

A Message from the Principal...Mrs. Bland

**Race for Education** – I want to thank you and everyone for such a successful Race for Education. The money keeps coming in. As of today you have raised over \$10,000. You have done a great job. Next Tuesday the Limo winners will go with me to McDonald's for lunch.

**Rite of Enrollment** – This Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the Rite of Enrollment ceremony which marks the beginning of a “journey of faith” for these students and their parents who preparing for their Confirmation. It is also a sign to the parish that we all have a role in this “journey of faith.”

**Volleyball** – Tomorrow night is our last home game. We will celebrate 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** – The teachers and I are looking forward to meeting with you next Thursday to discuss your child's progress. All parents are asked to come to the office to pick up their children's report cards before going to the classrooms. At this time you will be able to see a Yearbook that we are planning on ordering this year. You will also be able to view the Safe Environment materials that your child will be participating in this year.

**Dates to Remember**

- October 20 -     Speech Practice – 2:40-3:30 (Grades 5-8)  
                      Volleyball Practice 3:30-5:00 pm
- October 21 -     Race for Education  
                      Wear St. Rose Spirit Wear  
                      Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade will walk from 9:30-11:00am  
                      2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will walk from 1:00 – 2:30  
                      Volleyball Game @ Home – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night  
                      Games @ 6:00 & 6:45
- October 23 -     Rite of Enrollment – 10:30 Mass
- October 24 -     Volleyball Game @ 7:30
- October 26 -     Mass @ 8:10 prepared by 1st Grade  
                      Lego Club @ 2:45
- October 27 -     Tuesday/Thursday Preschool Halloween Party  
                      Dismissal @ 11:30  
                      Parent/Teacher Conference

## News from Preschool...Miss Montgomery

This has been another busy week in preschool. We have participated in many fun learning activities. The students did a great job with identifying the letter *Ee* and the sound *Ee* makes. We went on a "hunt" for diamond shapes within our classroom and sang a new song about the color *yellow*. During our Religion we discussed what Baptism means and what happens when someone is baptized. We also discussed how Jesus' mother Mary listens to our prayers just like Jesus and God do. We played a thrilling game of "Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Who Has the Pumpkin?" We have read many stories this week. The students really enjoyed "The Shark Who Was Afraid of Everything". Every day we have been singing a song about the letters in the alphabet and what sound each letter makes. I am so proud of them! They are doing a great job with identifying all the letters and letter sounds. Next week we will discuss the letter *Ff*, ovals, the color black and the number six.

### **A few reminders:**

\*This Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> is Race for Education. Students may wear Spirit Wear and comfortable shoes. Students will be walking in a well patrolled area for 1 ½ hours to raise money for the school. Please return the Race for Education permission slip in order for students to participate.

\*All parents who have taken the Protecting God's Children class are invited to attend the Halloween parties. T/Th class party is Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-11:00. M/W/F class party is Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:45-11:00. On Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a special prayer service at 9:15 followed by an all school parade.

**Show-n-tell** days are; Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 26. The item brought in should be something RED.

\*Parent/teacher conferences will be on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

\*Early dismissal at 11:30 on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great weekend!

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

YEA!! First Grade won the collection contest. We will celebrate with a pizza lunch on November 22. Don't order hot lunch that day. Thanks to everyone who sent in box tops, labels, receipts, especially to the Landry family who sent in LOTS!

This week in Religion we are finishing Unit 1, Our Church Community. We also started practicing for next Thursday's mass. We hope you can join us at 8:10.

We completed the Unit 2 Skills test in Reading. The children did very well. Students needed to read three passages on their own, and then answer the questions that I read to them. They were also tested on Phonics and Language Arts skills. Students had to write a paragraph about a fun time they experienced. You will be able to see the test results at Parent Teacher conferences.

The class has also finished their major writing project, "A Story about Me." They will be in the hallway on Thursday for you. We want to see if you can guess who wrote which paper.

The first graders had their Topic 5 Math test yesterday. Our next Topic is addition facts up to 12. The students are improving with each timed test in memorizing their addition facts. Yesterday, Charley got all 30 problems correct in less than one minute! He will move on to addition facts with sums of 10 or more.

In Science, we are learning about the parts of plants and how they help the plant.

In Social Studies, we learned how change can affect families. We also learned about maps.

We have some beautiful artwork in the hallway hanging above our lockers. Be sure to take a look on Thursday.

We are looking forward to Race for Education on Friday. Students are to wear their spirit wear to show our pride in St. Rose School. Our class will walk in the morning. I must have your permission slip prior to our walk.

Our next trip to the library will be Friday, October 28. Please let me know if you will be joining us.

I look forward to meeting with you next Thursday at conferences.

Have a fantastic weekend!

## News from Second Grade.....Miss Allmon

The weeks on October are flying by! I would like to congratulate our past Star Student, Jessen Valone. Jessen is a star student because he is a good listener, a hard worker, and has a heart of gold. He is well organized and always gets his work done on time. This week's Star Student is Bree Duffy. Bree is a Star Student because she helps me out a lot around the classroom and she is always willing to help her classmates when they have a problem. She is very dependable and knows how to use her time wisely. Next week we will announce the newest Star Student.

We finished unit 1 in Reading and last week students took their Unit 1 skills test. This week we began Unit 2. Our main selection is a nonfiction story entitled Duck. Students will practice comparing and contrasting. We will review how to identify the setting of a story. Our spelling and phonics focus will be on words that have the long a sound spelled *-ai*, *-ay* and inflected endings *-s*, *-es*, *-ing*. The spelling test will be on Friday. In grammar we will practice using and identifying nouns.

In math we have begun topic 4 on place value and comparing numbers. Students have learned how to write number words, determine a numbers value and next compare two digit numbers using greater than, less than, and equal to.

In religion, our focus this week is on forgiveness. We are learning the different parts of confession including penance and absolution. Please continue to practice the Act of Contrition at home. I will be choosing readers for First Reconciliation this week. If your child has a reading, it will be sent home with them next week.

This week in Science our lesson focused on how special body parts help animals survive in their habitat. On Thursday, the second graders got a chance to experiment eating like a bird to better understand why animals have certain body parts or other adaptations. In Social Studies we continue our study on communities. We have discussed the chapter on cities and will learn all about suburbs next.

Parent teacher conferences are next week and I look forward to getting the chance to speak to all the second grade parents. Our Halloween party is on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.

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

The third & fourth graders did a fantastic job with the Mass this week. Our theme was Mary. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary which is why October is considered the month of the Rosary.

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home. Then, be sure to record those minutes on the reading calendar. Pizza coupons will be issued at the end of the month to those students who have met the goal of reading 20 minutes at least five nights a week. New calendars will go home for the month of November.

Religion: This week, our class as well as the whole school has begun to learn about the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is a learning process that will continue for many weeks.

Penmanship: The third grades have now learned all of the lower case letters. Now, we will begin the capital cursive letters during penmanship time.

Reading: Last week, third grade completed Unit 1, and took the Unit 1 Skills Test. We have spent some extra time focusing on our writing skills. The students have all completed a narrative rough draft about a favorite trip. We have really worked on sticking to the main idea and adding descriptive details. We will complete our final drafts by the end of the week.

The students are enjoying the story *Fly Traps! Plants That Bite Back* in our Reading books this week. It is a nonfiction story about carnivorous plants. It has terrific illustrations that brought a lot of humor to the story. It ties in very nicely with our Plant Life Cycles chapter in Science.

English: Unit 2 in English has brought us to the topic of nouns. Ask your child about our "Noun Song". It's fun to sing, and it teaches us about nouns as we go.

Math: This week in Math, we have spent some time learning how to round to the nearest ten and to the nearest one hundred. This has led right into estimation. The children are doing well with this skill.

Science: Chapter 2 in our Science books informs us all about life cycles of plants. We began this week by examining lima beans and placing them in baggies to see if they will grow.

Reminder: Please be sure to sign those planners and check folders each night for important information.

I look forward to seeing all of you next week at Parent/Teacher conferences!

## News from Fourth Grade.....Miss Bernhard

Reading: This week the skill lesson was on visualizing. The students learned that to visualize means to paint a picture in one's mind. We read the story "The Cricket in Times Square" and applied the concept. The selection test was on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday students will break up into groups and form literature circles.

English: Last week the students learned about singular and plural possessive nouns. This week we reviewed compound words and will look closely at writing a paragraph. Each day the students will learn about the important parts of a paragraph (topic sentence, main idea, details). This will lead up into next week when they actually write an expository paper.

Math: Last week and this week we started Topic 4 in the math book. This is a very short chapter that focuses on simple division rules. The students learned the rules for dividing by 1 and 0. There will be another math test toward the end of next week to assess their learning.

Science: In science we are continuing our unit on weather. We have been discussing weather maps, fronts, and different cloud types. We have been using the Eno board to enhance the material. Tuesday each student made their own tornado tube. We will finish the week talking about severe weather. We may have the chapter test at the end of next week.

Social Studies: We are learning about physical features. We spent a lot of time learning the new vocabulary. Each student drew a landscape scene where they had to label several physical features. We also started talking about coal and oil. We are discussing how important these natural resources are.

## News from Seventh Grade/Jr. High Math.....Mrs. Duffy

### **5th Grade Math**

Congratulations to the 5th graders who did an EXCELLENT job on our last test! The class average was a 96% - you guys are AWESOME and your hard work really paid off!! We are now into chapter 4 of our texts which concentrates on division.

### **6th Grade Math**

Sixth graders took their chapter 3 Test on Tuesday. It was a difficult chapter for some, and I was hoping for higher scores, but overall students did well. We have talked about the importance of studying and how to study for a math test - PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! The re-teaching pages at the end of each chapter are an excellent way to practice the night before a test. If my schedule allows I will consider a study group the day before our next test - but please remember that practice at home is imperative. We are now into Chapter 4 of our texts which covers the topic of equations and solving equations; a great precursor to Pre-Algebra next year!

### **7th Grade Math**

I am so proud of the 7th graders and their achievement on our test yesterday! The class average was a 96%!! Your focus and hard work in this chapter paid off. Operations with fractions are a difficult concept for many - especially negative fractions, and all of the students did SUPERB!! I couldn't be prouder. Great job to all of my pre-algebra students ~ keep up the good work!!

### **8th Grade Math**

Eighth grade *Algebra One* students are working on Chapter 4 of their texts which is about polynomials. Last week we had our test on Chapter 3. I was hoping for higher scores and I know with hard work and patience with the new topics we will get better. Algebra One students at St. Rose are learning things they've never seen before and I know with their combined determination and good work ethic we will be successful and they will be prepared for higher level mathematics in high school! Keep up the good work!

### **In Other News...**

\*All 7th/8th grade students must have a permission slip to participate in the walk-a-thon tomorrow.

\*Please continue to bring in your plastic bottles (with UPC codes) and empty pop cans. These are collected every Wednesday.

\*Congratulations to the 7th grade class who won 2nd place in our collection contest. We have earned a DRESS DOWN DAY! Stay tuned as the date for this has not yet been picked.

## News from Eighth Grade/Jr. High English.....Mrs. Mosier

First of all I would like to thank Mr. Nowak and Mrs. Grandma Nowak for participating in the Workshop of the Sacred Heart held last week at St. Charles Borromeo. You exemplify the values we as Catholics try to live. Thanks also to Chloe Lombardi and Brad Nowak for agreeing to participate in this workshop and to share their faith and the knowledge of the Sacred Heart with the remainder of the student body. As a result the students and staff will offer prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus every Friday morning in the gym. We hope this devotion can once again flourish. In February Bishop Conlon will hold mass at the Cathedral to dedicate all the catholic grade schools in the Joliet Diocese to the Sacred Heart.

We also encourage each family to say a special prayer to the Sacred Heart each Friday at meal time or night prayers to help each person know more fully His great and burning love for us.

This Sunday is the Rite of Enrollment mass for the students wanting to be confirmed. Please make sure you dress in Sunday attire (per last week's homily). The mass begins at 10:30 so you should be there early, get your contract from me, sit as a family, and take your contract up to the altar when your name is called.

Mrs. Bland is looking for more yearbook options for the 8th grade. We were able to talk with Life Touch and have some information. Hopefully by conference time there will be some options for you.

**Religion 7/8** We have been studying the lives of the Saints and will be reviewing the rosary.

**Reading 7/8** Since Halloween is approaching; we are studying the works of Poe. During the next week we will be trying to create poetry in his style of writing.

**English 6-8** The VFW has asked us to enter the Patriot's Pen essay contest. Students are working on this and we will find out the results in Nov. For the last several years we have won. Verbs are the part of speech we are focused on for the next several weeks. We will also attempt to write directions for creating and decorating a pumpkin. This should prove to be interesting. Look for the results at conference time.

## News from Music.....Mrs. Specht

The first quarter is almost over and the music room has been very busy every Thursday since school started. Grades three through eight have been studying music fundamentals and naming the lines and spaces on the treble clef. Grades five through eight had an open notes test about those fundamentals. Seventh and Eighth grade analyzed Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin and tried to identify the instruments that were being played. Do you know what makes the sound like a siren at the beginning of the piece?

Students have learned how to warm up their voices before they begin to sing, and first grade serenades Mr. Ryan as he takes care of the lunch room. All students have been practicing how to keep the beat by clapping or using rhythm instruments. If you have heard Concentration one too many times, I apologize.

Some parents and students have contacted me regarding grades, so I would like to share how grading is being done. For students in the upper grades, after introducing new concepts I ask students to complete practice worksheets during class. Students who do not complete the work in class can take it home and turn it in the next music class. These practice sheets are graded. Since I am only at school on Thursdays and have family commitments Friday through Tuesday, I try to enter grades into Engrade on Tuesday evening. If a student did not turn in an assignment during class, I put an M in the grade book. When the work is turned in during the next class, it may not be entered into the grade book until the following Tuesday but I do not count it as late. Tests count as two grades so are entered twice. After a poor grade on a test, I allow students to retake it and correct mistakes so they can improve the second test grade that gets entered.

I also expect students to sing their best when that is the focus of the lesson. I ask that they sit up straight, do warm up exercises properly, sing to the best of their ability, and behave according to the classroom rules. This will be recorded as a performance grade in Engrade. I will base the grade for the lower grades on this performance grade.

The next focus for the upper grades will be studying types of notes with their values and learning some more about basics like pitch, tempo, and dynamics. Lower grades will apply these terms as we sing and play the rhythm instruments. Since December is not that far away, we will also start to practice for the Christmas program. I will share more on that after Halloween has passed, but mark your calendars now for December 15 when St. Rose presents Christmas in a Box.