

# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## *The Guide*

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 13, Issue 4

Nov 2024



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

November 26, 2024

**"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word."**

*Psalm 138:1-2*

Dear SRA Families,

I would first like to wish all of St. Raphael's families a very blessed Thanksgiving Holiday. Not only is it a good time to pause for a few days to give thanks for all the goodness in our lives, but it is also lovely to have a few days to spend with family and friends as we prepare for Advent.

Once we return from our Thanksgiving Break on December 2, we will celebrate the first week of Advent and light the first Advent candle—this candle represents HOPE— the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming, recalling the prophecies about the Messiah and the hope He brings to the world.

Our Second Graders will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 PM. Please keep the second graders and their families in your prayers during this time.

The students in grades 5-8 will attend confessions on Monday, December 9, and grades 3 & 4 will attend on Tuesday, December 10. Both sessions will take place directly after the 8 AM Mass.

Our new music teacher, Mrs. Copeland, and our teachers are preparing the classes for the Christmas program on Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 PM. Students are to wear their "Christmas Best" for the program. It will surely be an event to get everyone excited for Christmas. More information about the evening program will be sent through the teachers.

We will celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** this year on Monday, December 9. The school will be in session on this day, and all the students will attend 8 AM Mass.

We have two half days in December - one with aftercare and one without aftercare.

**Friday, December 5– SIP Meetings – Noon dismissal and aftercare will be offered until 4 PM.**

**Friday, December 20– Noon dismissal after the 11 AM Christmas Parties. NO AFTERCARE**

Last year, a few teachers asked if they could bring their dogs to school as classroom companions for the students because they had done this at a previous school with positive results. I agreed to try the practice out last year. The kids enjoyed having a dog around the school and have asked if they will return. Most teachers do not bring their dogs to school, but I've asked the teachers who do to email the families of those they teach to ensure parents are aware.

Thank you for the fantastic participation in the **November Canned Food Drive**. The competition is on for the year. As I write this message, I don't know which class has the most for November, but the last I heard, the 4th had 150, the 5th had 140, and the first had 97. Let's see what the final count is! Of course, the ultimate winner will be decided in May. Our local foodbank thanks you!

Congratulations Highlights:

**Bellarmino Performers** had their first meet, and everyone did a fantastic job. Congrats to all!

**Red Ribbon**- Isa & Katelynn and Vivien & Maddie L.

**Blue Ribbon** - Hattie & Harper and Andrea & Lucy and Piper & Molly F.

**CYC City-County Champions!** Wow, this is a huge achievement! Congrats!

The SRA **8th Grade Boys Volleyball Team** won 1st Place in the City-County Tournament.

The SRA/SGA **5th Grade Girls Soccer Team** won 1st Place in the City-County Tournament.

Well, I know the next few weeks will be busy with all the extras we must do in preparation for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, but remember to make prayer a part of your day. We are so blessed and have much to be grateful for on any given day.

With Thanksgiving blessings,  
Mrs. Hayes

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

*Colossian 3:16*



## Announcements

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



### December Birthdays

Eleanor Muenz-Winkler-4  
Liam Hessler-4  
Gabriel Kiblinger-5  
Sophia Bradshaw-11  
Mia Bahr-14  
Arabella Smith-14  
Louise Zitko-15  
Archie Geisz-17  
Lucas Kuenzel-19  
Mrs. Stein-22  
Celeste Smith-26  
Agnes Dougherty-28  
Morgan Marino-30  
Simon Noser-30

### June Half-Birthdays

Alice Chitwood-2  
Lilliana Schoen-2  
Emma Siztes-4  
Sam Weiss-6  
Paul Dougherty-7  
Beckett Ottenad-8  
Mrs. Roslawski-8  
Mae Grzesik-9  
Eleanor Chitwood-12  
James Jost-15  
Pippa Magee-17  
Elliot Ottenad-20  
Henry Bradford-21  
Evan Ilg-23  
Mrs. Klein-24  
Miss Tracy-27  
Isa Hoglebe-28  
Rose Bradford-29  
Mrs. Finan-29

# DECEMBER

## Important Calendar Dates & Notes:

12/4-2nd Grade First Reconciliation 6:30pm

**12/6-Noon Dismissal-SIP Work Day**

12/8-Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12/9-Confessions Grades 5-8

12/10-Confessions Grades 3-4

12/12-Christmas Program

12/16-School Board 7pm

**12/20-End of 2nd Quarter-**

**Christmas Parties 11am**

**Noon Dismissal-**

**Christmas Break Begins at 12pm**

Classes Resume on January 6





## Miss Molly: Preschool A

The Angels are getting ready for the Thanksgiving holiday! They have made turkey headbands, turkeys with their feathers made out of their name, A fall tree with a quote at the bottom " Give thanks in all you do for it is the will of God". They have started the letter E and have learned about Elephants, Eagles, emus, and eels. We will continue the letter E when we return to school.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!



## Ms. Tracy: Prekindergarten



November has been very busy in Pre-k B. We have learned new letters and numbers and practiced handwriting. We learned about red light and green light foods and categorized them. We graphed our favorite fruits and vegetables as well. With Thanksgiving right around the corner we talked about being thankful and counting our blessings. We also learned about the first Thanksgiving and the pilgrims and native Americans. We made butter as a class and tried it on crackers!



## Kindergarten News: Mrs. Liz Magee

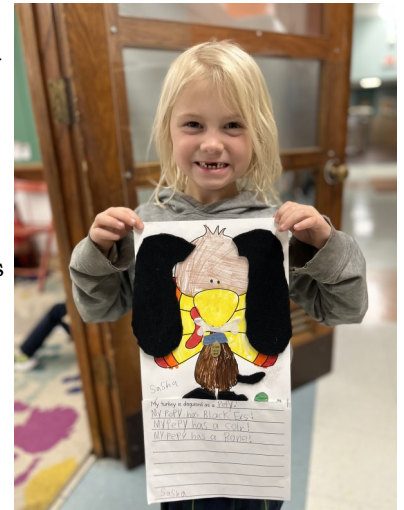
Kindergarten has been busy this month! We've been working on combinations of 10 in math and played a new game called, Shake and Spill. We began a unit on the Rosary and have been practicing and learning the prayers for each decade. In preparation for Thanksgiving we learned about traditional Thanksgiving foods and wrote about them as well made drawings of our Thanksgiving tables. Wishing everyone a blessed Thanksgiving holiday!



### First Grade News: Mrs. Jessica Klein



First grade started November with a cookie election. Chips Ahoy and Oreo were our candidates, and each first grader picked a campaign to work on. We made posters, registered to vote, helped register Kindergarten, had a debate and then cast our ballots on Election Day! Oreo was the winner! We got ready for Thanksgiving by disguising turkeys and made our own balloons for a mini Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade after reading "Balloons Over Broadway" and learning about the history of the parade. We also did a fantastic job leading mass! We are ready for Thanksgiving and hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!



### Second Grade News: Mrs. Toni Jackson

Second grade had a busy November! We finished up our First Reconciliation prep, please pray for us as we experience the Sacrament on December 4th. We have been working on 2 digit addition and will begin subtraction soon. In science we learned about different ways that water and wind change the landscape We used sugar cubes as models of rocks to see how wind (shaking) and water affect rocks. We are learning spelling and phonics rules and incorporating them into our writing. We also learned how adjectives bring a story to life!



### Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson



Third Grade enjoyed the activities during Red Ribbon Week. We decorated our door with scarecrows around the theme "Drugs Scare Me." Our class researched a saint and we dressed up in costume for All Saints Day. Our costumes were super!! We learned all about the French word "genre." Our class has enjoyed plays, fables, folktales, legends and fairy tales. Ms. Polson read us a biography about the Grimm Brothers. We also read a story by Hans Christian Anderson. In Math we worked hard on story problems and how to find Key words and choose the correct operations. We are looking forward to our Thanksgiving Break and spending time with family and friends.



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

**7th Grade Religion:** Students have been steadily working in class and will soon begin their preparation for Confirmation. They will start searching for the saint they wish to study, who resonates with them somehow. A search for whom they want to ask to be their sponsor will also ensue. It is a great honor and privilege if one of these young people approaches you and asks if you would be willing to sponsor them. Most recently, the 7th graders hosted a family mass in honor of Christ the King. A big thank you to all who participated!

**5th Grade English:** Students have paused regular grammar lessons and are currently working on their comparison/contrast essays. These essays are due December 3. The students will also continue working on the unit on verbs in their textbooks.

**4th Grade Literature:** Students are currently reading *Shiloh*. They are working on fluency when reading, making inferences, and comprehension.

**4th Grade Social Studies:** Students will soon be taking their test on the Lewis and Clark Expedition/The Louisiana Purchase. After that, they will learn about The Civil War. Also, their Timeline Project has been assigned. The Timeline projects are due December 13.

**4th Grade Religion:** Students have just finished Unit Two: We Honor Mary and will begin their study of how we show our love for Jesus. In this unit, We will be studying the Ten Commandments.

**4th Grade English:** Students will be continuing their work on learning about verbs. They will also begin writing an essay soon after Thanksgiving.

We all wish you and your family a very safe and happy Thanksgiving!

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



4th Grade Math is going to start their next unit covering place value.

5th Grade Math is still in their fraction area, practicing multiplying and dividing.

5th Grade Literature just finished the second novel of the year, *Bud, Not Buddy*. We are excited to wrap up this novel with some fun end of novel projects after Thanksgiving.

5th grade Religion will be taking a closer look at Advent during the month of December.

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

### Religion:

Students in grade six are learning about the wilderness journey of the Israelites as they return to the Promised Land.

Grade eight students are continuing the marks of the Church. They will begin to look at what the term "catholic" means.

### Social Studies:

Grades five and eight are looking at the U.S. Constitution and will soon begin units on westward expansion.

Grade six students have begun a unit on the cultures of Russia and Central Asia.

Students in grade seven are studying the history of Ancient Israel and will soon begin to learn about Ancient Greece.

Everyone is looking forward to Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

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

In 6th Challenge Math, the students are working on solving problems involving fractions, including dividing fractions, and finding areas and volumes.

In 7th Challenge Math, the students are studying proportional relationships with fractions and solving problems with percentages.

The Pre-Algebra class is learning about linear equations and systems of equations.

The Algebra class is learning about organizing data and creating scatter plots.

The Algebra II students are working on factoring and solving polynomial equations and inequalities.

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

### **6th-8th ELA**

We're in our last week of NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). Each grade has a word count goal (6,000 for 6th, 7,000 for 7th and 8,000 for 8th). The students had the luxury of choosing what kind of story (fictional) that they wanted to write. We're also in the midst of informative writing. The 8th graders wrote about "world changers" and the 7th graders wrote about Nazis or anti-Nazi activists. The 6th graders will begin an informative piece after the Thanksgiving holiday.

All three classes are beginning a new book as well. The 6th graders will be reading *The Giver*. The 7th graders are reading *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and the 8th graders are reading *Unbroken*.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

4TH Grade Science just started a Unit on Plant and Animal Growth and Development, Physical Features for Survival, and Adaptations for Shelter and Defense.

5TH Grade Science is finishing a Unit on Newton's Law of Gravity.

6TH-7TH-8TH Grade Science are learning the different Layers of the Atmosphere, Weather, about Isobar Lines on maps showing Low and High Pressure Areas.



## Miss Gretchen Decker: Art

Happy Thanksgiving Month! Lots of great artwork is being made this month and here is what each grade has been up to:

Pre-K: These students have been learning about different kinds of lines and have been making Thanksgiving crafts!

Kindergarten: These students have been learning about the different kinds of lines you can make along with pointillism and thanksgiving crafts.

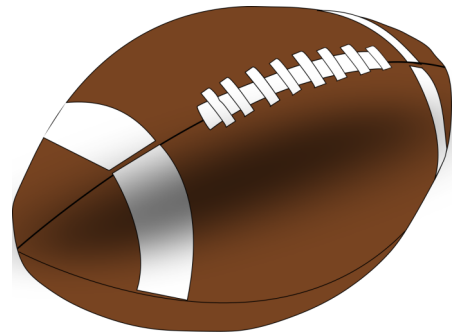
1st-3rd: These students have been making pointillism paintings and they have been doing a great job with mixing colors!

4th-5th: These students have been making 3D food items or initials! These students will also paint their projects that will be able to stand on their own!

6th-8th: These students are very busy making origami! A lot of students have taken up the challenge to make perfect Japanese Crane forms while a great number of students are trying to make 25 origami! These will be tied together on string to be displayed in the hallway like garland.

## Mr. Jeff Klos: PE

Physical Education just completed the Flag Football unit. Various classes were taught the rules, positions, and we discussed passing trees and gaps in the offensive line. Hopefully they will be able to follow the games on television with a better understanding.



## Mrs. Jena Copeland: Music

The month of November has been all about preparing for our Christmas program in December! We can't wait to perform our songs for you!

