



St. Benedict School Decorah, IA

March Newsletter



Kindergarten - Mrs. Einck

The kindergartners sure are excited to be in the month of March, since this month brings a new season! We are happy to pack those snow pants and boots away and enjoy the green grass, singing birds, and warm sunshine that spring may bring! To "spring" things up in our classroom, the students have each planted their own pot of bright flowers. As we care for our flowers and watch them grow, we look forward to warmer temperatures so we can move them outdoors and continue to care for them during the summer.

Did you and your family celebrate Maewyn Succat's special day this month? We celebrated the life of Maewyn (a.k.a. St. Patrick) for a few days and learned about this important man in the history of religion who forever impacted the country of Ireland. Thanks to Maewyn, we are so lucky to celebrate St. Patrick's Day each year! Even though we weren't lucky enough to catch a leprechaun at school, we did enjoy some tasty treats and fun leprechaun activities!

Shamrocks weren't the only GREEN things we were seeing in our classroom this month! The kindergartners celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by eating some green eggs and ham! We enjoyed lots of fun rhyming activities and games with the famous *Cat in the Hat* and a special *Fox in Socks*.

Wishing you all a happy spring and an EGG-cellent Easter!

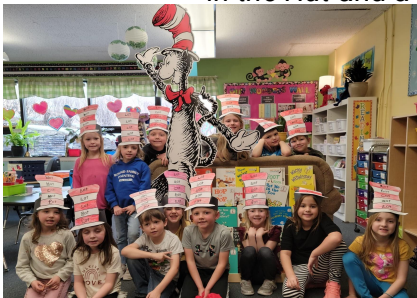
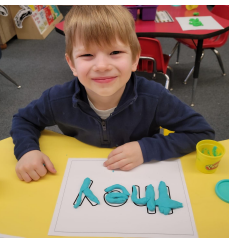
-Mrs. Einck and the Kindergartners

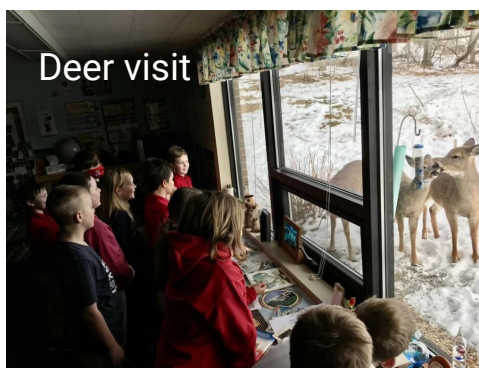


Preschool - Mrs. Bohr



We love celebrating holidays in preschool, and St. Patrick's Day was no exception! Everyone was so excited to come to school to find that the sneaky little leprechaun played lots of tricks on us! But, in addition to celebrating this fun March holiday, we did a lot of learning, too! Counting gold and clovers, writing notes for the leprechaun to find, and even designing and building traps to try to catch our sneaky friend made for a very busy day! We have many exciting things ahead in preschool, too! Celebrating Easter and getting ready for Kindergarten are at the top of our list!



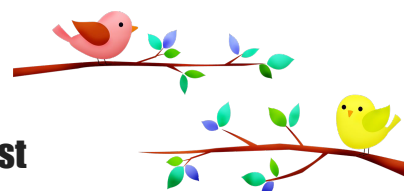


3rd Grade - Mrs. Krammen

This year, our third graders have had the opportunity to be involved in the Vesterheim Immigration Project for the first time. They are truly loving this learning experience. In addition, they will soon be published authors! They have each written an original fairy tale, complete with illustrations. We hope to have these books back from the publisher by the end of April.

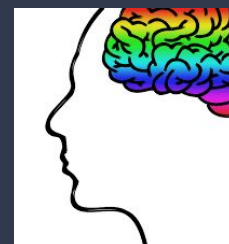
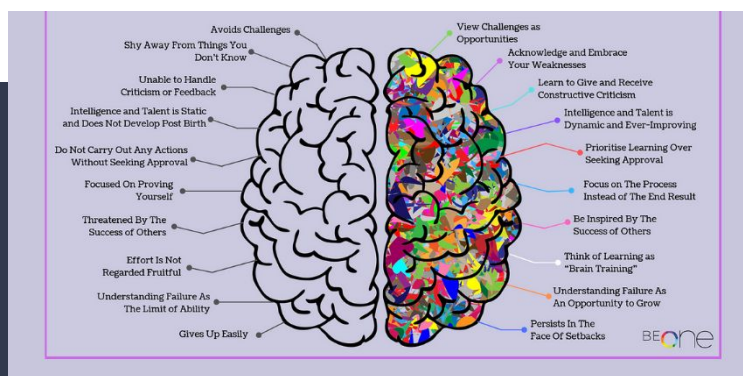
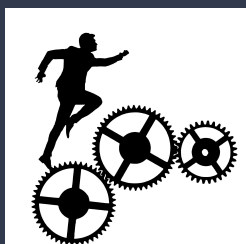


Resource teacher/Reading interventionist -Mrs. Steffen



How to have a growth mindset!

Mindset is so important when it comes to learning, growing, and being successful. There are two different types of mindsets. There is a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. A fixed mindset is when you get fixated on "the now". When someone has a growth mindset and fails, they can not get past their failure. This is problematic for students because we should learn from our failures! A growth mindset is the "not yet" mindset. When you fail instead of getting stuck on the failure, you tell yourself "I haven't learned it yet". That means there is room to grow and that, eventually, you will learn it. Instead of saying "I can't do this" say "I can't do this yet." When you have a growth mindset, you think: I can always improve, I can learn from others, I can do my best, I can have a positive attitude, I can learn from my mistakes and failures, I will embrace challenges, and I will persevere when I am frustrated! You can instill these things at home by encouraging your students when they fail. Use the words "not yet" with your students to encourage them. Have them recite the above sayings each morning. Children are so easily influenced and this will impact their lives tremendously. There are so many statistics about growth mindset and how it impacts a child's ability to learn. This mindset is about staying positive and thinking positive things! If you are interested in learning more about growth mindset, view [Carol Dweck's video on Growth Mindset on YouTube!](#)



Happy March from St. Benedict School!

Finally, the weather seems to be taking a turn with some warmer days and that is good for everyone. We look forward to the first day of spring on the 20th and the bonus of longer days and extended daylight in the evenings. March is a busy month, as are April and May. These months will go quickly and it won't be long before we will be closing out another school year. Folks, this year March is even more special as our School Board made the unanimous decision to open the school up again. What does that mean? First and foremost: our weekly Friday Mass is once again open to parents, grandparents and parishioners— **are all welcome!** Please come join us on Fridays at 9:00 to celebrate Mass together.

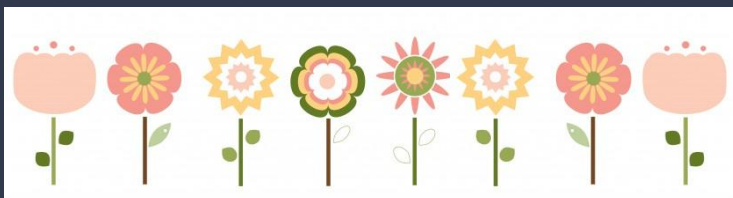
Our annual kindergarten parent meeting night was held on March 7, and, as of now, our kindergarten numbers for next year look good. We currently have only a couple remaining spots open. If you know of anyone who is interested in having a child attend kindergarten here, please share this information with them.

I want to thank our staff for all the time and effort they put into educating the students who attend here each and every day. I see the work they do and the lessons they have prepared. We are blessed with an outstanding faculty who bring their best each and every day. This has been a very difficult year and I commend the staff on the fine job they do.

Speaking of our faculty, Mary Ann Krammen, who has been our third grade teacher for the past 17 years, is retiring at the end of this year. Mrs. Krammen is an outstanding educator and will certainly be missed. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

I will admit that when Mrs. Krammen told me about her retirement, there was a high level of concern and for good reason. I believe that we are going to see a teacher shortage in this state like we have not seen before, which obviously will make any staff replacement a difficult task. Fortunately, we were able to make a quick hire for Mrs. Krammen's third grade classroom. The hire is a former Decorah resident, Annika Krieg. She will be a great addition to St. Ben's and more information on Annika will be forthcoming.

We have a second resignation this year; Mrs. Svanoe, who instructs both vocal and instrumental music, will be retiring. I want to thank Mrs. Svanoe for coming to St. Ben's during a time of great need on two different occasions. She is a gifted educator and I wish her all the best in her retirement. Thank you for your time and commitment to St. Ben's, Mrs. Svanoe!



We are now at that time of the year when it is vital that all parents take the time to fill out the STO form. The form is online and the school pays the cost for the application and processing. We are simply asking you to take the time to fill out the STO form. *This is extremely important and can provide families with tuition assistance.* This is a win-win for families and the school. If you have any questions regarding STO, PLEASE contact the school office at 382-4668.

Finally, our school's biggest fundraiser, "The Auction of Blessings", will take place from Friday, April 29, until Sunday evening, May 1, 2022. Friday night will be the auction "kickoff" and will take place at the Decorah ELKS Lodge. Cocktail hour will run from 6:00 to 7:00PM. A live band will play and appetizers will be served from 7-10. The following days include the online auction. Please come join us on Friday evening. It will be nice to see parents and supporters of the school again who will, hopefully, support us by participating in the auction over the weekend. For this, I offer you my appreciation in advance! For more information, check the school's website or our Facebook page. Information will be coming home with students as well as sent to all parents through email. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the school.

I want to thank all our parents for the support you have given and continue to provide in so many ways. ALL is appreciated! Thank you for choosing St. Benedict School for your child/children's education.

Let's all work together to have a great rest of the school year.
May God bless you all!
Steve Haluska



 **KINDERGARTEN
COME AND SEE DAY!**

Friday, April 29 from 1:00-3:00 pm

This session is for all incoming kindergarten students to meet their teacher and experience a glimpse of kindergarten.

Staff and School Board Spotlight

My name is Kenny White. I have worked at St. Benedict School for 13 years. I have enjoyed working here. It is like a big family atmosphere. We all have our good days and bad days, but at the end of the day, we're all good. I have met some awesome people here and made a lot of great friends. I have to say the kids that go here are amazing, even after they move on from St. Ben's. They are always friendly and most come up and say hi and see how I'm doing. I like being here because most days it doesn't feel like a job, it feels like I'm still in school.



April 22nd

Grandparents Day!

We are excited to invite our most VIP guests back to school this year. Please watch for more information.

Friday Mass

Please join us for Mass, live on Facebook or in person. If the weather is warm enough, we will be outside on Friday mornings at 9:00am.

The April Mass schedule is as follows:

April 1 st	8th Grade
April 8 th	No School
April 14 th	Holy Thursday-Living Stations
April 15 th	Good Friday-No school
April 22 nd	7th Grade-Grandparents' Mass
April 29 th	6th Grade



Happy Spring! I am Sarah Christopher. I have been on the School Board for 5 years. I am a teacher by trade; however, since the closure of North Winn, I have been doing my best to keep these four boys in line and keep pace with my husband and father-in-law's construction business. This past year with the diagnosis of lymphoma for our oldest son, Cole, we have truly felt the outpouring of love and support as well as the amazing prayers from our St. Ben's families. We feel truly blessed to be a part of this community.

ST. BEN'S SCHOOL "AUCTION OF BLESSINGS"

AUCTION KICK-OFF!

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH

COCKTAIL HOUR: 6-7

LIVE BAND AND APPETIZERS: 7-10

DECORAH ELKS LODGE

Featuring the live band: Freeport Social Club

RESERVATION PRICES:

BEFORE APRIL 15TH* - \$20 PER PERSON

AFTER APRIL 15TH* - \$25 PER PERSON

*NOTE: NEW RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN AT THE DOOR

Heavy appetizers including: wings,

lil' smokies, sliders, pinwheels,

veggie trays, dips and chips

Cash Bar: Beer, Wine, and Spirits

Amazon Smile and Scrip (RaiseRight) are great ways to support our school. If you are not using these tools and want to, contact the office 563-382-4668

Simply the Right
Way to Fundraise

RaiseRight

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