

October 2017



Advanced Intermediate Department

Ms. Maas Room 1 Mathematics annm@stcyril.com	Mrs. Tinley Room 12 Science pamelat@stcyril.com	Mrs. Hook Room 17 Language Arts jessicah@stcyril.com	Mrs. Ward Room 18 Social Studies brendaw@stcyril.com	Mrs. Sidi Reading sarahs@stcyril.com	Ms. Crable Religion patriciaa@stcyril.com
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Mrs. Hook and Mrs. Sidi - Language Arts and Reading

We are off to a busy Autumn! Students have been fine-tuning their knowledge of spelling patterns, meanings of unknown words, grammar usage, writing skills, and comprehension skills. The upcoming months bring with it more opportunities to grow as effective communicators and lifelong learners as we focus our lessons on narrative writing, figurative language, characterization, and non-fiction text. Both fifth and sixth graders will continue their engagement in literacy centers; providing them daily practice to grow as writers and readers!

Ms. Tinley - Science

Science Fair ideas should be formulating. The best project idea is one that is of utmost interest to the student!

5th Grade Science:

We are currently working our way through the various spheres of the Earth. Lab activities (and there have been many) all center around reinforcing knowledge and application of the relationship between the spheres. Do you know how much fresh water is actually available for usage? Do you know how air pressure affects the hydrosphere? Fifth grade students are excited to continue these discoveries as well as solidifying the content vocabulary that accompanies this topic.

6th Grade Science:

As we travel through our solar system, the sixth grade is learning perspective. How far is it really from the Earth to our moon? Why have we never gone into a black hole? What are the similarities and differences between all the planets? And why isn't Pluto a planet anymore? Answers to these thought provoking questions and more will be answered as we continue to infinity and beyond!

Ms. Maas - Math

Students have been adjusting the routines of Saxon math. Each day they work on becoming fluent with basic facts and number concepts such as simplifying fractions and converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. Students also work on mental math and do a problem-solving problem each day before being introduced to the new concepts.

Important Dates

Thurs., 10/12	12:15 p.m. dismissal (P/T conferences)
Fri., 10/13	No School (P/T Conferences)
Mon., 10/16	No School (Fall Break)
Fri. & Sat., 10/20-21	Fall Block Party
Fri., 10/27	Halloween Parade
Wed., 11/1	All Saints Day Mass
Wed. 11/8	12:15 p.m. dismissal (P/T conferences)
Thurs., 11/9	No School (P/T Conferences)
Fri., 11/10	No School (Veteran's Day)

In 5th grade math, we have been working on being accurate in our calculations with whole numbers and money. We are increasing our knowledge of the number line by extending it to numbers less than 0. We have also been finding the value of mixed numbers and where they are located on the number line. We have extended this learning and our using it to measure using an inch ruler. We will also be working with factors and identifying prime numbers, and will be extending that into finding greatest common factor and writing quotients with mixed numbers. So good-bye remainders.

The sixth graders have already bid good-bye to remainders and are also focusing on being accurate with calculations of whole numbers. They have also worked with adding, subtracting, and multiplying with fractions. We have been using protractors to measure angles and rulers to measure to the nearest sixteenth of an inch. Students will be learning the meaning of exponents, how to find their value and how to find the square root of a number. We will also extend our knowledge of prime and composite numbers to determine the prime factorization of a number and use that to find Least Common Multiples and Greatest Common Factor.

Mrs. Ward - Social Studies

Grade 5 -

Happy Autumn! We have been busy in Social Studies learning about the Prehistoric Native Americans and their housing, traveling and hunting methods. In addition, we have begun our geography component, which consists of identifying and comprehending complex graphs, charts and maps. Your fifth graders have also been excited to learn Google Classroom, an educational suite that aims to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. We have also begun our Early European Explorers Unit, which will take us into mid-November. **Way to go, fifth graders!!!**

Grade 6:

Hello! We have recently completed our early Prehistoric Humans unit, which covered the essential question of "What was life like during the Paleolithic Age?" We will be covering six more ancient civilizations, and also be integrating reading, informational writing, and technological skills as well. We have also recently reinforced the themes of geography, latitude and longitude, reading and comprehending maps, charts and graphs. Google Classroom is used on a routine basis in our learning environment. Upcoming units for October and November will be Ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. **Kudos, sixth graders!**

It is exciting to watch both grades blossom and share their "lightbulb" moments in social studies. Thank you for sharing your student's journey with us.

Mrs. Crable - Religion

Our unit has been on "Worshiping God as Catholic Christians." In this topic, we have been learning about different ways to worship and share our faith through the Sacraments of Initiation. They will be building a quilt of Initiation. Students will choose one of the three Sacraments of Initiation, research it, find one particular thing about it that interests them, and then build their quilt. We will sew the squares together and display it outside. We will complete section one by the end of October.

