



Newsletter



St. Mary's Elementary School

February 2012

From the Principal

Dear Families,

As I write this, we are ready to begin another Catholic Schools Week. We have lots of things happening at school this week, not the least of which is Preschool and Kindergarten Registration, Special Guest Luncheon, Kids and Teachers in Crazy Clothes or pajamas and Open House, CSW Mass and the Spaghetti Supper. It will be a great week.

After CSW, life calms down a bit and we have two good weeks of work before Winter Vacation. Let us remember each other as we prepare for the great feast of Easter. As the song says: "Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory." Blessed Lent. We will be on vacation but Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Mass will be at 8:30AM.

Sr. Christine

National Geographic Geography Bee

Congratulations to sixth grader, Moira Hannan on winning this year's National Geographic Bee. Congratulations also to eighth grader, Robert Gonet, our second place winner. Our third place was won by Patrick Mulhall, an eighth grader.

Thank you to all the winners and contestants who worked hard for this competition. Thanks also to Mrs. Blasioli, Mrs. Reed, and Ms. Jensen-Derrig, and Mrs. Browne who help to make this competition happen every year.

Financial Aid Info.

Financial Aid forms from the Diocese are now online. In order to qualify for Diocesan Aid, families must be registered, practicing Catholics. The form may be downloaded from our website. Click the **Tuition** heading and then the words **Financial Aid**. The sooner you get it all in, the better chance you have.

Words from the Student Council

Thank you for supporting the Student Council Dress Down Day in January. We made \$211.75. This money will go towards purchasing an item or two from our Christmas Wish List. This month's Dress Down Day will be on **Friday, February 10th**. Also on the 10th we will be hosting a Skate Night for ALL St. Mary's Students PK to Grade 8 at Amelia Park. Ice Time is 6:00 PM to 6:50 PM.

Catholic Schools Week is upon us and with that brings the Student Council lollipop sale which is currently underway. This is always a very successful fundraiser. This fundraiser is used to supply our lunch on Field Day at Sons of Erin. Again, thank you for your all of your support.

The Student Council

7th Annual Wine Tasting

Please join us at the 7th Annual Wine Tasting to benefit our schools. This event will take place on **Friday, February 17, 2012 at Tekoa Country Club**. Also being honored at this event are **Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award** recipients **Mrs. Ann Kousch** and **Mr. Daniel Howard**.

Tickets for this event are \$30.00 and they are available for purchase in the Advancement Office, both schools, and the Rectory. Call Kristin Hagan @ 568-1160 for more information.

Classroom Notes

Kindergarten

Wow! I can not believe February is here already! I am very excited for Catholic Schools Week, we are all so lucky to be apart of the St. Mary's School family! This will be a very busy month for Kindergarten with all of the new things we will be learning and all of the many special things we will be celebrating.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

We will learn the story of Zacchaeus and Saint Valentine's Day as well as continue our discussions on why prayer is important. Math finds us exploring numbers 10 to 30. In Reading we will be starting our "Playful Pets" theme. This month we will be focusing on the letters G, W and P.

Flashcards will continue to be sent home for all new sight words and word families that we are working on in class. I want to thank everyone for their extra effort at home. The children have been doing such a wonderful job learning their new words. Mrs. Parker and I are so proud of them!

Some of the children are still in need of glue sticks. If you have not sent some in yet, please do so as soon as possible! Thank you!

Mrs. Walsh

Grade One

February will find grade one celebrating Catholic Schools Week and 100 days of learning many new things. In Phonics, we continue to work on our long vowel sounds. Math will find us counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's to 100 and adding and subtracting. In Religion we will talk about forgiveness and making the right choices. We hope to read a book, write a book report, and make a diorama in school sometime in February or early March. Please send in any shoeboxes you might have at home.

Mrs. Regan

P.S. Don't forget to send in any clean, empty bleach bottles for a future art project with our 8th grade buddies.

Grade Two

Happy St. Valentine's Day! The second graders have been working very hard and have completed projects including Massachusetts state posters and maps, and ocean dioramas.

This month Spelling will focus on words that end in nd, nk, es, and s. We will continue practicing double digit addition and begin to subtract two-digit numbers using regrouping. Memorization of number facts is very important now. We will continue to practice these facts by playing a game called, "Around the World". Please continue to practice at home. Our reading theme is "That's Incredible" with such stories as "The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash" and "What Happened to Patrick's Dinosaur?" English class will focus on

verbs. In Religion we are learning about celebrating the Eucharist and the gift of Holy Communion.

Mrs. Merz

Grade Three

We have just finished up our unit on money in Math, and the kids did very well. Please continue to practice counting money at home with your child. We are now onto telling time. Again, at home practice is always a plus.

In Reading we have switched over to our second anthology book called, "Celebrate." The first theme is called, "What's Cooking." We will be reading stories related to food, and the first one is Tony's Bread, by Tomi de Paola. As an extension, we have been sharing other books by Tomi de Paola during read aloud time.

The kids have been doing a nice job getting their homework assignments written down on their assignment sheets each day. Assignments are listed on our homework chart on the board for the entire week. Thank you for your help at home reinforcing that homework is your child's responsibility.

I would like to express how happy I was with the time lines the children put together! I can tell they worked very hard on them, and they really enjoyed sharing them with our class. They are all hanging up in the hallway and in the classroom and the other students and teachers have really enjoyed looking at them as well.

Now that winter has finally decided to arrive, the children need to be dressed for it. Please make sure your child comes to school with a winter coat, hat, scarf, and mittens. We do go outside unless it is bitterly cold. The children need fresh air.

During the month of February, Grade Three will be putting on the monthly bake sale. More detailed information will be coming home soon.

As always, I really appreciate your constant support and help at home. Thank you for all you do! I truly enjoy working with your children each day.

Mrs. VanHeynigen

Grade Four

Happy Leap Year!! Grade 5 will be presenting their research reports this month and their extra credit visuals will be on display. They are working hard and have had two chances to use our library and computer lab to do their research.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Grade 4 will be doing a much smaller research project and they will be compiled into a book that will take turns going home with each student to share with their families.

February is African American History month and I will be doing short readings to teach the students about some famous African Americans.

My fourth graders are constantly being reminded about caring for their supplies. I am finding EVERYTHING on the floor from books to jackets. Any help at home with regard to being responsible for taking better care of their things would be greatly appreciated!

Enjoy vacation!

Ms. Jensen-Derrig

Grade Five

February is always a busy month in grade 5. Preparing for and receiving our salmon eggs, beginning our Science Fair projects, and Catholic Schools Week fun. Spending time with our "little buddy" second graders is always fun. We will make Valentines for people who do not have special "Valentines" in their lives.

Hope to see everyone at the Catholic Schools Week Mass and spaghetti supper.

Mrs. Reed

Grades Six, Seven, and Eight

The Seventh Grade has finished their study of Africa. We are currently working on South and East Asia and the Pacific particularly the history of Ancient India. We will then continue with Ancient China and present day India and China. Their third term Social Studies project will involve a country (of their choosing) located in the current text. They will create a travel brochure that includes specific information.

Grade Eight is studying the three branches of our government. They will also review the Constitution as well as the first ten amendments. We will apply the amendments to specific scenarios so they can determine if rights are being violated. They will have two small projects for third term: first a paper on the three branches of government including how a bill becomes a law, and a project on Lewis and Clark.

The Sixth Grade has begun work on fractions. We are reducing fractions, finding equivalent fractions and changing mixed numbers into

improper fractions. We will then do the four basic operations with fractions. In Social Studies, we have concluded our study of Egypt and Nubia. We have begun our study of Greece. We are just learning about the land now. We will be learning about Athens and Sparta, their governments, culture and the Golden Age of Greece. Sixth grade third term project is on a Greek god or goddess. They have already been given the specifics on a grading sheet.

Mrs. Blasioli

In Literature Grade 7 has just finished reading James and Christopher Collier's Newberry Award novel, My Brother Sam Is Dead. This historical fiction, with its openness to the human aspects of Revolutionary War life and its examination of political views and divided loyalties, has left Grade 7 with a more mature view of history and war. In Literature Grade 8 is continuing the study of The Holocaust before reading the literature. Grade 6 read two novels of their choice. For one project they chose an individualized activity and presented it to the class. For the second project each student dressed up as the main character in his/her book and retold the story as the main character.

In English Grade 7 and 8 are studying the eight parts of speech.

In Religion Grade 7 will be starting Lenten activities as well as Cross Reports.

Mrs. Gibbons

We are beginning Unit 2 on the Growth of Christendom which includes Liturgy and Worship and the Church and the Roman Empire.

In Math Grades 7 is studying Rational Numbers. Grade 8 is finishing Chapter 4 Exponents and Roots. This quarter they will have tests on each section of the chapters as well as quizzes.

Grade 6 will begin the study of rocks and minerals. Remember worksheets/study sheets can be downloaded from the Internet using their code.

The Seventh Grade will begin the study of the DNA molecule. Their large model of the double helix of DNA will be hanging in the classroom. Most of them will contribute nine nucleotides for this quite impressive model.

The Eighth Grade will begin their chapter on Simple Machines and have a "Rube Goldberg"
(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

project consisting of at least five simple machines to accomplish a simple task such as dispensing M & M's.

Many students no longer have all the materials that they need for class due to loss or breakage. Please check with them about these materials. They should not be expecting teachers or other students to supply them with materials. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Thanks for all you do for us here at school.

Sr. Joan

Computer

Even though February is a short month, there is still a lot going on in Computer this month. Grade K will continue learning about and practicing with the BACKSPACE, SHIFT, SPACEBAR, and ENTER keys. Grade 1 is doing an outstanding job with changing font color, size, and type. They will continue using this skill for writing a story with a story starter. In Grade 2 each student has chosen a state from books I gathered from the library. They are using the information about the state to write a letter to someone telling them all about what they discovered, for example, the state song, the state bird, the state capital, and much more. Grade 3 will get their first look at the Internet in Computer. They will learn how to be safe when using the Internet and learn about and use the features of the web browser, Internet Explorer. They will be making posters displaying safety rules for the Internet. Grade 4 is currently writing stories. In their stories they are required to include certain words and phrases I have chosen. Grade 5 will design a computer for the future. They will be writing about them, and they will draw a picture of their inventions for all to see. For Grade 6 we will take a look at how people use computers in today's society. They will draw a picture of a computer being used in society and write a sentence to go along with their picture. Grade 7 will continue working on their Stock Market projects. These should be finished by the late March. Finally, Grade 8 has learned about PowerPoint. They are using PowerPoint to create a presentation about themselves. They are creating a slideshow presentation about their past, present, and even making some fun predictions for the future. They

will present their projects to the class when completed.

Have a fantastic February vacation.

Mrs. Browne

Library

By now the Book Fair should be in full swing and hopefully you are enjoying the books your children are bringing home. Next month I will give you an update on our total profit, but thanks in advance for all your support.

This month Grade 3 will finish reading Bunnicula and they will continue working on dictionary use. Grade 4 has read two plays together and will try a few more before moving on to poetry. Grade 5 has finished reading their first novel and will begin Number the Stars.

Lastly, I would like to remind parents and students that Library books need to be returned in a timely manner. There are far too many overdue books at this point in the year. Please check around your homes and make sure your child's books are returned. We need to work together to keep our collection complete. Thanks!

Miss Murphy