

SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 22, 2021

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week in Social Studies the 6th graders learned about different cultures, and traditions around the world. The students researched a country and answered specific questions about the country. The questions ranged from resources to food to traditions. The students also visited with their grandfriends. They played an exciting game of Kahoot with questions spanning generations. Next week, we will continue to learn about the different economies of the world.

- Quiz: Friday Oct. 28 on Sections 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5

Science: After taking our test on earthquakes on Tuesday and Wednesday, we have moved into Chapter 3 and 4. These two chapters focus on the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition, and the causes and results of these processes.

ELA: This week we finished discussing Chapters 13-15 of *The Cay*. We also completed activities which helped us understand hurricanes and coral islands more in depth in order to understand the events in these chapters. While completing these activities, we focused on research skills and text to text connections (comparing information given in the novel to content in an informational text). Finally, we worked on parts of speech, synonyms, and antonyms with vocabulary words from Chapters 13-15.

Next week, we will be reading Chapters 16-19 and finishing *The Cay*! In addition we will be continuing to work on context clues, synonyms, and parts of speech with vocabulary words, and we will be looking into characterization in the novel as a whole.

- 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, Nov. 4.

Math 6S: This week students learned about multiplying and dividing decimals. Next week we will wrap up Chapter 2.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 2 - Tuesday, Oct. 26
- Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz - Thursday, Oct. 28
- Chapter 2 Test - Tuesday, Nov. 2

Math 6B: This week students learned about the parts of algebraic expressions and writing expressions. Next week they will learn about the properties of addition and multiplication, the distributive property, and factoring expressions.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 1 - Monday, Oct. 25

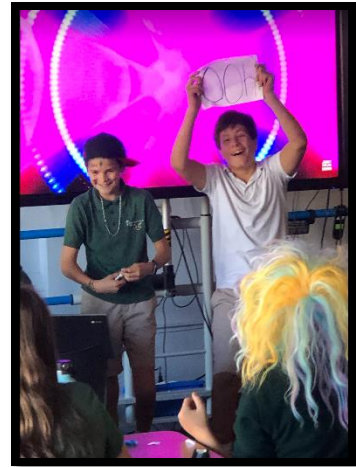
Theology: This week we learned how Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit and do not teach error even though written by human hands and minds. We also discussed how to properly interpret various genres of Biblical literature by using the Church's teachings which also come from the Holy Spirit. In TOB, we learned how being able to think and choose sets us apart from animals and gives us the capacity for relationship with God. In this, we imitate the relationship of the three persons of the Trinity.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week the students learned about how Christianity spread throughout Europe. The students presented what they learned to their fellow classmates by doing skits. We discussed St. Patrick as well as the origins of monasteries and convents. We also visited with our grandfriends and played an exciting game of Kahoot with them. Next week we will continue to learn about the manor economy and how towns began to become more populated.

- Quiz: Thursday, Oct. 28 on Sections 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3

Science: The 7th graders have been focusing on atoms and the periodic table this week. They were given a list of atomic symbols that they will need to know by their next test in a few weeks. In order to master this material, they should be studying every night. We will be moving into the types of bonds between elements and how they form.



ELA: This week, we discussed the Chinese Exclusion Act more in depth and worked on creating visuals and using vocabulary words in our own sentences to help us remember vocabulary terms for Chapters 1-2 of Dragonwings. We ended the week with reading Chapter one and making connections between what we read and what we studied last week regarding the historical context of the novel.

Next week, we will be reading Chapter Two and delving deeper into how point of view affects our understanding of the novel. In addition, we will be implementing reading strategies to help with comprehension and to guide our in class discussions.

- 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 learned about solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and solving equations that involve two steps. Next week we will wrap up Chapter 3.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 2 - Monday, Oct. 25
- Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz - Wednesday, Oct. 27
- Chapter 3 Test - Thursday, Oct. 28

Theology: This week we learned about the three Theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity (Love) which are infused (given to us directly by God) at Baptism. We learned about 4 types of prayer; Repentance, Adoration, Petition, and Thanksgiving, and brought some written prayers to adoration with us. We also learned about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, Fear of the Lord, which are received at Confirmation, but are increased in us by asking the Holy Spirit for them.

In TOB we learned that, despite the devil (the accuser) accusing our hearts of sinfulness, God reminds us of our original goodness which sin cannot take away and invites us to live in the redemption that Jesus brings to us.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: The 8th graders continued to work on their War of 1812 projects. The students have worked hard and done amazing work. Next week they will present the projects and start learning about the Era of Good Feelings.

Science: Cell projects are due this coming Monday, Oct. 25. Those that have been turned in so far look fantastic! We have continued to talk about the parts of the cell, the chemicals that make up cells, and how cells transport materials in and out.

- Cell Project: Monday, Oct. 25
- Test: October 28, Chapter 2



ELA: This week, we focused on peer-editing and conferencing of their Touching Spirit Bear Persuasive Writing Projects. We also learned about different types of sentences, clauses, proper usage of commas, transitions, and sentence boundary errors. Students began the revision process for their essays based on this knowledge and feedback. Next week, we will be continuing to read Touching Spirit Bear. Students are excited to get back to the novel!

- Quarterly Reading/Writing notebooks will be collected on Thursday, Oct. 28. Students should have seven weeks' worth of their notebook completed by then.
- Final draft of Touching Spirit Bear Persuasive Essay Due Monday, Oct. 25.



Math 8G1: This week students took a quiz over angles of polygons and similar triangles. Next week we will wrap up Chapter 3.

- Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz - Tuesday, Oct. 26
- Chapter 3 Test - Wednesday, Oct. 27

Math 8G2: This week students learned about graphing linear equations and the transformations of the graphs of linear functions. Next week they will learn graphing absolute value functions.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 2 - Wednesday, Oct. 27

Theology: This week we learned about the domestic Church which should model the same roles that the Church has in living as a Christian community, loving each other, and sharing the Gospel. We learned how prayer is our relationship with God, and how that grows through personal and communal prayer. We discussed how we model in our own lives some of the ways we see Jesus praying in the Gospels.

In TOB we learned more about Virginity for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven, and how by giving up marriage, we are not degrading marriage, but affirming it as something very good. We got to hear testimonies from people who have chosen to live that vocation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDTRIP: SUCCESS!

On Monday, we walked to the Aquinas Performing Arts Center to see the Catholic Central fall production of “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder. It was great to see Saint Thomas alumni taking part in the play, and it is always a good thing when the middle schoolers get a chance to engage in different types of cultural activities. It was a very successful field trip!

