

Saint James School

March Newsletter

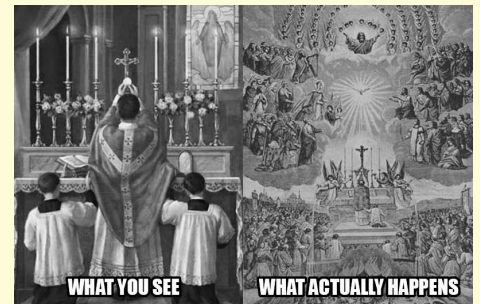
The month of March is usually a long month in schools but I think this March is going to fly by with all the activities for Read Across America, Pi Day, March Madness Friday's and the most important holiday in our Liturgical year, Easter, with all of the Holy Week activities. We will have a guest speaker on Thursday morning during Holy Week. Jed Doherty will be speaking to the whole school in the gym at 9:00. The name of his presentation is "we choose respect." He combines magic, religion and values. All are welcome to join us. Classrooms will be doing a rotation of Holy Week activities later on Thursday afternoon. Because Easter is so important to our faith, we have both Good Friday and Easter Monday off from school. I hope you enjoy the time off to celebrate and rejoice with family and friends.

Our reregistration numbers are strong for next year and we have had serious interest at our open houses! Thank you for spreading the word to those that you know might be interested. Our students, our parents, and our alumni are our greatest advertising, thank you! It is also great if anyone wants to put a review about the school online. Many families read those online reviews.

Remember, we will reimburse your registration fee if a new family puts your name down on their registration form. So, spread the word! And, if you have not yet sent your reregistration form in yet, please do so as soon as possible so I can have accurate numbers for budgetary purposes. Also, be sure to send in your budgetary envelopes that allows you to send your child to Saint James School using the parishioners rate.

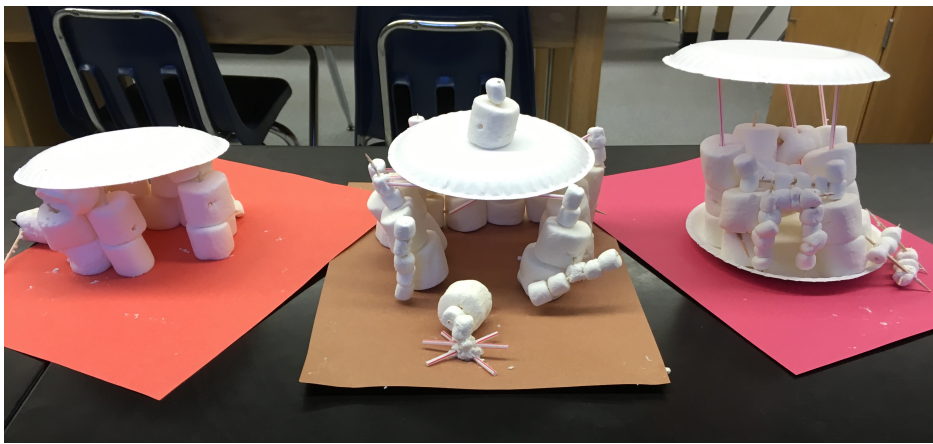
I have been really focused on getting positive publicity out about Saint James School to share all of the wonderful things that we are doing through the newspaper, Twitter and Facebook. This is like a full time job! Thank you to those who share Saint James Facebook posts. That helps get the word out to more people and is even better than pressing the "like" button. I am always open to any helpful suggestions that you may have for me and that includes marketing and advertising.

The Haddock suppers have been going very well and if you have not yet made it to one, you are missing a fantastic meal! Thank you to all of our volunteers that make this happen and a special shout out to Dan Villemaire who coordinates these each Friday during Lent at Most Holy Trinity starting at 4:00 p.m.



The Lenten Season

In Scot Hahn's book, [The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth](#), Scot Hahn talks about the moment of the mass where all the Angels and Saints come down to join in the Eucharist. I think that is a really beautiful thing to think about during this season of Lent. Scot Hahn is a very interesting author. He set out trying to denounce the Catholic Church and then converted.



Students have been enjoying their S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science*Technology*Religion*Engineering*Art*Math) classes with Mrs. Lafrance and I can see why. Recently, Mrs. Lafrance talked to students about Pope Francis's Encyclical on the importance of clean water for all residents on this earth. Students learned about the importance of water through lessons and also through inquiry. Students also designed posters around the theme "Why Water's Worth It To Me!" Which will be submitted for a state contest. Here is a design to the right from one of our second graders.

Continuing the water theme into the following week, students had discussions on how you can create a house of snow and ice and stay warm. They researched ideas and were creative when they designed their "igloos" pictured above.

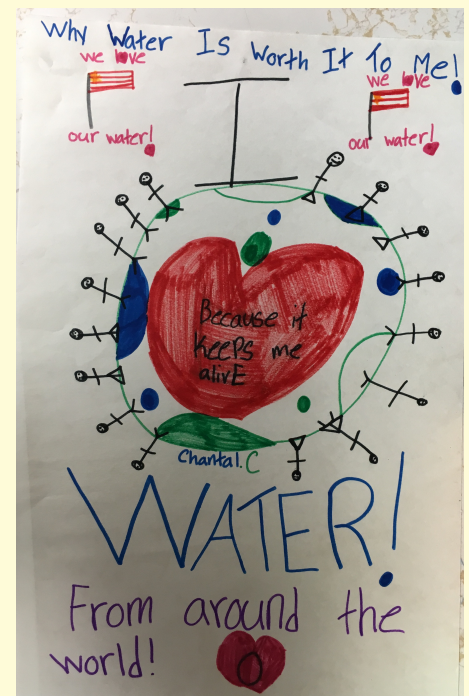
Students learned about the Pope's teaching and the importance of water, and instead of a test at the end, they used their creativity and artistic skills to demonstrate their learning. Wouldn't you enjoy this class, too?

Teachers are using "best practices" to instruct students. It was fun to see what is happening in each class.

Teachers are working with other Catholic school teachers to create units of study that are integrated amongst the classes, including the specials, culminating with a project to demonstrate learning. You saw this in eighth grade when Miss Anglin had students create a newspaper around the time of the Civil War which combined Social Studies and writing and then Miss Peck had students creating cigar box guitars in music class.

Students read 9,809 minutes for our reading challenge. Ask the students what Mrs. Naimey had to do for her part of the bargain. Keep on reading!

The Auction is coming up fast! It is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 29th at Duffy's Restaurant in Old Orchard Beach. Thank you for those that have donated items, gathered sponsors and worked behind the scenes and to all of you for contributing to the class basket. It is not too late to donate a gift certificate or an item to the auction. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of Google chrome books and iPads for the classes next year. Lynn Roy and her committee have been getting everything together for this event. It is going to be awesome so save the date and be sure to invite a friend!



We have had a conflict with the 8th grade vs. Faculty basketball game. It was scheduled for the same time as a concert that the Knights of Columbus are putting on that will have 55% of the proceeds are slated to benefit Saint James School for scholarships and the music program. So, the new date is Saturday, April 9th at 1:00 p.m. That is really a fun event!