

PANTHER PATTERN

A weekly newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran School (October 22, 2020)

GIGO

Those familiar with computer science know what this title means. Even if you don't know the title in the form it is written, you likely have heard the expression it represents: garbage in, garbage out. A computer program does what it is programmed to do. If the data put into the program is bad, what comes out of the program will be bad.

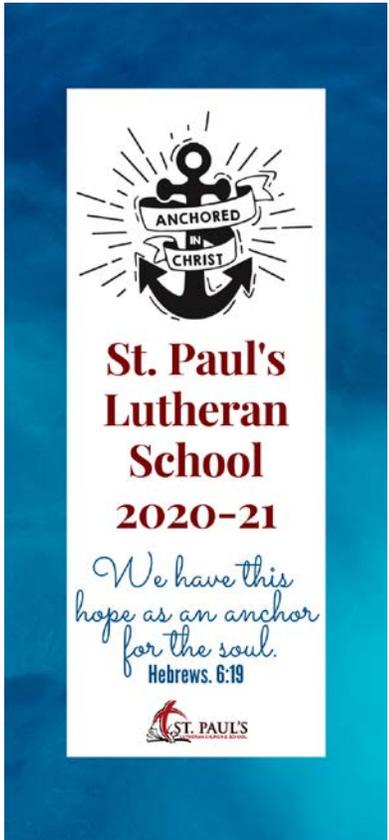
The GIGO concept has been applied in other areas of life. If you have a poor diet, your body is not likely to function as well as it should. If all your friends – whether online or face-to-face – are pessimists, you are likely to be pessimistic. If you spend time listening to depressing music, you are likely to have a more negative outlook on the day.

This same idea may be applied to our spiritual lives. If we surround ourselves with people – again, online or in-person – who bash organized religion, we are likely to acquire the same mindset. However, if dig deep into Scripture for hope and peace with God, and surround ourselves with strong Christians who will challenge and build our knowledge of God's Word, we will grow in our love of our Savior and the souls of the people around us.

What are you letting into your mind and heart? Is it making your faith stronger? Is it leading you to sin? Guard your minds and your hearts from the evil that surrounds us. Instead, immerse yourself in God's promises!

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

by Benjamin Bain



NO SCHOOL

Due to Parent Teachers' Conferences and originally scheduled State Teachers' Convention, there will be no school Wednesday, Oct. 28rd through Friday, Oct. 30. There will be no "Panther Patter" sent home next week. Please make special note of those items which pertain to your family as they are brought to your attention in this week's newsletter.

VIRTUAL ART SHOW (Grades 1-8)

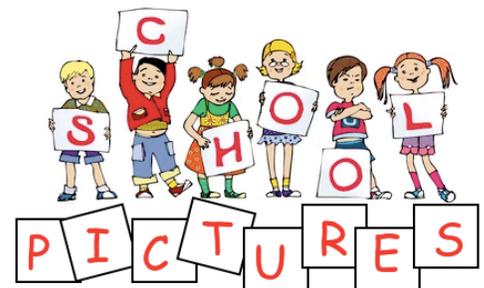
Projects for the Virtual Art Show are **due October 27**. Please read through the information found [here](#) which includes directions, name badges to be affixed to each project, and the judging form. Either a slideshow or video of projects will be shared with families so that you can be a part of this event. We thank Mrs. Ehlke for her work to make this event available for our students!

PICTURE DAY

School picture day will be on Oct. 29th. If you would like to have your child's picture taken, you will need to sign up for a time slot [here](#).

We are still also in need of volunteers to assist with screening and checking people in that day. If you can help please sign up in the link [here](#).

For all the details regarding school picture day, please click [here](#).



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Quarter 1 ends October 23. Due to the situation with the pandemic, Parent-teacher conferences will not be conducted in-person at this time. Instead, they will be conducted either through video conference or phone call. Teachers will send families sign-up information to schedule your time. Report cards will be available on Monday October 26. **You can view report cards through Educate.** If you do not know how to login to your Educate account, please contact Mr. Bain with a private message through Parent Square

SAFETY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Our Board policy states students should remain home 72 hours after symptoms clear. We understand this places a significant burden on families, but your partnership through this pandemic is critical for us to continue to offer in-person instruction as safely as possible. Honestly completing the Health Screening form through Parent Square each morning is very important. Please read through the symptoms and follow the instructions on the form. ***If you need to transition to virtual learning due to symptoms or close contact, please contact Mr. Bain and classroom teacher(s). Mr. Bain will follow up to help with the transition as quickly as possible.***

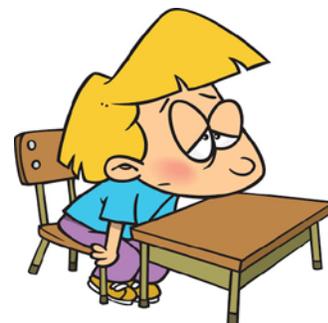
We continue to have a need for morning health screeners. If you are able to help please click [here](#) to sign up. Thanks so much!

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS SICK OR HAS SYMPTOMS?



As you know, our teachers have prepared themselves to provide instruction to both in-person and virtual learners at the same time. This means that if a child needs to be home due to symptoms or close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19, we are prepared to help them “attend” lessons virtually. There are cases when a child is too ill to effectively learn. In these cases, children should rest and not try to attend school virtually. For virtual learning to be effective, it requires a partnership between home and school. Attending lessons virtually means the child comes to class through a videoconference, instead of sitting in the classroom. The student attending virtually follows the same schedule as those attending in-person. The same expectations for behavior in the classroom apply to virtual attendance. In most cases,

children attending virtually will need guidance from a parent to ensure they are paying attention to the lessons and getting the most out of the experience.



We want to help make the virtual learning experience effective for students. That requires preparations both by teachers and parents. Our teachers will work to help make this transition as quickly as reasonable, and we expect parents will do the same. Below are some guidelines we have created to help with this transition, if it becomes necessary for your children.



1. Requests made for materials by 7:00 am will be available in the entryway to be picked up after school between 4:00-4:30 pm. They could also be picked up between 7:00-7:30 am the next school day.
2. Requests made after 7:00 am will be available in the school entryway after 7:00 am the following school day.
3. The child may or may not be able to attend virtually that first day, depending on the materials available to them.
4. Parents sign the virtual learner expectations again.
5. Mr. Bain, or representative, will contact the family about virtual

learning, to ensure understanding of expectations for effective learning.

As you make contact with St. Paul's about the need for your child(ren) to switch to virtual learning for illness or exposure to COVID-19, please include classroom teacher, office staff (Katy Miller and Lori Peters), and Mr. Bain.

PRESS RELEASE REGARDING SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

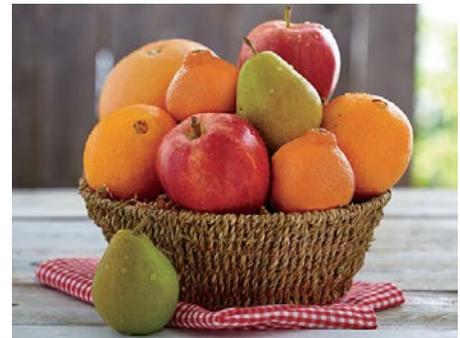
The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation (WELSSA) is pleased to announce the exemplary accreditation of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Onalaska, WI.

St. Paul's Lutheran School has proven compliance with WELSSA's educational standards and is a member in good standing. "We are pleased to congratulate St. Paul's Lutheran School for its dedication and efforts during the self-study process, and its commitment to continuous school improvement," remarked Paul Patterson, WELSSA's executive director.

Schools working toward accreditation must complete a comprehensive self-study, host a site visit team of educators outside the school every five years, and develop and implement a school improvement plan to maintain accreditation. The school files an annual report detailing their progress in meeting their goals and staying in compliance with the WELSSA standards. WELSSA is a member in good standing of the National Council on Private School Accreditation (NCPSA).

LUTHER HIGH ANNUAL FRUIT SALE

Fruit can be ordered now through Thursday, November 19, through a music student or through Paul Adickes at adicpaul@luther.k12.wi.us. Proceeds benefit the Luther High School Music Department.



You're invited to

The Big Knight

Luther High School's annual fundraiser supporting high school tuition assistance on

NOV 14 2020

5:30PM-9:00PM

Celebrations on the River
2100 Dawson Ave
La Crosse, WI 54603

PLEASE RSVP BY
NOVEMBER 7, 2020

RSVP online at:
www.bidpal.net/thebigknight2020

If you have any other questions, please contact the Mission Advancement office: John Byus
Director of Mission Advancement
byusjohn@luther.k12.wi.us
608-783-5435 x1132

A logo for 'The Big Knight' featuring a stylized cross and an open book, set against a dark background with white and gold brushstrokes.

MISSION OFFERING COLLECTED EACH WEDNESDAY

We continue to collect mission offerings on Wednesday mornings to support mission work in India. Pastor Mark Rieke of First Lutheran, former missionary in India, will prepare a chapel video for our student body to be used on November 4.

Week	Amount
9/2/2020	\$24.72
9/9/2020	\$19.81
9/16/2020	\$32.41
9/23/2020	\$42.78
9/30/2020	\$76.20
10/7/2020	\$49.97
10/14/2020	\$44.67
10/21/2020	\$72.16
Total	\$362.72

Learn more about WELS mission work in India using these links!

[A summary of WELS mission work in India](#)
[Many pictures of WELS mission work in India](#)
[A video about WELS mission work in India](#)

MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP) TESTING - FALL

Teachers have been wondering about the impact of the pandemic on the students in their classrooms. Are they way behind? St. Paul's students in grades 3 through 8 took three MAP tests in September. Results from Fall 2019 were compared with results from Fall 2020. Only students who were tested both times at St. Paul's are included in the comparison. Percentile ranks, in this case, group scores to national group averages. 50 is an average group. Conditional Growth Percentile compares group growth to national averages. Again, 50 is average growth for the group. A percentile of 95 means the group/grade scored as well as or better than 95% of same-aged grades across the nation. What you see in the tables below are group scores, meaning the achievement of the group as a whole is compared to other groups. These are not averages of the students individual percentile scores.

Mathematics					
Current Grade	Count	Fall 2019 Percentile	Fall 2020 Percentile	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
4	15	80	60	1	30
5	15	80	78	38	37
6	19	57	72	97	76
7	16	90	94	80	73
8	22	95	95	24	47

In mathematics, all five of the grades show achievement above the national average of the 50th percentile, with two grades scoring in the 94th and 95th percentile! If these test results are an accurate measure, our fourth graders did not make very good gains in math from 2019 to 2020. However, their 80th percentile ranking Fall 2020 was quite high.

Reading					
Current Grade	Count	Fall 2019 Percentile	Fall 2020 Percentile	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
4	15	69	92	99	78
5	15	93	87	6	38
6	19	18	29	93	61
7	15	79	93	99	77
8	22	84	83	54	58

Again, achievement for our students in reading is high. Four of the five classes have percentile rankings of the 83rd percentile or higher. The School Conditional Growth Percentile indicates that three of the classes grew in their reading at a rate that puts them in the 93rd percentile or higher. That's impressive! A conditional growth percentile of 50 would indicate average growth.

Language Usage					
Current Grade	Count	Fall 2019 Percentile	Fall 2020 Percentile	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
4	15	94	96	89	67
5	15	96	95	33	47
6	19	53	71	98	67
7	16	90	95	98	78
8	22	95	95	38	38

Language Usage continues to be a strength for St. Paul's students. In both Fall 2019 and Fall 2020, four of the five classes scored in the 90th percentile or higher. That is incredible achievement! Three of the five classes realized significant growth, earning conditional growth percentiles of 89 or higher.

In summary, the pandemic has had minimal impact on St. Paul's student achievement, based on these results. As classes, most continue to produce high achievement scores, and many show good conditional growth scores. Mathematics in grades 4 and 5 may have been negatively impacted, as indicated by conditional growth percentiles. However, achievement scores for these two grades continue to be above average. This does not mean that individual students have not been negatively impacted by the pandemic. There are students whose Fall 2020 scores raise some concern. Overall, St. Paul's students were able to effectively grow through distance learning in fourth quarter last year, or at least be able to catch up well in our first four weeks of in-person instruction prior to testing. God be praised!

THANK YOU!

Many people have volunteered their time this year to help out around the school. We would like to say thank you to all those who have been volunteering their time to conduct health screenings, serve lunch, work in the library, and clean the school while the custodian was out. All Those who volunteer, contribute to making St. Paul's a great school for our children. Thank you!



GREAT THINGS HAPPENING AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Given spaghetti noodles, about a yard of masking tape, about the same length of yarn, and a marshmallow, build a free-standing structure that will elevate the marshmallow as high as possible. Students, both in-person and virtual, deepen their understanding of the scientific method with this fun challenge! Check out these student-made structures.

