

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

May Dates to Remember!

PTO Meeting – Monday, May 6 at 6:30 in the school library. All are welcome to attend.

Ascension Thursday School Mass and Crowning of Mary – Thursday, May 9 at 9:30 Parents are invited to join us at our school Mass. Following the Mass we will have the Crowning of Mary ceremony.

Preschool Muffins With Mommy - Friday, May 10 at 9:00 in the Club Room.

Drama Club Presenting – The Enchanted Bookshop – Friday, May 10 at 6:30 in the gym. Ticket information has been sent home.

26th Annual Golf Tournament – Friday, May 17 – No school on this day

Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 22 at 12:15 in the church. All grades, preschool through grade 8 will participate. Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

School Picnic – Friday, May 24 Parents are welcome to join us at our school picnic. More information will be sent home very soon!

Memorial Day – Monday, May 27 – No school on this day

School Breakfast and Lunch – School breakfast and lunch begins May 1. The breakfast program ends at 7:45 for grades K-8. Please be sure your child knows what they would like for lunch each day, as the lunch menu changes daily and offers 3 options. A lunch count will be taken every morning. You will find the monthly breakfast and lunch options for each day on the homepage of the West Springfield School's website – wsps.org under Lunch Menus. Please let your child's teacher know if your family will not be participating in the free breakfast and lunch program.

Water Bottle Reminder - 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Thomas School was delighted to welcome so many of our grandparents and special guests on Grandparent Morning! The students were very proud and happy to have their special guests join them for the morning.

It's spring in the preschool! Even the April showers could not dampen the spirits and fun in preschool! They have stayed busy with many spring projects that the children have created. They spent time learning about flowers, butterflies, Earth Day and experiencing the solar eclipse. Other favorite topics explored were outer space and dinosaurs. One preschool class blasted off in their spaceship and another class dug for dinosaur bones in the sand of the sensory table, so much fun! It was all smiles on Grandparent's Morning in preschool! It was such a great way to start their day. The children enjoyed showing their classrooms and wonderful artwork to their grandparents.

Grade 1 has been reading *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. They learned about farm life, spiders, friendship and love for all. They have become "some class" with their "terrific", "radiant" and "humble" thoughts and ideas on what it would be like if animals could talk.

Grade 2 has been busy learning about the travels of their Flat Stanleys, as he has returned to the classroom in April. Flat Stanley is a fun character that the students in grade 2 have mailed to many different places and people, usually a family member or friend. The students received information and pictures back from the many places and people that Flat Stanley visited. It was exciting and fun to read all about the adventures he had with his new friends all over the country! They found that their Flat Stanleys have traveled across town, to North Adams, Boston and Natick, as well as the states of North and South Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania and California. One even visited Canada. Each Flat Stanley had a great trip!

In grade 3, excitement was in the air regardless of the April weather. The third graders had an Easter egg hunt and a special snack with their 3 year old buddies in Mrs. Canata and Mrs. D'Ordine's room. Grade 3 welcomed a student teacher, Miss Annabella Nunez, who shared a lesson to celebrate Earth Day. The students enjoyed an informative video and learned about the 3 R's – Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, which can be performed everywhere to keep our earth fresh and clean.

Mrs. Neffinger's 4th graders were busy getting ready for Grandparent's Day by penning heartfelt reflections of cherished moments together. Each student also crafted a personalized coat of arms where each emblem reflected the unique qualities of their family. These tributes certainly helped to celebrate the irreplaceable bond between generations. In Mrs. Neffinger's 5th grade language arts class students recently completed a unique project: creating a constitution for their very own country. Through collaborative efforts and thoughtful deliberation, the students delved into the complexities of law, justice and democracy. Witnessing their passion for leadership and civic engagement was truly inspiring.

THIRD QUARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

High Honors

Grade 8 – Evan Bialas, Thomas Crouss, Natalie Menard, Grant Stoddard, Evelyn Watroba

Grade 7 - Ella Beaudette, Thomas Canty, Ella Tran-Dinh, Sophia McKenna, Edward Podolyanchuk,
Francesca Rondoletto, Surya Veeranna, Gianna Webb

Grade 6 – Louise Coly, Jaanika Randhawa, Madison Seiler

Honors

Grade 8 – Abigail DiCampli, Jack Gelonese, Lily Germano, Keira McCarthy, Caroline Peltier, Sofia Rulnick,
Madelyn Sweeney

Grade 7 – David Mascarenhas, Nathaniel Xavier

Grade 6 – Christopher Desrosiers, Samuel Kudelka

CONGRATULATIONS HONOR STUDENTS!