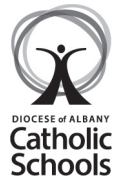




St. Francis de Sales School Times



Some Notes from October 2011

In Pre-K...we

- ✦ read Where the Wild Things Are and talked about why it was a Caldecott winner, talked about using our imaginations, and had a wild rumpus!
- ✦ learned we are part of many communities in our Seeds program, including family, pre-k, church & neighborhoods.
- ✦ continue to work on colors, shapes, & printing first and last names.

In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ are expanding our vocabulary, including adjectives and color words.
- ✦ are investigating the concept of extending color patterns & comparing patterns to find how they are alike/different
- ✦ learned more about Jesus and his good news, to celebrate together as a community.
- ✦ began working with our 5th/6th grade mentors.



In First Grade...we

- ✦ learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin, and enjoyed pumpkin stories, poems, songs, and art projects.
- ✦ practiced writing addition/subtraction sentences in math.
- ✦ learned about neighborhoods and different kinds of communities in social studies.
- ✦ played the "Follow Me" game to increase our sight vocabulary and improve our reading skills.



In Second Grade...we

- ✦ completed our ocean unit with a classroom beach party.
- ✦ learned how to say the Rosary reciting one decade daily.
- ✦ learned about Halloween safety.
- ✦ learned about the 7 days of creation and created a poster, sang songs, and read poems aloud.
- ✦ learned about spiders and bats.
- ✦ located states on a map from stories that we read.

In Third Grade...we

- ✦ wrote about what makes us proud in ELA.
- ✦ said the Rosary with each child having his/her day of special intentions.
- ✦ learned about different kinds of communities – rural, urban/suburban in social studies.
- ✦ have been rounding, rounding, rounding...in math.
- ✦ wrote our October book report on a mystery book.

In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ used cereal boxes to find 4 different kinds of sentences.
- ✦ used raisin bread for a combined math & reading lesson.
- ✦ said the Rosary and discussed the mysteries.
- ✦ discussed the 5 functions of all living things in science.
- ✦ are learning about all the unique & interesting places in NYS. We're already starting to think "I ♥ New York".
- ✦ wrote our first organized essay about things we think need to be cut out of our world.

In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ presented how-to demonstrations to the class based on a written how-to paper.
- ✦ read and discussed The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman.
- ✦ created and painted colorful stone creatures in art class.
- ✦ completed a plant life project – made a poster on 10 medicines from plants and alternative medicine.
- ✦ are sharpening our decimal skills in math.
- ✦ are learning about the 1st Americans in social studies.



In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ "became" characters from our survival theme and dramatized a conversation comparing their stories.
- ✦ read Fight for Life and discussed animal rights and the unethical behavior of cruelty to animals.
- ✦ wrote a paper on an element and made a model of that element in science.
- ✦ discussed the history of the Nobel Prize and this year's winners in current events in social studies.

Technology & Library

In technology, the students have become familiar with the function of the different parts of the computer. They have also been working on beginning word processing skills. Acrostic poems are being explored by grades 4-6. In library, we read fall fiction books. We tried a variety of titles and authors. We discussed how to find that RIGHT BOOK that makes you totally immersed.



Notes from the Music Room




Students visited the "composer cemetery" to discover the legacies of musical giants from the past. A "dynamic" fall bulletin board was produced by 2nd graders expressing their understanding of musical expressions from accent to pianissimo. All grades experienced Halloween music including songs, movement, and ensembles of instruments and voices.

Coach's Corner



This month we played a couple new games – Bean Bag Toe Tag and Pirate Ball. In the first game the students had to slide bean bags into the other teams feet to knock them out or hit multiple tins in order for them to win. Pirate Ball consisted of 4 teams trying to steal their designated ball from the three other teams without getting tagged. The teams had to use strategy to steal their ball but also keep the other teams from stealing their balls in their treasure chest.

November Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

- ★ We celebrate All Saint's Day on **November 1st** with a school Mass at 9:15 AM. 5th & 6th will be doing the readings.
- ★ We celebrate All Soul's Day on **November 2nd**.
- ★ 3rd – 6th grade field trip to the Herkimer Basloe Library on **November 2nd** at 12:30 PM.
- ★ School Picture Day on **November 4th**.
- ★ No school on **November 11th** in honor of Veteran's Day. 
- ★ PSA meeting on **November 15th** at 7:00 PM. The class with the most parents attending wins an ice cream party!
- ★ 3rd – 6th grade field trip to the Albany Institute of History and Art on **November 15th**. Details to follow. 
- ★ No school on **November 18th** due to a superintendent's conference day.
- ★ Family Fun Night for grades 3-6 on **November 18th** at 6:00 PM in the church hall/gym.
- ★ Prek-4s and kindergarten will have their annual Finger Food Festival on **November 22nd**.
- ★ No school on **November 23rd – 25th** due to Thanksgiving Recess. Happy Thanksgiving! 
- ★ Motivational Media Presentation for pre-k 4s – 6th grade on **November 30th**.

T H A N K F U L

Warp Speed Ahead... to the Starlab

"It was awesome!" Those were the words that students used to describe their experience in the portable planetarium. On October 5th, all students in pre-k 4s through 6th grade were given interactive presentations inside the STARLAB dome. Our pre-k and kindergarten students were given an interactive program that taught basic concepts/vocabulary in space. Our 1st and 2nd graders experienced day and night in the STARLAB and were given a general awareness of night sky objects. They also learned about directions in space. Our 3rd and 4th graders learned about the Native American's perception of the night sky as a calendar, clock, map and teacher of moral values. They also took a space "fieldtrip" on STARLAB Voyager. Once in orbit, they were given an "astronaut's eye view" of the continents, oceans, peninsulas and islands. Our 5th and 6th grade students were given an interdisciplinary presentation that incorporated Social Studies and Science. Inside the STARLAB, they experienced a graphic depiction of the world's major weather patterns. The position of wind systems, pressure systems and jet streams were just a few things discussed. They also learned about Greek Mythology using the stars in the current night sky to identify circumpolar and seasonal constellations. It was a great way for our students to travel beyond our planet and experience the night sky up close.

Race For Education

...and they're off.... The temperatures were low, but our school spirit was high as students, school families, faculty and staff took part in our fifth annual Race for Education on Thursday, October 27th. It was another high-energy, fun-filled race day for our students as they walked laps around the school gym to show their enthusiasm for their school. The event was capped off with refreshments for our walkers, special prizes being awarded, and lots of dancing in the gym! Thank you to our Race Committee for organizing this event. Thank you to our faculty, students and their families for soliciting race sponsors. Lastly, thank you to everyone who showed their support by helping behind the scenes, working at the event, cheering on our walkers, and/or donating money. Your dedication to our students and their education is simply extraordinary...



Please send in . . .

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

Monthly Raffle Winners

Congratulations!

September: Peter Polus II

October: Harriett Tangorra

