

Day School Annual Report 2024

submitted by Mrs. Liz Ryan, Director

At St. Paul's, we will grow in Christ's love, one and all! Thank you God, for St. Paul's...

Our Alma Mater says it all! Each child grows while they attend St. Paul's Day School! In height, in knowledge and in maturity! The early childhood years are a time of exponential growth and we have been honored and blessed to share time with this year's 27 students!

Though our 2023-2024 school year was halfway through in January, there were lots of exciting things going on. Mrs. Kathy Yates, Mrs. Kendra Voet and Mrs. Ryan started off the new year with winter themes that led to a week of bears! Teddy bears kept us company for Pajama Day stories, helped us pretend to hibernate and prowled the playground as we played!



In February, we started enrolling students for the coming year and enjoyed "Kindness Week" which culminated in our St. Jude's Trikeathon (our annual outreach project that supports children and families at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.) Our St. Jude's Trike-a-thon raised over \$3000 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital! What a wonderful feat! All our students had a great time, The Boys' Fresh Market donated a case of oranges for the children, the children learned about bike safety and helping other children from Delray Beach Police Officers Williams and Skinner!

In March, we created leprechaun traps for St. Patrick's Day! (Those tricky leprechauns got away but they did leave us some of their "gold"!)

April brought Easter and our Easter Egg Hunt where 500 eggs were hidden and found by eager children who scoured the playground and the yard of Paul's Place!

Days raced by and soon it was time for our Spring Frolic show with its song and art exhibition, and in the blink of an eye it was time for Graduation.

The children who started as "babies" were now independent, confident students, ready to take on the world! To send them off with wonderful memories, the children got to enjoy an end-of-year celebration with games, and food and face painting as well as a wild animal show! The teachers wished their charges a happy summer vacation, closed their classrooms and took a well-earned rest for the summer! Mrs. Voet retired from teaching and Mrs. Ryan hired an Alumni parent, Mrs. Karen Sciara to teach the VPK class beginning in the Fall.

The summer was quiet in the Day School with only Mrs. Ryan working in the office. New enrollments came in for tours and the Children's Christian Ed. Vacation Bible School "St. Paul's Episcopal Olympics" filled the campus!



In August, our Day School Board gathered to "get our ducks in a row" before the beginning of the new school year. This group of dedicated souls is a real gift to the school. Jennifer Broderick, Patti Daniell, Jessica Flannery, Kacey Keogh, Phil Wotton, Chair Michelle Warden, Fr. Paul Kane and I welcomed a new member to the board in August! Meloney Robinson has a three-year-old in the PreK-3 class and brings a fresh new perspective. St. Paul's Day School Board works as an advisory team who meet monthly during the school year to help Mrs. Ryan with decision making, scholarships, fundraising and policy formulation.



The following week, the school reopened with its "Meet the Teacher" open house. The children brought laughter and squeals back to classrooms that had been silent all summer and the teachers and I enjoyed every minute of it! For several families it was a chance to meet Mrs. Sciara for the first time, and for others, it was "hello again!" as they knew Mrs. "S" from St. Joseph's school. Chapel and music (with our returning music teacher Ms. Diane Gray!) started up at the end of the month and Dr. Lois Capuzzi (our beloved Speech Teacher) screened the children for Speech and Language. A couple of the families have their children taking a weekly class from Dr. Capuzzi right here at St. Paul's and they are making very good progress!

September brought with it assessments for our VPK students using technology provided by the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County. The children used tablets to take online tests that measured their beginning knowledge of Print, Phonics, Vocabulary and Math. That baseline assessment was then used to help create lesson plans to strengthen the skills of each individual child.

In October, we celebrated Community Helpers and had a visit from the Delray Beach Fire Rescue Squad who brought their big red fire engine, taught us that firefighters are super friendly and helpful, and let us all practice spraying the firehose and pretend to be firefighters ourselves! At the end of the month, we held Day School Sunday and joined St. Paul's 10 am congregation for a special Eucharist and even a blessing of the Trick or Treaters. There was more fun after the service because there were cars decorated for Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, a Day School Coffee Hour on the playground with a delicious cake, and lots of candy!



Our school picture day was the first week of November! We had some great smiles that day! It was a very busy time with our First Thanksgiving program on the last day before the Thanksgiving Break. Songs about the Pilgrims, the Wampanoags and our silly turkey friends filled the air. We had standing room only in the Parish Hall as we sang our way through the program!

Before we knew it, we were in December! “Mrs. Claus” (Mrs. Ryan’s sister, Melissa Mabe) made her annual visit to the school to remind the children that Santa had put their names on the “NICE” list, and get their giggles and belly laughs for her special Christmas cookie recipe! Christmas decorations and crafts adorned the windows of the classrooms, and we were practicing for our pageant “Come to Bethlehem”. What a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus! Our little ones, dressed as angels, shepherds, kings, a donkey, Mary, Joseph and the Innkeeper told the real story of Christmas!

Christmas Break signaled the end of 2024 but as it always does, our school year continued!

There are so many who have lent their help this year, Mrs. Caren Kilpatrick who worked in the church office as our church administer through May before moving to North Carolina, Mrs. Elaine Wotton our Operations manager, Mr. Roscoe Campbell who helps us with all things facility-wise, Fr. Bernie Pecaro and Fr. Paul Kane who share the Bible with us in Chapel and all the parents who have not only shared their children with us, but their time as well, stepping in to volunteer for playground duty, helping with prepping for arts & crafts and reading stories to the classes. If we could give a “Kindness Award” to all our helpers we would!

