

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A weekly newsletter for the school community

Volume 5, Issue 2

September 1, 2016



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Kim Vangel

Dear St. Raphael School Families,

Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support over the past weeks as my husband Mike received a kidney transplant, and is now recovering. I'm writing this letter from the Restoring Hope Transplant House just outside Madison, Wisconsin but we will be home by the weekend. Mike is recovering very well and we are so grateful for our blessings, including all of you!

We have been so humbled by the people we have met here, the stories we've heard, and the strength and courage we've witnessed. At the Transplant House there is a diverse mixture of recovering transplant patients and their family members, all staying there for various lengths of time, depending on their circumstances. People who have received kidney transplants like Mike, as well as kidney/pancreas, heart, liver, and lung transplants all come together at this special place to support one another. We check on each other at the hospital, eat meals together, laugh and cry together. We've been amazed at how quickly we have all become such fast friends and how quickly all of our lives have changed.

I am reminded once again that our school theme for this school year has so many meanings and applications: **We Are One Body**. Here at the Restoring Hope Transplant House, we are experiencing this theme in a powerful way. Transplants are an amazing example of strangers helping strangers, and people from all walks of life coming together. **We Are One Body** has taken on many layers of meaning and importance for us in this experience.

At school we are focusing on increasing positive behavior and reducing harmful behavior as one way to demonstrate that **We Are One Body**. One of our school parents, Mrs. Angela Cierpiot, has been an advocate for this focus since I've been at St. Raphael and she is taking on a special role at school this year. Angela is serving as our Recess Coordinator this year, and she and I have worked closely to adapt a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) to meet our school's needs for reducing harmful behavior at recess, most especially. We introduced the PBIS to students the first week of school. It's a fairly simple system of three basic rules (Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be Mindful) and a 3-step response when harmful behavior occurs (Stop-Walk-Talk). Teachers and students are exploring ways of using this PBIS and role playing various examples of common harmful behavior at school and appropriate responses.

Angela's role will be to help supervise students at all of our recesses and to coach them in reducing harmful behaviors using the PBIS. She will serve as a resource to teachers, students, and our parent volunteers in using PBIS, and we are very excited to have Angela join our team this school year!

I hope you all have a wonderful long Labor Day weekend and enjoy your beautiful families!

Peace & Blessings,
Kim Vangel
Principal



All School Mass

September 8

Feast of the Nativity of
the Blessed Virgin
Mary

September 15

Memorial Mass, Our
Lady of Sorrows

Daily Mass Time:
8:00am Grades K - 8

Benediction 2:00pm
First Friday of the
month



September Birthdays

Adam Trachsel-4
Thomas Niermann-4
Miss Chris-5
Kasen Winkler-7
Ryan Schneider-7
Mr. Bruno-8
Linus Cyr-10
Mr. Josh -13
Lucy Schlichting-14
Mateo Switzer-14
Luke Will-15
Andrea Mense-15
Benjamin Mense-15
Andrew Borowiak-16
Lydia Bick-18
Gabrielle Heitert-19
Merritt Jugo-20
Sarah Brinkmann-21
Christian Bernadt-21
Anna Mersinger-23
Gavin Smith-26
Mr. Bob -29
Annabelle Olsen-30
Mollie Dirnbeck-30



Sept.1—STUCO Representative Elections
Sept.2—Black & Gold Accessory Day
Sept. 5—Labor Day No School Preschool - 8
Sept.6-9—STUCO Canned Food Drive all week
Sept.6—7:00pm History Day Parent Meeting
Sept.7—6:30-7:30pm Palmer Music Parent Mtg.-Cafeteria
Sept. 8—8:00am Feast of the Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin
Sept.8—7:00pm 8th Grade Parent Mtg. in Science Lab
Sept. 9—Dress Down Look-alike Day for Canned
Food Donations
Sept.13—Palmer Music Classes Start
Sept.14—3:15-4:30pm SRA Schola Rehearsal
Sept.14—6:30-8:00pm SRA Curriculum Night-Gym Pk-8
Sept.15—3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
Sept.16—Dress Down Reward for Curriculum Night
Sept.15—8:00am Memorial, Our Lady of Sorrows
Sept.18—10:00am Family Mass/Donut Sunday
Sept.19-22—Iowa Testing-all week Grades 2-8
Sept.22—Chess Club in Art Room
Sept.21—3:15-4:30pm SRA Schola Rehearsal—Church
Sept.23—Professional Development Day for teachers
No School K-8 Preschool is open
Sept.23—8:00-12:00 St. Mary's Dragon for a Day
Sept.26-27—Iowa Make ups
Sept.28—3:15-4:30pm SRA Schola Rehearsal—Church
Sept.29—8:00am Mass —St. Raphael, St. Michael &
St. Gabriel Archangels—Popsicle Treats
Sept.29— 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club Art Room
Sept.30—7:00-9:00pm Preschool Parent party

Seventh graders are in charge of safety patrol at the corner of Bishops Place and Highfield. Students should arrive by 7:30 in the morning and should stay until 3:15 in the afternoon. Thank you! **1st quarter patrol schedule:**

Week of September 5th
AM - Annie and GabbiM
PM - Lucy and Jenna



RECESS/LUNCH DUTY

Want to spend an hour during the day helping out at recess or lunch duty at St. Raphael? We would love your assistance! The times of lunch and recess are as follows: 11:10am Preschool goes to lunch—11:15-11:40am (PreK-3) - 11:45-12:05pm Lunch (4-8). All volunteers must have completed their Protecting God's Children requirements. If you can help, please email Lori Stawizynski at loristaw76@yahoo.com

Monday, September 5 No School Labor Day
Tuesday, September 6 Mary Anne P. & Kristina C.
Wednesday, September 7 Missy W. & Patrick J.
Thursday, September 8 Maggie F. & Susie I.
Friday, September 9 Stephanie K. & Keith W.



St. Mary's Dragon for a Day

Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, Friday, September 23, 2016, 8:00am – 12:00pm. Activities: Tour the School, Visit Classes and Meet Freshmen Teachers, Dragon Style Games and Pizza Party. RSVP to Katie Albin albink@stmaryshs.com 314-481-8400 x 110 by September 16th. Students will not experience a typical school day. As a result, we also encourage students to schedule a time to shadow.

STUCO News

Representative Elections are Thursday, September 1st. Good luck to our candidates. I'm excited for a wonderful year with STUCO.
September 1st: Representative Elections
September 6-9: Canned Food Drive
September 9: Dress Down Look-alike Day for Canned Food Donations



Mrs. Gewinner: Learning Consultant

As we turn a page to a new month our thoughts are turning to the IOWA Assessments. The students in grades 2-8 will be taking these tests beginning on Monday, September 19th and completing them no later than Monday, September 26th. Students in grades 4-6-8, take additional testing of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt). Information will be coming home to you in the next few weeks concerning the testing and how you can help your child prepare for them.

Mrs. Kim Westrich: Art

All classes K-8 have been exploring the drawing tools, including, pencils, colored pencils, oil pastels, chalk pastels, Sharpie, crayon and markers. Students have played drawing games and created artwork of their choosing, while experimenting with the different drawing media. Students have also been introduced to the eight Studio Habits of Artists: Develop Craft, Engage & Persist, Envision, Express, Observe, Reflect, Sketch & Explore and Understand Art World. All students will be working on exhibiting these art behaviors while in the art studio.



Miss Bussmann: Writer's Workshop (6-7-8) Spanish (4-8)

Fourth and Fifth Grade are learning the alphabet and have made personal books with prayers in Spanish. The prayer books are beautiful. Each student made their own to bring with them to class each day and are theirs to keep. Sixth Grade is working on the alphabet, greetings, and making introductions. We also made some prayer books. Seventh and Eighth Grade are reviewing prior knowledge before we begin new material.

Writer's Workshop:

I have been researching grants for new recess equipment and realized that would be a valuable writing assignment for middle school. We finished that Monday and we are going to work on grammar for a couple of weeks to help prepare for the Iowa tests that are coming up. Each class will then begin a writing assignment that relates to the novel they are reading in Literature class.

Miss Schaaf: Science (6-7-8) Challenge Math (6&7) Algebra 8

This week in Math we are finishing up our chapters and the students will have a chapter test sometime next week - there is no set date yet.

Eighth Grade is finishing up with expressions and simplifying expressions and evaluating simple equations. They will be moving into more complex numerical equations next.

Seventh Grade has just started equations, including simplifying using given values of the variable and evaluating.

Sixth Grade has reviewed scientific notation and today we moved into properties (commutative, associative, distributive and identity).

Mrs. Peggy Martin: Physical Education Grades Pk-3

Hello Friends. This week in PE I am teaching kickball to Kindergarten through Second grade. I am also working on soccer and getting everyone into a routine.

In Art this week we will be working on color mixing in Kindergarten and First Grade. Last class we read *Tanglebird* and did a simple weaving project. They loved it. The Second and Third Grade read a book *Only One You*. We are designing a fish with the five line families I introduced. It is great to be doing some extra art.

Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education-Grades 4-8

We are working on physical fitness activities for Fourth through Eighth grades. The activities will include the following: flipping tires which will help build leg strength and develop the core and upper body muscles. The dot drills will help develop speed and agility. The students will develop upper body strength by carrying liter bottles.

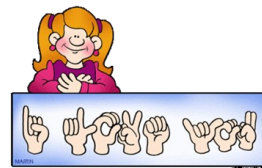
Miss Chris Preschool Room B

The Bears were so excited to begin our Letter of the Week, as we learned all about the letter A. Our theme for the week was Apples. We read stories and sang songs about Apples and created some fun art projects using apples and about apples. We also loved coming up with words that begin with the letter A and thought of 30 words on our very first day. We learned about the Ark through stories and activities in our "Jesus Club." We have had an amazingly awesome A+ week.



Kindergarten News:

We have been busy in Kindergarten. Our class began the Phonics Dance late last week that consists of using sign language with different movements while learning the sounds of each letter in our alphabet. We are using our smartboard for fun counting and sorting activities. In Religion the students read the book *Designed By God* by Character Builders for Kids. The Kindergartners participated in a craft that goes along with our school theme, "We are One Body." We continue to work together to make this a great school year. We are looking forward to Curriculum Night.



First Grade News: Mrs. Louise Balicki-Smith

First Grade is learning about different elements of a story through Kevin Henkes' book *Chrysanthemum*. We are exploring character, setting and problem/solution this week. Students are also practicing being good readers by asking questions. We learned that good readers ask questions before reading, during reading and after reading. Watch our students transform as they develop good reading habits and strengthen their skills.



Second Grade News: Miss Stephanie Amsler

This week Second Grade finished up discussing the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance. We know that when we say the Pledge we are promising to be loyal to our flag and to our country. We also learned that Benjamin Franklin tried to have the wild turkey dubbed the national symbol of the United States because they are only found in America. But, he was unsuccessful and our national symbol is the bald eagle which represents strength and bravery.

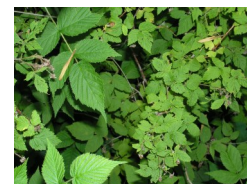


We will continue investigating what scientists do. This week we are going to explore the different types of tools scientists use to gather data and to perform experiments.

In Math we are still reviewing our addition and subtraction facts with numbers up to 20 so that we can become more fluent with those facts. This week we are working with fact families in order to help us identify related facts.

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

We are learning all about trees and leaves. Our Friday Prayer Service focused on the school theme this year: We Are One Body. Students actually chose an individual leaf from a basket of many and discussed how they are unique and have talents and gifts to share with the school body. In Math we did a vertical bar graph on leaves. We took a quiz on basic teen subtraction facts. Ms Polson read us a story called *Peace Tree*. In English we are locating the subject and predicate in complete sentences.



Miss Patti Woods: Social Studies, Science, English (4-5)

We now have two full weeks under our belt and are settling in to our daily routines. In Fourth Grade English we have published our first piece of writing. We will continue working on our unit all about parts of sentences and proper sentence structure. In Science we discussed the properties of matter, and in Social Studies we have continued working up to learning more about the Constitution of the United States.

In Fifth Grade English we will be completing the first unit on sentence structure. We have also published and shared our first piece of writing. In Science we discussed the difference between weight and mass, and how some objects, while having the same properties, may have a different mass. In Social Studies we are working hard on learning about the Declaration of Independence. We are really getting into the reasons why this important document was needed and the unfair practices put in place by King George of Great Britain.

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend.

Miss Amanda Imo: Reading, Math (4-5)

Fifth Grade: During Religion this week, the Fifth Graders decorated their own bible. We talked about images that make them think of God and their Catholic faith and then they found images to use to decorate. These Bibles will be with them for the rest of their time at Saint Raphael. In Math the students finished their chapter on place value, comparing, rounding and writing numbers in the various forms. The students began reading a non-fiction story about an illustrator and the process the illustrator as to go through when drawing for a story.

Fourth Grade: In Math the students completed their first chapter on place value and how to write large numbers in standard, word and expanded form. Our story in Reading this week is entitled "Sleeping Ugly." It is a spin-off of Sleeping Beauty. We will work on comparing and contrasting.

Mrs. Christy Connor: Social Studies & Religion (6-7-8)

Religion: Students in Sixth Grade are learning about the parts of the Bible and are reviewing how to locate passages in the books of the Bible. Students in Seventh Grade are looking at the importance of their friendship with Jesus. They will be receiving their Confirmation material soon. Eighth Grade students are reviewing the early life of Jesus as they get ready to begin their study of Church history.

Social Studies: Sixth Grade students are completing their review of geographic terms and are working on taking notes. Seventh Grade students are beginning to learn about the early explorers and how their discoveries led to the exploration of the Americas. They are also creating artifacts by making wampum belts. Eighth Grade students have begun their study of westward expansion in the United States following the Civil War.

Mrs. Laura Berns: Standard Math, Math Workshop, Science Lab (6-7-8)

Standard Math Six:

Students are currently reviewing operations with decimals.

Standard Math Seven:

Students are reviewing operations with integers. We have had fun playing integer war.

Standard Math Eight:

Students are reviewing simplifying expressions and solving equations. We have had fun playing a new game, "Trashketball!"

Mrs. Jennifer Runiewicz: Standard & Challenge Literature (6-7-8)

Literature: Please keep up with Simple Solution and Vocabulary Workshop assignments. Vocabulary Workshop is a bit challenging for the students, as it is vocabulary that they are not familiar with. Please help your student by using their vocabulary words in your everyday lives so they can see the proper use of the terms.

We are moving right along with our novels, reading about racial tensions among the residents of Malcomb County, Alabama, the adjustments of freed slaves in Buxton, Canada and about conformity vs. individualism in communities.