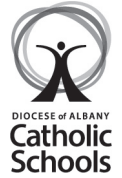




St. Francis de Sales School Times



Some Notes from December 2011

In Pre-K...we

- ✦ are getting ready for Jesus by making advent wreaths for the hallway and sang "Jesus is coming..."
- ✦ celebrated Christmas customs around the world, such as in England, Germany, Mexico
- ✦ discussed Winter holidays such as Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Day.

In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ celebrated the true meaning of Christmas with a tree trimming party and Advent meditation shared with family members and mentors.
- ✦ decorated donuts, sang songs, and created a variety of Christmas art projects.
- ✦ used a number line to order numbers from 0 - 10.
- ✦ decoded d words.



In First Grade...we

- ✦ learned about Advent and Christmas in religion classes.
- ✦ read and enjoyed silly stories, poems, pictures, and comics in our reading theme "Get the Giggles."
- ✦ learned about solid figures and plane shapes in math.
- ✦ started a social studies unit about working to earn money to fulfill our needs and wants.
- ✦ created a variety of Advent and Christmas decorations.



In Second Grade...we

- ✦ learned about the different Christmas legends from around the world.
- ✦ made ornaments to hang on our classroom tree.
- ✦ are learning how to add and subtract 2 digit numbers.
- ✦ are learning how countries trade goods.
- ✦ are learning about taking care of our bodies.

In Third Grade...we

- ✦ presented tableaus about an American family to students in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade.
- ✦ made rice snowman, puzzle wreaths, & Christmas placemats in art.
- ✦ are learning about different celebrations that communities have..religious, non-religious, historical and national holidays.



In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ studied classification of organisms and where they live. We also presented a report about an extinct animal.
- ✦ are reading mysteries and becoming super sleuths!
- ✦ made our own Jesse tree in religion.
- ✦ learned songs and "rapped" to remember grammar concepts and sentence structure.
- ✦ are enjoying The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ studied plants with without seed, spore plants, gymnosperms, pollination and fertilization of flowers.
- ✦ read and discussed Tale of Despereaux.
- ✦ are learning grammar concepts to enhance writing.
- ✦ drew posters depicting scripture quotes on Jesus as Light from John's Gospel.
- ✦ learning about European explorers and in their quest for the riches of Asia came to the Americas.



In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ are studying ancient Chinese dynasties and learning about Chinese philosopher Confucius.
- ✦ learned about physical and chemical properties of matter, and elements on the periodic table.
- ✦ are excelling at multiplying and dividing fractions.
- ✦ designed snowmen/snowwomen outfits & wrote runway commentaries describing what each model was wearing.

Technology & Library

Computer classes have continued working on keyboarding skills. Also, students have been designing Christmas cards – cutting and pasting pictures from the internet and adding their own text. In library...Christmas books have been flying off the shelves all month long. We are practicing the grade-level library skills along the way. Also, "the elf on the shelf" has been watching what the children read!!!!



Notes from the Music Room

We are the artists of Christmas - painting scenes of majesty, splendor & happiness with our voices. Hear them: our syncopated beat reveals Joseph's dilemma; strong, pulsing choruses color a sky full of angel choirs: gentle flowing harmonies enfolded Baby Jesus in the manger. Our 2011 Christmas Concert featuring performers in grades pre-K through sixth was "picture perfect".


Coach's Corner

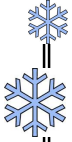


During the last few weeks I have been working with scooters with the younger groups and have done relay races in many different positions. This is getting the students ready to play scooter basketball within a small area. The older groups have started scooter basketball with more difficult rules that get everyone involved, such as frequent passing. Congratulations to the students that participated in the Elks Hoop Shoot over the past month!



January Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

- ★ **No school** on **January 2nd** due to Christmas break.
 - ★ **“Too Good For Drugs”**, a ten week program, will begin on January 6th for grades 3, 4, 5, 6.
 - ★ **PSA meeting** on **January 10th** at 7:00 PM. Please join us!
 - ★ **No school** on **January 16th** in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - ★ NYS Office for People with Developmental Disability will present **“Kids Project”**, a puppet program about disabilities to 3rd and 4th grade students on **January 24th**.
 - ★ **Catholic Schools Week** begins **January 29th**.
 - ★ St. Francis De Sales School turns 91 on **February 1st**. Happy Birthday to us! 
- We will celebrate with an **Open House** and **book fair**.



A Visit from the North Pole

On December 19th, Mrs. Claus visited students in our pre-k 4s through 2nd grade and handed out candy canes. She told of her journey from the North Pole and how the reindeer were resting at Griffiss Air Force Base. She also told the students how busy Santa has been and how he is preparing for his journey around the world.

Award Winner!

We are very excited to announce that our school was recently selected as a 2011 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant Award winner! As a result of receiving this award, we were given two \$500 checks to be used towards math and science programs or projects at our school. This award was made possible by Lehigh Gas Corporation and a local Exxon gas station in partnership with ExxonMobil Corporation. Thank you to both of these organizations for nominating us. More details will follow on how this award money will be utilized.



Egyptian Finger Food Festival

To conclude their study of Ancient Egypt, sixth grade will have a finger food festival - Egyptian style. The students will dress as Ancient Egyptians and learn about their everyday lives, food that they ate, and games that they played.



Faith. Academics. Service.


Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools Week
January 29th – February 5th

This year's theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught *faith* – not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. *Academics*, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. *Service*, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

Event details to follow...

Please send in . . .

- ★ Ink Cartridges 
- ★ Campbell's Soup Labels
- ★ Box Tops for Education
- ★ Pop Tabs

Please continue to GoodSearch and GoodShop to support our school.



Monthly Raffle

Congratulations to our December winner!
Cathy & Ray Bush