

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 6, Issue 4

November 30, 2017



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

Dear St. Raphael Parents,

It is hard to believe this upcoming Sunday begins the season of Advent. The entire month of December brings many emotions: joy, excitement, anticipation, happiness, and anxiety at times, just to name a few. I've always felt Advent was a wonderful time for me as a mother to share the Catholic faith traditions. My own children were so eager to open the Advent calendar window each morning and light the Advent candle each evening before dinner. Those simple traditions seem to provide a perfect way to help children keep their focus on the anticipation of the birth of our Lord. I hope you enjoy the Advent season with your children.

"Our soul is waiting for the Lord, our God, our help and our shield.

In you do our hearts find joy: we trust in your holy name." Psalms 33:20-21

Even though we are in school fewer days in December, we have many events to fill our days.

- **The Christmas Program** will be on **Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM**. You should have received a Flock-note earlier this week concerning the details you will need to know about the program. Here are a few key points from Mrs. Doty's message.

All chorus members are to dress in their **Christmas Best**

Mrs. Doty will send out detailed information to those students with specific parts in the program.

Grades Kindergarten - Seventh will meet in their classrooms at 6:30 PM. Parents will need to keep their children's coat during the performance because they will not be returning to the classrooms after the performance.

- **Reconciliation** – Second through Eighth Grade will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 13.
- **Exams for Grades 6th, 7th & 8th** will be on December 18-20.
- **Wednesday, December 20** has a few details to note.

Christmas Parties begin at 2:00 PM

Dismissal will be at 3:10 PM

There is be **NO AFTER CARE FOR PRESCHOOL AND K-8**. Please make other child care arrangement for your child for that afternoon.

This day also marks the end of the Second Quarter.

December 21, 2017-- **Christmas Break begins** for Kindergarten through 8th grade

December 21-22, 2017 – **Preschool is Open**

January 3, 2018—**Classes Resume** for Preschool- Kindergarten-8th

I will keep your family in my prayers throughout the Advent season,

Mrs. Hayes



Announcements



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

All School Mass 8:00am

December 7

St. Ambrose

2nd Grade Planning

December 8

Immaculate Concepcion

5th Grade Planning

December 14

St. John of the Church

STUCO Planning

Benediction 2:00pm

First Friday of the
month



My name is Grace Goeddel.

Last year, with the help of our school and parish, I collected 22 pounds of tab tops for the Ronald McDonald House. This school year I want to beat that number. Please collect tab tops from aluminum cans and bring them to Mass or send them to school. I will have containers at the entrances of church and at school. If you have a business that would like to collect tab tops, let me know and I will provide you with a special container.

Thank you for all of your support. I will collect tab tops until spring of 2018.



December Birthdays

Lydia Eddingfield-2
Justin Wingron-5
Mia Thompson-10
Sophia Bradshaw-11
Jiovanni Raymo-12
Anna Dubbert-15
Noelle Mater-17
Jonah Abbott-18
Brandon Young-19
Aidan Flavin-20
Gabbi Smith-24
Lauren Stawizynski-26
William (Liam) Feldman-27
Cathleen Guenther-28
Henry Cyr-28

June ½ Birthdays

Nolan Moellering-5
Jovie Mersinger-6
Sam Weiss-6
Paul Dougherty-7
Isadora Hogrebe-8
Jasmin Rizos-10
Deacon Clark-10
Jane Dubbert-11
Emma Shine-16
Avery Bradshaw-19
Sofia Rizos-20
Kristin Nienhaus-23
Jude Potts-23
Frances Steidley-23
Dalila Ramirez-25
Connor Ebert-28
Quinn Ebert-28
Hannah Trachsel-28
Sophia Molina-30

December

dreamstime.com

- Dec. 1 – 2:00pm Benediction
Dec. 2—6:00-12:00pm - Gym - St. Louis Hills Christmas Party
Dec. 3 – 11:00-1:00pm - Cafeteria - Cookies with Santa
Dec. 3 – 7:00-11:00pm Advent by Candlelight – Church & Cafeteria
Dec. 4 - 5:00-8:00pm Culver’s 8th grade Fundraiser 10200 Big Bend Rd.
Dec. 5 - 3:15-4:15pm Church De Angelis Children’s Practice
Dec. 7 – 8:00am Mass – St. Ambrose (Advent) Second Grade planning
Dec. 7 – 2:00-4:00pm Dance
Dec. 7 – 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club
Dec. 8 – 8:00am Mass Immaculate Concepcion (Advent) Fifth Grade planning
Dec. 11-15 - Canned Food Drive
Dec. 12 – 7:00-9:00pm Christmas Program Gym
6:30pm Students should arrive at school
Dec. 13 - 8:30-9:30am Reconciliation for Grades 3-8
Dec. 14 – Mass – St. John of the Church (Advent) STUCO planning
Dec. 14 – 2:00-4:00pm Dance
Dec. 14 – 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club
Dec. 15 - Flannel Shirt Day for bringing in 2 canned food items
Dec. 17 – 10:00-11:00am Family Mass & Donuts
Dec. 18 – Exams for grades 6-7(Science) 8 (Science & English)
Dec. 19 - Exams for grades 6-7-8 (Math)
Dec. 19 - 3:15-4:15pm Church De Angelis Children’s Practice
Dec. 20 - Exams for grades 6th (None) 7th (English) 8th (Social Studies)
Dec. 20 – End of Second Quarter
Dec. 20 - 9:45-11:00am Christmas Kick-Off
Dec. 20 – 2:00pm Christmas Parties
Dec. 20 - NO AFTER CARE TODAY
Dec. 21-22 – No School K – 8 Preschool is open
Dec. 25-Jan.2 – Christmas Break No School Preschool – 8

Jan. 3 – School resumes for Preschool - 8



**ADVENT SERVICE BY CANDLELIGHT
AT ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 7:00PM
CHURCH & CAFETERIA
EVERYONE WELCOME!
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN**



ELIZABETH WESTHOFF

Please join us as we step away from the traditional Advent by Candlelight that we have offered for the past several years that was open only to women and enjoy an even more relaxed evening to begin the Advent season.

This is an opportunity that requires no effort and no preparation - just come as you are and rest in the beautiful music, the uplifting prayers and the inspirational message of the season.

We welcome as our guest speaker, Elizabeth Westhoff, Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Elizabeth has been described as “effervescent and irrepressible,” and she is always an engaging speaker.

We will gather in church at 7:00pm in a candlelight setting for the music, prayers and message and then move to the cafeteria for more candlelight and to share refreshments.

All you table hostesses from the past, please invite your friends and family to this evening without the stress of table decorations and food preparation. Husbands, sons, brothers, fathers - everyone is welcome!

This is a FREE event, but we do take up a collection for Our Lady’s Inn, a shelter for pregnant women and their children, if you would like to contribute that evening.

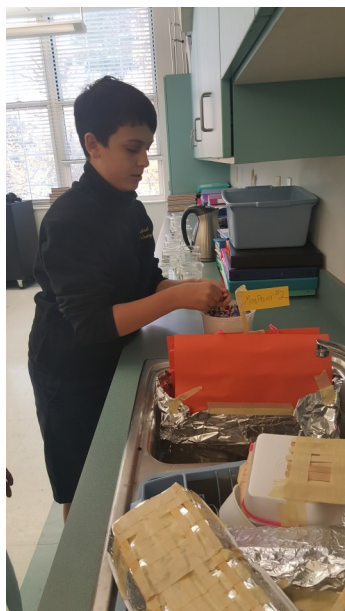
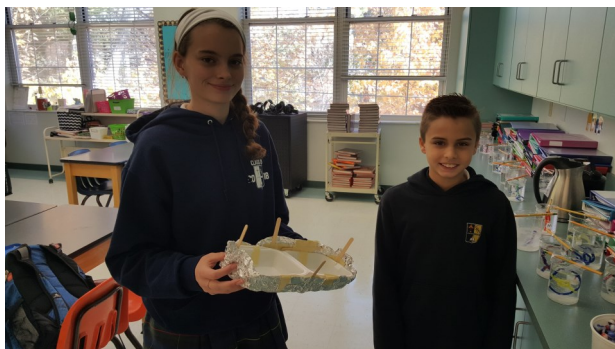
If you have any questions about the evening or would like to volunteer to bring some cookies to share, please call Sue Brandt, 314-704-5304. Hope to see you there!



Stephanie Amsler: STREAM/Coordinator (PK-8 Grades)

STREAM activities during the month of November:

- using borax and pipe cleaners to create crystallized letters to spell teachers' names
- recreating Native American housing from the time period of the first Thanksgiving using only toothpicks and dried cranberries
- using recycled materials to create a hideout for a turkey on Thanksgiving Day
- assembling snap circuits to create a fan, flying saucer, alarm, and light
- using borax and cornstarch to create a bouncy ball
- collecting leaves to assemble into the shape of an animal using construction paper and liquid glue
- using recycled materials to create a floating device that would hold a given number of marbles



Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education

The students finished working on soccer skills that include dribbling, passing and shooting skills. I believe most of the students gained a better understanding of these skills to assist them on CYC and select teams.

The students, especially in the eighth grade, enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving touch football game. The game was played on Monday, November 20 at Wilmore Park.

The primary students did a Thanksgiving game called “stuff the turkey.” This was a tag game that required them to tag their classmates, and at the same time, work on a few locomotor skills along with some throwing skills. The students seemed to have lots of fun with the game. I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving.

STUCO News

Thank you for your support of the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Because of your generous donations, we were able to supply 20 needy families with an abundance of food to help them through the holiday season.

December 11th - 15th Canned Food Drive - Friday, December 15th will be Flannel Shirt Friday for those who bring in 2 or more items for the food drive.

December 20th - Third Annual STUCO Christmas Kick-off -9:45 -11:00. Please let me know if you are available to help with any of the game booths or face painting.

Miss Molly Preschool Room A

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and that you enjoyed spending extra time with the people that are special in your life. Preschool A was very busy in the month of November. They learned all about trees and the tree cycle. They studied the different shapes, colors, names of the leaves and the way they change in the fall season. We went on a nature walk with our fifth grade buddies over to Wilmore Park.

The kids learned about the meaning of Thanksgiving, were taught about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans.

Thank You and God Bless, Ms. Molly



Kindergarten News: Miss Abby Morris & Mrs. Doyle



Kindergarten has been learning about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful for someone or something. We've been working on our handwriting, sounding out words, and learning sight words. The students enjoy practicing their reading with our reading program, "Raz Kids." We learned about the two greatest Commandments God has given us, and Father Bob came to visit our classroom. The students asked him great questions about God and we talked about ways we can have God's light shine through us. We continue to practice identifying and creating patterns. We are looking forward to the Christmas Concert in December. The students have been working hard and they are very excited.

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

First grade has been very busy this month. We started taking spelling tests the first week of November and all the students are doing a wonderful job of learning their words. In Math, the students are finishing up a chapter on addition of three numbers and they are going to be moving on to subtraction at the end of the week. They also have started the "Rocket Math" program to help them build their math fact fluency. We were able to spend a morning doing Thanksgiving activities with our kindergarten buddies right before the holiday break. The first graders are very proud of their buddy and take this very seriously. Our first STREAM project was a success. Ms. Amsler and Ms. Schaaf put together a great activity of making crystallized letters that just so happen to spell my name. The students cannot wait for our next STREAM activity the first week in December. In Religion, we will be studying the Advent season and the students will be encouraged to do an act of kindness every day to help them prepare for the birth of Jesus. These are just a few highlights from the month of November in first grade.



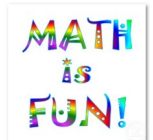
Second Grade News: Mark Messmer

This month, highlights in second grade are: First Reconciliation, Thanksgiving writing, and social studies activities. After much preparation and reflection, second graders made their First Reconciliation on November 8th - it was a prayerful and wonderful night. Besides this, we have been learning about comparing/contrasting in our reading and writing. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we have been working on "If I was the Thanksgiving Turkey" opinion writing pieces and comparing different versions of the Thanksgiving story. Finally, we have been studying immigration in social studies. We have been reading several stories about immigrants who have come to the United States and have been comparing their perspectives to those of natural born citizens.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

November has flown by. Third Graders are getting better with their multiplication facts. We can draw arrays to go with our facts and are learning which operations to use for some complex story problems. It continues to be a challenge. Our Halloween Party was great fun as planned by our room mom and many of our moms and dads attended (even Miss Amsler). We made green slime and played Freeze Dance to some great Halloween tunes. Another great STREAM activity was building a structure for a turkey to hide in. We used microscopes to view the veins in leaves and record our observations and draw plant cells. We just love working in groups. Our class has real talent when it comes to plays. In our Storyworks Magazine there was a French play "The Necklace." You should have heard our dialects! Presently we are working on a Zuni play, Joseph Bruchac's "The Strongest One." Mrs. Doty is leading us in our Christmas play music and we are loving every minute. We look forward to December and the birth of Jesus.



Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 8)

In eighth grade English, the students finished the unit on verbs and have moved on to the unit on modifiers: adjectives, adverbs, and articles. They will be writing a comparison/contrast essay this week and into next week. The students will also be working on diagramming sentences.

In sixth and seventh grades, the unit on verbs will continue into next week. The unit test will be one day next week. After that, they will begin the unit on modifiers. The sixth and seventh grade will also be writing a comparison/contrast essay and diagramming sentences.

In fourth and fifth grades, the students are working on the unit on verbs. The next unit is adverbs. They will also be writing an essay, however, it will be an opinion essay. They have begun diagramming simple sentences.

****Reminder**** Seventh and eighth grades will be having a comprehensive English exam the week of December 18. Don't wait until the night before to begin studying!

Miss Amanda Imo: Religion, Math, Reading, Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders have been studying the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We discussed where the Sacrament comes from and the meaning behind it. We are now going to go through each part of the Mass and discuss in depth why we do and say the things we do during the liturgy. During Math, the students began their unit on decimals. They have learned how to read, write, order and compare them. We are now working on solving problems that include decimals. In Literature, the students have been very excited about "Book Club." Each student is expected to read a portion of the book and complete a job that they will share with the rest of the group. The jobs will help the students with asking questions, connecting text, summarizing, finding and learning the meaning of interesting words, and visualizing.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders have been learning about the Ten Commandments in Religion. We have also talked about the various ways to pray and why prayer is important. In Math, the students have been diligently working on solving multiplication problems. I am so proud of how quickly and accurately the students can solve basic multiplication facts. During Literature, the class is currently reading *There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom*. The students have enjoyed laughing about the characters and are discussing each part of the story in great detail.

Mrs. Sara Carril: Art

I hope you are enjoying all of your talented student's art work. We have a lot of fun projects coming up. Spoiler alert; I love incorporating the upcoming holiday season into my art lessons. This month, for the home sketching projects, I want students to practice drawing mouths and lips. Please have a mirror handy so students can draw from sight versus memory. The last project of the year will be a realistic self-portrait, so every month until then we will be focusing on a different facial aspect. Last month was eyes and this month will be mouths.

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

Religion: In Religion class, the students are beginning the unit about Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness. Their journey will eventually take them home to Canaan.

Social Studies Grade 4: Students are learning about the regions in the United States and the states that belong in those regions. The students continue to learn note-taking skills.

Social Studies Grade 5: Students are learning about the history of the United States. Currently they are finding out what led to the American Revolution.

Social Studies Grade 6: The sixth grade students are working on a unit that covers ancient China, India, and Japan. They have created tangrams and worked on Divali designs. They will also be learning about origami (Japanese paper folding).

Social Studies Grade 7: Seventh grade students are learning how the United States Constitution was created. They will then work on the Constitution Handbook which will help them understand how the Constitution works.

Social Studies Grade 8: Students will be completing their study of World War I. This will be followed by a look at the Roaring Twenties and the collapse of the stock market.

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

In Standard Math, we have been exploring fractions and mixed numbers. This entails adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with them, as well as solving equations containing fractions. Next chapter, we will be analyzing different ways of representing data.

In Challenge Math, we have been exploring data tables and graphs, and are just now introducing functions. We will later explore graphing functions and analyzing proportional relationships.

In Pre-Algebra, we have just started working with percents, and converting between fractions and decimals. Later we will explore simple interest and simple perimeter and area of basic shapes.

In Algebra, we are finishing up work with graphs and functions. Next chapter we will begin work with linear equations and graphing them.

Mrs. Jennifer Runiewicz: Literature (6-8) Religion (7-8)

Literature classes have been reading *A Separate Peace* (8th), *And Then There Were None* (7th), and *Tangerine* (6th). All three are stories about mystery and life choices. These books will take us to the end of the quarter. Please encourage students to read every night. We will begin our Holocaust books when we return from Christmas break.

During this last month, 8th grade religion has focused on the Marks of the Church, One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. In our next unit, we will begin to explore the history of the Church starting with the builders of the early Church. We will also learn about Mary being the perfect example of what holiness looks like. In 7th grade religion we have been learning *Jesus Christ the Truth*, where we learned from teachings and examples of Christ how to live according to the commandments, the Beatitudes, and his new law of love, the Gospel. In our next unit, entitled *Jesus Christ the Life*, we will study about the spiritual journey, a personal faith journey that is developed through a growing friendship with Jesus and will be completed in the fullness of eternal life.

Vocabulary Workshop schedule should be taped/stapled to your student's vocabulary book cover or in their assignment notebooks. I have also shared the schedule with each of them on Google Drive. Unit 7 test is Tuesday, December 12th.

Miss Stephanie Amsler: Science Teacher (4-8 Grade)

Fourth grade studied electrical circuits using snap circuit kits. They learned that simple circuits require a means of electric transfer and a receiver of the electricity. They also began learning about the different types of motion through studying different types of roller coasters and how they were designed.

Fifth grade studied weather. They learned what causes different types of weather like tornadoes and snow storms. They continued their study of weather by researching different weather tools. They discovered what types of weather data each tool collected.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth grade studied the elements of the periodic table. Each student had to choose an element to research and understand in order to teach the rest of the class about it. The students had to put their facts and pictures of their elements inside a pizza box. The outside of the pizza box had a riddle that would lead someone to guess what element would be represented inside the box. While researching different elements, students also learned about the organization of the Periodic Table.

They continued studying the elements through learning about chemical reactions. Students had to bring in a penny from 1983 or later and put it into vinegar for one week. The students studied the effects of the vinegar on the penny. Students used USB pluggable microscopes with their Chromebooks to further examine the chemical reaction of the vinegar with the penny.

Mrs. Louise Balicki-Smith: Academic Intervention Coordinator:

Have you ever asked your child about his or her day to only get a one-word response? Here are some things to keep in mind when you're talking to your child about school:

Try to ask open-ended questions to keep a conversation going. If you ask your child questions that can be answered with one word (*yes, no, a name*), then you'll probably get a one-word response.

Often kids are not specific, so you have to ask for specific information when you want it.

Starting with factual questions is a great way to ease into the conversation. ("I know your class size is bigger this year than last year. What's that like?")

Avoiding emotion-packed words (*happy, sad, mean*) can help the conversation go on longer.

Asking positive questions gives your child a chance to express concerns. Negative questions tend to stop a conversation.

Afterschool Conversation Starters

Avoid These Questions	Try These Instead
How was school?	What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
Did you have fun at school?	What was the best thing you did at school?
Who did you sit with?	Tell me the names of the four kids who sat closest to you.
How is your teacher?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today?• What class rules did your teacher say are important?
What is your least favorite subject?	What's the best thing about your daily schedule?
Did you have everything you needed for school?	Was there anything you wish you had at school that you didn't have today?
Were the kids in your class nice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who did you enjoy talking with the most?• Did anyone have anything fun or interesting to talk about?
Was the work hard?	What was the best thing your teacher asked you to do in ____ today?