



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Feb. 28, 2025

MARCH IS READING MONTH!

During this month, we will be celebrating March is Reading Month with a few extra uniform holidays! If your students choose not to follow the theme, they should wear their school uniform.

- March 4 – Chill Out and Read (Comfy Clothes Day-no PJs)
- March 11 – Dress Like a Book Character Day
- March 18 – Read My Shirt Day
- March 25 – Uniform Holiday

Other March is Reading Month events to note:

- March 11-13 – Book Fair in the Libra
- March 21 – Rock Your Socks Day (School uniforms with crazy, mismatched socks for World Down Syndrome Day)
- March 26 – Read-in for ELA classes



6th Grade Updates

ELA: We wrote letters from Karana imagining what her life would be like after the end of our novel, and we moved on to the second body paragraph of our Opinion Essay project. Next week, we will focus on wrapping up our discussions of *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by summarizing the plot and identifying the theme.

Social Studies: We have discussed the origins of Judaism, how Judaism began to spread around the world, and the importance of Judaism on Society. Next week, we will discuss the Hebrew Bible, the basic belief of Judaism. Then, we will also begin discussing the ancient Egyptians, particularly the importance of the Nile river and the three kingdoms of Egypt.

Science: We began the week by taking our Chapter 6 test on the atmosphere. We then started into Chapter 9, which focuses on weather. We started with reviewing the water cycle and then learned about humidity and how it is measured. Next week, we will be focusing on clouds and precipitation.

Theology: The students learned about Moses and the journey into the desert. We discussed how the Israelites kept complaining and how Moses kept showing patience and trusted God.

Math 6G1: Students began to wrap up Chapter 5. Next week, they will take the Chapter 5 Test and will learn about writing equations in one variable and solving equations using addition and subtraction.

- Monday, March 3 - Chapter 5 Test

Math 6G2: Students learned about the area of triangles, trapezoids and kites. Next week, they will learn about three dimensional figures and the surface area of prisms and pyramids.

- Friday, March 14 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.4 - 7.7)

7th Grade Updates

ELA: We finally met the dragon Smaug and discussed the traits we see in him in *The Hobbit*. We also began brainstorming the creative portion of our Hobbit project.

Social Studies: We discussed the New England Colonies. We discussed the Pilgrims, the Puritans, daily life in New England, and the Salem Witch Trials. Next week, we will start discussing the Middle Colonies and daily life in the Middle Colonies.

Theology: We finished up our Gospel Comic Strips this week. They are fantastic, the students showed a great deal of creativity. Next week, we will start to discuss Paul and his letters.

Science: We started the week with the test on forces and Newton's laws. Then we started into Chapter 7, focusing on energy. We have been learning about kinetic and potential energy. We will be talking about the law of conservation of energy and energy transformations next week.

Math 7G1: Students learned about experimental and theoretical probability. Next week, they will learn about compound events and will begin to wrap up Chapter 7.

- Thursday, March 6 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.3)
- Tuesday, March 11 - Chapter 7 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, March 12 - Chapter 7 Test

Math 7G2: Students learned about properties of exponents that deal with the product and quotient of powers as well as zero and negative exponents. Next week, they will learn about rational numbers and exponents, estimating very small and very large quantities, and scientific notation.

- Monday, March 3 - Chapter 8 Quiz 1 (8.1 - 8.4)

8th Grade Updates

ELA: We had more intriguing debates and discussions in our student-led Literature Circles as we approach the end of *A Wrinkle in Time*. We also began to outline our three essays for the Final Project. Students should make sure that they get any missing research notes turned in as soon as possible; we'll need those to begin writing our essays very soon!

History: We discussed the beginning of the War of 1812, particularly British impressment and Native American resistance against settlers. The students also did a War of 1812 Webquest. Next week the students will research battles, and will have to re-enact them. This will be presented on Thursday, March 6.

- War of 1812 battle reenactment - Due Thursday, March 6

Science: We continued to study plants this week. We focused on the reproductive structures of plants and spent time dissecting flowers. We also learned about the ways that plants respond to their environments and some of the ways that people use plants. We will be taking the test on Chapter 7 on Tuesday.

- Chapter 7 Test- March 4

Math 8G1: Students learned about representations of functions and linear functions. Next week, they will learn about comparing linear and nonlinear functions as well as analyzing and sketching graphs.

- Tuesday, March 11 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.4 - 7.5)
- Thursday, March 13 - Chapter 7 Vocabulary Quiz
- Monday, March 17 - Chapter 7 Test

Math 8G2: Students learned about geometric sequences. Next week, they will wrap up Chapter 6. They will also learn about adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing polynomials.

- Monday, March 3 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, March 4 - Chapter 6 Test

Theology: The students finished up their Decision Point projects and started to presenting them to the class. Next week, we will finish the presentations and begin to discuss Chapter 7 of Decision Point.