

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community



Volume 12, Issue 8

Mar 2024

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

March 27, 2024

Dear SRA Families,

As we end our Lenten journey, we now prepare over the next three days to celebrate the Risen Jesus on Easter Sunday. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are unique traditions in our Church. As your child's first educator, sharing family time at one or more of these services will also provide a rich faith experience for your child and you.

Our Easter Break runs from Holy Thursday, March 28, through Easter Monday, April 1. That's the truth, not an April Fools joke. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 2.

April brings many, many events, so I will highlight a few that take place once we return.

Thursday, April 4—Springtime is here! The Cardinals' Home Opener is on this day, so in honor of this St. Louis tradition, students may wear their favorite Cardinal shirt or red shirt with their uniform.

Friday, April 5—Spring Picture Day—Students may dress up in their Easter best on this day. For our preschool families who are not attending school on Friday, the photo session usually begins between 8:45 and 9:00 AM. *****Note this is a different date from the original school calendar. The photographer had to change the date.**

Monday, April 8 - Solar Eclipse - The school purchased approved glasses to view the eclipse that afternoon. A family permission slip was sent home today in the packet. The school will prepare the students on the proper way to view the eclipse but must give the school permission to allow their child to participate. Only students with signed permission slips will be allowed outside during the eclipse. We were able to view the last eclipse in 2017-18, and it was a pretty cool experience. Hopefully, the weather cooperates that day.

April also brings the **Sacraments of First Holy Communion** for our 2nd graders on April 21 at 11:00 AM Mass and **Confirmation** for our 7th graders on April 30 at 7:00 PM.

Bow Sundays—St. Raphael has the tradition of presenting our **2nd graders (April 7)** and **7th graders (April 14)** with a white/red bow in honor of receiving their upcoming Sacrament. They receive the bows after 9:00 AM Mass on their respective day. The families display the bows on their front door so the community can see them, and then they pray for the students as they prepare for their special day. Please keep these students in your prayers this month.

April brings many other events to note:

The 5th Grade has two significant events: the Dancing Classroom Competition on Tuesday, April 23, more information to come, and Biz Town at Junior Achievement on Thursday, April 25.

Friday, April 26- NO SCHOOL- Professional Development Day for Faculty

Saturday, April 27– Sending best wishes to our students attending:

- Our History Day Team goes to Columbia for State! Good Luck!
- Robotics Jamboree–St. Louis University High School- Best Wishes!

Congratulations are in order for the following for our Bellarmine Speech League participants. Great Job!

- Vivian S. & Isa H. - earned a White Ribbon
- Katelynn F. & Andrea M. earned a Blue Ribbon
- Anna W. earned a Blue Ribbon
- Serena B. & Madi W. earned a Blue Ribbon
- Emmy K. earned a Yellow Ribbon

I also heard about the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby Winners for the 2024 school year.

- #1 Elliot O.
- #2 Beckett O.
- #3 Archie F.
Sounds like this was a fun day for all!

This past weekend we have multiple events using the building, such as the Fish Fry, Cornhole Games, Pinewood Derby and Donut Sunday. This usually means we have many children running around the building and parking lot, so I'm asking parents to be aware of where and what their children are doing. We returned to school to find the loft and stage filled with food and trash. Our speech instructor and OT teach down in the music room. I guess the door wasn't locked for some reason, and things were missing or broken in that classroom for the second time this year. I feel horrible that any of our teachers have to return to their classroom and things have been damaged or missing. I've expressed my apologies and will replace whatever is missing or broken, but I feel this is an opportunity to teach a lesson about respecting others' property. I appreciate your help with this issue.

On another note, this is a reminder that as the weather becomes warmer, the students will most likely switch to wearing shorts instead of leggings under their uniform skirts. Parents, please make sure the skirt length is appropriate for school. Everyone is taller now that we are approaching the end of the year.

I wish everyone a blessed Easter, and I hope your Easter Break is filled with JOY!

Easter blessings,
Mrs. Hayes

Announcements

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Chase Sitzes-2

William Schneeberger-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

Hugh Winters-21

Ella Baker-22

Madilyn Wilkinson-25

Mrs. Shaver-26

Mrs. Connor-27





Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

4/1-Easter Monday-No School PK-8

4/5-Spring Picture Day

4/7-2nd Grade Bow Sunday

4/9-Home & School 6:30pm

4/12-2nd Grade Activity Day

4/14-7th Grade Bow Sunday

4/15-School Board 7pm

4/18-2nd Grade Practice/Tailgate

4/21-2nd Grade First Communion

4/22-2nd Grade No School

4/24-Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

4/22-4/25-6th Grade Camp

4/25-5th Grade Biz Town

4/26-No School-Teacher PD Day

4/30-Confirmation 7pm

Miss Molly: Preschool A

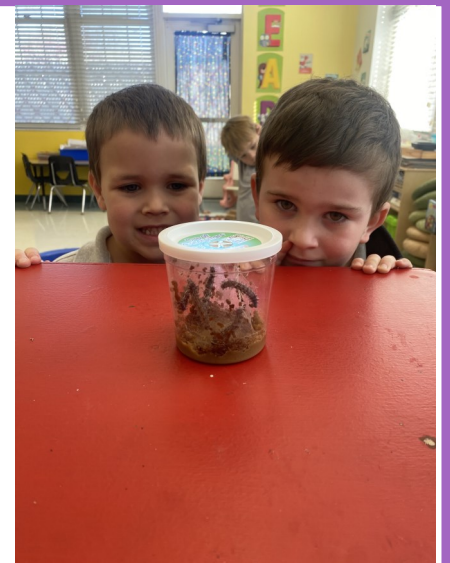
Prek A are moving along after spring break. We are working on the letter C right now and we have Caterpillars in the room! They are now in their co-con and we will have Butterflies soon!! We are talking about the beginning of spring and the meaning of Easter. We have been busy making caterpillars, cats, Easter projects and enjoying some Jelly Beans!!

Have a wonderful and blessed Easter



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten

We are still continuing to learn about letters, sounds and numbers in pre-k B. Spring has sprung in our classroom. We have caterpillars and are awaiting the transformation into butterflies. The class made butterfly windsocks. We have also been preparing for Easter.



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

As we enter into the fourth quarter of school, kindergarten has been busy and hard at work! We've been learning about money in math and identifying coins and we've also started a subtraction unit with our math coach, Mrs. Bounds. We're enjoying our guided reading groups where we're reading leveled books, chapter books and working on phonics skills as well. We've been preparing for Easter and have been doing various activities during the Lenten season including participating in the lower school's Stations of the Cross. Wishing all of our families a blessed and Happy Easter!



First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade is having fun learning about money in math and bossy r in phonics. We concluded our map unit in social studies by making maps of our bedrooms and are excited to start learning about plants in science. We also got the opportunity to lead mass again this month, as well as Stations of the Cross. We hope everyone has a happy and blessed Easter!

Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks

March was a successful month for the Second grade. We researched influential women for Women's History Month and completed a brochure on our chosen person! It was a great way to learn about the historical women that shaped our country! In Math, we learned how to tell time. We impressed Miss Franks so much she introduced us to Elapsed Time (which is a 3rd-grade standard). Attending Reconciliation as a class once more was a great end to this Lenten season and a great way to prepare our hearts for Easter and our upcoming First Communion. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our preparation for this blessed Sacrament.

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Graders have completed their research and writings about a president of their choice. We are sharing orally with the class our reports and time lines. What a lot we have learned about U.S. History!! We have read about Ben Franklin, Paul Revere and Sam Adams. Ms. Polson read us a great book called "John, Paul, George and Ben" by Lane Smith. We took a quiz at the end. It was fun. A trivia fact for you:

Who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution? A. Sam Adams B. Ben Franklin C. John Hancock

Fr. Molini visited our class to discuss the Pentecost and the Liturgical Calendar. We also talked about the Vernal Equinox and upcoming Solar Eclipse on April 8. All of us are filling in a Moon Observation Chart.

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

There was a good amount of artwork created in February! Here is what each grade made:

Pre-K: They finished their Four Leaf Clovers and they will be finishing some bunny rabbits and an Easter Scene with an Easter egg!

Kindergarten-1st: These students created St. Patrick's Day artwork along with Palm Sunday Watercolor paintings. They will finish off the month with an Easter scene with an Easter egg along with a colorful spindle of Jesus Rising!

2nd-3rd: These students finished tying yarn on string for the SRA mural that is inspired by the "We the People" artwork from Crystal Bridges! I hope to finish creating this soon and display it in front of the Trophy cases for everyone to see. They will also be creating hand puppet bunny rabbits and an Easter scene with an Easter egg!

4th-8th: These students finished their Still Life and Contour Drawing Projects! They are displayed around the top floor if anyone would like to stop by and see. Then they started on watercolor flowers for Spring and some printmaking for the 8th Graders.

I hope everyone has a great Easter Break and can't wait to finish the year with the year-end projects!

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

4th Grade Religion: We just finished our unit on the Ten Commandments and are moving on to our next unit. We will learn about the Beatitudes.

4th Grade English: We are working on the unit of adjectives.

4th Grade Social Studies: We are learning the five regions of the United States and identifying the states that are in each region.

4th Grade Literature: We are almost reaching the end of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* in class. The students are enjoying this novel!

5th Grade English: In class, we just finished writing and sharing personal narrative essays. Next, we will be beginning the unit on pronouns.

7th Grade Religion: We are close to finishing our preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students will be writing a letter to Bishop Rivituso, telling him why they want to receive the sacrament.

Students seem to be enjoying the elective classes we have begun in the upper grades. Here is a photo of games in the process of being made.



Mrs. Katie Meier: Religion (5), Math (4-6), Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

4th Grade Math—We are moving into relating fractions and decimals.

6th Grade Standard Math—We are learning and applying formulas for area and volume.

6th Grade Challenge Math—We are continuing to study the different types of graphs and when to use the different types.

5th Grade Religion—We are refreshing our memory on how to look up specific passages in the Bible.

5th Grade Literature—We are wrapping up our 4th novel of the year, *Esperanza Rising* with our culminating projects.

5th Grade Math—We are finishing our Fraction Era shortly after Easter Break and will be moving into Geometry.

5th Grade is also preparing for JA BizTown at the end of April as well as our culminating performance for Dancing Classrooms!

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

In Science, 6th/7th/8th graders will be taking the final Test soon over the different Human Systems, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, etc... then will be starting on fossil records, natural selection and evolution (planned by God) and vestigial structures that have evolved over time.

5th grade started the Unit of Water and the Water Cycle and the importance of water quality and water conservation.

4th grade just started the Unit on Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes.

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

Religion: Students in grade six religion have begun to learn about the prophets. We will begin by studying the prophet Elijah.

Students in grade eight continue their study of Catholic Church history. We are currently learning about the changes that came about during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Social Studies: Students in grade six are exploring the cultures of South Asia.

In grade seven, the students are looking at the Maya, Aztecs, and Incas.

Fifth-grade students are beginning to work on the changes in American history that led to World War I.

In eighth grade, we will be starting on the Progressive Era at the turn of the 20th century.

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

The middle school students are continuing to explore new topics in math. The 7th Grade Challenge class is learning about organizing and analyzing data. The Pre-Algebra class is working with theoretical and experimental probability. The Algebra I class is beginning to study operations with polynomials. The Algebra II class is continuing to study quadratic equations and their graphs.

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

The middle-schoolers are working feverishly on their Civitas resolutions. (Civitas is a model UN program here in St. Louis.) The students have each chosen a country, they have done research to find a problem/issue they can help "resolve" and now they are working on their action plan: what they are going to do, how they are to fund it, how are they going to evaluate it, and they are going to create a timeline.

The 6th graders are beginning the book *Maniac Magee*. The 7th and 8th graders are both beginning novels that are told via free verse poetry.