OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

March 30th through April 3rd

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

www.stjosephcommunity school.com

@stjosephcommunityschool

216 N.Broadway
New Hampton, IA 50659

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Monday, March 30th
Step Africa Field Trip
(Remember NO LUNCH so bring sack lunch and drink)
Conferences - Early Out

Tuesday, March 31st
All School Stations of the Cross
Conferences - Early Out

Wednesday, April 1st
No School - Spring Break

Thursday, April 2nd
No School - Spring Break
Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm at Immaculate Conception in North Washington

Friday, April 3rd
No School - Spring Break
Good Friday Service at 1pm at Holy Family Church

Visit our school calendar to see more upcoming events!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catholic schools are an important option for families and Senate File 2425/House File 2713 helps strengthen and support our schools. These bills expand access to preschool, provide added flexibility for ESA enrollment, and improve access to funding for school facilities. We encourage families to contact their state legislators to express support for these efforts. Your voice matters in sustaining Catholic education across Iowa. Click here to send your legislator(s) a message.

IT'S TIME TO PICK A WORD...

The word of the homily this week was ***opportunity.***

Father Chris reflected on Good Friday, where we witness two different responses to Christ. One group ignored Him and chose to crucify Him, while the other remained close, staying near Him and praying with Him in His suffering.

In the coming week, we are given that same opportunity: to draw near to Him, to stay with Him, and to pray. It is important that we recognize and embrace these moments as chances to live out and strengthen our faith.

Christ died for our sins, conquered death, and rose again so that we might be united with Him. Take this week to reflect on the deep and personal love He has for each and every one of you



OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:50 am

Breakfast is served 7:50am-8:00am

School day begins 8:05am

School day ends 3:15pm

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Mass Times

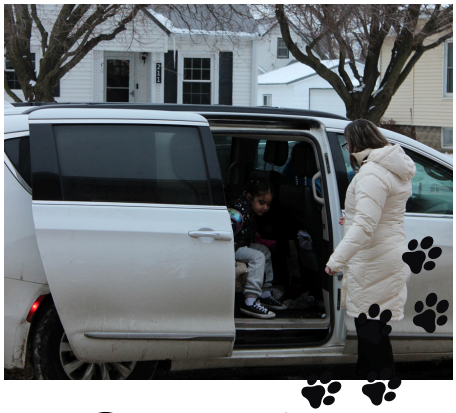
4pm at Holy Family

6pm at IC in North Washington or St. Boniface

Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

10 am at Holy Family



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ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

MEET THE TEAMS

Early Childhood Team

3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Colors- All Colors
Letters- Dd, Gg, Hh, Ll
Numbers- 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19
Shapes- Hexagon, Pentagon, Crescent, Trapezoid, and Rhombus

It is beginning to look ad feel more like spring and Easter is right around the corner. This week we were very busy finishing our Chick Art, making Easter eggs, and cutting grass for our fine motor skills mural on the wall outside our room. These little artists worked hard and made such beautiful projects. During TED we talked about growing. We looked at baby animals and talked about the different names for them such as a horse is a colt and a chicken is a chick. We then also talked about how adding er and est to the end of words such as big and younger and what they mean. We then looked at pictures and used the words to fit them. We also talked about he weather changing and the seasons as well as started to read a story called Billy Walk's that goes along with growing. We will continue to work with this story next week. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at conferences on Monday and Tuesday. Just a reminder that if your child is in wraparound preschool that you will need to bring a home lunch for tomorrow Monday March 30th.
-Mrs. Schueth

4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Letters-long U, review
Numbers-25, 26, 27, 28
Shapes-rhombus, circle, hexagon, square
Nursery rhyme- Jack Be Nimble

This week we finished up our building study by talking bout what might be happening inside different buildings we saw in pictures. We started a unit of study on insects. Last week, the preschoolers started some insect observation journals because the praying mantis egg cases and caterpillars came. Each week they will be drawing what they observe in their journals. They are already so excited at how quickly the caterpillars have grown. During station rotation, the preschoolers have been working on phonic skills by creating compound words, finding pictures that start with a specific sounds, and doing picture story, word story. They also did some work with numbers and counting.
-Mrs. Abbott

Upcoming dates
March 31st- Everyone brings a home lunch!
March 30 and 31- conferences
April 1-6 - no school
April 24-Muffins with Moms
May 19- preschool last day and graduation- more information to come!

KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS:

In religion this week, we learned about the Stations of the Cross in preparation for our all-school prayer next week. We also learned about Palm Sunday as we begin to prepare our hearts for Holy Week. Our new heart words this week are “ate,” “our,” and “who.” We also continued our work with the digraphs “sh” and “th.” We read "Market Day" by Lois Ehlert and watched a video of the author explaining how she creates her collage-style illustrations. Inspired by her work, we created our own "Market Day" collage art! In social studies, we learned about the difference between buying and borrowing, as well as what a budget is. In math, we explored the concepts of height and weight and completed our Topic 12 assessment. In Topic 13, we will begin learning how to sort objects by their attributes. As we look ahead to Holy Week and the joy of Easter, I hope your family finds time for rest, reflection, and time together. Wishing you a peaceful and blessed week ahead!- **Mrs. Flugum**

MEET THE TEAMS

Early Childhood Team

FIRST GRADE INSIDE SCOOP:

Happy Palm Sunday! As we enter this last week of Lent we have been reflecting on Jesus journey. We also had our mass last Friday! Thank you to all of you who helped your child practice at home! In math students have been working on graphing. They are using picture graphs to look at information. In writing they did an opinion piece of their choice as well. Be sure to ask them what they chose and the reasons for it. In social studies we focused on how we get what we need and want. This is focusing on goods and services and well as consumers and producers for example. We hope you have a wonderful spring break and can spend quality time with your loved ones during this Lenten/Easter season! - **Mrs. Heying**

Elementary Team

SECOND GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

This week the second grade class learned about landforms and the earth's surface. In this lesson, students made hypotheses and investigated the causes of canyons. In the activity, students created a model landform using cornmeal. Then they dripped water over this "land" to observe how water can change its shape and to understand how, over long periods of time, canyons can be formed through a similar process. The class is preparing for the unit assessment next week. Make sure to talk to your student about some of the new vocabulary words they learned this week. **- Mrs. Rochford**

THIRD GRADE:

We had Jessica from Iowa Farm Bureau talk about livestock IDs and did a really fun activity showcasing how important it is for farmers to know their animals. This is another lesson we will use when we go to the NICC Dairy Barn in May. In Math we continued talking about finding equivalent fractions and practicing topics we may need to remember for the ISASP test in a couple of weeks. Religion this week focused on the feast of the Annunciation and preparing for Holy Week. It always feels good to remember Jesus's great sacrifice for all of us through His death on the cross. During our reading rotations, we continue to build vocabulary and fluency skills with our passages. The students are doing a great job adding enthusiastic voices to match the tone of the story. Each day they show more and more improvements! **- Mrs. Herold**

FOURTH GRADE:

It has been a fun and engaging week in our classroom!

In Reading, we enjoyed *Crouching Tiger* by Ying Chang Compestine. This story gave us a great opportunity to explore elements of Chinese culture. We watched a video of a traditional Lion Dance, learned about the meaning and celebrations of Chinese New Year, and even tried some Tai Chi movements. The students had a wonderful time experiencing these traditions in an interactive way. **In Social Studies**, we wrapped up our unit on the Iditarod and began an exciting new unit on the history of communication. We discussed how early humans communicated through cave paintings and explored the famous cave paintings of Lascaux Cave in southwestern France. To bring this learning to life, students created their own "cave paintings" using smashed berries and Q-tips—such a creative and memorable activity! We also kicked off the first round of our annual *March Madness Book Battle*. The excitement is building as students read, vote, and cheer on their favorite books. Stay tuned to see which book will be crowned this year's Book Battle Champion! Thank you for your continued support, **- Mr. Larson**

MEET THE TEAMS

Middle School Team

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Our middle school students are taking an exciting journey through Earth's history, discovering how our planet has changed over time. They are learning how powerful forces like volcanoes and earthquakes shape landforms, while also exploring how rock layers form and what the fossil record reveals about the past. To bring these concepts to life, students even used Jolly Ranchers to model rock layers—stacking and pressing them together to demonstrate how layers build up and compact over time. This hands-on activity made it easier to visualize how Earth's surface tells a story millions of years in the making. In 7th and 8th grade exploratory, students are stepping into the role of engineers through engaging, hands-on projects. They have been designing and building rubber band cars and electric cars, learning about energy, motion, and design through trial and error. Next, they will shift their focus to renewable energy by building wind turbines and exploring how green energy can power our world. These experiences are helping students think critically, collaborate, and connect their learning to real-world innovation.

- Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs.Denner, and Mrs. McDonald

Specials

MUSIC NOTES:

It has been an exciting week in music! We're finishing up our international dance experience by spending a little time walking down memory at home. Students have been working on learning the mechanics of the Jitterbug and disco. We have also worked with Native American and Hispanic American dance forms. Exposure to music in dance helps to learn keeping the beat and helps with performance of music of all kinds. We will take what we have learned about rhythm detection now and apply it to singing and playing instruments next week. We're looking forward to exciting work ahead this spring!

- Mr. Speltz and Mrs. Schueth

Specials

PE:

This week in PE, students focused on building their catching skills and improving hand-eye coordination through a variety of engaging activities. They also enjoyed learning and playing a new version of dodgeball that helped students work on movement and safe play. In addition, we continued developing basic badminton skills, with students practicing control and coordination using rackets and speeders. In anticipation of playing Speedminton. It was a great week of skill-building and active participation!

- Mr. Henry and Mrs. Larsen

OUR ART GALLERY:

We are so blessed to have Mrs. Boge as our art teacher! With her college training in art, she brings fun and engaging lessons every week while teaching the fundamentals of art. Check out your students' incredible masterpieces, they're truly inspiring!



