

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

Español – Grades K-4

The elementary Spanish program at St. Paul's has been progressing very nicely during this past semester. I enjoy teaching your children and seeing them grow in their language ability. We have been stressing the listening and speaking skills of learning a foreign language while studying vocabulary and grammar points in mini units. Some reading and writing have been implemented as well. Every class begins with prayer in Spanish. In the third and fourth grade classes, they also recite the pledge in Spanish as part of our daily routine. On Wednesdays, we open class with a ¿Qué pasa? (What's up?) session. During this time, the students may share a quick comment about themselves outside of class. I then ask them a question or two in Spanish based on the information they tell me. They love sharing and I am proud of their understanding of the questions asked of them. On Fridays, we have Trivia Day. On this day, I ask the students a quick cultural question that allows us to briefly discuss a cultural topic from a Spanish speaking country. Then we proceed with our lesson for the day.

The kindergarten students are learning much of their Spanish through repetition, songs, actions, children's books, and games. As of the beginning of the year, they have learned: numbers 1-20+, eleven colors, greeting expressions, patterns, sequencing, graphing, body parts, winter and Christmas vocabulary, weather expressions, the seasons and a few adjectives. The students continue to show excitement in learning the Spanish language. Their eagerness to participate is wonderful.

The first graders have been working on a variety of fun units. They have begun to read and write a little in Spanish but have been concentrating on oral communication. Over the past weeks, they have: sung songs, learned commands, numbers 1-30+, reviewed colors, learned some feeling expressions, graphing, family members, shapes, and Christmas vocabulary including a cultural activity with the filling of shoes in place of stockings. The students' retention from week to week is great. They desire to constantly learn new things. In the weeks to come, the first graders will learn their body parts and how to express and injury if one were to occur. They will also combine the five senses with the newly learned body parts.

The second grade students are learning many new words and phrases to use in their daily lives. They have learned the parts to the calendar including the days of the week and the months as well as some weather expressions. At Christmas time, the students learned the importance of the poinsettia in the Mexican culture and even made one to take home. The students have studied the utensils used at the table for eating and directions in explaining the location of each object. Most recently, the second graders have been studying all about food. They are able to name a variety of foods and beverages, organize the food into foods they like and those they dislike. They are able to distinguish between foods that are served warm, cold and spicy. Sorting foods into the three main meals of the day and snacks/desserts was fun for them. The students are able to say they are hungry and thirsty and how to ask for a drink or something to eat. In the coming months we will continue with food as we sing a few songs, participate in some role-playing, and go shopping for food.

The third grade students have been learning Spanish words they can use daily in their classroom. They know their numbers from 1-100, the calendar vocabulary such as the days, months, and how to form dates in Spanish. Birthdays and holidays were used as references of important dates in the lives. The third grade students were also asked to memorize a few short rhymes in the Spanish language. They were all very excited to do this and were all very successful. They students began looking at the Spanish alphabet with an emphasis on the vowels. At Christmas, the students learned some Spanish Christmas carols. They designed and created a decoration of their choice to display the newly learned songs. Over the past weeks, the students have been studying the classroom vocabulary. They are able to name the various objects and compare them in the Spanish language using a few select adjectives. The students have completed some listening activities using the classroom words as well as

listened to a song using the classroom words in some simple phrases. They completed a game where they had to recognize and read an answer in Spanish before their competitor and also acted out a mini classroom play using the words they have learned. One of our upcoming final activities in the classroom unit is to complete a scavenger hunt set up in the room. They need to know their directions as well as their classroom words. It should be fun!

The fourth grade students reviewed the numbers from 1-100 and all the parts to the calendar at the beginning of the year. They know how to say the days, months, and form dates. The students then began the Spanish alphabet. The consonants and vowels were all taught. They students wrote words on their own that were dictated to them. They memorized a few vowel rhymes to help them with the vowel sounds and recited a few tongue twisters. They practiced using a Spanish/English dictionary and looked up a variety of words in a race between classmates. To introduce more reading and writing, the students read six family paragraphs in the Spanish language and then were asked to write about their own families in Spanish. These were fabulous! The fourth graders have been asked to memorize a short paragraph about a horse and recite it back to me. We all discussed the importance of horses in the Spanish cultures. At Halloween the students completed their skulls/masks for the Day of the Dead. Thank you for your assistance. The masks lined the main hall nicely during the holiday. At Christmas, the students made a Mexican craft called Ojo De Dios. This is a string art project that all the students loved. The fourth graders are taking an imaginary trip with me. The first part of our preparations was to make our own passports using our personal information in short Spanish sentences. To introduce more reading and comprehension in Spanish, the students read a short paragraph in Spanish and were asked to answer questions based on the reading. Wow! After looking at key words in the questions and taking apart the vocabulary they did know, they were very successful at the activity. The fourth grade students continue to be challenged and are up to it. They will soon be studying maps of North America, Central America, South America, and Europe. Capitals and the compass rose in Spanish will be highlighted.

In the semester to come, all the classes will continue with prayer, culture, and the skills essential to learning a foreign language. I am excited for the coming months.

I am including a few websites that I believe the students would enjoy looking at on the home computer. They have specifically shown an interest in money from around the world. (The sixth site is the money and country one.)

Muchas gracias for all your continued support this year.

Señora Saumier

<http://www.allbilingual.com/>

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/foreignlang.html#spanishgames>□

<http://www.spanishtoy.com/>□

<http://www.donquijote.org/spanishlanguage/games/#>□

<http://www.woodward.cl/actividades.htm>

<http://aes.iupui.edu/rwise/notedir/mappage.html>□

http://www.quiz-tree.com/Spanish_Language_main.html

(If you Google Mexico for Kids and Quia.com, you'll find many other sites and activities as well.)