

# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

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From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

The Guide - January 30, 2025

Hello SRA Families,

Catholic Schools Week is always a special week for our community. It is a time of year when we try to celebrate all that is good about Catholic Schools—the Families, Teachers, Students, Grandparents, and how we live our faith. Our service project- Claver House, has been extremely successful because of our community's generosity. We brought back the coffee and donuts for drop-off and Family Trivia this year, which was fun, and the teachers enjoyed a delicious lunch and extra time to enjoy each other's company. Today, the classes enjoyed a fun day playing on huge blow-up slides and obstacle courses in the gym and playing games in the classrooms, along with a special treat at lunch. We know all will always enjoy Grandparents' Day! Whew, we are all tired, for sure! Hope your kids enjoyed it, too!

This month, we experienced a staffing change. Our nurse, Kate Dawson, had to resign for personal reasons. At this time, Mrs. Shaver and I will cover the nursing duties just like we did before we had a nurse. Please send all correspondence regarding the nurse to both of us, and we will help you. I will keep you posted if anything changes.

**Morning Drop-Off-** Thank you for your patience and understanding with the January morning drop-off. The ice and snow have been challenging for all, but hopefully, this warm weather will help to shrink the ice piles. I do have one concern to share with families. We prefer that students exit their cars on the school side for safety reasons, but sometimes that is not possible because of car seats with younger children on the school side. When that is the case, and a child needs to exit from the driver's side of the car, we would like for the student to walk in front of the parent's car. I want each parent to observe their child making it safely to the other side before driving off. We had a situation where a parent drove off as their child walked behind the family car, but the next car didn't see the child crossing. There is a lot going on when children exit the vehicles, so paying attention to everything happening in the car in front of you is not always possible. Please advise and remind your child to cross in front of your car when exiting on the driver's side. Thank you.

**Summer Camp** is happening this year! Mrs. Franz and Miss Decker will take the lead. Registration information is on the website now. SRA families must register by the end of February, and then registration will be open to the public. You can contact Mrs. Franz or Miss Decker with any questions at [franz@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:franz@straphaelarchangel.org) or [decker@straphaelarchangel.org](mailto:decker@straphaelarchangel.org).

**Snow Days**—What a strange January this has been with the weather and having to use all three snow days in one week! Going forward, if we need to call school off because of inclement weather, we will implement AMI days—**Alternative Methods of Instruction Days**. This is a little different than the traditional virtual day because we will not send home devices as we did in the past. Teachers in the Upper Grades will send lessons through their Google Classroom platform and offer office hours to Zoom for student questions. Teachers in the younger grades will email a packet of activities for the students to complete. Not all families have devices for each child to attend lessons throughout the day, so the packets may have extended due dates for completion. Also, parents may have to work and may need to wait until the evening to be able to assist their child if required. Hopefully, we won't need any more snow days, but I wanted you to know what will happen if we do. Additional instructions will be sent if that time comes.

Let me end with a reminder about **Grandparents' Day tomorrow**. Grandparents are to find a seat in the church, and the students will come to them. Students can leave with their Grandparents at any time during the morning, but they must sign out at one of the three locations: the main foyer, gym entrance, or cafeteria entrance. No aftercare is tomorrow. Students who do not leave with their grandparents must be picked up by noon.

Thank you to all the families for your support during Catholic Schools Week. Thank you to the faculty and staff who planned and organized this fun week. CSW doesn't just happen without great people!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Hayes



## Announcements

Daily Mass Time: 8:00am  
Grades K-3 T/W/Th  
Grades 4-8 M/W/Th



### February Birthdays

Jake Anstey-1  
Susan Irons-1  
Henry Boxdorfer-1  
Will McKernan-3  
Liam McCarthy-4  
Mrs. Smithicki-4  
Nora Browning-4  
Patrick Warner-5  
Lily Merritt-5  
Elizabeth Murphy-8  
Harrison Baker-8  
Leo Copiano-10  
Grace Ridley-10  
Georgie Sith-12  
Henry Wegman-14  
Mrs. Jackson-15  
Clare Anstey-16  
Maren Pendry-17  
Emma Peters-20  
Bruno Franco-21

### February Birthdays

Maizy Magee-22  
Miss Molly-22  
Alexandros Pelargos-24  
Emmanuel Pelargos-26  
Sean Meier-26  
Genevieve Montoya-27  
Miss Cathy-27





## **Important Calendar Dates & Notes:**

2/6-7th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting  
6:30pm

2/12-Class & Club Photos

**2/14-NOON DISMISSAL-FACULTY PD**

2/14-Valentine Parties 11am

2/15 Black & Gold Auction

**2/17-President's Day-NO SCHOOL**

2/17-School Board 7pm

2/27-2nd Grade First Communion Parent  
Meeting 6:30pm





### Miss Molly: Preschool A

It's great to be back at school after the holidays and snow! The Angels are busy learning about the letters H and T. We are also learning about the seasons and snow!

It was a great Catholic school week and the Angels kept busy preparing things for the parents and Grandparents. They had a blast on the jumpers and played games all day long!!



### Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten

We were quite busy during our shortened month of January. We had some adjusting to do because of our extended Christmas break. The bears are working hard already on kindergarten readiness. They are writing their name with uppercase at the beginning and the rest lowercase. Numbers and counting have been a focus this month as well. We have done a lot of preparing for catholic schools week and grandparents day. Pre-school has not been able to play outside because of the snow and ice. We did finally get out and walk. The fresh air was fantastic for all of us.



### Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

This month in Kindergarten we learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and made a list of words we felt best describe him. We worked together to trace our hands and wrote the list of words on each students' handprints and then made a circle with the hands joined together. We also celebrated the 100th day of School with lots of fun activities. We are beginning a long unit of addition and subtraction in Math as well as beginning Black History month in social studies for February.



## First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade started learning about soft c and g in phonics and exploring place value in math. We also learned about maps in social studies and made maps of our classroom and bedrooms. We loved finishing the month with Catholic Schools Week and warmer weather!



## Second Grade News: Mrs. Toni Jackson

Second grade has begun their unit on 2 digit subtraction. Also, we are learning how to write an opinion beginning with a strong introduction sentence, then our supporting details, and wrap it up with a conclusion sentence.

We are looking forward to beginning to prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion and leading the rosary on Tuesday mornings.



## Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

**Third Grade was very excited about Catholic School Week. We prepared the mass for Grandparent's Day. We loved the Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament also. Family Trivia Night on Tuesday is always a good time. The Faculty Feud is fun to watch as the teachers team up to answer questions. Black versus Yellow!! And of course Mrs. Franz runs an amazing Scholastic Book Fair which we all enjoy.**

**In class Ms. Polson assigned us each a president to read about and write a research paper. We followed the Inauguration this month and learned about Dr King. We dream of February and less ice & snow!!**

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

A big round of applause goes to the following students who spelled their way into our annual Spelling Bee:

8th graders: Claire T., Helen P., Addi P., Frank K., and Chase S.

7th graders: Sophia B., Xavier C., Mark B., Carly W., and Maddie L.

6th graders: Daniella G., Katelynn F., Ryan S., Anna W., and Andrea M.

5th graders: Lucca L., Alexis Y., Harper B., Leo K., and Piper W.

4th graders: Max. E., Maizy M., Eleanor C., Samantha Z., and Olivia W.

Another round of applause goes to Clara T. who won the school competition and Harper B. who came in second place. Please keep Clara in your prayers as she prepares for the regional level competition in February.

### **Mrs. Katie Meier: Religion (5), Math (4-5), Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)**

4th grade Math is finishing their unit on place value and starting multiplication and measurement.

5th grade Math is finishing their unit on multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers and starting decimal place value.

5th Grade Religion is continuing to study the sacraments, focusing right now on the Sacraments of Healing.

5th Grade Literature is reading Esperanza Rising.

We had a wonderful week celebrating all things SRA, what a special place!

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

Religion:

The students in grade six are learning how the Israelites finally entered the Promised Land.

The students in eighth grade are continuing their study of the Catholic Church's early history in the first and second centuries.

Social Studies:

Students in grades five are studying the Mexican American War and how the United States achieves Manifest Destiny.

Sixth grade students are continuing their study of the continent and cultures of Africa.

The students in grade 7 are finding information about the ancient Roman Empire.

Grade eight students are beginning to discover the causes and effects of the Civil War.

## **Mrs. Anne Stein: Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre Algebra, (7-8) Algebra (7-8)**

The 6th Challenge Math Class is finishing our unit on operations with decimals and fractions and will begin learning about expressions and equations.

The 7th Challenge math class is finishing their unit on proportions and percents and will begin learning about rational numbers.

The Pre-Algebra classes are working on solving one variable algebraic equations.

The Algebra I class is learning about writing and graphing inequalities to represent real-life situations.

The Algebra II class is working on solving rational equations and equations with radicals.

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

### **6th-8th ELA:**

The middle schoolers are about to begin their next informative writing piece--it will be interviewing the parish priests.

The novels are almost finished. The students have been having Socratic discussions about them, along with writing diary "entries" from the perspective of one of the characters.

### **Bellarmino**

Our next speech meet is on February 8th. Wish the teams luck as they finish their practices and then compete.

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

4th Grade Science is learning Scientific Classification started by Karl Linnaeus which includes Binomial Nomenclature: Kingdoms down to Genus and species. And also learning how to use Dichotomous Keys in identifying living things.

5th Grade Science are learning the different BIOMES around the world finishing up a group Poster or Slide Presentation on one of the biomes.

6/7/8th Grade Science are learning the different types of Weathering of rocks, physical and chemical, and how the final product results in the different types of soils found around the world and the characteristics of the different soils.



## Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

Pre-K: They have created their auction artwork and created a snowflake for the snow we saw!

K-8: These students got to make their auction artwork with fingerprints and started their Art to Remember projects!



## Mr. Jeff Klos: PE

Our pre school students have been working on throwing with the proper footwork, jogging and running while concentrating on staying on their toes, and moving their arms front to back in opposition. Footwork drills and body spatial awareness skills are in progress.



## Mrs. Jena Copeland: Music

The month of January in music has been spent learning about all the different instruments and the four instrument families!

