

PARENT PRAYER



Parent Prayer continues to meet each week at 8:00 in Smith Hall, just prior to the school mass. Please see the attached flyer for December and January.

GREAT NEWS FROM GRADS

On the recommendation of her French teacher, Mary Therese Thomas, a 2010 graduate of SMS and currently a freshman at Aquinas, competed in Clemson University's 38th Declamation Contest earlier in November. Mary Therese **WON** the French II Division! Congratulations, Mary Therese. Also, kudos to Mrs. Christine Trezza, St. Mary's French teacher, for preparing St. Mary's students so well.

DUKE MATH MEET

Eighth grader David Stoner participated in a Duke Math Meet held early in November. David's team from Columbia placed fifth out of the 52 teams which competed. Good job, David!

CAMPBELL'S LABELS AND BOXTOPS

Do you ever shop at Kroger? If you do, you can have all of your Campbell's purchases and some special purchases with Box Tops for Education credited directly to St. Mary's School.

Campbell's
http://www.elabelsforeducation.com/Sites/Campbells_eLabels/Page/HomePage

Box Tops for Education
http://www.rewardyourschool.com/Sites/General_Mills_Box_Tops/Page/OffersLoggedOutPage

Mrs. Ramona Carter says: "I found this Campbell's website through the Kroger.com site this morning. It lets you set up an account that allows all of the Campbell's products purchased to be automatically credited to your school when you check out & pay. I'm really excited that they are having a promotion from now until 01/01/2011 that gives our school **DOUBLE-POINTS** for each product!!! You can still turn in your labels as you use the products at home, too, so it's like triple points in the end!"

Mrs. Carter adds, "Important note - You have to register your Kroger rewards card into the Campbell's site, so have it handy. If you don't know your Kroger

Bonus card number you can call their customer service number at (800)KROGERS or (866) 221-4141."

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

4K Kiddies

November was a busy month for the 4K class. The children enjoyed the Bible story, "Noah's Ark," and made rainbows using prisms. There were rainbows all over the room.

The children made Freedom Hats to commemorate Veterans' Day. The boys and girls talked about loved ones who served our country. Ella Cooper told us about her Uncle Chris in the Air National Guard, and Scott Maldonado talked about his father in the Army.

The story of the first Thanksgiving was intriguing to the class. The class learned about the Pilgrims, Squanto, and the meaning of Thanksgiving. The children made turkeys with feathers indicating the things for which they were most thankful.

First Grade Fun

How quickly November has flown by! The highlight of the month was the Thanksgiving Feast and program. The Pilgrims and the Native Americans did a fantastic job with the food, the singing, and the prayer. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this fun day possible for 5K and first graders. A special shout out to Food Lion on Silver Bluff for donating the bags used to make the Native American vests. Graphing was the math skill for the month. We made several graphs and learned how to read carefully to answer questions about the graphs. We have moved on to a study of place value. The Superkids continue to have very interesting adventures. We have read about foolish giants, Golly's tracking skills and the Blob. December holds lots of special activities for all of us at St. Mary's. Of special interest for the first graders is our December 9 field trip to Ruth Patrick Science Center. More information will be coming soon.

Second Grade Spice

Second graders wrote directions to complete a task. The directions included the words first, next, then, after that, and finally. After writing their directions, they held a mini-talent show and demonstrated for their classmates the steps necessary to complete the task as written. Second graders are talented people.

They are also learning about idioms. We are discussing the meaning of put your best foot forward, get off on the right foot, get off on the wrong foot, put your foot down, get cold feet, think on your feet, get your feet wet, and get back on your feet. One student noted that the first time he ever dove off of a diving board, he got his feet wet when he got his feet wet!

Fourth Grade Forays

Fourth graders had an electrifying trip to the Ruth Patrick Science Center. While we were there we watched a show about weather and lightening. Then we had a great hands-on classroom activity using wires, bulbs, and fans to construct different types of electric circuits. Back at school our activity with static ended in some hair-raising results.

We have been spending a lot of time writing and editing stories about "The Old House on the Hill." We learned about onomatopoeia and used many words such as "screech" and "boom" in our stories. We also used many adjectives to paint spooky pictures in the minds of the readers. Our final products are hanging in the hall.

Variables, equations, function tables....these are just a few of the terms we are using as we learn algebra. It is really not too bad, as long as we don't get our x's and y's mixed up.

Religion Reflections in Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7

Religion classes in fourth grade have centered on the Lord's Prayer and what each line means in that perfect prayer. The students have learned that through the Lord's Prayer we learn how to respond to the 10 Commandments in prayer and that this prayer sums up the Gospel message of Jesus. In addition, the students have learned the four different types of prayer; petition, adoration, contrition and thanksgiving.

Fifth graders have finished a section of study on sacramentals. Did you know that blessings are the most important of all the sacramentals? The students can identify a long list of sacramentals and what their purposes are in our life and how they help us better focus on our prayer life and bring us closer to God. As we begin to study the sacraments of initiation the students have participated in an activity that helps them realize the purpose and value of belonging to a group.

Our Old Testament studies in sixth and seventh grades have had the students spending time with Joseph and his brothers. The students have discovered that Joseph, in the Old Testament, has so many of the qualities that Jesus had. Joseph was humble in never taking credit for the gifts that God gave him. Even when the Pharaoh and his assistant tried to praise him for being able to interpret dreams Joseph gave all the

credit to God. Joseph's ability to forgive his brothers has been a wonderful example for us to apply in our everyday lives of forgiving others when they have hurt us. Our travels at this point find us with Moses and his encounter with the burning bush. The ten plagues have been a huge hit with the students and we are all praying we never have to encounter our water supply turning to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, complete darkness or the death of the first born to each family. We will anxiously await our march to the Red Sea to escape slavery in Egypt.

During the month of October the students, faculty and staff participated in a parish wide effort of praying the rosary daily. St. Mary's students, along with the faculty and staff, prayed 350 rosaries. Thank you to all those who participated in praying the rosary and to all those who led.

We would like to thank Mrs. Rosemarie Adams, Mrs. Idalia Barquet, Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Colleen Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. Sean and Dee Wheeland, Mrs. Liz Nunez and Mrs. Kim Doire for acting as crossing guards for our younger students on Monday, November 1. We appreciate you getting us safely to and from our All Saints' Day Mass.

Vocations Club News

The St. Cecilia Vocations Club for Young Women met on Wednesday, November 17. In preparation for St. Cecilia's Feast Day on November 22, the 58 4th - 8th grade girls iced 150 cupcakes with blue frosting. The girls were able to eat one cupcake and made plans to share the remaining cupcakes.

The Fr. Kolbe Vocations Club for Young Men met on Thursday, November 18. The 47 boys participated in a Scavenger Hunt in the church sanctuary. The boys found "Fruits of the Holy Spirit" items, such as a lamb (gentleness), the collection baskets (generosity), and Mary in the Annunciation window (joy). Did you know that Angel Gabriel holds a scroll etched with the words "Ecce Agnus Dei" and that there are 11 rungs visible on the ladder in the Crucifixion stained glass window?





After the scavenger hunt, Kolbe members were given cupcakes from the St. Cecilia Club members and enjoyed a picnic on the lawn by Smith Hall. The cupcakes were so delicious and plentiful that most members ate two!

The next meeting is a joint meeting of the St. Cecilia and Fr. Kolbe clubs on Wednesday, December 15.

Scientific Studies in Sixth Grade

In sixth grade earth science, students are wrapping up Ch. 4, Plate Tectonics, while Mrs. Guy has students working on a paper about earthquakes to tie into our learning. And they are moving steadily along with their Science Fair projects, having just completed their beginning background research and hypotheses. The next deadline is 12/2, the Experimental Plan. More information can be found in the Science Fair packet (sent home earlier) on pgs. 7 & 11 and on the website: sciencebuddies.org.

Sixth Grade Math

In math, sixth graders have had some practice with the Texas Instruments calculator and are now starting Ch. 1, Interpreting Data & Statistics.

Seventh Grade Science Studies

Homozygous, heterozygous, phenotype, genotype... these are some of the special new vocabulary words students in seventh grade life science have mastered as part of their look at genetics. While studying how traits are passed on, they found that very few students in the seventh grade have smile dimples, the dominant form of the trait!

Now it is off to bacteria and viruses, but first the class will spend some time learning about and viewing paramecia. These protists are fascinating to watch under the microscope and will be the focus when students return from Thanksgiving.

Science Fair projects continue to progress. It is very important that students give their best effort on each section to avoid falling behind. On December 2, the section on the experimental plan will be due. Once approved, the fun of experimentation will begin!

Eighth Grade Science

The eighth grade physical science students are currently creating the experimental plans for their 2010-2011 Science Fair Project. Developing plans include testing *if the number of wheels on a vehicle will effect the speed, if particle size has an effect on the reaction rate, if the length of a trebuchet arm effects the distance an object is thrown, etc.*

As the study of motion continues, students have been introduced to various forces and are currently conducting several lab activities on friction.

Computer Bytes

4-K - Students have adjusted well to the computer lab environment and have learned many important computer words (icons, pointer, monitor, etc.) in helping them use their computers. Students enjoy going to favorites to complete learning activities and then choosing an activity to work on independently!

5-K - Students have learned the alphabet letter positions on their keyboards and are typing simple words from their Superkids Books. Students are also learning the MS Paint program and all the fun things you can do with paint! Kindergarten students are always ready to learn!

1st grade - Students have already learned so much since the beginning of the year in computer lab: typing their names using the shift keys when needed, using important keys on the keyboard, using MS Word toolbar functions, using MS Paint to create Halloween pumpkins, and many other items! All the students are anxious to learn and are working very independently!

2nd grade - Students are showing excellent listening skills in computer lab! Students are ready to learn as soon as they come to class. Students have created PPT print out slides, they are continuing to learn MS Word toolbar functions, students have created their own folders to save on-going work, students have shown advanced MS Paint skills and all students can set their pages to landscape independently (a six step procedure)! Way to go!

3rd grade - Students have completed their endangered animal research papers using Mrs. Guy's website, now they will take their "facts" and type up a PPT slide and copy/paste an image of their animal to

complete their project. Students will save their work in a created folder on their computer. Students have also been working on keyboarding skills, learning more MS toolbar functions and the class continues to discuss Internet Safety.

4th grade - Students have just completed their first big project! After gathering weekly weather research on paper, students created a spreadsheet using MS Excel then created a graph/chart that showed their results. Students had to apply math and computer skills in this project and then everything was saved in their created folders on their computers for future reference. Students have also been working hard on their keyboarding skills, curricular skills using Mrs. Guy's website, and other computer skills!

5th grade - Students completed their Indian project research and are currently working on their family newsletters using MS Publisher, where students have to apply keyboarding skills, copying/pasting skills, formatting skills, and show good toolbar usage. Internet Safety was discussed at the beginning of the year. Students are showing excellent keyboarding skills!

6th grade - Students have been using the Internet for researching curricular lessons, typing research papers, using the MLA format for bibliographies, using created spreadsheets to enter keyboarding data to help increase their WPM average and accuracy, using learned short-cuts when doing computer projects, creating Power Point presentations, and many more skills.

7th and 8th grade - Students have been busy researching and typing papers, working on curricular projects, remembering the MLA format, expanding their usage of spreadsheets and formula functions, creating advanced Power Point slides and many more learned skills.

Artistic Adventures

Young artists in Grades 1 - 3 have been busy trying their hands as architects. After a look at some 3-D models of buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, students began designing 3-D houses. Careful planning went into the order of the details that were drawn. Students also studied different kinds of texture and ways to draw them. Classes are just about to assemble their creations and add a yard complete with bushes!

But first...we must take a break to work on Christmas program projects. Angels and polar bears, along with a Van Gogh inspired nativity scene will be just some of the projects to view at the Christmas program on December 16 at 7:00 pm in St. Angela Hall.

The fourth and fifth graders have just completed projects designed to promote drawing practice. There is a story behind the beautiful watercolor pictures in the Cafeteria. Ask your fourth grader!

The sixth graders have spent several weeks working with print making. Last month we showed you a picture of students busily carving out their print blocks. Stop by the Cafeteria and see the fruits of their labor.

And while you are in the Cafeteria, look up! We have installed over a dozen new tiles inspired by the works of Jonathan Green, Rene Magritte, and Marc Chagall to name just a few!

With prayers for a Christmas season filled with peace, joy and love - Mrs. Stoner