Saint Raphael the Archangel *The Guide*

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 9. Issue 2 October 30, 2020



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

October 30, 2020

"He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love" Proverbs

Dear SRA Families,

Can you believe November begins this Sunday? Back in August, I had strong doubts about being able to offer the in-school learning option past two to four weeks, but here we are at the end of October. We have made it to November with students in the classrooms four days a week. Each week that we can offer in-person classes is a blessing!

We can only be as safe and successful as we've been because of all the extra effort by the entire St. Raphael community. Parents, students, teachers, and administration have come together in this endeavor to keep our kids safe. Thank you! With that thought in mind, I am reminding families to practice social distancing on the parking lot at pick-up. I understand why parents come to the front of the parking lot, but we still need to remain 6ft apart, wear masks, and keep younger children close to us. Also, teachers would appreciate your help in reminding our students to keep masks on during the day.

This year has been a learning experience for all of us, and we have had to find ways of living our life with a new normal. Some of our new normal...Covid Task Forces meet weekly, parents keeping the children home when they develop a new or worsening symptom, students being reminded to keep face masks on throughout the day, and teachers having to be flexible with everything daily. Thank you for being faithful to the new practices this year.

In the growth mindset way of thinking, though, we have found new ways of "doing things" that bring more options for the future, even when we are COVID free. Arrival drop-off procedures seem to be working well and will continue with a few adjustments for colder days. Zoom Parent-Teacher Conferences also seemed to go well, as reported by both parents and teachers. Nothing beats meeting in person, but having the Zoom option throughout the year does improve parent/teacher communication. Finally, the addition of the various digital programs has provided a fuller learning experience for all of our students.

During the month of November, we will focus on the "Virtue of Courtesy-- Being thoughtful of others." Again, the virtues seem simple, but at times, challenging to consistently live. Right now, more than ever, our world needs a large dose of COURTESY. Let's teach our children well by example, in words and actions.

November calendar events bring:

- 11/3 Uniform Picture Retake Day- If your child was absent or a virtual learner and could not attend the previous picture day, please plan on attending. STLDigital will be here from 8:00-9:00 AM. Parents need to contact STLDigital if you need your child to retake their picture and must bring the original photos back.
- 11/9 Virtual- Second Grade Reconciliation Parent Meeting at 6:30 PM
- 11/10 8th Grade- Confirmation Our 8th-Graders will receive the Holy Spirit on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 PM. Please keep these students in your prayers.
- 11/11 Veteran's Day Mass: This year, we are unable to host our traditional Veteran's Day Mass and Reception, but the 5th-Grade Class will still honor and celebrate our veterans at the 8:00 AM live streaming Mass. Families can find the live streaming link on the school website.
- 11/14 Trivia has been postponed until the spring.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis Office of Education and Formation informed principals this week that the schools will not be assessing students this year with the IOWA Standardized Assessment. I want families to know we implemented Renaissance STAR 360 Benchmark Assessments this year. This program allows teachers to assess student growth in Reading and Math throughout the year. With this program, teachers can plan and create learning targets for your child. I will send home detailed information about the new Renaissance programs in a future message.

Stay healthy and be courteous this month, Mrs. Hayes

Announcements



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



November Birthdays

Everly Baker-2 Hannah Kratky-3 Jude Wulf-4 Joey Raymo-6 Teddy Adams-6 Mrs. Schmidt-8 Maren Sullivan-9 Ava Christlieb-11 Francie Berry-12 Rosie Hogrebe-15 Mrs. Hayes - 20 Joshua Abbott-20 Alexis Young-20 Joseph Sullivan-21 Ruth Snodgrass-24 Fr. John-25 Patrick Meier-27 Dylan Bond-29

Virtue of Courtesy



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- Nov. 3 Uniform Picture Retake Day
- Nov. 9 6:30pm Parent Meeting for Reconciliation Zoom
- Nov. 10 Confirmation (8th Grade)
- Nov. 16 School Board Meeting
- Nov. 25 No School Preschool 8
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving No School Preschool-8
- Nov. 27 No School Preschool-8
- Nov. 29 First Week of Advent

Dec. 1 2nd Grade First Reconciliation

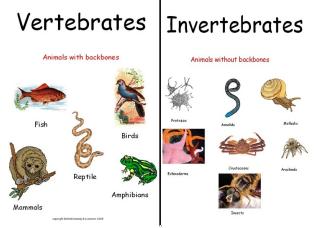


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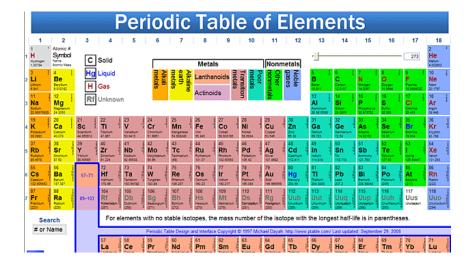
4th grade has been learning about the physical features of different species of animals and how specialized structures help animals survive in their environment.



5th grade has been studying vertebrates and how scientists classify the vertebrate animals into different classes based on their specific characteristics.



6th, 7th, & 8th grade have been learning about matter, atomic theory, atomic structure, electron configuration, and the Periodic Table of the Elements.



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Miss Molly: Preschool A

October has been a blast. We did so many science experiments this month. The best was exploring the pumpkins and making a pumpkin volcano. The fizzy slime was pretty exciting. All had fun at our Halloween party and they looked so cute in their costumes. Have a wonderful week!

TRICK-OR-TREAT!!!



Mrs. Reck: Prekindergarten

Fall has definitely arrived in PreK-B! We took a leaf walk, collected leaves of various shapes and colors, made rubbings, a wreath, and painted a fall tree. We also had lots of fun getting ready for our favorite fall holiday: Halloween! We hypothesized and tested whether a large pumpkin floats or sinks, made a craft to show the life cycle of pumpkins, and charted how many of us like or dislike baked pumpkin seeds. A favorite activity was making a "pumpkin volcano" because it was so cool to see our jack-o-lantern ooze with green bubbles from its nose, mouth, and head. We are counting down to our Halloween party and thank our room parents for working to make it special.

Kindergarten News: Miss Lu Ann Domijan

The Kindergarten is off to a great start of the year.

We are reading Halloween books, doing word work and making 2D and 3D shapes with play-dough.

We are also doing individual center cards using clothespins and putting individual puzzles together. Our Halloween party was so much fun. Thanks to all the parents for making it happen.





Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Halloween!















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First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

The first grade has had a wonderful week. We just finished learning all the addition strategies and now have moved to subtraction. In science, we learned about the lifecycle of a pumpkin. Each child brought in their own pumpkin and we did different investigations using the pumpkins. We measured how many paperclips went around the pumpkin, what adjectives can describe our pumpkins, whether or not our pumpkins sank or floated, and we weighed our pumpkins. After weighing our pumpkins we weighed ourselves. It was fun to see the big difference between us and the pumpkin. In religion we are studying the Holy Trinity.









We want to wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween!

Second Grade News: Miss Hayley Franks

Second grade has been working hard. We have been growing as readers and can now identify several text features. Our math skills are improving as we incorporate all sorts of games into our math lessons. We are working together as a team to accomplish a class behavioral goal. We are excited about the second quarter and all that we will learn. Before the weather turned chilly, we were able to enjoy popsicles outside for the Archangels Feast Day with our virtual friends.

Second grade is growing in our faith as we begin our sacramental preparation for our First Reconciliation. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our commitment to our faith journey.

Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third grade has had fun learning about a saint of their choice. We look forward to dressing up as that saint and attending daily mass on Oct. 28 in the school cafeteria.

We have truly enjoyed meeting with our virtual friends. At our Google Meets, we have been sharing truths and one false fact as a guessing game of sorts. We have read some personal narratives on Meet as well.

In math, we took our chapter 1 place value test and are moving forward. Halloween is on our minds.



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

It was great to meet with all the parents for conferences last week. I enjoyed meeting with you. I am grateful for the ability to connect virtually.

We have been working hard in class and doing well. In 4th grade religion we are beginning our learning of God's laws for us, the Ten Commandments. In social studies, we are wrapping up our studies of the Civil War and slavery in the United States. In English, we wrote a story just for fun about Halloween. COVID-19 will not stop us from finding a way to have fun! We also decorated our classroom door in celebration of Red Ribbon Drug Free Week.

In 5th grade English, we also wrote and shared Halloween stories just for fun. In 7th grade religion, we wrapped up our study of the Infancy Narratives of Jesus.

Have a safe Halloween!





Mrs. Michele Swaney: Religion, Math, Reading, Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)

5th grade: The fifth grade students have been helping me as I fill in for Mrs. Knauer. Thanks to everyone for the welcome. In religion class, we have focused on the Sacraments of Initiation which are Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The students had interesting questions for Father John when he visited their religion class. In math, they have been working on division and algebraic expressions and equations. In literature, they have been learning about personification, similes and metaphors, the sequence of events and comparing and contrasting settings. The Halloween party was a spooktacular success!

4th grade: The fourth grade have been busy students this quarter and are getting used to working with me. In math, the students have been working on addition and subtraction in algebra, and multiplication and division properties and problems. In literature, they have been busy reading about a boy and his harmonica, a famous artist, and a mouse living in New York City. The literature focus was on and learning about fiction versus non-fiction, idioms, story details, and the sequence of events, points of view and story settings.

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

In religion, the grade six students are learning about Jacob and Esau. They have also learned how Jacob's name was changed to Israel. During the month of October, we have been working on the Mysteries of the Rosary. We have just begun to look at the ancient Egyptians in social studies.

Grade eight religion students are reviewing important information for Confirmation. They are also learning about the four Marks of the Church.

In social studies, the eighth grade students are completing the section on Reconstruction after the Civil War.

Seventh grade students are learning about the thirteen English colonies and are working on a slide presentation about those colonies.

In fifth grade social studies, we are also learning about the English colonies and will be starting a section about supply and demand in economics.

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

In standard math we are working with decimals.

In challenge math we are converting fractions and decimals and working with negative numbers.

In pre-algebra we are working with exponents.

In algebra we are exploring inequalities.

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

The middle schoolers have been working on revising and editing their memoir pieces. This involved getting feedback from their peers (we did a writing buffet at Willmore Park to take advantage of the gorgeous weather). Then the students did any finishing touches they deemed necessary before the pieces were assessed.

The 8th and the 6th graders created book trailers for *The Outsiders* (8th) and *The Tiger Rising* (6th). The 7th graders are still reading *The Book Thief.*

Also, the 8th graders finished their first cooking challenge. The students researched, delegated, and executed to create "authentic" dishes from around the world. The dishes were delicious, and the students had a blast creating their dishes.

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