

St. John's Newsletter... The Eagle



February 25, 2010

Calendar

- Mar. 1 Lunch forms due
- Mar. 5 No School
- Mar. 8 Spring Break begin
- Mar. 15 School Resumes
- Mar. 16 K-garten Open House
- Mar. 24/25 P/T Conferences
- Mar. 26 No School

It was great to see everyone's participation in our Spirit Month—there were some very imaginative costumes and hairdos!

We had a lots of fun at the CHS pool celebrating Tropical Day. We will hope to go swimming one more time this year—don't forget parents and siblings are welcome to join us.

Grades 1-6, all had an opportunity to visit the Anchorage Museum where they learned a lot about this wonderful state of Alaska that we all call home!

Kindergarteners will hope to take a trip to the Imaginarium when it re-opens in it's new home next to the Anchorage Museum.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Eagle Newsletter*. As usual it is packed with important school information and updates from each of

our teachers about what is going in their classrooms here at St. John's School. *Mrs. Streff*

What's Happening-

As the Iditarod mushers are gearing up to begin their race to Nome in March our students are running a race of their own; reading their way to Nome in our annual *Idit-a-read* Program.

We will celebrate their victorious run to Nome with an ice cream party when we return from Spring Break! Mushers, Mush on! Readers, Read on!!

Kindergarten Open House

Parents, on **Mar. 16th** we will host our second of three Kindergarten Open Houses. We will be inviting members of our local community to visit our Kindergarten classroom.

Students will be bringing home invitations for this event so please help us spread the word about what a great place St. John's is by giving this invitation to a friend or neighbor.

By the way, if you know of a great place to display our posters advertising this event, please let us know

and we will put one up!

•**Take note...No School** on **March 5th** which is an In-Service Day and also the end of the 3rd quarter.

•**Spring Break** is from March 8th through the 12th. **School resumes on Mon., 03/15.**

•**March 16th—Open House**

•**March 24/25:** Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled on these days and school will be dismissed at 1:30. Look for notes about conference times to come home the week we return from Spring Break.

•**March 26th—No School**, this is an In-Service Day.

Art

We have been very pleased to offer Art this year to our students. And as I am sure you will agree, Mrs. Stone has done some amazing projects with our students! I encourage you to take a moment to check out the paint job in the boys upstairs bathroom. The incredible results are a product of the talents of our 5th/6th graders and Mrs. Stone. I can't wait to see what they

come up with next-

Christian Education

Students are continuing to meet with Fr. Marc on Mondays for Christian Ed.. Following along with the theme of "A Scrapbook of Saints and Stories of the Orthodox Church, the students have learned about saints Tatiana of Rome and Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna and the parables about the Prodigal Son and the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

Fundraising

We will have one more big fundraiser this year...our annual SOAR campaign. This year we will kick-off our SOAR campaign with a family dinner on April 16th. If you think you make a mean pot of chili this is your chance to see what others think- plan to enter our Chili Cook-off!! Forms to enter will be available starting March 15th.

Lunch

Hot Lunch Forms need to be returned **NLT Mon. 3/1**. In observance of Lent, we are continuing to serve meatless lunches now through April 1st. Due to Spring Break, March's Family Lunch Day will be Wed., Mar. 17th—hope to see you there!

Class News

Preschool

Dear Preschool Parents,
Please remember to send snacks for your little ones; we are running low once again!

Also, don't forget to send snow gear for your kiddos... [we are going outside!!](#) *Mrs. Truelson*

Kindergarten

Dear Parents,

Our class has welcomed two new students; twins Aiden and Brianna Sullivan. We are happy to squeeze them in!

Please continue reading to and having your child read to you, for the ***Idit-a-read*** program. We're hoping everyone makes it to Nome!

March 3rd is Dr. Suess' birthday. We will celebrate by: reading books by Dr. Suess, graphing green edible things, making a kind of Green Eggs and Ham, and a Cat in the Hat project. He was a great author and illustrator.

Our Alaska Studies book is almost finished. They are beautiful! Please ask your child who Benny Benson is.

Don't forget snacks for our hungry Kindergarteners and also any items you may want to contribute to our prize bucket would be great!

Mrs. Dunaway & Mrs. Dyal

1st and 2nd Grade

The first and second graders are enjoying reading their way to Nome. Let me know if you have any questions about the ***Idit-a-read***. Please keep reading over Spring Break, too! I will be sending home a separate note about the

1st and 2nd Grade

mushers that our class will watch on their race to Nome. Miss Kitty taught us a lot about the Early Days of Anchorage at the Anchorage Museum. Even though I've spent most of my life here, I learned new things, too. Do you know how Turnagain Arm got its name? See if your child remembers!

In math, the first graders have learned about congruency, fractions and ordering numbers. They will continue to practice addition and subtraction facts. The second graders have learned regrouping ("carrying"), comparison symbols, fractional parts of a whole, and will soon start having 50 or more subtraction facts on one page.

You have probably heard by now that the second graders have started to learn cursive. They are allowed to write their names in cursive on their papers, but need to wait to write other parts in cursive. I will still expect neat printing on written assignments.

The first graders need to continue reading out loud to someone each day. They are learning long vowel sounds now and sometimes can confuse them with the short sound. Thank you for your help at home.

Have a super Spring Break!

Mrs. Hunter

Cont'd on page 3 ...

2nd Grade—Language

In reading we continue to work on phonics-decoding more words with multi-syllables. In grammar the students are learning about describing and possessive nouns. (I'm not sure we were introduced to possessive nouns when we were in 2nd grade!) They've been writing summaries, personal stories, and fantasies.

Homework: Spelling sentences on Wednesdays-I want to emphasize quality rather than quantity. So the students will be asked to write one "good" sentence for each of the seven circled spelling words rather than combining sentences for 15 words. This should be an independent activity.

Reading Books: There aren't many regular "take home books" to go with our reading for the next few weeks. Look for a variety of books to come home for your child to read to you while he reads his way to Nome. Thanks,

Mrs. Dougherty

3rd and 4th Grade

February is rapidly coming to a close, and what a whirlwind month it has been! We have enjoyed studying the geography and cultures of our state, complete with a field trip to the Anchorage Museum - Thank you drivers!

In addition, we've been studying the rock cycle and the structure of the earth. Students are diligently

working toward their reading goals for the *Idit-a-read*.

Thanks for the recent snack donations over the past weeks. We've got a great supply of pretzels to keep us munching for the next several days, but any other donations to provide variety would be greatly appreciated.

It is truly an honor and joy to work with your children, and I am grateful for your continued support and interest in their education!

Mrs. Ray

5th and 6th Grade

Things are going well here in the 5th/6th grade classroom. We just enjoyed a nice stretch of field trips which included the Blood Bank (fantastic!) and the new Anchorage Museum (also good!).

This month we take a break from our regular social studies to focus on Alaska's early history with the Russians. We also will be racing to Nome with the mushers this year, minute for mile! It should keep us challenged especially when our readers have to make the 112 mile (minute) run from the Cripple to Ruby checkpoint!!!

We will be starting to write our first research report before Spring Break. The report topics will be related to our Alaska Studies focus: Russian America. We head to the Loussac Library for reference materials. They have an excellent Alaska collection.

Finally you guys earned a 3rd quarter party! Way to go. We'll be celebrating that next week.

Parents, thank you for your support. We are again out of snacks. If you would like to send something, bulk is easier to distribute. Thanks!

Miss Zink

News from the Art Room

I would really like to extend the clay unit that we are working on this month, for the students. The children have loved working with the clay and their creations are so great!

In the Spring we will work on a sewing unit which should be a lot of fun. To help cover the cost of supplies for these units it would be most helpful if students could bring \$5- to school.

Thank you so much for your support—you have great children!

Mrs. Stone