

OUR WEEKLY NEWS

“Lighting a path to the Higher purpose.”

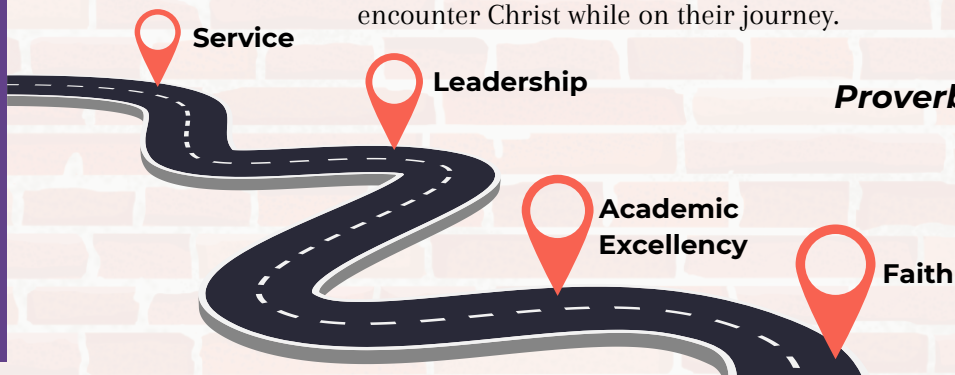


December 9th - December 13th

On Our Journey

Lighting a Path to a Higher Purpose

St. Joseph Community School's mission is that we are here to lead students to their fullest potential. We focus on four main categories: *academic excellency, faith, leadership, and service*. All of these categories are meant for them to thrive and also encounter Christ while on their journey.



What are you waiting for?
START YOUR PATH HERE



“At St. Joe's, my faith was cultivated and intertwined with academics, volunteering, and athletics, and truly everything that we did. This was so valuable and formative during my growing up years, alongside what I was learning at home and at church about my faith.”

Lydia Gessner // Class of '16



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216 N. Broadway
New Hampton, IA 50659



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Monday, December 9th

- 12 Days of Dress: Decorate Your Backpack (Christmas Edition)
- 12 Days of Giving: Kindergarten - Canned Vegetables

Tuesday, December 10th

- 12 Days of Dress: Wear a Santa Hat
- 12 Days of Giving: 1st grade - Laundry Detergent
- Advent Prayer Service at 8:20am in the Gathering Space
- Learning Connections Session at 5:30 in the Sunrise Preschool 4 year old room

Wednesday, December 11th

- 12 Days of Dress: Dress like a Reindeer
- 12 Days of Giving: 2nd grade - Baby food/formula

Thursday, December 12th

- 12 Days of Dress: Decorate Your Backpack (Christmas Edition)
- 12 Days of Giving: 3rd Grade - Body Wash/Soap

Friday, December 13th

- 12 Days of Dress: Wear White and Blue
- 12 Days of Giving: 4th Grade - Shampoo
- All School Mass at 8:30am
- Reconciliation Service for Middle School

Visit our school [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!

ATHLETICS EVENTS HAPPENING

Friday, December 13th

- 4:15pm Basketball: Girls 7th Game vs. Decorah
- 4:15pm Basketball: Girls 8th Game at Decorah

Visit the [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!

OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:45am

Breakfast is served
7:45am-8:00am

School day begins
8:05am

School day ends 3:15pm

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Mass Times

4pm at Holy Family

6pm at IC in North
Washington or St. Boniface

Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

9am at Holy Family



MEET THE TEAMS

SPECIALS

Music

Music has been a fun place to be this week. We had practice everyday in preparation for the Concert this weekend. In the hustle and bustle of practice, we took some time to step back and really think about how far the students have come practicing their Christmas songs. They have learned so much through our Christmas songs from keeping a beat, sign language, dancing with music, echo singing, crescendos, decrescendos, harmony, and more. We are so incredibly proud of the students for all the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm they have had with this Christmas Concert. We want to give a shout out to all of the students and staff that helped us to make this years concert a success. It takes a village and we have been blessed with a great one.

-Mrs. Schueth and Mr. Speltz

Art

Middle School: Students are exploring tints, tones, and shades by designing winter evergreen trees. They are using cone shapes as the foundation for their creative designs. Third and Fourth Grade: This week, students are focusing on tints, tones, and shades to create Christmas ornamental spheres. The emphasis is on using circles to design festive and colorful decorations. Second Grade: Students are working on understanding tints, tones, and shades while drawing spheres. They are applying these techniques to design their own ornaments. Kindergarten and First Grade: Young artists are learning to draw cubes as they design their own gift boxes. The lessons focus on building foundational drawing skills while exploring holiday-inspired creativity.

-Mrs. Boge, Ms. Ali

EARLY CHILDHOOD

This week we focused on the colors orange, gray, black, and brown. Our shapes were a square, rectangle, rhombus, and trapezoid. With our shapes, we played a game of I Spy the shape of the day while walking in our hallways. We noticed there are a lot of shapes all around us. We focused on the letters Rr, Ss, Tt, and Uu. We sang our sound alphabet song and did actions with it. During phonics, we worked on figuring out if two words rhymed or not. We continued to work on taking two syllables and making them one word and then taking one word and breaking into two syllables. For language awareness, I read a sentence too then ad they had to repeat the sentence with a word that fit at the end to finish the sentence. We had some great words used for this activity. We were lucky enough to have the middle school students come down to our room and work with each child individually on writing letters for Santa and then at the end we took our buddies around the room to show them our favorite centers to begin center time. Later in the week we visited the hot cocoa stand put on by the kindergarten students. We enjoyed the delicious treats and service provided. For our social emotional time we reread the story Tucker Turtle and focused on what the feeling of being mad. We talked about what are good choices when we have this feeling. We also started to discuss the idea of accidentally doing something and meaning to do something. It is hard to believe that our first week of December is over and we only have a couple more weeks left before Christmas. I look forward to the weeks ahead with each of your children. **- Mrs. Schueth**

Letters- Q, ,R, S, T Numbers- 18, 9, 3, 7 Shapes- rectangle, triangle, oval, trapezoid Nursery Rhyme- review Finger Play-review The preschoolers are doing a great job getting their winter gear on independently! Please keep working with them at home too. It makes a huge difference here. We finished up our unit of study on balls and started a unit of study on tubes and tunnels. The preschoolers talked about all the places they have seen tubes before: under the sink, in the basement, at a store, under the ground in holes, and in workshops are just a few of the places they talked about. They have been working hard cutting out pictures of things they might like for Christmas. Our reading buddies came this week to help create their letters to Santa- watch for them to be in the New Hampton paper. During our social skills time, we have started talking about different feelings and how some of them might make our bodies feel uncomfortable. The preschoolers just started learning a new technique to help them calm down when they are feeling these feelings. First, put your hand on your tummy and say "Stop", then name your feeling. Since preschoolers are just learning to identify more than the basic sad, happy, mad feelings, they might need help with finding the words to name their feelings. Grown ups around them can help with this by talking about their own feelings. For example, "I'm feeling frustrated I can't find the car keys." This helps preschoolers learn the vocabulary for feelings, what it might look like in other people, and they can see how other people handle different situations when they have uncomfortable feelings.

- Mrs. Abbott



MEET THE TEAMS



EARLY CHILDHOOD

It has been a busy week in Kindergarten. We have been practicing for the concert and were excited to perform for all of you who came to support us. We read the "Sparkle Box" and got our own sparkle boxes to put presents for Jesus in. We also started our hot cocoa stand and look forward to working in it. We wrote letters to Santa with the help of our Middle School helpers. We learned about advent at our first advent prayer service. We also learned about St. Nicholas and made stockings. We started an author study of Lois Ehlert. Ask your child about her illustrations and the things she uses. In math we used balance scales and compared objects by weight. We used heavier and lighter to describe them. - **Mrs. Westwater**

In religion this week we learned about the season of Advent. We "lit" the first candle on our paper Advent wreath, and we are tracking the days of Advent by coloring one space each day on our Advent calendar. We also learned about St. Nicholas. In phonics this week we worked with the heart words "it", "like" and "be". We continue to work on finger stretching sounds in words and have enjoyed using our letter tiles to match phonemes to graphemes while stretching out the words. We read some gingerbread boy stories this week during read-aloud and created gingerbread people to send out in our annual Gingerbread Exchange. We are excited to receive letters and gingerbread people from schools across the United States. We enjoyed getting together with our middle school friends to write letters to Santa and do a little bit of coloring together. We also were excited to open the Kindergarten Cocoa Cafe this week. There was no shortage of whipped cream and sprinkles on the hot cocoa orders going out! We worked hard to be ready for the Christmas program and are proud to share the joy of this season through song! - **Mrs. Flugum**

This week we kicked off our week talking about Advent and having a prayer service on Tuesday. We also read a story called "The Sparkle Box", which talks about the little things we can do for others. You then place a slip of paper in the box to give to Jesus on Christmas morning to show your love for him. In math we started topic 6 which is working on subtraction facts up to 20. Any extra time working on this would be great. Students have been using number lines as well to help with this. In reading we are discussing nonfiction (true) and fiction (false) books. We are also using a variety of books to compare the two. In Social Studies we are continuing with our unit on the community and will be starting the next topic very soon. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Program. It was so great seeing all of you! Have a Blessed Week!
- **Mrs. Heying**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This week was a busy one as the students prepared for the Christmas concert. They were fantastic! Between rehearsals, the second graders learned more about when to use the digraphs (vowel teams) ay and ai through activities and practice. Writing a folktale is the next masterpiece they are working on. Each one we do asks the students to incorporate another skill. Their progress is fun to watch. We had our first week of Advent prayer service and celebrated St. Nicholas. - **Mrs. Herold**

"Silent Night, Holly Night"...This popular Christmas Song helped kick off a Christmas Miracle on Christmas Eve 1914. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 8th graders learned about The Christmas Eve cease fire during World War I. We learned how God used this special night and song to bring both sides together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have a special visitor who has joined our classroom this December. That's right, Ollie the Elf has joined us. We've been looking for him each morning and using our detective skills to find him. However, we were not able to locate him on Friday. If you see him in public, please remind him to return to school. We spent time this week preparing for the Christmas Concert. We thank all who were able to attend our Christmas concert this year. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we took time this week to write thank you letters to the Mason City Toros hockey team and players for allowing us to come to the School Day Hockey Game. The letters will be hand delivered in January to the players. We prayed for those who are under the weather or are in the hospital this week that God helps heal them. - **Mr. Larsen and Mrs. Rochford**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Q: What did Santa Clause say to the Christmas Tree?

Christmas is in the air! Not only has the temperature dropped, but the snow on the ground and the first week of Advent have us feeling the Christmas spirit. We started the week off by reading The Sparkle Box by: Jill Hardie. This is an inspiring story about the true meaning of Christmas, and how we can think of others during the holiday season. Students will be writing down all the kind things they do during the Advent season and putting their Sparkle box under the tree as a present to Jesus. This story tied right into our first Advent prayer service about hope for the past, present, and future. This week the middle schoolers also helped write letters to Santa this week with the 3 and 4 year old preschool and kindergarten. We also were putting the final touches on the Christmas concert, and had all school practices to get prepared. We are so proud of all the hard work the kids put into the concert. They did an absolutely amazing job! Wishing you all the best during the Advent season!

A: You need to lighten up. - **Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald**

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