

# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## *The Guide*

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 11, Issue 4

November 2022



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

November 29, 2022

Dear SRA Families,

As November comes to an end, my hope for all of our SRA families is that you were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend holiday with your family and extended family. It was a time to join together to share our gratitude for those friends and family members who bring much joy to our lives. A time to join together in prayer for the many blessings received throughout the year. And a time to laugh, play games, shop, or maybe just relax a bit.

Sunday marked the beginning of a new liturgical year and the first week of Advent. With the lighting of the first purple candle of Advent, we remember the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents the expectation we feel in our anticipation of the Messiah. It symbolizes HOPE. Purple, the color of royalty, represents Advent as a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

I hope your family will follow along during Advent by lighting the candles on your Advent wreath. This is a beautiful Catholic tradition when families can teach their children to treasure throughout their lives. I know my own kids are grown, but they share memories of lighting the Advent wreath at dinner each night we could. (Of course, they always liked to light and blow out candles too!)

Be sure to ask your child what they have learned about each of the Advent wreath candles as we prepare for the Birth of Christ. Each candle has a name, reflects a gift, and is connected to the Nativity.

Please keep our Second Graders in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Wednesday, November 30, at 6:30 PM. They have been preparing for this special Sacrament with Miss Franks and Fr. John. I know they are ready!

We have many social and fundraising events planned over the next few weeks, so be sure to read *The Guide* completely to stay in "the know."

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on December 8, and yes, we will have school on this day. The students will attend Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation.

On December 9, we have a Noon Dismissal for faculty meetings and professional development. Preschool is open, and Aftercare will end at 4:00 PM.

SRA will present the Christmas Pageant on Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 PM in the Gym. As I stated in a previous message, the students will wear their best Christmas dress-up clothing for this program. So come and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

We are in the middle of our canned food drive, so keep those donations coming into school. This is a combined Thanksgiving/Christmas drive, so please be generous as you always are. Finally, as a reminder, the last day of school before our Christmas Break is December 20. The Christmas Parties will take place at 2:00 PM. December 20th also marks the end of the second quarter.

Christmas Break— Wednesday, December 21, 2022, through Tuesday, January 3, 2023!

May your Advent be filled with HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE,

Mrs. Hayes

## Announcements

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



### December Birthdays

Lydia Eddingfield-2  
Liam Hessler-4  
Sophia Bradshaw-12  
Mia Bahr-14  
Arabella Smith-14  
Louise Zitko-15  
Archie Geisz-17  
Jonah Abbott-18  
Theo Dowd-19  
Brandon Young-19  
Lucas Kuenzel-19  
Aidan Flavin-20  
Phoenix Murphy-22  
Celeste Smith-26  
Liam Feldman-27  
Ella Goodman-27  
Agnes Dougherty-28  
Miss Hope-30

### June Half-Birthdays

Alice Chitwood-2  
Lilliana Schoen-2  
Emma Sitzes-4  
Nolan Moellering-5  
Sam Weiss-6  
Paul Dougherty-7  
Beckett Ottenad-8  
Mrs. Roslawski-8  
Eleanor Chitwood-12  
Pippa Magee-17  
Mrs. Holbrook-19  
Sofia Rizos-20  
Elliot Ottenad-20  
Henry Bradford-21  
Jude Potts-23  
Evan Ilg-23  
Mrs. Klein-24  
Dalila Ramirez-25  
Miss Tracy-27  
Isadora Hogrebe-28  
Mrs. Finan-29  
Sophia Molina-30



## Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

- 12/4-Cookies with Santa
- 12/9-NOON DISMISSAL-PD & SIP  
Preschool Open-Aftercare till 4pm
- 12/13-Home & School 6:30pm
- 12/15-Christmas Pageant 6:30pm
- 12/19-School Board 7pm
- 12/20-End of 2nd Quarter  
Christmas Parties-2pm
- CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS AT 3PM**
- 12/21-1/2 CHRISTMAS BREAK
- 1/3-School Resumes

**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**and Happy New Year!**

## Miss Molly: Preschool A



The Angels have been very busy working on the Letters E and F. They have learned about Fish, Eagles, Farms, Elephants, and the list goes on. They have worked on counting, writing, math charts, science experiments, art, to learn the letters. They also had fun working on projects for Thanksgiving and learning to be thankful for their families and the many things that God has given them. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!!



## Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten



The bears have been busy continuing to learn about letters, sounds and numbers. We have talked a lot about Thanksgiving and showing gratitude toward others and being thankful for all that we have. They learned about the pilgrims and native Americans as well. We made butter out of whipping cream and tasted it on crackers. The bears have also enjoyed learning Spanish every week.



## Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

It's hard to believe we are heading into December! We're beginning 10 frames in math and using them for learning combinations 1-10 and will soon be using them with numbers 11-20. We are preparing for guided reading groups which will start in January with several weekly literacy centers including sight word bingo as well as beginning sound match games. We have a new Advent prayer we will be saying daily in preparation for this holiday season!



### **First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein**

First grade has been busy learning about persuasive writing. We wrote letters to Mrs. Hayes persuading her to let us hide kindness rocks around the school (she said yes!) and persuaded people to eat other foods besides turkey on Thanksgiving. We also disguised turkeys to save them from being eaten on Thanksgiving! We are excited to learn more about Advent in the upcoming weeks and discuss our wants versus our needs to help remember the true meaning of Christmas!

### **Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks**

Second Grade has had a great Fall! We prepared for Thanksgiving by reflecting on all the many blessings we have in our lives. In Social Studies we learned about the history of the First Thanksgiving and all about traditions! In Math we are finishing up some difficult concepts, and are excited to tackle our Money unit to finish out the semester. We are looking forward to our Class Store to demonstrate our knowledge! This past month Second Grade has prepared for a very important sacrament, First Reconciliation. Please keep us in your prayers as we make this big step in our faith journey!

### **Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson**

Third Grade learned about Golden Lanceheads on an island called Snake Island near Brazil. We also really enjoy Mystery Doug's Science Lesson. In Science we are learning about How Things Move and know some new vocabulary words: motion, speed, position, gravity, force, weight and friction etc. We are anxious to do our Speed Ramp Experiment using our Hot Wheel cars. In Math we are studying 2x 4x 8x Tables. Our mass on November 17 that celebrated the Feast of Saint Elizabeth was wonderful. After mass our Elizabeth shared her bread with us and we fed the birds with some as well. Hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and enjoyed time spent with family and friends.

### **Miss Gretchen Decker: Art**

There were many fall art projects going around this month! Early Childhood Students got to make fall trees, hand-print turkeys and also learn about Pablo Picasso. Upper Class Students got to complete a watercolor leaf project and are now preparing for their future art test. Then starting at the end of November, the students will start creating Christmas artwork they will bring home to celebrate for the Holidays!

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

- 4th grade religion: we are working our way through the Ten Commandments. We are currently making a slide show presentation for the first Commandment.
- 4th grade English: we just finished the unit on nouns and are preparing to take the test. We will also begin writing an essay.
- 4th grade social studies: we are discussing the beginnings of Westward Expansion, how it impacted our country, and how St. Louis played a part in it. Timeline projects have been assigned. Everyone enjoys learning about our classmates!
- 5th grade English: we are working our way through verbs, verb phrases, and participle. We will also begin writing an essay.
- 7th grade religion: we are taking a close look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our present studies. We are also researching saints and trying to narrow down our choice of a patron saint for Confirmation.

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

Fifth Grade: The Fifth Graders had a great time completing the Math project about planning and buying food for a Thanksgiving dinner. It related very well to our standards of decimal concepts because they compared prices, and multiplied and added prices. In December we will continue to work on decimals. While reading stories in book B, we will focus on making connections between text to self, text to text, and text to world. That is an important reading skill for students to learn. In Religion class Advent will be discussed to get ready for the birth of our Savior.

Fourth Grade: Math class was filled with much learning of multiplication strategies and the Thanksgiving dinner project. We will continue to focus on multiplication through December. In Literature class, they will take a Unit test on book A about reading strategies and begin stories in book B. We will also learn more about cause and effect in stories.

Sixth Grade Standard Math: Basic fractions have already been introduced, and in December the students will get into more complex fractions. We will relate fractions to the decimals we have already learned as well.

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

4th Grade is learning about different kinds of WAVES and their parts.

5th Grade just learned about the tallest skyscrapers in the world.

6-7-8 are reviewing Kinetic and Potential energy and the transformation of different energies from one to the other.

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

Religion: Students in Grade 6 are just beginning the story of how the Israelites escaped from Egypt and are returning to the Promised Land.  
Students in Grade 8 completed their study of the four Marks of the Church. They will soon begin learning about the history of the Church.

Social Studies: Grade 5 students are beginning their study of the American Revolution and eighth grade students are learning about the Civil War.

Students in Grade 6 are learning about the culture and geography of Russia and Central Asia.  
Seventh grade students completed their study of ancient Greek history and are just starting with the history of ancient Rome.

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

Algebra 2: Students are working with rational expressions and polynomials. They have identified the domain by factoring to find excluded values.

Challenge: Students are graphing functions by making a table of values.

Algebra 1: Students are solving systems of linear equations by graphing, substitution and elimination.

Pre-Algebra: Students are dilating figures using a scale factor.

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

#### Bellarmino Speech League

At our first meet we were a bit nervous but we all did our best. The students who participated should be commended. They had to memorize their piece, and then perform it twice (and got judged twice).

Clara Thompson, Addi Pfeiffer, Madi Wilkinson, Emmy Kleekamp, Addi McMorrow and Adriana Kurtovic earned a red ribbon. Xavier Cyr, Aidan Flavin and Jack Berry earned a white ribbon.

Our next meet is February 3rd.

#### ELA 6th-8th Grade

The 6th graders are immersed in the book *The Giver*. They even created perfect communities and made their presentations to the 3rd graders. The 7th graders are reading historical fiction--*Chains*--and the 8th graders are reading *Just Mercy*.

We are about to finish NaNoWriMo, and will then begin informative writing.

### **Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education**

We are finishing up flag football with the older students. Then we will be starting soccer! I have lots of fun activities and games planned to develop soccer skills and learn more about the game.

