



St. Francis de Sales School Times



Some Notes from May 2011

In Pre-K...we

- ✦ presented our mothers with the seedlings we had grown for Mother's Day.
- ✦ practiced our telephone numbers and addresses along with learning to tie our shoes. We're ready for kindergarten!
- ✦ completed our SEEDS program. We have all learned that Jesus wants us to love one another & make good choices.

In First Grade...we

- ✦ started a social studies unit about our country's history.
- ✦ learned about Baptism, and shared stories about our own Baptisms.
- ✦ learned about describing words. Then drew a picture and wrote a descriptive paragraph about it.
- ✦ enjoyed reading about Amelia Earhart, learning about flight, and making and flying paper airplanes.



In Third Grade...we

- ✦ wrote limericks with illustrations in honor of Limerick Day on May 12th.
- ✦ studied heat and light energy in science.
- ✦ made rock turtles and painted them in art.
- ✦ wrote legends and illustrated them, partnering with 2nd grade.
- ✦ continued to read to pre-k 3 yr. olds every Wednesday.



In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ learned how to pray the Rosary.
- ✦ explored the beginning skills for understanding fractions.
- ✦ read traditional tales and applied comprehension skills: drawing conclusions, compare/contrast, story structure.
- ✦ discussed the origins of Memorial Day.



In Second Grade...we

- ✦ learned about legends and paired with 3rd graders to write our own legends with illustrations.
- ✦ learned about seeds, plants, parts of plants and their function. We planted nasturtium seeds and watched them grow.
- ✦ learned about "flight" and made four types of paper airplanes. Then we flew them outside with 1st grade.

In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ have been studying nutrition in health and have become members of "The Breakfast Club".
- ✦ have been learning our Ten Commandments in religion.
- ✦ wrote a nonfiction book report and made a diorama.
- ✦ are learning about the 20th century in NYS History.
- ✦ "rapped" our way through various elements of grammar in ELA class.

In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ are studying the Civil War and even tasted a "favorite" soldier food - "Hard Tact".
- ✦ watched the movie "Duma" and wrote a character sketch of Xan, one of the main characters.
- ✦ are in the process of writing a series of personal essays from a lengthy list of topics.
- ✦ finished an in-depth study of the sacraments of initiation and have begun studying the sacraments of commitment.

In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ are studying the 20th Century - "A World in Opposition" WW I and II.
- ✦ created visuals and a written piece on "Inventors of the 2nd Industrial Revolution".
- ✦ read and discussed the book, Poppy, by Avi and are now reading Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson.
- ✦ are writing a series of essays using the writing process from brainstorming to final draft incorporating skills covered in class during the year.



Technology and Library

As we are getting to the end of the year, please make sure that all overdue books are returned to the library before Friday, June 3rd. I will be doing inventory soon and would like books back as soon as possible. I will also be sending home a summer reading list as we get closer to the last day.

Notes from the Music Room






We have started Recorder Karate with grades 3 and up, an extremely motivational program allowing students to earn colored belts for their recorders after mastering works of increasing difficulty. Earliest grades are learning, playing, creating and conducting rhythm patterns based on quarter and eighth notes.

During the past month we continued to play different types of baseball and softball. We also played a game called Pool Noodle Hockey. The game consists of using a pool noodle as the stick, and small balls. This worked on hand-eye coordination and also made the students think of different ways to hit the ball more effectively.

Coach's Corner



June Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information - Mark Your Calendars!

- ✿ New York State Science performance test for 4th grade will be given on June 1st.
- ✿ There will be a school Mass in honor of Ascension Thursday on June 2nd at 9:15 AM. 1st and 3rd grade will do the readings, etc.
- ✿ Grades 3-5 will take a field trip to the Iroquois Indian Museum and Howe Caverns on June 3rd. 
- ✿ Grade 6 will take their graduation field trip to Niagara Falls on June 3rd. 
- ✿ New York State Science written test for 4th grade will be given on June 6th.
- ✿ Our student auction winner, Sofia Pawlusik, will be "Principal for a Day" on June 6th.
- ✿ Our Cash Raffle drawing for the chance to win \$5,000 will take place at school on June 6th at 2:00 PM.
- ✿ Grade 5 will go to the Frankfort fairgrounds for Annual Farm Home Safety Day on June 7th. 
- ✿ Grade 6 will have Storybook Character Day on June 8th.
- ✿ Grades 2-4 will take a field trip to the Van Hornesville Fish Hatchery on June 13th. 
- ✿ Kindergarten Orientation will be on June 10th from 1:00 - 2:30 for our incoming kindergarten class.
- ✿ 6th grade Graduation will be on June 17th at 7:00 PM in the church.
- ✿ Pre-k 4s Graduation will be on June 20th at 6:30 PM in the gym.
- ✿ Field Days/Picnic for kindergarten - 6th grade will take place on June 21st in the afternoon. 
- ✿ Last Day of School is June 21st.



A Visit from the MOST*

On May 16th, the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) presented various programs to all students in pre-k 4s through 6th grade. Students in pre-k explored the science of bubble-ology as well as the science of sound. Students in kindergarten through 3rd grade also discovered the science of sounds. In addition, they explored the power of air as they learned about atmospheric pressure. Students in 4th - 6th grade learned about the power of air as well as how clouds are formed. They even witnessed how clouds form right before their eyes. All students were introduced to the red-eared slider turtle, Patsy, a turtle native to the United States. It was a great day of discovery for our students.



Pre-k Fun

Bubbles, Bubbles, Everywhere! After learning about the science of bubbles with a presentation from the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST), our students made hundreds of bubbles of their own at the annual pre-k Bubble Day. Children experimented with all different kinds of tools to make bubbles of all sizes in our nearby park.

This month students in our pre-k 4s class also celebrated Beach Day on May 25th and 26th. Our children brought in beach pails, shovels, sunglasses and enjoyed a snack on their beach towels. They had lots of fun counting the shells in the sandbox and making crabs like those we read about in A House for Hermit Crab. The weather was perfect - warm and sunny in our classroom!



Storybook Character Day

Students in 5th grade got into character - their favorite storybook character - this past month. They dressed up as a character from their favorite book and brought them to life with presentations to students in 3rd and 4th grade describing their life and the different events that happened to them.

Kindergarten Orientation

Orientation for our incoming kindergarten class will be on June 10th from 1:00 - 2:30 in our kindergarten classroom.



Monthly Raffle Winner

Congratulations to our May winner!
Robert Langdon

