



St. Patrick Catholic School

SUCCESS Every Day for Every Student

May 31, 2017

Principal's Corner

We are in our final days before summer break. It is a time to celebrate the many successes this past year, transition into summer and prepare for August. I gratefully acknowledge and thank the many individuals who donated time, treasure, talents, and love to our school youth and the school leadership team who serves them. It has been a pleasure to have your support during my time at SPS.

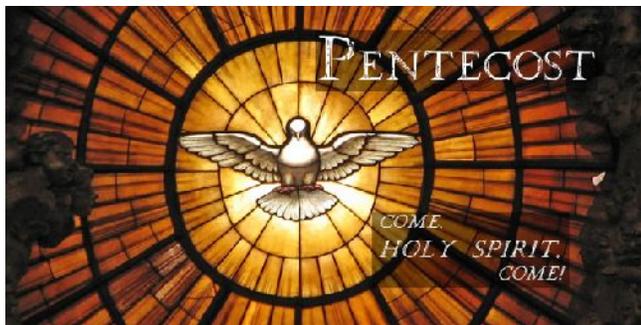
I especially thank Mrs. Sroka for her guiding hand when I first arrived and the countless "extras" she has done throughout her 27 years at SPS to support our students, parents, and staff. Her welcoming presence was much appreciated by all who entered our school doors. It is my prayer that the next part of her journey will be filled with many blessings for her and her family. I am most grateful that she remains in our community and will continue to share her many talents and gifts with us.

Isaiah 55:12 - "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."



CATHOLIC FEAST DAYS

- 6/1 St. Justin
- 6/2 Sts. Marcellinus and Peter
- 6/3 St. Charles Lwanga and Companions
- 6/4 Pentecost Sunday



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Several individuals have asked about upcoming sessions for the Protecting God's Children Workshops which are required for all school volunteers and others who will be with our children. There will be a session on June 3 at St. Timothy in Trenton beginning at 9 am. There will be two sessions at St. Roch Parish in Flat Rock on July 20. The morning session begins at 9 am and the evening session begins at 6 pm. To register go to virtusonline.org.

There are no sessions currently scheduled at Divine Grace Parish/St. Patrick School. We apologize for any inconvenience that occurred due to the unexpected need to cancel the session scheduled last week at our parish.



To listen to Fr. Steve's Homily Podcasts go to:

<http://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/fatherstevemateja>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held August 14-18 from 9-noon at the St. Joseph's site in Maybee under the direction of Valerie Eby. You may contact her at 734-731-3344 for additional information or if you would like to volunteer. Children from 3 years to 5th grade are welcome to attend.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION MASS

The high school graduation Mass will be on Sunday, June 4 at the St. Patrick 11:00 am Mass. Graduates should wear their cap and gown. There will be a reception afterwards. Please RSVP the religious education office if your child will attend 654-6444 or divinegracedre@yahoo.com. Please include the school your child is graduating from and the number of people attending the reception.

Seven Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss

Summer is upon us once again, and parents are beginning to plan for their children's days without a school schedule. Dreams of days filled with family, friends, freedom and laughter are in students' heads as they say goodbye to another school year. However, a nonacademic summer can cause students at every grade level to digress two to three months in their academic skills. Half an hour to an hour set aside daily can help students close learning gaps and perform at higher levels during the upcoming school year. Summer is an ideal time for students of all ages to strengthen their academic skills while still having plenty of time left over for summer activities.

1. MAKE TIME FOR LEARNING

Set aside time for your student to read each day during the summer break -- 15 to 30 minutes per day is all it takes! During the summer, students have more time to read for enjoyment, which also offers a great opportunity to preserve and strengthen their reading skills. Your summer activities should include taking your children or teenagers to the public library to check out books of interest and/or any summer reading groups they'd like to join.

A great way to track how much reading your child is doing during the summer months is a tally on your regular activities calendar. This will help keep the daily reading time from being overlooked because of other summer activities -- and we know there are many!

Parents of students reading *below* grade level should read with their children in order to assist with sounding out words they might not be able to decode themselves. In addition, keep a dictionary or online source close by to help students figure out those words by using the phonetic spelling provided.

2. LEARN AND PRACTICE AFFIXES

Children and teens of all grade levels can improve their reading and spelling skills by learning affixes. Most multi-syllable words include prefixes and suffixes added to a base word. You can find a list of affixes and their meanings in a dictionary or in many online sources. To make this practice appealing, turn it into a game! Students can create flashcards of prefixes and suffixes. On the reverse side of each affix flash card, they should write the meaning. All children love guessing games and can point out what they think the affix means. You can also use this game to help them learn new vocabulary words.

3. DEVELOP MATH SKILLS

Though it may not seem fun to them at the time, working on just three to four math problems per day during the summer can prevent students' mathematical skills from getting rusty. They can look at it as a daily challenge that they must complete, or a daily "to-do" to proudly check off their calendar. Parents can purchase a math workbook for their child's academic level at most bookstores. Working on just a few problems daily (or more, if your child enjoys math) can help students of all ages close the gaps in their math skills, preserve what they learned during the previous school year, and prepare for the next.

4. IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION

To help your children better understand what they're reading, consider offering them a reading comprehension workbook to work on several minutes daily. These can be found at teacher supply stores or many online outlets. Students of all grades and ability levels can benefit scholastically by working with material that offers self-quizzes and high-interest stories. This practice helps develop their fact-retaining and inference-making skills.

5. REVIEW AND BUILD GRAMMAR SKILLS

Review the past grade level's grammar concepts, and begin to work on the next school year's concepts. During the summer, students benefit from weekly reviews or pre-learning two to four lessons. Find workbooks geared to their grade or skill level, and encourage them to check their work using the answer key provided. Even if they make mistakes on their answers (and who doesn't make mistakes?), finally filling in the correct answers will reinforce their grammar skills.

6. ENCOURAGE CREATIVE WRITING

Creative writing is a great way to improve your children's written language skills while giving them a fun and imaginative activity during summer! Have your student write a creative paragraph each week. As a parent, you can help by assisting him or her with choosing a "topic" (such as family vacation, special outing or holiday memory) to write a paragraph about. Students can also benefit from using a thesaurus and changing common words to more interesting words. This will make their writing more interesting *while* learning great new words at the same time.

7. FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SKILLS

Pinpoint the subjects your child had the most trouble learning the previous school year, and make sure to fit in some practice in these areas. Summer is an *ideal* time to set aside just 15 to 30 minutes a day for helping your student on areas of difficulty. Again, use every resource available. Parents are not helpless when it comes to their child's education. Online resources and teacher supply stores offer a wide variety of learning materials, workbooks, computer games, and other types of games to reinforce and strengthen scholastic skills. Students may wish to play learning games with their friends to help make the time fly by and make learning more fun.

Over the summer, students and parents who practice the above tips can see great strengthening and improvement in scholastic skills, and are progressing two to three months in learning. Summer learning can be fun *and* challenging at the same time. Students may find learning to be more enjoyable as they become more capable of meeting scholastic challenges and overcoming any learning weaknesses. By implementing a summer plan that focuses on your child's passion for learning, he or she can enjoy a renewed sense of academic self-esteem and dignity -- wonderful benefits of learning to be "counted out." Written by Barbara Dianis for Edutopia

CALENDAR CORNER



Thursday, June 1:

Field Day begins at 9:25 with prayer in the Peace Garden followed by activities

Hot dog lunch by PTO at 11:45 pm

Class kick ball and other activities in the afternoon

Friday, June 2:

8:30: Arrival for muffin snack

9:00: Awards and report cards handed out with students going to classroom afterwards

11:00: Final School Mass, parents and guests sit with students, departure after Mass

Saturday, June 3:

Thank You Reception for Ms. Meiring (20 years as principal) and Mrs. Sroka (27 years as school office manager) after the 4 pm Mass

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The parish is in need of someone to water plants around St. Patrick Church on a weekly basis. If there is interest in junior high students wishing to earn service hours, contact Rita Beaubien at 734-755-1992.

Today you are receiving information about the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, as well as a and a school supply list.

KUDOS:

- To the students who took leadership roles at Mass last Friday: Alaina Hartford and Luke Scully (readers); Cale Jones and Caleb Totten (offertory);
- Gracie Bylow, Hannah Roof, Heidi Cousino, John Illes, Drew Bylow, Alex Monske, Thomas Peterson, Victoria Busen (choir); Andrew Wickenheiser, Adam Goins, Isabelle Niedermeyer, Cyrus Marks (altar servers).
- To last week's field trip chaperones: Dawn Roof, Jacob Belinky, Joyce Sayles, Valory Reams, Jenni Gannon, Cinda Scully, and Mary Wickenheiser
- To morning readers: Kyrie Gannon, Alaina Hartford, and Adam Goins.
- To the many parents and seventh grade students who prepared yesterday's graduation reception by decorating/setting up, sending in food items, preparing the trays, serving, and cleaning up.
- To the many parents who volunteered to send in water, cookies, muffins, for field day and Friday's final day reception.
- To those who have volunteered to assist with field day activities and/or prepare the hot dog lunch.
- To the PTO for providing Thursday's hot dog lunch.
- To all of our wonderful volunteers throughout the year....we couldn't do it without you!