



St. Joseph School Kindergarten

“HOLINESS CONSISTS SIMPLY IN DOING GOD’S WILL,
AND BEING JUST WHAT GOD WANTS US TO BE.”

-Saint Therese de Lisieux

Language Arts:



Books come in all shapes and sizes but the big books are perfect for sharing with a friend. Kindergarten is a print-rich environment to support children in developing concepts of print.

Faith Formation and Artistic Expression:



On the thirds Sunday of Advent in Vatican City, families gather in St. Peter Square to greet the Holy Father. It is tradition that the Pope blesses the infant Jesus figures that families present in the crowd of worshippers. Pope Francis recites the Angelus Prayer. Our

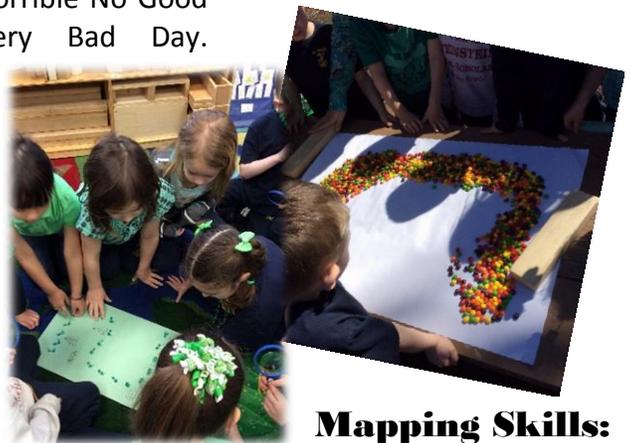
kindergartners plied clay in the Art Center fashioning their own figures of the Christ Child. As they cradled their precious infant in a bed of wool and straw, Fr. Bob blessed each.

Royal Reader:



Sharing the love of reading with the children sends a clear message of the

importance of reading. Mrs. Torti and Lena joined us for a reading of Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day.



Mapping Skills:

St. Patrick’s Day was the perfect opportunity for the Tomte to make himself known in our classroom. After learning about his antics in Sweden, the children were excited to discover a note written to them by the Tomte with writing so small it warranted the use of a magnifying glass to unravel the puzzle of his arrival to SJS Kindergarten. A map left behind prompted the children to follow the clues to a sweet rainbow.

A Special Christmas Surprise:

Children heard the jingle of Santa's sleigh bells and their excitement could not be contained. Santa could not possibly overlook Kindergarten friends before his big day. In anticipation of his visit, the children wrote letters of wonder to him as they are so full of questions. Santa graciously answered each of their questions.



Mathematics: Children investigated measurement using non-standard measurement. This work included problem solving for linear measurement and comparison of mass. Panscales support children's understanding of these concepts as children make and test predictions. They develop the realization that more or bigger is not always more when comparing mass.

This is our faith:

The events of Holy Week were difficult for the children to understand. We brought these experiences to them in very symbolic ways in the Washing of the Feet and the Last Supper. Children arrange a stone path to depict the events of our Lenten journey including the cactus of the desert and the palms for Palm Sunday. The path included a donkey and the tomb. This was a very tangible way for children to experience the passion and death of Jesus.



Activity Period: Children look forward to the cycle of our activity period (six-week block). This affords children the opportunity to work on a project within the context of a small group with teacher support. Mrs. Maguire brings the strategies to our beginner chess players in a developmentally appropriate way using No-Stress Chess. Children demonstrate great competence in playing against their peers.

Shadow **P**lay is a wonderful way for children to experiment with light and shadows while sharing a special story. Our small group developed a story of the Aurora Borealis and the Arctic Circle. Over the course of the six weeks, they dictated their tale of the polar bears and the Northern Lights to the teacher. Characters were formed from black card stock and the background was created. The highlight of this work was sharing their original tale with their peers and preschool children as their audience.



Figure 2: The Giving Bunny



Mrs. Rose guided our novice stitchers in creating the special Giving Bunny. For most this was a first time experience working with this skill set. She introduced the concept by sewing with large, plastic darning needles on burlap, and open canvas and finally felt. The creations were completed just in time for an Easter surprise.



Figure 1: Mrs. Maguire teaches the strategies of chess





Figure 3: Owen's interpretation of the Great Wall of China



Journey to Asia: We packed our bags and departed on our imaginary journey to China. We experience the Great Wall of China via our ipads. Children recreate this ancient landmark on the block table. Mrs. Breault's Grade 6 students collaborated with us to share our understandings. Writing the Chinese symbols with brush and water on "magic" paper, incorporating into Chinese folding books, and replicating onto lanterns crossed many curriculum areas— fine motor, literacy, social studies and art.



Figure 4: The Great Wall of China represented in the block area



Kindergarten Guest: Mrs. Rajotte (Grade 8 Parent) shared and loaned her collection of Chinese artifacts to enhance our Chinese experience. She shared the children's story from her favorite author, *Dim Sum for Everyone*.

Figure 5: Dominique uses water/brush technique to write Chinese symbols



Our tour of China was completed with a special celebration. Chinese noodles eaten with chopsticks was enjoyed by all. Children generously shared the tasty treat with our office friends but first explaining to them the importance of their good luck long, long noodles.

Figure 6: Panda habitat



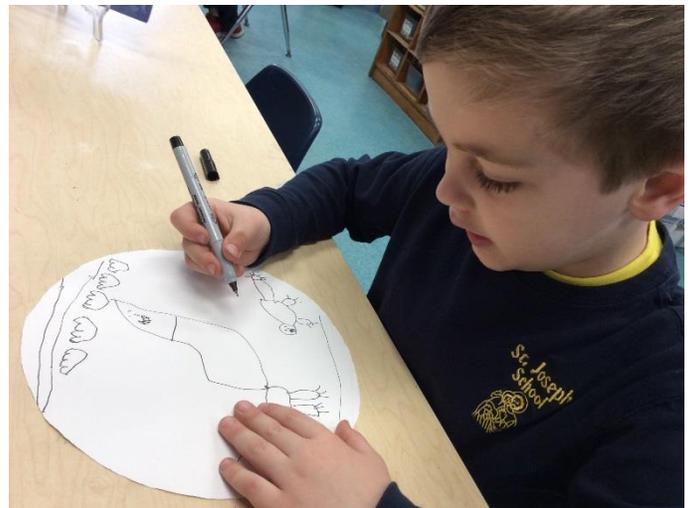
Mrs. Silva shares a Powerpoint of her family's heritage in the Azores. Children locate the Azores in the big atlas. A delicious treat of Portuguese sweet bread was shared with the children.



Mrs LaPlume shares the story, Willow Pattern Story, as children investigate the story depicted on the blue willow china. Photos support children in retelling the folktale from China.



Teachers recognize that children are rich with stories of their own to tell. Children represent their own imaginative tale on "plates" in the style of the blue willow.



SAVE THE DATE: KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATION,
TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 14.

Literature Selections

Bitterman, Albert, Fortune Cookies
Butler, John, Pi-Shu the Little Panda
Drummond, Allan, The Willow Pattern Story
Ed Young, Lon Po Po
Flack, Marjorie, The Story of Ping
Holub, Joan, Dragon Dance
Katz, Karen, My First Chinese New Year
Lin, Grace, Dim Sum for Everyone
Lin, Grace, Bringing in the New Year
Martin, Patricia Miles, The Rice Bowl Pet
Mosel, Arlene, Tikki Tikk Tembo
Ryder, Joanne, Panda Kindergarten
Thong, Roseanne, The Wishing Tree
Tompert, Ann, Grandfather Tang's Story
Wardlaw, Lee, Won Ton