

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 6, Issue 7

February 22, 2018



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

Dear St. Raphael Families,

It is hard to believe the end of February is next week, but when I look back upon the month, my calendar has been quite full. From Grandparent's Day to Mardi Gras, to Ash Wednesday, to the holiday weekend, to the kick-off presentation for Jump/Hoops for Heart we had yesterday, we have been busy! We have a few more important dates to remember in February. First, tonight is the Confirmation Parent Meeting which will begin at 7 PM in the rectory. On Saturday, February 24th, Mrs. Connor, and our middle school students will present their projects at History Day hosted by UMSL. Thank you to Mrs. Connor for the many hours you have dedicated to our students' success.

February 28, 2018, is the final day families can apply and submit documentation to the Today and Tomorrow Education Foundation for a scholarship. We still have a few families who received a scholarship last year who have not applied for the 2018-2019 school year. Those families must reapply each year for the scholarship to continue. I am offering to meet with any family who would like my assistance in applying. Call the office, and we can set up a time to meet before February 28th.

Keep those 2018-2019 registration packets coming in. I know I listed March 15th as the deadline for registrations, but you don't have to wait until then to turn in your registration.

Jump/Hoops for Heart program began yesterday and will end with a pep rally on Wednesday, March 7th.

Tomorrow, the students may wear pajama pants/sweatpants with their uniform (girls-under your skirt) if they brought in canned goods this week.

This past month we have heard a lot about school safety in our nation. I would like to take a moment to speak on this topic. In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a safety audit is conducted whenever a new principal begins at a school. During the inspection, we were able to illustrate the many safety policies and procedures we have in place along with brainstorming ways to improve the safety of the school. Safety drills for fire, tornado and, earthquake have been standard in all schools for years. In light of our world today, we now practice with the students what to do if someone is in the building who doesn't belong there. I wanted to take a moment to let parents know we will begin discussing and practicing Intruder/Active Shooter Response drills over the next few weeks.

On Thursday, March 1, each class will view an 8-10 minute Intruder/Active Shooter Response video created by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the local police departments, and Catholic Family Services. The video is divided into age-appropriate segments: Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-12. Our Catholic Family Services counselor, Erika Freiling and I will present the video and follow up with a class discussion to answer any questions or concerns a student might have after viewing. Once all the students have seen the video, we will then schedule practice times for the entire school. Some of our older students may remember practicing this drill in the past.

In the upcoming weeks, I will be forming a Safety committee consisting of representatives of faculty members, parents, and police and fire professionals. The Safety Committee will come together to discuss our safety policies and procedures along with evaluating the safety of our current physical plant. I know the safety of our children is a high priority for all of us in the St. Raphael community.

In His Grace,

Mrs. Hayes

Announcements



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

All School Mass 8:00am

March 1

Weekday Mass (Lent)
2nd Grade Planning

March 8

St. John of God (Lent)
6th Grade Planning

March 15

Weekday Mass (Lent)
5th Grade Planning

March 22

Weekday Mass (Lent)
4th Grade Planning

Benediction 2:00pm
First Friday of the
month

Stations of the Cross
on Fridays during
Lent & Benediction



March Birthdays

Carly Weiss-1
Margaret Anstey-2
Liam Alisic-3
Jenna Holik-4
Max Sarich-11

Mr. Messmer-13

Serena Barrett-16

Miss Imo-21

Ava Stolte-22

Owen Abbott-23

Charles Dirnbeck-23

Miranda Sullenger-25

Cillian Sheehan-25

Piper Wright-25

Miss Woods-26

Mary Thompson-28

Congratulations to your alumni on making the 1st semester Honor Roll at Bishop DuBourg High School!

OLIVIA HACKETT 2014
MARY NELSON 2015
BENJAMIN KHOTSYPHOM 2016
RYAN LAMPE 2016
LIBERTY KOCSIS 2017

Congratulations

Recently, **St. Mary's High School sophomore, Will Hannibal, a 2016 graduate of St. Raphael**, was named Sophomore Dragon of the Month for January for his good works both in and out of school.



- March 1-23 - Pot of Gold Raffle
- March 1 – Weekday Mass (Lent) 2nd Grade Planning
- March 1 – 2:00pm Dance
- March 1 – 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- March 1 - 7:00pm 6th Grade Camp Parent Meeting at SRA
- March 2 – 2:00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
- March 5-9 - Jump Rope for Heart
- March 8 – Mass (Lent) St. John of God 6th Grade Planning
- March 8 – 2:00pm Dance
- March 8 – 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- March 9 – 2:00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
- March 9 - Confirmation Retreat/Service Day at School
- March 12-16 - Canned Food Drive
- March 13 – Spring Picture Day
- March 15 – Weekday Mass (Lent) 5th Grade Planning
- March 15 – 2:00pm Dance
- March 16 – 2:00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
- March 20 – 9:00-10:15am SRA Little Angels Play Date
- March 22 – Weekday Mass (Lent) 4th Grade Planning
- March 22 – 2:00pm Dance
- March 23 – 2:00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
- March 23 – End of 3rd Quarter
- March 26 – April 2 Spring Break Pre-K - 8**

- April 3 – School Resumes for Pre-K – 8
- April 9 – Report Cards Open

Kindergarten Registration

The process for the 2018-2019 Kindergarten registration is now open. Children who are to be registered must be 5 years old by July 31, 2018. If you are interested in touring our school or would like to request a packet of information and the registration form you will need to complete, please call the school office at 314-352-9474. Registration packets may also be mailed if requested.



Stephanie Amsler: STREAM/Coordinator (PK-8 Grades)

Mystery Bag Engineering Challenge: you must create something using the 14 items in the shopping bag, including the shopping bag.



5th graders created binoculars! These 5th graders made an airplane!

These 6th and 7th graders using magazine sheets to make a spiral cross.



Upcoming Student Council Events

March 1st - March 23rd - Pot of Gold Raffle
March 12th - March 16th - Canned Food Drive
April 13th - Mission Carnival

Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education

Over the past few weeks, our students have been working on a variety of simple gymnastic movements. These movements require muscular coordination, strength, flexibility, and balance. The gymnastics movements further develop each students' self-confidence, posture, and safety awareness.

The primary students have been working on several animal movements, which force them to use their hands and feet in a variety of different ways to develop good muscular strength and coordination. In my opinion, these movements build self-confidence in all the students. They also had a lot of fun with these activities!

Just a reminder, I will be conducting Jump Rope for Heart doing the week of March 5-9. So this president's week, let's remember the words of JFK when he established the "Presidential Fitness Program": "For physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body; it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity."

Let's all work to keep St Raphael school a fun, faith filled environment for both teachers and students.



Miss Stephanie Amsler: Science Teacher (Grade 4-8)

Fourth grade has just finished studying rocks. They studied rock classifications and how rocks are formed. They also learned key terms like weathering and erosion. To extend their knowledge about rock formation, 4th graders paired up and were assigned a volcano to learn about and teach the rest of the class by creating a Google Slides presentation.

Fifth grade has finished their unit about matter. They studied what matter is and what it is made of, all the way down to the nucleus. They learned about the elements on the periodic table and what each atomic number means. 5th graders chose an element from the periodic table with an atomic number less than 15 and had to draw a diagram of a single atom of that particular element using Google Drawing.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth grades have started their Science Fair projects! They are working on their research plans to learn the background information about their topics. Once that is complete, they can formulate strong hypotheses. Their project ideas range from finding out which hand sanitizer removes the most bacteria to creating scale models of buildings.

Miss Chris Pre-K Room B

We have had a great month in Pre-K B. We have learned all about Lent and were very excited about getting the opportunity to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. We had a great time at our Valentine/Mardi Gras party and are so grateful to the parents who planned and helped implement our party. We have been working on the letters O and P with themes such as the Ocean and *Pete the Cate* books. We are looking forward to Spring!



Miss Molly Preschool Room A

We have had a wonderful month. The kids have learned more numbers and letters this month and love to have fun with them. We sing songs, read books, do projects, and science for each new letter. This month we had the Stream Team visit our classroom. The kids made crazy art work with baking soda and food dye with vinegar. They had a blast and didn't want to stop.

We had a wonderful Mardi Gras/Valentine's Day party. I would like to thank all the parents for all their work and time they put into the parties. The kids love when you come and visit and have a great time playing games and eating.

Thank You and God Bless



Mrs. Kathy Doty: Music

KDG- We just completed melody. We sang "Are You Sleeping" and then listened to a song Called "Walking, Walking." Students had to listen to the what was the same (the Melody) and what was different. "Walking, Walking" had different words and actions.

First Grade- The class had to create verses for the song "Ants Go Marching." During class they acted out verses 1-10 and we added verses 11-15. They decided what direction the melody went up or down. One of our favorite activities was playing the "Freeze Game." When the word FREEZE was said in the song, they had to stop immediately. We sure did have some funny faces and poses.

Second Grade- We learned several rhythm patterns in our "Four in a Boat" song. They consisted of quarter notes, eighth notes and quarter rests. Students looked at various patterns and had to tell me what pattern they heard, (the rhythms were clapped, played on a hand drum). They also identified music symbols in various songs from our book. They are starting a unit on accents, speech pieces and strong beat.

Third Grade- We are completing how melody moves in songs. Do the notes that you see, repeat, skip or move by step? Also, what do you hear?

Fourth Grade- Students are working in groups and completing 8 measure rhythm patterns that will be played with the song "Rise and Shine." The song is about the building of the ark; Noah and the animals. Each group will perform their rhythm piece using body percussion (snapping, clapping, etc.) with the song.

Fifth Grade- Students have learned about form of a song. They are working in groups and are creating body percussion (snapping, clapping, toe tapping etc.) parts along with how they want to say the poem. Their poem is "Gotta Find a Footprint" by Jeff Moss. The form is ABACADA.

Sixth-Eighth Grade- Students have been creating an ABA Bones composition. They are working in groups and had a choice of two poems. Their group picked the one they wanted and are creating ways to present the poem. It can be sung, said like a rap and will also have body percussion (clapping, snapping, etc.). Section A is an 8 measure rhythm pattern they have composed and will use rhythm instruments to perform their rhythm. They will be presenting them to the class March 6th. They have shown me what is completed thus far, and have created very interesting compositions.

Kindergarten News: Miss Abby Morris & Mrs. Charis Doyle

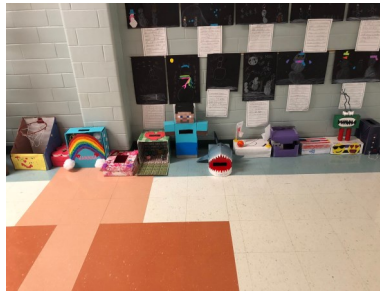
Hello SRA Community,

Kindergarten is working really hard this quarter. We have been learning shapes by making fun art projects and activities. The students learned about Groundhog Day and we had a great time at our Valentine's Day/Mardi Gras party. The students enjoyed handing out Valentines to their classmates. The students have been learning about the Olympic games. We have been writing about the different kinds of Olympic sports and learning about the history of the Olympics. We have been learning about the Season of Lent and will continue to prepare our hearts for Holy Week. Happy almost spring!



First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

In first grade, we started off our month with a wonderful Grandparents' Day. The students celebrated mass with their grandparents and then visited with them while eating donuts and playing bingo in the gym. Thank you to all the parents that helped make our Valentine's party so amazing, the first graders had a wonderful time. Each student brought in a handmade Valentine box and they were the most creative and unique boxes! We just finished up telling time in math and we are going to be adding two digit by two digit numbers. In language arts, we are going to be learning about and writing our own persuasion pieces. In science, we finished our animal classification unit and soon we will be starting a plant unit. Currently in social studies, we are learning about American Symbols, the students are really enjoying this. During Lent this year we have so much to learn, and in our family groups we started off our Lenten season with a school wide project. We wrote what sacrifice we will be making during Lent on a footprint. The eighth graders arranged the footprints on our Lenten poster displayed right outside the office in the hallway. We will be "Following the footprints of Jesus during Lent." In the classroom, we have a bean jar that the students will be using as a visual during our Lenten season. Every time a student makes a sacrifice they are able to place a bean in our jar. We might fill up a few jars and we are hoping that our beans will turn into jellybeans when we come back from Easter break. Please pray for us and know that the SRA community is in our prayers.



Second Grade News: Mark Messmer

It is hard to believe February is almost over. Second graders have been investigating and researching many new things in class. In science, we have been learning about animal classification and animal life cycles - this week is all about amphibians! In social studies, we have begun researching American inventors, which will be our writing project this quarter. On Tuesday, we even got to make our own inventions with the help of Ms. Amsler and Ms. Schaaf.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Catholic Schools Week was the best ever! We all feel very grateful to be getting a great education at Saint Raphael the Archangel. Third Grade has enjoyed some studies about space and the planets. We searched for the super blue blood moon to no avail. It was too cloudy here in St Louis. We know during February there will be no official full moon. We notice on the way to mass some mornings the shape of the moon and can predict whether the moon will be "bigger" or "dimmer" the following evening. We will soon be making posters depicting the phases of the moon. Ms. Polson is reading us *The Wishing Tree* by Katherine Applegate. We are all hard at work on our President Reports. We have been reading some African folktales: *Seven Spools of Thread*, *Anansi and Beatrice's Goat*. In English we are studying Chapter 4: adjectives and adverbs. We have been praying for Father Bob and made get well cards for his knee replacement. Mrs. Koziacki has taken us in small groups to learn Yahtzee, a good game for practicing multiplication.



Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 8)

Fourth grade has been and will continue to be working on the unit on capitalization and punctuation in English. We took a few days off to talk and learn more about Dred Scott and will be taking a field trip in April to the Old Courthouse to reenact the Dred Scott Freedom Trial. The fourth-graders will be writing a reflection essay after this experience.

Fifth grade has been and will continue to work through the unit on the proper use of pronouns in English.

Sixth grade will continue with their studies of capitalization and punctuation. When this unit is complete, they will begin to work on a research paper. They will begin this research work towards the beginning of March.

Seventh grade English will be finishing their unit on capitalization and punctuation this week, and look forward to a test to be given on February 28th. Once that is complete, they will join sixth grade in beginning a research essay.

Eighth grade has recently completed their unit on capitalization and punctuation. They have already begun to learn about what it takes to write a research essay. They have already read through a few and are picking up on cues to keep personal opinions out of it, using direct quotes, and including a bibliography.

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

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders have been focusing on the Sacraments of Healing. We learned how Jesus can heal us of our sins during Reconciliation and how God can heal people both physically and spiritually during the Anointing of the Sick. During Math, the students are adding and subtracting fractions with both like and unlike denominators. The fifth graders have been reading about the Gold Rush during Literature. They have determined advantages and disadvantages of the various ways to mine gold.

Fourth Grade: During Religion, the students have been learning how to obey the sixth- tenth commandments. We have had numerous discussions on ways to respect others. The fourth graders have started their unit on fractions in math. We started with learning what a fraction is and how to find equivalent fractions. They are enjoying reading the book *Shiloh*. After every couple of chapters, the students will discuss important themes and topics with a small group. They will also answer questions in Google Docs to help enhance their understanding of the numerous literary elements that occur in the story.

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

Religion: We are learning about the judges and how they helped the Israelites settle into their homeland. We will begin learning about the Kings in the next few weeks.

Social Studies 4: Students are continuing to study the 50 U.S. states and are learning how the national and state governments function.

Social Studies 5: Students in Grade 5 are working on their state region booklets. They are also studying the events that led to the American Revolution.

Social Studies 6: Grade 6 students completed their study of the Middle Ages. They have begun looking at the civilizations of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca people.

Social Studies 7: Seventh grade students learned how the U.S. government was set up under President George Washington. They are doing research on the Corps of Discovery with the Lewis and Clark exploration of the Louisiana Purchase territory.

Social Studies 8: Eighth grade students completed their study of World War II. They have begun learning about the Cold War and its effect on the United States.

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

In Standard, we have explored the basics of geometry. We will be testing over this material on Tuesday.

In Challenge, we have been working with geometric figures. This entails angle measures and polygons. Their chapter test will be Monday.

In Pre-Algebra, we have examined linear equations and inequalities. We are finishing up this chapter and testing tomorrow.

This upcoming month...

In Standard, we will be introducing area and volume for basic shapes and figures.

In Challenge, we will start area for multiple polygons, as well as explore square roots and pythagorean theorem.

In Pre-Algebra, we will examine sequences and linear, exponential, and quadratic functions. This will be crucial for 8th grade going into high school next year.

In Algebra, students will be introduced to quadratic equations and functions. This too will be important going into freshman year of high school.



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

Congratulations to our 8th grade class for getting into their 1st choice high schools. I am so proud of the effort they have given throughout the years to achieve their goals of going to the Catholic high schools of their choice.

Literature classes have continued our holocaust journey by reading *Between Shades of Gray* (8th), *The Book Thief* (7th), and *Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl* (6th). Although these books are often difficult to read, the students seem to enjoy learning about the trials that both the victims and survivors experienced throughout the atrocity. In March we will begin our much anticipated Shakespeare unit. 8th grade will read *Romeo and Juliet*, 7th will read *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and 6th will read *The Taming of the Shrew*. Please encourage students to read every night and discuss the events that they read about. Shakespeare is a difficult genre to get through, but with constant review, the students will be successful.

During this last month, 8th grade religion has focused on responding with love, being agents of grace, and being holy men and women in our changing world. This next month we will trace the Catholic Church in America from its beginnings to the present. In addition to our Confirmation preparation, 7th grade religion has been learning how to plan a liturgy, gaining an in-depth knowledge of the Stations of the Cross, and how to share ourselves with others through service.

Vocabulary Workshop schedule should be taped/stapled to your student's vocabulary book cover or in their assignment notebooks. I have also shared the schedule with each of them on Google Drive. Unit 10 test is February 20th, Unit 11 test is March 6th, and Unit 12 test is March 20th.