

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community



Volume 9, Issue 5

February 26, 2021

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

February 26, 2021

Hello SRA Families,

As I sat down and gathered my thoughts to write this message for The Guide this month, my mind traveled back to one year ago as we anticipated the effects of the predicted new virus and how it would affect the world. Would we have to go virtual? How long might we be away from school? It is kind of dreamlike now to even think it was going to be a short-term event back then. And so on...it is a bit surreal.

Well, here we are again, still thinking through, meeting, and discussing what each next event will look like and what interventions we have to have in place to keep our school healthy and safe. So, I wanted to take a moment to share some of those decisions made for the upcoming 4th quarter.

I met with the Covid Task Team and the faculty over the past few weeks to discuss two topics: the return of the 5-day week and return with a virtual week after the Spring Break week.

First, **we will return to the 5-day week for the 4th quarter.** Those students who have been virtual for the entire year will be allowed to continue that learning platform for the 4th quarter, but Fridays will now return to a regular school day the week we return from Spring Break.

The more difficult decision has been how we handle the week after Spring Break. We were hoping our teachers would have had the opportunity to be vaccinated by this time of the year, but the vaccine rollout has been slow. Keeping our faculty and staff healthy and safe continues to be the instrumental factor in our decisions this year.

It is a concern for the SRA administration that vaccinations for our teachers/staff may not happen by the time we return from Spring Break. Still, after much discussion and discernment, Fr. John and I determined it is also essential to bring our students back to the classroom instruction. **The week after Spring Break will be in-person instruction Monday through Friday.**

We will require that if families have traveled on spring break, were in large or small gatherings outside of their households, without a mask, within 6 feet of one another, they are required to stay home five days upon their return. There is no judgment placed upon a family that may travel, but we ask for your support and compliance to continue to offer a safe environment for all.

Here are a few important dates for March:

March 4 2nd Gr. First Communion Parent Meeting at 6:30 PM
March 9 Dress-Up Spring Pictures (Out of Uniform Photos)
March 11 End of 3rd Quarter
March 15-19 Spring Break for Preschool-8th Grade
March 22-26 In-person Instruction (5 days)
March 26 3rd Quarter Report Cards Open
March 28 Confirmation Bow Sunday - 10 AM Mass

One final note, today, February 26, is the last day to apply for scholarships through the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation. Previous Flocknotes were sent out with this information during the past two months. School registration coupon for the \$100 discount for registration fees ends on Monday, March 1. Please contact the school if you have further questions.

Thank you to all that supported the Black and Gold Auction this month. From the entire faculty and staff, **Thank You!**

Blessings,
Mrs. Hayes

Announcements



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



March Birthdays

Carly Weiss-1
Maggie Anstey-2
Matthew Morrell-7
Charlie Ronshauen-12
Katherine Ilg-14
Serena Barrett-16
David Hiatt-17
Ava Roth-18
Mrs. Knauer-21
Mrs. Lahm-21
Owen Abbott-23
Charles Dirnbeck-23
Cillian Sheehan-25
Piper Wright-25
Miss Woods-26
Mrs. Magee-26
Maura Kleissler-28
Bernard Powderly-31



MARCH

March 4	6:30pm 2nd grade First Communion Parent meeting
March 9	Spring Pictures (Out of Uniforms Photos)
March 11	End of Third Quarter
March 15-19	Spring Break Preschool – 8
March 22-26	In-Person Instruction (5 days)
March 26	3rd Quarter Report Cards Open
March 28	10:00am Mass 7th Grade Confirmation Bow Sunday
April 1	Holy Thursday No School Preschool-8
April 2	Good Friday No School Preschool-8
April 4	Easter Monday No School Preschool-8





February 12, 2021

Dear Ms. Hayes, SRA Teachers, Students and Families,

It is evident that living Faith through Service is a vital part of your Excellent school community. What all of you did this past week to celebrate Catholic Schools week was a "work of heart". You literally used your hands to do God's work for our homeless brethren; and for this we are very grateful.

Let me share with you a message I received from John, the Director of Americorps Shelter:

"Thank you for your prayers. We will make it until Saturday. Last years food was good, but this years food has been even better. Due to the frigid temperatures we have gone 24/7 since last Saturday. Our guests and I are so grateful for the delicious food. It is because of your extraordinary hospitality that we have literally saved lives this winter. Thank you for your faithfulness to Matthew 25.

'As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me'

May God Bless you and keep you all safe and warm.

John, Keenan, Zippy, Mary, and the Winter outreach gang."

Your generosity will continue to save lives as the homeless search each each day for a warm place to stay and a good meal to eat. Men, women and children will benefit from your compassionate outpouring of service. Thank you!

I continue to marvel at the amazing people that God invites into this Ministry of Mercy; and am so grateful that he invited all of you. Please pray for our homeless brethren everyday and thank God for your family, your warm homes and the good meals you always have.

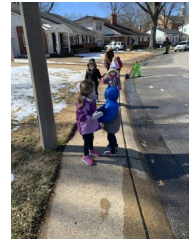
We are truly blessed!

Mary Ellen Mueller

Mary Ellen Mueller (Coordinator of Winter Outreach Meal Ministry)

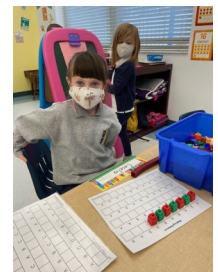
Miss Molly: Preschool A

PreK-A is going strong, learning all about the letter C. We have talked about cars, colors, coloring, cats, and clowns. We even had a circus in the room. There are so many things to learn and do with the letter. We did enjoy some days off with the snowstorm. When they got back, we had science fun making storm clouds in the room. We had a great time at our Valentine party playing games, making projects, and getting sweet treats. February has been very busy and full of fun! Thank you and God bless.



Mrs. Liz: Prekindergarten

We have been hard at work in Preschool B. We began working with patterns and are becoming experts on AB, AABB, and ABC patterns. We try to work patterns into our daily schedule and one of our favorite things to do is to make a girl/boy pattern when we line up and have our circle time. We worked with the letters P and R and are currently learning about letter N this week. We are also working hard at learning lowercase letters and are doing several activities each week to match the capitals and lowercase letters together. One of our other favorite things to do is to tally-we are getting good at this skill. This week's weather has been such a relief and a pleasant surprise, and we have been enjoying walks around the neighborhood each day.



Kindergarten News: Miss Lu Ann Domijan

Kindergarten is learning how to identify long and short vowels, retelling stories in order of events, and writing fact books.

We are learning about penguins in science. Kindergartners listen to fact books and Tacky the Penguin story. We were so excited Tacky came to visit our classroom.

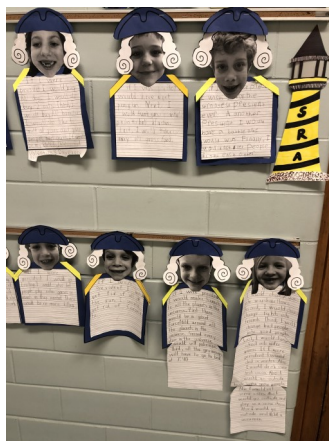
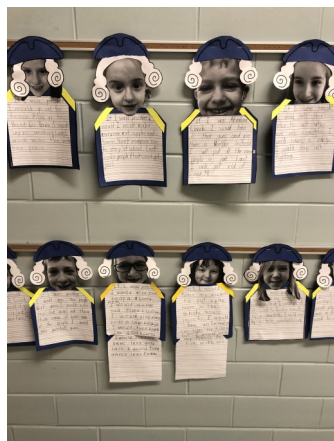
For "Career Day" we wore clothes to represent what we would like to be when we grow up. We celebrated by dressing up like our grandparents.



Catholic Schools week was a lot of fun! Thank you parents and teachers who have made it possible for us to have so much fun and fond memories.

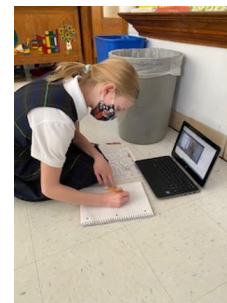
First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

First grade had a fantastic time celebrating Catholic Schools Week and are thankful to everyone who made it special. Our Valentine boxes turned out perfect and we were thrilled that we were able to pass out Valentines to our friends. Now that we have started our Lenten journey we are turning to prayer, sacrifices, and extra acts of kindness during this time of repentance. The students are very proud of the beans they have been able to add to our Lenten sacrifice jar. If you want to know what we would do if we were president, please read our responses outside of our classroom. As March approaches very quickly, we hope the weather is warm and the snow stays away. God bless everyone during our spring break!



Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks

Second graders have had a very busy and lively winter so far. We have finished up our money unit. We ended this unit with a trip to the class store to practice finding totals and making change. We researched influential members of the Black community and completed reports on them in celebration of Black History Month. There are posters, papers, and timelines galore. We are presenting our research to the class to practice public speaking skills. We even took advantage of the beautiful days to practice some spelling words outside. Please keep second grade in your thoughts and prayers as we begin preparation for our First Holy Communion.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third grade loved their Valentine's Day Party. It is always fun to time to open Valentines from everyone. Mrs. Zitko sent home wonderful prize bags for the class. Mark, our virtual friend, got to attend also. We enjoyed Oreo Blizzards from Dairy Queen while watching the movie we voted for, Soul. Catholic Schools Week was lots of fun and we enjoyed dressing up each day. Lots of photo opportunities! We had a Championship Tabletop Basketball Game (many indoor recesses allowed us this). Jack came in first, followed by Lilly, Caroline, and Adriana in the finals. Third grade learned a great deal in sharing all our knowledge about presidents with one another. And of course, we also were lucky enough to earn a snow day or two. February flew by!!

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

Congratulations to Clara in fourth grade who won the school-wide Spelling Bee in early February. I also want to congratulate Henry in eighth grade who is the runner-up.

In fourth and fifth grade English classes, all students have recently completed the unit on verbs and are moving on to the next unit on adjectives. We will also be working on our next essay which is a comparison/contrast essay.

In seventh grade religion, classes are focusing on getting ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In fourth grade religion, we are continuing our studies of the Ten Commandments.

In fourth grade social studies, we are continuing our studies of the regions of the United States.

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

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders have been focusing on the Sacraments of Healing. They 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 have been focusing on multiples, divisibility rules, exponents, and factors all to help prepare for the upcoming chapters on fractions. The students are enjoying reading *Bud, Not Buddy*. Talking about the twists and turns in the novel leads to great discussion!

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders are continuing to work on mastering the tough skill of long division. I have loved seeing their progress and how excited they get "when the light bulb finally comes on." In literature, the students are enjoying reading the book *Shiloh*. After every couple of chapters, the students discuss and write about important themes and topics.

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

4th grade has been studying how the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition form rocks. Currently, students are learning about the different types of fossils and rocks.

5th grade has been learning about light, color, and the visible light spectrum. Currently, students are studying the concept of the sun as earth's source of energy and light.

6th, 7th, & 8th grade students are working on their St. Louis Science Fair projects. The science fair projects are due no later than March 8th.



Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education

This month we have been working on kicking skills at every grade level. We have used various games to teach these skills. We have played games like longball, pin mania, and soccer to work on these skills. With the nicer weather coming, (and hopefully staying) we will have the chance to get outside and practice even more.



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

Religion: In grade 6, we have completed a unit on the Judges of the Old Testament and will begin a unit on the Kings. In grade 8, we are continuing with Church history. We are currently learning about the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.

Social Studies: Students in grade 6 have just begun a chapter about the continent of Africa. We are studying about Africa's geography. In seventh grade, we are beginning to study the United States Constitution. In grade 8, we are learning about imperialism leading up to the start of World War I. Students in grade 5 are completing a unit about Westward Expansion in the United States.

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

In standard math we are exploring basic geometric components.

In challenge math we are covering data representation.

In pre-algebra we are exploring polynomials.

In algebra we are also exploring polynomials, but in a greater complexity than in pre-algebra.

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

Civitas

The 6th, 7th and 8th graders are participating in Civitas this year. Civitas is a model UN program. The students each chose a country that is a member of the United Nations. They have done some research (and will do more) as they determine how they--as delegates representing their new country--can make the world a better place. If their country has some wealth and does not have to deal with natural disasters or human rights issues, they will work to help less fortunate countries. If they are a nation that has many obstacles, they will create a resolution (a document) to "solve" one of those problems. Later in the spring, we will have a General Assembly and will present and defend some of our resolutions.

ELA

The 6th-8th graders are writing nonfiction pieces, along with some poetry. We will be working on essay writing next.

