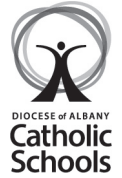




St. Francis de Sales School Times



Some Notes from November 2011

In Pre-K...we


- ✦ read many Native American stories such as The First Strawberries, Raven, and How the Stars Fell Into the Sky.
- ✦ discussed how everyone has talents and how they can all be different in religion.
- ✦ baked and prepared for our guests for the Finger Food Festival. We made placemats, centerpieces, breads and pies.



In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ started our ABC journals and Pattern Portfolios.
- ✦ are comparing quantities with one-to-one comparisons of sets through 10.
- ✦ are building on experiences of growth and how we grow as Jesus' followers.
- ✦ have matched spoken words to print/made predictions.
- ✦ made cranberry bread for our Finger Food Festival.

In First Grade...we

- ✦ started a science unit about weather, the seasons, the sun, moon, and stars.
- ✦ wrote stories about our neighborhoods. 
- ✦ learned the geography terms...state, country, continents, and oceans in social studies.
- ✦ learned about the works of mercy in our Gospel Weekly religion classes.

In Second Grade...we

- ✦ learned about the saints in religion.
- ✦ are learning about dinosaurs through books, videos and researching the internet.
- ✦ started the lower-case letters in cursive.
- ✦ began a money unit in math.
- ✦ each disguised a turkey pattern to avoid being eaten on Thanksgiving.


In Third Grade...we

- ✦ made tableaux for our Family Pictures theme in reading and will present them to kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd grades.
- ✦ reviewed the new Mass parts in religion and also practiced our parts for the school Mass.
- ✦ are learning about different ethnic backgrounds and cultures and how/why they settle in communities.
- ✦ studied possessive nouns/pronouns in ELA.
- ✦ are working hard on our addition and subtraction in math.


In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ researched and made a quilt about saints in religion. We also gave oral reports about our saints.
- ✦ used our artistic talents to draw scenes from a book called Trouble River.
- ✦ are working on writing varieties of sentence structures to enhance longer pieces of written material in ELA.
- ✦ are learning about the environment of NYS – our weather, natural resources and wildlife in social studies.


In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ read Deaf Child Crossing and discussed themes of friendship and people with physical challenges.
- ✦ wrote a character sketch of Billy Coleman from Where the Red Fern Grows.
- ✦ started our unit on Native Americans and are learning where the 50 states are located and their capitals.
- ✦ are learning all about plants in science. 
- ✦ wrote an essay on important traits in a friend.

In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ participated in an integrated project (ELA, math, science, social studies) on the how & why of mummy making.
- ✦ read The Cay and discussed prejudice in the novel and in the world. We also wrote an essay on character change.
- ✦ continued our study of Ancient Egypt with projects, reports and our own life-size sarcophagi.
- ✦ are learning about the periodic table and chemical reactions in science. 

Technology & Library

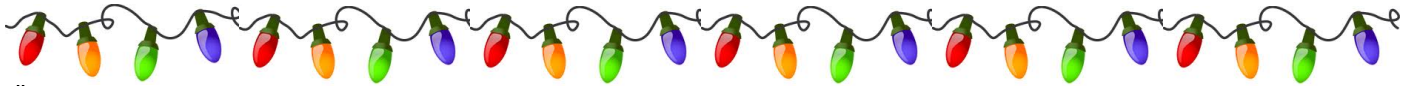
Computer classes are working on word processing skills. They changed font size & style, inserted & deleted text, created headers, footers, and bulleted lists. In library, students in 3rd – 6th visited Basloe Library. They took a tour, learned the rules, & took out books. A librarian from Midyork also came and showed the children the Midyork site & how to use the information available to them. 

Notes from the Music Room

This month the pupils have been musical athletes as well as students! They are training their ears, reining in runaway vocal chords, disciplining their breath and strengthening concentration in order to present a concert worthy of the King of Kings - and you, esteemed guest! Please share their joy on December 21st at 7:00 PM as they happily perform "A Really Noisy Nativity".

Coach's Corner

This month, pre-k & kindergarten worked on throwing and kicking balls forward. The pre-k also enjoyed playing with hula hoops. Kindergarten also played Bean Bag Toe Tag using "jails" – a slight difference from the first time we played this game. The older grades continued playing Pirate Ball. We also started to get ready for the Elks Hoop Shoot. We will continue working on the Hoop Shoot and then get into many different basketball games.



December Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

- ★ We celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on **December 8th** with a **school Mass** at 9:15 AM. 3rd and 4th grade will do the readings.
- ★ **Kindergarten Tree Trimming Party** and **Advent Meditation** on December 9th for kindergarten families and their mentors.
- ★ Our **Annual Christmas Concert** on **December 21st** at 7:00 PM in the Church. All are welcome!
- ★ **Christmas parties** in the classrooms on December 22nd.
- ★ **No school** from **December 23rd – January 2nd** for **Christmas Break**. Merry Christmas to you!

Advent Service Project – Operation Food Pantry



Students in pre-k through 6th grade are asked to bring in various food items to help local people who are in need this Holiday Season. Our students can bring in their items to the school through December 15th. Items will be sent to the Herkimer/Mohawk Food Pantry on December 16th. Thank you.

Field Trip Update



On November 15th, students in 3rd – 6th grade went on a field trip to the Albany Institute of History and Art. While there, they “travelled” back in time in the Ancient Egypt Gallery to view Egyptian artifacts including 2 real mummies. Three key concepts: The Nile, Daily Life, and the Afterlife, were explored through objects, text, and hands-on activities to give an overview of ancient Egypt. Students also viewed the renowned collection of Hudson River School paintings and the Hudson River Panorama where they were given lessons on transportation, trade, commerce and industry.



You are invited...

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“A Really Noisy Nativity”

Date: December 21st, 2011
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: St. Francis de Sales Church

*Performed by
 students in pre-k 4s – 6th grade*



ATTENTION HOLIDAY SHOPPERS!

Our school can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

Search the web with **GoodSearch.com** and they'll donate a penny to our school each time you search! Shop at more than 600 **GoodShop.com** merchants and a percentage of each purchase will go to our school!

Who do you goodsearch for? Be sure to designate St. Francis De Sales School in Herkimer on the appropriate line. Thank You!



Once again, students in grades 3-6 participated in our annual Christmas card contest. Students created their own masterpieces that depicted the “true meaning of Christmas”. All of the artwork submitted was outstanding. This year’s winner is Olivia Langdon. Congratulations Olivia! Her artwork will be featured on the school’s Christmas card that will be sent to everyone on our mailing list.



Monthly Raffle

Congratulations to our November winner!
 The Lyga Family

