

# OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."



March 30th - April 4th

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.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCY

## FAITH

## LEADERSHIP

## SERVICE

*Proverbs 27:17*

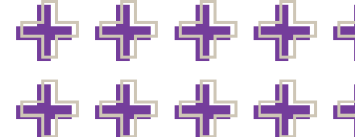


What are you waiting for?  
**START YOUR PATH HERE**



"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**



## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### Tuesday, April 1st

- American Heart Association Kick Off at 12:30pm
- Reconciliation 1pm
- Learning Connection Session 5:30pm

### Wednesday, April 2nd

- Mission Speaker at 8:30am
- ISASP Testing
- First Eucharist Mini Retreat at the Gathering Space starting at 6:30pm

### Thursday, April 3rd

- Strengthening and Stretching Sessions
- Reconciliation at 1pm

### Friday, April 4th

- Prayer Service 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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***There has been a date change for Muffins with Moms!  
We are going to be having Muffins with Moms on  
April 25th starting at 8am. More details to come!***

### 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

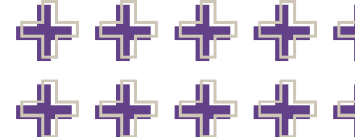
#### Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

9am at Holy Family







## THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

## THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

This week's Gospel reading focuses on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, a powerful story of forgiveness, mercy, and unconditional love. Jesus shares this parable to show how God, like a loving father, welcomes us back with open arms, no matter how far we stray.

The story reminds us that we all make mistakes, but God's grace is always available. It also challenges us to reflect on our own hearts—are we like the father, showing compassion and forgiveness, or like the older brother, struggling with resentment? As a school community and parents, this passage encourages us to extend kindness, patience, and second chances to our children and one another. Let us strive to create a community where love and reconciliation are at the center of our relationships.

## FAMILY DINNER QUESTIONS

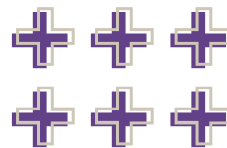
- How do you think the father felt when his son came back home?
- Why is it important to say sorry when we make mistakes, and how does God forgive us?
- Have you ever had a time when you needed to forgive someone? How did it feel to forgive them?



[Click Here To Read More](#)







# MEET THE TEAMS

## *Specials*

Linked here is our recording of the second performance of the Wizard of Oz!

Thank you again for letting you child participate and create new skills and memories with our school family!



<https://bit.ly/4laOnUA>



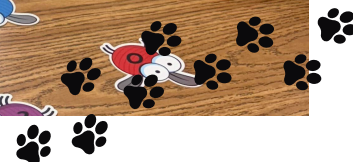
## P.E. WEEKLY RECAP: FUN, FITNESS & HEART HEALTH!

This week in P.E., we focused on health and fitness with engaging activities. On Monday, a 5-2-1-0 educator taught us about healthy habits—ask your child what they learned!

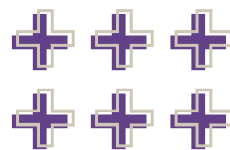
Friday's lesson took us on a journey through the heart with an interactive obstacle course. Students became "blood cells," traveling through the heart's chambers and vessels, making learning about circulation both fun and educational.

No Athlete of the Week this time—keep working hard, and we'll see who earns it next week! 💪❤️

- **Ms. Winter**







# MEET THE TEAMS

## Early Childhood Team

### 3 year old Highlights: Shapes, Sounds & Bugs!

This week, students put their detective skills to the test by guessing a hidden shape using clues! We also explored numbers 14-17 with tens frames, counting sticks, and number lines.

In literacy, we focused on lowercase letters, practicing skywriting and identifying the letters in our names.

A fun fly swatter game helped reinforce letter sounds! We also worked on rhyming, blending, and segmenting words through songs and phonics activities. Our social skills lesson, led by Joey and Josie, focused on managing anger and waiting patiently. Students even taught our puppets a new tummy-breathing technique! Finally, we kicked off our insect unit, learning about how bugs defend themselves and reading Bugs for Lunch. Ask your child what they learned about insects this week! 🐞

- Mrs. Schueth



### 4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: SPRING FUN & LEARNING! 🌸

Letters- review Numbers-17, 15, 13, 11 Shapes- rhombus, triangle, square, oval Nursery Rhyme- Jack Be Nimble Finger Play- Rabbit's Ears

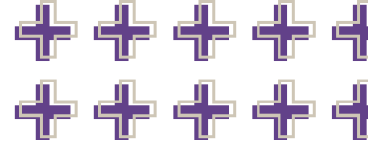
The preschoolers have been enjoying the increasingly nice weather. When it's not too windy, we have been taking balls outside to share, and they enjoy drawing with sidewalk chalk. We are finishing up the unit of study on simple machines.

We will move on to an insect study next. The caterpillars have grown so much! Ask your preschooler what they have noticed about the caterpillars. During our social skills time, we are working on practicing problem solving so that we feel more confident using these skills during center time. - Mrs. Abbott





# MEET THE TEAMS



## Early Childhood

### KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS: GROWING IN LEARNING & FAITH!

We continued to explore the theme of lent this week in religion as we worked with the Parable "The Farmer and the Seeds". In phonics we worked with digraph "th" and the heart words "they", "that" and "this". We read two versions of the book "Stone Soup" and enjoyed acting the story out as we made our own stone soup! We began learning about wants and needs in social studies and tested over Topic 9 in math. We also worked with expanding sentences by using color words. After completing our writing, we used a checklist to make sure that we started our sentences with a capital letter, used a color word in each sentence, and used ending punctuation. We are getting pretty good at looking for the components of a complete sentence!-

**Mrs. Flugum & Mrs. Westwater**



### FIRST GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

What an exciting week in First Grade! We kicked things off with a special performance from 5-2-1-0, reminding us of the importance of healthy habits—5 fruits and veggies a day, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour of exercise, and 0 sugary drinks (water is best!). Our week was also filled with preparations for Friday's Mass, and we were so impressed with how many students practiced their parts at home. Thank you for your support! In science, we explored how the sun's rotation can help us navigate, while in writing, we focused on key skills like spacing, punctuation, and capitalization. Math had us telling time to the hour, with a big test coming up on Tuesday. We also kept active with Strengthening and Conditioning on Thursday—what a great way to build strong bodies and minds! Wishing you all a fantastic week ahead! -

**Mrs. Heying**

## Elementary Team

The second graders were introduced to another form of explanatory writing- invention reports. Each student chose a different invention and will spend the next couple of weeks researching and writing about it. They were also introduced to object pronouns, which they use all the time when they speak but never knew what they were. We are coming to the end of our topic of three digit addition and subtraction. This week they practiced estimating differences and lots of regrouping. The students are even more excited about receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist after their retreat Wednesday night! Our Lenten journey continues and it is hard to believe we are halfway through. Every day we think about our Lenten promises and strive to get our hearts ready for Easter. - **Mrs. Herold**

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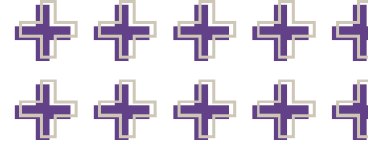
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# MEET THE TEAMS



## Elementary Team

### THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE: PREPARING FOR SUCCESS!

This week, we focused on preparing for the upcoming ISASP tests, working through practice questions to build confidence. We also discussed helpful test-day habits—getting plenty of rest, eating a good breakfast, and taking our time during the test.

We had some fun, too! Mr. Larsen's birthday was celebrated with Brownie "Hockey Pucks" and a classroom hockey game (everyone kept their teeth!). On Monday, Silly Sally from the Iowa State Extension Office visited with her puppets to teach us about the 5-2-1-0 program—ask your child what they learned!

As always, we took time to pray for our school family and special intentions. Wishing you a wonderful week ahead!

**- Mr. Larsen & Mrs. Rochford**



## Middle School Team

### MIDDLE SCHOOL: SAVE IT OR SPEND IT!

Teaching middle school students about financial literacy is essential for preparing them to make smart money choices in the future. This week we discussed lessons on fundamental concepts like needs vs. wants to help students differentiate between essential expenses and less necessary spending, fostering responsible decision-making. Understanding credit vs. debit introduced them to the differences between borrowing money and spending what they already have. Students also learned about the importance of forming a savings habit using goal setting and tracking. We ended the week by watching Spend It Save It, an educational program presented by NTC. This interactive show used storytelling and real-life scenarios to teach students about financial responsibility in an entertaining and relatable way. By incorporating financial literacy into middle school education, we empower students with the knowledge and skills they need to build a secure financial future. **- Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald**



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