

St. John School News

Message from Mrs. Kosmerchock, Principal:

What is Forgiveness? Why is it so hard to give?

Often times I have struggled with the concept of forgiveness even as a Christian. Matthew West's song "Forgiveness" says:

*It's the hardest thing to give away
And the last thing on your mind today
It always goes to those who don't deserve
It's the opposite of how you feel
When they pain they caused is just too real
Takes everything you have to say the word*

How true that is!!! Forgiveness is not always easy to give to another person. In your mind you know what you need to do, but in your heart, the hurt continues. God forgives us no matter what we do, and as such we too need to forgive others.

We are sinful by nature. Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, and we continue to sin against God ever since.

God loves us too much to let us destroy ourselves by not forgiving others. He provided a way for us to be forgiven through His son, Jesus Christ. He confirmed this when he said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. NO one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) God's plan for salvation was to send Jesus! He knew that we would need a Savior to be forgiven.

Jesus commanded that we repent to receive God's forgiveness. As a believer it is vital that I too forgive others. Through reading the Bible I know that when someone hurts me, I need to forgive, for God forgave me first. Matthew 6:14 – 15 says, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Refusing to forgive is a sin. If we receive forgiveness from God, we must give it to others who hurt us. We cannot hold grudges or seek revenge. We are to trust God for justice and forgive the person who offended

us. That does not mean we must forget the offense, however; usually, that's beyond our power. Forgiveness means releasing the other from blame, leaving the event in God's hands, and moving on. We may resume a relationship with the person if we had one, or we may not if one did not exist before. Certainly, the victim of a crime has no obligation to become friends with the criminal. We leave it to the courts and to God to judge them.

Nothing compares to the freedom we feel when we learn to forgive others. When we choose not to forgive, we become slaves to bitterness. We are the ones most hurt by holding on to unforgiveness.

What is forgiveness? The entire Bible points to Jesus Christ and his divine mission to save us from our sins. The Apostle Peter summed it up like this in Acts 10, He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (NIV)

I know that forgiveness is not easy, but through my faith in Christ, I am able to forgive those that have sinned against me. I pray that you all are able to find forgiveness in your heart as well!

Blessings,

Mrs. Kosmerchock, Principal



Classroom News

Mrs. Wagner's 4-year-old class: Praise the Happy Spring...it finally feels as if it is really here! As we finish up our Growing & Changing unit at the end of April, we will begin our last Houghton Mifflin Unit - Ready For Kindergarten! We have grown so much this year! As we prepare for kindergarten, we continue to practice reading and writing our letters and the sounds they make. We will be finishing our Alphafriends books and will take them home at the end of year. We have made a lot of friends this school year and will be seeing a lot of them back at St. John in the fall. During Jesus time, we will learn that we can also share the love of Jesus, just as many of His helpers did in the bible. We are looking forward to summer and having some extra rest and time with our families!

Mrs. Cavin 3-year-old class: We have had such a fun year! We have learned so much, and grown bigger and stronger. We are so glad to have gotten to know each other, and to know Jesus better.

As we finish the year, we continue to get better at writing our names, recognizing letters and numbers, and all of the other things we need to know for four-year-old preschool. We will be planting seeds this week, and watching our little sprouts grow into beautiful flowers. The end of the year is always bittersweet.

Kindergarten Happenings

Mrs. Stottlemyer

I know I say it every year, but I cannot believe the end of the year is here so soon! The kindergarteners are very excited to go on their field trip to the Fire Station and Just Be Original at the beginning of the month. That is only the start of the fun things that are coming up! In Jesus Time we have been learning about how Jesus went to heaven and what His disciples did after that. We are also having a blast watching our plants grow and learning about different types of animals. It is always so fulfilling to sit back and think about how much my students have grown and learned this year.

First Grade News - Mrs. Jan McGhee

The months fly by so quickly and the children embrace each day. There are so many opportunities for them during the school year as

well as during the summer months. The class has been a true delight. They have matured in their faith life as well as their academics. Our greenhouse has gone up and the shelves are now filled with seedlings. As the plants grow we'll transfer them to regular flowerpots to take home.

May always seems to be filled with field trips and special events. One of those is the "First Grade Water Park". We'll have a great time one afternoon playing various water games in the back parking lot. The children think it's so funny to get to change into their swimsuits and parade down the hall to go outside!

Second Grade News

Mrs. Cheryl Yoder

It doesn't seem possible that we are so close to the end of the year. The second graders have done a wonderful job taking care of the Resurrection Gardens they planted in April, and have enjoyed watching them grow. They are ready for the warm weather and sunshine that spring has brought and can't wait for the end of the year field trip to Sauder Village. Looking back, each one of them has come so far since August and I am amazed by their growth and knowledge.

Third Grade Classroom

Mrs. Tiffany Scheurich

Wow! This year has just flown by! We have learned so much this year! We planted seeds in science and are watching them grow. The eagle cam we have been watching has been so exciting with the birth of the eagle chicks! We continue to watch daily and journal what we see! We are in the process of planning our end of the year field trip. Information will be forthcoming, as will permission slips. We have come so far this year! I am so very proud of each and every one of them and it has been such a joy to work with the students and their families!

Fourth Grade Classroom

Miss Carli Rossow

1900 ... 2000 ... Present OHIO has seen so much and so have the people who have lived here: World Wars, Space exploration, Suffrage, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights movement, and so much more! The Fourth

graders have recently had an exciting visitor who helped us learn more about county so if you see a fourth grader ask them about this visitor and the computer project we worked on. How do Ohioans do government at the local and state levels? Our guest visitor helped us learn some things, but there's more to learn! We'll also be looking at how Ohioans make money and the economics of our state.

We're really enjoying Maniac Magee. When asked what their favorite part was, the students responded:

- The jumping rope rhyming chant -"He kissed a Bull!"
- There was this kid who was kind of a bully. He offered Maniac a bite of his candy bar, and Maniac took a bite out of it!
- Have you ever played baseball with a "frog ball" ? Well, while Maniac was up to bat, the pitcher threw a frog at him instead of a ball. Maniac bunted the frog and actually was able to run around all the bases for a home run!

So have we talked you into reading this book?

What else are we up to? Hmm... Fractions, Decimals, and Measurement... Writing a short story and compare and contrast essay... Typing... Watercolors... Tessalations...

Fifth and Sixth Grade Religion – Miss Rossow

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed. As we move beyond our study of the crucifixion and resurrection, we are beginning a study of the early church. What happened during Jesus's ascension? What is our role in the Great Commission? The Holy Spirit is at work within each of us, but what does that mean? What was life like for Christians as the early church begins to grow?

Sixth Grade Math – Miss Rossow

$A = \text{length} * \text{width}$ or is it $\frac{1}{2} * \text{length} * \text{width}$ or is it $(\text{base } 1 + \text{base } 2) * \text{height}$? Actually all are correct, but you have to use the right formula with the correct geometric shape. The last month of school is here. Wow! The sixth graders will finish up the year with area, volume, and statistical measures & displays.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Science – Ms. Santo

No News this month.

Seventh & Eighth Grade - Miss Pat Marshall

We have managed to successfully complete three quarters of school including State Standardized Tests (whew!), two seasons of sports, two Student/Staff competitions (students =1, Staff = 1), and so many other exciting and challenging things! However, the true test comes in this the last stretch of the school year with so much yet to do and accomplish (Confirmation, Research Papers, Graduation, etc.). We are so looking forward to the Ark Encounter as we visit the full-scale replica of the Ark in Williamstown, KY and then on to Kings Island in Cincinnati, OH as we finish out the school year with our class trip. I believe all our seventh graders are planning to return for eighth grade year here at St. John and looking forward to being the school leaders next school year. What a great year it has been and what a good and gracious God we serve!

THE INCREDIBLE RACE

VBS will be held June 3 – 6 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. All Age 5 – 8th grade are welcome to attend! We will be using **Answers in Genesis, "The Incredible Race"** for the program!



May

May 2 – Nat'l Day of Prayer
May 8 – EC Chapel 2:45 p.m.
May 9 – BCDS meeting 7 p.m.
May 10 – Walk-A-Thon
May 14 – PTL Meeting 6:30
May 16 – 7 & 8 Grand/Visitor Chapel
May 21 – Delay Start
May 23 – Last Day of Preschool
PS Graduation 6:30 p.m.
May 24 – Last Day of School
June 1 – 8th Grade Graduation