




St. Francis de Sales School Times



Some Notes from September 2011


In Pre-K...we

- ✦ used spray bottles ...we melted ice cubes to release the frozen bear inside. We also identified color and size.
- ✦ read Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? and made a bracelet representing the colors of the animals.
- ✦ made apple crisp and blueberry muffins. 
- ✦ used flannel board/flannel pieces to identify members of our families.

In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ completed a fun-filled book-writing project on dinosaurs.
- ✦ created cartoon collages and Origami Dogs.
- ✦ learned the correct way of using scissors and pencils.
- ✦ are reviewing attributes of color, shape and size.
- ✦ are experiencing various kinds of prayer, spiritual songs, and kinesthetic learning techniques.

In First Grade...we

- ✦ read alphabet and counting books then wrote and illustrated our own class counting book.
- ✦ learned about the many gifts God gives us: our world, our families, other people who love & care for us, and Jesus.
- ✦ learned how our 5 senses help us explore the world.
- ✦ created "cutting line collages" in art.
- ✦ started a science unit about trees. 


In Second Grade...we

- ✦ created "All About Me" projects through books, art, and writing.
- ✦ learned about responsibility in caring for pets and did lots of creative writing in reading.
- ✦ are studying an ocean theme in science and are learning about ocean life through videos, art, books and poetry.
- ✦ are learning about manners and respect in religion.

In Third Grade...we

- ✦ are writing stories – being National Geographic Kids on Assignment using calendar pictures of different places around the world.
- ✦ started off the year learning about "Geography Facts".
- ✦ taking apart the Apostle's Creed and discovering the meaning of each part.
- ✦ have learned strategies to solve word problems.

In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ are getting many laughs from reading Mrs. Piggle Wiggle.
- ✦ used our artistic talents to make creation posters.
- ✦ are learning and reviewing "Geography Facts" and the geography of New York State.
- ✦ read and discussed Rupert Brooke's poem "The Great Lover" and then wrote our own poems about the many things we love. 

In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ learned about Walt Whitman and read & discussed a poetic section from his "Leaves of Grass" – "Miracles." Then we wrote poems about what we see as miracles.
- ✦ have started "Current Events" and will continue to do so throughout the year.
- ✦ have been watching our "factor trees" grow in math.
- ✦ are preparing to write and orally present a How-To paper with a demonstration.

In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ read and discussed "The Clay Pot" by Kabir. Then students wrote poems about what they found inside their own clay pots and placed a glass stone inside to symbolize the treasure that lies within each of them.
- ✦ have started "Current Events" and will continue to do throughout the year.
- ✦ are learning about archeologists and how they learn about the past.

Technology & Library

The students have been working on a new computer software program called Education City which helps to boost their ELA skills. Even our kindergarten students have had hands-on classes. In library...just a reminder that each student is allowed to check out a maximum of two books, or one book and one video. They should return the borrowed materials within one week and are always welcome to renew for additional time.



Notes from the Music Room

We are singers! Early grades explored their soft and strong, high and low singing voices, singing together and independently. Upper grades worked on pitch control and duration of sound by supporting their voices from the diaphragm. A new memorial acclamation and Holy Holy are being practiced for December's Mass.

Coach's Corner

On your mark...get set...go! We have had an active beginning to the school year! This month the younger grades started off by playing games such as Duck, Duck, Goose and Pac Man. The older grades started off playing games such as Castle Ball, Pac Rat and Gold Rush involving more skill and strategy.



October Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

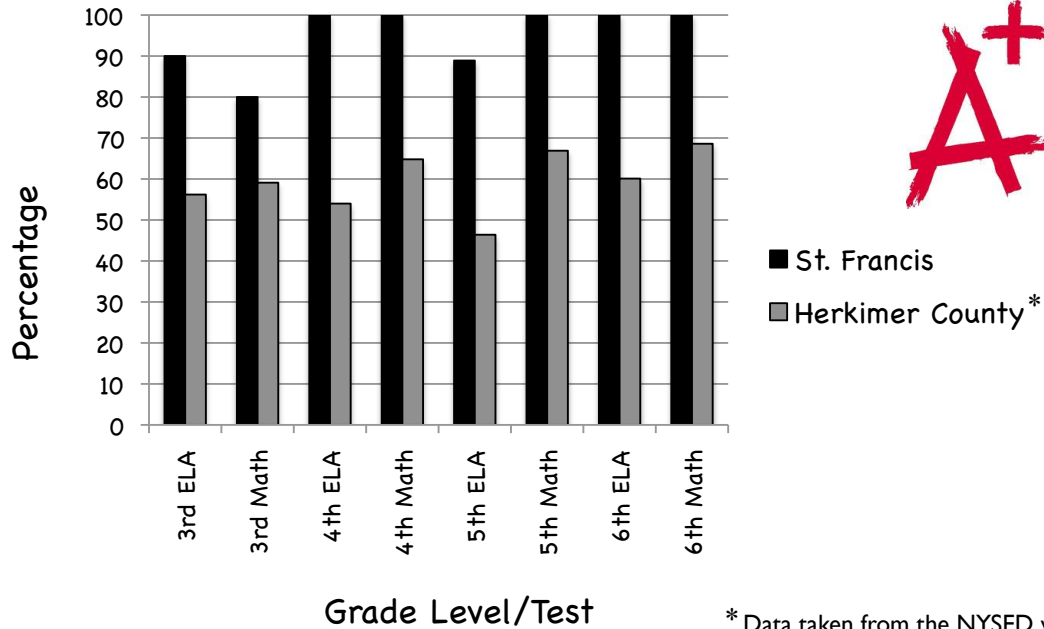


- ★ School Board Meeting at 7:00 PM on October 4th.
- ★ The Portable Planetarium will visit our school on October 5th and present various programs to all students in pre-k 4s – 6th grade.
- ★ Herkimer Fireman will visit all classes in pre-k 4s to 6th grade on October 6th.
- ★ Pre-k 4s will visit the fire station on October 12th.
- ★ Our fifth annual Race for Education will take place on October 27th. Please join us!
- ★ No school on October 28th due to the Diocesan Teacher Conference.
- ★ Halloween treats in the classrooms on October 31st.



New York State Test Results from May 2011 Grades 3-6

Percentage of students that met or exceeded the new proficiency standard.



Congratulations to our principal, **Sr. Rosalie**, on receiving the **Window of Hope Award** at a luncheon in her honor. This award is given to individuals or organizations that actively support Catholic Charities in its mission of Christian service to the residents of Herkimer County.



“She continuously encourages her students, faculty and staff to reach out to each other and to the needy, near and far.”

Terry Leonard, Catholic Charities of Herkimer County Executive Director



Visit our school website – www.stfrancisherkimer.org

Please collect and send in the following:

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

