



330 Newark Pompton Turnpike  
Pequannock, New Jersey 07440

# Newsletter



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November 2018

## Dates of Interest:

11/21/2018  
Thanksgiving School  
Prayer Service 12 pm

11/21/2018  
Early Dismissal  
12:30 pm Gr. K-8  
For Thanksgiving  
NO PM Child Care

12/2/2018  
Breakfast with  
Santa

12/9/2018  
Holy Spirit  
School Students  
Present  
"Lessons in  
Carols"

12/18/2018  
Christmas Program  
PreK-4  
10:00 AM

12/18/2018  
Christmas Program &  
Nativity Pageant Gr. K-8  
7:00 PM

12/19/2018  
Christmas Program  
PreK-3  
10:00 AM

## Our Thanksgiving Prayer

*Good and gracious God, we come before You today united with all who give you thanks and praise. Fill us with gratitude for Your many blessings, both physical and spiritual.*

*We thank You in particular this day for the gifts of food and family. Bless this food, Lord, that it may nourish our bodies.*

*Bless our family especially those who can't be with us today.*

*Also today, we remember those of our family who have gone to be with You.*

*Grant us Your spiritual blessings and help us pray daily for the grace to serve You in response to Your bountiful gifts to us. Bless all who serve You throughout the World.*

*We pray this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, and Our Lord, who gives all things freely according to our needs.*

*Continue to bless us and give us Your Peace.*

*Sr. Marie and the Staff of Holy Spirit School*



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## Class News

### Pre-K 3

The Pre-K3 children have been learning some numbers and letters. We are learning how to count in Spanish, and in French.

It is truly amazing to see the children exposed to different languages other than their own.

This month of October is Fire Prevention. We discussed to the children about the role of a Fire Fighter, their equipment, fire truck, and demonstrating a stop, drop and roll activity.

We were very lucky to have a Township fire truck, fire chief, and 2 Firefighters come to our School. The children were even allowed to go inside the fire truck. The Firefighter allowed the children to try on their fire hat which we found was very heavy. It is truly amazing to have children have real-life experiences.

The Pre-K children are very excited to get ready to celebrate, "Halloween". The children will be dressing up in a costume, having a pumpkin patch to pick their very own pumpkin and going Trunk or Treating. We are reading so many Halloween stories, and acting out poems. One of our ultimate favorite poems is titled "Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate".

### Pre-K 4



We have been very busy in the PreK4 classroom!



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We have been discussing letters of the alphabet and their sounds along with learning numbers and how to write them. The students have been also been practicing writing their names. We have been studying apples and pumpkins the past few weeks. The students learned the parts of an apple and pumpkin and the life cycles of each. We thought of the many delicious foods that are made with them.

Last week, the Pequannock Township Engine Company 1 visited our PreK3 and PreK4 classes and spoke with us about fire safety. Each student got the chance to go inside the fire truck. Some of the children tried on a real firefighter's helmet! One of our students showed everyone how to stop, drop and roll. We have been singing fire safety songs to help the children remember what to do in case of a fire.

## Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, the students are working so well with each other and learning how to make new friends. We briefly went over each letter in the alphabet and will move onto one or two letters per week! We talked about the characteristics of shapes and 3D shapes. We have been making observations about the caterpillars in the classroom that are in the cocoon phase of their life cycle. We read from the Children's Bible every day and talk about all the simple things God has made for us: sun, moon, water and more. September was a great month filled with learning games, crafts and having fun!

## First Grade

First graders have been working on so many new and exciting things. In Religion we are learning about how Mary and Joseph were chosen to be Jesus' parents and about Creation and Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Language Arts, we have been working on our short vowel words helping the students become stronger readers. We have been talking about fiction and non-fiction and the differences between them. We have read several interesting stories about animals and learning about how to take care of them in all types of environments and the children are really enjoying this. We have started working on addition facts in Math. In Social Studies we have been discussing the past and the present and how things have changed in school from long ago to how it is right now. The children enjoyed watching videos on this and seeing how students from Kindergarten to 8th grade were all in a one-room schoolhouse and the different clothes and toys they use to have. We also discussed Christopher Columbus and about how he discovered America and learned a new song about him





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## Second Grade

Religion – We are learning the Act of Contrition before our first Penance and Reconciliation in December. We are also busy learning about the Sacraments God gave us. We have learned that at Baptism we become children of God and members of the Church.

Social Studies: Second grade **working together to illustrate** a rural community for our end of the Unit review.

Math – We are learning about place value and how to write numbers through 100. We are very excited that soon we will begin adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. This can be a difficult concept for us but if we practice at home, we will get better.

Writing – We are working hard on writing paragraphs. We began with a Personal Narrative that was fun.

Science- We have been learning about different life cycles in science! Ask me what I have learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin, a frog, and butterfly! We will also be working on our first STEM project this month.



## Third Grade

The 3rd grade class is off to a great start in the 2018-2019 school year. They are working hard in all they do. With only a few weeks of 3rd grade completed and superb things accomplished, this year is guaranteed to be a great one!

Every day the 3rd graders are finding ways to be a true disciple of Jesus. They have read different Bible passages and important facts about various saints. They also have been practicing very hard for their All Saint's Day performance and are excited to tell everyone about their saint.

The students are all enthusiastic readers and have completed the first Reading Unit. They enjoyed each of the stories read. The students have been working hard on their interpretation and comprehension of the stories. They have also been using their critical thinking skills to answer many questions.

In Math, the students began the year by exploring place value up to the millions place. They continue to practice and shine in addition. Before they know it, it will be time to dive into the chapter of multiplication. They are all very eager to start that chapter.

The students are always very excited to turn into scientists during Science class. They have studied the many types of living things in the world and loved every minute of it. They were great scientists when they completed their first science experiment, forming their own hypothesis and making careful observations.

In Social Studies, the students studied the characteristics of the different kinds of communities. They are also continuing to work on their map skills. The upcoming hemisphere project is sure to be a favorite of the 3rd Grade.

The 3rd Graders are grateful to the Pequannock Valley Rotary Club who presented each student with their own dictionary. They are all excited to start using it. Another exciting skill in 3rd Grade is cursive handwriting. Each week the students are practicing their cursive letters. They can't wait to start using their erasable pens after New Year's. It has been a wonderful start to the school year and they are all looking forward to what is to come!



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## Fourth Grade

It's a great time to be in 4th Grade! There are so many exciting things going on this year. We have begun Multiplication! We are expanding on our knowledge of the times tables to multiplying very large numbers by 1- and 2-digit multipliers. In Social Studies we have started to study about the 3 branches of our government, its leaders, its responsibilities, and where business is done for that branch. We will be moving on very shortly to an in-depth study of each region of the United States, where we will create PowerPoint presentations and use the school's brand new Green Screen. We will continue our Earth Science studies as we move forward from landforms, underwater features, and the inside of the Earth, to the study of Rocks, Minerals, and Soil. We have been settling in nicely to class routines and policies, and are becoming a cohesive team as we work together, respecting each other and collaborating on this year's journey. 4th grade –

In reading, students have been learning context clues, exploring figurative language, antonyms & synonyms, as well as parts of a story. In writing, students have utilized the writing process to compose paragraphs with a specific purpose for a range of audiences!

## Fifth Grade

In reading, students have been interpreting the meaning of unknown words and phrases using strategies such as figurative language, word relationships, and signal word context clues, as well as learning parts of a story. In writing, students have been utilizing strategies to organize, develop and edit clear and coherent paragraph writing using appropriate conventions. In religion, students are exploring how Jesus Christ shares His life with us through the sacraments. In social studies, students have been learning about early life in the Eastern and Western hemispheres plus the Native Americans of North America.

5th Grade Math: We have just completed our unit on division with single-digit divisors. The class is putting the finishing touches on their division projects this week and we are jumping into division with two-digit divisors

## Sixth Grade

In 6th Grade, the students start each morning with a reflection on the day's Gospel and then move on to "Saint of the Day". We've been studying the Ancient World in both Religion and Social Studies, making connections between Genesis, and Egypt and Fertile Crescent. Ask your 6<sup>th</sup> grader to tell you about Abraham in Mesopotamia or Joseph in Egypt. In LA students are working on personal narratives and completed an essay for the VFW Patriot's Pen Contest. The class also just finished the novel *The Westing Game*. The students will complete a project casting *The Westing Game* movie, using the character descriptions from the book and putting their choices into a power point presentation. We also analyzed the many colorful characters and then we each made Wanted Posters with our choice for the criminal.

In Science, students have been learning about the process of the scientific method and now are accurate measurers. Students have learned about the various properties of matter and constructed density columns. Students are continuing to learn about how matter combines as mixtures and compounds.



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## *Seventh Grade*

The 7th grade students in social studies have been very busy. The students participated in debates on topics ranging from “Should Teachers be Replace by Robots” to “Should Bullies be Legally Punished for Bullying”. The students had varying opinions on all the topics.

On November 14 the social studies class will be present a Museum Diorama on the major battles of the Civil War. In religion, the students have been learning about God’s love for us through studying scripture to listening to the TED talk for Pope Francis.

The students just finished their first reading unit during which they analyzed how text parts contribute to the whole story. They read a variety of short stories and identified plot components such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. They analyzed literary elements including setting, conflicts, and events that advance the plot to understand each’s impact on the story. Additionally, students developed a variety of active reading skills to promote reading comprehension. During the next reading unit, students will read a variety of autobiographies.

In language arts class, they started off the year learning about the proper use of punctuation in writing. They now have a wealth of knowledge about where to use the dreaded comma and why! Their first writing workshop had those identifying characteristics that constitute effective how-to writing, and each student wrote a formal party invitation that included “how-to” driving directions to the party. The next writing unit will explore narrative writing.

In Science, the students have learned about the scientific method and how to analyze and interpret data. Students have learned to collect data and construct data tables and graphs that accurately represent their findings. Students are currently learning about the periodic table and why atoms combine. They have learned how to make Bohr models and Electron Dot diagrams. Students will continue working on their chemistry skills as they learn about compounds and molecules and learn to write chemical equations.

## *Eighth Grade*

It is not always easy being the oldest in the school. Ask any of the eighth graders, and they will tell you the very special and daunting task of conquering the research paper is not for the faint-hearted. However, that is exactly what each eighth grader will do by the end of this year. As of now, students have considered topics, gathered and arranged ideas and have begun researching reliable websites and databases. To acquire top of the notch advice, this November, we are planning a two-period field trip to visit the Pequannock library where the eighth grade will be given in-depth details on how to find scholarly research online. They will also be given opportunities to discover hidden gems within the hard copies found there. Imagine that? They usually cannot either, until they find that perfect source.

Simultaneously, students have been applying what they know about the Seven Traits of Writing to develop a connections chart depicting all the ways the Seven Traits interconnect to form excellent writing. Students were then able to apply the tricks they absorbed into writing, revising and editing a research-based narrative. These narratives were then entered into the Patriot’s Pen contest where students were asked to express why they honor the American flag.

In Literature, students delved into an array of autobiographies such as Reeve Lindberg’s “Flying” and Christopher Reeve’s “Still Me” and the biography “Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad” by Ann Petry as a way to not only compare and contrast what makes them what they are, but the entities found within including author’s



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purpose and effective sequencing. In November, students will begin their journey into reading “The Outsiders” by S.E. Hinton.

The 8th in religion have covered the Blessed Trinity and the gifts God gives them. They have also started the book “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”. Every Friday Fr. David comes to talk with the children about their faith. Officer Steve will be coming in on Wednesdays to speak with the children about social issues...

The highlight of 8th grade science has been experiencing first-hand the scientific research process in our very own lab. Students are currently researching the effects of caffeine on the height, flower production, seed production, and overall health of the Brassica rapa plant. Using Wisconsin fast plants, each group has planted the seeds, watered, measured, maintained proper light and heat, and observed the growth of as germination has occurred and growth continues. Once the true leaves emerged, each plant was watered with either distilled water or caffeine solutions of 1x, 2xs, 3xs, or 4xs concentration. By collecting data and making qualitative observations daily, the students will either reject or accept their original hypotheses made before they planted their seeds. The scientific writing process is also a focus of this research project. Each student will submit a formal lab report including a detailed procedure, clear graphs, and thorough data analysis, and they will each present their conclusions via Flipgrid. This project will help them as they prepare to design and complete their own individual research projects this spring, where they will present their research at the annual Science Symposium.



## STEM

Grade 5 STEM has been working on their engineering skills. They have learned the importance of both verbal and non-verbal communication, as well as making clear observations. They used LEGOS to creatively design structures and explain what use their unique structure would have, while incorporating creative writing in their storytelling. Most recently, they have designed and created “Halloween Bat Flyers” to see how wing shape and weight distribution affects flight. Upcoming lessons and challenges will involve using sketches to build structures and working as a team to design, build, and test products to solve problems.





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Grade 6 STEM has been working on their communication skills. In building gumdrop structures, students developed their communication skills of speaking, listening and writing instructions. The students have been learning about the design process. They have used some of the skills they have learned to construct 'bone bridges'. Students worked with a partner to design and build a bridge made of Q-tips that would support a small pumpkin.

Grade 7 STEM, The seventh graders have been busy using the Engineering Design Process in problem solving. They started the year focusing on making decisions as a team in the "Deserted Island" challenge, quickly realizing that having to make decisions as a team isn't as easy as it seems. They explored inventions and gadgets to determine which are the most important to themselves and society and determined the problems those gadgets were designed to solve. It was interesting to hear how none of them think they could live in a world without Wi-Fi! Most recently, they were "hired" by Mr. Popper's Popcorn Company to design a popcorn container out of just paper and tape that could hold exactly 293 pieces of popcorn, with none spilling over and no extra space inside. The trick was they could only use 10 pieces as a guide. After designing and testing, teams were sent back to the drawing board to alter their design and keep trying. All teams were successful and may have future career opportunities in the package design industry!

Grade 8 STEM, has started the year building on and improving their skills in critical thinking, problem solving, following directions, and working together as a team. From rescuing people stranded on an island to designing and creating a candy grabber to pick up candy from a distance, they are using the engineering design process and important STEM skills to create, analyze, design, lead, and think. They are looking forward to starting their next unit on forensic science/engineering, with the culminating project being creating their own crime scenes.