

## PARENT PRAYER



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

1/4, Wed.	Brodie, DeHaven, Eide, Kramer Luszcz
1/11, Wed.	Brannon, DeLoache, Eichenberg, Kranjc, Malyszek
1/18, Wed.	Boyle, DeMass, Edgington, Leonard, Massie
1/25, Wed.	Boone, Derrick, Dyches, Lipscomb, Mayes

## NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

### Kindergarten Kapers

**Jesus' Wish List for Santa**  
(with a little help from 5K)....

A little toy manger  
Love  
A sheep  
A blanket  
Angels to watch over Him  
A toy horse or donkey  
A toy sailboat  
Prayers  
Kindness  
A boy doll  
Toys for poor people  
A Christmas tree  
A Hot Wheel

### First Grade Fun

December finds us practicing our listening skills. First graders have a very keen sense of hearing. From off in the distance we've been hearing the faint sounds of jingle bells, reindeer hooves, and a distinctive laugh - Ho! Ho! Ho! The good news is the sounds are getting closer and louder. Of course we are studying the true Good News of Christmas - that today in the city of Bethlehem the Savior is born. He is Christ the Lord!

We have also been studying the history of our country. We have learned about the first Americans, early travelers to America, and the stories of some of the country's most prominent leaders. Place value

study is coming to an end. After the Christmas break we'll begin geometry. In reading, the Superkids develop a clever plan to help Hot Rod find his missing race helmet. The Superkids also go camping at the park. Golly seems more of a hindrance at the campsite than a help, but ends up saving the day. Go Golly!

May you and all of our St. Mary families have a blessed Christmas.

### Second Grade Spice

The second graders are gearing up to perform the play "We Need Trees!" just like the Superkids in their reading program. The full cast includes Mother Nature, Johnny Appleseed, an apple tree, trees, blossoms, leaves, apples, snowflakes, and Recycling Kids. Both classes have finished up their Social Studies units and will be working in their Science books soon. The play will reinforce Social Studies lessons regarding natural resources and conservationism and be the perfect introduction to the first Science chapter about plants. The second graders are sure that the play will "leaf" their audiences amazed!

### Fourth Grade Forays

Fourth graders took a field trip to Augusta on December 7. After reading the book in class, they enjoyed a great performance of A Christmas Carol. A trip to Mellow Mushroom after the musical completed a great day.

A big thank you to everyone who made Gingerbread Day a huge success again this year. We had so much fun creating our gingerbread masterpieces and, of course, eating the yummy candy.

It was really exciting to see our classmates on stage performing in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. We read the book together in class but it was so much better seeing it come to life on stage.

Thank you to our parents for sending all of the tasty treats during this holiday season. It made our mornings so special. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

### Fifth Grade Spotlight

This December in fifth grade we have been busy writing business letters to different companies. We have also been adding and subtracting fractions and beginning to learn about the American Revolution.

We are very excited about the Christmas program. We are singing "Let it Snow," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and are playing the chimes for "What Child is This." We are very excited to be

getting the snow this year! We hope everyone enjoys the program.

Gingerbread Day was a blast! We made some very tasty houses. That same day, we had the Reading Buddies Christmas Breakfast with the 4K and 5K students. We ate a lot of pancakes and bacon. We also exchanged some small gifts with our buddies.

We are looking forward to Christmas break. We are very excited to see what we will learn after the break. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Regan McDermott and Erica Flach

### Seventh Grade Life Science

During the past few classes of life science, seventh grade students have had the opportunity to meet Aristotle and Linneaus as the students have learned about classification. With knowledge of the six kingdoms, the scientists will spend the second semester exploring each kingdom in more depth.

Students are also directing their attention to midterm preparation and to the Science Fair presentation. Study sheets that provide a starting point for preparing for the midterm will be sent home this week. The midterm is on Friday, January 6. Students should also be working on their Science Fair projects, noting that the experiment should be complete and the results reported on January 25.

### Religious Reflections – Grades 4, 5, 6 and 7

Fourth grade religion classes have been studying the Lord's Prayer. The students are beginning to understand how the Ten Commandments tie into the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

Students in fifth grade have become familiar with the cycle of readings that are used in the Church. Our classes have also found us continuing our studies of sacramentals and were surprised to learn that even the bells are considered a sacramental.

Sixth graders have finished the story of Joseph from the Old Testament and are happy to report that they have finally had the opportunity to meet Moses in the Book of Exodus. The students have been eager to begin their studies of the travels of Moses and the Hebrews.

Religion classes in seventh grade find the students studying the story of the Maccabees and the impact they had in our faith history.

### Vocation Clubs Update

There will be a joint meeting for the Kolbe and Cecilia Clubs on Tuesday, January 3 after school in Smith Hall. Watch and listen for further announcements.

### Student Council

Student Council is happy to announce that "Sundaes on Wednesday" will return on Wednesday, January 18. Listen for a reminder on morning announcements. You wouldn't want to miss out on creating a delicious sundae for your lunch dessert!

### Artistic Adventures



The first graders have angels on their minds. They eagerly shared their knowledge of guardian angels before creating a special angel decoration. Students learned about hot and cold colors, and the artists were challenged to pick either red, yellow, and orange or blue, purple, and green as their color collection. They made some awesome, smiling angels!

Second graders have continued to work with the wreath shape, making beaded wreath ornaments.

Third grade artists applied cookie-making techniques to clay! The students rolled clay out in thin sheets and used cookie cutters of Christmas symbols to make clay cookies. Once dry, the students enjoyed decorating their creations with permanent paint. (Thanks to Mrs. Nelson's help, the students were protected with smocks. 😊)

Fourth grade artists have practiced their painting and drawing techniques. They even learned how to make perfect circles with a safety compass. Their works are quite "joyful" as you'll see when they go on display in the Cafeteria.

Fifth graders have had the opportunity to work with chalk pastels to create a special Nativity scene.

And sixth grade students have made a Christmas collage that included using new calligraphy pens, watercolor paints, special textured fabrics, and of course, some glitter glue!

Finally, the eighth graders are continuing to paint their ceiling tiles with great enthusiasm and talent.

Best wishes for a Christmas filled with wonder, love, peace, and joy!