

A Message from the Principal...Mrs. Bland

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Today (a holy day of obligation), the students attended mass at 8:10am. We honored Mary, our Mother, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The 1st grade class prepared the mass as we honored Mary who was filled with grace from the first moment of her life. She was conceived without original sin. This mystery is called the Immaculate Conception.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE FOR KUZMA CARE COTTAGE – The 5th and 6th grade religion classes are sponsoring a holiday food drive for Kuzma Care Cottage. Boxes are located in the classrooms to collect the donations. These are difficult economic times for everyone, more difficult for some. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



The Mitten Tree - The third graders are currently collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for the Christian Help Association's Christmas Drive to help the less fortunate members of our community. Please send in your donations to school with your child so we can decorate our Mitten Tree in the school lobby with gifts to keep kids warm this winter. We hope to have a full tree of items by Monday, December 13th. Thanks to all of you for helping out!

Christmas Program - Christmas carols have been filling the music room as students practice for the Christmas program. The performance is only a week away, so here is some important information so you can plan ahead for the evening.

The program will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Students should report to the gym at 6 p.m. The program lasts less than an hour and when it is over parents should go to the gym to pick up their children.

Students should wear dress clothes appropriate for church. Please, no jeans, t-shirts, or bare shoulders. Those who are in the skit should keep in mind that they will have to put on a costume over their clothes for that part of the program.

Christmas Pew Raffle – Tomorrow look for an email for a chance to win a reserved pew and parking spot for our Christmas Program. Tickets are \$1.00 a piece or 6 for \$5.00. This is sponsored by our School Board. The drawing will be held during lunch of December 15.

Christmas Vacation - Christmas vacation begins on Wednesday, December 21 at 1:40. There will be bus service. There will be no Lego Club or Extended Care on December 21.

Prayers Needed: Please keep Cathy Thompson, Shannon Marshall's mother, Noah Marshall's grandmother in your prayers. She was just diagnosed with lung cancer. Remember to also pray for Kris Humbles mother of Nick Humbles as she continues her treatments.

Dates to Remember

December 12	Girls Basketball Practice – 2:45-4:45 Boys Basketball Practice – 5:00-7:00
December 13	Market Day Pick-up 8 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ St. Jude New Lenox – 8:00
December 14	Kindergarten Mass @ 8:10 Lego Club Boys Basketball Practice – 5:00-7:00
December 15	Preschool Spirit Wear Christmas Pew Raffle Drawing at lunchtime Christmas Program – Students report to gym – 6:00; Program begins – 6:30
December 16	Spirit Wear Preschool to visit Wilmington Public Library – 8:45-10:00

News from Preschool.....Miss Montgomery

This week in preschool we have been focusing a lot on our Savior, Jesus Christ. The children have heard stories and had many discussions about the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus' birthday. We discussed why the first candy cane was made and what the candy cane symbolizes. They really enjoyed listening to the *Gingerbread Man* story and even had a chance to make their own Gingerbread Man. We also read a story about St. Nicholas and made pretend shoes. We left the shoes in our classroom and yes he did put a surprise inside! This week we worked with the letter Jj, number 10, *pentagons*, and the color *gray*. Next week we will review all shapes, colors, numbers and letters we have worked on so far. The students will also be working on their memory books and number books. We are continuing to practice our songs for the Christmas Program. They are doing a great job!

A few reminders:

*Show-n-tell days are Wednesday, December 14th and Thursday, December 15th. The show-n-tell item can be anything they would like to bring in.

*Next Spirit Wear days are Thursday, December 15th and Friday, December 16th.

Christmas Party News:

Please send in your child's wrapped Christmas present for the present exchange by Friday, December 16th. Please remember if your child is a boy than buy a boy present and if your child is a girl then buy a girl present. The present should be no more than \$5.00. If your child attends school all week, please send in two present since your child will participate in two different class parties. M/W/F students should also send in a bag of candy if you have not done so already.

*Since our weather is so chilly, please send your child to school wearing hats and gloves.

*We are still collecting new hats and gloves for the needy. Thank you for your support!

News from Kindergarten.....Mrs. Jackson

Reading/Language Arts

We are currently recalling main character and details from our story this week. We have been working on segmenting and blending sounds. This week we started unit 3. Have students start to practice the list of sight words for this unit. Students have done a fantastic job recognizing initial consonant sounds and now they are working on identifying final consonant sounds. Please continue to have your child read every night.

Math

Our topic is fractions and ordinals. The objective for this topic is to identify equal parts and halves of a whole and use words first through tenth to identify ordinal positions. We are currently practicing numbers up to 40. Please help your child practice writing the numbers and recognizing numbers 1-40 in and out of order. Thank you.

Religion

We have been learning about Advent. Advent is a time to wait and prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Students have been hard at work practicing for our Christmas program. We are looking forward to this wonderful event. We are also practicing for our Mass on December 14th. Please help your child with his/her Mass reading parts.

Science/Social Studies

Students recently learned about how different cultures celebrate holidays. Ask your child what he/she learned from watching a video on Discovery Education about how families from different parts of the world celebrate Christmas. This week we will be learning some interesting facts about reindeer.

Reminders

December 14th at 8:10 - Kindergarten Mass

December 15th at 6:30 - Christmas program

Have a great weekend.

News from First Grade.....Mrs. Vimpeny

The first graders did a fantastic job with today's mass honoring Mary's Immaculate Conception. Thank you to the junior high students who sang the beautiful communion hymn.

We are finishing our current Reading book this week. Our target reading skill was character. We have reviewed all short vowel sounds and learned some contractions. We also learned that months of the year and days of the week begin with capital letters. We are using the writing process to compose descriptive paragraphs about a fun place. We will have our unit test next week. Because of the "Christmas Crazies" we will start our new book some time next week and will cover the first week's work over the next two weeks. We will have the spelling pretest on Monday, but take the final test on the following Monday. I don't want you to have to study words after the Christmas program on Thursday. We are also writing letters to Santa. Mrs. Vimpeny has a very special connection to Santa and he ALWAYS answers our letters!

This is our week for completing chapters in all of our subjects! In Math, we finished Geometry and had a test. Then we zipped through the chapter on patterns and will have another test tomorrow. Next up is counting and number patterns up to 100. We had our Social Studies test on wants and needs today. Tomorrow will be our Science test on how plants and animals help each other and plant/animal adaptations.

We loved celebrating St. Nick's Day. The day before his feast day, we read a story about St. Nick. We made our "shoes" to leave in the classroom for treats. We also made a St. Nick ornament. We were surprised to see all the goodies that St. Nick brought while we were sleeping at home!

Thank you for all of the donations for the holiday food drive! Our box was overflowing! It's not too late to send in a donation for the Christian Help Association tree tag gift. The third grade is sponsoring the Mitten Tree. They are accepting hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to help the less fortunate. Thank you in advance for your Mitten Tree donation.

Christmas Program: Don't forget that I need the gray hooded sweatshirts or gray stocking caps for the boys by tomorrow. Mrs. Specht and I want to get the ears attached before next week's rehearsals.

I have several projects coming up very soon that can use some "old" things. I need six empty toilet paper rolls, used CDs that are no longer needed, and styrofoam packing peanuts. If you have any of these, please send them ASAP!!

Have a great weekend!

News from Second Grade.....Miss Allmon

I would like to congratulate our past star students: Sadie Tresouthick, Karsen Hansen, and Evan Ruzich. We really enjoyed learning about them during their star week! Last week was very busy for the second graders! I first would like to say that the second graders did a terrific job at Mass last week. I especially would like to congratulate them again on receiving their First Reconciliation. On Wednesday of last week, we celebrated the second graders receiving the sacrament by having a Reconciliation retreat. They participated in lots of prayerful activities and had a special luncheon. Thank you again for all the parents help and getting the money in on time! They really enjoyed the special day. The second graders were very generous with their food items for Kuzma. Please remember to bring in items for the mitten tree!

This week in reading our stories are *The Storykeeper* and *People, People, Everywhere*. Our reading skill taught this week will be using context clues. Children can use context clues when they come to a word they don't know. They can use the words and pictures around the unfamiliar word to figure it out, use a synonym, look it up in a dictionary, or see if an example was given later on in the text. Our focus in phonics and spelling is the bossy *r* spelled *-ar* and inflected endings *-ed* and *-ing*. In grammar, we are practicing subject/verb agreement in our writing. If a subject is singular, the verb usually has an *-s* or *-es*; if the subject is plural it does not.

In math we wrapped up our short unit on mental addition and will be starting our next topic mental subtraction tomorrow. In this topic, they will learn how to use strategies such as subtracting tens and finding parts of 100 to subtract mentally. Please continue to practice subtraction facts at home.

Besides preparing, celebrating, and reflecting on First Reconciliation in Religion, we also celebrated St. Nicholas's feast day. The second graders made shoes and left them out on their desk for St. Nick. He left little goodies in their shoe to enjoy. We spent our Religion time learning about St. Nick's life and listening to stories about him.

In Science we are almost finished with our unit on living and nonliving things. Our focus this week is on the desert habitat and why animals live in certain habitats. Our Science test will be next Wednesday. Our next focus will be on the properties of matter: Solids, Liquids, and Gases.

News from Third Grade.....Mrs. Girot

Mitten Tree: First, the third graders are responsible for the Mitten Tree this year. We are currently collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for the Christian Help Association's Christmas Drive to help the less fortunate members of our community. Please send your donations to school with your child so we can decorate our Mitten Tree in the school lobby with gifts to keep kids warm this winter. We hope to have a full tree of items by December 13th. Thank you all for helping out!

Religion: We have completed our workbooks about changes in the Mass. I will be sending those books home for the students to keep. Please do hang on to it. It will make a great reference book to add to your child's bookshelf. As you know, the changes to the Mass have already been put into practice.

We have covered many other topics in Religion recently as well, including Sacred Heart Devotions, Advent, and the holy day of the Immaculate Conception. We returned to our regular Religion books this week as well. We picked up on Chapter 4 which describes four types of prayer: petition, adoration, contrition, and thanksgiving.

Penmanship: Third graders now know all of their letters in cursive. We continue to focus on proper slant, letter formation, and connecting letters.

Reading: Last week during Reading, we read a story titled What Do Authors Do? The students read about how authors come up with ideas and gather information for their stories all the way through to the publishing process. Along with the story, we practiced the skills of following directions and following the steps of a process.

This week, we are working with the story Tops and Bottoms. This is a fun story about a clever hare who tricks a lazy bear at harvesting time. Our focus skill this week is about how to write a good summary.

Spelling: Our word list this week has all words with the vowel sounds you hear in *ear* and *air*. Please help your child study for Friday's word test.

English: We will complete Unit 3 by the end of next week. Students will be responsible for knowing the correct punctuation for proper nouns including capitalizing calendar words, names of streets, cities, towns, states, and abbreviations. We also reviewed using context clues. Unit 4, on verbs, will begin after Christmas break.

Math: We are now wrapping up Topic 4 in Math which covers subtraction. We are reviewing our subtraction facts and subtraction with regrouping. In January, Topic 5 will bring us to the anxiously awaited chapters on multiplication.

Science: Third grade is now enjoying a unit on the Solar System. We have focused on the Earth, moon, and sun. We will get to the planets after the break.

A Few Reminders:

Book It! Remember to continue reading at home and marking those calendars to earn free pizzas.

School Supplies: The Christmas break is a great time to take stock of your child's school supplies. Many are low on pencils or missing crayons. Please ask your child what he or she needs at school.

Christmas Party: Our classroom party will be on Wednesday, December 21st. We will dismiss early that day, so our party time will likely be late morning. Reminders were sent home to parents who signed up to send in party items. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Christmas Program: I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Program on December 15th. Watch for more info or emails about this event.

News from Fourth Grade....Miss Bernhard

This week I sent home a reminder for those parents who signed up to help out with the Christmas Party. It's hard to believe it's already time to start planning for that! Thanks again for bringing in the needed items.

Reading- The reading skill lesson this week was on drawing conclusions. Our reading was "Marven of the Great North Woods." The students applied the skill lesson to the story and also to their everyday lives. We discussed as a class how often we draw conclusions based on what we see and read. The students grasped the concept well. Book It calendars went home for the month of December. Thank you for encouraging your child to read! Book report forms for December will go home closer to the end of the month.

Spelling- The spelling list this week focused on correctly adding *-s* and *-es* to words. The words for next week focus on adding *-ed* and *-ing*.

English- In English we started a brief poetry unit. Students wrote an acrostic poem and we will write haiku's next. Students learned that poetry is meant for enjoyment and that there are many different types of poetry. We practiced reading different poems aloud in class. Students learned that poems can be read at different speeds to enhance their meaning.

Math- In math we are finishing up our chapter on multiplication. The chapter is over multiplying two and three digit numbers in various ways. Some approaches were the breaking apart method, compatible numbers, estimating, and cross multiplying. The students continue to get faster with their multiplication facts with all the practice! Please continue to encourage your child to practice his/her multiplication facts at home. The next chapter is very short and it touches on pre-algebra. The students use patterns and charts to fill in the missing number.

Science- The science test will be next Tuesday and that will end our unit on weather! This week the students learned about the three major microclimates. They worked in groups to complete a poster describing their climate. Then, acting as scientists, they looked at logs to examine the tree rings. Students learned that tree rings tell how old a tree is and what kind of weather occurred during the trees life.

Social Studies- We our finishing up the chapter on agriculture. This week was spent talking about rural areas. After learning about hog farms the students had a surprise visit from a baby pig. I plan on having the chapter test next week. Be sure your child studies the vocabulary words because that is a big portion of the test.

News from Sixth Grade/Jr. High Science.....Mrs. Plese

Thank you to everyone that donated to the holiday food drive for Kuzma Care Cottage. The fifth and sixth graders delivered the donated items to Kuzma Care Cottage. Thank you also to Mrs. Mosier and the 7th and 8th graders that promoted the Red Day for Kuzma. The generosity of our school community is greatly appreciated!

The fifth and sixth grade religion class are onto their next service project. The students are saving their money and are donating to buy gifts for the CHA gift tree. The students selected tags in which they will buy four gifts for other children in the community. Students are realizing their blessings and reaching out to others.