

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 7, Issue 1

August 30, 2018



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

"Lift His Name"

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement
and good hope through his grace,
encourage your hearts and strengthen them
in every good deed and word.
2 Thessalonian 2:16-17

Dear SRA Parents,

All year long we will be focusing on our theme, "Lift His Name" through our Liturgies and prayer services, during our lessons and classwork and by our acts of kindness to one another every day. I thought the verse, stated above, came from one of this week's Scripture best illustrated this idea. At today's liturgy, we celebrated the Holy Spirit in our life. We called upon the Holy Spirit to be with us throughout the school year. Fr. John provided the students with various images explaining the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Be sure to ask your child about Fr. John's homily.

Last Friday, I was unable to attend the Home & School Association's Back to School/Curriculum Night due to a family emergency. I send my appreciation to Fr. John, the teachers, and Home & School for filling in for me at the assembly. I hear we had good attendance! Here are a few items I would have spoken about if I was able to be there.

The 2017 Fund the Need additions to the school:

- Lockers- We added lockers to the 6th & 7th-Grade classrooms which give the students additional space to keep their belongings, books, and classwork.
- Science Kits- We purchased a total of nine new Delta Science Modular Kits containing hands-on materials over various science topics presented each year. The kits are being used in grades 4-8, but are available for all grades if needed.
- IPADS- A cart of 30 iPads, cases, and the cart were purchased this summer. Fr. John has been helping with his tech experience to prepare the iPads for students use. They will be available for student use soon.
- New Library- Marti Finan has taken the lead in creating the new library space. We had been working on the design last year to ensure we were meeting the needs of the school. This summer we were able to purchase new shelving for books and STREAM projects. The Language Lab has now been transformed into a welcoming space to read books, research information, and design and create STREAM projects. Thank you to Marti Finan for all the time and energy she gave to this project!

At this current time, parents are not able to view grades through Alma because we are still in the process of uploading the 2018-2019 Curriculum. I am working with Alma to solve this dilemma, but it does require additional action on the school's end. I appreciate your patience, and I will notify you as soon as everything is up and running.

On a personal note, this week my sister, Mary Alice, passed away Tuesday evening after a forty year struggle with Multiple Sclerosis. Our family thanks you for all the kind words and prayers received this week. Her funeral will be next week, so I will not be at school on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Beginning in September, the Preschool through 8th-grade teachers will introduce the Virtues in Practice program developed by the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia Congregation in Nashville. This program is structured so that an entire school community can study the same virtue each month as well as a new saint introduced. This program has a three-year cycle. Year I is the Year of Faith. More information will be coming home with your child next month.

Now that we come to the end of August, hopefully, your family is getting into the school rhythm of earlier bedtimes and mornings. I think we are too! Have a safe and restful Labor Day weekend. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 4th.

Have a blessed holiday weekend,

Mrs. Hayes

Announcements



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

September 6

Weekday Mass
5th Grade Planning

September 13

Mass - St. John Christleson
3rd Grade Planning

September 20

Mass—Andrew Kim
4th Grade Planning

September 27

Mass - Vincent de Paul
7th Grade Planning

Benediction 2:00pm
First Friday of the
month



August Birthdays

Andrea Mense-1
Ethan Bozada-1
Christian Concepcion-2
Katie Cyr-2
Mac Teeter-2
Andrew Kellar-3
Lucas Mense-3
Lucas Feldman-3
Alex Atchison-8
Daniella Giambrone-13
Jack Stein-14
Claire Fuhr-15
Caroline Fissel-18
Oliver Mask-22
Anna-Grace Guenther-23
Abby Delf-25
Ryan Pinkerton-26
Jack Delf-28
Lucas Fuhr-29
Mrs. Mechler-29
Mae Klein-30
Melissa Colin-31

September Birthdays

Rose Humiston-2
Adam Trachsel-4
Thomas Niermann-4
Maxwell Winters-4
Archer Fissel-4
Miss Chris-5
Isaac Potts-5
Julia Seidel-5
Nora Seidel-5
Kasen Winkler-7
Ryan Schneider-7
Mr. Bruno-8
Thomas Wilkinson-9
Linus Cyr-10
Michael Gresick-13
Mateo Switzer-14
Ben Mense-15
Lydia Bick-18
Christian Bernadt-21
Adriana Kurtovic-21
Madelyn Liddy-23
Gavin Smith-26
Sophia Villani-27
Mr. Bob -29
Mollie Dirnbeck-30

**Parents,
Please make sure that your
child's lunch box and all
clothing has their name
on them.**





- Sept. 3 Labor Day – No School Preschool – 8
- Sept. 4 3:15-4:15pm De Angelis Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- Sept. 4 7:00pm History Day Parent Meeting
- Sept. 6 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Sept. 7 2:10-3:50pm Karate
- Sept. 13 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Sept. 13 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Sept. 14 2:10-3:50pm Karate
- Sept. 17-21 Iowa Testing – all week Grades 2-8
- Sept. 18 3:15-4:15pm De Angelis Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- Sept. 20 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Sept. 20 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Sept. 21 2:10-3:50pm Karate
- Sept. 24 Iowa Make Ups
- Sept. 27 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Sept. 27 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Sept. 27 7:00-9:00pm High School Nights at Bishop DuBourg
- Sept. 28 No School K-8 PD Day for Teachers Preschool is open

SRA School Volunteers

Volunteers are so important to the success of our school children, so that's why anyone who works or volunteers with children must be compliant with the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis set forth by the USCCB. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

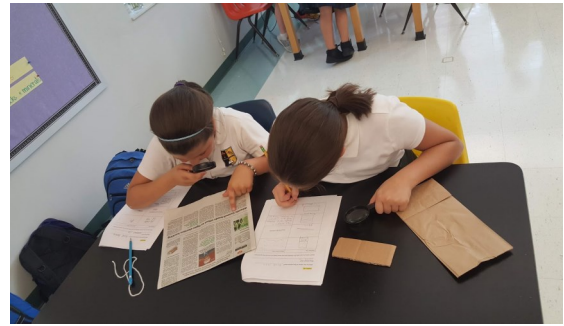
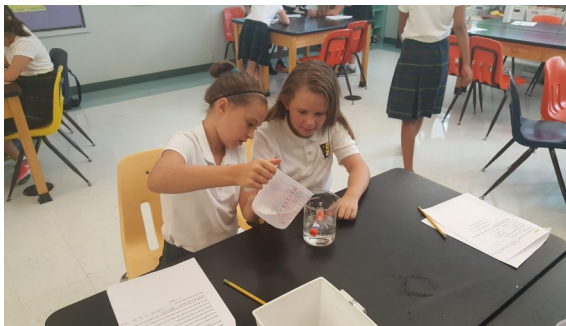
Compliance includes attending a Protecting God’s Children Workshop, completing a Worker Registration Form to obtain a background check, and reading and signing a Code of Ethical Conduct. Each parish must have copies of individual background checks & code of ethics forms on file for all active volunteers and employees. Additional background checks may be necessary if you have lived out of state in previous years.

To register online for a Protecting God’s Children Workshop, please visit www.archstl.org, scroll down and click on the Protecting God’s Children link, then scroll down and click on View Workshops. You will be redirected to the VIRTUSOnline.org site to complete the registration process. The Code of Ethical Conduct and worker registration forms are available from your parish Child Safety Coordinator, Mary Steck (mary.a.steck@gmail.com) and may also be located on our parish website. If you have questions or need assistance with this process, please contact Mary or the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program at 314-792-7272.

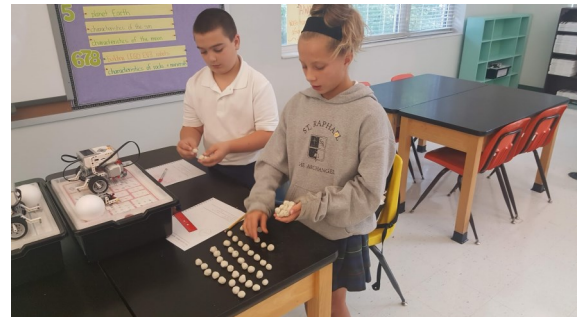
Missouri Background Checks are obtained when you begin your ministry and are updated every even numbered year. Please let the parish office know if you would like to be removed from the list of active volunteers. You must also contact the Missouri Family Care Safety Registry at 1-866-422-6872 with address changes.

August STREAM Projects

4th graders learned how different science tools work and how they are used:



5th graders learned about the size of the Earth and the Moon using scale models:



Mrs. Kathy Doty: Music

PreK- We are learning to sing using “echo”, keeping the beat with different movement, playing rhythm sticks and hand bells.

Kindergarten- ABC song: the melody sounds like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," keeping the beat, and playing rhythm instruments.

First Grade- Reviewing beat, echo, learning about the tempo of songs, and playing various rhythms.

Second Grade- Repeated melodic patterns, quarter rest and resonator bells.

Third Grade- Different versions of a song, how they are the same and/or different, adding rhythm instruments and resonator bells.

Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade- Reviewing rhythms, adding rests (beats of silence) and songs with Texture; the layering of instruments/vocal parts.

Sixth Grade-Eighth Grade- Reviewing of music symbols, how you sing this song, learning new vocabulary (coda, dal segno and more), addition of rhythm instruments played along with the song.



Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education

I have thoroughly enjoyed the first couple weeks of school at St. Raphael. I have begun my physical education curriculum by teaching the students several strength and conditioning activities. These activities use upper and lower body muscles to improve gross and fine motor skills. These skills will help develop their bodies to become stronger. The primary students have been working on games stressing cooperation and movement awareness. These games require students to share and learn to work with their fellow classmates. One good example was a conditioning activity that I call the train which requires the students to work in small groups using a jump rope. All the students must hold onto the rope, run in a straight line and when they reach a certain area, the first student in line goes to the end and the next person in line becomes the leader. This is a fun cooperation activity. Acquiring these skills is very important. We will continue working on activities/games that require similar skill sets.

As I've said before, St Raphael school is a fun, faith filled environment for both teachers and students. We all welcome the new school year and look forward to all the games, skills and sports we will explore together.



Miss Molly Preschool A

The first two weeks of Preschool have been great. The new kids are picking up the routine like champs. They are ready to learn their letters and move ahead with the year. We would like to thank Father John for visiting our classroom, along with the Bears, and reading a story to us. They asked many questions and had good listening ears. I look forward to a year full of excitement. Thank You and God Bless.



Miss Chris PreK

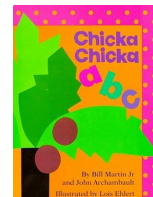
This new group of Bears are becoming acclimated quite quickly to the routines and procedures of being in the Bears' class. Their first week of school was spent getting used to each other and the new ways of doing things in a new classroom environment. We did many activities with our names. We put the letters of our names together (like a puzzle) to create windows on a school bus. We used dry erase markers to trace our names written on laminated index cards. We used a technique called “Rainbow Writing” to write our names inside the bubble letters several times, each time using a different color crayon. We also painted self-portraits and talked about how we felt on the first day of Pre-K. It has been a busy, but fun first couple weeks of school.



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Kindergarten News: Lu Ann Domijan

The kindergarten class is off to a great start. We have listened to the book *The Kissing Hand* to help us get over missing our parents while we are at school. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and other alphabet books are helping us learn and review the letters of the alphabet. We are sorting in math by colors, similarities and differences. Stop by and check out our work in the hallway.



First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

First grade is off to a fabulous start. We really enjoyed our tour of the church led by Father John.



Second Grade News: Mark Messmer

Second graders have had a busy start to their school year. We are currently working on our reading and writing stamina, as well as doing activities and playing games to review our math facts. In science, we are learning about scientists and the work of scientists. We are currently studying the Pledge of Allegiance in social studies, and second graders are learning about God's gifts for religion.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade is busy learning all about trees. We know many leaf shapes and drew pictures of their seedpods. We can say "deciduous and coniferous forests." In math, we drew a vertical bar graph using leaf data. Ask us about the 12 Apostles. Our class can write four different types of sentences too, and it is only August!



Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 8)

Welcome back to a new school year!

In all English classes, we have been working hard at refreshing our brains after our summer break and learning about the various parts of a sentence. The children are realizing that each year, another "layer" is being added to make their sentences longer, stronger, and more clear. Grades 5-8 are all reaching the end of the first unit, and a test has been scheduled. All English students have been given a writing assignment. It will be interesting to see how their writing progresses from year to year.

In 4th grade religion, we are learning how God reveals himself to us. We had a wonderful class when Father John came to visit and look forward to more visits with him throughout the school year.



Miss Amanda Imo: Religion, Math, Reading, Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

Fifth Grade: We have had a fantastic start to the new school year! The students are getting back into the school routine. During religion class, the focus has been on how Jesus worships and how we can imitate Him. In math, our attention has been on place value and being able to compare and round numbers. The story during literature class is entitled "Julio, That's Who!" The students worked on predicting outcomes and summarizing the selection.

Fourth Grade: I have enjoyed getting to know the fourth graders in the classroom setting. In math, the students are learning place value and how to write numbers through the millions in standard, expanded, and word form. We are also working on comparing and ordering large numbers. During literature, the students read a short story about a small child going owl hunting with his dad. The students learned about similes and metaphors and how comparing two different things can help you make connections more easily.

Mrs. Christy Connor: Religion (6) Social Studies (4-8)

Religion: Students will be going on a journey this year with the Chosen People of God by learning about events in the Old Testaments. They are beginning with basic facts about the Bible.

Social Studies 4: Students will be learning about the states in the United States with extra emphasis on the state of Missouri. They are beginning with facts about maps.

Social Studies 5: Students will be working on the history of the United States, as well as note-taking skills. Their first unit is about the early native peoples of the United States.

Social Studies 6: Sixth grade students will be looking at the continents and the various cultures that live on them. They will also be learning about past time periods such as ancient Egypt, the Middle Ages, and the cultures of North America.

Social Studies 7: Students in grade 7 are beginning a two-year study of American History. They will be working on note-taking skills and participating in activities like creating artifacts, building maps, and defending a point of view.

Social Studies 8: Eighth grade students will be completing their study of American History. Note-taking is still a very important aspect of this class. They will also write a research paper.

I hope that everyone has a safe, successful, and happy school year.

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

In all of my math classes we are reviewing concepts. Students are revisiting material they have already seen from last year. The first part of the school year starts off as a basic review, and then we transition into learning new concepts.

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

Welcome back! I am so excited for this school year. I have a fantastic 8th grade class. My goal this year is to help them channel their spirit and energy in the direction of leadership in the school. We are excited about leading the school towards lifting HIS name through daily Mass and Friday prayer services.

Literature: Each student has received a schedule of due dates and quiz dates for Vocabulary Workshop. These schedules have also been shared with them on Google Drive to reference if needed. We will have bi-weekly assessments in Vocabulary Workshop. Please help your students to stay on track.

We have begun to read our 1st quarter novels; 6th grade - *The Giver*, 7th grade - *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and 8th grade - *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It will help them with comprehension if you simply ask them about what's going on in their novels.

Religion: We will be covering the religion text as well as exploring the Bible throughout the year. Students should expect assessments every week to 10 days.



Upcoming Student Council Events

We have many great activities planned for this school year and your donations will help to make them come to fruition. More information to come soon.