

Grand-A-Gram

St. Mary's School

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MAY 2009

From the desk of the Principal:



I'll be back....

As we begin printing our last edition of the Grand-a-gram for the year I have some great news to share. I am delighted to say they I have been offered the opportunity to remain in the role of Principal here at St. Mary's School. I feel very blessed to continue on this journey with you and your grandchildren. I know that together we will accomplish wonderful things.

Thank you for all the support you have shown me through this first year. I know as I move ahead into another year, I will grow in knowledge and experience, and I appreciate your trust in my abilities.

Team Competition

Our school has had several team competitions this year. I know I mentioned our Speech team in the fall and the Academic team this past February. We also had fourth, fifth, and sixth grade teams which competed in the county Spell Bowl competition in April. Congratulations to our 6th grade team who placed 2nd in their division!

On April 25th we had both a 5th and a 6th grade team compete in a new program that was held at the library. For the "Battle of the Books," students read 10 books and then competed as a team to answer questions about the books. Both teams worked really hard and did well in the competition with the 6th grade team reaching the final round. This year they came in second, but they are up to the challenge, and now that they know what to expect, they hope the battle can continue next year.

A Message of Thanks...

Many of you have registered your Marsh cards so that when you shop, the school gets points that we then can use for supplies. This year we were able to order many office supplies, including an office display board and six printers for the classrooms. Thanks to all of you for helping us benefit through your shopping. If you would like to register your card but haven't done so yet, please call the office, and we will let you know what to do.

We also continue to participate in "Labels for Education". Please continue to save your box tops and soup labels.

We received a donation through SMAFA this year to upgrade our computers in each classroom. Most classrooms now have at least 4 computers for the students use. One of the programs the students use in the 5th and 6th grade is a reading program called "Scholastic Reading Counts". The students read books and take comprehension quizzes on the computer. This year we upgraded that program using part of another generous, anonymous donation. The students now have about 46,000 books to choose from, and they are very excited about this new selection.

You may have also seen comments in the news about stimulus money going back to the schools from the government. St. Mary's does receive a portion of this money as well. We are considering purchasing some computers for a portable lab with this money as well as possibly adding some "Smart Boards" to our technology inventory. I'll keep you posted.

Endings and Beginnings...

As the end of the school year approaches our schedules start to get really busy. We never want to be so busy, though, that we forget to take the time to thank you for all you have done for us through the year. We will be having our last all school mass on May 26th. You are all welcome to attend, but if you are unable, know that you will be remembered in our prayers as we thank all those who support our school in some way. We really appreciate all that you do for us.

Have a safe summer,
Mrs. Nancy Buening



Positively Preschool:

The Pre-K class has been very busy! Harry has introduced the preschoolers to all the letters of the alphabet along with the beginning sounds. The Alphabet books are almost ready for assembly! Poem the puppy has completed his travels from home to home and the students have finished learning the letter poems. Harry and Poem are "animals" who encourage the children to use their imagination while learning. We will end the year with letter review, addresses, and phone numbers. The students have been counting by 1's and 10's all the way to 100! Each of the students have been working on a "Pre-K Song Book" as an end of the year project. We will end the year brushing up on listening and social skills while learning about phone numbers, addresses, nutrition, community helpers AND safety!

The children are learning outside the classroom as well. Butterflies have hatched, Spring has sprung and the preschoolers were asked to finish the sentence....Spring is _____. Hope this brings a sunny spring smile your way!

SPRING IS.....

coming
here
gone
flowers
nice
everything
sunshine
playing outside
new life
sun
when you pick flowers
cloudy
grass
happy
butterflies
birds
trees growing
swimming
going to the beach



This is the exact wording and in order given!!! How insightful they can be!!!

Kindergarten Kapers:



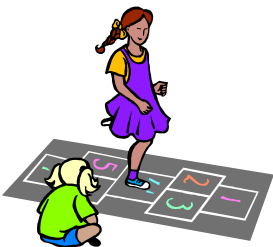
The school year is winding down and the kindergarteners are making final preparations to make the jump into first grade. We have begun doing addition and subtraction papers in our math center and the students are really doing well with those concepts. We have also been reading short books in our language center. With all of the sight words they know and their knowledge of letters and their sounds, the students are doing very well at sounding out words and reading on their own. There is nothing like the look on a child's face when he realizes the magic of literacy!

The students had the chance to showcase this new ability to read when their class did the readings at a school Mass. Mrs. Smith's class read on April 29 and Miss Greiwe's class had a turn on May 13. Both classes did a wonderful job of presenting the Mass to their fellow students. The older students were very supportive and complimented the kindergarteners on a job well done. That is a prime example of the family atmosphere here at St. Mary's; students encourage each other to be the best they can be.

We celebrated the end of our week-by-week study of the alphabet with our annual "Z Week" trip to the Indianapolis Zoo. We had fabulous weather which made for a wonderful time watching the animals. We will leave you with some of the highlights of the trip as stated by the students.

My favorite part of the zoo was...

- The dolphins (Isabella Bower)
- The elephants (Brady Domingo)
- Turtles (Garret Domingo)
- The black pig at the petting zoo (Hilary Ernstes)
- The bears (Haley Gorrell)
- The rhinos (Christian Hensley)
- The dolphin show (Adam Hollowell)
- The zebras (Cassandra Kramer)
- The zebras (Paula Lara)
- Seeing all the animals (Loren Martin)
- Everything! (Annaliese Nobbe)
- The polar bears and the dolphin show (Regan Westerfeld)
- The really big otter (Waylen Case)
- The two water snakes (Jack Cathey)
- The cool dolphin tricks (Olivia Colson)
- The dolphin show (Maria Fogg)
- The dog sharks that I got to pet – they feel slick (Brenner Hanna)
- When the otters jumped in the water (Adam Koester)
- Petting the dog sharks (Tinei Kramer)
- Seeing the walruses (Nathan Navarra)
- The sting rays on the wall (Mollie Pumphrey)
- The penguins (Isaac Tebbe)
- The elephants (Emma Wilmer)



Fun First Graders:

The students in Room 1 have been "growing" several things in the classroom in the past few weeks. In the middle of April, 5 tiny caterpillars arrived. The students have been fascinated in watching the caterpillars grow bigger and bigger, and then change to the chrysalis stage, and finally last week, we welcomed the Painted Lady Butterflies. After observing the butterflies for a day, we said good-bye to them as we released them in the rectory lawn. We have also been growing sunflowers from seeds, as part of our science unit on living things. Our last "growing" items are non-living, but represent growing reading skills. The students are adding sections to their "bookworms" as they read books. We have some bookworms over twenty sections long already!

Several weeks ago, the students' spelling list consisted of the basic color words. We learned about "similes", which are phrases comparing two items using the words "like" or "as." The students wrote similes with the color words. We hope you enjoy the creative results.

As red as 200 roses
As purple as a snuggly blanket

Katelynn Wolter

As green as the sharp grass
As brown as a shiny penny

Collin Springmeyer

As yellow as my folder
As black as a goat.

Peyton Owens

As orange as a baby chick's sharp beak
As blue as a pair of thick pants

Hayden Herbert

In Mrs. Blankman's first grade class the students have been learning about the kinds of jobs people do. They were asked to tell about a family member's interesting job.

Kate Burkhart- I like my Aunt Anna's job. She is a nurse. I think her job is interesting because she does surgery.

Ben Duerstock- My mom's cousin Zack has an interesting job. He is in the Army, and he gets to use guns.

Ryan Fisse- My Uncle Rob has an interesting job. He is in the Marines, and he gets to wear a cool uniform.

Aaron Greiwe- I like my dad's job. He's the baseball coach for the Milan Indians. I like his job because he teaches me how to play baseball.

Sierra Lang- I think my mom's job is interesting. She helps kids who don't know how to speak very well.

Rocio Lara- I think my uncle's job is interesting. He plays the guitar, and he teaches me how to play.

Bailey Menkedick- I like my Uncle Phillip's job. He lays flooring. I think it's interesting to watch him work. Sometimes he lets me help, too.

Sara Miller- I think my aunt's job is interesting. She works in a house and fills out papers.

Aaron Moeller- I like my grandpa's job. He worked in the Army. I think his job is interesting because he got to use guns.

Charlie Pumphrey- I think my dad's job is interesting. He is a farmer. I think I might be a farmer, too.

Rachel Teague- I liked my Grandma Zobel's job. She was the bookkeeper at our school. I liked it because she let me color in coloring books in her office.

Andrew Welage- My Uncle Norman has an interesting job. He is a photographer, and he takes pictures of people.

Morgan Young- I think my Aunt Mary Jane has an interesting job. She cooks chicken at the Fireside Inn.

Second Grade Sensations:

The second grade students made their First Eucharist April 25 and 26. The students were very excited and had been looking forward to and preparing for the big day for a long time. The second graders will now be able to participate fully in the liturgy and receive the Eucharist each week. We asked the students to tell us their thoughts about making their First Eucharist. Here were some of their responses...

"I'm excited about First Communion because I'll be receiving the body and blood of Jesus so I can become a better follower."

-Grace Marley

"I am looking forward to sharing the sign of peace with Msgr. Knueven at the First Communion Mass."

- Aaron Fogg

"I am excited because this will be the first time I get to receive Jesus and I will get to receive Him every week at our school Mass and Sunday Mass. I am also looking forward to my party so I can see my family."

-Logan Smith

"I am excited because I get to wear a pretty dress and receive Jesus for the first time."

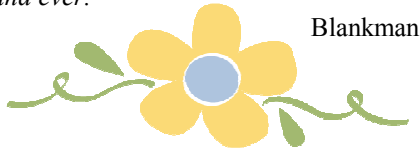
- Rachel Nobbe

"I am looking forward to sharing a special meal with my family and friends."

- Kennedy Hanna

"I am excited because I am going to receive Jesus' body and blood for the first time and He is going to be in our bodies forever and ever."

-David



Third Grade Thoughts:

In February, the third graders each researched a different president. Next they gave an oral report to the class about their president. We all learned some very interesting facts. The students did a great job giving their report. I think it is important for children to be given the opportunity to speak in front of the class. Next time you see your grandchild, niece, or nephew ask them to tell you about their president!

The third graders have been collecting reading minutes since last September. The goal was to reach 80,000 minutes, as a class, by April 30th. The students did an awesome job! They collected over 100,000 minutes! As a reward, we will be going bowling and playing at the park on May 22nd. Way to go third graders!

Each third grader chose an eight to ten line poem to present to the class. We heard about frogs, dinosaurs, being tired, autumn, God, and the Wright Brothers just to name a few. The students used expression and props to make their poems really awesome!

I read the story Bedhead by Margie Palatini to the class. In the story, a boy named Oliver is having a really bad hair day. To make matters worse it is also picture day! The following is a few lines from the story:

Hair started going this way. Hair started going that way. Then up. Down. Around and around. And there was now an even bigger clump of hair way at the back of his head that looked just like a cat's coughed-up fur ball.

The students were asked to write their own descriptions of a bad hair day. Here is one to enjoy.

The hair was curly like a rollercoaster. The hair at the top of the head was so tall when the person moved it looked like a dancing man. At the back of the head it looked like a twister. It went up and curled down. It looked just like a rollercoaster drop! By: Bryce Lang

The Fab Fourth Grade:

On April 30th, the 4th grade traveled to the Indiana Statehouse and Connor Prairie for a field trip. While at the Statehouse, the class learned about the three branches of government. They visited both the House of Representatives and Senate in the legislative branch. They learned the steps for how a bill becomes a law. While in the Senate, Senator Jean Leising visited with the students and gave them a booklet about state government. Next the students visited the Indiana Supreme Court chambers and talked about the processes that go on there. Lastly, the students visited one of the offices in the executive branch of government. The students were amazed at the architectural details and the beauty of Indiana's state capitol building.

In the afternoon, we traveled to Connor Prairie Living History Museum. While there, the students experienced different time eras. In Prairietown, the year was 1836. There they visited with the many residents and learned about their lives in 1836. In Liberty Corner, the year was 1886. There they experienced farm life. The third area was a Lenape Indian village. There the students visited wigwams and an Indian fur trader.

The class returned home tired but excited about all that they had seen.





Faith-Filled Fifth Graders:

Fifth Grade did a fantastic job planning and presenting a Holocaust Remembrance Day prayer service. They have been reading the novel Jacob's Rescue which is the true story of two Jewish brothers who survived. At the prayer service, "survivors" gave eyewitness accounts to the horrific events. Yellow stars were worn, and authentic 1940's clothing provided realism to the service. Below are their thoughts on the Holocaust, what they have learned, and what they can do in their own lives to live peacefully.

"I didn't know anything about the Holocaust until we started Jacob's Resuce. Thank you for teaching us about the Holocaust!" -Brooke Thomas

"All of the suffering was too much." -Austin Kane

"It is important to show that it's wrong so it does not happen again." -Reid Domingo

"Prisoners at Auschwitz concentration camp were given tattoos with a number so that they could be identified." -Spencer Burkert

"I feel very bad. How could they do that to people? They were innocent." -Kelly Meyer

"It is hard to believe what happened. She (Krystna Chiger) survived by living in a sewer. I could never do that." -Kasey Moeller

"Krystna must have wanted to live. She was very brave." -Ben Newhart

"People need to know what happened. They need to know so it doesn't happen again." -Keaton Bower

"We take our school for granted. We don't say THANKS for letting us come to this school." -Maddy Schroeder

"That had to be awful! I will remember you!" -Trey Christianson

"I can do my homework without complaining." -Matthew Navarra

"I can pray for peace." -Grace Burkhart

"I can find the good in people." -Abigail Bailey

"I can help someone when they're feeling bad." -Justin Kramer

"I will not fight with my sisters." -Regan Horan

"I can tell people that they do have something good." Bailey Schroeder

The Spirit of Sixth Graders:

For just a brief moment, the 6th graders recently had a chance to think like God while asking themselves the question: What would I do if I were in charge of the world? Modeled after the poem *If I were in Charge of the World* by Judith Viorst, students created their own stanzas with their original ideas for life. Below are some excerpts from their poetry.

If I were in charge of the world...
global warming would go buh-bye,
destroying the environment would throw you in jail,
extinct animals & plants would be cloned back to life,
and you would be paid to recycle.
~Danielle Schroeder~

If I were in charge of the world
there would be no more war,
there would be world peace,
there would be no global warming,
and animals would not go extinct
~Jacob Kessens~

If I were in charge of the world
there would be peace on earth
good will towards men/women
and a *lot* more ice cream
~Allie Louder~

If I were in charge of the world
there would be no fighting,
wars,
and especially chaos.
All of that money would go to the discovery of dinosaurs!
~Aaron J. Moorman~

If I were in charge of the world,
no one would be lonely,
there would be someone for everyone,
and everyone would be friends.
~Tiffany Springmeyer~

If I were in charge of the world
I'd delete long division,
day-time sitcoms,
flu shots,
and the football team named the Patriots.
~Michael Blankman~

If I were in charge of the world
Gatorade would be required for ALL school lunches,
there'd be only scary movies,
and someone who laughs too much,
and sometimes sleeps too much,
would still be allowed to be
in charge of the world.
~Emma Wolter~

SPRING ARTS & MUSIC FEST THUR. MAY 14 2009 6:30-9PM (Grades K-6)

We are very excited about our 2nd annual spring ARTS FEST, and we are looking forward to your child's participation! This will be an evening featuring YOUR CHILD and giving him/her a chance to show off what they have learned in the areas of music and art. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and will remain open until 9:00pm so that you and your family will have plenty of time to



view the artwork and visit either before or after the music portion of the evening.

The music program will be in the gym from 7 - 8:00 pm in which each grade (K-6) will be performing. Each student will be expected to be there for this portion of the evening. This year the theme "Walk with Jesus" was chosen since the students will be sharing songs based on stories from the Bible. You'll probably recognize many of your own favorites, perhaps with a new twist! Your child needs to be in place in the gym by 6:50pm. Appropriate school clothes should be worn.

Artwork for each child will be displayed in the gym and downstairs hallways. You are also invited to visit the cafeteria to see the display of various modeling mediums that have been used by the students. Each person attending is also invited to take an extra look at the 6th grade ceramics projects and cast one vote for the People's Choice Award!

Cookies and punch will be available in the cafeteria throughout the entire evening. We encourage all of you to stop by and enjoy a cookie or two while you are browsing. Special thanks to all of the cookie bakers out there!!!

~~ It's just Me, the Secretary ~~

I wish to thank all the volunteers who have generously donated their time and talent for this school year. You are a true asset to our school family. Thank You! Mrs. Lore Oesterling ☺

Awards Day will be May 29 @
12:30 in the church. ☺

Have a safe and healthy
summer!!