

CRY OF THE CARDINAL

St. John Lutheran School
Wrightstown, WI

IGNITE. INFUSE. INSPIRE.

September 23, 2016
Issue #2

SCHOOL INFORMATION & EVENTS

Soccer

Soccer practices next week will be the 26 and 28 with any student currently enrolled able to participate.

Cross Country

Congratulations to Matteah and Miranda Gehl on their first cross country meet of the season. Any students in grades three through eight are eligible to compete. There are two meeting remaining for those who are interested.

Cut and Color Volunteers-Thank You!!

A huge thank you to all of those who gave so freely of their time to work on coloring projects for us! The files are all done or in the process of being done. We will let you know when there are more projects we are looking to get done. Our next step in the process is laminating the projects. If anyone is interested in learning to run our laminator, please let me know. I can get it running and show you how to put the pieces through. This job would have to be done at the school.

Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten Field Trip

Please be aware that the first field trip for our early childhood classrooms is coming up on October 5th, a Wednesday. My apologies for not having it on school's google calendar earlier. We will be leaving school at 9:30, heading to 1000 Islands in Kaukauna for exploration and lunch, and leaving to return to school at 12:30. We will be taking a bus for the trip, but would still like to get some parents to help us chaperone. Please let Miss Buss or I know if you are able to help out. If your child is only scheduled for a half day, please be aware that we will be running late for pickups. Lunches on the day of the field trip should be cold items only; we will have no microwave available for us. –Mrs. Wicks

Educational Testing

Mrs. Wicks is looking for one child whose parents may be interested in learning more about their educational strengths and weaknesses. The testing is done as a requirement of the graduate course *Diagnosing and Assessing the Special Needs Child* and is best applied to a child with some level of educational struggle, though the child being tested does not need to have special needs. The assessments will cover reading, math, written language, and some behavioral needs. The child will need to be available to take a series of assessments after school during the weeks of October 3rd and 10th. Testing dates and times can be arranged around parent schedules to a large degree. The work will benefit the child and their family in pointing out areas that extra focus may need to be applied. If you would like to have your child considered for the assessments, please let Mrs. Wicks know. You will receive the full results when testing is complete.

Brightwheel

St. John Lutheran is making use of this app for your smartphone or tablet to aid us in several key areas: communication with home and parents, attendance, event information, school updates, photos, and student account balances. We are looking to have 100% participation through this app to simplify all of the processes that would otherwise take large amounts of time. If you haven't received a password to sign up for this app, please let Mr. Raddatz know as soon as possible. The true benefits of this app allow parents to have instant access to their child's day, teacher, and useful information.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Buss (Preschool)

Greetings! I can't believe that our third week of school is done already! Time sure does fly when you are having fun!

The past few weeks, if you have been keeping up with us on Brightwheel, we have played several games and sang several songs that helped to teach different shapes to the children. While our shape of the month is a circle, we have also worked on identifying triangles, squares, and the tricky rectangle. Also in the subject of math, we have focused on the number 2 with the help of Number Bear. We also have started to work on counting while pointing to objects (instead of just counting to ten orally.)

Our literacy work in the last month has progressed with a continued focus on name recognition. The kids and I have worked on this concept through games, picking out their name on a daily basis and "Checking themselves in", and we recently started working on writing their names. Name recognition is also being covered in Music class through games like musical chairs where they have to find their name and sit when the music stops. Lots of fun sure occurs while we are learning in our room! Besides name recognition we are also working on letter recognition by saying the letters in our names, by finding them and hitting certain letters with balls and fly swatters, and also through games like Boggle Jr.

The physical education portion of our classroom has focused on identifying parts of the body like head, shoulder, knees, and toes. We have also added more tricky parts of the body like the wrist, elbow, and ankles. We have focused on certain parts of the body and how many different ways it can bend (for example the knee can only bend back so it can only bend one way.) This has allowed us to continue identifying basic parts of the body, moving them, while also incorporating a math component in our games.

Music classes have started to teach the students the concepts of the opposites of fast and slow, loud and quiet, and up and down. We have also played our music instruments in our room freely while identifying what their correct names are, like the drum, and the tambourine. As previously stated we have also incorporated math and literacy concepts in our work.

Our religion focus this month has studied what God is like, how God created everything, wonderful details of how God created Adam and Eve, and next week we will finish the month by looking at how sin came into the world and what sin is exactly (disobeying God.)

Have a wonderful rest of the month of September, and watch for the next update in October when we will have a new month number, shape, and color to report on. Blessings on your weeks ahead.

I leave you with this Bible passage to help focus us all on Christ - Psalm 91:2 - I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Mrs. Wicks (Prek & K)

I hope that everyone is adjusting to their new schedules by now. I know that the first few weeks of school can be rough on young ones and parents as they work so hard during the day and then collapse emotionally at night.

The students have been doing very well in class. Kindergarteners are fully into their first grade level Saxon math program and have completed their first Superkid language arts book. Pre-K students are exploring the Kindergarten level Saxon math program, working their way through numbers to learn how to write them properly. They have been exploring letter C and letter O. I am especially proud of how some of their handwriting is coming along. If they practice their names, letters, or numbers at home, please encourage them to use their “pinchy fingers” (gripping the writing utensil correctly) and to start their strokes at the top of the letter or number rather than the bottom.

Both groups have been learning about the five senses, with afternoon children diving deeper into human anatomy. Afternoon students may enjoy telling you about our digestive system experiment: we showed how food gets chewed, mixed with spit, goes down a tube (getting pushed down along the way so that it doesn't come back up), mixes more in the stomach, and goes through ‘a long snaky tube’ (intestines) where the good parts come out, leaving the rest to be pooped out. We used oats to show the process, getting mixed, and pushed through nylon ‘intestines’ where a portion leaked out.

Mrs. Bunn (Grades 1-3)

We had a good week despite the disappointment of our Baird's Creek field trip cancellation. Our FIELDS educator will try to reschedule with us at a later time. I will keep you updated.

You may have noticed a new sheet coming home in your child's folder. This sheet is to track how many and how often your child completes a number of classroom tasks. When your child is not in class or completing class work, he/she has some required activities and other choices for occupying the rest of their time at school. Some of these activities reinforce concepts learned in class and some are learning activities to improve logical reasoning, problem-solving, creativity, and to explore how technology can assist in their learning. For example this week, students are required to watch math videos and complete math tasks on the Khan Academy app, practice basic facts on the Xtra Math app, and do silent reading/ listening of classroom books or use the Epic or Tumblebooks apps. Then they will have a number of options like an art center activity. Their favorite so far was an art/science activity using “chemical potions”. They also had access to various STEM building toys like brain flakes and Snap Circuits. Another favorite activity is using puppets to create a story with a beginning, middle, and end along with a problem and a solution. We will also use games for learning like a math facts game called “Doubles Dash. Be sure to ask your child what they do when they are not in class. I'm sure they would love to tell you about all these extra learning activities.

Mr. Raddatz

We have lurched out of the blocks as we are entering our third full week of school and classes. In religion, our focus this year will be bible history. Pastor Gehl's catechism class is every Tuesday and Thursday. All students in grades 6, 7, and 8 participate in these catechism classes each week. In math, we are looking at several different topics: improper fractions, order of operations, exponents, rules of working with x , $+$, $-$, and $/$ problems. Grammar has all grades looking at sentence structure, and grammatical rules as we look to dive into the varying parts that make up sentences. In literature, we are studying poetry this quarter, with are start being Haiku poems. Throughout the rest of the quarter we will take a look at sonnets, ballads, rhythms, alliteration, and several other types of poems and parts of poems. Fifth grade science is focusing our semester on insects, sixth grade on biology, and seventh grade on astronomy.

Our classroom continues to fine tune behaviors and attitudes in the classroom. We are currently using *Classcraft* as a visual management system to hopefully make longer sustained progress in regards to overall studious habits and personal behaviors. Habits and behaviors, not limited to but including, entering and exiting conversation, thinking of kind mindful responses to questions and others, self-control in physical responses, patience in working by ourself and others, and problem solving.

There are two cross country events left this season, if anyone is still looking to join the two runners who ran in the first meet this past week. One meet is hosted by Immanuel Lutheran in Greenville, and the other is hosted by St. Mark in Green Bay. Please let me know if your son or daughter would like to join as registration is needed to enter these events.

St. John is looking into hosting a citywide, area wide 5K Color Run/Walk. Would you join us? Would your family join us? Would your coworkers, friends, neighbors, or acquaintances join us? As we look to plan this annual Spring event, we would like to see where our interest levels are. Please email Mr. Raddatz with any input you may have about this exciting opportunity.

