

February/March 2017



**UPCOMING DATES:**

**February 22:**  
12:15 p.m. dismissal (No  
After School)

**February 23-24:**  
No School (Rodeo  
Break)

**February 28/March 2:**  
JH Show at 6:30 (buy  
your tickets now!)

**March 10-17:**  
No School (Diocesan In-  
Service & Spring Break)

**March 25:**  
The Event  
(i.e. the auction)

*"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."*

# Intermediate Department

**RELIGION:**

We are delving into the Ten Commandments and will be examining how these rules for life can help us stay on the path to happiness by practicing empathy for others and kindness.

**LANGUAGE ARTS:**

Students in third and fourth grade will be looking at the lessons that folktales teach as well as how people use stories as a way to teach about culture and values. We will also be practicing reading fluently to an audience with reader's theater. Students are developing strategies for following written directions and finding the theme in a text. Students wrote and delivered heartwarming letters to faculty and staff for Catholic Schools Week. They were personal and well written. We will be studying parts of speech and their roles in sentences. Remember developing study habits by practicing vocabulary or spelling words for 10 minutes several times in a week rather than cramming the night before a quiz or test helps store information more securely. Practice makes permanent.

We are delving into diagramming sentences to see how the parts work together to create the whole. This is helping students review the parts of speech. Students actually love doing this and it has provided some light bulb moments. Fourth graders are studying plot elements and how these affect the story and how authors reveal information through their writing. Third graders are focusing on cause and effect and how this can affect the character's actions in a story. They also are thinking about the author's message as they are reading and identifying ways the author shows this through the writing and are often getting a chance to tie writers' tools to stories we are reading.

**MATH:**

**3rd Grade:** Third graders are wrapping up their unit on multiplication and division, they have all worked hard and adding more tools to their math toolbox.

We will be diving into our geometry at the beginning of March.

The 3rd graders are gaining confidence and finding success on their weekly math fact quizzes, just in time for the Annual March Madness Math Fact Tournament.



## Math, cont.

*4th Grade:* I am very proud of the 4th graders and all their hard work on multi-digit multiplication. They have learned and practiced through four different methods to understand the conceptual as well as the procedural parts of multi-digit multiplication.

As we wrap our multiplication unit up, we will be learning long division, and you can ask your 4th grader why "Dangerous Monkeys Swipe Bananas."

Keep practicing your math facts, March Madness is coming!

## SOCIAL STUDIES:

*4th Grade:* Students are learning about the Northeastern region including the states, major cities and landforms. Students have been working with a partner to research and learn about a Northeastern state and make a poster board to present to classmates. After we finish up the Northeastern region, we will begin studying the Southwest and the state of Arizona.

*3rd Grade:* Students have just finished their colonial unit and had the chance to write a time piece from the perspective of a colonist. Students will learn about the three branches of government and how they work with one another. As we close our government unit, we will move into the history of Arizona, and third graders will have the chance to work with their fellow fourth graders.

## SCIENCE:

Third and fourth graders just finished learning about the layers of the Earth, volcanoes and earthquakes. This month students will learn about rocks and minerals. Students will be able to identify rocks based off their composition and other key features. Students will also learn about the importance of soil and fossil fuels in the upcoming unit.