




St. Francis de Sales School Times

Some Notes from March 2011

In Pre-K...we

- ✦ are learning about the real reason for Easter! Jesus has new life!
- ✦ learned about Spring weather; sunny, snowy, windy, rainy, and cloudy. 
- ✦ are continuing to write our first and last names daily.
- ✦ celebrated St. Patrick's day with Shamrock Shakes and green top hats.

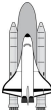
In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ studied hibernation and how animal behaviors are influenced by environmental conditions.
- ✦ are participating in many literacy activities.
- ✦ estimated and measured capacity/compared and ordered by weight/investigated temperature.
- ✦ are experiencing Lent as a time to reflect and celebrate the growth and changes in our lives.

In First Grade...we

- ✦ learned that Lent is a time to prepare for Easter by trying to be more like Jesus.
- ✦ collected data and used it to make picture & bar graphs.
- ✦ practiced counting money in math.
- ✦ learned about climate, landforms, and bodies of water.
- ✦ looked at Vincent VanGogh's art and created our own "Starry Night" paintings.

In Second Grade...we

- ✦ learned about space, the planets, & created a poster and a paper space shuttle in science with first grade. 
- ✦ learned about the 40 days of Lent through stories, videos, art, Bible readings.
- ✦ learned about the body in Health – labeled the brain, heart, lungs, and stomach.
- ✦ are learning about geometry and fractions in math.

In Third Grade...we

- ✦ wrote "A Good Book" book reports.
- ✦ are practicing for the NYS ELA and math tests.
- ✦ are almost complete with testing of multiplication tables.
- ✦ imagined sitting quietly with Jesus and wrote down what we talked about with him.
- ✦ made a tornado in a bottle.
- ✦ made shamrocks & leprechauns with rubber rings & yarn.


In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ are presenting our science experiments to the class.
- ✦ read biographies and made posters for our book reports.
- ✦ made a Lenten mobile in religion.
- ✦ finished writing and sharing personal narratives.
- ✦ are learning about the Declaration of Independence and signed ours big and bold like John Hancock – then "teaed" it to make it look like an old document.

In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ read and discussed The Trouble With Tuck.
- ✦ wrote essays about Native American children, based on Children of the Wild West.
- ✦ made and designed kites and butterflies in art class in anticipation of Spring.
- ✦ went on a "Scavenger Hunt for Believers" in religion.
- ✦ are studying the earth's crust and it's minerals, and earthquakes in science.

In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ read and discussed Beaded Moccasins: The Story of Mary Campbell by Lynda Durrant.
- ✦ completed a unit on sentence structure & punctuation.
- ✦ created and displayed artistic projects to highlight individual talents in response to our literature unit.
- ✦ are preparing for our "Toga Party" where we will give short presentations on Roman gods/goddesses and perform funny skits on some famous Romans. 

Technology and Library

Students have continued to fine tune their editing and creative keyboarding skills. They completed powerpoint presentations and were busy writing poetry. Grades 3-6 have also been researching destinations in the US and have begun creating personal "travel brochures". In library, we celebrated Dr. Suess' birthday and looked into the lives of Shel Silverstein and Maurice Sendak.

Notes from the Music Room

This month, we explored long and short sounds - with our voices and with instruments aurally and visually. We sang songs about spring happenings and acted out the story. Upper grades learned the musical terms in Italian for different dynamic levels and tempos.

Coach's Corner

This past month the older students played a new game called Warrior Ball or American Gladiator. Players scored by getting the ball in the other team's goal. Teams moved the ball by throwing to each other and using sidelines. The younger groups used the parachute and played Popcorn – trying to keep balls in the parachute for an extended time.

April Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

- ❖ Family Fun Night, “Mother Goose Olympics” for pre-k and kindergarten on April 1st at 6:00 PM.
- ❖ DARE graduation/banquet for 6th grade on April 15th at 12:00 PM in the church hall.
- ❖ Report cards for kindergarten – 6th grade will go home on April 15th.
- ❖ We celebrate Palm Sunday on April 17th.
- ❖ There will be no school from April 18th – 22nd due to Spring Recess.
- ❖ We celebrate Easter Sunday on April 24th.
- ❖ First Holy Communion for grade 2 on April 30th at 11:00 in the church.



Visit our school website – www.stfranciskimer.org for Event Pictures and more...



Book Fair Carnival



Thank you to all who came to our Scholastic Book Fair which took place from March 19th to March 26th. Our “Book Fair Carnival – Your Ticket to Read” brought many of you to our school to visit with clowns, enjoy carnival games, participate in face painting, listen to guest storytellers, win prizes, and buy books to enjoy at home.



Once Upon a Time...



One of the special events we had during book fair week was a visit from Jonathan Kruk, an award winning storyteller. On Friday, March 25th, our students’ imaginations were once again awakened by his engaging tales. All students in pre-k through 6th grade were given interactive storytelling performances. Pre-k and kindergarten listened to “Sunny Time Bunny” and “Where are Little Bear’s Dancing Pants”. They also heard “Wake Up Sun” and used their creativity as they thought of their own ways to wake up the sun. Our 1st - 3rd grades visited castles and caves, rode horses, and even travelled to Mexico in the “Tale of the Rainbow Pony”, “Lucky John”, and the “Bulbul Bird”. Students in 4th – 6th grades swam through deep snow in “Davy Crockett’s Sunbeam” and travelled back in time in “Sybil’s Ride”. They heard the tall tales in “Bill Greenfield, Adirondack Storyteller”. The upper grades also participated in a storyteller’s workshop, where they developed their own characters, and discussed the elements necessary to create their own tall tale. Ask your child about some of the stories they heard....maybe you can go on an adventure too!

Spring Dreams Auction

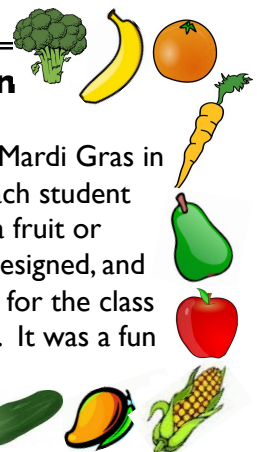


Our 5th Annual Springs Auction will take place on Friday, May 6th, 2011, at Francesca’s in Ilion. The auction preview will begin at 6:00 PM and the live auction will start at 7:00 PM. You are invited to join us for wine, beer, soda, and hors d’oeuvres, and dessert – all for \$15 a ticket!

We are still soliciting auction items/donations. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, donating to this event, or to purchase tickets please contact Kristin Pawlusik at 868-5743.

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.

Mardi Gras Celebration



Students in 3rd grade celebrated Mardi Gras in their classroom on March 8th. Each student presented a research report on a fruit or vegetable, shared a poster they designed, and brought their researched food in for the class to share during their celebration. It was a fun way to begin the Lenten Season.

Monthly Raffle Winner

Congratulations to our March winner!
Lou Astafan