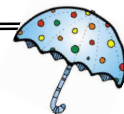




# St. Francis de Sales School Times



## Some Notes from April 2011

### In Pre-K...we

- ✦ finished our alphabet books with illustrations and poems for each letter.
- ✦ learned about the season of Spring with April showers washing away the snow and helping new flowers grow.
- ✦ learned about Good Friday and Easter.
- ✦ discussed Earth Day and the importance of taking care of God's world.

### In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ learned a new strategy for drawing trees on Arbor Day.
- ✦ focused on recognizing the last sounds of spoken words.
- ✦ determined the time of day using a digital and analog clock.
- ✦ discovered that our families are signs of God's love.

### In First Grade...we

- ✦ practiced measuring length using inches, feet, and centimeters. We also learned about perimeter and area.
- ✦ wrote friendly letters.
- ✦ learned about the events of Holy Week and Easter.
- ✦ identified landforms and bodies of water on Earth.
- ✦ celebrated Earth Day by learning about natural resources & sharing a Rainforest Tasting Party with 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.



### In Second Grade...we

- ✦ learned about Earth Day and how to reduce, reuse, and recycle through activities.
- ✦ prepared for First Communion on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✦ are learning about reading data, creating tables and graphs. Then practiced by graphing jelly beans by color.
- ✦ are learning about the rainforest through books, art, creative writing, videos, research and a Food Fest on 4/29.

### In Third Grade...we

- ✦ made "Countdown to Easter" baskets using 12 eggs and Easter Triduum symbols in each.
- ✦ read stories about saints.
- ✦ finished testing on our multiplication facts.
- ✦ are reviewing for NYS ELA and math tests.
- ✦ completed an Earth Day project with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- ✦ are writing a poem "Spring Is..."

### In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ worked in groups to make vertebrate posters.
- ✦ read The Secret of the Indian and followed the lives of some very interesting characters.
- ✦ had prayer services during the Lenten season.
- ✦ made sneaker collages during art class.
- ✦ learned about "Rip Van Winkle" and wrote stories of what it might be like to wake up after sleeping for 20 yrs.



### In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ are learning about Westward Expansion in the 1800's and made posters and advertisements showing our own version of Greeley's phrase "Go West Young Man".
- ✦ worked with figurative language and illustrated various figures of speech.
- ✦ viewed and discussed examples of modern art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century created by such artists as Segal, Dali, etc.
- ✦ read and discussed The Tale of Despereaux.



### In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ are studying the Renaissance artists and life at that time. We made journals like Leonardo da Vinci with our own inventions using "mirror writing".
- ✦ completed a theme unit on oceans and discussed behavioral patterns of the right whales.
- ✦ designed posters using "ocean vocabulary" and worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to teach them what they had learned.
- ✦ used number lines to add and subtract integers.

### Technology and Library

Grades 3-6 have continued to work on their "Destination Brochures" - creating their own masterpiece by gathering information and using clip art/photos. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades have been using different online programs to strengthen their keyboarding skills. Kindergarten has mastered signing in using their own screen names and passwords. This month, our library classes spent time becoming familiar with various reference materials found in a library.

### Notes from the Music Room

Our youngest classes listened to change in tempo in Brahms's Hungarian Dance & also moved to changing tempos. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders learned to identify and draw notes of varying value and began the study of meter signatures. Upperclassmen listened for the tone color of clarinets and oboes in classical music and reviewed notes on the staff with relay races and flashcards.

This month all of the grades have been playing some sort of baseball/softball. Starting with the youngest grades, we learned the names of the bases & how to run them. The students were even able to hit and run the bases. The older students were able to play different baseball/softball activities including Indian Baseball, Racketball, Wiffle ball, and all forms of 8 base.

## May Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

- ❁ New York State ELA tests for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be given May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ❁ New York State ELA test for 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be given on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ❁ Our Village, State, and Country Fair will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the church hall. Details below.
- ❁ Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will go to the Stanley Theatre for *Charlotte's Web* on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ❁ New York State Math Tests for 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be given on May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ❁ The MOST will visit and present various science programs to pre-k 4s - 6<sup>th</sup> grade on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ❁ PSA meeting will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- ❁ 6<sup>th</sup> grade will attend Conservation Day at the Diamond Mine Campgrounds on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ❁ No School on May 27<sup>th</sup> - May 30<sup>th</sup> in honor of Memorial Day.

Visit our school website – [www.stfrancisherkimer.org](http://www.stfrancisherkimer.org) for auction items and more...



### Spring Dreams Auction Reminder

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Dreams Auction will take place on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at Francesca's in Ilion. The auction preview will begin at 6:00 PM and the live auction will start at 7:00 PM. You are invited to join us for wine, beer, soda, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert – all for \$15 a ticket!

Some of the items that have been donated this year are the iPad 2, a chef prepared dinner in your home, "A Day at the Lake" aboard a pontoon boat, and tickets for Yankees vs. Red Sox at Yankee Stadium.

In addition, each class has been customizing/ decorating an item to donate. They are:

Pre-k 3s – flower pot  
Pre-k 4s – picnic table  
Kindergarten – wheelbarrow  
First Grade – deacon's bench  
Second Grade – dessert pottery  
Third Grade – quilt  
Fourth Grade – garden bench  
Fifth Grade – window box  
Sixth Grade – hope chest



### Monthly Raffle Winner

Congratulations to our April winner!  
Erin View

Come See Our

Village, State, and Country  
**F**AIR

What: Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 have been researching different villages/ towns, states, and countries over the last several weeks. Come see their exhibits which showcase their research with interesting facts, customs, food, and pictures.

When: Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Where: Church Hall

Thank you to our 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school parents, teachers, and all those who helped with the reception for First Holy Communion on April 30<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to thank Mrs. Astafan, Sr. Jackie, Mrs. Kline, and our students in grades 3-6 who sang during the Mass. Congratulations to our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders!