

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 11, Issue 8

March 2023



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

Dear SRA Families,

Well, it's beginning to look like the saying, "March comes in like a Lamb and out like a Lion" seems likely this year because storms, some severe, are predicted for today. So we will watch the weather closely while your child is at school and take the necessary precautions.

That said, it looks as if the "**Pie in the Teacher's Face**" event will most likely be postponed until a better weather day next week. So let's try for Tuesday, April 4th.

Thank you to all the families who attended the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th-grade parent meeting Wednesday evening. We hope you found the information helpful. Families who could not attend should receive a copy of the handouts from your child's teacher or in the Friday Packet today. Next year we will host additional informational sessions about NWEA Assessment.

Dress-Up School Pictures are on Wednesday, April 5. All students can wear dress-up clothes for this picture day. Mr. Bryant usually begins around 8:30 AM. Preschool families are welcome to bring their children up for pictures.

We say thank you to our **7th Grade Patrols** by participating in the AAA Baseball Game program honoring safety patrol students on Wednesday, April 5. The 7th-graders will eat lunch at 11:00 AM in the cafeteria and leave for the game at 11:15. For those students who purchased lunch on this day, Mrs. Franz will have it ready for the 11 o'clock lunch period.

It has been brought to my attention that cars driving through the neighborhood around the school (High Field & Bishops Place) are going at a fast rate of speed. Please be aware of your speed when traveling to and from school at arrivals and dismissal. The concern is that many students walking to and from school alongside moving cars. Remember, even though we are all busy and seem to be in a rush, our children's safety is most important. Thank you for understanding.

Finally, I have some sad and difficult news to share with our SRA family. Mr. Almeida and Mrs. Holbrook will not be returning to St. Raphael next year. Even though they both loved their time with us, their personal lives require a change.

Mr. Almeida will be moving out of state because his wife-to-be has accepted a teaching position at a new school in Ohio. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Almeida to-be happiness in their new positions.

As many of you may know, Mrs. Holbrook has taught and cared for family members with health concerns for most of this year. She felt it best to take some time for family and may be return to the special education side of teaching next year. Please keep Mrs. Holbrook and her family in your prayers.

Thank you to Mrs. Holbrook and Mr. Almeida for sharing your gifts with SRA. Our prayers will be with you both.

I also have positive news! I have already hired two teachers for those positions. First, we have hired Mrs. Katie Meier as our new 5th-grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Many of you know Mrs. Meier as the mom of Paddy, Sean, and Rory, but Katie is also a certified elementary educator. She subbed last year for Ms. Polson and loved her time with us as a teacher. Mrs. Meier is currently teaching at Christ the King School in University City, but she is thrilled to bring her gifts to SRA. Welcome to the faculty, Mrs. Meier!

We have also hired Mrs. Anne Stein as our new Upper School Math teacher. This is the second time I have had the pleasure of hiring Mrs. Stein. I first hired Anne to teach Math/Science my first year as the principal at St. James the Greater. That is when I first encountered what a outstanding educator that she is, and I knew I would welcome the opportunity to work with her again. Mrs. Stein also taught part-time for two years, teaching middle school math at Our Lady of Lourdes, University City. She has a Master's Degree in Mathematics and is certified to teach the math levels we offer in our upper school program. By the way, Mrs. Stein is also a parent here at SRA. Her son, Drew, is in kindergarten, and Ronan is in Preschool A. Welcome to the faculty, Mrs. Stein!

Remember that Palm Sunday is this weekend which begins Holy Week. Please note that we will have school on Monday through Wednesday, with dismissal at 3 PM. There will be no school on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Monday. Classes will resume on Easter Tuesday, April 11.

Well, that is enough news for one message.
Blessings,
Mrs. Hayes

Announcements

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

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



The SRA Home and School Association

**presented each student with a blessed
St.**

**Raphael Tiny Saint as an Easter gift. It is
the**

**prayer of the HSA that the healing and
hope**

of Easter and the intercession of St. Raphael

be with you and your family.



April Birthdays

Chase Sitzes-2

William Schneeberger-2

Alex Kean-2

Max Ewald-2

Emma Rooney-7

Liv Jaboor-8

Simon Klein-11

Sophia Sullivan-12

Audrey Primo-13

Madelynn Schneeberger-14

James Browning-14

Nora Anstey-17

Mrs. Franz-17

Ella Baker-22

Madilyn Wilkinson-25

Mrs. Shaver-26

Mrs. Connor-27

Kallista Hiatt-28



Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

4/5-Spring Picture Day-Dress Up

4/6-Holy Thursday-NO SCHOOL Pk-8

4/7-Good Friday-NO SCHOOL Pk-8

4/9-Easter Sunday

4/10-Easter Monday-NO SCHOOL Pk-8

4/11-Home & School 6:30pm

4/16-2nd Grade Bow Sunday

4/17-School Board 7pm

4/21-2nd Grade Activity Day

4/23-7th Grade Bow Sunday

4/24-28-6th Grade Camp

4/27-2nd Grade Practice/Tailgate

4/28-Biz Town 5th Grade 9am-1:15pm

4/30-2nd Grade First Communion

Miss Molly: Preschool A



March has been a busy month but short. The kids have worked on the letter U and the letter C. We are learning about all the wonderful things that come with spring. They are learning about plants, the weather, clouds and the baby animals. We had a great time trying to catch a leprechaun in the classroom!! The leprechaun left a lucky penny for all the children. Father John came by the classroom and helped tell the story of Easter with props on blocks that the children made.



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten



We have been learning a lot in pre-k B. We continue to work on letters, sounds, handwriting and being good friends. Our class participated in several science experiments including making volcanos, paper towel rainbows and rainbows using skittles and water. We also received new toys from scholastic both for our classroom and playground. I can't believe the end of the year is so close!



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

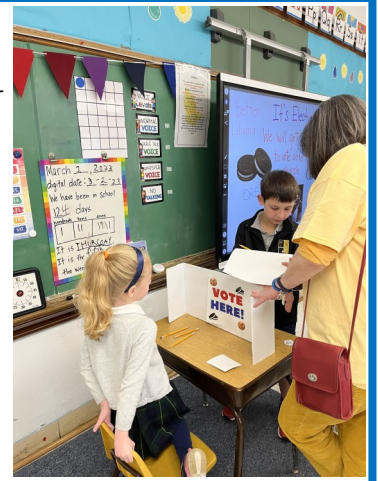


It's hard to believe we're already into the 4th quarter of school! We've been busy and are anticipating warm, spring weather. We did some rainbow writing about our favorite colors and made rainbows using oil pastels. We are beginning a unit on money and we're learning about the names of coins and their value. We are working hard in our guided reading groups and as a class we're reading Charlotte's Web. We will be learning about caterpillars and butterflies in the upcoming months!



First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade concluded our election unit with a class election: the Oreo cookie versus the Chips Ahoy cookie. We registered to vote, campaigned for our cookie by making posters, had a debate in front of Kindergarten and then voted! Chips Ahoy won, and we celebrated with Kindergarten by eating Chips Ahoy cookies! We are now working on counting money, making predictions when reading and just in time for spring, we are studying plants. We are committed to our Lenten promises and are ready for Holy Week and Easter!



Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks

I can't believe it's already the last quarter! Second grade had a great third quarter, filled with hands-on activities and research. We are eagerly waiting for consistently nice weather so we can get outside and use our surroundings for our Measuring Unit. This quarter we will become published authors after we write our own Fictional story as a class!

Second grade had the privilege of leading Stations of the Cross! It was a great opportunity to lead our peers in prayer and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. We are preparing for First Communion and excited to receive Jesus in the Eucharist in a few short weeks! Please keep Second grade in your prayers during this important season of preparation.

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade has discussed Lent and we are leading the rosary for all school masses on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We helped to plan Adoration for March 24 for Family Groups in church. We read Scholastic News Magazine and discuss current topics for Social Studies. Having each researched a president we gave oral reports to our classmates and created timelines to share. In Science class we learned about fungi and actually grew Golden Oyster Mushrooms in a box. We kept the environment dark and moist for them to grow. It was fun to watch them get larger. Mrs. Franz helped us harvest them and most of us actually got to taste them after she cooked them. Spring Break Week was the Best!

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

I hope everyone had a great spring break! The Early Childhood students got to take it a bit easy this month by making either holiday projects, discovering new artists of today or learning about Edgar Degas. The Upper Class students got to start their next project which was either an Oil Pastel Drawing or a Comic Illustration. Both projects are coming along greatly!

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

We hope everyone had a relaxing Spring Break! We are all trying to get back into the swing of things to finish this last quarter.

In fourth grade religion, we are working our way through the Beatitudes. We are also trying to incorporate acts of kindness into our daily routines.

In fourth grade social studies, we are learning more about our country's and state's government. We have discussed the branches of the government and our system of checks and balances. Sadly, because of work being done at the Old Courthouse, we cannot take our field trip to reenact the Dred Scott freedom trial.

In fourth grade English, we are working on adjectives. Hopefully this will help with our writing skills to add more detail to our essays.

In fifth grade English, we are working on our editing skills. We are putting our skills to use editing sentences written by others. A chapter test will be coming up soon!

In seventh grade religion, we are still working towards receiving Confirmation. Currently we are learning the Fruits of the Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to all who have been supporting us!

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

Fifth Grade: Lent and Holy Week will be studied at the beginning of the month. The Sacrament of the month is Matrimony, and we will discuss it in terms of a Sacrament chosen instead of Holy Orders. In math class the students will work on all adding and subtracting with mixed numbers and geometry. We are still learning about finances in order to get ready for JA BizTown. They are doing a good job and learning a lot. In literature the students are reading stories in the third book, and they will also be doing a project about the different people with different ideas and perspectives.

Fourth Grade: The students began studying fractions this month. In literature class, the last story in the textbook was about exploring your town, therefore the project is about famous people from St. Louis' history. They have been doing a great job reading and discussing the various main ideas and details of the stories.

Sixth Grade Standard Math: Based on the geometric concepts that the students have been working on, they have started a project using lines, angles and creativity to 'build' 9 miniature golf courses in a group. It is really pulling together all of the concepts and showing that the students truly comprehend the ideas of geometry.

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

4th Grade is learning about the decline of amphibians around the world and the different amphibian species in Missouri and the sounds they make.

5th Grade is learning about our universe, galaxies, our sun and solar system and started a Slide Presentation on one of these topics.

The 6-7-8th Grade is learning about the different forms of friction, and started a simple Science Fair Project to get them ready for next year.

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

Religion: Students in Grade Six are learning about some of the Kings of Israel. They will begin a unit about the prophets. Students in Grade Eight are continuing their study of the history of the Roman Catholic Church. They have just begun learning about the Catholic Church in North America.

Social Studies: The sixth grade students have begun looking at the continent of Australia. Seventh grade students are learning what happened during the Scientific Revolution during the 1500s and 1600s. Students in grade eight are beginning to learn about World War II. They are also working on an activity about national parks. Grade five students are beginning their study of events surrounding World War II.

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

Algebra 2: Students are applying properties to solve problems.

Challenge: Students are solving for the missing side of a right triangle using the pythagorean theorem.

Algebra 1: Students are solving quadratic equations using the quadratic formula.

Pre-Algebra: Students are graphing linear equations using slope-intercept and point-slope form of a line.

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

The middle-schoolers are in the process of working on poems/essays/stories for the Missouri Botanical Garden's "Write Outside Your Door." Just like last year, the students will have a link, and they will be responsible for submitting their work.

Also, we're working on our UN resolutions. The students chose a country, they researched what problems their country has, and then worked on a resolution--a solution. Their resolution will include an action plan, a budget, a timeline and a way to evaluate the plan.

As far as literature, the 6th graders are almost finished with *Maniac Magee*, the 7th graders just got to the end of *Hatchet*, and the 8th graders are going to go back to 1965 in their new novel.

At the last Bellarmine Speech meet, Mark earned a blue ribbon and Madi and Emmy earned a gold ribbon. Congratulations!



Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education

Thank you to all of our families for their support during the Kids Heart Challenge! We raised over \$1,800 for the American Heart Association! In the fourth quarter, we are starting with handball games of different types across the grade levels.