

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community



Volume 12, Issue 4

Nov 2023

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

The Guide — November 30, 2023

Dear SRA Families,

As we finish out the final days of November, I would be remiss during this time of the year that we share our appreciation for the goodness in our lives if I did not take a moment to thank the many people who support our school and our faculty.

One of those groups, the SRA Ladies' Club, surprised the faculty with a completely redecorated faculty lounge, fresh paint, furniture, and coffee/tea makers. What a wonderful gift! The new blue paint brings a sense of calm to our lunches and after-school meetings. We love it! They are also providing new books recommended by the teachers for their classroom libraries. Thank you for taking the time and energy to let us know you care!

Another group, the Home and School Association, hosted a successful Trivia Night in which the proceeds helped to provide experiences for our students that the school does not have in the school budget, such as buses for field trips, special treats throughout the year, and once again support for faculty and staff. This team of parent volunteers put in hours of their time planning, setting up, and cleaning up for this event. Thank you!

Finally, I have to thank Mr. Winters and Mr. Ottenod for volunteering last week to teach PE once they heard we would need substitute teachers for PE. They had a great time, and so did the kids. Their gesture of helping in a time of need filled my heart with appreciation for our parents who support SRA. St. Raphael could not be who we are without your support. As I go through the process of accepting resumes and interviewing candidates, parent volunteers are welcomed. Call the school office if you are interested in being a PE teacher for a day!

We also want to congratulate our Second Graders on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. Thank you to Miss Franks and Fr. Molini for preparing the second graders. They knew what they were doing and displayed their joy of receiving Sacramental Grace through their smiles. It was a beautiful evening.

It is hard to believe that December 1st is tomorrow, and the Season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd. Here are a few December calendar items I want to stress in this message.

- **Friday, December 8th- is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** School is in session, and the students will attend 8:00 Mass on this day. (Some neighboring Catholic schools are closed on this day, but we are in session.)
- **Cookies with Santa** was on the calendar for December 10th, but that event has been **canceled** for this year. Please note this change on your calendar.

- **Christmas Program - Thursday, December 14**, is still happening! Each teacher is preparing their classes, and all information about the performance will come from your child’s teachers. The performance will begin at 6:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:10 PM, and students must arrive by 6:15 PM. Last year’s program was delightful, so join us for an evening of joy and a dose of Christmas spirit.
- **There is no Aftercare on Tuesday, December 19, due to the Faculty & Staff Christmas Party, and there is also No Aftercare on Thursday, December 21, at the Noon dismissal.** Please make other arrangements for your children on these days. Thank you.

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Christmas Break begins at the Noon dismissal.
 Christmas Parties begin at 11:00 AM
 2nd Semester ends on this day
 Classes Resume on January 3, 2024!

December also brings the possibility of SNOW & ICE!

In the event of inclement weather, school closures will be announced through a phone call/message from ALMA. It is essential that all family information is correct in the ALMA system for a family to receive this message. An SRA Flocknote message will also be sent out along with postings on Social Media. Again, families must be connected to SRA Flocknotes and Social Media to receive these messages. The inclement weather closure announcements will also be posted on the local news stations- KSDK, KMOV, and FOX.

May your family have a blessed Advent Season,
 Mrs. Hayes

Holiday Canned Food Drive



Please get into the holiday spirit, and share your good fortune with the needy

No personal care items this time--just food, please

**SRA will be collecting food from
 11/30-12/14***

**The admission “price” to the
 Christmas program is one food item
 per person...**



Announcements

Daily Mass Time: 8:00am

Grades K-3 T/W/Th

Grades 4-8 M/W/Th



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Liam Hessler-4
Gabriel Kiblinger-5
Sophia Bradshaw-12
Mia Bahr-14
Arabella Smith-14
Louise Zitko-15
Archie Geisz-17
Jonah Abbott-18
Lucas Kuenzel-19
Mrs. Stein-22
Celeste Smith-26
Liam Feldman-27
Ella Goodman-27
Agnes Dougherty-28

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
James Jost-15
Pippa Magee-17
Elliot Ottenad-20
Henry Bradford-21
Jude Potts-23
Evan Ilg-23
Mrs. Klein-24
Miss Tracy-27
Isadora Hogrebe-28
Mrs. Fian-29



Important Calendar Dates and Notes:

12/3—Advent Begins

12/10—Cookies with Santa

12/12—Home & School 6:30pm

12/14—Christmas Program 6:30pm

12/18—School Board 7pm

12/21—End of 2nd Quarter

Christmas Parties 11am

Noon Dismissal

Christmas Break Begins at 12pm

No Aftercare

1/3—School Resumes PK-8

Miss Molly: Preschool A

Happy Holidays!

The Angels have been very busy working on everything Thanksgiving! They have been making Turkeys, Pilgrims, and learning about Fall. We did have time to go on a trip with our seventh grade buddies to the park. We went on a leaf hunt and had time to play on the playground. They have so much fun with their buddies!!



Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten

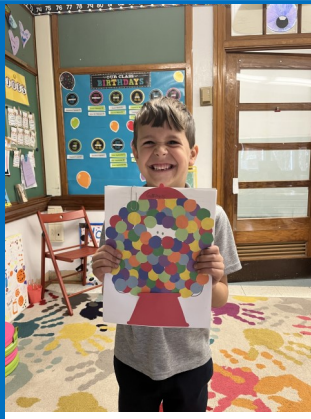
The Bears continued to be busy during the month of November. We painted numbers with Q-tips. The math coach came to visit and we practiced counting beads using one to one correspondence. We talked about the season of fall and all the changes we see and took a walk to Wilmore park with Miss Molly's class and the 6th grade. We finished out November by talking about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. We talked about the first Thanksgiving and made butter out of whipping cream.



Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

Kindergarten has been busy preparing for the season of Advent! We're looking forward to singing our songs at the upcoming Christmas Pageant. We are working on 10 frames in math and are moving into teen numbers using these 10 frames. We continue to practice our weekly sight words lists, learning about sentence structure, and CVC words. Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season!





First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein

First grade had a busy November! We worked on subtracting to compare numbers in math and learned about digraph sounds in phonics. We also learned about the Rosary and all of the stories in the mysteries. We concluded the month by having a cookie election! We had the help of Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Klein on election day to check in electronically and cast real ballots into a machine (Oreos won!). And finally, we disguised turkeys so they wouldn't get eaten. We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving!



Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks



We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with their loved ones! Thank you for all your prayers for us during our Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation. It was a beautiful night filled with the Holy Spirit. This monumental step in our faith journey has brought us even closer to God just in time for the Advent season.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Graders celebrated All Souls Day Mass and dressed as saints on October 28 to give a presentation to the whole school in Family Groups. We had wonderful costumes, thanks to our resourceful parents! We took some great photos. We typed up Tree stories pulling character, setting and plot/problem from bags. Then we wrote our rough draft and typed our final copy on Google Docs. We drew beautiful illustrations to match our stories. Red Ribbon Week was fun for all. Our class listened to the song, "Puff the Magic Dragon" and decorated our door with Dragons. Our slogan was "Don't Huff, Don't Puff, Keep Away from that Stuff." Our Halloween Party was also a good time, thanks to Room Mom, Mrs. Zouglaas and other helper parents. Hoping everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

Short period of art this month! The 6th-8th graders are creating magazine collages, 4th-5th are learning about One-Point Perspective, Kindergarten through 3rd are making oil pastel ocean drawings, and Pre-K are making Thanksgiving Corn! Lots of different projects but learning new ways of being creative in a short period of time. I hope everyone starts to have a good holiday season!

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

The 7th-grade students have decided on the saint they are choosing as their Confirmation Saint. They will research these saints, find miracles attributed to them, what they had done in their life to become a saint, and obstacles they had faced in their faith life. The 7th-graders will write a report and create a shield depicting aspects of the saint's life.

In 4th-grade religion, the students have just begun their studies of the Ten Commandments. They have also begun a slide presentation that they will add to each time we begin a new Commandment.

In English, the 4th and 5th graders have just finished their writing project. 4th graders wrote a "How To" paragraph and 5th graders wrote a comparison/contrast essay.

In 4th grade literature, we just finished a novel study, *Stone Fox*, and are now beginning *The Hundred Dresses*.

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they study for the School Spelling Bee, which will be held on January 30.

Grade 8: Linus C., Teddy A., AJ C., Elizabeth K., Jude P., and alternate Hazel D.

Grade 7: Jake A., Susan I., Hannah K., Clara T., Helen P., and alternate James B.

Grade 6: Maura K., Caroline F., Emmy K., Stella R., Adriana K., and alternate Maddie L.

Grade 5: Katelynn F., Isa H., Sean M., Andrea M., Anna W., and alternate Daniella G.

Grade 4: Alexis Y., Lucca L., Hattie Z., Piper W., Elle A., and alternate Harper B.

We all hope you enjoyed time with your loved ones at Thanksgiving!

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

4th Grade Math is diving into two digit by two digit multiplication.

6th Grade Standard Math is finishing up fraction equations and moving into tables and graphing.

6th Grade Challenge Math is exploring the coordinate plane and functions.

5th Grade Math is dividing decimals and then working on graphing and organizing data.

5th Grade Literature is still reading Bud, Not Buddy and practicing writing similes.

5th Grade Religion is planning our next Mass on December 7 and studying Advent.

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

4th Grade - Just finished Light & Sound Waves, Going into adaptations of plants and animals for survival.

5th grade - Started Food Chains and Food Webs

6-7-8th Grade - Studying advantages/disadvantages of asexual and sexual reproduction, then going into Heredity and Genetics.

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

Religion: In sixth grade we are learning how the Hebrews left Egypt and began their journey to the Promised Land.

Grade eight students are completing the four Marks of the Church. They will soon begin a unit on Catholic Church history.

Social Studies: We are discovering the geography and cultures of Europe in sixth grade.

Seventh grade students have just begun looking at the geography and history of China.

Students in grades Five and Eight are discussing the causes and effects of the American Revolution.

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

The middle school continues to explore new topics in math. The 7th Grade Challenge class is working on solving equations and creating and interpreting graphs. The Pre-Algebra class is working with decimals, fractions and percents. The Algebra I class is working on writing and graphing linear equations. The Algebra II class is working on simplifying rational expressions and solving rational equations.

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

The students are finishing up their NaNoWriMo projects. These were long stories that we worked on for all of November. The sixth graders--who had never done NaNoWriMo before--were not completely confident. Would they be able to craft a 6,000 word story, and keep the plot going? Would they run out of ideas?

In the end, all the students realized they have more writing stamina than they previously thought.

All the grades are crafting book reviews and book trailers for the book they just finished. Next week, we'll begin a new book!

Mr. John McDermott: Physical Education

I am sorry to be leaving St. Raphael's after 3 years. It is one of the most difficult decisions I've made. I have enjoyed my time at SRA and that is because of the families at this school. You have welcomed me since my first days at the school during the fall of 2020. I have enjoyed attending the school events, extracurriculars, and field day. The reception I have received throughout my time here is humbling. I will miss St. Raphael's and I will always cherish my time spent here. I wish St. Raphael's continued success for the many years to come.