



**Charlottesville
Catholic School**
Christ Community Scholars

Charlottesville Catholic School

Friday Newsletter

Middle School

March 22nd, 2024

This coming week we will have an early dismissal on Holy Thursday, at 11:30am. We will be closed from Good Friday (March 29th) through Sunday (April 7th), for Easter/Spring Break. Classes will resume on Monday, April 8th. We hope this time is restful and relaxing for all.

We will not have Mass this coming Tuesday, March 26. Students will be expected to be in normal uniform.

When we return from Easter Break, Middle School students will no longer be in winter dress. They may start following the uniform requirements detailed in spring dress. Please refer to the uniform policy.

Please make sure to have your student bring in \$5 cash to their homeroom teachers, by this coming Thursday, for Kona Ice.

Thursday, April 11th, is the 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

Friday, April 12th is Blue/Gold Day

Social Studies - r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week the 6th graders learned about the inventors of the late 1800s, including Nicola Tesla, Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers amongst others. Next week they will learn about the transition of power from Roosevelt to Taft and the eventual rise of Woodrow Wilson.

7th: This week the 7th graders learned about the Vietnam War and the rise of the protest movement. Next week they will take their 1960s unit test on Monday.

8th: This week the 8th graders began learning about the Renaissance. They are beginning a major project to go along with the unit called the Renaissance Project,

Mathematics - j.garland@cvillecatholic.org & j.reid@cvillecatholic.org

Math 6 (Garland): This coming week, we will really develop the kids' recognition of when to solve equations by either addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Throughout this whole process, emphasis is placed on not just a correct answer, but showing work. This helps foster Algebraic Thought.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): Using our knowledge from last week, we will start off this coming week solving discount and mark-up word problems. We will then finish out the week by discussing percent change.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, we quizzed on this skillset involving segments found within circles. This coming Monday we will derive the equation of a circle on the coordinate plane, show its relationship to the Pythagorean Theorem/Distance Formula, and practice graphing and creating equations of circles using the coordinate plane, which is the last topic within our Circle Unit.

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we had our 3rd quarter binder check as well as our 2nd test of the quarter on solving equations and word problems. We also started our work on graphing an inequality on a number line. We will continue that work next week with solving inequalities and graphing our answers. SPOILER ALERT: The first day we get back from Spring Break, I will give the kids access to their 2nd semester exam review. It functions exactly like the 1st semester exam review, and will be added to as we cover new material in the 4th quarter. This assignment will be due before the kids take their 2nd semester exams.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we had our 3rd quarter binder check as well as our 3rd test for the quarter on simplifying expressions using our power rules (laws of exponents). We have started our unit on polynomials by adding & subtracting them. This polynomial unit will go by very quickly. After that we dive into the world of factoring...I am so excited! SPOILER ALERT: The first day we get back from Spring Break, I will give the kids access to their 2nd semester exam review. It functions exactly like the 1st semester exam review, and will be added to as we cover new material in the 4th quarter. This assignment will be due before the kids take their 2nd semester exams.

Composition, Literature, and Language Arts - r.hernandez@cvillecatholic.org & e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org

6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): Students should be studying for their *Vocabulary Power Plus* vocabulary test, which is **this coming Monday, March 25**. I had postponed the test to allow students ample time to study for their other assessments. With a wrap up of verbs, we are moving into a short unit on adverbs and also continue with Lesson 16 in our vocab book.

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week, students submitted the IRA and had a bonus lesson on poetry from Mrs. Lowdon. We finished up *A Long Walk to Water*. Students planned and wrote an essay comparing Salva's character and Brian from *Hatchet*. We then did an assessment on vocabulary and story elements from the novel. Next week, we will start learning about William Steig's work in preparation for our next book, *Abel's Island*.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, students submitted the IRA and had a bonus lesson on poetry from Mrs. Lowdon. We wrapped up our Poe unit with a quiz and discussion of "The Red Death" and "The Pit and the Pendulum." I enjoyed reading the Poe parody writing projects. Next week, we will return to our grammar lessons and start learning about Isabel Allende and magical realism in preparation for our next book, *City of the Beasts*.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, students submitted the IRA and had a bonus lesson on poetry from Mrs. Lowdon. We continued with Part 5 of *Unbroken* and did our fourth and final analysis quiz on the book. I enjoyed reading the narratives. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who were interviewed for this project! Next week, we will wrap up our study of *Unbroken* and return to our grammar lessons.

Theology– d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org & v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org & h.bryan@cvillecatholic.org

6th(Mehl): This week students handed in their service logs. We finished the video study of Moses and started to look at Joshua. We spent a significant amount of time on the long Palm Sunday readings, which focus on events beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and go through his crucifixion and burial. Next week we will have a day of adoration in the Chapel, and will also go over a Virtus lesson.

7th(Mehl): This week students took the test on Chapters 27-28 of Catholic Connections. We continued to watch the Bible Project videos on the Acts of the Apostles and started to look at the Letter to the Romans. We spent a significant amount of time on the long Palm Sunday readings, which focus on events beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and go through his crucifixion and burial. Next week we will have a day of adoration in the Chapel and will also go over a Virtus lesson.

8th (Fallica and Bryan): The church projects are in! We want to thank everyone for their support in helping their students complete this CCS tradition. Looking forward, we will continue our work on Christian Morality and Justice in the hopes that your students are strengthened with God's love and guidance to live according to His will. Next week, we will complete our VIRTUS lessons by discussing the importance of personal boundaries.

Upcoming: 10 Commandments/Beatitudes Quiz on Tuesday, March 26.

Science— m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week we continued our conversation on ecology. Specifically looking at competition. We also dissected a shark and discussed the squalane oil found in the liver. Next we will investigate predation.

7th: This week we presented our elastic potential energy projects. Students did an excellent job asking for investments in their toy company. Next week we will discuss nonrenewable and renewable energy.

8th: This week students finished their broadcast projects. We also watched two documentaries on investigating ancient dna and new technologies for address carbon removal to mitigate climate change. Next week we will prepare for debates.

Spanish—d.demaio@cvillecatholic.org & d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org

6th(DeMaio):

The sixth grade students finished the movie "Pachamama" and are participating in a contest related to this film. During the movie they had to pay attention and take notes on Spanish vocabulary, terms, characters, meanings and to compare which scenes are related to biblical stories. They also listen to the soundtrack of the movie "Somos la nueva tierra" in Spanish. They enjoyed this activity so much that we have not finished yet and we will continue with the end of the contest next week.

7th(DeMaio):

This week the 7th grade students began learning about the topic: ¿Desayuno o almuerzo?=Breakfast or lunch? They have carried out activities related to vocabulary in context "foods and beverages for breakfast and lunch and expressions of frequency". They read, listened to audio recordings and watched videos of conversations about food preferences.

Grammar: Present tense of **-er** and **-ir** verbs. ¡Me gusta!=I like..., ¡Me encanta!=I love.. and activities of conjugations with the verb "**ser**"

Next week they will continue learning more about this topic. They will do activities on how to talk and write about what foods they like and what others like. **Culture:** Fruits and vegetables from the Americas, typical breakfast and snacks in different countries.

Also they enjoy a scavenger hunt in Spanish about vocabulary related to the first and to close the third quarter they will watch the movie "ratatouille" in Spanish, which is also related to the topic under study.

8th(Mehl): This week students took a test on the vocabulary of body parts. We also started our study of the verbs *saber* and *conocer*. Next week we will continue this topic and also begin to look at irregular verbs in the preterite tense.

CCS is honored to be able to offer four scholarships to our rising 5th-8th grade students. Please see the attached information packet for scholarship descriptions and the application. All current 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students are encouraged to apply. The required student essay will be written in school on Tuesday, April 16 from 3:30-4:30pm. All required documents should be returned on that date prior to the writing session.

[2024 Scholarship Packet](#)

Dear CCS Families,

We are excited to announce a rare and extraordinary opportunity for your child: the chance to witness a partial total solar eclipse firsthand. On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will occur in North America, and we will offer education and limited viewing time for students. Although we are not in the path of totality, we expect to see over 86% coverage.

We understand that witnessing such a celestial event can be both thrilling and educational, but safety remains our top priority. Rest assured that we will take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of your child during this event.

Here are some measures we will be implementing to keep your child safe:

Supervision: Faculty and staff members will be present at all times to supervise the students during the viewing event. They will guide the students on proper usage of solar viewing devices, and will ensure that everyone follows safety protocols.

Education on Safety: Prior to the eclipse, our teachers will conduct educational sessions to inform students about the science behind solar eclipses and the importance of using proper eye protection or viewing devices. We will emphasize the necessity of following safety guidelines to prevent any risk of eye damage.

Controlled Viewing Environment: The viewing location will be carefully selected to provide a clear and unobstructed view of the eclipse. We will set up designated viewing areas where students can safely observe the eclipse under the guidance of our staff.

We believe that this rare astronomical event presents a valuable learning opportunity for our students, and we are committed to making it a safe and memorable experience for everyone involved. Because the projected time-frame of this event coincides with afternoon carline, students may only be able to see the very beginning stages of the eclipse while at school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the eclipse please visit <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your child. We look forward to sharing this remarkable experience with them.

In Christ's love,

Vada Fallica, Principal

Mike Bruscia, Middle School Science