

It wasn't so long ago when I was working from home planning the beginning of an unusual school year. Now the weather has changed, it's almost November and I'm just grateful everyday that we are healthy, safe, and learning. I am grateful for our staff that remains flexible, dedicated, happy, hopeful, funny, and works incredibly hard. I am grateful for our substitute teachers and associates that jump in when needed, often on short notice. I am grateful for our students, their energy, positivity, and eagerness to learn. I am grateful for our families that bring their children to St. James, trusting us with their most precious gifts, for donating supplies and time.

One thing that St. James does well is adapt. When Mr. Drey was ill, Mrs. Marek and I joined forces to teach PE. Mrs. Marek and The kindergartners were surprised to see me in the gym! One young man asked, "Mrs. Clarahan, what are you doing here?" I had one student say, "I know you are the principal." In fourth grade, a student declared with enthusiasm that, "This is a dream come true!" He was pretty excited that the fourth graders were having their own game on one side of the gym and the fifth graders were playing the same game on the opposite side. Later I heard that, "There was one really fun lady (Mrs. Marek) in PE today." Red light, green light for preschool and kindergarten





included a lot of different moves from slithering snakes, crab walking, zombie walking, swimming fish, wiggling octupi, and galloping horses. Fourth and fifth graders enjoyed line tag. Some of our kindergarten friends stepped on their fingers and one had a headache. They love a good selfie!



I caught Mrs. C. working with paint in the hallway. Merritt and Mrs. C. were working on their Halloween Harvest Hooray door. Then I caught Ms. Love-Smith painting in her classroom. Rumor is that they were making spiders. It's been a creative and messy week at St. James!



Three year olds created the most adorable monsters this week! I love every single one of their creative creatures! Excellent job Mrs. A. and Mrs. C.!



**Our Mission is to Glorify God Through Word, Worship and Service.**





Ms. Love-Smith's four year olds were busy cooking up applesauce in the classroom while they were learning about apples this week. This inspired Ginger to do some cooking too! Jaxon and Noah had an opportunity to help in preschool this week. I did too. It was fun to help with spider eyes, cutting apples, and playing with blocks.



Kindergarten-second grade students created posts to introduce their families to Facebook and brought home sheets that allow parents to look at all they are creating on Seesaw during technology. Second graders also took home a home-learning code, so that they can practice their skills at home if they would like! Third graders learned about leaving a good digital-footprint online and are starting their new Google Slides presentations on bones with groups of 2-3. They are learning how to plan and collaborate on projects with classmates!

"I can't share any pictures yet, but I think the most exciting thing we did this week was work on our spooky Halloween door," reports Ms. Spears. "We have some second grade engineers that have figured out how to make a 3-D piece of pie and a hand and arm, and that's all I can say for now. All of the kids have really used their imagination and drawing skills creating other creatures for our door." Students have reviewed short and long vowel sounds and they've learned that closed syllables always have short vowels followed by a consonant, and open syllables always have long vowel sounds and end in the vowel. This will help them analyze new words they come across while reading.

## 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.

## Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to our second grade friend Ryder who had a birthday last Friday. He enjoyed little lava cakes for his celebration! Happy birthday to our little friend Isaac who celebrated a birthday on Monday!

## Weather

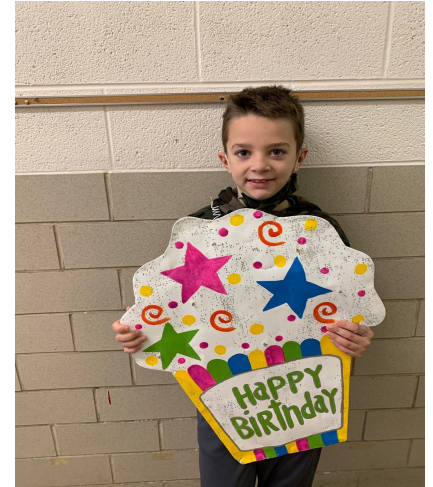
It is that time of the year when it's difficult to decide what to wear. It starts out chilly and ends up warm and nice. It is also that time when morning recesses or outside PE can be cold for students. Our cold weather rules are as follows:

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.

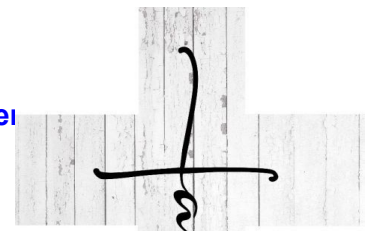
If it feels like 10 and below: Students will have inside recess.



## 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





## Mass Schedule

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

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