



St. Francis School

Pastor's Message

St. Francis of Assisi School begins its school year with a sure hope that this year will be a success. Our children will grow in grace and wisdom as the days of this school year pass by. We say this because as Christians we place our hope in Jesus Christ. With blessed assurance from God we are confident that our children will be blessed each school day. We thank Jesus, who loves the children, for being present each day at St. Francis School.

School News

The new school year is off to a great start and it is such a joy to hear the footsteps of the children in the corridors again after the summer's absence. We have lots of new students and families, so please help us to make them feel welcome by extending a hand in friendship. We also have a few new faculty and staff members: Mrs. Melissa Arthur in fifth grade, Mrs. Yvonne Mitrik in fourth grade, Ms. Emily Savilla in three-year old preschool, Mrs. Margaret Carpenter in library, Mr. Antonio Jimenez teaching Spanish, and Ms. Missy Kelly in after school care. Please help us welcome them to our school.

Once again the books have been opened, the pencils sharpened and the students are deeply involved in the learning process. At St. Francis we want the children to succeed, and ask that parents work in partnership with us by reading with children each day, and reviewing homework every evening. The teachers are working hard to make learning valuable, and a walk through the school would reveal students engaged in writing lessons, reciting math facts, and engrossed in books. All of the other things St. Francis offers provides skills that will last a lifetime. For example, we ask that children be polite and respectful, and we provide opportunities for children to gain public speaking skills. Students who read at Mass are a joy to watch because even though they experience butterflies, they are so excited about the prospect of using a microphone that their nervousness evaporates.

Mrs. Harriet Perks has been helping us with the Accelerated Reader Program. Students in grades two, three, four, and five have been given a personalized reading point goal for the first nine weeks. Just as children walk and talk at different times in their development, they also read at different times. Therefore, the personal goal challenges children at their personal reading level without causing undo frustration or without making it too easy. Students who reach their goal will be rewarded with an ice cream outing.

This year Mr. Tim White (SAHS band director) is offering an after school band program for fourth and fifth graders. Students will have an opportunity to learn to play an instrument and perform in a band. A parent meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12th at 3:45pm.

Thanks to Mr. John Gardner for the new tile floors in the first floor bathrooms. Thank you to Enrique Mateo for the beautiful landscaping; thank you to Rick Anderson for painting the hallways and classrooms; and thank you to the PTO Officers, Chad Roderick, Kelly Oxley, Angela Maynor and Angela Bonnett for hosting the delicious ice cream social.

Let us share in a blessed year of learning.



September, 2011

Good Samaritans

The Good Samaritan Award is given to a child who shows concern for his/her classmates.

August Good Samaritans are:

K-2 Dylan Balsler

3-5 Alexander Bailey

Three-Year Old Preschool

They may be young, but our three year old preschool class is full of little Einsteins! We have already been working hard, learning the colors, shapes, letters, and numbers! We have a fun filled month ahead of learning more about the amazing world of opposites, feelings, and manners. We will be doing lots of crafts, hands on work, along with fine and gross motor development. We have an exciting year ahead and I have truly enjoyed getting to know my brilliant class thus far. I also want to thank all the parents for the classroom donations. I really appreciate your generosity to our help better our class!

Happy Birthday to our friends Autumn Pierce, 4 years old on 9/12 and Tristen Kelly, 4 years old on 9/20. Hope you have a super birthday!!

Four-Year Old Preschool

Exciting things are happening in four year old preschool! The themes for the month are School is Cool, Families, Monster Mania, Apples, and Rainbows. We have so many fun and exciting learning experiences planned. I am most excited to see our completed "F" is for Family projects that the students have been decorating with their parents. They will be displayed in the hallway all year to be enjoyed by many.

I have really enjoyed getting to know my new little friends and I look forward to spending the school year with them. They have already succeeded in making me laugh so hard I cried! You never know what they will say!

Thank you to all the parents for the donations of classroom supplies. I really appreciate it! We have several special birthdays this month: Vinny Thornton on the 5th, Dylan Ferguson on the 13th, Tristen Kelly on the 20th, JD Rhodes on the 25th and Tessa Taylor on the 26th. Hope you all have a fabulous birthday!!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is off to a great start. We dove right into learning about letters and numbers. The students have been working hard and remembering that "good manners matter." They look forward to all the adventures that the future holds. Happy Birthday to our very own Jed Carpenter (7/05); Sophie Noto (7/06); Matthew Kidd (6/29); Brad MacDiarmid (6/21); and Elena Launi (9/23).

LOST ITEMS

In an attempt to return lost items to their proper owners, we ask that parents label children's belongings.

DEVELOPMENT

St. Francis Development Fundraising is underway.....

Last chance to sign up for the Golf Tournament on Sept. 17 @ 9am. Registration forms in the school office.

Mixed Bag fundraiser underway... PREPAID orders due by Sept. 16. Yankee Candle fundraiser coming just in time for holiday delivery.

Details to come in October.

Save those Box Tops and send them all in, marked with your families name before Oct. 24. Every five labels submitted will earn your family one entry into a \$50 gift card raffle.

Start cleaning out your closetsAnnual stuff your bag yard sale is to be held with Oktoberfest 8-12noon. We will begin taking donations Tues. Oct. 18 on the stage in the gym.

Please sign up for the SCRIP program and start earning credit towards your tuition. Registration forms in the school office.

Next gift card order to be submitted Oct. 10 Bonus offers include: iTunes 3% increase; JCPenney 2% increase; Restaurant.com 10% increase

Thanks to all the volunteers that have offered to help with various activities throughout the school year. I will be contacting you soon!!!!

First Grade News

Welcome Back! The first grade students are off to a wonderful start! They are working hard and eager to learn. They have been practicing the rules and procedures for the school and classroom and are doing a great job following them.

The students are enjoying Shurley English! They are catching on quickly to the sentence, noun, and verb jingles! They have been classifying sentences and learning about the five parts of a complete sentence. Please visit the web site www.shurley.com and read the parent's handbook to understand more about the program.

In Science, the students are learning to be developmental scientists by studying how people change as they grow. They will be creating booklets to record the characteristics of infants, toddlers, children and adults. Throughout the school year, the students will learn how to be different types of scientists. Please visit NancyLarson.com to read about the program we are using.

Homework is an essential part of first grade. Please take a few minutes to review your child's homework each day, even if it is completed in after school care. It is important to review the vocabulary words on the first page (these are words from our reading stories and phonics lessons). Also, check their work and help them to correct any mistakes. This reinforces concepts they are learning in class.

Thank you for your generous donations of supplies to use in the classroom! We will be sharing these with the library and art classes! I'm looking forward to another great school year working with the wonderful families at St. Francis!

Second Grade News

This year has gotten off to a great start for second grade! We have many exciting and challenging things to learn this year. Each week, we will be reading a new story from our reading book and testing on Friday. The test will also include the vocabulary words from the story. We will also have our spelling tests on Friday. In math, we are practicing our doubles facts and telling time, along with many other new concepts. In phonics, we are reviewing what the students learned last year (digraphs, blends, etc.). In math and phonics, the students will be tested after every five lessons. We have practiced capitalization and punctuation rules in English, and next we will be moving onto the different parts of speech and how to classify a sentence. We will test at the end of each chapter. The class has taken their first religion test on Chapter One and everyone did a wonderful job! We will continue to test at the end of each chapter in religion. Students are encouraged to

Second Grade Cont'd.

take their books home the night before a test to study. However, your child can take his/her books home whenever they like, as long as they are returned to school the next day.

Every evening, except Friday, your child will have homework. Please be sure to check over it, correct any mistakes with your child, and sign his/her homework. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Third Grade News

Greetings from the third grade class! We are all excited about the new school year and hope all of you are also! In math this month, we will cover fractions, counting money, problem solving strategies, and addition facts. The class is doing well on the timed addition math facts! We will continue studying various story genres in reading and work on narrative elements, inferences, and the structure of nonfiction writing. The students are really enjoying working in reading centers and are learning cooperative skills. In English, the students will continue studying various kinds of sentences. We have begun a new type of writing instruction, 6+1 Writing Traits. This type of instruction uses a holistic assessment process. Our first trait is Idea-the heart of all our writing. Thank you for reviewing, signing, and returning your students' August journals and for the encouraging comments you have written to them. This means a lot to your children! We will continue to study the solar system in science. And, we will begin social studies with communities. Appreciating how important we are to God will be the focus of our religion classes. Thank you again for your help and support in getting this year off to a wonderful start. May God bless you all and have a great September!

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Jim McDonough Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament will be Saturday, September 17th at 9am at Little Creek Park. Registration forms are available on our website: www.sfsww.com or in the school office.

Fourth Grade News

Our fourth grade students are well on their way to a great year. They are working very hard on their subjects.

They have been reviewing skills in math and are practicing facts every day. The students enjoy learning about becoming closer to Jesus and attending Mass. They have made mobiles depicting who Jesus is and are learning the Beatitudes and how to live according to these wonderful teachings of Jesus. They are excited about their AR reading and have received their goals. Many are doing a super job attaining them. Fourth and Fifth grade Social Studies classes are learning about the regions of the United States and locating cities using latitude and longitude. Fourth grade students will continue with the United States and its Regions, while Fifth grade will move onto United States History.

Our special classes are going great as well. We welcome Mr. Jimenez to our school and are so happy to have him to teach Spanish.

Fifth Grade News

August proved to be an excellent month for Spelling and Vocabulary. Aside from the students making time to study at home, each Wednesday I've put together spelling centers. The centers are set-up to allow the students to spell the word list verbally through the game of Connect Four, write the words using the Smartboard, and even type the word list using www.spellingcity.com. To further the improvement of working with Vocabulary, I created a word wall directly in front of the classroom. After each vocabulary list is tested on, I will be posting the words in accordance with its beginning letter below an alphabet. My goal in doing this is for the students to recognize and interpret words long after they have been assessed. I also wanted to make a note to parents that snack duty is in full effect. Please make sure to check the snack calendar sent home to verify what day(s) your child(ren) is responsible for bringing snack. The proceeds collected will go directly towards the fifth grade field trip at the end of the year.



