

Greetings of Peace In The Month Of May!

I love the month of May. It is the month where we can finally say that the long, cold winter is over and God's promise of new life is showing it's face all around us...flowers are blooming, the days are longer and summer is ahead!

This is the special month where we remember our second grade students who will receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion for the very first time. Their childlike innocence and excitement to receive Jesus is a lesson to all of us. Congratulations to Mrs. Doyle, who has prepared our children for this very special day.

May is the month when we set aside a special day to honor those wonderful women who gave each of us the gift of life – our mothers. To all mothers, grandmothers and special women in our lives, Happy Mother's Day!

May is also the month we honor the brave men and women who have given their lives throughout the history of our great nation, and we salute those now serving. May the Lord bless and keep them.

Thank you for your support and partnership in Catholic education.

Peace, Sr. Patty

MAY NEWS

St. Thomas School PTO Many thanks to our families that supported the Easter Plant and Pastry Fundraiser! Your participation was greatly appreciated! Special thanks go to our PTO members, Melissa Lizardi, Sarah Napoli, Sarah Niemiec and Kimberly Sweeney for helping out with this very successful fundraiser! Remember to SAVE THE DATE for our PTO's West Springfield Savers Fundrive–Saturday, May 14.

Water Bottles The warmer weather will be coming soon. Please remember to send your child with a refillable water bottle every day! Your children can refill their water bottles at our water bottle refilling water stations located throughout the school.

Spring Concert We are looking forward to our school Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 25 at 12:15 in the church. All grades, preschool through grade 8 will participate. Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

All School Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser On Thursday, June 2nd, we will be holding our second annual - All School Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser. Last year it was an overwhelming success. Let's do it again this year! Information and pledge sheets will be sent home very soon to all of our families.

Monday, May 30 – No school in observance of Memorial Day

GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS!

Our apologies to Emily Werner in grade 4! Emily was also part of the girl's 3rd & 4th grade CYO team that won all of their games this year! Great season girls!

Easter Fun! Many of our classrooms enjoyed 'the thrill of the hunt' as they searched for hidden Easter eggs in their classrooms and outdoors on school grounds! Some of the eggs contained small treasures or sweet treats. A great time was had by all the students!

"We Can Change The World With Our Own Two Hands"...that was the theme for Mrs. Canata and Mrs. D'Ordine's 3 year old preschool classroom as they celebrated our earth with many fun activities. They planted grass and made sure it got plenty of sun and water, the children were amazed how tall the grass grew! They learned about what can be recycled and how they can reuse some items to turn into treasures. They even got really busy and picked up the school's courtyard to make our earth a happier place!

Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Champiney's preschool class loved learning all about dinosaurs! They can probably share with you many interesting facts and also tell you the names of many of the dinosaurs. The children dug for dinosaur bones and fossils in a classroom sandbox excavation site. They found many different sized bones and fossils which they then sorted, measured and compared the sizes and shapes of the bones and fossils.

Dinosaurs were a hot topic during the month of April, as Miss Malouin and Mrs. Drapeau's kindergarten class also learned about dinosaurs! Ask any student in the kindergarten class what their favorite dinosaur is and the answer is unanimous...the Tyrannosaurus Rex! The students also learned many interesting facts about volcanoes. What fun they had as each child equipped with goggles and their own mini dinosaur friends, went outdoors and made their own volcanoes which included creating an eruption with baking soda and vinegar! Also in kindergarten, the children celebrated the Red Sox Opening Day! Each child drew a picture of themselves dressed in a Red Sox uniform, complete with a Red Sox ball cap! GO RED SOX!!

Great science experiment happening in Mrs. Rust and Mrs. Leclair's classroom! The students will be watching to see if their marigold and green bean seeds grow quicker in planting soil or wrapped in a damp paper towel. They will faithfully water and care for their seeds, each day anxiously waiting to see which of the two planting methods produce the best plants!

Miss Nicolliello's first grade students learned about famous inventors like Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers. The students discussed, wrote about and drew things they could invent to make our school and our world a better place. Some of the inventions included - a school water park, a robot that can check school work to see if answers are right or wrong, and one beautiful crayon that has all the colors in the world!

Mrs. Doyle's grade two students were busy writing letters and coloring 'Flat Stanley'. 'Flat Stanley' is a fun character that gets mailed to many different places and people. The students will now look forward to receiving information back from the places and people to where they mailed their letters and Stanley, to read all about the adventures he had with his new friends!

April Fool's mischief was in the air when Mrs. Bonfitto and Miss Nicolliello switched classrooms! During the switch, the talented first and third graders created beautiful pieces of art with the theme, "April showers bring May flowers! Much fun was had by the two teachers and students that afternoon.

Mrs. Neffinger's fourth grade students are participating in a 'Flat Agatha Project' with St. Agatha's School in Milton, MA. The project is designed to reach out to a Catholic school in each state. St. Thomas fourth graders will be writing letters to the fourth grade students at St. Agatha's, and the letters will include interesting facts about the students themselves and Massachusetts, (especially in our specific region). The students are excited to participate and maybe this will encourage a new found love of the art of letter writing!

Mrs. Neffinger's fifth grade language arts class are completing a "You Be the Teacher" writing assignment. Students were asked to construct a lesson plan on the subject of their choice. Each "teacher" had to present a lesson plan to the students and provide visuals and handouts. Finally, they had to evaluate the knowledge and comprehension of their students by creating an assessment. The subjects ranged from creating a short story to the accomplishments of Napoleon Bonapart. Any student would be lucky to be instructed by these future educators!

Ms. Curran's seventh and eighth grade students were outstanding as they reenacted a beautiful portrayal of the Living Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season. Families and parishioners were invited to the church to see this moving and powerful portrayal on the evening of April 11, and later reenacted for the student body during the school day on April 14.

