



St. Mary's School, Canton, NY

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Sixth Grade News

September 2017



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September's TOP STORIES

The 2017-2018 school year at St. Mary's is off to a great start, and I am excited to be working with the sixth graders again this year! Here is a look at what we've been up to this month.

ELA: We began by reviewing parts of speech and what makes a complete sentence. We read "The Jabberwocky," by Lewis Carroll to better understand how context clues help us define unknown words. Then we wrote descriptions and drew illustrations of our own "Fantastic Beasts."

We discussed point of view and how it helps us understand a story and practiced writing from different perspectives with free-writing exercises. We are now writing Personal Narratives: true stories about ourselves!

Our class novel is *I Love You, Michael Collins*, which ties into our science unit on Astronomy. Written as a series of letters from a young girl, this book tells the story of the launch of Apollo 11 and the lesser-known astronaut, Michael Collins.

Science: We began our study of Astronomy with a look at the Sun and Moon. Working with our fifth grade friends, the students have collaborated in 5 teams to read, discuss and experiment. Each student created a paper plate sundial and took readings at different hours. We created a display with Sun facts for the hallway. Teams of students recently created Moon observation boxes to imitate the phases of the Moon, using a flashlight and a ping pong ball. At home, we are trying to observe and record the Moon's phases. Mrs. Turner even did an Art project with the solar eclipse.

Social Studies: We began the year with a Geography unit. We studied climate and the factors that affect it. We learned to read climographs and describe different climate zones. We identified different landforms and water forms, and have created our own "Fantasy Island" maps using these different geographical forms.

Math: We begin our math classes with a few minutes called "Math and Movement." This time is made up of Brain Gym-type exercises involving math facts. It's a fun way to release some energy mid-morning and practice our math skills at the same time. Each week, we have been practicing a different times table.

Our current math unit is on rates and ratios. We are also graphing ratio tables on the coordinate plane. One day, we did math stations, and sometimes we play a cooperative card game called "I Have, Who Has?" Besides using our math workbooks, we also practice on ixl. Our class has completed over 500 problems on ixl so far! Way to go!

Religion: Mr. Trejos comes three days a week to teach Religion. He is teaching the class about the Old Testament this year and they have had many interesting discussions. The class designed Prayer Posters and they are learning a song called "I Will Serve the Lord."

Besides our academic subjects, students have been busy helping with the announcements, raising and lowering the flag, altar serving and reading at Mass. We have reading buddies on Fridays with the pre-k and kindergarten students. It is so nice to see what good role models the 6th graders have been for the younger children.

We have been preparing for a prayer service next Monday on St. Vincent de Paul. It will be held Monday at 8:05-8:20 in the school gym. You are welcome to attend if you are able!







Reminder: Tonight is Family Fun Night, 6:30-7:30!

Open House is next Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 6:30-7:30. Hope to see you there!



May God bless you all,

Miss Augenstein