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J.M.J.A.

Dear Parents,

February 21, 2023

In this newsletter, you will hear from our fifth-grade science teacher, Sister Marie Caritas!

Can Trout Help Us Get to Heaven?

I never thought of trout as beautiful, until recently. Our St. James fifth grade classroom began second semester with a 50-gallon tank and water chiller, ready for a batch of about 150 trout eggs. Snow delayed delivery of the eggs by nearly two weeks. The extra anticipation, however, made the arrival of the small, orange eggs even more exciting for both students and teachers!

A few days after arrival, our trout babies began hatching. In this stage of development, the trout are known as 'alevin' and carry a visible yolk-sac full of nourishment. We observed our alevin carefully as they moved slowly near the bottom of their hatch basket, huddling closely together most of the time. Over the course of several more days, we watched as the young trout became more independent. As of this week, our trout measure a whopping 1 in. long. They have absorbed their yolk-sac and are in need of an outside food source, so we have begun feeding them.

During these weeks of caring for and studying the habitat, life cycle and anatomy of these tiny creatures, we have marveled at their peculiarities. Did you know that trout smell their way back to their place of birth when they are ready to spawn? Or, did you know that when trout first begin life inside the egg, they have all of the scales that they will need for their lifetime? Did you know that a trout's eyes can move independently of each other? They are simply amazing!

As Catholic educators, we know that we are working with parents to prepare our children for heaven, but sometimes we may think that that is separate from their academic work. I have really good news – it's not! What is heaven? Face-to-face contemplation of God – forever. Education nurtures our capacity for contemplation, which requires the mind and soul working together to see, observe and be amazed (then love!). It has been a delight to grow in my capacity for grateful wonder alongside our fifth graders as we study and care for our beautiful trout. Who knew that trout would bring us one step closer to heaven?



Upcoming Events:

Kindergarten Preview is this afternoon, Wednesday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m. Parents of children who will be five years old by July 31, 2024, are invited to attend. Please come to Mrs. Vasa's Kindergarten classroom. This

is a “parents only” informational evening. There will be another time when the children may visit the classroom. We hope you can come!

Good Shepherd Scholarships It is time to apply for the Good Shepherd Scholarship once again. You should qualify if your income falls in the range on the chart below. To apply for Good Shepherd go to:

<https://www.st-james-crete.org/parents/grants-and-scholarships/>

We would like all applications submitted by the end of the month. If you need assistance, school personnel are happy to help you complete the application.

Stations of the Cross with the school children will be held in the Church at 2:20 p.m. on the upcoming Fridays of February 23 and March 8, 15 and 22. You are very welcome to join us.

First Penance is this Saturday, February 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the church. This is for children hoping to make their first Holy Communion in April. This is also a wonderful opportunity for parents to witness to their faith by receiving the Sacrament of Penance along with your children.

First Holy Communion Parent Meeting has been changed to Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 29 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.. Please see the sign-up information sheet coming home today. You may also call the office to schedule a conference.

% Poverty Level	
Family Size	225%
2	\$44,370
3	\$55,935
4	\$67,500
5	\$79,065
6	\$90,630
7	\$102,195
8	\$113,760
9	\$125,325
10	\$136,890



Pre-K Open House: If your child will be 3 or 4 years old by July 31, 2024 he or she is eligible for St. James Little Apostles Pre-K. Come to our Open House on Wednesday, March 6 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. See the classroom, learn about our program, and meet Mrs. Tranmer our wonderful Pre-K teacher!

Coming Home Today: Parent-Teacher Conference sign-up flier.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.