

A Message from the Principal...Mrs. Bland

Now that our nice weather is behind us, I would like to remind you to make sure your children have their coats, hats and mittens. Students will need boots to go outside when there is snow on the ground. If students want to climb on the piles of snow, they will need to wear snow pants. We will go outside as long as the temperature is at 15°. I do take into consideration the wind chill factor.

As many of you know, we have been updating our website. Check it out. You can access the calendar, links to Market Day, our athletic program (South Suburban Catholic Conference), information on upcoming events, the School Handbook and lot of other important information. Since we are in the process of keeping the site current, please let me know if any of the information is not current.

Below I have highlighted a few of the fun activities we have going on at the school. I hope to see you at some, if not all, of these events.

Alumni's 4th Annual Blues Breaker Bowling – The 4th annual Blues Breaker Bowling is Saturday, February 11 at the Riverfront Lanes in Wilmington from 7:30 --11:00pm. The cost is \$25.00 per person which will include pizza, pop, shoe rental and bowling. Come to a fun evening with your family and friends. Tickets are available by calling Lisa Pitts at 476-6707 or Mrs. Bland at 476-6220. This is St. Rose's Alumni annual fundraiser. If anyone is interested in donating or would like to help out the Alumni Association, please feel free to call Lisa at 815-476-6707.

Roller Skating Party – We will have a Roller Skating Party at Skateland Recreation Center in Channahon on Wednesday, January 25 from 6 – 8p-m.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest – I emailed the entry form and score sheet for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest that will be held Saturday, January 21 from 9:00am – Noon.

Daddy/Daughter Date Night – The big dance is Saturday, February 4 from 7:00-9:00. All daughters, sisters, nieces, and granddaughters are encouraged to ask their dads, big brothers, uncles and grandpa's to attend this fun filled night with them. A flyer was sent home earlier this week with all the details.

6th Annual Parish Council Auction and Dinner Dance – Invitations went home this week for our annual auction and dinner dance. I would like to encourage you to get your tickets early because it has become a popular event. Last year we sold out and we anticipate this to happen again this year.

Lost and Found – I have a few items in the office that need a home. Here is the list:

- Pair of Hello Kitty black gloves
- ½ pair of small pink gloves
- 1 pair of solid black gloves
- ½ pair of of pink peace sign gloves
- 1 size small crew neck sweat shirt
- 1 size medium St. Rose Spirit Wear hooded sweatshirt
- a youth black aviator hat
- 1 silver hoop earring
- 1 purple butterfly charm
- 1 Star Wars storm trooper

Dates to Remember

January 12	Kindergarten goes to Library – 1:35 Girls Basketball Practice – 2:45- 4:45 School Board Meeting @ 7:00 St. Paul Lutheran Varsity Basketball Tournament in Kankakee – 7:15 St. Rose vs. Maternity
January 13	End of 2 nd Quarter Breakfast with the Bishop - Brad Nowak and family attending 6 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ 6:00 @ Home Girls Basketball Game @ 7:00 @ Home 8 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ 8:00 @ Home
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
January 17	Girls Basketball Practice – 2:45-4:45 Boys Basketball Practice – 5:00-7:00
January 18	Mass – 8:10 prepared by 2nd Grade Lego Club 6 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ 6:00 @ Nativity Girls Basketball Game @ 7:00 @ Nativity 8 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ 8:00 @ Nativity
January 19	Preschool – Spirit Wear Day 8 th Grade Graduation Pictures Drama Practice 2:40-4:00 Girls Basketball Practice – 4:00 – 5:00 Boys Basketball Practice – 5:00-7:00 Parish Council Meeting @ 7:00pm
January 20	Spirit Wear Preschool Walking Field Trip to Library – 8:45-10:00am 1 st Grade Walking Field Trip to Library – 10:20-11:15 6 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ 6:00 @ Home Girls Basketball Game @ 7:00 @ Home 8 th Grade Boys Basketball Game @ 8:00 @ Home
January 21	Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest 9:00am-Noon

News from Preschool.....Miss Montgomery

Once again we have had a busy week in preschool. Students are working hard on stating and identifying their first and last names. We learned a new song "*If I were a butterfly*" and a new finger play "*There was a chubby snowman*". Students are practicing a special song for Mass and the prayer service during Catholic Schools Week. They enjoyed making a winter themed project that is hanging up in our classroom. Next week we will work on the letter *Ll*, number *12*, review color *blue* and *squares*. Our nursery rhyme next week is *Ba Ba Black Sheep*. In religion, we will discuss how we listen to Jesus in the Gospel and how God made the world. All week students Weekly Reader will focus on different ways we show that we care. Our new songs for next week are *Loob D Loo* and *The Hokey Pokey*. Starting next week we will also be using the smart board for numerous activities and the T/Th students will have an opportunity to go to the computer lab.

A few reminders:

- *Students need to bring snow pants and boots in order for them to play outside in the snow. If weather permits, we try to get outside every day.
- *Next spirit wear days are Thursday, January 19th and Friday, January 20th.
- *Next walking field trip to the Wilmington Public Library is Friday, January 20th.
- *No school Monday, January 16th in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- *Collection contest will continue until January 23rd. Please keep sending in box tops, ink cartridges and Bellettini receipts.

News from Kindergarten.....Mrs. Jackson

Math

We are currently learning about measurement. Students are busy comparing and ordering objects by length, capacity, and weight. Our unit test will be next Thursday. Addition will be our next topic.

Religion

Our focus of study is on how God gives us neighbors. Students are learning that many of the people they meet help them and show them God's love. Students are also learning that they can extend God's love to other people as well.

Science/Social Studies

Our recent topic has been about penguins. Students learned many facts about penguins such as: what they eat, how they change and grow up, where they live, and how they travel and survive.

We have also been discussing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he was an important person in our history.

Reading/Language Arts

Students further develop phonological awareness and phonic skills by manipulating phonemes. Students are engaged in blending, segmenting, adding, deleting, or substituting previously learned phonemes. We continue to practice our sight words daily and write sentences. Students are currently identifying cause and effect to comprehend text and developing vocabulary by naming actions.

Have a nice weekend.

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

In Religion this week, we learned the importance of saying "Thank you" to God. We heard the story of the one leper out of ten who returned to thank Jesus for healing him. We also worked with our Lion's Quest program. We have a mass coming up on January 25. Readings have been sent home. Please have your child practice. We do not have a mass on February 1. That was an error on the calendar.

I have begun testing the students on all prayers except Glory Be. (The Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Angel of God). Some students have done very well. Others need to get to work!

Our Reading/Phonics/Spelling this week deal with long o words as well as words beginning with sh and wh. Our targeted reading skill is finding the main idea in a story. In Language Arts, we finished writing a friendly letter after learning the different parts. We are using verbs with plural nouns.

We completed Topic 10 in Math with a test on Tuesday. Then we spent a couple of days practicing for a Diocesan math test. That is why there has been no Math homework! Our next short topic will be about tens and ones. We've been working with this concept all year with our Morning Board.

Our focus in Social Studies this week has been Martin Luther King, Jr. We read some stories, made a booklet, and completed a book about him. Our Scholastic News covers this topic. We will also watch a video about his life.

We have finished reading about the forest, desert, and ocean habitats in Science. We will be taking a test next week. We will also do the diocesan Science test.

Thank you for returning the yes/no slips. I will order something nice for our classroom thanks to your responses.

Don't forget that the last collection contest has started. Send in your box tops, Campbell's UPCs, receipts, and print cartridges. Our class was the big winner last time. Can we do it again?

Next Friday is Library Day. If the weather is nice we will walk if we have a chaperon. Otherwise, I'll ask Miss Nikeda to come to school. Let me know if you would like to walk with us in the event we do make the trip. I can notify you Friday morning if we plan to walk.

Have a fantastic weekend!

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

The third graders have been hard at work since returning to school this semester. We have begun so many new topics in our subjects!

Religion: The third and fourth graders did a terrific job this week at our school Mass.

We will get back to our Religion book in Chapter 5 which covers showing compassion, forgiveness, and mercy as Jesus did.

Penmanship: The third graders are now required to write more and more of their daily class work in cursive. The students are doing a great job with this new responsibility!

Reading: This week, our class read Brave as a Mountain Lion. It was a great story about a boy who struggled with his fears about speaking in front of a crowd. He learned that when it was all over, it really wasn't so bad. His fears were replaced with pride.

Next week, we will read Your Dad Was Just like You. In this story, a grandfather shares stories about his son with his grandson. Many of the students could relate very well with this scenario and shared stories of how they are just like their dad or mom.

We are focusing on the skills of visualizing and generalizing with these stories. The students are very good about using these reading strategies.

Spelling/English: Our recent Spelling word lists have included practice with base words and suffixes. Next week's words have the sh, ch, and th chunks.

We are working with pronouns in English, and we will take our Unit 4 test by the end of next week.

Math: This semester, we are learning multiplication. We have practiced using multiplication strategies like repeated addition, drawing arrays, and creating equal groups. We are learning facts as well and looking for patterns to help us memorize these new facts. By the end of next week, we will have learned times zero, one, two, five, ten, and nine. We will make flash cards in class for each new set of facts. Please practice these flash cards at home to reinforce what we are learning in class.

Science: We have turned our attention to the stars and planets. It has been a lot of fun so far to read about the faraway planets.

A few reminders:

*Please check planners and folders each night.

*Remember to keep encouraging your child to read at home. Mark those calendars for Pizza Hut coupons. Monical's coupons ended with December, but Pizza Hut continues through March.

*Information on Student of the Week came home this week. Be sure to mark the calendar with your child's week so you'll be ready when it's their turn.

News from Fourth Grade.....Miss Bernhard
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Reading: Last week Book-It and Book Report forms went home in the Friday Folders. Please continue to encourage your child to read and earn the free pizza coupons! The book report is due the last week in January. Our skill lesson for the week is predicting. Students applied this concept to the story, "The Storm". Throughout the selection we made predictions as a class as to what will happen next in the story. Students learned that after learning new information it's okay to change your prediction.

English: This week we started our new unit on verbs. We worked with action, linking, and helping verbs. Each student wrote a paragraph about their Christmas break. In this paragraph they had to identify all the nouns and verbs in their writing. The students are doing a great job!

Spelling: The spelling words for this week included the sounds /kw/ as spelled in queen, and /j/ as spelled in fudge. Students have been working on worksheets to practice the correct spelling. The word test will be Friday.

Math: Our new math topic is rather short, but teaches a completely new concept. The students learned how to work with variables. They now understand how to work with variables in a table. Then, students learned how to study tables to determine a rule and write an expression. In addition to talking about variables, we are still practicing our multiplication facts!

Science: We started our new unit on magnets! The students learned that Earth acts as a huge magnet! The class is having a lot of fun experimenting which objects will attract/repel. Students tested a variety of objects and then created a table in groups to record their predictions and actual results. We've also been discussing how we use magnets in our everyday lives.

Social Studies: We finished our chapter on rural areas, and began our new chapter on urban areas. We've been talking about manufacturing and goods. Students identified manufactured goods in the classroom. Video clips were shown on how certain objects were made so the students could see the manufacturing process in factories. Next week the focus will be on the manufacturing of the automobile and biography of Henry Ford.

News from Sixth Grade.....Mrs.Plese

A big thank you for all of the wonderful Christmas gifts. We have very generous and thoughtful families at our school! Thank you.

The students did an amazing job with the Christmas masses. The students celebrated the liturgy together as a school on December 21st and then celebrated again with the parish on December 24th. I was very proud of how our students represented our school.

A permission slip will be going home soon for the Catholic Schools' mass on January 29th at 10:30am. Students are encouraged to participate in the liturgy. More details will follow.

The sixth grade classes next trip to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie will be on Tuesday, January 24th. Parents are welcome to join us on this trip. We will be leaving the school at 9:15 am.

Seventh and eighth grade science students will be participating in our local science fair on Wednesday, January 18th. Representatives from the University of Saint Francis will be judging our students projects after school that day. (Students will need to be picked up at 3:00 that day). Students that place high enough have the opportunity to move to the next level of competition at the Regional science fair in March.

Enjoy the three day weekend!

This has been a busy first full week of school.

5th grade has hit the ground running in the New Year and is ready to kick it up a notch.

In **Social Studies** they have reviewed the chapter and will take the test today. It is really hard to take a test over work done before such a long break, but there was no other way to schedule the test this time around. They are also reviewing sentences in English for a test on those next week.

In **Reading** we are back into the textbook and working from the workbook again. I am looking into another novel for them since they all did so well on The Autobiography of Santa Claus.

Social Studies

8th Grade will have a test Tuesday over Ch 8, the Articles of Confederation and Constitutional Convention.

7th Grade is working on the Constitution through a book provided by the ABA and worksheets to reinforce the information from the book. Today they were to present a 2 minute background on one of the people mentioned in the worksheet they completed in class yesterday. Several of them started working on Glogsters for the presentation in class; it will be nice to see what they produce.

5th Grade is looking at Mesopotamia and the cultures that developed in this area 5500 years ago. Tomorrow they will have a hands on surprise craft to work on.

A final note for all parents:

Mrs. Plese and I were able to attend a teacher open house for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in September. We were very impressed with the way the museum was set up for kids to learn about this time period and the ability of the staff to interpret the artifacts. We told the staff we would love to bring our students, but we were afraid the cost and distance would be a problem. They told us that there were scholarships that were available and we should apply to see if that would help with the cost.

I have been talking to the staff and we have been awarded a scholarship for the 5-8 grade students to attend the museum on Thursday, Feb 23.

To prepare for this trip the Social Studies classes will be working on projects relevant to this time period that correlate with the Diocesan Peace and Justice standards as well as the Social Studies assessment. The full assignment will come home to all students in another week. MOST of this research will be done at home and I would like you to work with your child on this topic since it is one that causes a lot of questions regarding how could it happen.

Thank you to the staff and donors of the IHMEC for the scholarship that is allowing our students to participate in this experience.