



St. Francis School

Pastor's Message



October, 2011

Good Samaritans

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

September Good Samaritans are:

K-2 Ethan Casingal

3-5 Isaiah Parsons

Best Dressed Award

Each month the class with the highest percentage of uniform compliance receives an ice cream party. The class that won for September was Third Grade!

- K 94.75%
- 1 87.50%
- 2 94.75%
- 3 95.75%
- 4 86.75%
- 5 91.50%

Congratulations!

DEVELOPMENT

Many thanks to the folks who supported the first annual Jim McDonough Golf Tournament at Little Creek Park. Whether you came to work or to play golf, your participation made a huge success!! The mixed bag fundraiser was a success, as always — gotta love these bags! Damaged items must be reported no later than October 12th to the school office. Start cleaning out your closets and garages. We will start accepting donations October 11th for our "stuff your bag" yard sale to be held in conjunction with Oktoberfest. Please place all donations on the stage in the Parish Center. Yankee Candle Fundraiser to begin Oct. 24th. Plan to order sensational gifts for your family/friends from the holiday catalogue!!!

Your fundraising efforts in use: PTO and Development have combined forces and are working together to enhance the teaching environment in the classrooms. We will be purchasing new super duty window blinds for classrooms K/1/2/3 to improve the quality of use of the smartboards. The next scrip order will be placed on October 10th. Forms available on the website or in the office. Remember 50% of the profit is returned to you!!

Deadline for Campbell's Labels/Boxtops is Oct. 24th. Winner of \$50 gift card raffle will be announced at Mass on Nov 1st. Please send in trimmed labels in a clear baggie labeled with your child's name. For every 5 labels sent in a child will receive 1 raffle entry.

There are three YL sweatshirts for sale in the office \$20/each.

St. Francis of Assisi is a true model for St. Francis children. The story of this holy man is a lesson for our own age. St. Francis shows us that we live in a beautiful world created by God and we should appreciate and rejoice in the beauty around us. St. Francis knew that things are not the source of happiness, but people are. St. Francis preached the Gospel, by living the Gospel.

School News

So many events have been happening at St. Francis that is difficult to know where to begin!

The Grandparents' Day celebration was delightful. It was heartwarming to see the grandchildren and grandparents sitting together, and witness the love between them. A delicious brunch followed mass. Thank you Stephanie Bowman for organizing this wonderful event.

Fore... Let's talk golf. The first annual Jim McDonough Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was a huge success!! Planning began in the spring, and many of our parents supported the tournament by sponsoring a hole, donating a prize, entering the tournament, or volunteering at the event. Many wonderful prizes were given, and a four-day Myrtle Beach vacation was won by one of our parents, Mr. J.D. Adkins. The lady who made all of this happen is Marie Kincaid. Thank you Marie!

... "Improving competence involves continuing professional development..." Colette Bowe. The importance of professional development can not be overstated. At St. Francis we work to improve our skills by attending workshops, conferences and by our own in-school learning community. Recently, the teachers had the opportunity to attend a two-day conference in Columbus, Ohio where classes were offered in an array of subject areas. The teachers were excited to return and apply their newly acquired knowledge. Thank you PTO for your generous support, which helped offset the cost of travel.

Question: How many elementary schools in Kanawha County have a band program?

Answer: One. St. Francis School.

We are so excited to have Mr. Tim White head our new after school band program for fourth and fifth graders, and the students were so excited to have their first lesson. Thank you Mr. White for providing this musical opportunity to our students.

The children's choir had their first practice October 5th. If you have not signed up yet, it is not too late. Please contact the office for information.

The first practice for the after school chess club was on October 6th, but if you have not signed up yet, there is still time. Thank you to Mrs. Elizabeth Jarrett for helping with the club, and to Mr. Jack Home for coaching. Recently, our preschool programs were reviewed by a representative from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. I am happy to report that we passed with flying colors! I am not surprised, though, because we offer excellent programs that meet all safety and health requirements. Additionally, a recent cafeteria inspection by a Kanawha County Health Department inspector earned us a 100% (no violations). Way to go, St. Francis!

Three-Year Old Preschool

The three year old preschool class is doing outstanding! We've been learning lots of new things. With this being most of the students' first time in a school setting, we've really been working on classroom edict and manners. And this month is an exciting one. Fall is here and we'll be working with all the changes of the season! We'll be doing some outdoor activities such as fall leaf collecting and examining. The kids really enjoy the hands on activities with our new time of year. I will also be starting their portfolio, so by the end of the year we can visually see how much they've learned and grown. We have a lot of fun and learning ahead. And while the children are learning, I'm really enjoying learning along with them! Thank you again for the participation from our parents and especially our homeroom parent, Jessica Pietruszynski! We'd also like to wish Samantha Bailey a Happy Birthday this month! She turns four years old on October the 7th. Have a super birthday, Samantha!!

Four-Year Old Preschool

We have so many events planned for October! Our themes for the month are Fire Safety, Autumn, Pumpkins, and Nursery Rhymes. We hope to see everyone at Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 22. It is always so much fun! We will celebrate Halloween with our class Pumpkin Party on October 24th. Please come and join your child to decorate pumpkins. Students can wear their favorite Halloween shirt. On October 31st, we will have our Halloween parade. Morning students will parade at 11:00 and afternoon students will parade with the whole school at 1:30. Your child may wear their costume to school. Parents are welcome to join us!

DISMISSAL

Dismissal is a hectic part of the day because teachers are making sure students arrive at the correct destination, maintaining order, and listening as names are broadcast on a two-way radio. To ensure the safety of all children, we have established dismissal procedures that include a quiet time in the cafeteria. To assist us, we ask that parents who are not in the car line please wait outside the cafeteria doors. Thank you for your help.

Kindergarten News

The kindergarten class has really enjoyed participating in many exciting chemistry experiments. We continue to master letters and numbers as well as the Smartboard and playground. Thank you to everyone who has supported our "Pennies Please" effort! Kindergarten welcomes the sights and sounds of fall and looks forward to Halloween and Trick-or-Treat!

First Grade News

Happy Fall! The first grade students are learning about the changes that this beautiful season brings through lessons in the library with Ms. Ramella and their science lessons. They will learn about the parts of plants and trees and how to identify the characteristics of shrubs. They are excited to become expert botanists!

The students just received their second reading book. They have many new vocabulary words to learn with their new stories. Please go over them each day until your child can read the words quickly and accurately. Also, visit harcourtschool.com and enjoy the games and activities that go along with the stories we are reading in class. The students will be working on comprehension skills by identifying the setting, characters, details, and sequence of the stories.

The first grade class is doing a terrific job with Accelerated Reader! We would like to thank Mrs. Childress and Mrs. Carpenter for helping the students with their quizzes! They need a few helpers on Monday afternoons. Please send a note if you would be interested in helping.

In Math, the children have been practicing double facts by singing the "Doubles Rap." They have been acting out math stories to show addition and subtraction and writing numbers sentences. Also, they have been counting pennies and learning to identify ordinal positions.

Thank you parents for the donations for our Outdoor Fun basket! We received so many wonderful items! I know it will be a big hit



Grandparents' Day

Second Grade News

Hello second grade families! I hope everyone enjoyed the nice, long weekend while the teachers attended a conference! October is full of exciting new things. The students are continuing to practice independent reading for the Accelerated Reader program. They take quizzes daily in the classroom on the books they are reading. I encourage the children to set aside time in the evening to read, also. In math we are continuing to work on our addition facts, as well as other new concepts such as telling time to the half hour and counting coins. We will continue on with Chapters 5 and 6 in English, so I encourage you to review with your child what he/she is learning. If you have a question about your child's English program, feel free to visit the website: www.shurley.com. Students will be learning about magnets in science and will get to do some neat hands-on activities this month. If you ever have any concerns or would like to discuss something, feel free to contact me. Have a spook-tacular month!

Third Grade News

Happy fall, everyone! This month in reading, our third graders will study author's purpose, classify word relationships, make predictions, and work with multi-meaning words in reading. We will focus on two new writing traits, Organization and Word Choice, in English. Our main writing assignments will be a descriptive paragraph and a brochure about a new planet. The September journals will be sent home for parents to review, sign, make comments, and return. The class will also study and label pronouns and conjunctions in sentences. In math, we will continue to review addition and subtraction facts. Students will also make combinations, add 3 or more single digit numbers, tell time to 5 minute intervals, and draw pictographs. During the month in religion, we will do part one of the "Protecting God's Children" program. Sharing our faith will be the focus of our lessons. Our study of the planets, stars, and asteroids will continue in science. We will return to social studies and learn the importance of being good citizens at home, at school, in church, and in the community. We're also looking forward to our Halloween parade and party on the 31st. Have a wonderful October!

Fourth Grade News

Congratulations to our Fourth Grade Students who have reached their AR Reading Goals! It is exciting when students get their "Frog" on the bulletin board in the cafeteria. Keep up the good work everyone! I am so proud of you. The Fourth Grade class has been doing a great job at classifying sentences in English and are continuing to learn the parts of speech through the "Jingles" they know and love. They have been journal writing every day and have written an expository paragraph about their favorite sports.

We are proud to have eight students who have joined our St. Francis School Band. We also have some other musically inclined students that have joined our Choir. We are looking forward to hearing the band and choir performances. We are very fortunate to have these wonderful opportunities.

We enjoyed the play "Ramona Quimby," in which our very own Dawson Eagle performed. We certainly do have many talented young people.

In Social Studies, we are learning about Patriotism, our Government, and how our country operates. We are working hard on developing Critical Thinking Skills as we move through our lessons by analyzing, applying, and evaluating the information we gather. Fourth grade is looking forward to our Oktoberfest (please continue to send in your donations for our basket-Fun Places) and Halloween Parade.

Fifth Grade News

As the nine weeks come to a close October 21st, we continue to focus on organizational skills. Thank you parents for being so diligent in signing assignment books nightly. To help communicate weekly assessments, each Monday I will post on the classroom board all assessments for the week, and students will record the information in their assignment books. Please remind your child of the importance of turning in homework on time. Even though tests are worth a large amount of points, homework makes up a significant portion of the grade for each subject! The daily reading log is another vital part of their homework. Twenty minutes of reading may not seem like much, but in order for students to improve their reading skills, some reading practice must be done at home. Your support is appreciated.

October is a month of expressive and creative writing! All throughout the month, students will be doing a magnitude of writing prompts and formal papers. All formal papers will be typed using Microsoft Word. Lastly, fifth grade will be starting a Microsoft PowerPoint class every other Wednesday. I'm extremely excited about this class because working with PowerPoint is a skill needed for not only this year with research projects, but it's a necessity your child will need for the remainder of his/her education. May God continue to bless over you and your family, and if there are any comments, concerns, or questions, please send me an email at marthur@sfsww.com.