



March 12, 2023

The “Know it all” News

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church and School, 200 East Church Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

A Word from Father . . .

The introduction of the Stations of the Cross in church is attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi (1181–1226). He is also credited with giving us the manger scene as a way of displaying the Nativity of our Lord in church. The 14 Stations of the Cross hang on the walls of every Catholic Church and it is a way for us to make a pilgrimage and follow the footsteps of Christ on Good Friday. Therefore, it has become a popular Friday devotion among Catholics and especially during the Lenten season we gather in Church to pray and remember Jesus’ love for us as he endured a cruel passion and death.

Even if we have never been to the land of Israel, the Stations of the Cross place us in Jerusalem and allow us to at least mentally pilgrimage to the Holy Land and recall Jesus’ final day on earth prior to his resurrection. While the events are tragic and sad, it helps our faith to know that God loves us enough to take on our sinful nature and redeem us with his own blood. That’s proof of our preciousness in the sight of God. And it also helps us to remember that the difficulties of life will not triumph over God’s promise of eternity in his sight. The Stations of the Cross give us hope to make our way through life on earth to life in heaven.

Our school children pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent following Mass and we offer Stations every Lenten Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. as well. The Knights of Columbus are hosting 4 Friday fish dinners throughout Lent. So spend your Friday evening with us at Church to feed body, mind and soul.

God bless you,

Father Michael Kaluza

Calendar of Events

March

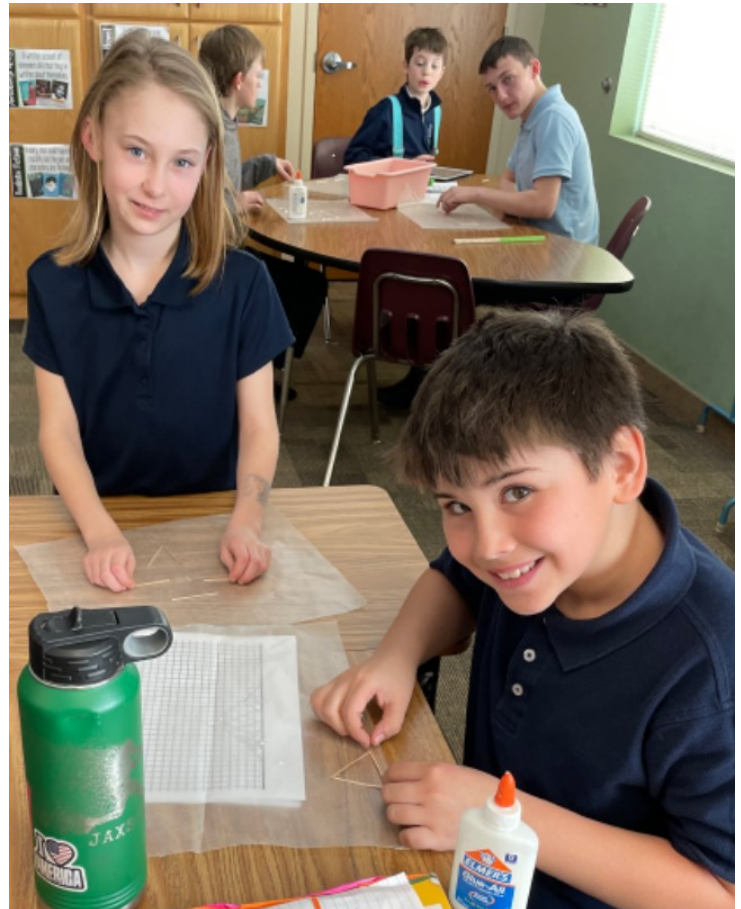
- 9 ~~All School Open House~~ Postponed/New date TBA
- 10 8:30 am Mass hosted by grades 2-3
- 11 CUF Bingo
- 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16 Ashley’s last day
- 17 **ST. Pat’s Day / Wear Green**
8:30 am Mass hosted by grades 4-5-6
Karen Feddersen in for PreK
- 20-24 **Spring Break**
- 28 Teacher Staff Meeting
- 31 8:30 am Mass hosted by grades 2-3

April

- 17 Field Trip to Orchestra Hall for grades 2-6 / bring bag lunch
- 18 Field Trip to Children’s Museum for grades PreK-1 / bring bag lunch

REMINDER:

Register by April 15 for the 2023-2024 school year,
or your registration fee goes up \$50.



Here's what's happening in the classrooms . . .



Mrs. Olson (Teacher Ashley) Preschool

Preschoolers are still enjoying all the snow! This week we explored different cloud formations. This begins our weather unit as March has many different types of weather days. As a class we decided that we are going to create a huge class project. So, we began cutting scrap paper and sorting colors. Next week we will make a mosaic rainbow. This will be my last week with these amazing children. They will have this rainbow to represent our class as a group through the school year. It has been a blessing.

Teacher Ashley

Mrs. Schroers K-1st Grades

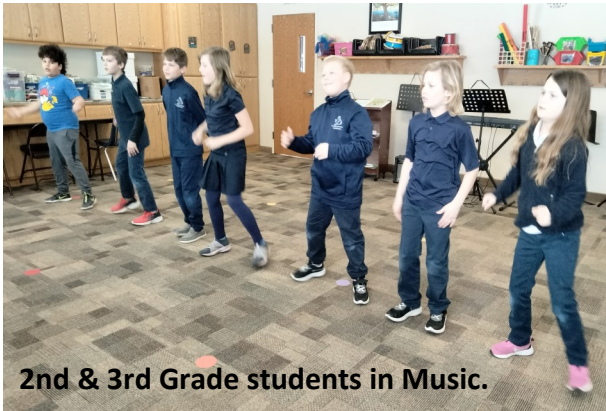
We are working on subtraction, fact families and writing subtraction equations in first grade while the kindergartners are working on addition sums. In literacy the kindergartners are focusing on beginning and final consonant sounds and reading our sight words in sentences.

In science we have been doing some Mystery Doug Science activities about animal needs such as food and safety.

In our religion books we have read about God the Father giving us Jesus and also about the season of Lent. In Catechesis our newest work was the Mystery of Christ as the Good Shepherd. Next week we will learn about Saint Patrick. God Bless, Ms. Schroers



Mrs. Hennen 2nd & 3rd Grades



2nd & 3rd Grade students in Music.

Hello Families, Our class has enjoyed working on book reports. We just finished a file folder flip report. The reports are displayed in the hallway. This week we started working on writing an essay. We are discovering that the skills we have learned in Language Arts are coming together in our writing! In our L.A. class we are learning about noun-verb agreement, adjectives and adverbs. In Believe and Read we are reviewing prefixes and suffixes, syllables, and homophones. Next we will work with words that have ai and ay spelling.

Second grade math is learning the Foundations of Multiplication.

Third grade is working on Telling Time Concepts such as elapsed time! Very challenging! In our science class we will be starting to study the Ecosystem (living and nonliving). As for Social Studies we are still learning about our country's history. Next in Social will be citizenship. In our Religion class we have great discussions on preparing for Easter with the Lenten season.

Ms. Katie Cates (Reading Specialist)

On top of our weekly spelling and reading comprehension practice, my fourth, fifth, and sixth graders are in the middle of tracking their musher in the 2023 Iditarod! Last week while learning about the Iditarod and its history, students created biography posters on a musher of their choosing. This is one of my favorite units I do with the students because it was something I did as a sixth grader and loved it. I cannot wait to see who will be our class winner and red lantern award winner.

My first grade friends are working hard on identifying, reading, and spelling one and two syllable words with digraphs and blends. Alphabetizing is another skill that we are working on in our workbooks.

Mr. Lopahs 4th, 5th & 6th Grades

As we are approaching Spring Break our 4/5/6 students are still locked into their work and excelling at every turn!



We just finished our second Essay for a contest, this one about Patriotism, and will have one more before the Break.

In Math the 5/6 crew is grinding through Rational Numbers while the 4th graders are advancing in their Division unit.

South America has been our theme in Social Studies as we continue to explore the Regions of the World.

In Science teams are finishing up their Toothpick Bridges and will see which ones are the strongest.