

# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 8, Issue 7

February 20, 2020



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

**"Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity, and to grow in friendship with the Lord." By Pope Francis**

Dear SRA Families,

It seems as if we just began the month of February, and now I am addressing events for next week, the last week of February. The Lenten Season will start next week, so the faculty has prepared various activities to encourage our students to experience a prayerful journey by doing a Lenten Act daily. Be sure to ask your child about their Lenten Act each day.

On **Tuesday, February 25**, the teachers will be hosting games in their classrooms for the **MISSION CARNIVAL**. Traditionally at SRA, the Mission Carnival takes place on Mardi Gras- "Fat Tuesday." With a **\$5.00 donation to the Missions**, a student may play as many games as time allows during the carnival. Students will win tickets that they can place in containers for a chance to win a variety of prizes. See attached flyer for more information. Our Student Council has been researching charitable organizations that we can support as a school. Also, with the \$5 donation, students **may wear Mardi Gras colored accessories with their uniforms on this day**.

**February 26 is Ash Wednesday**. We have three items I want to make a note of in this message. The students will be attending **Mass at 1:45 PM** instead of the 8:00 AM Mass. Families are welcome to join us!

On Wednesday morning, **St. John Vianney High School** students will be coming to St. Raphael School to present their spring musical, "**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown**." I am sure the students will enjoy their performance.

That evening, Mrs. Connor and I will host the **6th Grade Camp Parent Meeting** in the **school library**. We have changed the time **to 6:00 PM** because the evening Ash Wednesday Mass begins at 7:00 PM.

**History Day**- Some of our students have been working since the fall on their project for History Day next Saturday, February 29. We applaud Mrs. Connor for her dedication to this program and the students for their commitment to their projects. We wish them well next week!

The virtue for the month of March will be **TEMPERANCE**- *Enjoying things in a proper, balanced way*. Sounds like the perfect virtue for all of us to focus on during our own Lenten journey.

Finally, a message from the **SRA School Board**:

*"The nominations for persons interested in serving on the school board are now open. We invite you to contact a member of the board if you would like to serve on the board.*

*The purpose of the board is to advise school administration in making policy for the school. The School Board meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.*

*Thank you for prayerfully considering serving!"*

Blessings,  
Mrs. Hayes



## Announcements



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

### **March 5**

First Week of Advent  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Planning

### **March 12**

Second Week of Lent  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning

### **March 26**

Fourth Week of Lent  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning

### **Stations of the Cross**

**2:00pm**

March 6  
March 13  
March 27

Benediction/Adoration  
2:00pm  
First Friday of the month



### **March Birthdays**

Carly Weiss-1  
Maggie Anstey-2  
Matthew Morrell-7

### **Mrs. Amy Mechler-10**

Benjamin Kean-10  
Katherine Ilg-14  
Serena Barrett-16  
David Hiatt-17  
Ava Roth-18

### **Mrs. Knauer-21**

Owen Abbott-23  
Charles Dirnbeck-23  
Cillian Sheehan-25  
Piper Wright-25

### **Miss Woods-26**



# MARCH

March 6	4:00-7:00pm Fish Fry
March 3	End of Third Quarter
March 5	2:00pm Dance
March 5	3:15-4:15pm Chess Club
March 6	2:00pm Benediction/Adoration
March 7	10:30am - 12:30pm March on the Arch
March 9	3:15-4:15pm SRA Garden Club
March 10	Spring Pictures – Dress Up
March 10	3:15-4:15pm De Angelis Children’s Choir Rehearsal
March 11-12	Archdioceses Song Festival for Grades 1 & 2
March 12	2:00pm Dance
March 13	Report Cards Open
<b>March 16-20</b>	<b>Spring Break – Preschool – 8</b>
March 24	3:15-4:15pm De Angelis Children’s Choir Rehearsal
March 26	2:00pm Dance
March 29	10:00am Mass Confirmation Bow Sunday
March 28	6:30pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mouse Races

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.**

February has gone quite a bit faster than January to say the least. As we move throughout the next couple months 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be working on completing Science Fair projects for our Fair on the 27th of March. The top two from each class will place as our top six and move on to Queeny Park.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grades- As mentioned above 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be completing a variety of assignments to prepare themselves for the SRA Science Fair. This includes a hypothesis, problem statement, research background on their topic, conditions, supply lists, and more as they get ready to present their research and findings.

5th Grade- 5th grade has begun working through learning about mixtures, compounds, solutions, etc. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be reviewing the material and then taking a test to wrap up the unit. Then 5th grade will be moving on to research about a scientist or inventor of their choice.

4th Grade- 4th Grade has just started to work on electrical circuits. We started a unit working with Lego WeDo 2.0 kits. These kits include a variety of challenges to build that students must work together to complete. The students have shown their interest and ability to take these challenges head on.



**Miss Molly: Preschool A**

February has been fast and furious!! We had a great time at our Valentine party and sharing Valentines with our friends.

The kids finished the letters I, L, and are moving on to the letter C. We have learned about ice and snow, lions, lambs, and the love from the word of God.

Thanks to Father for blessing the throats of our little ones.

Have a great weekend and God Bless.



**Miss Chris: Prekindergarten**

Happy Valentine's Day from the Bears. We hope everyone's hearts are filled with love and joy.

We have been battling a lot of illnesses the last couple of weeks, but are continuing to work hard and have lots of fun. We began working on sequencing skills, as we continue our work on letter sounds, recognition, and writing.

We are looking forward to Spring with sunny days and healthy Bears!



**Kindergarten News: Miss Lu Ann Domijan**

WOW! The field trip to movie theatre was AWESOME! Thanks for letting us go.

We finished up our penguin unit and listen to the story *Tacky the Penguin*. As you can see we wore "Tacky" accessories to school.



The Valentine's Day party was so much fun! Thank you parents!





# Mission Carnival Mardi Gras Tuesday February 25th With a \$5.00 donation per student

Students will participate in an afternoon of fun and games hosted by each teacher.

All proceeds will go to two or three charitable organizations chosen by the Student Council.

Students have a chance to win a variety of prizes!

Stuffed animals

Dress Down Day

Candy

Challenge Mr. Bruno & Mr. Spurgeon in basketball

Just to name a few!

The Mission Carnival is a fun way for the school to prepare for the Lenten Season!



## *The Parent's Corner We're in Your Corner*



### **St. Louis Counseling**

#### ***Active Listening***

We put a pretty huge emphasis on showing acts of love in our society—grand gestures, gifts, elaborate showing of affection. When it comes right down to it, there's a simpler way to show your child that you love them—it's free, it takes a minimal amount of time, and you don't have to include anyone else or make anything. It's called active listening, and it is quite powerful.

Our worlds are busy, and it can sometimes feel like our little people are taking up A LOT of our time and space in addition to all the other things we have going on in life. BUT, as tempting as it can be to rush through a conversation or brush off a problem, our kids are trying to share with us (especially when it's been a long, bad, or busy day), and they need to know that we are listening to them. **Really** listening to them.

Often times, we find that when a child feels misunderstood or unheard, their emotions escalate and so do behaviors. Active listening is another tool for your toolbox for combatting those feelings and helping your child know you're on their team. By actively listening, you are communicating that they are worthy of your attention. By taking time to hear what they have to say, you are demonstrating that their view of the world has merit. By allowing them the time to work through their struggle without jumping in and giving your advice or opinion, you are showing your trust in their ability to solve problems.

When it comes to modeling what it's like to be an active listener, there are just a few things to remember: Give your full attention to your child. Make eye contact and stop whatever you are doing. Get down on their level if possible. And repeat back what you heard them say to make sure you understand. It sounds like a lot, but it can do wonders for your relationship, your connection, and their self-esteem. Listening to the little stuff now makes it more likely they will come to us with the big stuff later. So...are you listening?

1. **Reflect.** Reflection is one way for you to show you are actively listening to your child. You don't have to repeat exactly what they said, but you want to let them know that you are listening and trying to understand them. If you misunderstood in any way, this allows for time to confirm that you understand each other.
2. **Accept.** This is not the time to object, teach, help solve a problem, or ask a ton of questions. This is a time to demonstrate acceptance and let your children talk without interruptions or judgment, while you listen to what they have to say.
3. **Empathize.** Although the situation being discussed may not seem like a big deal to you, your child's perception of the situation is very real to them. Giving them a chance to not only disclose their thoughts and feelings but also have a safe adult letting them know that you can understand where they are coming from can help them de-escalate and focus on solutions.
4. **Model.** As always, you are your child's model of behavior. Showing them how to take time to communicate and take time to listen can help their communication skills flourish and carry over into other relationships they have with peers and adults.

~If you continue to have concerns, contact your school counselor to make a plan for a success—they're full of ideas, and are always in your corner!~  
February 2020

# A Night at the Mouse Races

benefiting our 5<sup>th</sup> grade class



## When:

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Doors open at 6:30pm**

**Races start at 7:00pm**



## Where:

**St. Raphael the Archangel Gym  
6000 Jamieson Ave/ St. Louis, MO 63109**

## All Inclusive Pricing:

**\$150.00 per table (limit 10 per table)**

**Beer/ Soda/ Snacks Included**

## Reservations:

**Make Checks Payable to SRA**

**Return Registration Form with payment to**

**SRA Rectory**

**6047 Bishops Place**

**St. Louis, MO 63109**

**314-352-8100**

## Questions:

**Jen Delf – [jenniferLdelf@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferLdelf@gmail.com) or 314-323-6073**

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## Mouse Race Reservation -

**Contact Name, Number & Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Table Members** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Mrs. Kathy Doty: Music**

**These are the topics the students are working on in music.**

PreK A and B will be learning more about the percussion instruments used in the classroom, following rhythms, and using their singing voice.

Kindergarten will be learning the different sounds of classroom percussion instruments and learning about the variation of melodies: high and low, fast and slow, loud and soft.

1st and 2nd Grade students are preparing for the "Elementary Song Fest" where they will be performing two songs and singing in a group setting. They will be using their best singing voices, memorizing the words of all songs (packets will be going home). They will be part of the audience while listening to other schools perform their songs.

3rd and 4th Grade students will be learning how to play recorders, how to read music, and playing songs on the recorder. The students will also be working together as a group.

5th – 8th Grade students will be completing their RONDO project and presenting it to their class. It will require both group and Individual participation.

### **First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt**

First grade had a great time celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We started off the week with several visitors at our open house. The first grade really enjoyed our movie outing at the Des Peres movie theatre and our service day. The students made dog toys for the APA and Valentines for various nursing homes. Our week ended with our grandparents coming to school for mass, treats, and Bingo. The first grade had a wonderful time celebrating our 100th day of school. In math, we are beginning to learn how to add and subtract double digits without re-grouping. We also continue to work with numbers in the hundreds. In social studies, we are finishing up our unit on American symbols. The students really have enjoyed learning about different presidents. We are hopeful that spring is around the corner with some warmer weather. The first grade will keep you in our Lenten prayers and please keep us in yours as we begin that season.



### **Second Grade News: Mrs. Leslie Lewis**

The second grade parents met with Father John, Mrs. Hayes and Ms. Lewis to discuss preparations for First Communion. The children are very excited to begin their new books to prepare them.

Second graders are also doing research on an important, unknown African American person for Black History Month. They will each make a presentation to the other classes next week. They are doing a great job using the Chromebooks to discover facts about the person they selected.

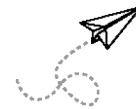
Do you know how many marshmallows are in Lucky Charms? Your child knows and can explain to you how we found out. Thanks to the moms that provided snacks and a game for our Valentine's party. We appreciated it!!



*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Mother Teresa*

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

Third grade truly enjoyed all the Valentine festivities. We are doing 2 digits times 1 digit in multiplication and worked through a Valentine maze in math. Ms. Franks had some fun lessons about contractions for us in spelling/English. We know all about descriptive and limiting adjectives now (Unit 4 in our English text). We can recite the Nicene Creed in a choral reading. Ms. Polson is reading to us about King George III in England and George Washington. Our President reports have been fun to share with one another. Evan won our glider (STREAM) contest; his plane flew 1030 centimeters down the hallway! Evan's Valentines were even paper airplanes, one for everybody in our class. Congratulations!!

**Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 7)**

In religion, the fourth graders have almost finished their studies of the Ten Commandments.

In social studies, the fourth graders have been working hard and learning about slavery as being one of the main reasons for the Civil War. We have talked at length about the contributions of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. We will continue this unit by discussing Dred Scott and his contributions which will culminate with a field trip to the Old Courthouse to reenact Dred Scott's Freedom Trial this spring.

In English, the 4th-7th graders are beginning their next essay, a comparison/contrast essay.

**Mrs. Amanda Knauer: 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 enjoying their Book Club books in literature. It is great to hear their predictions on what is going to happen next. The students are also working on finding the theme and writing a story based on a particular theme.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders have continued work with fractions during math. The students have been adding and subtracting fractions with both like and unlike denominators. In literature, the students 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.

**Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education**

The students have now completed their basketball physical education program for this year. Over the next few weeks they will be working with jump ropes, as well as other rhythm activities. I will introduce the students to various games that require using the jump ropes in different ways working with partners and in small groups. They will be participating in rhythm, agility, and cardiovascular exercises.

All of our students, K-8, will be taking part in Jump Rope for Heart, with grades 3-8 doing Hoopsters for Heart. Our school participated in Jump Rope for Heart two years ago. We were very successful in raising money for the American Heart Association. I feel confident that we can do it again this year!

With spring break only a few weeks away, I hope all my students will continue putting forth effort and working hard in class.



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

Religion: We are learning how the Israelites entered Canaan and what they had to do to win the land from the Canaanites.

Social Studies 5: We are learning about the American Revolution, beginning with the battles at Lexington and Concord. We are also looking at the Declaration of Independence.

Social Studies 6: In class we are learning about the ancient Greeks. We are studying a map of Greece and finding out about the bodies of water, islands, and some of the ancient cities.

Social Studies 7: We have discussed the administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and have learned about the War of 1812. We are currently working on a slide presentation about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Social Studies 8: We have learned about the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed. Our class is working on a slide presentation about the Great Depression.

English 8: We have just completed the unit about verbs and are beginning the unit about modifiers.

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

In standard math, we are working with ratios and proportional relationships.

In challenge, we are starting percents.

In pre-algebra, we are working on multi-step equations and inequalities.

In algebra, we have finished up with properties of exponents. We will be exploring polynomials next.

In algebra II, we are finishing up with quadratic equations.

**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 *The Merchant of Venice*, and 6th will read *The Taming of the Shrew*. Please encourage students to review 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. Cumulative Unit 1-9 Test is Tuesday, February 25th and Unit 10 Test is Tuesday, March 10th.