

# St. Joseph School Newsletter

Newsletter January 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 5

Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent

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## Principal's News

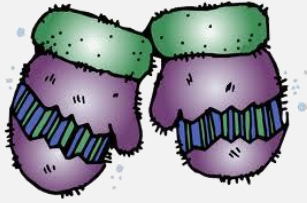
Happy 2012!! May your year be filled with peace and good health. From January 29 through February 3, St. Joseph School will join nearly 8,000 schools in celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2012. The theme for this week will be "Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics and Service." This week is a time to reaffirm the spiritual value of all of our children in the eyes of God... to encourage students to achieve academic excellence...to recognize parents for their sacrifices on behalf of their children's education...and to acknowledge teachers, staff and administrators in Catholic schools for their loving dedication and professionalism. We hope that you will be able to join us for our many activities this week. To kickoff the week we will begin on Sunday with a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Holy Name Society. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast from 9:00 to 12:00 on Sunday, January 29 in the school cafeteria. Also, on Sunday, there will be an open house from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00p.m. Come and tour the school, talk with the staff, and see all the great things that are happening at St. Joseph School. The students will be participating at all of the masses on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Many blessings in the New Year!

Dr. Nugent

## Upcoming Events

- ✓ **January 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Ski Club Begins
- ✓ **January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Home & School Mtg.  
7:00p.m.
- ✓ **January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Blue Ribbon Shirt Day
- ✓ **January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Spelling Bee 2:00 p.m.
- ✓ **January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL- Teacher in-service
- ✓ **January 16<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL-MLK Day
- ✓ **January 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Casual Day for the Missions.



## Kindergarten News

Mrs. Haubert and Mrs. Hale

Happy New Year! We began January with some New Year activities then we moved on to the Feast of the Epiphany. Martin Luther King Jr. will be a big focus this month. We will discuss his big dream of everyone living in peace. We will look for ways that we can live out this dream ourselves. We will end the month with our Catholic Schools Week Open House and activities. Watch for more details to come home in your child's folder. We will be working on the letter *B*, *K*, and *O* and the high frequency words *do* and *what* in reading. Please watch Edline and our weekly newsletters for updates on the word families we have covered in class. Please practice the letters, sounds and high frequency words with your children.

Report cards will come home in the middle of the month. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

We will be attending school Masses from now on. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the walk to church. This includes boots, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

We look forward to seeing you at Open House. Please invite family and friends to attend as well. We have a lot to be proud of here at St. Joseph School.

## First Grade News

Mrs. Ciraldo and Mrs. Tondra

First graders will kick off the month of February by celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! This special day should be on February 2 (unless a snow day arrives). We will be making our famous trail mix and participating in other activities. More info will be sent home. Other math lessons will focus on congruent shapes, fractions, trading pennies for dimes. Please continue to practice the fact cards that are sent home. It is very important for the children to memorize the facts. We will continue to time for two minutes.

The children will learn about the Holy Spirit in religion. They will understand that the Spirit is our helper and guide. At the end of February, we will begin the season of Lent. We will stress that this is a time to be more like Jesus. The children's reading skills continue to improve. We encourage reading at home. The stories in our next unit will be about maps and people in different places around the world. This will include some nonfiction stories too. Students will be learning the different long vowel sounds and practicing putting words in alphabetical order.

First graders will be listening to the sounds around them in science. They will identify soft/loud sounds and discover vibrations. We will take a look at homemade instruments the fifth graders made to help us understand how sounds are made. The children learn about sources of heat and energy as well.

As we begin the third quarter, first graders will be start health classes. The first unit of study is our bodies. Students will name major organs such as the heart, brain and lungs. They will also be able to tell why we have bones and muscles.

## Second Grade News

Mrs. Stadelman and Mrs. Zaucha

We hope that everyone had a wonderful, relaxing Christmas break. It is hard to believe that the second quarter will end on Thursday, January 12. The children are halfway through second grade! We have so much to learn and we know the children will continue to work hard the second part of the year.

### **Blanket the World with Kindness: Second Grade Service Project**

Thank you for your donations for our blanket project. We know that many of the children brought in their own money for this special project. During Catholic Schools' Week, the children will be tying the blankets together. We will then send the blankets to Children's Hospital.

Catholic Schools' week will begin on Sunday, January 29 with a pancake breakfast and an Open House at the school. We hope to see you there!

In Religion we will continue to focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will begin the examination of conscience and we will begin to practice the words we will say during Reconciliation. A paper will come home for you to practice with your child. The concept of forgiveness will be thoroughly explored. We will talk about times when we can forgive. We will talk about how it feels to be hurt by someone and how it feels when we forgive. The second graders will be making their First Reconciliation on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The second graders will be planning and participating in the school mass on Friday, January 20 at 10:20 a.m. Please join us!

In Science, the children really enjoyed our unit on Animals. They did a nice job of reading an animal book and finding 3 interesting facts about the animal. Next, the children will discover the three states of matter and explore ways that matter can be changed.

In Social Studies, we will discuss Martin Luther King Jr. and his teachings and impact. We will also do a short chapter in our textbook on the 13 colonies and some basic concepts concerning the American Revolution.

We have been working hard in math on the concept of regrouping. Please continue to practice this at home with your child. An example of a problem like this would be  $67 + 39 =$ . We are encouraging the children to rewrite the problem vertically before solving it.

The children continue to do a great job with reading. It is neat to see the children recommend a chapter book or other story book to a friend. Keep reading at home!



### Third Grade News

Ms. Marino and Miss Sibila

Welcome back. We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break. It is time to get back to the business of learning.

In Social Studies we are continuing to explore the communities of America. There will be hands on centers in the classroom to show how they adapted to their physical environment.

In Science we are learning about the three states of water and what causes water to change from one state to another.

In Religion we are exploring the concept of the need for reconciliation. The students will learn about the Sacraments of Healing, which are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

In Health the students are reading and discussing ways to stay healthy. They are learning the difference between communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

Now that we have begun multiplication, it is very important that your child study math facts daily. Please check assignments. Please go over your child's homework.

For our service project, the third grade students have decorated placemats for the Ronald McDonald House. At the end of January during Catholic Schools Week, we will be collecting pop tabs. Keep collecting to help the Ronald McDonald House.

Remember to have your child dress for the weather. In the cold weather, your child should have at least a warm coat, hat, and gloves. When it is snowing, boots would be a good idea to help keep their feet warm and dry.

Our Students of the Week for December were:

Room 200  
Emily Igleheart  
Gabe Barone

Room 202  
Zoe Petrucelli  
Aidan Ahern



### 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 are use 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.

We complete assignment books daily. Your child should be asking for a signature every day. This is to help keep you informed about our daily classroom activities. Please encourage your child to complete all of the assigned work.

Math is becoming more challenging at this point in the year. Please remember to review multiplication and division facts. Your child will need you review his or her homework. There are many sloppy mistakes on homework. I am requiring that each student correct the mistakes on homework. Each child will need to have the problem missed corrected the next day. A parent will need to sign the paper with corrections. I am hoping that this will reinforce the concepts with the students. We will be working on division with remainders

We are continuing to read a variety of stories in Reading. 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 verb tenses. We are reviewing nouns and verbs. We are also working on creative writing assignments.

## Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Williams

It's good to be back to school after our holiday break. I hope everyone enjoyed the time off. This next part of our school year is one of my favorite times simply because we accomplish so much. Our routine is well understood and the students know what is expected of them. The children have been doing a nice job of sharing, helping, and caring for one another. This is, however, an ongoing process that requires constant attention. We have been, and will continue to strive for kindness to one another in our classroom. It is a pleasure for me to see that what we talk about in Religion is not merely a separate subject, but a way of living. It is also good to see that students recognize the kindness that others show them. All of the students have received certificates that indicate someone has experienced and recognized their kindness. I'm sure this will continue.

In Math, the focus will be on more difficult multiplication and division problems. Most of the children have mastered the basic multiplication facts well. We will now take timed tests in division also. The difficulty lies with those students who have not mastered these facts. If you see timed tests coming home that are not A's or B's please have your child practice. They must commit these to memory. In Social Studies we will continue our study of Ohio as it experiences early statehood. We'll discuss how transportation changes led to the growth and development of many cities, including Akron. The students will have a project to complete as well. In English, we will focus more on nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Please assist your child with homework lessons if they seem to be struggling with these concepts. I will also be focusing on writing this quarter. We will write in journals daily. Our goal will be to write good paragraphs that make sense and have proper capitalization and punctuation. Each student should also spend time at home reading regularly.

Once again, remember that as the material becomes more difficult, studying and completing all homework is very important. Incomplete and missing assignments are particularly harmful to grades. Report card grades for the second quarter will be a little lower than the first but that is to be expected. The material is no longer review and has become more difficult. It will continue to be this way for the next grading period. If you noticed a significant drop in grades, this would be the time to review homework and study habits at home. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have concerns, and I will work with you. Thank you for the support you have given your children and me. I continue to find this class delightful to spend my days with. Their effort and behavior make it a joy for me to come to work each day.

One more word of thanks to Mrs. Gobrogge for organizing our Christmas party. Thank you and thanks to everyone who sent something in for our treat. And thank you to all of the helpers who came in to help wrap our Christmas gifts. We had a great response from the children and many wonderful wrappers who assisted us. You are very much appreciated.

## Fifth Grade News

Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. R. Wilson



Congratulations to Gavin Aitken and Mike Bee for representing the fifth grade in the school's Geography Bee. We are very proud of you two. We wish the best of luck to the following students who will be representing the fifth grade in the school's Spelling Bee. They are: Rachel Hickle, Mikaela Leaser, Garrett Schooner, Gavin Aitken, Brady Rowan, and Brian Fitzsimmons.

Social studies classes have just completed a unit on the revolutionary War. The students have a much greater appreciation of how we became an independent country. We will begin learning about the Constitution and the three branches of government in January.

We are continuing to study physical science. We are focusing on matter right now. The students are learning about compounds, mixtures, and solutions. We will be moving onto changes in matter later on. Both classes will be starting health in the third quarter. We will still continue with our regular science classes.

We look forward to seeing you at our Open House on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12:00. Don't forget to enjoy the complimentary pancake breakfast when you visit the school. This will kick off our Catholic School's Week celebrations. This year the theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics, Service".

Mrs. McClellan's reading group will begin Theme 4. They will be learning about authors. Students will research a favorite author in January on which to report. Mrs. Wilson's reading group completed reading the book Holes. They enjoyed the book and did a wonderful job keeping up with their reading nightly to discuss it the next day. For the third quarter they will be completing a "Reado" card for Accelerated Reader. This will have the students choosing books from across the genres.

Brian Fitzsimmons, Gavin Aitken, Rachel Hickle, and Kyle Kubus will be representing the fifth grade at the Greater Cleveland council of Teachers of Mathematics on February 25<sup>th</sup>. They will be meeting with the junior high

## Sixth Grade News

Mrs. N. Wilson

Wow! How time flies! As we begin January, we are finishing up the second quarter and gearing up for the winter season. It just seems like yesterday we were starting the school year. The sixth graders are totally immersed in Junior High life. Switching classes is no big deal anymore. As always, I ask that all my students restock their pencil supply. They should have at least two pencils in math class every day. Some kids have no pencils and continue to borrow from their neighbors, or me. This is also the time to buy some more notebook paper and look to see what other supplies they need.

All of my math classes continue to learn new concepts almost every day. The sixth grade is continuing their study of fractions and decimals. We are practicing these concepts during the day, but they still need to be reinforced at home. Please go to our books website, accessed thru Edline, for extra practice problems. The seventh grade is working on solving two-step equations and reinforcing their fraction skills. Both classes continue to add to their skill set by reviewing previous concepts and adding the next element. The eighth grade is also solving multi-step equations and learning how these are used in real life. All the grades are able to access their online textbooks, and receive extra help by going to Edline and clicking on their textbook link. These are great resources that are also free!

Big Congratulations to Gracie Bagdon for earning a second place finish in the schools Geography Bee. She did a fantastic job!

I would like to thank Mrs. Willett for the delicious Ice Cream Cake for our Christmas treat and all of the kids who sent in such wonderful Christmas gifts. It is amazing how kind all of you are!



## Sixth Grade News

Mrs. Huber

I hope this finds you all healthy and happy as we begin a new year. Welcome to 3rd Quarter! Thank you for all of the nice Christmas presents. Thank you to Mrs. Sisil for organizing our Christmas party activities; thanks also to Mrs. Wittbrod and Mr. Saxon for handling everything in the classroom that day! Congratulations to Donny Reagan who was our representative for the school Geography Bee and our contestants for the Spelling Bee.

A new semester brings a fresh start for all. Please make sure your child has 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. Please continue to encourage and support them in taking responsibility for their work, behavior and time. Remember test scores are recorded twice, with the possibility of increasing scores by corrections and parent signature. Remember there is usually a week to make the corrections- question and answer (not "letters") should be written out. Third quarter is generally the most challenging- let's all work together to make it successful.

We received a nice thank you from the folks at Sutliff Towers, including a letter from a resident there who had attended St. Joseph several decades ago! It was nice to share this letter with the students who learned about how putting our faith in action does impact others.

The students will be presenting some chapter information to their classmates. They will also get the opportunity to "act out" some of the topics we discuss either in our books or in our Visions magazines. We also will have assessments of the information we learn from these.



### Missions

Our Missions collection for Dec. totaled \$264.50 which Mrs. Haubert arranged for it to go to the Peter Maurin House through our Parish Giving Tree and the Youth Group. Our January Missions will be the 27<sup>th</sup> (the Friday before Catholic Schools Week).

## Seventh Grade News

Mrs. Cottrill



The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying characterization – the ways in which an author reveals a character’s personality traits. They are learning to pay attention to the ways in which an author reveals a character indirectly through words, actions, and thoughts. Our next unit will be a study of theme – the deeper message of a story beyond its plot. In English class the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have one more chapter on the basic parts of speech and then will begin studying capitalization, punctuation, and correct usage of words as we begin to prepare for the IOWA tests.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are finishing up a short drama unit. We read a play version of “A Christmas Carol” and watched a recent version of the movie. We also watched “It’s a Wonderful Life” and talked about the similarities in theme between the two movies. The other play we are reading is “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street”, which is an old “Twilight Zone” episode. We watched a short clip of the original show beforehand. Our next unit will be a study of characterization. In English class the 7<sup>th</sup> graders will also be finishing up parts of speech and will begin reviewing capitalization, punctuation, and usage rules. A research paper will also be completed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

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. 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.

Congratulations and good luck to all the spellers in our upcoming Spelling Bee, to be held on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 2:00 in the gymnasium. As of this writing, the final list of spellers has not been determined.

## Seventh Grade News

Miss Spalvieri

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during December when I was out because of my surgery. I received so many cards and well wishes. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of the positive messages I have received. Everyone in the St. Joseph community has just been wonderful to me. Thank you so much!

I am excited to be back teaching Social Studies once again. The eighth graders are studying the causes leading up to the Revolutionary War. It is a very interesting time and we are learning a lot. The eighth graders will be receiving brand new text books for Social Studies in two weeks. It is very important that we take excellent care of these books. They are extremely expensive and we are going to be using them for several years. Obviously no writing on any parts of the books will be accepted. Also one thing that does a lot of damage to the books is storing papers and worksheets in the books. Repetition of this action causes the bindings to break. Therefore it is very important that students have a Social Studies folder to keep all papers.

The seventh graders are starting an Ancient Greek project which will be due on January 26<sup>th</sup> so it will be on display for Catholic Schools Week. I am looking forward to seeing these projects and hearing the oral presentations. The students here are so creative and I know these projects will be very well done.

The sixth graders are studying Ancient China. We have been talking about different dynasties. We will be learning how the Great Wall was built and why and we will see examples of the Terra Cotta Army that was discovered in 1974.

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.

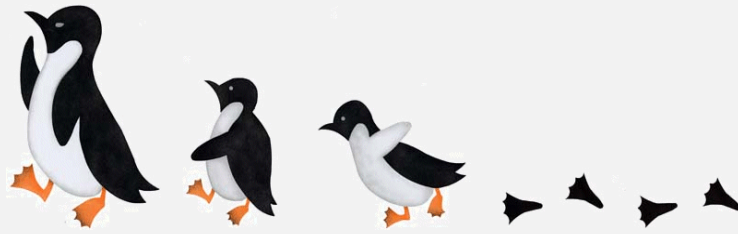
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Congratulations to the ten finalists of the Geography Bee. They all did a terrific job!



## Eighth Grade News

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Watson



The second half of the year is a very busy time in eighth grade. Applications for high school will be passed out on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and will be due on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Since these applications must be filled out by hand, we will give each student a practice copy which we will work on at school before transferring the information to the actual application. The application will be sent home on Wednesday evening for a parent to sign. It must be returned on Thursday.

The second quarter will close on January 12<sup>th</sup>. These grades as well as the first quarter grades will be sent with your child's application to the high school of his/her choice. Because of this it is very important that all work be turned in before grades close.

The third payment of \$70.00 for Washington D.C. is due January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please keep in mind that the entire balance is due five weeks before we go to Washington.

We will again be taking the eighth grade to the Cuyahoga Falls Ice Arena to kick off Catholic Schools' Week on Friday January 27<sup>th</sup>. Because they are opening just for our class there will be a small fee charged for each student. More information will be sent home later this month.

The seventh grade science fair was held in December and the projects were outstanding. Many of the students were asked to move on to the Walsh Jesuit Science Fair to be held on Sunday, February 12, 2012. I will be meeting with the students, who are moving on, the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>. I encourage the sixth grade students, who will be doing projects next year, to go to Walsh during the project viewing time of 3:00-4:00 p.m. This is a great way to see what is expected and to view "superior" projects. To promote attendance I offer 15 point extra credit to each student who comes.

Health will be covered during the third quarter in junior high. All assignments, tests, and other information will be found under health on Edline.

## Computer News

Miss Cosgrove



**A Word About Edline...**Parents, as we approach the end of the first semester, 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 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 working in *Excel* creating probability charts and graphs.

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

**5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** – The students are writing a 4 paragraph business report in *Word* using their *Excel* spreadsheet findings.

**4<sup>th</sup> Gr.** – The students are working in *PowerPoint* to create "Wanted" posters highlighting one aspect of their achievements.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Gr.** – The students are creating animal webs using the research information and graphics they collected before Christmas break.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gr.** – Students will be working in *KidPix* to create names charts depicting 5-7 interesting facts about themselves.

**1<sup>st</sup> Gr.** – Students will be creating activity charts in *KidPix*. This is a review of telling time to the hour.

**Kindergarten** – Students will continue to learn more about the word processing tools in *KidPix*. We are creating Wacky Name posters.

## Physical Education

Mrs. Guanciale

The students in grades 5-8 are playing a variety of softball type games. Some of the games include wiffle ball, wompa ball, pickle, and competitive catch.

Students in grades 1-4 are working on their throwing and catching skills, batting skills, base running, and fielding skills through a variety of centers and or lead-up games for softball.

Students in Kindergarten continued to work in centers. Some of the centers this month will include throwing and catching and target throwing.

Students in grades 1-5 will also be on a unit in bowling.

If you have questions about this program or your child's progress, please contact me at:  
[cguanciale@saintjoe.org](mailto:cguanciale@saintjoe.org)



## Music News

Mrs. Wenmoth

Students in primary grades are currently viewing a musical, both as a reward for doing such a fine job in the Christmas program, and to fulfill the objective of being able to identify great works of American Musical Theater. All of the musicals feature live actors and actresses rather than cartoons. Students have discussed the definition of a musical, and how to act in order to portray a character. **Grade 1** is watching Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. **Grade 2** is watching Peter Pan starring Cathy Rigby, and the **third grade** is watching the timeless classic, The Sound of Music.

**Fourth graders** are quickly learning new material for their recorders, and are being tested on songs to earn "belts", which are colored strings based on the difficulty of the songs. They have been practicing reading, writing, and sight-singing solfege syllables in the pentatonic scale (Do-Re-Mi-Sol-La)

**Grade 5** is studying the five elements of music. We begin with melody, and focus on memorizing the Star Spangled Banner. Students will be able to define melody, identify steps, skips and repeats in music both visually and aurally, and sing the Star Spangled Banner from memory alone.

**Grade 6** is singing and playing instruments to songs from Spanish speaking countries, with emphasis on the use of the major and minor scales. They are practicing identifying songs in major and minor.

**Seventh Grade** students are beginning their study of Baroque music. In each unit we have tried to improve note-taking skills. I stress each lesson that students need to do more than copy from the board. If I explain something that helps them understand the term, they need to write something in their notebooks to help them remember what they have discovered. I call them the "ah-ha" moments, where the light bulb goes on in their heads. Their notes are for them to review. It is essential that students learn how to write down notes that make sense to them!

**Eighth Graders** are progressing through the eras of rock. In the 50's we listened to and watched videos of Bill Haley, Buddy Holly, Little Richard, Chuck Berry and Elvis! After the test, we will move onto popular music of the 1960's





## Art News

Mrs. Coley

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas Holiday. With the school year half way behind us we have so much to accomplish. Students came back ready to work and we are picking up where we left off before break.

**8<sup>th</sup> graders** finished stained glass projects and are studying the art of Seurat. They are using pointillism to complete a canvas painting of a seascape, landscape, cityscape or sky cape. They are doing an amazing job and are learning how to mix and change color intensities to capture the realism of their subject.

**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 but are also working on their poster designs for this year's "A Family Is..." poster contest. The due date is January 23. We will continue with our drawing unit after that. 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 6x9 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** have started water color paintings and will be using chalks to create a solar system project.

**4<sup>th</sup> graders** are completing a rainforest unit and will be beginning winter scenes using watercolor and India ink.

**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 penguins based on the character Osbert from the book "My Penguin Osbert" along with other winter themed projects.

**Kindergarteners** are continuing to practice cutting and assembling skills and will be making snowmen and other winter related projects like our magical snow globes. I hope to see you all during Catholic Schools Week and hope you will enjoy seeing the students works displayed throughout the building.

## Spanish News

Mrs. Tomin

Buenos Dias!

As the end of January approaches, it is time to thank God for the opportunity of Catholic education. I am very fortunate to be able to teach a foreign language at the elementary level when students are the most able to learn a new language. Many school districts offer foreign language only on the high school level. I am very grateful for the parents and Father Marsick who sacrifice to make this possible. During Catholic Schools' Week, it is a terrific time to visit the Spanish room. I will have examples of work from almost all of the grade levels. Many times parents are curious about what their student is able, and will be able, to do in Spanish. Catholic Schools Week provides the perfect opportunity to get those answers. I will be happy to answer questions about how to help your child succeed, what study strategies may help and where you can find materials to supplement learning at home. Please, stop by during Open House, and I look forward to seeing everyone.



## Library News

Mrs. Rauber

Welcome back to the Saint Joseph School Library and Happy New Year! In the month of January I will be starting initial preparations to automate our school library. This automation will be an excellent tool for our staff and students. The benefit of a computerized cataloging system enhances our student's capabilities to learn how a library operates. Moreover the use of a computerized catalog system will help the students in selecting appropriate books to read. Please feel free to stop in the library during our Catholic Schools' Week Open House. I can answer any questions you might have about the library automation, Home Connect, or Accelerated Reader.



**IMPORTANT:** Cafeteria Volunteers: During the colder months, the children often have recess indoors. If there are not enough parent volunteers to assist, certain grades take recess in the theater where they must sit and be quiet. As you can imagine, after a day or two of this, the children get restless. When our volunteers are available, the children are able to have recess in their rooms where they can move around and talk. If you have signed up to work during lunchtime, please come as your help is greatly needed.

If you find now that you are unable to come regularly, please let Mrs. Farrell know, and she can take you off the schedule. It is difficult to be prepared for lunchtime with sporadic help. If she is expecting help and no one is there, then last-minute plans have to be put into place. **Please remember to call the office in the morning if you are unable to come and cannot find a sub.** Do not assume that others will be there—as this is definitely not always the case. If you or anyone is able to volunteer on a consistent basis, please let Mrs. Farrell know. As always, your help is so very much appreciated!

This past Christmas, the children really seemed to enjoy shopping at the Santa Shop and were able to buy great merchandise at reasonable prices. Our donors make some really impressive items, and the quality of the merchandise seems to get better every year! We earned \$1,700, and these profits will be used to purchase merchandise for next year. Special thanks goes to Kelly Lambert, Kristin Rizzo and Liz DiLullo who organized the shop and also to our parishioners, parents, teachers and Santa Shop volunteers for all of their generous donations and support! We would not be able to have these types of programs for our children were it not for our awesome volunteers! THANK YOU!

Wow!! We're really turning in those box tops—the school just received \$985 from Box Tops for Education! Many thanks to those who save and turn those in as well as to Jodi Szahlender who does a great job of organizing and shipping those off! Keep up the great work!

The uniform exchange will be set up across the hall from the office from January 9 through January 20. Remember that you may take whatever you need and drop off anything you are no longer using. No money necessary! Please be sure clothing is unstained, washed and in usable condition.

Jr. High Parents, mark your calendars for Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, in the gym for the junior high social. The parent committee is planning a fun party with music, games and some awesome prizes! Your child won't want to miss! More details to come soon!

*Best wishes in the New Year!*



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