

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 9, Issue 7

April 28, 2021



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

Hello SRA Families,

Well, we can say we are officially one month away from the last day of school! Hooray!

During the month of April, we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter, Confirmation for our 7th- graders on April 10th, First Holy Communion for our 2nd-graders on April 25, along with Dylan, one of our 7th- graders, was received into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. May the celebration of all of these Sacraments continue to fill our hearts with grace and joy.

I mentioned to you earlier this month that I injured my knee back in February. Well, my surgery is scheduled for this tomorrow, April 29. At this time, I am uncertain about the amount of time I will need for recovery, but will most likely recuperate from home for the next two weeks. I will keep you updated on my date of return.

In the meantime, please email your child's teacher or Mrs. Mechler with any questions or concerns you might have, and once I feel strong enough to respond to emails, I will. Luckily, last year provided me with a bit of practice in running a school virtually!

It is that time of the year when I announce some of the upcoming changes in the staff at SRA for the next school year.

Mrs. Mechler has decided to retire at the end of this school year. For sixteen years, Mrs. Mechler has shared her gifts with the SRA school community. We are so grateful for her dedication and energy. We have come to know that Mrs. Mechler is always on the move, whether to nurse a wounded knee, ordering books and supplies for students, assisting teachers, and most importantly, taking care of me. Mrs. Mechler-you will be missed by all, and enjoy retirement!

Mrs. Lahm has also decided not to return to SRA next year. Mrs. Lahm has only been here for one year, but we have come to enjoy her kind, gentle spirit, and love for science. As a principal, I am appreciative of the many ways in which she has volunteered to help out during this crazy Covid school year. Mrs. Lahm, thank you for sharing your gifts with SRA this year.

Miss Schaff informed me this week that she has accepted a new position teaching middle and high school math at Visitation Middle School & High School for next year. For the past five years, Miss Schaff has shared her talents teaching math to our SRA middle school students. She has a gift for making the difficult seem easy. Her effortless style and simple explanations made all students reach success in their lessons. Miss Schaff, we wish you well in your new teaching position, but take all the wonderful memories of SRA with you.

Finally, Miss Domijan has also decided not to return to SRA next year. Miss Domijan has shared her love for teaching with our kindergarten students for the past three years. She dedicated countless hours preparing her classroom and lessons for her students. I'm sure you often saw Miss Domijan's car in the parking lot on Sundays. She enjoyed creating fun lessons and activities to celebrate the seasons of the year. Miss Domijan, thank you, and we wish you well in your next endeavors.

We will begin the recruitment process for the open positions immediately and will keep our SRA families updated throughout the process.

Yesterday, we began a new tradition here at St. Raphael. The Optimist Club honored two of our 8th-graders, noting their academic excellence, remarkable character, and positive role model for their community. Congratulations, Henry and Emillie, on receiving this honor. A new plaque with their names engraved will hang in the SRA school hallway.

I know this message contains a lot of information, so please note the important dates and events. I will keep all of you in my prayers while I am away.

Blessings,
Mrs. Hayes



Announcements



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

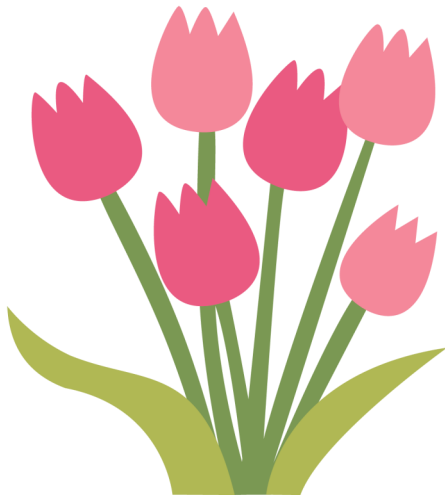


BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

May Birthdays

Addison McMorrow-1
Elizabeth Anstey-2
Grace Doach-2
Xavier Cyr-4
Helen Steidley-5
Douglas Adams-5
Christiana Kirkpatrick-5
Cooper Copaino-5
Miss Schaaf-7
Hattie Zitko-9
Mason Lansing-11
Leo Kurtvoic-12
Nahima Ramirez-13
William Hotze-14
Conor Finan-14
Patrick Goltermann-14
Ethan Bradshaw-15
Rocco Naeger-15
Caleb Bernadt-15
Rory Meier-17
Jack Berry-18
Emma Yehlen-19
Mr. McDermott-20
Miss Domijan-21
Steven Irons-21
Adam Fuhr-21
Emily Fuhr-21
Cooper Copaiion-23
Liam McMorrow-28
Mark Boeckmann-29

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY





Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

- **May 7- Grades K-8th - No School -Preschool Open**

Faculty Professional Development-The faculty always uses this day for professional development.

- **May 13 - May Crowning**

As in previous years, the 8th and 2nd-grade classes will participate in the May Crowning.

- **May 14 - Field Day**

We will host a modified field day for the homeroom classes. Our 8th graders will lead the games, and Mrs. Franz will provide lunch as usual. Students may order lunch through the lunch program or bring their lunch. The school will provide a snack during the games. We are currently still planning the day!

- **Middle School Exams**

May 17, 18, 19 -- 8th Grade Exams

May 25 & 26 -- 6th and 7th Grade Exams

May 19 8th Grade Last Day

May 20 8th Grade Mystery Trip

May 21 8th Grade Graduation Dinner

May 23 11:15am 8th Grade Graduation Mass

May 28 Last Day of School

Miss Molly: Preschool A

What a crazy month with the weather and the kids getting anxious for summer, but the Angels are hanging in there. We learned about the ocean, outer space, owls, and earth. We have been working on our bible stories and learning to be a good shepherd to all. They have taken walks around the neighborhood and enjoyed the playground during these beautiful days. As always, they work hard on all their skills, numbers and alphabet. Have a blessed weekend.



Mrs. Liz: Prekindergarten

We have been busy in preschool B. We learned about the letters V and T and will end the school year with S, Y, and Z. We worked on a shape unit and talked about how we see shapes all around our environment. We made "shape pizzas" using squares, rectangles, circles, and triangles for our toppings and made a chart, counting the number we had for each shape. The pizzas were all different and it was fun to see their amazing counting skills and creativity. We also celebrated Earth Day with a special snack and a nature/neighborhood scavenger hunt. This week we will begin a two week unit on worms. We are looking forward to our last month together this school year.



Kindergarten News: Miss Lu Ann Domijan

In kindergarten, we are studying the five senses. We did a smell and touch experiment, went on scavenger's hunt using our senses, learned songs about our senses, and wrote in our individual five senses books. It was fun to learn about our five senses. Spring has sprung in kindergarten!



First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

Besides the snow we had last week, the first grade class is enjoying the spring weather. The past couple of weeks we were able to enjoy Willmore Park. We just finished writing about what kind of animal teeth we would like if we could choose them. The students also read books about their animal and came up with three facts about their animal. Finally, for the first time this year they typed their own facts on Google Docs and learned how to share their document with me. We have less than five weeks of school and there is so much we still want to do. The first graders love school!



Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks

Second grade has had an exciting month. We have explored the solar system and the seven continents. We are looking forward to diving into fables to finish our reading curriculum for the year.

With the end of the year fast approaching, we are taking advantage of the nice days to do some learning outside.

Thank you for your prayers throughout our First Communion preparation. We were blessed with great weather, the company of our loved ones, and the Holy Spirit.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third grade led the Angelus this month over the public address system. It is fun to hear our voices saying the prayers. We have begun going to mass in church with fourth grade. Our class got to lead stations of the cross for the primary students twice during Lent. We also made the Sacrament of Reconciliation! We had a good time in class reading our parent's homework. A spelling story they wrote using our twenty list words. We love to read plays and this month it was *Robin Hood* and *Chicken Little* in our literary magazine; *Storyworks*.



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

The seventh-grade class recently took a faith-filled step to becoming full-fledged Catholics by receiving the sacrament of Confirmation earlier this month. May God continue to bless these young people as they grow in their faith.

The fifth-grade class just finished their unit on Capitalization and Punctuation in English class and are now working on writing their autobiography.

The fourth-grade class finished the unit on Capitalization and Punctuation in English and will be taking their end-of-unit test this Friday. They will then begin a writing assignment. In religion they are continuing their study of the Beatitudes. In social studies their studies are a continuation of the regions of the United States and the location of the 50 states.

Mrs. Amanda Knauer: Religion, Math, Reading, Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders have completed their study of the Sacraments. This month they learned about Matrimony and Holy Orders. During math, the students have started their geometry unit. They are working with polygons and finding angle measurements. The fifth graders started reading the novel *Number the Stars*. They have enjoyed making predictions and connections in the story so far.

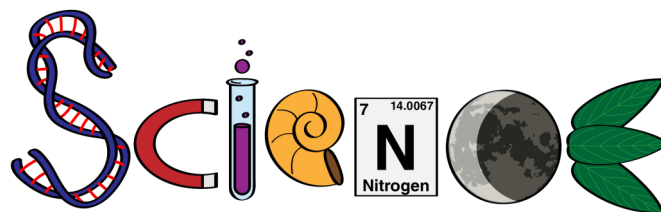
Fourth Grade: The students have been working hard on relating decimals and fractions in math. They also learned how to compare/order decimals, round decimals, and add and subtract decimals. The students have been working on finding the theme of a story during literature class. The students are also working on characterization and summarizing.

Mrs. Dana Lahm: Science/STREAM (4-5-6-7-8)

4th grade students observed the force of friction at work in a Hot Wheels experiment. Students are now learning about the different types of matter before exploring the difference between physical and chemical changes.

5th grade students compared the planets in our Solar System to conditions found on Earth. Students are now learning about the major bodies of water and the water cycle.

6th, 7th, & 8th grade students learned about the cell cycle, mitosis and meiosis, and are now learning about Gregor Mendel's Laws of Inheritance and genetics.



Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education

With the lower grades, we have been playing games developing jumping skills, including a rock, paper, scissors war. In the upper grades, we have been getting outside when we can to play class-wide games including kickball, ga ga ball, and nine square.



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

Religion: In grade six religion, we are learning about the prophets and will soon begin looking at our Family Life program. In eighth grade, we have begun looking at the early Church in North America. We will also begin the Family Life program soon.

Social Studies: In fifth grade, we are completing the study about the Civil War. Grade six students have begun looking at the continent of Australia and the region of Oceania. In grade seven, we are about to begin learning the cause and effects of the War of 1812. Grade eight students will be completing a unit about FDR's New Deal programs.

Miss Ashley Schaaf Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, (7-8) Algebra (7-8)

In standard math we are exploring integers.

In challenge math we are exploring basic geometric figures.

In pre-algebra we are exploring the foundations of geometry.

In algebra we are working with radical expressions.

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

The 6th-8th grade students have been researching countries for Civitas. Civitas is a model UN program. Each student is a delegate for their country, and as a representative, they are trying to solve (as part of the simulation) a serious problem their country has.

Some of the problems are human rights issues. Some are environmental--severe pollution or natural disasters, for example.

Our General Assembly is on May 12. On that day, several delegates will present their resolution to the group. The other delegates will make suggestions and ask questions, the resolutions might get modified, and then the group will vote on each resolution--just like the United Nations does.

This is a different kind of writing; parts of it sound a bit legalese, and the format is very specific. However, it exposes the students to a different audience and a different style of writing, and the research is opening them up to foreign countries they might never have read about.

