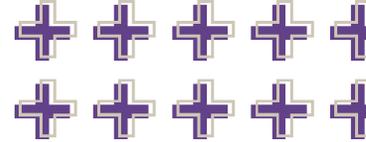




# MEET THE TEAMS

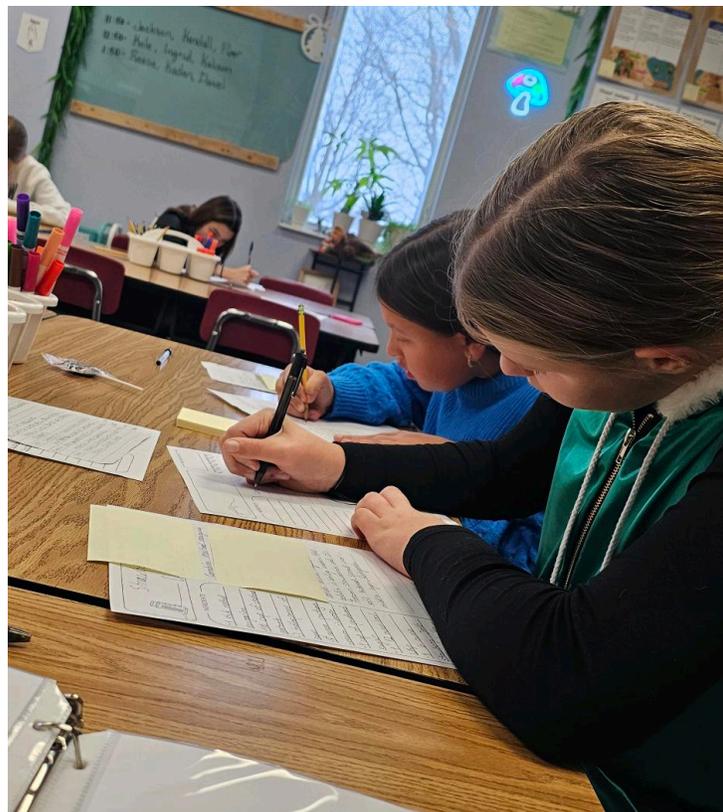
## Middle School Team

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:



To wrap up our first unit in Geography, students researched and created an in-depth project on a country of their choice, applying everything we learned about physical, environmental, and human geography. Each project included a detailed country map showing absolute and relative location, major landforms and topography, water features, climate zones, biomes, native plants and wildlife, natural resources, and environmental challenges. Students also explored human geography by researching the capital and major cities, level of development, major languages and religions, popular sports and cultural traditions, form of government, current head of state, and key economic information such as main industries, exports, and imports. To complete their projects, students included each country's flag and currency.

This week, students finished their projects and began presenting their research, with presentations continuing into next week—it was a joy to see their learning come alive as we “traveled” to Ireland, Madagascar, Jordan, Jamaica, South Korea, Norway, Germany, Fiji, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Portugal, Scotland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, the Bahamas, Greece, and Iceland, discovering fascinating facts along the way, from Iceland's volcanoes and glaciers to Madagascar's one-of-a-kind wildlife.. - Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald



# 12 Days of *Christmas* Dress Up Days

**December 8th - Merry & Bright**

(Red vs. Green, wear your favorite color and see which wins)

**December 9th - Twinkle Lights**

(Glow sticks, light-up necklaces, or LED accessories. NO flashing lights please)

**December 10th - Wrap It Up**

(Wear bows, ribbons, gift-tag accessories, or paper patterns)

**December 11th - Holiday Vacation**

(Think tropical Christmas—Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, leis, beach Santa vibes)

**December 12th - Flannel Friday**

(Wear your coziest flannel shirt or plaid outfit)

**December 15th - Merry Morning**

(Wear school-appropriate pajamas, slippers (or slipper socks), and comfy clothes)

**December 16th - Tree Topper**

(Holiday hats! Santa hats, elf hats, reindeer antlers, or tree toppers)

**December 17th - Festive Socks or Sweaters**

(Choose between crazy holiday socks or an ugly/festive sweater)

**December 18th - Holiday Character Day**

(Dress as or wear items inspired by elves, reindeer, snowmen, Grinch, etc.)

**December 19th - Candy Cane Day**

(Wear red and white, stripes, or peppermint-themed outfits)

**December 22nd - Blizzard Blue Day**

(Wear all blues, silvers, sparkles, or snowstorm-themed items.)

**December 23rd - All the Jingle Bells Day**

(Go all out with full holiday spirit—holiday shirts, accessories, bells, and festive colors)

# 12 Days of *Christmas* Giving

3 YO - Tooth Paste/Tooth Brushes

4 YO - Canned Fruit

K - Socks

1st - Toilet Paper

2nd - Baby Wipes

3rd - Shampoo and Conditioner

4th - Canned Vegetables

5th/6th - Laundry Detergent

7th/8th - Body Wash/Soap

Office - Mouth Wash

Teachers - Feminine Hygiene Products

Support Staff - Deodorant