



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 19, 2021

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week, we talked about the different forms of government around the world. We discussed how those governments operate and how they offer freedom for some and zero freedom for others. We had some good and interesting class discussions about the topic this week.

Next week, we will talk about some of History's Mysteries and how they leave us wondering and make us ask ourselves how it is possible.

**Science:** After taking our test on Tuesday, we moved into Chapter 5, which covers a brief history of the formation of Earth and the geologic time scale. It is always surprising for the students to learn how in the actual history of the planet, how short an amount of time that humans have been around! We will not be having a separate test on this material; instead, this material will be covered on the first semester exam that will be held the week before Christmas break.

**ELA:** This week, we took a quiz on "Eleven" and focused on comparing characters from two different texts. After comparing, we learned how to write an effective comparison paragraph. We will also studied sentence fragments and how to avoid them in our writing. We finished our week reading "President Cleveland, Where Are You?" and focusing on reading strategies and analysis of plot within a story. Next week, we will continue our analysis of "President Cleveland, Where Are You?" and finish the week with an open note/open book quiz on this story.

- Tuesday, Nov. 22 - Open Note/Open Book Quiz on "President Cleveland, Where Are you?"

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about the Distributive Property and factoring expressions. Next week, they will take a quiz and the following week they will wrap up Chapter 3 with a test.

- Tuesday, Nov. 23 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2
- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, Dec. 1 - Chapter 3 Test

**Math 6B:** This week, students learned about the area of trapezoids, composite figures and graphing polygons in a coordinate plane. Next week they will take a quiz and the following week they will wrap up Chapter 4 with a test.

- Monday, Nov. 22 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2
- Monday, Nov. 29 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Chapter 4 Test

**Theology:** This week, we learned that the covenant God established with Noah and his family is the beginning of God's plan of salvation for the whole world.

In TOB, we continued our unit on how the body reveals man by reading about how man is not a body that has a soul, or a soul that has a body. Rather, he is both a body and a soul that are bound together.

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week, we learned about the Crusades. We had good discussions about the righteousness of the Crusades. We discussed whether or not they were politically or religiously motivated. We also talked about how the Crusades helped connect different cultures.

Next week, we will talk about some of History's Mysteries and how they leave us wondering and make us ask ourselves how it is possible. After break we will learn how Islam spread throughout the world.

**Science:** The students spent a few days this week practicing the science of stoichiometry (balancing equations). It is fun to see how pleased with themselves they are when the concept clicks in their minds and they are able to work independently. We will spend the beginning of next week finishing Chapter 4 and beginning to prepare for our next test.

- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Test

**ELA:** This week, we participated in literature circles covering chapters 5-6 of Dragonwings and focused on literary analysis skills and vocabulary. Next week, we will be reviewing chapters 5-6 of Dragonwings and taking an open note test on Ch. 5-6. Students were also introduced to an extra-credit opportunity (optional). They have an opportunity to write a persuasive essay as to why they are pro-life. Completed essays will be submitted to the Grand Rapids Right to Life Essay Contest.

- Tuesday, Nov. 21 - Open note test on Chapters 1-6 of Dragonwings.
- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Extra Credit Essay due (electronically), along with the permission slip to enter the contest. (This assignment is optional.)

**Math:** This week students took the Chapter 4 test and learned about ratios, rates, and proportions. Next week, they will graph proportional relationships and write proportions. They will have a quiz the following week.

- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1

**Theology:** This week, we learned about Sacred Scripture and how the Holy Spirit inspired human authors to write down their own ideas in their own words to write what the Holy Spirit wanted to be revealed.

In TOB, we continued our unit on God's law and His love by learning how Jesus fulfills the old law. People mostly kept the old law just so they could live harmoniously together. Jesus calls us to go deeper by taking the law to heart and allowing it to change our whole lives.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week, we discussed the nullification and banking crisis. We examined the reasons why Andrew Jackson was furious with South Carolina and why the South tried to resist tariffs. We also discussed Trail of Tears and Native American relocation. We gained a better understanding of why it happened and talked about its impact.

Next week, we will talk about some of History's Mysteries and how they leave us wondering and make us ask ourselves how it is possible. After break we will talk about Manifest Destiny.

**Science:** We took our Chapter 3 test on Tuesday and have since moved into our next section on heredity. We started with an introduction to Gregor Mendel, the "father of genetics," and what dominant and recessive traits are. We will move into Punnett Squares and different patterns of inheritance next week before our Thanksgiving break.

**ELA:** This week, students were introduced to the Totem Pole Project for Touching Sleeping Bear. Students are excited for an opportunity to apply their learning in a new way and connect the text to their own lives. Furthermore, students participated in literature circles for Chapters 22-25 of Touching Spirit Bear. Students were also introduced to an extra-credit opportunity (optional). They have an opportunity to write a persuasive essay as to why they are pro-life. Completed essays will be submitted to the Grand Rapids Right to Life Essay Contest. Next week, we will be finishing the novel and having project work time.

- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Extra Credit Essay due (electronically), along with the permission slip to enter the contest. (This assignment is optional.)
- Wednesday, Dec. 1 - Rough Draft of Written Component of Project Due
- Friday, Dec. 10 - Final Project Due

**Math 8G1:** This week students wrapped up Chapter 4. Next week they will start solving systems of linear equations by various methods. The following week there will be a quiz.

- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1

**Math 8G2:** This week students took a quiz and learned about scatter plots and lines of fit as well as arithmetic sequences. Next week they will learn about piecewise functions.

- Tuesday, Nov. 30 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2
- Thursday, Dec. 2 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, Dec. 3 - Chapter 4 Test

**Theology:** We began studying the Four Marks of the Church this week. These marks identify the true Church that Jesus founded by showing that it is unified, holy, for everyone, and directly from Jesus and the apostles.

In TOB we learned how the Sacrament of marriage is a sign of God's love. Marriage is similar in some ways to how God loves us. His love for us is faithful, generous, and fruitful. Jesus, in His total gift of Himself on the cross, shows how to live that same love in marriage.

- Wednesday, Dec. 1 – Test

## Teddy Ziemer: Aloysius Gonzaga Leadership Award Recipient, 1st Quarter



Aloysius Gonzaga was the eldest of seven children. Destined for a military career as a nobleman, he was educated at some of Europe's finest universities. However in 1585, he resigned his inheritance and social status and entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit order). Aloysius Gonzaga was noted for his moral compass. He could be counted on to do the right things even when nobody was looking. He eventually volunteered to care for the sick and dying at a Jesuit hospital when a plague broke out in Rome.

Aloysius Gonzaga is our inspiration for the Middle School leadership award, which is given to a student who exemplifies servant leadership in the middle school. This student is chosen because he or she is an example of what a student should strive to be in terms of responsibility in school

work as well as in conduct towards others. He or she must treat the Saint Thomas community, which includes the buildings and all the people in them, with care, respect, and kindness. This student stands as an example of a virtuous person who can be counted on to model exemplary behavior to classmates and to younger students in the school.