





Have you herd the moos? Hilltop Dairy in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa has an amoozing (get it, cows moo...) program where classrooms can adopt a dairy calf. This is St. James's second year with classroom teachers participating in the program. Students name the calf and receive a picture of their classroom pet. Through Facebook, teachers, students, and parents can learn all about dairy cows. They even provide ideas and recipes for moo-velous healthy snacks. In an traditional year, our lil cowpokes would have gone on a field trip to see the dairy farm and their calf, Bella in her home. Hilltop doesn't disappoint. They made it an udderly (hehe) fantastic day for our St. James students by bringing Bella, a newborn friend, and an adult Holstein named Alaska to school! The newborn didn't moove around very much and didn't have a name yet. It's safe to say that Hilltop Dairy, their staff, and animals are friends for heifer with our St. James students.



Kindergarteners in Ms. Cole's class learned their first high frequency word "I" this week and worked on writing a sentence using the word I. They worked on using the skills of blending to write the words for their sentence about what they like to do with their families.

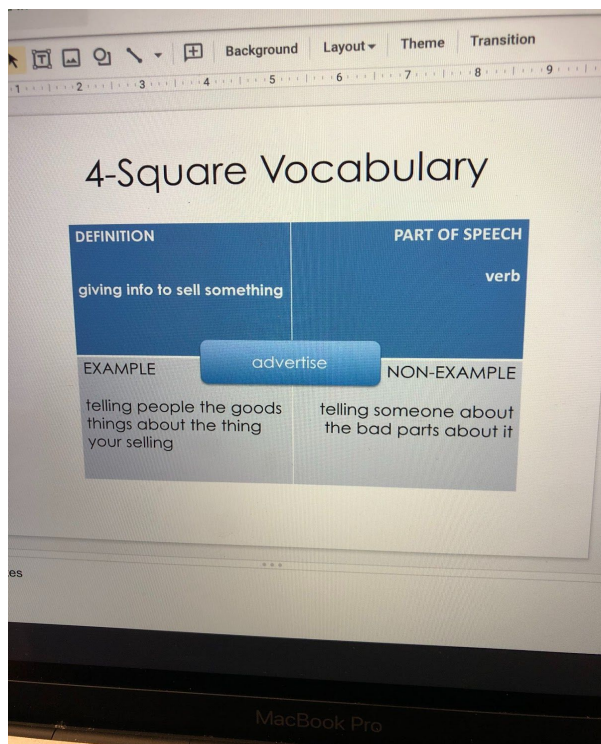


First graders did not feel leaaved (hahaha) out on Tuesday as they were able to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors in the morning. Students in Ms. Miller's class went on a leaf and plant hunt to answer their focus question on how many different types of plants live in their school yard. They gathered leaves and plants for a sorting activity in science where they compared and contrasted. They used adjectives to describe what the leaves look, feel, and sound like when they were done leafing through them.





Third graders worked really hard to create a presentation about their classroom learning on Crayfish to their work in Mrs. Brinning's technology class. Students worked collaboratively to put a Google Slide presentation together and used the Swivl to video themselves presenting their final result. We are using the Swivl on the school side a little bit to see how we can incorporate that technology into the classroom. We are grateful that the parish side allows us to share!



I enjoyed my time in fourth grade earlier this week. I was doing a walkthrough that provided an opportunity to assist Ms. Johnson! Students were working in Google Classroom to complete their vocabulary assignment. I was intrigued by their work because 1) Ms. Johnson was incorporating technology into reading (cross-curricular instruction and learning) and 2) there was mention of 4-Square. I thought that this meant students were going to play one of their favorite recess games. I was wrong! Ms. Johnson used a John Hattie instructional strategy of worked examples by providing a template on Google Classroom for students to access. On each slide students entered one of their vocabulary words in the middle. In one square they wrote the definition, in another the part of speech (i.e. noun, verb, adjective), in the other two squares they included an example and a non-example. Students were working on vocabulary, typing, using technology, following directions, remembering, understanding, and applying skills. I was able to help students follow directions and navigate Google Slides. It was nice to work with the fourth graders in the classroom. I'm glad that Ms. Johnson and her class welcomed me in! "They [students] have grown so much in what they can do independently on Google Suite in the past two weeks!" - Ms. Johnson.

The three year olds had fun learning about apples this week. The instructional goal was to name parts of an apple and to investigate what apples look like inside. The students determined that: apples can be red, green and yellow. Sometimes two colors are on the same apple. Apples feel smooth, they grow on trees, and hang on a branch by a stem. When students observed a cut and opened apple, they learned that the inside of the apple is white. That's the part we like to eat! It's called flesh. Students discovered seeds inside and a hidden shape, a star! Mrs. C. is one smart apple to incorporate hands on learning, science, and art together. It was easy as apple pie for students to make art with their apples by stamping using paint, an apple, and paper. How about them apples?



## Calendar Change



Due to our mitigation strategies in keeping St. James and Washington Community Schools healthy and safe for students, families, and staff, we have incurred some negative effects. One of those effects is teachers having less time to prepare for instruction and for collaboration. The Washington Community School District (WCSD) school board approved first semester calendar changes for five additional early outs allowing for professional development. Our St. James school board has approved that we follow public in adding the following early outs to the first semester calendar:

Friday, October 23	12:55pm dismissal
Friday, November 13	12:55pm dismissal
Friday, December 11	12:55pm dismissal
Friday, December 18	12:55pm dismissal
Friday, January 8, 2021	12:55pm dismissal

During this time, teachers will continue their collaboration with WCSD in special education, professional development in technology specifically SeeSaw, Google Suite (Gmail, Google Classroom), MobyMax, JMC (student information system), and through the Diocese, Basic Faith Formation.

## New Instructional Materials

I'm really excited that we just received some of our 95% Group materials! The objective of utilizing these resources is to get 95 percent of students reading at grade level with our primary focus being kindergarten through second grade. The 95% Group program includes using research-based methodologies through a comprehensive approach to support students through interventions. The screeners will help classroom teachers to identify gaps, set goals, and plan steps to raise reading achievement. Teachers will be able to identify and effectively address the needs of struggling readers by providing implementation plans that include a strategic mix of: systematic and cumulative skill continuum, meaningful diagnostic assessment tools, evidence-based and explicit instructional materials.

## New Addition

One of our parents has joined our St. James family as our Speech Language Pathologist through the Grantwood Area Education Agency (GWAEA). Jacalya is the mother of Ledger (kindergarten) and Renner (3 year old preschool). She has been working with students and staff in a variety of ways and we



are learning so much from her. Mrs. Milledge even makes us do quizzes on what we have been learning! It is AAC Awareness month. Do you know what AAC means? It stands for augmentative and alternative communication. Speaking is not the only mode of communication. Some of our students use other ways to communicate such as through gestures, sign language, text, writing, and typing. Will you accept this challenge? In the next few days, think about how often you communicate without words. How often do you use facial expressions, text, gestures etc. to interact with others? One of our questions was if you could only pick five words to use for the day, what would they be? Mine included Mt. Dew. It was interesting to see the results where some were very specific like me and others were broad as in please or more. We are all learning how to be more aware of how we communicate with others and what others need in order to be able to communicate with us.

## Friday Fun

Fourth graders Max and Kale opted for a game of dodgeball against staff for their PBIS reward. Staff included: Mr. Drey, Ms. Miller, Ms. Love-Smith, Ms. Cole, Mrs. Brinning, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Lopez. It was an intense and exciting game! I'm so glad we can provide memories for our students and staff of fellowship and laughter. St. James is a pretty great place to be!



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## Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to our first grade friend Ty! He had an eventful celebration. Ty went golfing with his dad and grandpa and had a party with friends. We are glad he got his golfing in before the chilly weather set in.

**Our Mission is to Glorify God Through Word, Worship**



## Weather

It is that time of the year when it's difficult to decide what to wear. It starts out chilly and ends up warm and nice. It is also that time when morning recesses or outside PE can be cold for students. 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.

## Fall Conferences

In order to keep our students, families, and staff safe and healthy, fall conferences will look different this year. We will be working on scheduling conferences on Friday, October 2nd. You will receive a letter regarding conferences for your child(ren) early the week of October 5th. Here is what you need to know.

- We **will have** in-person conferences.
- We are adding a third night:
  - Add Tuesday, November 10 from 3:30-7:30pm
  - Still have Thursday, November 12 from 3:30-7:30pm
  - Still have Tuesday, November 17 from 3:30-7:30pm
  - Conferences are **strictly limited to 15 minutes** to limit amount of contact time
  - There will be 10 minutes in between each conference to sanitize (table, chairs, etc.)
  - Prefer 1 parent per family
  - Temperature checks taken prior to entering the building
  - Face coverings are required while in the building
  - Social distancing required
  - Preschool - 2nd grade parents will enter through the lobby
  - 3rd-5th grade parents will enter through gym door



*We are in need of Clorox Wipes donations. These can be turned into the office.  
Thank you!*

## *Children's Mass via Facebook Live*

Join us for Mass by following St. James Church & School - Washington, Iowa Facebook page to worship with us live!

## *Mass Schedule*

October 21st	Ms. Cole (Mrs. Stoutner)
November 4th	Mrs. Fritz
November 11th	Mrs. Heisdorffer (formerly Ms. Johnson)
November 18th	Mrs. Kling/Mrs. Brinning
November 25th	Mrs. Marek/Mrs. Clarahan
December 2nd	Ms. Miller
December 9th	Mrs. Sheetz
December 16th	Ms. Spears



## *Calendar*

Friday, October 23	End 1st term; grades due; <b>Early Out: 12:55pm</b>  <b>dismissal;</b> Professional Development
Monday, October 26	Begin 2nd term; Report cards printed
Tuesday, October 27	Report cards sent home/out
Thursday, October 29	Halloween Harvest Hooray <b>Activities for PK4-5th</b> <b>Grade will be from 1:30pm-2:50pm; 3 Year Olds will celebrate from 9:30-11:00am</b>
Friday, October 30	No School; Professional Development
Friday, November 6	Early Out; 12:55pm dismissal; Professional Development
Monday, November 9	No School; Professional Development
Tuesday, November 10	Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
Thursday, November 12	Conferences 3:30-7:30pm



<b>Tuesday, November 17</b>	<b>Conferences 3:30-730pm</b>
<b>Friday, November 13</b>	<b>Early Out; 12:55pm dismissal; Professional Development</b>
<b>Friday, November 20</b>	<b>Early Out; 12:55pm dismissal; Professional Development</b>
<b>Monday, November 23</b>	<b>Midterms due</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 25</b>	<b>Early Out; Thanksgiving Break; Midterms sent/mailed out</b>
<b>Thursday, November 26</b>	<b>No School; Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Friday, November 27</b>	<b>No School; Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Monday, November 30</b>	<b>No School; Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 1</b>	<b>Classes resume</b>