



NEWSLETTER - MARCH

From the Director's Desk

May the luck of the Irish be with you all this wonderful month of March! We had such a terrific month of February as we celebrated Valentine's Day and learned about our United State's Presidents. We have lots of exciting events in store this month as well. March is National Reading Across America Day and it coincides with our favorite author Dr. Seuss' Birthday, March 2nd. In honor of Doctor Seuss, I declare March 3rd - 6th as Dr. Seuss' Silly Celebration Week. Our students may wear their pajamas on March 2nd. Looking further out into the month of March, it surely goes without saying that on March 17th, whether Irish or not we will all be wearing green to honor and celebrate St. Patrick.

Since "March Comes In Like A Lion, and Goes Out Like Lamb," I would like to remind parents at this time that the weather is changing from day to day, so please be sure you are dressing your child/children appropriately for the changing weather conditions. Also, please label all your child's belongings, so that we can make sure that all clothing goes home with the proper owners.

March is National Irish Heritage Day, National Reading Awareness Month, and National Nutrition Month. Our themes for this month are: St. Patrick, St. Joseph, Lent, Food Pyramid/My Plate, Dr. Seuss, Everything Irish: Leprechaun, Pot of Gold, Rainbow, Four Leaf Clover, Shamrock, etc.

In closing, I would like to express to all our parents how much we here at St. Gregory's appreciate you for helping us to adhere to all COVID PROTOCOLS, by doing so you are assisting in keeping our school environment safe.

- **March Dates:**

- 3/1: 100th Day of School Celebration
- 3/1-3/6: Dr. Seuss Silly Celebration Week
- 3/2: Dr. Seuss' Birthday - Pajama Day
- 3/4 Yearbook Orders Due
- 3/6: Staff Meeting - 8:15 a.m.
- 3/7: Parent Zoom Meeting 7 p.m.
- 3/8 100th Day of School
- 3/15: Donuts with Dad - 3's 8:45 - 9:30
- 3/16: Donuts with Dad - 4's 8:45 - 9:30
- 3/17: Donuts With Dad - St. Patrick's Day - Wearin of the Green
- 3/19: Feastday of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus
- 3/22: Community Helper Day
- 3/23: Children's Carnival
- 3/29: Easter Egg Hunt

- **Doctor Seuss:**

It is March and the learning theme this month is all things Dr. Seuss. Not only are Dr. Seuss books loved by children the world over but they help to introduce the fundamentals of reading. With Dr. Seuss' simple word repetition and rhyming words a child can easily begin to hear it, learn it, and read it. Dr. Seuss' Birthday falls on March 2nd, making it an ideal theme for the preschool classroom. The rhyming patterns in the Seuss books are particularly appealing to youngsters and lend themselves well to rhyming activities. A birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss on his actual birthday helps kick off the related activities we have planned for our students.

- **100th Day of School: March 1, 2023**

The 100th day of school may not be a significant milestone in the overall perspective of life, but for teachers, parents and students it offers a great opportunity for creative learning and celebration. It is a symbolic celebration of student's academic and personal achievements for the academic year so far. The 100th day milestone is eagerly anticipated by all of us at St. Gregory the Great Preschool.

- **National Nutrition Month:**

March is National Nutrition Month. Starting with nutrition education at the preschool level builds a solid foundation for good eating habits in the future. Activities that teach kids the basics of healthy food choices work well for the pre-k curriculum. Healthy snacks give kids firsthand experience with good nutrition. Working nutrition activities into the



curriculum throughout the month of March helps kids gain a better understanding of the topic.

- **St. Patrick's Day: March 17, 2023**

March 17th marks St. Patrick's Day each year. St. Patrick's Day offers a broad theme with many different categories for planning activities. Leprechauns, clovers, rainbows, Ireland and the color green all fit within the St. Patrick's Day theme. The St. Patrick's Day theme fits different areas of the curriculum and teaches kids about holidays.

- **Who Is Saint Patrick?**

Saint Patrick was born between 387-390 in Scotland. He was the son of a Roman military officer stationed in Britain. St. Patrick was captured by pirates and was taken to Britain where he was forced to work as a slave. For six years he worked as a shepherd, suffering from cold and hunger as well as the loss of his freedom. While tending sheep in the fields, he spent his time in prayer and turned to God. St. Patrick escaped from Britain aboard a German vessel. When he got back to his homeland, he studied in a monastery and was ordained a priest. He was asked to go to Ireland to Christianize it. Eventually St. Patrick was ordained a bishop at the age of 42. St. Patrick used the symbol of the shamrock to teach that there is only one God, but three divine persons .. Father, Son, Holy Spirit. In addition, he set up monasteries and convents, established parishes, adapted Irish celebrations to Christian feasts and continued to work to destroy paganism in Ireland. After living an apostolic life of labor and prayer, Saint Patrick died on March 17th, 461. He is the patron saint of Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York.

- **Saint Joseph: March 19th**

St. Joseph is an important figure in Christian belief. He was the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' foster father here on earth and the head of the Holy Family. Everything we know about St. Joseph comes from Scripture. He was a carpenter, and a working man. He was not rich, however, despite his humble work and means, he came from royal lineage. St. Joseph is a descendent of David, the greatest King of Israel. Jesus' foster father was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. Saint Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, thus many historians believe he probably died before Jesus entered His public ministry. He is the patron saint of the Universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and social justice. We



celebrate two feast days in honor of St. Joseph: March 19th is for Joseph, the husband of Mary, and May 1st is for Joseph the Worker.

- **Saint Gregory the Great Children's Carnival:**

Until the outbreak of the COVID Epidemic, each year St. Gregory the Great would host an all day Children's Carnival on a Saturday. The Carnival included Games, Food, Arts and Crafts, Music, Inflatable Rides, and Raffles. Last year and this year as well we will be replacing this event with a in school Children's Carnival on March 23rd out of an abundance of caution. This Carnival will include:

- The creation and raffling of decorative Classroom Plates designed by each Class. A great memento of your child's time here at St. Gregory the Great Preschool.
- Classroom Basket Raffles
- Chances for a Ride To School Aboard a Real Fire Truck
- Fifty/Fifty Raffle Book
- An "Encanto" presentation by Dave's Cast of Characters

- **Yearbook Orders: Due March 3rd**

Did you order your copy yet?? This is a memorable reminder of the time your child/children spent here at St. Gregory's. It highlights the activities and events that took place throughout the year. Remember they say, "A Picture is Worth A Thousand Word's. Cost: \$35 dollars per copy until March 3rd. Orders placed after March 3rd will cost \$40.00.

- **Safety Issues:**

It is unsafe for children to run and climb on the steps and rocks in the front of the school. It is also unsafe for children to run and play along the sidewalk and grassy areas due to cars speeding down Broadway and Harrison Avenue. Thank you for taking the time to help us to ensure the safety of your children.

- I also have been informed by the Harrison Police Department that parents dropping children off to our preschool are parking and blocking fire hydrants. This is not only jeopardizing access to our building and other surrounding homes in case of fire, but it is also a traffic violation and parties who do so will be ticketed.



- **Books for March:**

- Rainbow of My Own
- The Leprechaun Who Lost His Rainbow
- All the Colors of the Rainbow
- Ten Lucky Leprechauns
- One Windy Day

- **Discipline:**

Discipline is a way of teaching children about safety and societal norms. Whatever type of discipline you choose as a parent, the key is that some form of it is essential. When you are faced with a three or four year old who is throwing a temper tantrum, or who is being unkind to a playmate:

- Be Specific. Instead of vague instructions like "Cut it out," use specific ones like "Don't take Jeremy's toys. It's not nice."
- Use body language. Move next to your child, put a hand on his/her shoulder, make eye contact.
- Preschoolers like to say the word, "No." So avoid the word as much as you can when dealing with your child. Instead save "no" for times when you describe unacceptable behavior.
- With older children, set guidelines in advance. If your child knows the consequences of his or her misbehavior they will think twice about acting up.
- Be consistent, even when it's hard to follow through. Children need to know their parents' word is good...for punishments and rewards.

Ms. Gaudelli

