

OUR WEEKLY NEWS

“Lighting a path to the Higher purpose.”

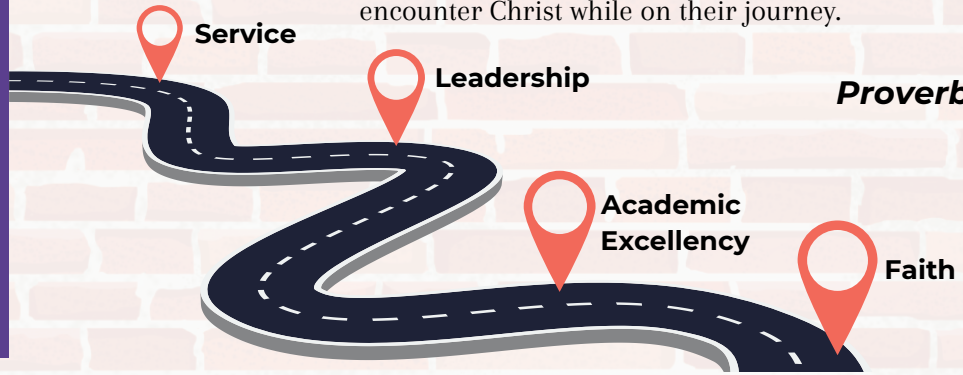


December 16th - December 20th

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 16th

- 12 Days of Dress: National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- 12 Days of Giving: 5th Grade - Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Advent Prayer Service at 8:20am in the Gathering Space

Tuesday, December 17th

- 12 Days of Dress: Wear Christmas PJs
- 12 Days of Giving: 6th Grade- Deodorant
- Learning Connections Session at 5:30 in the Sunrise Preschool 4 year old room

Wednesday, December 18th

- 12 Days of Dress: Dress like a Christmas Tree
- 12 Days of Giving: 7th and 8th grade - Canned Fruit

Thursday, December 19th

- 12 Days of Dress: Wear red and white
- 12 Days of Giving: Classroom Teachers - Pasta Sauce

Friday, December 20th

- 12 Days of Dress: Christmas Character Day
- 12 Days of Giving: Staff - Boxed Meals/Sides
- All School Mass at 8:30am
- **2 Hour Early Dismissal**

Visit our school [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

ATHLETICS EVENTS HAPPENING

Tuesday, December 17th

- 4:15pm Basketball: Girls 7th Game at Cresco
- 4:15pm Basketball: Girls 8th Game at Cresco

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



MEET THE TEAMS

SPECIALS

Music

This week we celebrated all of the students hard work for the concert by doing a couple of different activities. We watched the movie The Star with Kindergarten through 1st grade. A lot of the songs that are in that movie were in our concert and we enjoyed figuring out who sang which song that came up. The 2nd through 8th grade students played two different Kahoot games about Christmas music. It was a fun time had by all. The 2nd-4th grade students also went to Rotary on Thursday and sang 5 Christmas songs for them including the 3 that were sang at the concert. We cannot express just how proud we are of each and every one of your children who performed at the concert. They did such an amazing job and we have heard this from multiple people. Kuddos to all of them!

-Mrs. Schueth and Mr. Speltz

Physical Education

This week we talked about everything we have done this semester. Then we were able to chose and do activities we enjoyed that learned so far. The activities chosen this week were: Uncle Sam, Ghostbusters, basketball, hockey, and recreation activities.

-Mrs. Schueth

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 found different items with the colors gray, purple, and white and yellow. We also worked with counting in a tens frame and popsicle sticks 7, 8, 9, and 10. Those were also the numbers we focused on for our number identification. We also played eye spy and read poems about different shapes including: crescent, hexagon, trapezoid, and rhombus. The letters Vv, Ww, Xx, and Yy were our letters of the day. We sang our Alphabet sound song, worked on rhyming words, breaking words apart into two syllables, putting two syllables together to make one word, and begging of word sounds. We also started to work on the rhyme Rain, Rain Go Away. For social skills, our puppets, Josie and Joey, helped teach us about the difference between something being an accident and on purpose. They also helped teach us about what caring is and different ways we can show we care. We then talked about both accidents and caring and different ways we could come up with to show others we care. We talked about how using our kind words is very important for both. The students took crayon wax and melted it inside of a clear ball to make our very own ornaments. We talked through the science behind how all of this worked. The students all really enjoyed this project and were very proud of their creations. **- 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

This week we have continued to work on matching graphemes to phonemes. We matched j, z, and w this week. Our new heart words for the week are to, can, and got. I hope you have all enjoyed hearing your child read their "A Big Red Bug" story. The more they practice reading the stories that are sent home, the better their reading skills will be. We have been learning about author and illustrator Lois Ehlert this week. We watched and interview with her where she talked about having a card table growing up where she was able to be creative and could leave it messy as long as she continued to work on her art. In writing we have learned about common and proper nouns and have been using them in our sentences. In math we are learning about more and less in groups of objects. At home you can help with this skill by having them set the table and giving them too many forks and asking which has more the plates or forks? How many more forks do you need for them to be equal? - **Mrs.**

Westwater

In religion this week, we learned about the 2nd candle of Advent, which stands for peace. We are trying to be mindful of ways that we can bring peace to our classroom and our homes. In phonics this week, we practiced adding sounds to the ends of words (when you add /p/ to the end of the word "she", you get the word "sheep". We also worked with writing the letters z, j, and w. Our new heart words are "to", "not", and "can". We have been enjoying reading our Gingerbread Exchange letters during our read-aloud time. We have also been learning about the artistic style of Eric Carle as we read books in our Eric Carle collection. We are learning about common and proper nouns in writing this week and are working to remember that proper nouns need to be capitalized. We continued our work with teen numbers and tested over Topic 5. We will be learning about numbers to 100 in Topic 6. Mrs. Flugum's mom and aunt also came to school to help us make a Christmas gift for our families. We enjoyed picking out just the right things to add to our gifts to make them special. Christmas excitement continues to grow as we look forward to celebrating our Savior's birth!

- Mrs. Flugum

Happy Sunday! This week we continued to learn about Advent and preparing for the 3rd candle this weekend. We also learned about Giving Thanks to God and what that means. The students also continue to work on filling their sparkle boxes with kind gestures they have done to others. This sparkle box will be opened up and given to Jesus on Christmas morning. In math we continued to work on subtraction and we finished Topic 6. We will be starting Topic 7 tomorrow. In social studies we are focusing on the past, present, and future and what that did look like, looks like now, and could look like in the future. In writing we are working on adding organization to our realistic fiction stories. In reading we are also continuing to focus on fiction and non fiction books. Thank you to all who donated laundry soap for the food pantry as well. If you haven't done so and would like to, there is still time. We hope you have a fantastic week!

- Mrs. Heying

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

After reading "The Sparkle Box" last week, the students have writing down as many ways they have been a gift to someone else and adding it to their own Sparkle Box. We have been adding more things and discussing our Advent lapbook. We enjoyed learning a bit more about Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego, St. Lucy and St. Nicholas. The students had a wonderful opportunity to sing for the Rotary on Thursday. Their singing of O Holy Night brought tears to many an eye- including mine! They even got a standing ovation! In math, we worked on subtracting using a hundreds chart and introduce subtracting tens and ones in two digit numbers. Every day we are improving our reading, writing and spelling skills. This week was focusing on the digraph oy and oi, pronouns, and narrative writing. Our days continue to fly!

- Mrs. Herold

It's all about the Elves this week. We are happy to report, HE'S BACK!! Ollie the Elf has been found hiding on our shelf. We were worried as we were unable to find him for 3 days. We are glade to report he is doing well and recovering with a warm cup of Hot cocoa and a comfy blanket as he watches Rudolph. In other news, we have been working on our multiplication facts. We learned a card game called Rescue the Workshops which is a take on solitaire but challenges the students to use their multiplication skills. Buddy the Elf says the best way to spread Christmas cheer to sing loud for all to hear. So, on Thursday we went and sang at the pub for the Rotary club. It was great to spread a little Christmas cheer. We have been praying for our families as we prepare to travel and see others this holiday season. - **Mr. Larsen and Mrs.**

Rochford

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle schoolers have been working hard in science learning all about the cell. Students have explored different parts of the cell. Our cells are held together by a lipid bilayer which allows certain molecules in and out of the cell. This process is a lot like how a bubble acts, allowing certain objects to pass through and not others. Students got the opportunity to manipulate bubbles and try to pass different objects through a bubble membrane. Next students explored how cellular transport occurs. They started by learning about diffusion, which is when high concentration of molecules pass through the cell membrane to a low concentration. Students got to experience this with smelly balloons! The challenge was to identify the smell that was inside the balloon based on the smell outside the balloon. The extract inside the balloon was a higher concentration than outside, so the smell diffused through the balloon membrane to the low concentration. Fun fact: banana extract inside of a balloon smells like bubble gum outside of a balloon according to middle schoolers!

- Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald

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