

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 6, Issue 2

September 28, 2017



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

Dear St. Raphael Families,

Today you are receiving the first full version of *The Guide* for the 2017-2018 school year. Not only does *The Guide* include a message from me and the important upcoming events for the month of October, but it also includes a message from each of our teachers. We hope this provides a brief snapshot of the many wonderful experiences happening at St. Raphael the Archangel School.

September is finally coming to an end, and hopefully, the HEAT! Last week, grades 2-8 completed the IOWA Assessment. The school will receive the results closer to conference time at the end of October. On Friday, September 29, the entire school will celebrate the Feast of St. Raphael the Archangel by attending a special Mass in the morning, and eating snow cones at lunch recess donated by the PTA. The parish community will also celebrate by hosting a reception in the cafeteria after 4:30 mass on Saturday, September 30. All are welcome to attend.

Please note a couple of changes to the school calendar. We have added a Preschool Parent Social on Friday, October 20 for all Preschool families. More details to come. Also, **the Christmas Program date has been changed to Tuesday, December 12, 2017**. Previously, this event was on December 20th. Please make a note to your calendar of these changes.

I would like to take a moment to thank the South Side Optimist Club of St. Louis for their generous donation of dictionaries to our Third Grade students. Since 2006, the Optimist Club has donated 13,725 dictionaries to 26 area schools. We are lucky enough to be one of those schools. Each student is given a dictionary of their very own to assist in their educational journey. We would also like to publicly thank Mr. J. Leshner for sponsoring our school.

Every year, the faculty, staff and students review and practice safety drills.

- Two weeks ago we practiced the fire, tornado and earthquake drills. We will continue to practice those drills throughout the year.
- In the upcoming weeks, we will be practicing an intruder drill. During an intruder drill, students are directed by their teacher to move within the classroom or the building to a safe space. In real life, this would only happen if an unsafe person had entered the school building. The school already has preventive measures in place such as locked doors at all times, and sign-ins for volunteers and visitors to assist in monitoring guests.
- In the event the school would be notified by law enforcement of an unsafe situation in the community, the school would then go on Lockdown. A Lockdown means students would remain in the building at all times and continue to have classes as normal. If the notification would happen at a recess time, the teachers would quickly direct the students inside. During the year, students will also be practicing entering the building quickly and safely.
- All safety drills are lead in an age appropriate non-threatening manner to help children remain calm and be prepared.

The month of October brings many new events and important dates such as picture day, report cards, parent/teacher conference, No School Days, and more! Be sure to read the entire newsletter.

In Christ's peace.....Mrs. Hayes



Announcements



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

All School Mass
8:00am
October 5
2nd Grade Planning

October 12
4th Grade Planning

October 19
7th Grade Planning

October 26
4th Grade Planning

Benediction 2:00pm
First Friday of the
month



October Birthdays

Anna Wright-1
Julia Panka-2
Molly Fissel-2
Katelyn Trim-3
Emmy Kleekamp-4
Olivia Hotze-5
A J Christlieb-6
Vivienne Zinselmeyer-8
Landon Pudlowski-8
Vivien Smith-11
Charlotte Schunzel-13
Annie Higgs-14
Lillian Benner-18
Lillian Weber-20
Mrs. Doty - 20
Jack Zinselmeyer-21
Marlee Shaw-22
Rory Barnawell-22
Quinn Zitko-23
Theodore Nolle-24
Samantha Koziacki-25
Clara Thompson-26
Brendan Cierpiot-27
Miss Morris-29
Elena Davis-30
Henry Dirnbeck-30
Mrs. Carril-31

Congratulations

Recently, St. Mary's High School junior, **Noel Notheis**, a 2015 graduate and parishioner of St. Raphael the Archangel, was inducted into the St. Mary's Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Student Accident Insurance

Student insurance is available for the 2017-2018 school year to our school families with children in Pre-kindergarten – grade 12 through **K7K Insurance Group, Inc.** www.studentinsurance-kk.com

If you need additional assistance, feel free to send an email to info@studentinsurance-kk.com.
Emily Ganninger, 314-800-2167, Emily.Ganninger@ajg.com



- October 3 – 3:15-4:15pm Church De Angelis Practice
October 5 – 2:00 – 4:00pm Dance
October 5 – 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
October 6 - \$1.00 to support The Pink Balloon Project for hospitalized children- wear purple/pink accessories
October 6 - 2:00pm Benediction
October 8 - 1:00pm SRA Fall Classic Golf Tournament - Forest Park Golf Course
October 9-13 - Canned Food Drive
October 10 – 3:15-4:15pm Church De Angelis Practice
October 11 – Uniform Picture Day
October 12 - 2:00 – 4:00pm Dance
October 12 – 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
October 13 – End of First Quarter
October 15 - 10:00am Family Mass & Donuts in cafeteria
October 16 – PD & Records for Teachers No School K-8 Preschool is open
October 17 – 3:15-4:15pm Church De Angelis Practice
October 18 – 7:00pm (Tobias Room) First Reconciliation Parent Meeting
October 19 – 2:00 – 4:00pm Dance
October 20 – Report Cards open
October 21 – 4:15-5:30pm Children’s Choir at Mass
October 21 - 6:00-8:00pm Trunk-or-Treat school parking lot
October 23-26—Red Ribbon Week-details coming soon
October 24 – 3:15-4:15pm Church De Angelis Practice
**October 26 – Noon Dismissal for Preschool-8
1:00-8:00pm Parent Teacher Conference**
October 27 – No School Preschool – 8
October 31 – 2:00pm Halloween Parties K - 8
November 1 - All Saints Day No School Preschool—8

St. Mary's High School is now scheduling shadows for the 2017-2018 school year. Eighth graders are welcome anytime and seventh graders are welcome starting in January. The shadow program is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Call [314-481-8400 ext. 110](tel:314-481-8400) or e-mail admissions@stmaryshs.com to schedule your shadow now!

Mrs. Sara Carril: Art

What a great start to the school year here at SRA. All of our student are so creative. Everyone has been very welcoming to me and show such excitement for art class. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to teach art to your children. I have a lot of fun projects planned for this year and cannot wait for you to see how creative your students really are.



Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education

I have thoroughly enjoyed the first few weeks of school at St. Raphael. I have begun my Physical Education curriculum by teaching the students several strength and conditioning activities. These activities use upper and lower body muscles to improve gross and fine motor skills that will help develop their bodies as a whole to become stronger. The primary students have been working on cooperation and movement awareness games. These games require students to share and learn to work with their fellow classmates. I believe these skills are very important. We will continue working on activities/games that require theses skills. St Raphael school is a fun, faith filled environment for both teachers and students.



Mrs. Kathy Doty: Music

PRE-SCHOOL A and B - The preschoolers have been learning echo songs. Once they have learned a song or reviewed something they already know (Ency Weency Spider, Are You Sleeping), the song is inside their heads and they only do the motions. They are hearing the rhythm. They have also been introduced to the hand bells and rhythm sticks.



Kindergarten and First Grade are studying Beat and No Beat.

First Grade - We have been talking about Ta, Ti Ti and Taah. Playing rhythm instruments and doing a lot of singing.

Second Grade - We have been discussing Dynamics (forte and piano). They have also learned quarter notes and eighth notes, and quarter rest.

Third Grade - Music vocabulary, similarities and differences between an instrumental piece and one with lyrics and music symbols.

Fourth Grade - Different styles of music, music symbols and music vocabulary.

Fifth-Eighth Grade - Texture in various songs. Similarities and differences.

Miss Molly Preschool Room A

Well, Preschool A is full of wonderful children and a lot of fun. The kids are really into school and are doing a great job. Some of the topics we have learned about are being friends, emotions and feelings, being at school, shapes, and colors. We have also introduced our new program, "Handwriting Without Tears." This is going to be a wonderful year with a brand new bunch of wonderful children.



Miss Chris Preschool Room B

Preschool B, otherwise known as "The Bears," have had a great time getting back to school and making a few new friends. They have been so excited to learn and try new things and it is a true blessing to be able to experience their joy every single day. We have been working on our letters A,B,C, and D with themes being "Astronauts", "Bears" (of course), "Caterpillars," and "Dinosaurs." While learning about our themes, they are also learning and practicing their "Kindergarten Readiness Skills." We have also implemented a new writing program, "Handwriting Without Tears," and the Bears have absolutely loved it. They don't realize how much they are learning...they just know they are having fun.



Blessings to All!

STUCO News

Friday, October 6th: \$1 to wear purple or pink accessories that will be donated to The Pink Balloon Project for hospitalized children.

October 9-13: Food Drive

October 23-26: Red Ribbon Week - details coming soon



Kindergarten News: Miss Abby Morris & Mrs. Doyle

Hello SRA Community,

It has been a great start to the school year in Kindergarten. We have been learning classroom routines, students' names, and learning new things about one another. We have been focusing on learning color words. The Kindergarten students have been learning letter sounds and handwriting. We celebrated Mary's birthday by making her birthday cards and singing "Happy Birthday" to her. The students also made Rosary decade bracelets and learned about the Rosary. We enjoy going to Mass with our 8th grade buddies. We are looking forward to a lot more learning and fun this year.



First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

The First Grade have had a wonderful start to the 2017-2018 school year. Seeing the solar eclipse together was amazing, and I do not think the students will ever forget it. The students had so many wonderful things to share after returning to our classroom after seeing the eclipse. We are going to begin our guided reading groups next week. These reading groups give students small group instruction on their specific reading level. Father Bob gave us a tour of the church and on Thursday he has agreed to give the First Graders a tour of the rectory. I hope they are ready for twenty-one First Graders to come and visit. The First Graders continue to learn about how important our church family is and they are always looking for ways to be a "Son"shine for all to see.



Second Grade News: Mark Messmer

It is hard to believe that our first month of school is over. Second Graders have been busy reviewing First Grade material, applying learning strategies, and making new discoveries. In Math, students have been reviewing math facts while using math tools - after testing, we will begin learning about place value. In Science, we have been learning about scientific observations and how we are all scientists - this was certainly true on August 21 when we were able to view the eclipse. For Language Arts, students have been busy learning about reading and writing strategies for Daily 5. We are currently talking about God's Gifts and how we share our gifts with others for Religion, which is laying the foundation for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in November.



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade has been learning all about leaf shapes and identifying different types of trees. We know two new vocabulary words: deciduous and coniferous. We created Redwood Trees and made 3-D paper roll trees complete with crowns of folded autumn leaves and roots of yarn. We listened to a wonderful story by Leo Buscaglia, *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*. Mrs. Hayes read Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* and discussed the playground rules with us. Viewing "Totality" on August 21st and learning about the solar eclipse was a unique experience, one we will not soon forget. In Math, we are reviewing "Teen Facts" and studying place value. For English class, we now know every sentence has a subject and predicate. We are practicing writing the four kinds of sentences: Declarative, Interrogative, Commands and Exclamatory. We have written narratives in our Journal. Third Grade is creating a booklet of Jesus' Twelve Friends, the Apostles, and learned the symbols for each. Father Bob came and spoke to us about Jesus' Family Tree. We participated in an All-School Mass for St. Bartholomew. Third Grade enjoyed sharing a magic trick/science magnet lesson with ladybugs in the Preschool and Kindergarten rooms. Ms. Polson keeps us busy as bees.



Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 8)

In all English classes, Grades Fourth through Eighth, we have all finished our first unit; The Sentence. These all encompassed how to identify parts of sentences as well as how to construct well-written sentences. Each student has also written their first essay for me which was an opinion essay. Although I haven't yet read all of these essays, I can say with certainty that these students all have differing, yet strong opinions about many different topics. Next up in our plans is to tackle unit two; Nouns.

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

Fifth Grade: During Religion class, the students have been focusing on discussing how Jesus worships and how we can imitate Him, looking up and reading passages from the Bible, and learning about the background of the Sacraments. In Math, the Fifth Graders have been studying place value, estimating numbers, comparing and ordering large numbers, and multiplying multi-digit numbers. In Literature, the students have read a few short stories and have focused on the literary elements of similes and metaphors, questioning, sequencing, and summarizing.

Fourth Grade: In Religion, the students have been learning about how God revealed himself through Scripture, Creation, and the Church. The students also researched the early popes and Vatican City to get a better understanding of the early church. During Math, the Fourth Graders have worked on place value, comparing and ordering large numbers, estimating sums and differences, and calculating the sum and difference of large numbers. The students worked with a few short stories during Literature. With those stories, we focused on connecting to the text, comparing and contrasting both within the text and with another text, summarizing, and visualizing.

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

Sixth Grade students will be learning about the journey of the Chosen People of God in their Religion class throughout the year. They have begun learning how to locate Bible passages and are studying the stories of creation.

In the Social Studies classes, all students are working on note-taking skills on different levels. It is very important that students develop this skill since it is something that they will definitely need in high school and college.

History Day research needs to begin as soon as possible. Most of the students have chosen their topics for this year's theme: Conflict and Compromise in History. Locating information now will be very helpful when students start to create their entries in January and February.

Mrs. Louise Balicki-Smith: Academic Intervention Coordinator:

What is this new reading assessment being used at SRA? The Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment is used for observing and assessing the reading levels and reading behaviors of individual students in grades K through 8. As one measure of progress, it is used to plan effective instruction for the whole class and small group literacy instruction. Additionally, it is a tool that will document student growth across a school year and across grade levels. This "test" is administered one-on-one in 3 parts: a student read out loud, a comprehension conversation that goes beyond retelling and looks at specific strategies and higher level thinking, and a reflective writing prompt in order to capture a thorough record of a student's ability. Thank you to the Ladies Club for funding this system for the benefit of our students!

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

In Standard Math, we have covered two chapters thus far, whole numbers and patterns, and intro to Algebra. In Chapter 1 we have compared and ordered whole numbers, practiced with exponents, and learned our order of operations. In Chapter 2 we have defined variables, expressions, and equations.

In Challenge Math, we have started with algebraic reasoning. This includes identifying patterns in numbers, simplifying exponents, converting measurements, using order of operations, and simplifying/evaluating expressions and equations. We are just starting Chapter 2.

In Pre-Algebra, we have covered Chapter 1, and are working on Chapter 2. Chapter 1 included completing all four operations with integers, and simplifying/evaluating expressions and equations. Chapter 2 has a focus on rational numbers.

In Algebra, we have covered Chapters 1 and 2, and are currently working on Chapter 3. Chapter 1 and 2 entailed analyzing rational numbers, and determining probability. Chapter 3 will focus on solving equations.

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

Literature classes have been reading, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (8th), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (7th), and *The Giver* (6th). We have worked on character development, figurative language, and inference. Students have also been working on reading fluency and expression. At the beginning of October, we will begin our 2nd books of the year, *The Alchemist* (8th), *Elijah of Buxton* (7th), and *So B It* (6th). All three are heartwarming stories about life journeys. Please encourage students to read every night.

Eighth Grade Religion has learned that We are the Church, the responsibilities we have as members of the Church, and about the various models of the Church. We will continue to study the history of the beginning of the Church and influence of the Holy Spirit.

Seventh Grade Religion has been discovering the friendship that we have in Jesus through the Gospels. We will continue to research the Gospels and learn from the events of Jesus' 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 3 test is Thursday, October 5th, Unit 4 test is Tuesday, October 24th.

Miss Stephanie Amsler: STREAM/Science Coordinator:

This month Fourth Grade learned about Matter. They learned how to measure the mass of different matter by using triple beam balances. They also learned how to measure the volume of matter by using the formula length x width x height as well as through water displacement. We continued to explore matter by learning how to describe it through characteristic properties.

Fifth Grade learned about Planet Earth and our Solar System. They learned about the three main layers of the Earth: lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. Learning about these features of the Earth helped them understand why we cannot live on other planets. These three main layers combined allow us to survive on this planet. They also learned about Earth's closest neighbor, the moon. They can describe the phases of the moon and the reason for those phases.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders have learned about matter as well. They can describe different types of matter using mass, volume, density, boiling point, and melting point. They also learned about atoms. They learned the different parts of an atom and their functions. With this knowledge, they are able to differentiate between **different elements of the Periodic Table. Students will continue to study specific elements that we encounter on a day to day basis from the Periodic Table.**

SEPTEMBER STREAM CHALLENGES:

- create a unique device that performs a task or has a purpose
- separate iron filings from sand using only a magnet
- build a model of Earth's moon using Play Doh
- build a wind-powered maze using different materials that contain at least 4 obstacles
- build the tallest, free-standing tower using only four types of materials
- coding via SCRATCH and Hour of Code.org



Trunk-or-Treat
Saturday, October 21st
6pm - 8pm
\$15 per family

Trick-or-Treating from Car to Car
A Parade of Costumes
Prizes for the Best Costume and Decorated Car
(Please avoid violent themes)

Bring your own chairs, flashlights and treats to pass out to the ghouls and ghosts.

Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

Please make checks payable to St. Raphael.

Submit payment along with completed form to the school office.

All proceeds benefit the 8th grade pro-life trip and graduation celebrations!

Family Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone#: _____

#of children participating: _____

If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Smith @ 314-941-7100