



PARENT PRAYER

Parent Prayer continues to meet each week at 8:00 in Smith Hall, just prior to the school mass. The following families will be prayed for in February:

March 2	Serrato, Sewell, Sich, Sickinger
March 9	Singer, Smith, Stoner, Stout
March 16	Supan, Tan, Taylor (Lily/Abigail), Taylor (Steven)
March 23	Teelon, Theobald, Thomas, Thurmond
March 30	Timmerman, Townsend, Truesdell, Tucker

ST. MARY'S "MATHLETES" RULE

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 St. Mary's Team MATHCOUNTS for their amazing performance at the regional competition at Aiken Technical College on Saturday, February 12. Team members Bradley Brodie, Payton Carter, Ashlee Kay, and David Stoner placed first in the county in the team competition. In the individual scoring, David took 1st, Payton took 2nd, Bradley took 3rd, and Ashlee scored 11th overall. Remaining team members, Ross Bullington, Hagan Dyches, Elizabeth Grant, Madeline Grant, Caleb Nunez, Max Serkiz, and Elizabeth Stout all placed in the top third of all competitors. In the exciting Countdown Round, David, once again, took the top honors.

Congratulations again to all of these hard-working students, to their supportive parents, and to **all** of the teachers at St. Mary's for the instruction and guidance of the students each and every year.

The "Mathletes" are preparing for the state competition at Coastal Carolina University on Saturday, March 12.

JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE FAIR

St. Angela Hall was filled with a wonderful collection of science experiments on Thursday, February 17! Colorful backboards, thorough logbooks, and great reports greeted a team of dedicated science fair judges. Thank you to all of the judges who generously gave of their time to thoughtfully review all of the projects. Congratulations to our award winning students!

Sixth Grade

1 st Place	Whit Babineau	Kristin Ulmer
2 nd Place	Chloe Kaplan	Kathy Ziegler
3 rd Place	Jared DeMass	Steven Taylor

Seventh Grade

1 st Place	Hannah Griffith	Anna Lipscomb
	Alexa Luszcz	Anastasia Pierce
2 nd Place	Emma Ardington	John Visbisky
3 rd Place	Reid DeMass	Hagan Dyches

Eighth Grade

1 st Place	Bradley Brodie	Sam Kessinger
	Taylor Mabry	
2 nd Place	Ernesto Barquet	David Stoner
3 rd Place	Connor Lanigan	Sarah Supan

All of the first place winners are invited to participate in the Regional Science Fair to be held at USCA on Saturday, March 12. The public is also invited to view the projects! It is a great way to see some wonderful projects and even find ideas for next year's science fair! ☺

FRENCH STUDENTS VISIT SMS



St. Mary's bids au revoir to the students and chaperones from Saint-Denis, France, who visited SMS for three weeks. They will be returning home on March 3.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN CAREERS DAY

The first Science and Technology in Careers Day was a huge success. This exciting morning was planned just for the SMS fourth, fifth, and sixth graders and was held on February 2. Presenters included:

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Kubilius (SRNS)
 Mr. Larry Morris (City of Aiken)
 Ms. Annamarie MacMurray (SRNL)

Ms. Linda Youmans-McDonald
and team (SRNL)
Mrs. Patti Bennett
Mr. Derrick Faunce
Mr. Bob Eble
Ms. Dianne Braselman
Mr. Thomas Jackson
Mr. Eric Schiefer (SRS)
Mr. Joe Amari (SRS)
Mr. Jim Mason (SRS)
Mr. Amit Ganguly (SRS)
Mr. Ernesto Barquet (Kimberly Clark)
Mr. Veo Mills (Kimberly Clark)
Mr. Patrick Wray (Linde)
Mrs. Linda Serkiz (SRS)

The event was planned and organized by parent, board member, and engineer Mrs. Monique Rabin. Thank you Mrs. Rabin, school liaison Mrs. Webster, and all of the presenters!

JUNIOR HIGH TRIP TO
CAMP ST. CHRISTOPHER



Sean Butler discovered the carapace of a horseshoe crab while exploring at Barrier Island.



Laura Valdes, Anna Lipscomb, Emma Ardington, and Annie Schwenker didn't let the chilly, rainy weather dampen their spirits. They obviously had a great time in the mud pit!

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

4K Kiddies

The 4K class is loving the warm spring-like weather. Recess is especially popular. Bubble blowing and sidewalk chalk is so much fun.

In our Happily Ever After reading series, the class read Tug of War. The story was very interesting, and the boys and girls enjoyed tug of war competitions.

Dr. John Tucker spoke to the 4K and 5K classes about dental health. Everyone learned so much. He was very patient and answered all of the children's questions. The class will continue to study dental health. The boys and girls will conclude this unit by making a tooth pillow for the Tooth Fairy.

First Grade Fun

February equals fun in the first grade. We enjoyed all the Catholic Schools Week activities and want to thank all who made it such a special week for us. A dress day and free pizza! It doesn't get much better than that. We have started our second Superkids reader. The first story gave us lots of ideas of things to do on a rainy day. We are currently reading about fortune cookies and making wishes. We had lots of fun writing fortunes to share with our classmates. We have also learned some new rules for spelling tricky words - just change the y to i and add the ending. Ask us the difference between "there" and "their." We can tell you! In math, we have been studying different shapes and solids and are looking for examples of symmetry everywhere we go. We are

now getting back to practicing math facts and are adding sums up to 20. We even had fun on our make-up snow day. We read biographies of presidents Washington and Lincoln and made Washington hats and Lincoln log cabins. We also have been studying ways plants and animals adapt to their habitats. Hippos close their noses and ears when they are underwater. To warn others of danger, kangaroos thump their powerful back legs. To protect themselves, stone plants blend in with their background. These are just a few of the numerous adaptations we have learned.

Save the date! Some important dates are coming up for first grade: a field trip to Ruth Patrick Science Center on April 21 and Grandparents' Day on April 28. More information will be coming soon.

Second Grade Spice

The second graders have been immersed in learning about plants and animals that live in water. The blue cellophane on the window lets everyone know that they are entering an unusual habitat. An orca, sea otter, octopus, sea urchin, sea turtle, penguin, and many other animals inhabit the space below the water line in the classroom. A kelp forest produces food that starts the food web. The children have decided that being popular in a food web may not be such a good thing! They have also been studying about fractions, shapes, and symmetry. Both areas of study have culminated in a mural of symmetrical fish made of squares and triangles swimming in a school.

Third Grade Thoughts

On our way through the third quarter, third graders have finished reading stories about animal habitats and will make inferences, predict outcomes, and sequence information as we read stories about voyagers.

In social studies, the students are learning about our local government, and county council member Scott Singer came to talk to the classes about the rights and responsibilities of community leaders and citizens. Students have also written poems including fun facts about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in honor of Presidents' Day. Come see their creative writing on display in Carter Hall.

In science, students are experimenting with rocks and soil and are looking forward to our upcoming trip to the Ruth Patrick Science Center to participate in a program called Ravenous Raptures.

Since practice makes permanent, we are still reviewing multiplication facts and basic division facts daily in math.

Fourth Grade Forays

Luster, streak, hardness... these are just a few of the tests we have been performing on rocks brought from home to determine what kind they might be. It was really amazing when the black rock left behind a yellow streak. Nobody guessed that one. We are now growing a crystal garden that is filled with pretty shapes and colors.

Our Wall of Fame in the hallway showcases some very important people. There are artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Walt Disney and trailblazers such as Harriet Tubman and Neil Armstrong. We are really enjoying the reports our classmates are giving about these famous people in history.

Thank you to all of the parents who helped make our Valentine's party a success. The food was yummy. It was so much fun decorating our cookies and creating our ice cream sundaes.

Currently in Seventh Grade Life Science

It's over! Seventh grade scientists did a wonderful job of communicating the findings of their Science Fair projects. The judges were quite impressed with their reports and displays. Students also did well presenting their reports orally to their classmates.

With the Science Fair a sweet memory, students in life science are now moving on to the study of plants. Vascular tissue, sporophyte, and rhizoid are just a few of the terms students will master as they look at the plant kingdom. Classroom laboratories will begin to move away from microscope use and concentrate on larger specimens. In the coming weeks students will learn about plants and how they reproduce by dissecting a seed and a flower using special tools.

Currently in Eighth Grade Physical Science

The eighth grade physical science students are completing their physics studies by creating some "not so simple machines" in the Rube Goldberg cartoon style. Please enjoy the finished projects soon in the upstairs Mercy hallway.

The students will begin exploring chemistry by investigating the differences between physical and chemical properties and physical and chemical changes. In Lab, the students will master the techniques of the burning and glowing splint tests, checking for the presence of either oxygen or hydrogen gas. They are discovering that chemistry "matters"!

Congratulations to all of the eighth graders on successfully completing their 2010-2011 Science Fair projects.

Artistic Adventures

It's been hot....and cold in the Cafeteria lately! Students have been studying about hot and cold colors by analyzing the works of famous artists and applying the concepts to works of their own. The fourth through sixth graders created tie dye hot or cold backgrounds using crayons and added a Keith Haring inspired basketball player to complete the design. Students in first through third grade created hot and cold valentine peacocks.

Students are now working on a variety of projects. The second, fifth, and seventh grades are preparing entries for the "Doodle for Google" contest. After viewing winners from last year and discussing audience, technique, and presentation, students have begun sketching ideas for "what I'd like to do someday....." Parents should watch for a packet to come home that explains the contest and contains a permission form that needs to be signed and returned so that your child may participate. Wouldn't it be great to see a St. Mary's artist on the Google homepage for a day?!

Artists in the first, third, fourth, and sixth grades are working in outer space. This year St. Mary's has been invited to display artwork at the Aiken Center for the Arts during the month of April. Our display will be "out of this world" with everything from aliens to hot and cold planets to spaceships!

And finally, the seventh grade has been busy with pipe cleaners and aluminum foil. On Monday, February 21, they held a show in the Cafeteria to show off their Alberto Giacometti inspired works. Ask your child to explain his creation. In between their other projects, seventh grade students are also working in their sketchbooks, which are due in the beginning of March. Happy drawing!



Religion Reflections in Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7

Watch out St. Mary's! Fourth grade students are on a Beatitude watch! The students began their studies of the Beatitudes by reading the story of the Rich Young Man. The poor young fellow thought he had it made in the shade for a seat in heaven when he asked Jesus what he had to do to gain everlasting life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. "I am in!" thought the young man. But Jesus told him to hold on because there was more to his message. "Sell your possessions and give the money to the poor." The rich young man wasn't able to make that promise and walked away pretty sad. What an incredible and important message for all of us to not just keep those very important commandments but to further live our lives by caring for others and putting them first. So be a good example for our fourth graders and live those Beatitudes every day.

The sacrament of Confirmation is being studied in our fifth grade religion classes. The students are learning that the bishop is the ordinary minister for this sacrament and that when we receive this sacrament of initiation it completes the graces we receive at our baptisms. The students have discussed the laying on of hands, the anointing with sacred chrism, the role of the sponsor and the selection of a saint name for this sacrament. The students are looking forward to the day when they are confirmed so that they can be stronger witnesses for the Church.

Fifth graders are asking for your help in rounding up all of your old palms at your homes and in your classrooms. With the season of Lent quickly approaching it is time for us to collect the palms. Fifth graders will be making stops in the classrooms to pick up your old palms. Please bring them to school and our fifth graders will do the rest.

Our journey with the Israelites have taken our junior high students through the Book of Numbers where we witnessed another amazing example of faith and trust in God from Joshua and Caleb. Joshua and Caleb were the only two scouts of the twelve who were sent out by Moses who believed the Israelites could defeat their enemy because they had God on their side. The students also saw evidence of how the sin of one person can affect an entire community. Miriam's sin of jealousy, Moses' sin of not putting enough trust in God to help the Israelites when they were thirsty and Achan's sin of greed caused consequences for all of the Israelites as well as personal consequences. These passages from the Old Testament were great reminders that when we sin it hurts the whole Church. We are looking forward to wrapping up our adventures in the Book of Joshua and are ready to move on in our Old Testament adventures.

Vocation Club News

The Fr. Kolbe Club found our young men working on a service project this month. After a discussion on the many ways priests and deacons serve the Church, the boys put their culinary talents to work in decorating Valentine cupcakes for the members of the St. Cecilia Club. The toughest part of the service project was choosing which of the cupcakes each young man decorated was the nicest and donating that cupcake to the St. Cecilia Club.



The young ladies of the St. Cecilia Club were invited to the home of Mrs. Claire Hesse where Mrs. Hesse and Mrs. Gretchen Schaffner talked to the girls about the musical instrument that is so often seen in pictures with St. Cecilia. Mrs. Hesse has two harps at her home and shared some interesting facts about the history of the harp. Club members were reminded of the story of St. Cecilia's wedding night and how she sang to God in her heart while hearing the angelic sounds of the harp. The St. Cecilia Club sends their thanks to Mrs. Hesse and Mrs. Schaffner for being so generous with their time.