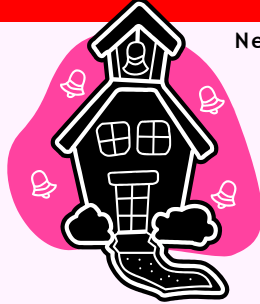


# St. Joseph School Newsletter

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Newsletter February 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 6

Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent

## Principal's News

Special thanks to the many, many people that helped us to have a very successful first semester. We are very proud of the work we do at St. Joseph School. Outstanding test scores, high standards of personal development and commitment to living the Gospel characterize our school. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education and St. Joseph School.

Re-registration letters have been sent home with the youngest child in every school family. Please contact the school office if you have not received a re-registration form. Registration for new students has also begun. Both new student registrations and re-registrations are due in the office by February 10.

Eighth grader Joe Rizzo will be representing St. Joseph School at the Summit County District Spelling Bee. The bee will be held at the Akron Summit County Public Library on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. The runner-up is seventh grader Tommy Keener. Also, Brady Paul, eighth grader, recently won our school Geography Bee. He then took a written test to see if he qualifies for the State Geography Bee. The runner-up in the Geography Bee is sixth grader Gracie Bagdon. Congratulations to all of these students!

Our Lenten journey will begin on February 22 with an all-school Ash Wednesday Mass. May this Lenten season be a time of thoughtful prayer and reflection.

Don't forget to attend our Blue and Gold Gala on February 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Guy's Party Center. It is a wonderful event and benefits all of the students at St. Joseph School.  
God Bless You.

## Tuition News

**TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR 2012-2013:** Anyone needing information about financial aid for the next school year at St. Joseph School should call either Veronica at the school, 330-928-2151 or Sue at the rectory, 330-928-2173. Please call during regular business hours.

There are two types of aid. The Diocese of Cleveland offers P.S.A.S. and our parish offers parishioners with extremely low income or extraordinary circumstances some assistance. A submitted P.S.A.S. form is a pre-requisite for Parish Aid. Two diocesan scholarships are available to PSAS applicants. Current 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> graders may apply for the Bishop's *Scholarship for Excellence*; current 1-7<sup>th</sup> graders may apply for the M. Thomas Moore Scholarship.

To be considered for Diocesan Aid, P.S.A.S. forms must be postmarked by March 1, 2012. Copies of your 2011 Federal Income Tax Return as well as your W-2 and/or 1099's must also be included. There is a \$24.00 processing fee. Forms can be picked up in the offices or sent home with your student. Again, forms must be postmarked by March 1, 2012.

## Upcoming Events

- ✓ **February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Blue Ribbon T-shirt Day
- ✓ **February 14<sup>th</sup>**  
St. Valentine's Day  
Casual Day (Wear Red)
- ✓ **February 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent -Teacher Conferences  
(Optional)
- ✓ **February 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL
- ✓ **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Ash Wednesday-Lent Begins  
Mass 10:20a.m.
- ✓ **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Marco's Pizza Day
- ✓ **February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Casual day for the Missions
- ✓ **February 25<sup>th</sup>**  
St. Joseph Blue/Gold Gala
- ✓ **February 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Mass/Stations 9:00a.m. Gr. 6-8



## Kindergarten News

Mrs. Haubert and Mrs. Hale

Welcome to February. As always, we have a lot going on in Kindergarten. We are still celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We are celebrating Ground Hog Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of school. We will have Valentines' parties on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, in advance, to all those who are helping with our parties. We will learn about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln during February. Lent begins on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will attend the Ash Wednesday Mass with the school. This is also a leap year. We are looking forward to an extra day in February.

We will be working on the letters *w* and *x* and the high frequency words *no* and *see* during February. Please make sure you are going over your child's work when it comes home and spend a little time with him or her going over problem areas. It is amazing how helpful a few minutes practice can be. Thank you for your cooperation with this. Have a great month.

## First Grade News

Mrs. Ciraldo and Mrs. Tondra

First graders will begin the month of February celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! We always enjoy making our 100s day trail mix for snack.

In math class we continue to work on telling time to the five minutes and counting coins. We will begin to add ten to a number, learn the sums of ten, and fractions of one half and one fourth. It is very important that math facts be practiced at home. These facts need to be memorized. You can print out many math practice sheets from the website [www.mathfactcafe.com](http://www.mathfactcafe.com). This site has fact sheets, time sheets and money sheets to print at home and practice. Another fun website is [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com).

In February, we will begin the season of Lent. The children will go on a Lenten Journey to become more like Jesus. The children will participate in Mass and Stations of the Cross. We will even make our own Stations of the Cross books.

We have begun to learn the long vowel sounds. This will help our reading skills blossom. Please continue to practice reading at home each day. The children have been very eager and excited to take the AR tests at school. Their writing skills are improving as well. We will be learning how to add describing words to make our sentences more meaningful. First graders will also practice alphabetical order.

Science classes will focus on space science. Meanwhile, in social studies, we will be discussing the importance of Presidents' Day.

The children have been enjoying our health classes. February is *Dental Health Month*. We will be learning the importance of proper dental health.

Thanks to all the parents that helped donate items for our Valentine's Party on February 14. We will be making sundaes and playing a game/craft. Please remember to have 19 Valentines signed by your child for the party. Do not address the cards.

## Second Grade News

Mrs. Stadelman and Mrs. Zaucha

We have enjoyed celebrating Catholic Schools' Week. I hope the students will see that they are lucky to be at St Joseph School learning about their Catholic faith. The students will take another important step in their faith as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wed., Feb. 8 at 7 pm in the church. The format for making a confession was sent home for practice. It is exciting to see them take this next step and then begin to prepare for First Communion May 6.

In Social Studies, we will be learning about our government, Washington DC and American symbols, including the drawing of flags from other countries which the children enjoy.

In Science, the students are learning about the three states of matter. The children are making posters that describe and show examples of solids, liquids and gases. We made a concoction of glue mixed with shaving cream. When this dried, the texture was a surprise. The children will discover other ways that matter can be changed such as cutting, heating or freezing.

The students continue to progress in an outstanding way in their AR reading. Many of them have progressed to chapter books now and are doing a great job.

We have practiced the -1, -2 facts and will continue to add more subtraction facts through- out Feb. Please practice subtraction as they need extra practice on this skill; addition seems to come easier.

The second graders are also looking forward their Valentine's Day party on Tues., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>! Your child will need 14 valentines since there are 15 in our class----no need to put names on them.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22 and we will begin our preparation for Easter with learning about Stations of the Cross and other various activities through the Lenten season.



## Third Grade News

Ms. Marino and Miss Sibila

The first half of school has gone quickly. We are now experienced 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and learning many new things. Please make it a routine to check their assignment books and our website daily. Cursive writing is one area that needs to be done all the time now. "Practice makes perfect". Spelling should be done in cursive and checked.

Math facts are in need of constant review. Multiplication is being introduced again. We will also have a downhill skiing competition between the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, to practice our subtraction facts.

In Science, we have begun the study of rocks and soil. The students are learning how rocks are formed and how to tell one kind of rock from another. They will discover what soil is made of and why soil is important.

For Social Studies, we are reading how the first English settlers built the community of Jamestown. We are learning about the important people who helped develop the 13 original colonies and how our government was started.

In our next Religion unit, we will learn about being open to the Holy Spirit as well as to all people by showing respect and accepting others. We will discuss the "Great Commandment" and God's promise to love us and be with us always. We will also continue to work on our community service projects for *Ronald McDonald House*. Weighing the pop tabs collected during Catholic Schools' Week will be one project. We will also be making "Happy Grams" with messages on snacks for their Valentine treats.

Some fun things we are looking forward to will be our Valentine party on Tuesday, February 14th and competing with each other to see who can get the most 100% on A/R tests for this quarter. We will call it the "Snowflake contest". For every 100% on an A/R test, the student will hang a snowflake in the hall by their classroom.

Just to add a few reminders, ask if supplies are running low (pencils, glue, erasers, red pencil, etc) and check to see if your child is reading his/her Accelerated Reader books. Finally, with winter in full force, please have your child dressed for the weather. If absent, please try to get the day's work. We will be glad to help in any way we can to catch them up when they are not here.

### Students of the Week for January

#### Room 200

Isabelle Bailey  
Isabella Caston

#### Room 202

Samantha Curtin  
Shelby Postlewaite



## Fourth Grade News

### Miss Fearon

This is a great time of year in the classroom. We will be involved in learning many new concepts. The students have become accustomed to our schedule and procedures. I will be picking up the pace in our classroom. We will be covering some difficult material. Your child will need to stay focused in the classroom so that daily work will be completed on time. Your child needs to use class time wisely. Please, encourage your child to complete all of the assigned work. The students need to talk to me about missing assignments so that they can receive partial credit for the work that they have completed.

Students are running out of school supplies. Please take some time and talk to your child about the supplies that he or she is missing. We still have a semester of school. It is important to have the necessary supplies in our desk. Thank you!

We will have our Valentine's Day party on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be going to the Natural History Museum on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. It should be a great day to learn about volcanoes and earthquakes.

Tests are becoming more difficult. Testing dates are announced at least a week ahead of time for the students. The students need to study for several days to prepare for the test. Students should have someone quiz them over the material. Spelling and Religion test are given weekly.

In Religion, we will be talking about the Ten Commandments and Reconciliation. Our class will be taking time to prepare for the season of Lent. There will be a variety of activities that the students will take part in throughout the season. We will have prayer services in our classroom as well as participating in the Stations of the Cross.

Math is becoming more challenging at this point in the year. Please remember to review multiplication and division facts. Your child will need to have you review his or her homework. Parents need to sign the homework after going over the work. There are many sloppy mistakes on homework. This will help reinforce the skills that are being taught. Please take some time to help reinforce these concepts at home.

The class has new accelerated reading goals for the third quarter. There will be a reading activity that the class will be working on for the month of February. We are learning about verbs in English. The class is learning about linking verbs and helping verbs. We are reviewing nouns. We are also working on creative writing assignments.

Congratulations to Olivia Oziomek and Tommy Bee. Thank you for being great examples to your classmates. You are "living out the Beatitudes". There have been countless acts of kindness in the classroom. It is so nice to see everyone participate. We will be working toward a popcorn party in the month of February. The students will put a kernel of popcorn in a jar for every act of kindness. At the end of the month, we will have a popcorn party with our collection.



## Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Williams

Happy February! It is still a busy time in fourth grade...lots of learning is taking place! Because we are learning a great deal of new material, things are a little difficult for some students. If you see an area where grades appear to be low, please review things at home. It is always a good idea to practice math facts, review spelling, and study together for tests. Thank you for any support you can give. Some of the students are amazing me with how they are progressing in Reading. What a pleasure it is to see such growth. This is the final quarter that Accelerated Reader points will be required. The last quarter of school we will focus on book reports to be shared with the class instead of points.

Thank you in advance for anything you send in for our Valentine's Party. If your child will be sending in valentines, please be sure that every student in the class receives one. Again, the children continue to be kind toward their classmates and very respectful to me. I feel blessed to be teaching this group. Thank you for that! Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a concern and I will reply as soon as I can.

## Fifth Grade News

Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. R. Wilson



We would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you in advance to all for helping with our party. It was nice seeing you at our Open House on the Sunday of Catholic Schools' Week. What a busy but fun week this was for us! We have a few field trips coming up in the spring months, please check your calendars! Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> we will be visiting the Morley Health Center. This will be a half day field trip. Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> we will be going to see Disney's Earth Day movie in Macedonia. This will be from 8:30 to about 12:30. The cost for this trip is \$6.00 per person. Students will need to pack a lunch for that day. Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> will be our Fifth Grade Retreat at Lion's Park. This is an all day trip with no charge. Each student will need a white t-shirt (or light colored) to decorate though. We will need parents to stay and help with the various activities this day.

The students are working hard. They continue to make cards for our friends in Hospice care. They are spreading joy and compassion to those in need. Thank you for all of your generous donations during our Have a Heart collection during Catholic Schools Week. The students have been learning more about The Lord's Prayer. They have illustrated each of the petitions of the prayer. We will be starting unit 4 soon; this will be focusing on the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. We will participate in the annual fifth grade St. Jude Hospital Math-A-Thon in February and March for our Lenten service project. The fifth grade has collected nearly \$20,000.00 for St. Jude in the past eight years. We hope to have a good showing this year. Information will come home the second week of February.

For the third quarter each student in Mrs. Wilson's class will need to complete a "Reado" card for Accelerated Reader. Students are not assigned points this quarter. What they need to do is read across the genres to complete their card. This means that each student is to read at least 4 books within their reading level and pass the AR test on those books successfully! Keep reading fifth grade 😊. Mrs. McClellan's class will be receiving directions for an author study project for the month of February.

We are in the tough part of our math now, each lesson is new. The lessons keep building on themselves. We are focusing on fractions and percents right now. The students are learning to convert fractions and percents, probability, and chance ... Please remind your child to double check their work daily. They know how to look up their questions in their math book. On February 25<sup>th</sup> Gavin Aitken, Brian Fitzsimmons, Rachel Hickie, and Kyle Kubus will be representing the fifth grade in a math competition. We wish them the best of luck.

We have included health in this third quarter. We are looking at the body systems and will be moving on to nutrition. We will be moving on to the Fully Alive series soon. Please stop in, write a note, send an e-mail ... if you would like to preview the book before we do in class. I will be happy to share a copy with you; we will need it back though. We continue to study science as well in the third quarter.

## Sixth Grade News

Mrs. Huber



Please make sure your child has ample school supplies and that they are using their planners. Occasionally students may come in during recess to straighten their desk or locker, or complete an assignment. However, when they do arrive in the morning, they should be able to get these small tasks done. I have found that I am giving more reminders to use their time wisely. Please continue to encourage and support them in taking responsibility for their work, behavior and time. Third quarter is generally the most challenging- let's all work together to make it successful. Also reminders regarding encouraging your children to make corrections on their tests- remember there are always two test scores listed. Discouragingly, only a handful of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students took advantage of an opportunity for an extra credit assignment.

Certainly most of our focus will be on learning more about Jesus' journey and tying it in with our own Lenten journeys, which begins Feb. 22. We will be utilizing the "Visions" Magazines, along with information from Catholic Relief Services to increase our understanding of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Thanks to all who participated in the Catholic Schools Week Sunday Masses, as well as the Open House.

6<sup>th</sup> grade: Congratulations to our classroom representatives for the school's Spelling Bee: Aiden Sisil, Olivia Wolfram, Donnie Reagan, and Joey Perella. Congratulations to Tommy Keener and Joey Rizzo who had to "battle it out" in an extremely tense spell off! It was nerve-wracking, but certainly a great experience for them and their classmates looking ahead to next year! We will have a small Valentine's Day party- students are to bring Valentines for the whole class, if they choose to bring them.

Environmental Camp at Camp Christopher is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> (after school) –May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks you all for turning in the fee on time! This is the first year that we had to collect the fees prior to our meeting. As shared previously, it is a 3 day- 2 night experience where the children get to explore science, math, and history; appreciate nature and certainly grow in their respect for the wonders of God's creation. Remember if you are available and interested in helping out please let me know soon (you must be Virtus trained). Mrs. Wilson and I will be attending a teacher meeting to work out details with the other school(s) that will be attending our session. We will have a parent meeting in March 28. In class, along with exploring Lent, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be studying the Ten Commandments and the power of prayer.

7<sup>th</sup> grade: We will be exploring Christ's presence in the Eucharist and the diversity of traditions. Also we will discuss discipleship and relying on the Church's teachings and the Ten Commandments as guides to moral living. Plans are underway for the students to participate in a Seder meal, to appreciate more the journey our Jewish brothers and sisters experienced.

Looking ahead, for Confirmation 2012, each candidate needs to provide 10 hours of service. These hours can be accrued through any volunteer experience in which the children participate. Simply keep track of date(s), hours, and, if possible, get a signature from a director of the activity.

8<sup>th</sup> grade: We are again using our text more to delve into diversity of prayer guided by the Holy Spirit; and reviewing that celebrating the Eucharist is essential to our Catholic faith. We will look at the Crusades, with the goal for salvation and tie this history in with our own call from Jesus to live in love for God and neighbor.

### MISSIONS NEWS

Our School collection for January \$284.85 has been added into our donations given to the Akron Children's Hospital "Have-a-Heart" Radiothon. Thank you all for your support!

## Sixth Grade News

Mrs. N. Wilson

Welcome to the Third Quarter. Life in Junior High is certainly exciting! We are enjoying Catholic Schools Week, which includes many different activities to celebrate our Catholic identity and to reinforce our service to others. The sixth graders will be collecting loose change to raise money for the "Have a Heart, Do Your Part" campaign for Akron Children's Hospital. We will also be collecting pop tops during Catholic Schools' Week and making a large donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

Our major field trip this year is the Camp Christopher Environmental Camp. This is a two night, three day experience dealing with God, Science, Math and nature. Our dates for this fun event are Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a very important parent meeting in March to discuss all the details. Look for information about this meeting coming home with your child in February. Please mark the dates on your calendar. If you are interested in being a volunteer for camp please let me know as soon as possible. The kids are extremely excited about this trip!

As we move into February, every math class is learning new concepts. The sixth grade is concentrating on fractions and decimals. We are practicing these new ideas everyday in class. Please continue to work with your child at home. The seventh grade is focusing on algebra and geometry concepts. The Algebra class in eighth grade is focusing this quarter on inequalities and solving systems of equations. Please spend extra time at home practicing and reviewing what was taught during the day. All the grades need to replenish their supply of pencils, highlighters, paper, graph paper and white board markers. Too many students continue to borrow things from their neighbors!

Please keep Aleah Karam-Ryan in your prayers as she recuperates from surgery.

## Seventh Grade News

Mrs. Cottrill

It was good to see so many of you at the open house to begin Catholic Schools' Week. We should all be very proud of our school!

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have just begun a unit in reading class focusing on discovering the theme in a piece of writing – the message about life that an author wants to convey. As a reader and a teacher, this is the fun "stuff" – the point at which reading truly can change lives and inspire people. It is exciting to watch students as they begin to realize that a story has a message beyond the events in the story. They begin to recognize little bits of themselves and their own lives in characters and stories. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are studying characterization and the ways in which an author reveals a character through that character's actions and thoughts and his or her interactions with other characters.

In English class both classes have been working on parts of speech, writing essays on the Catholic Schools' Week theme of Faith, Academics, and Service, and perfecting proofreading skills to find grammatical, spelling, and capitalization errors in sentences. Both classes will complete reviews of capitalization and punctuation rules in the near future.

Visitations to the area Catholic high schools are as follows:

Archbishop Hoban – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

St. Vincent-St. Mary – Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Our Lady of the Elms – Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>



Watch for permission slips to begin coming home mid-February.

Walsh Jesuit is hosting a visitation on Friday, February 17. St. Joseph does not have school that day, so if you would like to attend the visitation you can make arrangements with the director of admissions:

[eubankr@walshjesuit.org](mailto:eubankr@walshjesuit.org).

## Seventh Grade News

Miss Spalvieri

The eighth graders are studying the Revolutionary War. The students made posters depicting some of the causes leading to the beginning of the war and the writing of the Declaration of Independence. All eighth graders received brand new text books recently. I want to emphasize once again the importance of taking care of these expensive new books. Books need to be covered with a cover that covers the whole book and does not have cut off edges. Students also need to have a folder to keep their papers because storing papers in their books can lead to damage.

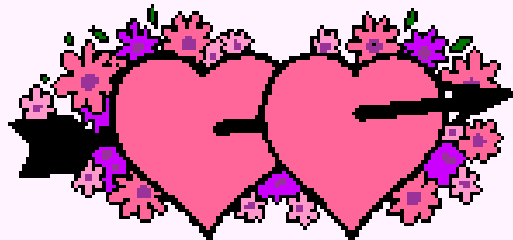
The seventh graders have completed their Ancient Greece Projects and they are on display. We have learned a lot of interesting things from these projects. Many people have told me that they have enjoyed looking at the projects in the hall.

The sixth graders are currently studying Ancient Greece. We have talked about the city-states and the different types of governments that these city-states had.

Please check with your student to make sure he or she has plenty of supplies. Many students are running low on loose-leaf paper, pencils, and pens. I require a notebook and a folder specifically for Social Studies and some students do not have these.

Continue to check Edline to make sure your student is completing and turning in assignments on time.

Visitations to the area Catholic high schools will begin in February and March. Look for permission slips to begin coming home in early February.



## **Eighth Grade News**

**Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Watson**

We will be reading the novel *Five People You Meet in Heaven* in grade eight. This book is based on Eddie, an amusement park worker, who is killed at the park on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The book focuses on his death. One by one, Eddie's five people that he meets upon arrival to heaven, illuminate the connections of his earthly life. This book does a beautiful job of illustrating the way that one person's life affects another's. No story sits alone. This topic gives way to many class discussions about how each of our actions in some way affects the people around us.

Both seventh and eighth grades will be completing a two-three page research paper. We will be going over all parts of developing a good research paper, in English class. The eighth graders will be presenting their papers in class.

The seventh and eighth graders have completed the second quarter of accelerated reader. The students read books, took tests and completed journals. Most students did a great job! Please check with your child throughout the third nine-week period to see if he/she is reading and writing in his/her journal. The students are given one library period and one reading period each week to work on the journals. The journals are not such a big job if done on a weekly basis. Next Journal is due on February 16, 2012.

The Walsh Science Fair will be on Sunday, February 12, 2012. We have 15 students attending please support them by coming to see their projects between 3:00-4:00 p.m. The sixth grade students are encouraged to come to help them prepare for next year. A letter was sent home with them about this.

We are doing health in seventh and eighth grade this quarter. Please look for assignments, tests, and grades under health on Edline. The sixth grade will have health the fourth quarter.

The next payment of \$70.00 for Washington D.C. is due February 6th.

A big thank you to the parents who provided the hot chocolate and goodies after ice skating.

The entire school participated in the Have a Heart, Do Your Part, Radiothon, sponsored by 98.1 WKDD. We asked all students to be "Change Bandits", during the week of Jan 29-Feb 3, 2012. All of the money stays at Akron Children's Hospital. We are fortunate to have such a great hospital in our neighborhood. Thank you for your help. Check out the bulletin board outside of 8-106, for totals!

\*\*Please check your child's supplies. Some students are out of pens, pencils, paper, crayons, etc.



## **Library News**

**Mrs. Rauber**

Ninety One Million, Five Hundred and Eighty - Nine Thousand, Three  
Hundred and Ninety - One

# **Incredible!**

This is the total number of Accelerated Reader words that have been read since the beginning of the year! Way to go St. Joseph School students your efforts are outstanding.

Keep up the good work. 😊

## Computer News

Miss Cosgrove



A Word About Edline...Parents, please make sure that your Edline **parent account** is **activated** and **updated** at the beginning of each month. In viewing the master list, there are still several of you who have activated your child's student account as a parent account. This needs to be corrected at your earliest convenience and you will have to see me to have it changed.

### Class Happenings:

**8<sup>th</sup> Gr.** – The students are researching a famous American historian in preparation for writing a research paper. This is being integrated with Language Arts class.

**7<sup>th</sup> Gr.** – The students are continuing to build 6 slides for an *Accelerated Reader Book* slide presentation.

**6<sup>th</sup>** – The students are researching a famous black historian for a 6 slide presentation in *PowerPoint*.

**5<sup>th</sup> Gr.** – The students will be writing a sensory paragraph based on a graphic in nature.

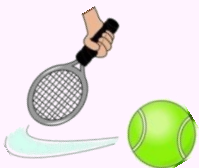
**4<sup>th</sup> Gr.** – The students are working in *KidPix* to create food webs.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Gr.** – Students will be working on a webquest about St. Valentine

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gr.** – Students will be creating comic strips online.

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Students will be creating Valentine cards in *PrintShop*

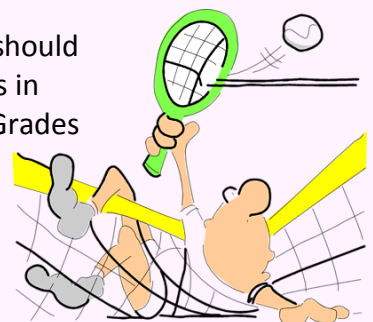
**Kindergarten** – Students will continue to learn more about the word processing tools in *KidPix* and making heart shaped animal pictures in *KidPix*



## Physical Education

Mrs. Guanciale

The student's next unit is lifetime and racquet sports which will include badminton, table tennis, shuffleboard, and Newcomb. Students in grades 6- 8 should know how to keep score, serve, and keep all the above games in play. Students in grades 4 and 5 will learn how to keep the objects in play in the above games. Grades K-3 will use foam racquets and balls in centers.



## Music News

Mrs. Wenmoth

In music, **kindergarten** has learned many holiday songs including 100 days of school, and Groundhog's day. Now they will learn songs for Valentine's Day. While we learn new songs, we continually reinforce correct singing posture, singing in a clear high head voice, and pitch matching. We are developing skills in keeping both the steady beat and the rhythm.

**Grade one** can determine how many sounds are being sung on each beat, and are reading quarter, eighth and sixteenth note patterns. **Second grade** has begun learning to sing rounds. This is a difficult skill, and they are doing quite well. **Third grade** has watched "The Sound of Music" and is learning "Do-Re-Mi" from this famous musical.

**Grade 4** students are practicing their recorders in hopes of earning as many "belts" for their recorders as possible. The Recorder Karate Program awards colored belts for successful performances of progressively more difficult songs. On non-recorder days, we will begin learning about musical steps, skips and repeats. Students will be evaluated on this concept.

**Grade 5** students are memorizing the words to the Star Spangled Banner. They will each sing in for me later this month. In addition, we are studying melody, and that melodies are made up of steps, skips, and repeats. They can identify these visually and aurally.

**Grade 6** is completing the study of the major and minor tonalities and will move to the pentatonic tonality next. Pentatonic is used in songs from countries in the Pacific Rim and the students will learn songs from many of these countries.

**Grade 7** is studying the Baroque period of music and hopefully are reviewing their notes with some frequency, rather than waiting until the test is announced.

**Grade 8** is up to the 60's in their study of rock music. They are learning about the historical events that contributed to the growth of Folk and Soul music, as well as the British Invasion and Surf music.



## Art News

Mrs. Coley

It was so nice to see everyone at Open House!

**8<sup>th</sup> graders** are studying the art of Seurat. They are using pointillism to complete a canvas painting of a seascape, landscape, cityscape or skyscape. They are doing an amazing job and are learning how to mix and change color intensities to capture the realism of their subject. They will be completing the paintings shortly and will begin self-portraits/silhouettes.

**7<sup>th</sup> graders** are finishing scratch art projects (many are finished) and are moving on to abstract canvas panel paintings. Students are using their design skills as well as learning to mix colors.

**6<sup>th</sup> graders** are working on a drawing unit. They have drawn contours of a shoe, completed value scales and will now use 9 values found in their scales to shade their shoe realistically. We will be spelling our names in sign language symbols using hand contour line drawings. A self-portrait will finish up the unit and the students will need to bring in a 6x8 computer print of a photo of themselves. The photo should be head to shoulder only...no full length photos. This is a challenging unit and the students are enthusiastic and doing great work!

**5<sup>th</sup> graders** will be using chalks to create a solar system project.

**4<sup>th</sup> graders** are drawing Banyan tree silhouettes and will be using cool/warm colors schemes to complete them with oil pastels.

**3<sup>rd</sup> graders** are completing coil pots and will begin 3-d rainforests. We will be exploring works from around the world and will begin a multicultural exploration of art.

**2<sup>nd</sup> graders** created self portraits and will soon begin paper weaving projects.

**1<sup>st</sup> graders** will be creating winter themed projects.

**Kindergartners** are continuing to practice cutting and assembling skills and will be making snowmen and other winter related projects like our magical snow globes.



## Spanish News

Mrs. Tomin



Prospero Ano Nuevo!

It was so nice to see so many of you on Sunday for the Open House. I hope you had a chance to look at all we do in Spanish!

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are practicing their speaking skills by writing restaurant skits. They are also learning about the location and culture Latin American countries. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are working on verbs and grammar this quarter.

Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are becoming more and more comfortable with the verbs in the present tense. Much of the remainder of the year will be oral practice and memorization of these verbs and other common vocabulary.

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are practicing what they have learned about their community.

In Kindergarten we are talking about the foods we eat, and in 1<sup>st</sup> grade we have learned to talk about our families. Now we will include our pets as part of our families. Please check Ed-line for the current vocabulary.

## Blue & Gold Gala



Take a chance and have some fun at this year's 17th annual Blue & Gold Gala's "Monte Carlo Night". The Gala will be held Saturday, February 25 at 6pm at Guy's Party Centre on Waterloo Rd. Along with cocktails, appetizers, dinner and dessert there will be a live and silent auction. Items to be auctioned include Browns and Indians tickets, Aero's loge party, golf packages, a boat ride on Lake Erie, Camp Christopher camp, hotel stays, jewelry, furniture, gift certificates and much more. Try your luck with the Lottery Tree Raffle, the Deal or no Deal game or 50/50 raffle. Whether it's your first time at the Gala or your 10th the evening will be full of fun and surprises. The Gala committee will be selling raffle tickets for a Kindle Fire, a " Fill your Fridge" package (\$125 in grocery Gift certificates) and Something for every "KID" in the house package after all masses every weekend in February down in Nolan Hall. Stop down to take a chance! 100% of Gala proceeds benefit education needs of our children and St. Joseph School. For information about invitations, reservations, donations, business ads or volunteering...please contact Debra Zielinski @ 330-929-1237.

## Home & School Classroom Parties

We are coming up on our final class party of the year, Valentine's Day. Some issues have come up with the last two that are becoming problematic. The only role of the room parent is to coordinate the parties, not finance them. Several of the room parents have been unable to get assistance from other parents causing them to put their own money into the class party. If you are able to send in a treat or snack, please notify your room parent ahead of time. Some of the classes get overloaded on treats, while others get nothing. This obviously causes hurt feelings amongst the children. In some circumstances, parties have become buffets with so much food. The vast majority of that becomes waste as the kids only have a short period of time to snack and play. If your child is going to pass out candy with their Valentines cards, please let your room parent or teacher know that as well.

Please help your room parents out as they are putting a lot of time and effort, and in some cases money, into insuring your child has a great party at school. Thank you all for your help.

### Room Parents 2011-12

Teacher	Parent	Teacher	Parent
Mrs. Hale	=Jill Garst 677-2341, 760-7894	Mrs. Haubert	=Shelly Zackasee 929-1304, 289-0250
Mrs. Tondra	=Ann Ponyik 630-1682, 606-9056	Mrs. Ciraldo	=Ellin Walsh 655-5331, 730-4948
Mrs. Zaucha	=Stephanie Bartolo 945-7696 =Julie Coffman 922-3543	Mrs. Stadelman	=Hope Wagner 922-0880 =Julie Reed 926-1509 =Lorrie Obney (helper) 794-7722
Ms. Marino	=Lisa Zaucha 730-3180 = Janice Baker 701-5987	Miss Sibila	=Shannon Horak 630-2754, 201-4137
Miss Fearon	=Julie Marcu 630-3688, 310-6363	Mrs. Williams	=Veronica Gobrogge 923-1773
Mrs. R. Wilson	=Emily Olds 630-2389, 247-8190 =Linda Putaturo 252-0338	Mrs. McClellan	=Lori Lawrence 234-678-3288, 697-7529
Mrs. Huber	=Julie Sisil 459-4599	Mrs. N. Wilson	=Carrie Willett 920-1443, 715-0958
Miss Spalvieri	=Lisa Stierl 253-1807, 998-0869	Mrs. Cottrill	=Melissa Fitzimmons 929-3008, 524-2944 =Kelli Meisner 631-6780
Mrs. Watson	=Toni Haag (co-head) 923-6855, 322-3711 =Kelly Lambert (co-head) 336-5556, 616-8881	Mrs. Ross	=Debra Zielinski (co-head) 929-1237, 289-2933 =Donna Purcell (co-head) 336-5156, 788-8878

Forget something? Like paying your Home & School dues? It's never too late! We still have lots of things to fund throughout the year including the junior high social, teacher appreciation, First Communion pictures, graduation flowers, and another skating party! If you have not done so already, please send in your dues to the attention of our treasurer, Jodi Szahlender.

We would like to thank those of you who donate your winnings from calendars back to Home & School. This "extra" money is so very much appreciated! Thank you!

Please note that we are not having our spring skating party on "Fat Tuesday" as we have in the past. The spring skating party will be held on March 15. More details in the March newsletter.

The Junior High Social will be on February 16 from 7-9 in the gym. The theme is "The 70s," and there will be a prize for the best dressed! Tickets cost \$5 per student (no guests, please) and can be purchased starting Monday, February 13. There will be snacks, prizes, a DJ and dancing. Some great prizes are a flat screen TV, cash, dress down passes, gift cards and much more! Winner must be present. The kids are sure to have a great time!

Congratulations to the Second Graders who will be making their First Reconciliation on February 8. Home & School supplies a celebratory treat the following day. We give them extra blessings and prayers while they prepare for their First Holy Communion.

Thanks to Lesley Conti for setting up the uniform exchange. If you missed this exchange, another will be coming mid April for the spring uniform change-over.

Acme's Community Cashback Program is ending mid February, so please be sure to turn in all your Acme receipts by March 1. Thank you for turning in your receipts and to Peggy Reagan who is handling this program! We've been one of the top earners for the last two years!

Keep swiping your rewards card at Giant Eagle to earn points for our school. We sell a lot of Giant Eagle certificates and should be earning lots of points. Go to a Giant Eagle store or [gianteagle.com](http://gianteagle.com) to register your card for our school. We will be redeeming our points in April.



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.saintjoe.org](http://www.saintjoe.org)