

# St. Francis School



## March 2018



### Pastor's Message—Father's Pat

In March, Christians prepare spiritually for the celebration of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. We teach the children that Jesus died so that our sins were atoned for and we stand innocent before God. Jesus rose from the dead so that we may enjoy eternal salvation.

On Holy Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper which was the first Mass. Jesus told us that He would be with us in bread and wine which is His body and blood. Our children celebrate this special Holy Day in a ceremony of innocence. On Thursday, March 29 at 8:15am in church. Please come and join your children in this beautiful ceremony.

### From The Principal—Mrs. Sikora

Saint Francis School is on fire! (In a good way.) Recently, we held our Kindergarten and Preschool Roundup and filled two classes. The reputation of our wonderful little school is certainly spreading! This week our greenhouse arrived, and will be assembled in the next few weeks and located in the preschool playground. Ms. Cindy is coordinating the gardening program in which students will be part of a plant's life from seed to harvest. We cannot wait to get our hands dirty.

We are also working on developing a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) program. Two teachers and I are travelling to St. Francis School in Berkeley to observe their STEM program in action. Currently, we are in need of used Samsung and iPhones that have been wiped clean of all personal information. We plan to use the phones with our virtual reality goggles.

Table reservations for the Ceili Dinner Dance at Angela's on the River are being accepted in the school office. It usually sells out quickly, so if you plan to attend, do not wait too long to make your reservation.

Thank you for the prayers for our school volunteer, Larry Meeks, who suffered a stroke February 4. His recovery has been nothing short of a miracle. He still needs our prayers as he continues therapy.

**Father Pat is back home and doing well. Thank you all for your many prayers during his recent illness.**

### **February Good Samaritans**

The Good Samaritan Award is given to a child who shows concern for his/her classmates. Keep up the great work!

**K-2: Leila Stewart      3-5: Sami Kalou**

### **Best Dressed**

The grade with the highest percentage receives extra recess!

**K: 93.96%   1st: 88.06%   2nd: 78.86%   3rd: 95.20%   4th: 84.86%   5th: 87.16%**

**Congratulations 3rd Grade!**

### **Preschool-Mrs. Shrewsbury**

March is already upon us. We are excited for all of the fun activities planned for this month. We will be studying the weather and celebrating St. Patrick's Day and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. We are nearing the end of the alphabet as we work on the letters "X" "Y" and "Z". The preschoolers have been working hard on their letters, numbers and shapes. I am so proud of our preschool class!

A big thank you to Nicky Lyles and all our parents that helped make our Valentine's Day party a success! We had an awesome time!

We welcomed a furry hamster friend to our class. The preschoolers voted to name him "Chewie". He has been a fun addition to our room!

### **Preschool-Ms. Burns**

We are already focusing on the letter "Z"! This school year is flying by! We have learned so much about our letters, sounds, numbers, and name writing! Our study starters this month have been shadows and recycling. We have really enjoyed recycling our classroom supplies to create new items! We love using our smart board each day to discover more about phonics, and the children get to choose what we study. We are having so much fun in our classroom, and each week we are learning new things!

Our Valentine's Day Party was very sweet. As always, Ms. Melissa and I are very grateful to all of the parents for their contributions of supplies and items. We are planning a small St. Patrick's Day surprise for the children, and we will also have an Egg Hunt later this month. Our second book fair will also be in March, so we have many fun things to look forward to this spring!

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**Sports Banquet, Sunday, April 15th at 2pm**

**Golf Tournament at Little Creek Park, Saturday, April 21st**

### **Preschool-Mrs. Lago**

Wow, it is March already. The children have really enjoyed our Trash study and especially the cup stacking activity. We also painted with empty water bottles, traced and cut out recycling cans. The book "The Paper Bag Princess" was also a class favorite. We also retold the story "I Stink" by feeding Stinky the Trash Truck the entire alphabet.

In March, we will be completing our Building Study. We will continue learning the alphabet and counting. Happy St Patrick's Day, Happy Easter and have a wonderful Spring Break.

### **Kindergarten News—Mrs. Gregg**

We really enjoyed our mini unit on Dr. Seuss last week. The kids love the rhyming and tongue twisters that he is so famous for and the wacky characters. Thanks for sending in books for us to read.

We've made it through the alphabet in phonics and are moving on to long vowel sounds and diagraphs. Continue to read each night with your student. We have been continuing to study, compare and write numbers one through twenty, and learning to read graphs in math.

Thanks for the snack donations and the items for the class basket to be raffled off at the Ceili.

### **First Grade News—Ms. Potter**

Mulan Jr. was fantastic! The students really enjoyed the play. The performers did an amazing job portraying the characters in Mulan. When the children returned to the classroom, they wrote about their favorite part of the play. Thank you PTO for providing the transportation to West Virginia State University for this wonderful field trip. The students had a terrific time at their Valentine's Day Party. They enjoyed the special treats and fun craft! One of their favorite parts of this special day was exchanging Valentine cards with each other. We would like to thank our generous first grade parents for this fun-filled afternoon!

In math, the students are continuing to practice addition and subtraction facts, measure line segments, divide shapes into fourths and halves, count pennies, dimes, and nickels and identify congruent shapes. They are also identifying a dozen and half dozen and using comparison symbols. They've been measuring around the classroom to find things that are about one foot long.

In English, the students are learning how to identify prepositions, objects of the preposition, the complete subject and the complete predicate. They will also learn how to identify a complete sentence and a fragment. In the next few weeks, the students will be working on their writing portfolios.

During the season of Lent, the children will begin a study on the Stations of the Cross to help them understand the meaning of each station. They will learn how they can apply the lessons they are learning to their lives today. Please join us on Friday afternoons for Stations of the Cross.

### **Second Grade News—Mrs. Lopez**

We happily welcome March as it is an exciting month for us. Lent has begun and we are look forward to this season of drawing closer to our Savior, Jesus Christ. During this special season, second grade will be focusing on the intentions of gratitude and prayers. Between now and Easter break we will be participating in Stations of the Cross every Friday. We are preparing for our first reconciliation with Father Pat, and looking forward to a very special first communion. In regards to first communion, there will be an informational meeting in the coming weeks. We will be sending something home very soon. If you have questions please email me [jillopez@sfsww.com](mailto:jillopez@sfsww.com).

Thank you to all the families that helped make our Valentine's party extra special, you all are wonderful! Also, thank you to all those that sent in items for our Ceili basket. We look forward to seeing the baskets and hope they help bring in a lot of money for our school! Happy birthday this month to Troy!

### **Third Grade News—Mr. Swalley**

I would like to take a minute and thank all of you for your continued support of the Caring Kids program, especially Tina Coakley for all of her work. The kids absolutely love Tuesdays and Thursdays because that is when they visit all of the classrooms to collect donations. I am so happy this program started a few years ago and is still going strong!

We have been testing a new Science series in our classroom. So far, I am really liking it and I believe the students are as well. The series I am testing out is from Pearson and it seems to align quite well with the Content Standards and Objectives.

### **Fourth Grade News—Mrs. Martin**

Wow! I can't believe it is March! Congratulations to Tristen Kelly! Tristen was our fourth grade representative at Math Field Day held last month. We are nearing the end of our third nine weeks. It ends on Tuesday, March 13, and report cards will be distributed March 19. Please encourage your children to read at home every evening and be prepared to take Accelerated Reader quizzes. They have until March 13 to meet their AR goal.

The fourth grade would really appreciate donated items for their "General Store." We are having lots of fun practicing "Sales Tax." This Lent, please encourage your child to collect money for hungry children. All students have received an Operation Rice Bowl collection box for donations to be given to Catholic Relief Services. This is a great lesson in Almsgiving. Have a blessed and prayerful Lent!



### Fifth Grade News—Ms.S.

We served our first fish dinners and will continue for the next three weeks. The students will need to wear their class shirts, a nice pair of jeans, and tennis shoes, and arrive no later than 4:45pm! Thank you! We are becoming engineers this month with designing a bridge out of straws and a basket for our egg drop too! The students will be studying about westward expansion and our country's history. As we are getting closer to the end of the year, if any parents have any ideas about additional fundraising please feel free to contact me and let me know.



The links are on our homepage at  
[www.sfsww.com](http://www.sfsww.com)  
Stay connected!

@SFSWV

St. Francis of Assisi  
School—St. Albans, WV

### **Important information regarding SMART529**

**Recent changes to federal tax law allow for SMART529 accounts to be used to pay tuition and expenses for children enrolled in K-12 private and religious schools.**

#### MORE INFORMATION

- § Families with children enrolled in grades K – 12 at private and religious schools are eligible.
- § SMART529 accounts can pay for up to \$10,000 annually of private and religious school expenses.
- § K – 12 SMART529 distributions can be made from existing or newly opened accounts.
- § Qualified K – 12 SMART529 distributions are tax exempt at the federal level.
- § Contributions to a SMART529 account provide state tax advantages.
- § Requesting a SMART529 K – 12 disbursement is easy – Visit the following website for more information :

<http://www.smart529.com>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS—REMINDERS—DATES**

*For more information on the calendar of events, school lunch menus, and much more, visit our school website: [www.sfsww.com](http://www.sfsww.com)!*

- Fish Fry Every Friday 5-7pm in March except March 30th
- Mass Every Thursday in March for Grades K-5
- Choir Every Wednesday in March
- Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Popcorn Day—\$.50
- Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Early Out at 12:00pm for Grades K-5. ASC Available Until 6:00pm
- Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – NO Stations of the Cross
- Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – PTO Meeting 6:00pm in the Cafeteria
- Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Jeans Day—\$.50
- Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Stations of the Cross @ 1:45pm
- Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – Stations of the Cross @ 1:00pm
- Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – Free Green/Jeans Day – St. Patrick's Day Parade @ 1:45
- Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Ceili Dinner @ Angela's on the River – R.S.V.P is Required
- Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Book Fair
- Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Mass 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Family Hot Dog Day – \$5 lunch for Adults  
Times Listed Below:
  - Grades 2-5 – 11:00-11:30 in the Cafeteria
  - Grades K&1 11:30 – 12:00 in the Gym
  - All PK Classes 12:00-12:30 in the Cafeteria
- Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will go to the Airport for a Field Trip – Information will be sent home. Please pack your child a disposable bag lunch.
- Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Popcorn Day—\$.50
- Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Stations of the Cross 1:45pm
- Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Mass 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt – See Flier for Times and Locations
- Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – No School – Good Friday – No Daycare Available





## St. Francis of Assisi School CARING KIDS PROGRAM

3rd Graders will be collecting most needed items each month. March's requests are MANWICH, CANNED CHICKEN, and ALFREDO SAUCE. There are collection boxes outside the classrooms. The 3rd Graders will also come around to each class to collect items.



Benefiting the  
*Christ Kitchen Food Pantry*  
located at 419 B Street in St. Albans

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact  
Tina Coakley 304.741.4467, Mr. Swalley, or the School Office at 304.727.5690.

