

Special Update!

From Mrs. Lorenz & Mrs. Wirths

St. Joseph
Catholic
School

What are you reading?

Would you rather be an author, illustrator, or both? Be sure to ask your kids! This year we'll be exploring different authors. Much like our "genre program" last year, this year we will be focusing on authors. Just like many people fall in love with a certain genre of books, many fall in love with the writing of a particular author.

Preschool through second grade will study a different author each month September through April. Each student will bring home a book from the author of the month to read and complete a S.W.B.S.T. book summary sheet on the book. Sep-

tember's Author is David Shannon author of No, David books. October's Author will be Kevin Henkes.

Third through eighth grade will be able to choose an author of their own quarterly. These students will choose two novels to read by their chosen author and complete a story comparison sheet on the books. Once they have read and passed AR tests on both books, they will get the sheet from Mrs. Lorenz to complete and turn in for "Author Club".

While the classroom teachers are working closely with AR this year, and are responsible for

goal setting, we continue to help kids check out appropriate books for their level and interest. We also allow time for testing, and encourage them toward their goal. Please encourage your students to continue reading at home. Ask them what they are reading and what they loved about the book.

Students are always welcome from 7:30-7:50 in the Library for AR testing or checking out a new book! Please encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity. They are so excited as they meet their AR goals, and we are so excited to celebrate with them!!

Tech Talk

We are clicking away in Technology this quarter!

Kindergarten is excited to have Technology this year and have been spending time correctly using the mouse and navigation learning websites.

As a Google for Education School, we have spent most of the quarter getting used to signing in to our accounts, using different Google Apps. First and second grade had fun creating their own David Shannon Illustration using the Google Drawing app.

The third and fourth grade is using Google

Docs to work with tables. We've learned the difference between rows and columns and how they intersect to make cells. We've also merged cells along with using different text formatting commands.

Fifth and sixth grades are glad to be through the whole alphabet in keyboarding. We will be continuing to improve our skills through the year, but we can all say we do know where the keys are and which finger should touch each key. We also know proper body alignment and exercises to use after typing.

Seventh and eighth grade have been working on book trailers in the WeVideo app. We will use these as examples for the younger students to do the same project later in the year! We will be moving on to business and academic document formatting next.

Keep watching for more fun projects to be shared throughout the year! Also if you have a device at home where your student can login to Chrome, we would love to have them login at home and work or share with you what's happening at school!

2017-2018 Quarter 1

September 2017

Apps to Download at Home:

- [Google Chrome](#)
- [Google Docs](#)
- [Google Sheets](#)
- [Google Slides](#)
- [Google Drive](#)
- [Google Classroom](#)
- *AR Book Scanner (\$1.99 but totally worth it. Before you buy a book, scan it and see if it's on your child's level and has a test!!)*

Great Sites for Home:

- [Learntyping.org](#)
- [Typing.com](#) (students should know their login)
- [ARBookfind.com](#)
- [USCCB.org](#) (Catholic website that has all the readings and about anything Catholic you'd ever want to know!)



Let's Get Physical

We've been enjoying the beautiful weather 1st quarter!

In addition to running the mile, we have been practicing large motor skills and have learned some new games. Congratulations to our top mile finishers for the school:

Logan Goehman, Levi Wolfe, Cooper Hoff, Anna Wolfe, and Tate Rentel.

We will repeat this challenge in the spring, so keep your running shoes ready!

Sportsmanship and Teamwork are other skills that are always emphasized at the beginning of a new year and continued to be developed and encouraged as we move on. Displaying Christian values is a major component of our PE Curriculum and something we are excited to see displayed during PE and recess.



Please encourage your student to practice the golden rule and have fun!

Mistakes into Masterpieces!

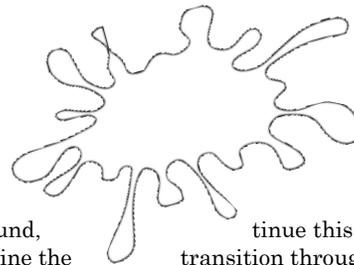
The Art Room has been a busy place first quarter! We have covered a ton of curriculum material and created some masterpieces in the mean time!

We have studied the famous artist Claude Monet and his style of Impressionism. While creating our own version of his popular Les Nymphes Blancs we've learned tints and shades of colors through mixing. We also discussed the value of colors.

We've also used a variety of media to create a landscape. Using organic

shapes to create a foreground, background, and horizon line the students made a landscape for part of a grandparent's day gift that will be completed in Technology.

At the Diocesan Art Conference we discussed plans for this year's Sketch Day and the older students are already practicing their sketching techniques to prepare for this fun day in the spring. Students in grades 3-8 have completed their first sketch of the year. The subject was a summer tree. We will con-



tinue this each quarter as we transition through the seasons.

We know that art is a process, and sometimes "mistakes" happen. We strive to not be frustrated by such mistakes, but focus on turning them into Masterpieces!! We can erase it, flip paper over, color or paint over it, cut it off, glue paper over it, or turn it into something else. I am impressed with the creativity of this group and look forward to the big reveal this spring!

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 18:24

This year we are focusing on being grateful. This is our focus verse for the year, and we will be talking all year about making the best in all circumstances.

The kids have worked super hard starting the first week of school preparing for their performance for Grandparent's Day. I'm confident that the grandparents will be happy to see them singing songs from the Good ol' Days!

After Grandparent's Day, we will be moving right into the Christmas Program. Madonna and I have visited and

the students will be voting between two shows to perform soon. The program is scheduled for December 20th. We will also be offering a special matinee performance on December 19th for grandparents and parishioners who might not be able to make it to our regular evening performance! More details will follow.

I've had lots of questions about the recorders. Third through eighth grade will be starting this after Christmas break. If you haven't sent in your \$3 yet, please do so before Thanksgiving

so I can get them here in time. Learning to read music is much easier when paired with an instrument. Last year we focused on rhythm. This year we will be doing more actual notes. Get ready to hear us play at the Talent Show this spring!!

