

Toes in the Sand or Skiing the Slopes?

Winter weather blues? Not for the three year old preschoolers! They have transitioned from a gingerbread house serving holiday cookies, frappuccinos and hot chocolate to the Sunny Smoothie Hut offering a view of the beach, an opportunity to play in the sand, and order a fruit smoothie, veggie smoothie, or a fruit and veggie smoothie. Toppings include whipped cream, sprinkles, carrots, or strawberries. Snacks include a kabob and sushi. They have leis, beach towels, coconut cups, blenders, just to name a few things.

Love the snow? Preschoolers do too! They have a ski lodge center fully equipped with a fireplace to warm up, a bear skin rug, rocking chairs, and a shop to order your favorite items from Snowbucks Lodge like hot coffee, hot cocoa, or iced coffee. Toppings include chocolate or caramel sauce, whipped cream, sprinkles or marshmallows. Cupcakes and donuts are your options for a delicious snack. Part of the center includes labels and where items go when it is time to clean up. Students can match the item to the pictures and are exposed to environmental print. On Tuesday, students had an opportunity to investigate snow, how it feels, what it looks like (with magnifying glasses), where they find/see it, and what they can do with it.

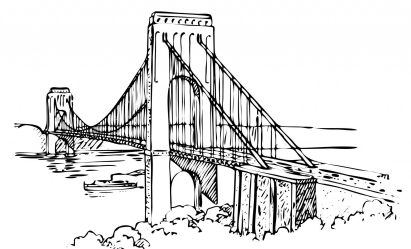
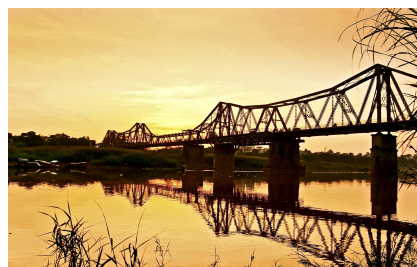


"Education is all a Matter of Building Bridges." - Ralph Ellison

Ms. Matheson's fifth graders are once again captivated by a new STEM unit that was purchased with funds from the WCSD Foundation from the Delmar Yoder Estate. Students are working with structural engineering bridges and skyscrapers. I love that the students come into my office or summon me to the classroom to see what they are working on. I enjoy conversations with students and am in awe of the

academic vocabulary acquired and used. The pamphlets included in the kits expose students to concepts such as stability, vectors, forces, movements. Students are learning vocabulary like truss, suspension, and about structural elements like columns, beams, plates, catenaries, cables, arches, and shells. They also learn a little about scientists such as Isaac Newton and Newton's First Law of Motion. They are exposed to formulas $F=ma$ (Newton's Second Law of Motion) stating that the sum of the forces on an object is equal to the mass (m) of the object multiplied by the acceleration (a) of the object. Both acceleration and force are vectors, so both can change if either their magnitude or direction changes. It is exciting to see how

engrossed the students get, even asking to use their only recess time to continue building! Max and Grant are working on a bridge. Lyla is constructing a house. Kale and Levi went a different route, using their imagination and innovation to craft a version of the Rock Em' Sock Em Robots.



order, order in the Court



Fourth graders finished reading *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt and wrapped the unit up with a memorable and meaningful activity. Mrs. Heisdorffer's students participated in a mock trial to determine the fate of Mae Tuck, accused by the people of voluntary manslaughter, resulting in the death of The Man in the Yellow Suit (aka Mr. Smith). Mae Tuck holds a special secret along with the members of her family. They unknowingly drank from a magical spring, one that would give them eternal life. Because they are not able to stay in any one location for too long for fear that others would notice they are not aging, they have lived in many places. The Man in the Yellow Suit (Mr. Smith) is obsessed with the tale of those that live forever. He is a sinister man, believing he could profit from the magical spring by charging a fee for spectators to watch in awe as the immortal participate in dangerous, even deadly acts. The Man in the Yellow Suit (Mr. Smith) overheard the fascinating tale that the Tuck family shares with young Winnie Foster. The Tucks (Mae, Miles, and Jesse) take Winnie Foster to their home to meet Angus Tuck. Initially Winnie was frightened but she came to love the Tuck family, considering them dear friends, a feeling that was mutual. Angus and Mae Tuck did not want Winnie to suffer the same fate, living for eternity, especially unknowingly. They wanted to ensure that it was her choice, when she was older and not something that was forced upon her, which is what The Man in the Yellow Suit (Mr. Smith) intended. He wanted to take Winnie Foster and make her a part of his gruesome showcase. When the Man The Man in the Yellow Suit (Mr. Smith) confronts the Tuck family after following them to their home, Mae Tuck, enraged and in an effort to protect Winnie Foster, hits The Man in the Yellow Suit with the butt of a shotgun. In this case, the students had to determine if Mae Tuck intended to use deadly force or if she was merely protecting a minor from a miserable fate. The jury composed of parents, siblings, and staff returned a not guilty verdict for Mae Tuck. The students did an incredible job and looked so professional!

I have to say, knowing these students since they were in kindergarten and seeing where they are now, how they presented their mock trial, I am full of pride and amazement. This was a wonderful experience for them and for Mrs. Heisdorffer. This is an example of the authentic learning that takes place at St. James, one that will last a lifetime. One a humorous note, a kindergartner was concerned that someone had done something very bad here at school and were on trial. Mrs. Timmins and I had a great chuckle. We were both impressed that she made that connection. Our students are always thinking!

Bailiff - Preston

Constable - Jake/Abraham

Prosecuting attorney - Isaac

Defense attorney - Lucas

Mae Tuck - Sophia

Angus Tuck - Jake

Miles Tuck - Mitchell

Winnie Foster - Scarlett



The jury being sworn in by bailiff Preston (left). Opening remarks to the jury (bottom right) by prosecuting attorney Isaac.





Pictures include:

Prosecuting attorney

Isaac questioning constable Jake and Miles Tuck (Mitchell), defensive attorney questioning Winnie Foster, jury deliberation, Madame

Forewoman Betsy (Preston's mom) reading the not guilty verdict, Mae Tuck's (Sophia) reaction to the not guilty verdict and the 4th grade crew.



Early outs

The Washington Community School District (WCSD) will have early outs every Friday for the second semester. St. James WILL REMAIN IN SESSION. We will NOT be adding additional early outs. We will continue with the original school calendar. Alternative transportation on the additional early out Fridays will need to be arranged as we will not have yellow bus transportation available. Please note the following early out Fridays for St. James and no school days (from the original calendar).

Monday, January 17
Friday, January 21

No School; Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Early dismissal 1pm; PD

Friday, February 4
 Friday, February 18
 Friday, March 4
 Monday, March 14-Wednesday March 16
 Friday, April 1
 Friday, April 14
 Friday, April 15
 Monday, April 18
 Friday, May 13

Early dismissal 1pm; PD
 No School; PD Day
 Early dismissal 1pm; PD
 No School; Spring Break
 Early dismissal 1pm; PD
 Early dismissal 1pm; PD
 No school; Teacher comp. day
 No school; Teacher comp. day
 Early dismissal 1pm; PD



NEW! Changes to St. James School 3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Priority registration will be given to St. James parishioners for the 2022-2023 school year. Please pay attention to important deadlines below.

STEP ONE:

- **ST. JAMES PARISHIONERS:** Beginning **TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022**, parishioners may call the school office to submit their child's name for the 2022-2023 school year .
- **NON-PARISHIONERS:** Beginning **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022**, non-parishioners may call the school office to submit their child's name for the 2022-2023 school year.
- We will follow up by sending you information about Preschool Orientation. Having your child's name on this list **DOES NOT GUARANTEE** a spot in the class. You must complete **STEP TWO** to register your child and reserve your spot.

STEP TWO:

- Attend Preschool orientation on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022 from 6:00-7:00pm in Tobin Hall**. You will receive the 2022-2023 registration packet which will include a **“Hold-the-Spot” form**.
- **PARISHIONERS:** **“Hold the Spot” form AND a \$50 non-refundable deposit MUST** be completed and returned to the St. James School office **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022** to guarantee your spot in the class. Registrations will be taken on a first come-first served basis. There are 16 spots available in PK3.
- **NON-PARISHIONERS:** If there are still openings after **March 11, 2022**, registration will be open to non-parishioner students. **“Hold the Spot” Form and a \$50 non-refundable deposit MUST** be completed and returned to the St. James School office **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022** to guarantee your spot in the class.

*All dates are firm deadlines.

*There will be no waiting list. Names will not be taken prior to January 18, 2022.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, Washington Community School District makes the decision regarding delays, cancellations, or early dismissals. You can check KCRG, KCII, FlockNote, and St. James Facebook. If Washington Community School District is delayed, canceled, or has an early dismissal, St. James will as well. If there is a two hour delay, three year old preschool will be canceled.

weather

Our cold weather rules are as follows:

56 degrees or above: Students can choose what they want to wear outside.

55 degrees to 46 degrees: Students need to wear a jacket outside.

45 degrees and below: Students are to wear a hat, coat, and gloves. There are NO exceptions.

If it feels like 10 and below: Students will have inside recess.

In order to play in snow, students must have snow boots, snow pants, hat, coat, and gloves.

Altar Servers

Wednesday, January 19
Wednesday, January 26
Wednesday, February 2
Wednesday, February 9

Max (5) and Sophia (4)
Lovella (4) and Grant (5)
Alexis (5) and Jake (4)
Abraham (4) and Lucas (4)

Children's Mass

Mass is at 8:25am on Wednesdays. Visitors are welcome to join us in person. Masks are recommended for all guests. You can also join us via Facebook Live.

Mass Schedule:

Wednesday, January 19
Wednesday, January 26
Wednesday, February 2
Wednesday, February 9
Wednesday, February 16
Wednesday, February 23

Mrs. Luers/Mrs. Moeller
Ms. Matheson
Mrs. Timmins
Mrs. Sheetz
Ms. Spears
Mrs. Clarahan/Mrs. Marek



Calendar:

Monday, January 17	No School; Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 18	Begin 3rd term
Wednesday, January 19	School Board meeting 6:30pm Conference Room
Friday, January 21	Early dismissal 1pm; Professional Development
Friday, January 28	Spring Food Fundraiser Kickoff 2:30pm
Sunday, January 30	Catholic Schools Week kick off Mass 9am; Brunch to follow Mass in gym
Monday, January 31-4	Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday, February 2	Preschool orientation 6-7pm Tobin Hall
Friday, February 4	Early dismissal 1pm; Professional Development
Wednesday, February 16	Kindergarten orientation 6-7pm Tobin Hall
Friday, February 18	No School; PD day
Wednesday, February 23	School Board meeting 6:30pm Conference Room