



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 15, 2021

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about migration and changes in population. We examined how the world's population has changed over the last 70 years, and how it will continue to change in the future. We also discussed what factors led to countries gaining and losing people.

Next week we will continue to look at how cultures and societies are structured. We will also start to learn about the different types of economies that exist in the world.

**Science:** This week we finished up our chapter on earthquakes. We moved the test to next week, so we got to do a building project, determining best how to create a house that would withstand seismic waves. We did review on Thursday and Friday, and the test will be Tuesday, after our field trip to see the play on Monday. We will be starting the next section on weathering, erosion, and deposition.

- Upcoming Test: Oct. 19

**ELA:** This week we discussed Chapters 10-12 of *The Cay* and took a quiz on chapters 4-9. Students read informational texts about Malaria and answered questions on the information they read. In addition, we discussed cultural differences between Caribbean culture and our own. We continued working on using context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words within a text and finished out our week with turning in their Map Projects and reading Chapters 13-15 of *The Cay*. Next week we will be discussing hurricanes in relation to the novel and working more with context clues and informational texts on coral reefs.

- Quarterly Reading/Writing notebooks will be collected on Monday, Oct. 25. Students should have seven weeks' worth of their notebook completed by then.
- Chapters 10-19 Quiz on *The Cay* will be on Thursday, Oct. 28.

**Math 6S:** This week students took a quiz over multiplying and dividing fractions and learned about adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 2 - Tuesday, Oct. 26



**Math 6B:** This week students took a quiz over operations with decimals and wrapped up Chapter 2 with a test.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 1 - Monday, Oct. 25

**Theology:** Even though we pray Lectio Divina (divine reading) every Thursday for our TOB class, on Monday we looked into the specifics of this simple but meditative form of praying with the Scriptures. Lectio Divina is a quiet, reflective way to listen and pray that I would encourage you to pray as a family. We also studied how to navigate the Bible and understand the different types of books.

In TOB, we began our next unit titled “Image of God” by discussing how human beings are both part of creation and yet set apart from it in a special way.

- Quiz: Tuesday, Oct. 19

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we examined what Europe looked like during the Middle Ages, what new countries arose, and key conflicts. We looked at how feudalism limited the rights of the common people.

Next week we will talk about how Christianity spread throughout Europe, and we will also delve deeper into Feudalism and the Manor economy.

**Science:** The 7th-graders took their test on the states of matter this week. We then started our next section on atoms and the periodic table. Moving forward, we will be exploring more of the periodic table and introducing the different types of bonds that atoms make. I have told the kids to be very open with me if they are not grasping the material, as this is brand new material that can be more challenging. I am happy to find some time to work with anyone who might need a little reinforcement, so please encourage your kiddos to advocate for themselves.

**ELA:** This week, we began our pre-reading process to introduce the novel *Dragonwings*. Students discussed themes such as loyalty, prejudice, achievement of goals, and separation. We ended the week with researching the patterns of Chinese immigration to the United States, the importance of the Wright Brothers and their contributions to aviation, the Boxer Rebellion, and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. Next week, we will be delving into the actual novel, focusing on vocabulary, literary elements, and plot.

- Quarterly Reading/Writing notebooks will be collected on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Students should have seven weeks' worth of their notebook completed by then.

**Math:** This week students took a quiz over algebraic expressions. Next week they will learn about solving equations with multiplication and division.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 2 – Monday, Oct. 25

**Theology:** We discussed the counter-intuitive connection between Faith and Reason. While it seems irrational to put trust in something that cannot be known by reason alone, wisdom tells us we should because of our trust in the source of our faith, God. We also discussed the importance of family and the responsibility of giving of yourself unconditionally.

In TOB, we began our next unit titled “Redeemed and Called” by learning about the Protoevangelium, which means “the first good news.” This is the promise of Jesus our redeemer that God tells Adam and Eve after they sinned.

- Quiz: Tuesday, Oct. 19

## 8th GRADE UPDATES



**Social Studies:** The students worked on their Build A Battle projects for the War of 1812. They started the week collaborating and drawing up mock sketches of the projects. They have now moved into the production phase and they are looking fantastic. I told them that they have set the bar high for future groups.

Next week they will continue to work on them. The due date has been moved back to Thursday Oct. 21, due to the fact that we will not have class on Monday. I can't wait to see the finished battle projects.

**Science:** We have continued to learn about cells this week. The kids love the cell parts song that they were assigned to watch for homework one night this week and beg me to play it every day in class. We also spent some time using microscopes and looking at slides after talking about microscope parts. We will be diving more deeply into the chemicals that make up cells next week. I love hearing all the excitement over the cell projects! I can't wait to see them!

- Upcoming project: Cell Project, due Oct. 25

**ELA:** This week, we focused on drafting our Persuasive Essays. We learned about parallel structure in writing a thesis statement, how to properly integrate quotations to support claims, MLA citation, and MLA paper set-up. In addition, we analyzed parts of a sample paper.

Next week, we will be focusing on peer-editing, sentence boundary errors, transitions, commas, and the revision process.

Quarterly Reading/Writing notebooks will be collected on Thursday, October 28. Students should have seven weeks' worth of their notebook completed by then.

- Final Draft of Persuasive Essay Due Monday, Oct. 25.

**Math 8G1:** This week students took a test over Chapter 2 and a quiz over transversals and angles of triangles. Next week they will learn about angles of polygons and using similar triangles.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 2 – Thursday, Oct. 21

**Math 8G2:** This week students took a test over Chapter 2 and learned about linear functions and function notation. Next week they will learn about graphing linear functions using different formats.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 1 - Monday, Oct. 18

**Theology:** We learned about Pentecost being the fulfillment of the Jewish feast of Shavuot, the commemoration of God giving the law to Moses. In Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave his authority and guidance to the Apostles to give to the Church. We also discussed the solidarity of the early Church in their beliefs, prayers, and love for each other.

- Quiz: Wednesday, Oct 20

# MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDTRIP



What: Middle School fieldtrip to Aquinas College Performing Arts Center

When: Monday, Oct. 18, 9am

Why: To see Catholic Central's Fall play "Our Town"

Info: All Middle School students will be walking to the Performing Arts Center. We will leave Saint Thomas around 9am and return at approximately 12pm. Your child must have a permission slip, signed by parents on file.

Also, due to the rules of the theater, ALL students are required to WEAR a mask during the play.