

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community



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Apr 2024

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

May 3, 2024

Dear SRA Families,

Spring seems to be a time when I have to hone my “event planning skills”!
Wow, was April a busy month? My planner is filled with events and details to prove it.

First and foremost, we celebrated two Sacraments in April. Our second-graders were angelic as they received their First Holy Communion on April 21st, and then our seventh-graders received the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 30th. Thank you to Miss Franks, Miss Woods, and Fr. Molini for witnessing our students as they prepare for these moments of Sacramental Grace in their lives. May the St. Raphael community continue to guide our children to holiness.

When I planned this year's calendar, I knew April would be a long month after an early Easter break, but I also knew we had numerous end-of-the-year activities to complete together.

The middle school attended Civitas, a mock United Nations event, and the 5th grade had a blast participating in the annual BizTown experience.

This year, we also introduced a new program, the Dancing Classroom, to the 5th-grade curriculum, providing our students with a unique and enriching experience. The students were just beaming after their successful performance, in which they earned Third Place overall.

The 6th-graders had a great time attending Camp Manitowa, which offered a variety of activities, such as archery, GaGa ball, rope climbing, and crafts, to name a few. Thank you to Mrs. Connor, Mrs. Shaver, Mr. Abbott, and Mrs. Kleecamp for chaperoning this event.

Then, we ended April with the Robotics Jamboree at SLUH and our 1st-place History Day Team, Linus, Jude, and A.J., heading off to Columbia, MO, to compete in the State competition. Congratulations, team, for all your hard work on your presentation and challenges.

Finally, we congratulate our three Blue Ribbon awardees, Andrea, Katelyn, and Anna, at the Bellarmine Speech League Meet. All good stuff!

The month of May brings us even more events as we come to the last month of the school year.

Last night, we hosted our 2nd annual “Night of Entertainment” evening, which was wonderful entertainment! This is such a sweet event where the students get to choose and prepare their act alone or with a friend. I was amazed again at the courage displayed by our children to perform in front of an audience on a big stage. The evening always touches my heart. Thank you, Mrs. R., for being the organizer and the MC, and having the vision for this event.

Next week, on **Thursday, May 9**, the school will gather for our **May Crowning** at the 8 AM Mass. Our First Communicants dress up in their First Communion dresses and suits to fill the role of Honor Guards for the 8th Graders. The 8th-grade students also come to school in dress-up clothing and participate in the procession to honor Mary, Our Mother. Two students from the class will place the crown of flowers on the statue of Mary during the ceremony. The May Crowning is a beautiful tradition celebrated at St. Raphael and many other Catholic churches.

Field Day is on Friday, May 10th. The school day has a **noon dismissal** for the entire school with **NO AFTERCARE**. Students arrive at school at the usual time, and once the volunteers complete the setup of the activities, the games will begin. Thank you to the Men's Club for providing lunch for all students, consisting of hot dogs, chips, and Ted Drewes ice cream. The Ladies Club will provide healthy snacks during the game rotation, thank you. Students are to wear a colored T-shirt designated by their Family Group. Thank you to all the parent volunteers for making this day happen next week.

It is hard to believe that our **8th graders' last day will be Wednesday, May 15**, the following week! They will enjoy a fun Mystery Trip Day on Thursday, May 16, Graduation Dinner on Friday, May 16, and the actual Graduation on Sunday, May 19, at the 9 AM Mass. Graduation day is quickly approaching—Hang in there, 8th Graders!

During the last week of school, the Preschool will host their family for a **Preschool Performance** on Tuesday, May 21. Ms. Molly and Ms. Tracy will send home details as the date approaches.

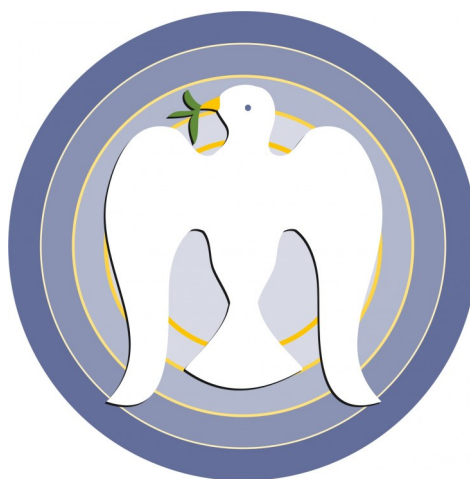
The final school day for the **2023-2024 school year is Friday, May 24**. The students attend 8:00 AM Mass on this day, with dismissal at 10:00 AM. Final Report Cards will open on Friday, May 31.

This week, the third **NWEA Assessment** was administered to kindergarten to 7th-grade students. Mrs. Balicki-Smith will administer the portions of the assessment missed by absent students next week. Results will be shared with families later this month. Please stay tuned for upcoming optional NWEA parent meeting dates to assist parents in reviewing their child's results from the NWEA Assessment. The dates are still to be determined.

I know this message is a lengthy one, but there is a lot going on these days!

Have a great weekend,

Mrs. Hayes



Announcements

Daily Mass Time: 8:00am
Grades K-3 T/W/Th
Grades 4-8 M/W/Th



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Miss Michele-1

Addison McMorrow-1

Elizabeth Anstey-2

Mrs. Meier-2

Xavier Cyr-4

Douglas Adams-5

Mara Rooney-7

Will Meyers-8

Hattie Zitko-9

Parker Marra-10

Russell Powderly-10

Francis Kaloyeros-12

Leo Kurtovic-12

Nurse Alex-13

Javier Rea-15

Caleb Bernadt-15

Rory Meier-17

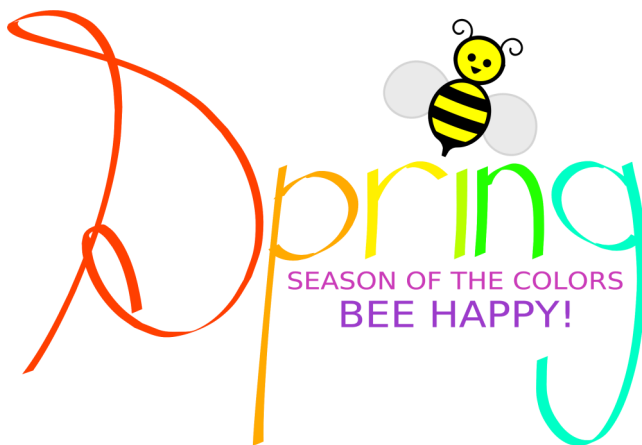
Jack Berry-18

Harry Bradford-21

Henry Beshears-29

Mark Boeckmann-29

Rose Iovaldi-31





Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

TBD-NWEA Assessment

5/1-7th Grade No School

5/9-May Crowning

**5/10-Field Day-Noon Dismissal—
No Aftercare**

5/12-Mother's Day

5/15-8th Grade Last Day of School

5/16-8th Grade Mystery Trip

5/17-8th Grade Graduation Dinner

5/19-8th Grade Graduation Mass

5/21-PreK Performance

**5/24-Last Day of School—
No Aftercare**

5/31 Report Cards Open

Miss Molly: Preschool A

The Angels have had a very busy month. The Angels observed butterflies from the beginning of egg to butterfly. They enjoyed watching the process. We discussed spring and planted some flowers. The Angels were able to experience the Solar Eclipse and did a great job protecting their eyes. We also made eclipse cookies!! They have also been busy working on letters C,G,O, and Q. They are also preparing for their end of the year program and getting fit for the school field day.



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten



Pre-k B have been keeping busy this month. We got to learn about the eclipse and experience it with our friends. All of our butterflies hatched and we got to release them into nature. The boys and girls did a lot of patterning with different manipulatives. We, of course, continued working on letters, numbers, and handwriting to prepare for kindergarten. I can't believe we only have one more month of school!!



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

We are getting ready to wrap up our year together in Kindergarten! We are anxiously awaiting the last day of school Mass as we are in charge of the readings for the first time. We are working on Measurement and Date in math this month and continue to work on sentence structure and our weekly sight word practice in literacy. We recently read Charlotte's Web as a whole class read-aloud and celebrated the ending by watching the movie!



First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein



First grade had a fun April! We continued to learn about vowel teams in phonics and have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes in math. A highlight of the month was planting grass seed to finish out our plant unit. It grew incredibly fast and we even got to give it a haircut! We also became published authors this month and are waiting for our published poetry book to arrive in May. First grade has been wonderful mass participants and has received many compliments from both



Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks



April was a busy month for Second grade! We had a blast at Activity Day creating keepsakes of our First Holy Communion. The best part was that our parents joined us and we spent the whole day creating with our families! We even played (and beat) them in a Kids vs. Grownups kickball game. The highlight of the month was April 21, when we received our First Holy Communion! It was a beautiful and memorable day filled with the Holy Spirit. Thank you for all your prayers during this special season. We look forward to a lifetime of Communion with Jesus.

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade has been working on linear forms of measurement and weight measurement in USA units and the metric system. Also in math we can multiply 2-3 digits by one digit. We watched a clip of the Disney movie "Bambi" and learned the saying "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all." It originated from Thumper's mother correcting her son for making fun of Bambi. Ms. Polson has introduced us to one of her favorite characters, Treehorn and his not very nice friend, Moshie during her Read Alouds. Father Molini has been in to talk about The Nicene Creed and Parables.



See our beautiful Spring outfits in the photo!

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

Lots of projects are being displayed throughout the hallways! If you're at the school, please be sure to view the artwork. Here is what art class has been up to this past month:

Pre-K: Both Angels and Bears have been making lots of crafts for spring! Soon they will learn about Antoni Gaudi and what he's famous for making.

K-3rd: These students have made small projects for the events happening in April such as Earth Day, rainy days, watermelons, etc. They also got to learn about Greek Art and will have a display of their greek vases next to the SRA mural!

4th-8th: These students finished their printmaking projects between reduction printmaking to repeated simple patterns. These projects will be displayed in the hallways this week and they look very cool!

Miss Patti Woods: English (4 & 5) Religion (4 & 7) Social Studies (4) Literature (4)

Fourth Grade:

English: we finished the unit on adjectives, and will move on to Capitalization and Punctuation.

Religion: we have been working on learning the Beatitudes and how they apply to our lives.

social Studies: we have been learning about the different regions of the United States and which states each region is comprised of.

Literature: we finished the novel study of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* and have begun *Matilda*. Both have proven to be wonderful books!

Fifth Grade:

English: we have finished the unit on Pronouns and have moved on to the unit on Adverbs. We also wrote a creative writing piece in the form of a letter.

Seventh Grade:

We have been working hard to finish our preparation for Confirmation. We are ready! I pray that all goes well!



Mrs. Katie Meier: Religion (5), Math (4-6), Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

4th grade Math is starting to study different types of lines, leading us in to Geometry.

6th grade Standard Math is studying the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers.

6th grade Challenge Math is measuring and classifying different geometric shapes.



5th grade has been on the road! We earned a yellow ribbon in our Dancing Classroom competition. We visited JA BizTown and all of our businesses ended the day with a profit!

5th grade is reading our final novel, *The Big Field*, in Literature. In Math we are in our geometry era. In Religion we are working



Mr. Leonard Kraudel: Science/STREAM (4-5-6-7-8)

4TH Grade just finished learning about Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics and will be Learning about Fossils and all that we can learn from studying them. And that Paleontology is a very interesting and important Science in determining what the Earth used to be like.

5TH Grade are doing experiments on growing Green Bean Plants, learning the difference between Independent Variable (IV) and the Dependent Variable (DV) and understanding Constant Variables (CV), variable that need to be the same or constant.

6,7,8TH are just finishing the study of how whales have evolved from ancestor, 4-legged animals that went back into the water, and also how fossils tell the Earth's past. And then we'll be going into Endangered Species and preventing Environmental Problems.

Mrs. Christy Connor: Religion (6 & 8) Social Studies (5-8)

Religion: Grade Six students are learning more about the prophets. We have also just begun the Family Life program.

Grade Eight students are looking at information about the Catholic Church in North America. They have also begun the Family Life program.

Social Studies: Grade Five students will be starting to learn information about the United States government.

Grade Six students are about to complete their study of Asia and will soon begin looking at Australia and the South Pacific islands.

Grade Seven students are working on the geography of the early empires of Africa. They will then discover facts about some of the cultural groups who live there.

Grade Eight students will begin finding information about World War II and the Cold War era that followed.

Mrs. Anne Stein: Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, (7-8) Algebra (7-8)

The middle school students are finishing the year strong in math.

The 7th Grade Challenge class has been studying angle relationships, classifying polygons, and learning about the properties of circles.

The Pre-Algebra class is working on simplifying algebraic expressions, solving multi-step equations, and solving and graphing two-step inequalities.

The Algebra I class has been studying how to add, subtract, multiply, and factor polynomials and are beginning to explore quadratic graphs.

The Algebra II class has been working on using long division and synthetic division to divide polynomials and are starting to work with rational exponents.

Mrs. Sioux Roslawski: Literature & English (6-7-8)

6th-8th ELA

The students are reading--in school and at home, and are finalizing their submissions for the *Write Outside Your Door* contest. This is a nature-based competition sponsored by the Gateway Writing Project and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Bellarmino

The final speech meet was held, and the following students earned a blue ribbon: Andrea Mense, Katelynn Feldman and Anna Wright. This meet was a difficult one, because there were two performances, and each performance was judged by two judges. A great deal of work went into our Bellarmino performances, and all the students should feel proud of what they accomplished.