

# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## *The Guide*

A monthly newsletter for the school community



*Volume 11, Issue 5*

*December 2022*

**From the Principal's Desk**

**Mrs. Julie Hayes**

Dear SRA Families,

We began the month of December by welcoming the Advent Season with lighting the Advent Wreath each week, listening to a daily message, adding ornaments to the Jesse Tree, the Second-Grade Reconciliation, and preparing each class for the Christmas Pageant. All in preparation for the birth of our Lord.

As I stated earlier this month, the first week of Advent brought us the Prophecy Candle focusing on the Hope of Christ. As we moved into the second week, we lit the Bethlehem Candle, remembering the Love of the Holy Family. Week three of Advent, we lit the pink candle representing the Shepherd's Candle remembering the Joy of the shepherds in the fields following the Star. And finally today, we lit the final candle of Advent, the Angel's Candle bringing us Peace on Earth. During this Advent and Christmas Season, may your families experience the gifts of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

There were two events this month that touched my heart with Joy. The first was when our Second-graders received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is nothing like seeing the joy on a little ones face when they leave the confessional. All the anxiety and nerves turn into a hearts filled with Joy. It touches my heart every time!

On the following day at Mass, Monsignor Stehly asked the student body if the second-grade class was glowing because they were in a State of Grace. He said they were so very close to Jesus because Grace brings you closer to Jesus. What a beautiful image. May we remember that every time we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Eucharist. We, too, are in a State of Grace-very close to Jesus.

The Christmas Pageant last week was the other event which brought sincere Joy to me. I think we were all ready for a simple night of singing Christmas songs. When I brought the idea to the faculty, it quickly became evident only Mrs. Connor had musical talents, the rest of the faculty humbly took on the task of planning and preparing the students for the performance. We know it wasn't some huge production, but it was humble and simple, and just what we all needed to get into the spirit of Christmas. Thank you to the teachers for all they did to make the event a success, and thank you for attending and the warm reception. Hope you enjoyed!

I will end this message with wishing your families a Very Blessed Christmas Season. Enjoy the down time with your family watching Christmas movies, viewing outdoor Christmas lights, making Christmas cookies, and time with loved ones, but most importantly, live in gratitude of our many gifts and blessings this year.

We will see you again in the New Year on Tuesday, January 3. Classes will resume on this day. Stay healthy!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Mrs. Hayes



## Announcements

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



### January Birthdays

**Ryan Stawizynski-2**  
**Frank Koziacki-3**  
**Caleb Fisher-4**  
**Mary Ellen Klos-5**  
**Leo Rice-5**  
**Anastasia Boxdorfer-6**  
**Stella Ronshausen-7**  
**Kerry Mense-9**  
**Addison Pfeiffer-10**  
**Ronan Stein-13**  
**Gavin Eddingfield-13**  
**Joe Snodgrass-15**  
**Josephine Lobello-16**  
**Rose Meyer-17**  
**Rosemary Schmitt-18**  
**Henry Kane-25**  
**Mr. Kraudel-27**

### July Half-Birthdays

**Helen Potts-2**  
**Corinne Pendry-5**  
**Olivia Wegman-8**  
**Sophia Peters-13**  
**Henry Potts-13**  
**Harper Bradshaw-15**  
**Thomas Potts-17**  
**Charlie Adams-19**  
**Cecelia Benner-19**  
**Lucca LoBello-20**  
**Ellie Kean-20**  
**Ophelia Dolan-23**  
**Katelynn Feldman-24**  
**Will McCartney-28**  
**Hazel Dougherty-28**  
**Miss Diane-28**  
**Carter Teeter-30**





## Miss Molly: Preschool A



The Angels have been very busy during this Christmas season!! They have made Christmas trees, stockings, Angels cards and presents for their parents and much more. They sang in the all school concert and had a Polar Express day with the Bears. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



## Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten

December has been a busy month filled with lots of learning and activities. We learned some new letters and numbers. We have talked a lot about advent and Christmas. The children were little elves making gifts



for mom and dad. We did an AMAZING job in the Christmas pageant singing loudly and performing the actions with excitement. We had silly sock for the letter S. The month ended with pajama/polar express day and the fabulous Christmas party. I can't wait to see what 2023 has in store for the Bears class.



## Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

We have been celebrating the Advent season in Kindergarten! We say a special Advent prayer each morning as we light our Advent wreath. We continue to work on 10 frames in math and will move into using our 10 frames with numbers 11-20 after the break. We will also begin guided reading groups next month which we are very excited about! We enjoyed a Polar Express Day last week with hot cocoa, a movie afternoon and lots of fun! Wishing everyone a blessed and restful holiday!



### **First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein**

First grade had a fun and busy December! We learned about Advent, continued to build our Sound Wall and explored using different kinds of graphs. We also worked hard to learn the song "Keep Christmas With You" for the Christmas program and did an amazing job performing! We ended the month with a Grinch Day full of Grinch science experiments, Grinch math, Grinch snacks and even a surprise visit from the Grinch himself! We are ready for Christmas... and a relaxing break!



### **Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks**

The end of Fall has been busy for Second Grade! Our Money unit ended with a Class Store where we were tested on our knowledge of counting coins and finding the total. In Writing we focused on Procedural writing and made our very own Pie In A Cup!

Second Grade made their First Reconciliation this past month and felt the gift of God's forgiveness and mercy for the first time! Thank you for your prayers during our preparation. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers during this Holiday season.

### **Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson**

Third Grade is very excited about the Birth of Christ. We have Jesse Trees and are learning what each ornament stands for and what each Advent Candle symbolizes. We created a MashUp song to sing at our Christmas Program on December 15, Thursday. We know Dean Martin's Let it Snow and matched it up with some verses from Let it Go from Frozen. Mr. McDermott helped us with the techno skills for musical soundtrack. It will be a wonderful time and bring us together as a school community for the spirit of Christmas! Have a Blessed Christmas and enjoy your family time.

### **Miss Gretchen Decker: Art**

It's the end of the first half of the school year! Early childhood got to make either snowflake fingerprint paintings or Christmas ornaments (that you got to see a sneak peak of at the Christmas Program!) and the older students will be very happy to see the test results they received on their latest art test. So much to come into the new year as the projects will get bigger over time! I hope everyone has a great Holiday Season and get to be around all their loved ones!

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

We have held our annual classroom spelling bee in grades 4 through 8. Congratulations to the following students who will be moving on to the next round:

4th grade: Daniella G., Sean M., Anna W., Emily F., Julia P., and the alternate is William S.

5th grade: Owen A., Jack B., Sophia B., Xavier C., Emmy K., and the alternate is Madi W.

6th grade: Lucas F., James B., Christian B., Clara T., Hannah K., and the alternate is Chase S.

7th grade: Jude P., Linus C., AJ C., Jonah A., Nolan M., and the alternate is Simon K.

8th grade: Sophia M., Claire F., Luke M., Maggie A., Miles M., and the alternate is Charlie D.

Let us all pray for these 30 students as they study for the next round to be held on January 31, 2023.

4th and 5th grade students have just completed and shared their persuasive essays for English class.

Some of them were pretty compelling!

4th grade students are beginning to learn about the hard life of slavery and have learned it was one of the main causes of the Civil War.

4th grade students are moving on to the third Commandment in religion class. They are having fun creating a slide show of the Ten Commandments.

7th grade students are finishing up chapter 14. They have learned about the Beatitudes.

Everyone had fun at our Christmas Pageant. We are grateful to be able to gather for this joyous occasion. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

### **Mrs. Connie Holbrook: Religion (5), Math (4-6), Literature/Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)**

I hope that everyone has a blessed Christmas holiday!

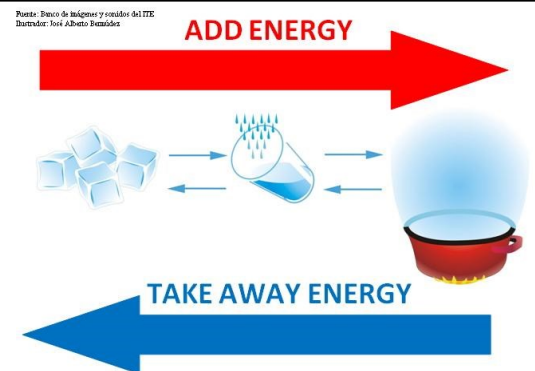
Fifth Grade: During Religion the students will be learning about the parts of Mass in detail. They will also be working on reading stories in book B in Literature. The focus in math will be dividing decimals, then beginning fraction concepts.

Fourth Grade: The focus in math will be Unit 4, multiplying by 1 and 2 digit numbers. Literature class will be stories in book B. While reading the students will learn more about the point of view in the stories.

Sixth Grade Standard Math: Now that Chapter 4 has been covered, students will move onto Chapter 5 which covers all fraction operations. There will be a quiz halfway through the chapter on adding and subtracting fractions.

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

6-7-8 just started the Unit on Thermal Energy, Heat Transfers and the Different Temperature Scales.





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

Religion: Grade Six students have learned about the Ten Commandments and are studying how the Israelites finally are able to return to the Promised Land. Grade Eight students are completing their study of the Catholic Church in the first century. They are about to begin exploring the Church in the Middle Ages.

Social Studies: Grade 6 students are completing their study of the cultures and geography of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Grade 7 students will be discovering the roots of Islam as part of their world history program. Grade 5 students are learning about the Midwest Region and are continuing their study of the American Revolution. Grade 8 students are about to complete the Civil War and will begin study of the period of Reconstruction that followed.

I hope everyone has a blessed and happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

### **Mr. Zach Almeida: Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, (7-8) Algebra (7-8)**

Algebra 2: Students are graphing rational functions using intercepts and asymptotes to draw a sign diagram.

Challenge: Students solving problems using fractions, decimals and percents.

Algebra 1: Students are applying properties of exponents to simplify expressions.

Pre-Algebra: Students are using properties of angles to solve for a missing angle in figures and triangles.

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

The middle school students composed informational pieces. The 6th graders wrote reports on animals. The 7th graders wrote reports on enslaved people and abolitionists. The 8th graders wrote reports on world leaders--some of them famous and some of them infamous.

Along with researching and paraphrasing, the students used strategies to make the beginning engaging as well as make the conclusion satisfying.

#### **Do the Right Thing Award**

On December 14, SRA's Ryan Schneider was presented with the "Do the Right Thing" award. He was one of 10 St. Louis youth who won the award. The ceremony took place at the St. Louis Police Headquarters. The photo is of Ryan, along with his parents.



### **Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education**

With the world cup happening this month, we have started soccer! I am excited to get everyone moving and playing. We will be continuing this into January as well.

