

# OUR WEEKLY NEWS

*“Lighting a path to the Higher purpose.”*

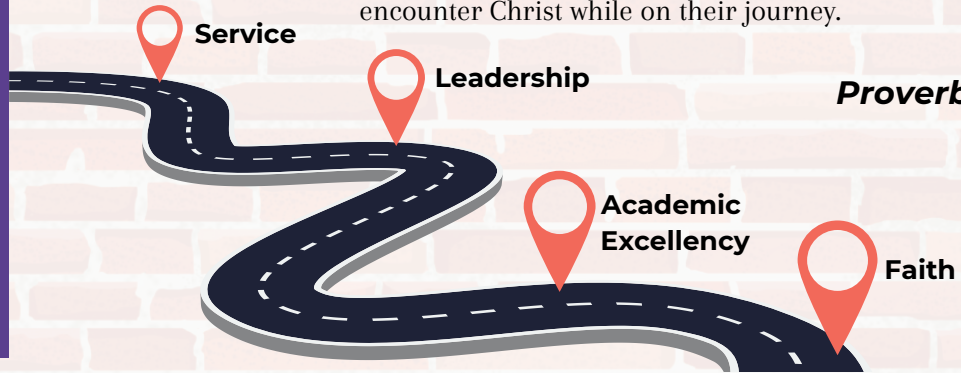


January 13th - January 17th

## 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**



[www.stjosephcommunityschool.com](http://www.stjosephcommunityschool.com)



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216 N. Broadway  
New Hampton, IA 50659





## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### Monday, January 12st

- 95.1 The Bull Speakers Field Trip 🐾

### Thursday, January 16th

- Strengthening and Stretching Session

### Friday, January 17th

- All School Mass at 8:30am

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

## ATHLETICS EVENTS HAPPENING

### NONE THIS WEEK

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

During music kindergarten- 4th grade, practiced slow and fast beats. They learned a new song that they had to listen for a certain part, pitch identification, and then follow directions. All of the activities were different, and based on their grade level. Third and fourth grade also worked on starting to learn about where different notes are on the staff. Middle school worked on rhythm and following accompaniment. They used their whole bodies for this and it was very tricky. With all grade levels we reviewed the mass songs for the week, so that we were ready to sing at the first mass of the new year.

**-Mrs. Schueth and Mr. Speltz**

### Physical Education

During PE, we started to learn about kickball with the kindergarten students. We focused mainly on kicking and how to rotate through the bases as these skills can be difficult to understand when you are just learning. The students all took turns in the outfield and kicking the ball this week to learn the basics. In 1st through 8th grade, we played a basic game of dodgeball and then introduced an alternative game called Medicball. We are going to continue this kickball unit for the next couple of weeks learning about different games that are based on the original game of dodgeball.

**-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

During 3 year Old Preschool we have been working on identifying and counting the numbers 5, 6, 9, and 11. We worked on identifying the colors purple, white, gray, and brown. The shapes of the day this week were rectangle, square, trapezoid, and rhombus. We continue to work on our poems that help describe the shapes. We started going through the alphabet again but this time looking at how they are made. The ones we are reviewing first are all letters that have straight lines in them. We also started to practice making these straight lines. We also did some more work on identifying names. We did this with the song who stole the cookie from the cookie jar. The students then had a dry erase packet that had their name on it they worked saying their name, spelling their name, and trying to start to form the letters in their name. We started to go through some assessments to see where students are at since break. For social skills, we did a game called snail pace race. The students took turns rolling a dice. The person ahead of them moved the snail of that color. They all practiced, patience, communication, and taking turns during this activity to see what snail would win the race. We also started to introduce tapping to get the attention of someone. We are blessed to have another new friend join our class and I am looking forward to all that lies ahead in the new year together.

**- Mrs. Schueth**

Letters- M, T, P, A, S

Numbers- 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

Shapes- hexagon, rhombus, square, rectangle, triangle

Nursery Rhyme- Wee Willie Winky

Finger Play- 5 Little Snowmen

I hope everyone had a great Christmas break! The preschoolers have had a great first week back. We reviewed the routines and procedures to help keep our days running smoothly. With the extra cold weather, some of our outdoor time has been spent playing in the gym. This helps us get those large muscles working so that we are able to focus better in the classroom. In small groups this week, we are brushing up on name writing with Ms. Megan. Mrs. Abbott's group is sorting letters into two categories: letters in my name, and letters not in my name. When they have their bag of letters sorted, they then build their name! The third group is having fun taking turns playing Snail's Pace Race. **- Mrs. Abbott**



# MEET THE TEAMS



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

We are happy to be back from break. We have been busy this week. In Social Studies we started our study of maps and sharing where we are. In phonics we put the graphemes qu, y, and x with their phonemes. Our sight words this week are you, are, and do. In writing we learned about singular and plural nouns and that we need to add an s when there is more than one. In math we have been working on one more and one less. Thank you for helping your child with completing their homework. Hopefully you are having great conversations around what they are learning in math.

**- Mrs. Westwater**

We learned about Epiphany in religion this week and enjoyed Kings Cakes! We also began preparing for our final kindergarten service project, Xs and Os Valentine Stand. We worked on our commercial so our school friends know what things will be available to purchase for the special people in their lives. In phonics this week, we thought it was special to use our new "writing office" so that we had a private space to work behind as we practiced writing our words. We finished up our Eric Carl read-alouds this week and began our text set, "The Place You Call Home". In writing, we wrote about a friend that we have in kindergarten as we practiced the concepts of common nouns and proper nouns. We know that when we write the name for a specific animal, person, place, or thing, the first letter is a capital letter. We continue to work with numbers to 100 in math.

**- Mrs. Flugum**

Happy Sunday! This past week in first grade we discussed the Epiphany and practiced for our mass that was on Friday. The students did a great job preparing for this. In math we finished up Topic 7 which covered Counting and Number Patterns to 120. One goal is for students to be able to count this high as well. In writing we are working on How To's. Students are using sequencing words like First, Next, and Last. They are also working on having strong verbs in their writing. In reading we focused on how to decipher an unknown word. We also focused on our small reading groups and skills that we continue to build on. Have a great week!

**- Mrs. Heying**

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It sure felt good to get back into our routine. The kids were eager to learn, maybe a little bit tired, but ready all the same. We started our week off talking about the Epiphany. We blessed our classroom door and had a King's Cake to celebrate. John and Kinley were the lucky ones to find the trinket to bring them luck for the new year in their cake. In math we are working hard to build tens in order to regroup when adding two digit numbers. Using a number line was one of the strategies we used as well. Our realistic fiction masterpiece was finished and shared this week. Their spelling, capitalization, and punctuation is showing growth with each piece we write. Vowel digraphs are and or were our focus this week for reviewing spelling rules. We hope you all blessed with an amazing 2025! -

**Mrs. Herold**

The students were put to the test this week as we took our Winter CBMR and Past test. I am happy to report the students rocked it! They showed some big improvement in their reading from the Fall and I can't wait to see how much growth they make at the end of the year. We spent time in math preparing and reviewing for the upcoming ISASP test in April. We learned about the Declaration Of Independence. We started a research paper where everyone was given one of the individuals who signed it. Students were encouraged to find out all they could about their individual and will be presenting their information next week. We prayed for our families and for those battling sicknesses during this Winter season. -

**Mr. Larsen and Mrs. Rochford**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Happy New Year! It has been so nice having the kids back in the building after a logn break. We have worked on re-establishing routines and expectations, and goal setting. One of the goals the students have this school year is to read 10 books across different genre (i.e. realistic fiction, historical fiction, traditional literature, biography/autobiography, etc.) to potentially diversify their reading interests. By the end of December students were challenged to have 5 books read and will have 5 more to complete this semester. I think some of them have found that reading different books can be fun, and they like giving and getting recommendations from peers. Reading isn't one size fits all, we choose the genres that fill us with joy!

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

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