

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A weekly newsletter for the school community

Volume 5, Issue 5

September 22, 2016



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Kim Vangel

Dear St. Raphael School Families,

We've completed our week of standardized testing at school and we are pretty happy to have that behind us - can I get an Amen?! With the electronic Data Manager that we started using last year, we will have our school's test results in plenty of time for Parent Teacher Conferences. We will also be able to give parents and students lots of helpful information about patterns of each student's Iowa Assessment performance from one year to the next, as well as performance of our school as a whole. I'll be sharing school-wide Iowa Assessment performance data with you as it becomes available.

One of the issues our Early Childhood Team of teachers is tackling involves finding the best ways to teach handwriting from Preschool through 3rd Grade. Sounds easy, right? Teaching handwriting in a way that is understandable, builds confidence in kids, develops hand strength and fine motor skills, and results in legible handwriting is no easy task! We are looking at a popular program called "Handwriting Without Tears" and hope to get some professional consultation from an occupational therapist on teaching and modifying pencil grip. The Early Childhood Team's goal is to settle on a consistent handwriting program to be taught throughout these early years at St. Raphael, and to add appropriate handwriting learning standards to our curriculum. Whereas some schools have dropped their handwriting and cursive writing programs, St. Raphael is committed to maintaining these important skills for our students because we know that technology will never totally replace written communication.

Our Upper School Team of teachers is collaborating on defining and describing the steps of the Writing Process taught to students at St. Raphael. There are numerous versions of these steps and our Upper School Team wants to ensure that our students receive the best writing instruction possible. Their goal is for St. Raphael graduates to be fully prepared to meet the writing demands of high school, including proficiency in both academic and creative writing. Once the Writing Process for Grades 4-8 is formalized, the Upper School Team will work with the Early Childhood Team to introduce the same Writing Process to our younger students as appropriate. We sincerely value the skill of good writing at St. Raphael and we are committed to graduating students who are enthusiastic and accomplished writers.

Finally, I'd like to update you on the progress we've made at our recess times since we brought Angela Cierpiot on board as our Recess Coordinator. Angela has brought organization and structure to games the kids are playing, to use of the playground and PE equipment outside, and to conflict resolution at recess. Angela graciously agreed to be a part of our team at school for this important role, and we are already seeing positive results. Kids are not arguing and fighting as much as they have in previous years, they are playing many new and different games as well as old favorites, and they are excited about being able to use some of their favorite PE equipment outside at recess. Angela's leadership and presence has made all of this possible and we are so grateful!

Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support for me and my husband Mike as he is recovering from his kidney transplant. He is home and feeling better every day - we would so appreciate your continued prayers!

Peace & Blessings,
Kim Vangel
Principal



All School Mass

8:00am Mass

September 22

Weekday Mass

8th Grade Leading

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

Benediction 2:00pm
First Friday of the
month



- Sept.21—3:15-4:30pm SRA Schola Rehearsal—Church
- Sept.22—Chess Club in Art Room
- 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



September Birthdays

- Anna Mersinger-23
- Gavin Smith-26
- Mr. Bob -29**
- Annabelle Olsen-30
- Mollie Dirnbeck-30



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 again in the afternoon at 3:10. Thank you!

1st quarter patrol schedule:

Week of September 26th
AM - Gabbi and Jenna
PM - Annie and Lucy



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 26 Jenny D. & Mark P.

Tuesday, September 27 Daniel C.

Wednesday, September 28 Susie I. & Mary Ann P.

Thursday, September 29 Leslie S. & Stephanie K.

Friday, September 30 Gary P.



Recess Update – Angela Cierpiot

Hello, my name is Angela Cierpiot. I am a school mom (Madalene 5th, Brendan 2nd, and Ryan, Class of 2013,) and now the daily recess coordinator at St. Raphael. Along with the staff at SRA, as recess coordinator, I am helping supervise and evolve recess to keep it safe, fun, and interesting for our kids. Examples of some changes are/will be the need for new equipment, new games, teach the kids rules for team games, a positive way to diffuse conflicts, and boundaries for the perimeter of the parking lot to solve the ball/street issue. The overall goal is to help teach our kids social responsibility and recognize their behavior impacts those around them. We will accomplish these goals by encouraging the skills of teamwork, friendly competition, and fair conflict resolution. These are supported by our new Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) and the new school wide rules: BE KIND, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE MINDFUL. All pieces fit together with our 2016 SRA theme: WE ARE ONE BODY. Even though we are very early in the program, we are beginning to see some positive results. Initial feedback from faculty and parents has been positive as we begin these changes. We have great kids at SRA! I am so happy to see them each day and help improve their playtime. My contact information is Cierpiot@straphaelarchangel.org. See you on the playground!

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

We are preparing for our biggest fundraiser of the year, our Black & Gold Dinner Auction, on Saturday November 5th and Preview Night on Friday, November 4th!

There are many ways that you can contribute to our parish school – are you able to purchase or sell 50/50 raffle tickets or ads for the program? Are you able to support with a donation for the live & silent auction? Sports memorabilia, jewelry, trips, experiences, time shares, event tickets, gift certificates are all popular and greatly valued!! If you have questions about the upcoming events or would like to donate items for the live or silent auction, please contact the Rectory.



STUCO News

Friday, October 7th, 14th, and 21st: \$1 to wear a pink shirt that will be donated to American Cancer Association

October 3-7: Food Drive

October 24-31: Red Ribbon Week - details coming soon



Miss Chris Preschool Room B

We have been exploring the world of Dinosaurs this week for "D Week." We have had a great time learning about these amazing creatures. I am amazed that the children can pronounce many of the long names of the different types of dinosaurs. We also learned about the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den during Jesus Club. We think it is so cool that God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt Daniel...but we are not surprised. We know that God would do anything to protect us!



Kindergarten News: Miss Morris & Mrs. Doyle

Kindergarten is continuing to learn about colors through poetry and math games. We are getting excited for rainbow day. Our Kindergarten class has learned about the prayer Hail Mary and made Rosary decades to use while we pray part of the Rosary in Mass on Tuesdays. We continue to keep our older students in our prayers as they finish up testing this week.



First Grade News: Mrs. Louise Balicki-Smith

This week First Graders learned and practiced Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures. Cooperative learning is an instructional strategy designed to promote learning, working together and communication in the classroom. Students take an active role in their learning. It also boosts confidence and helps students to retain knowledge. This was a fun way to engage in math, though we will continue to use Cooperative Learning methods across all subjects. This week we also began Guided Reading Groups. Guided Reading Groups give students small group (no more than three students at a time) instruction on their specific reading level. It is designed to tailor reading and writing to students specific learning needs. We meet daily for Guided Reading Groups. I use this time to help students develop and understanding of the text while prompting them to apply strategies they will need to become independent readers. Students are exposed to a variety of texts and comprehension strategies to foster confidence and a love of reading. Great learning is happening in First Grade in a variety of ways!



Second Grade News: Miss Stephanie Amsler

This week Second Graders are busy with IOWA testing. In between testing we are playing math games to continue building on our addition and subtraction fluency skills as well as participating in whole class games, like kickball, to encourage character building and teamwork.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade has worked very hard and done their best on the standardized tests this week. There were many bubbles to be filled with our knowledge. We have enjoyed Mass and are responsible for coming back to school to share Father Bob's message. Ms Polson taught us about deciduous and coniferous forests. Mr. Stolte and Ava brought us many educational posters from the Missouri Department of Conservation about trees and leaves and forest animals. We now know that multiplication is simply repeated addition. We drew some geometric shapes and can recognize polygons. We are ready for the fall weather!



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

Standardized testing is going well in Fourth Grade. The children all seem relaxed and confident with how they are doing. They said the day seems so much shorter and can hardly believe when it's time to pack up to go home. We've been letting them have some extra recess time just to be moving and get some extra energy out. I've been told their favorite part of testing week is that there is no homework. Next week we will pick up where we left off in all subjects...even homework.

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

The Fifth Graders did a great job with testing. They were focused and did their best on the tests. While we were not testing, the students became inventors. We read a short story about wild and wacky inventions. I then had the students be an inventor and design an invention about anything they wanted. They come up with some innovative ideas. We also worked on finding the theme. The students watched *How to Eat Fried Worms* and then created a slideshow with themes that they gathered from the movie.

Mrs. Zarinelli: Music

Week of September 26 Mrs. Z's Garden of Peas - Second Grade

The Second Graders have been learning a little bit about gardening and a lot about good character in the classroom musical Mrs. Z's Garden of Peas. They have been practicing creative movement and learning to juggle with scarves. In this classroom drama experience, the children "sprout" in Mrs. Z's garden as responsibility, cooperation, courage, forgiveness, perseverance, patience, generosity...and so on. Later in the story: The blossoms popped off! Imagine everyone's surprise when each flower turned into peace right before their eyes! The children learned right from wrong and what every child found is that each make a difference. Peace starts on the playground.



Mrs. Kim Westrich: Art

Kindergarten students have been introduced to the painting studio. Students experimented with mixing primary colors, making lines, filling in shapes with paint and cleaning paintbrushes. Next, we will explore creating values with paints



Mrs. Peggy Martin: Physical Education Grades Pk-3

September is more than half over. We are working on cardio games in addition to practicing our soccer, kickball and volleyball skills. Since the beginning of school we have been working hard on gym procedures. They are doing well remembering routines of our PE Classes. The more comfortable they are with the large space and special rules of the gym, the better they perform. Have a great week.



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

The students have begun volleyball and are working on the skills of bumping, setting and spiking. They have been working with partners on these skills and are doing very well. Volleyball can be a very challenging sport, which can be a little frustrating for some students that have never played it.



I hope for the students to increase their volleyball skills. It is most important to me that they enjoy their Physical Education classes.

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

With the students having their Standardized testing this week, many of the regular classes were not scheduled. In the Religion classes students in grades Six, Seven and Eight have begun to look at the different types of Psalms in the Old Testament. Students in all Social Studies classes are reviewing the identification of states on the United States map.

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

Thank you to all the parents that attended Curriculum Night last week. It was wonderful to meet and speak with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like a copy of any of the handouts.

Sixth Grade SMath: Students just completed a DIGI assessing operations with fractions. I will assess operations with rational numbers (decimals and fractions) next week.

Seventh Grade SMath: Students will be taking their Unit 1 test on Monday, September 26. This will assess operations with rational numbers (decimals, fractions, and integers).

Eighth Grade SMath: Students are still working on solving equations with variables on both sides. They recently took a DIGI and I am meeting individually with the students to discuss their grade.

Science: All classes are working on picking a topic for the Science Fair. Sixth Grade will be completing the project with a partner, while Seventh and Eighth Grades will be completing a project independently. Our goal is to complete as much of the project during school as possible.

Please visit the website below for more info: www.sciencefairstl.org

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

Literature: We took a break from our novels this week to focus on the IOWA Tests. Please stay tuned as we continue our adventures next week. We did not, however, take a break from Vocabulary Workshop assignments. Students should all have the schedule either taped/stapled to their vocabulary book cover or in their assignments books. I have also shared the schedule with each of them on Google Drive.

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

Spanish: Fourth & Fifth Grades are reviewing material and learned what assessments will look like as well as strategies to studies. We are going to play review games as well.

Sixth Grade is working on numbers and math activities.

Seventh & Eighth Grades are working on pronouns and verb conjugation.

Grammar/writing: Students went over Simple Solutions quiz answers together. We are working on subject and predicate. We will begin discussing the writing process next week.

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

Due to IOWA testing this week, in math class we are mainly reviewing. We are not learning new concepts until next week.

Yesterday we reviewed some concepts that were on their last Simple Solutions Quiz and homework quiz. Tomorrow, we will be doing some more review, applying already learned concepts and skills. This will take us forward into next week as we proceed with new material.

**CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL COMMUNITY
OUTREACH SPEAKER SERIES**

DR. JEROME SCHULTZ

Jerome Schultz, Ph.D, on the faculty at Harvard Medical School, dedicates his time to enhancing people's understanding of the neurobiology of stress and its impact on learning, social and emotional development.

**THE IMPACT OF STRESS ON LEARNING BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN
WITH LD/ADHD**

**AN OVERVIEW AND Q & A FOR PARENTS AND OTHER
CAREGIVERS**

OCTOBER 6, 2016 7-8:30 PM \$25 PER PERSON

This session will look at the impact of stress on children and families in general, explain why children and adolescents with LD and/or ADHD have a lower threshold for stress do to their repeated experiences with failure.

Mrs. Gewinner: Learning Consultant

For the next few weeks I will be giving you information about the position of Learning Consultant and what I do for the students in our school.

A Learning Consultant is a teacher with a background in special and general education. The Learning Consultant collaborates with the classroom teacher on strategies to ensure that each student shows success in school. During the school day the Learning Consultant spends time in the classrooms observing students and collecting data that will be used as a tool for the classroom teacher to meet the needs of the students. Some time is spent communicating with parents, teachers, other Learning Consultants, professionals outside of our school community, as well as doing research on pertinent information to be shared with parents and teachers.

Next, I will share the process of identifying a potential special learning need.



**Trunk-or-Treat
Friday, October 21
6pm - 8pm
\$15 per family/car**

Come and enjoy an evening of Halloween fun!

Festivities include:

Trick-or-Treating from Car to Car

A Parade of Costumes

Music

Prizes for the Best Dressed Child, Best Dressed Adult, and Best Decorated Car

**Please avoid violent themes. Bring your own chairs, blankets, flashlights,
trick-or-treat bags, and treats to pass out to the children.**

Snacks and Beverages will be available for purchase.

All Proceeds benefit the 8th Grade ProLife Trip and Graduation Celebrations.

Family: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

#of children participating: _____

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Benoist @ 314-537-7032