



December 2020 Newsletter

Pastor's Message - Father Pat

For our staff, children, and families of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School the season of Advent is very important. For all Christians, Advent is our spiritual preparation for Christmas. We turn to the words of John the Baptist to find inspiration for a Christ-centered celebration this year. John is the last prophet and from the desert of Judea. He speaks

- A. "Prepare the way of the Lord." thus we cleanse ourselves of every evil habit.
- B. "Expect great blessings in your life" Jesus comes to give us courage in trial, wisdom in confusion, and love for all people.
- C. Welcome - Jesus is here in our Christian life.





From Our Principal - Mrs. Sikora

Good Samaritans:

K-2 Cameron Abbott

3-5 Grace Arthur

Good Samaritans are selected based on demonstrated charity to others. This month's winners were recognized by Mrs. Sikora, Mrs. Oxley, Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Forrester. Congratulations Cameron and Grace!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..... December began with a beautiful snowfall - just enough to satisfy our appetites, but not enough to cover roadways. As we enter the Advent season, I want to thank our families and staff for looking out for each other in regards to COVID. Our doors have remained open and everyone has remained healthy because of your efforts.

This week we unexpectedly lost one of our St. Francis parents, Darrin Willard. Darrin is the father of Patrick in kindergarten and Olivia, who graduated from SFS in May. He was very active at the school, having volunteered as the Athletic Director and as a coach for several years. We are taking a collection for the Willard family. If you would like to help the family, please send an envelope to the office with your name on it. Most importantly, please continue to offer prayers for the family.

A word on remote learning: Our teachers do an amazing job with remote learning, but the single most important factor that is missing is being able to "read" students' faces for understanding. Parents can assist by ensuring student's cameras are always on, and the student's face is visible. Additionally, parents can help by ensuring students are prompt in logging in, and remain in front of the computer until the teacher dismisses them.



Uniform checks: In November the classes with the highest percentage of students in uniform were: Kindergarten and Fifth Grade! Congratulations! Your teachers will provide you with an extra recess.

Snow Days: In the event we are unable to open school, students will be provided with a “Snow Day Packet.” Snow Day Packets will contain independent student assignments and educational activities. Students will **NOT** need to login with their teachers on snow days, thereby providing flexibility for families, and eliminating technology issues if power is lost. Teachers will be sending the packets home next week. Please store your packet in a safe place on the ready to open on a snow day.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe and healthy.





Preschool- Ms. Libby

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Christmas is approaching and the preschoolers are getting excited!

We will continue to work our way through the alphabet as we concentrate on the letters H, I and J. We will also learn about the birth of Jesus, hibernation and eating healthy foods. Our class will stay busy making fun Christmas crafts and singing Christmas songs, too!

We would like to wish Lorelai Dunlap a very Happy Birthday this month!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



Preschool - Ms. Burns

We have really enjoyed our time together this month! We have been studying exercise, wheels, and simple machines. The children have learned to do yoga, and we have been practicing it every day! Our new study starter is "Boxes." The children are very creative with boxes, and we have a lot of fun with them! Thank you to all of our parents for their flexibility and support. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!



Preschool - Ms. High

Thank you so much for all the donations to Operation Christmas Child. We were able to completely fill up three shoeboxes! December will be a busy month but a lot of fun.

We will begin our box study and continue the study until Christmas break. We are learning how to sort boxes, build with boxes, decorate boxes, and make boxes. We will continue to practice counting to 15 and writing our names. Please continue to practice at home. I would like to wish a very Happy December Birthday to Gianna, Jillian, and Carson. Happy holidays!



Kindergarten - Mrs. Lopez

In kindergarten, we are anxiously awaiting Christmas!! We have been doing lots of learning from learning how to read and write to keeping our personal spaces neat and tidy. In phonics, we will begin having spelling tests very soon. The students will bring home a list of words on Monday and the test will be given on Friday. We will begin with three words. This too is a learning experience and it does take time and lots of practice.

Thank you to all the families that sent in items for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox program, our class made several boxes! *The generous will themselves be blessed...*Proverbs 22:9

We would like to wish Eliza a very happy birthday this month.

We will have a class Christmas Party at the end of the month during our recess time with Mr. Josh. Please be on the lookout for additional information. I hope you all have a blessed Christmas!!





First Grade - Ms. Potter

Thank you families for your donations for Operation Christmas Child! The school was able to fill several boxes with toys, crayons, coloring books, and several other items. It was so wonderful to see how excited the children were to give to others! I hope we all take time during this busy season to remember those in need.

The students are beginning a thematic unit about the birth of Christ. They will be writing stories and coloring pictures for each lesson. They will also be discussing ways they can share God's love during this special time and learn that helping others is one of the most important gifts we can give.

In math, the first graders are learning to add and subtract two. They are reviewing doubles and adding and subtracting one and zero facts. They will begin measuring line segments with nonstandard units and rulers, adding two digit numbers, and counting money. They are also continuing to practice counting by 2's, 5's, 10's and 100's and identifying odd and even numbers.

Please encourage your child to read the weekly reading story on Think Central. It is amazing to hear the progress the students are making with their reading skills. Please go over their reading tests and have them read the words and sentences to you. I appreciate all of the extra practice you are providing at home!

The first grade class would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!





Second Grade - Ms. Grishaber

Ahh, December! My favorite month! Our classroom is cozy with a tree and we have our own elf, Cheeseball, who has come to our room for the month as well. November was busy, busy, busy and December will be a little slower and we can really focus on what we need to. We have a virtual learning day on the 23rd (Wednesday), and then we come back on Monday, January 4th. We are working really hard on reading. We are learning to love it and enjoy a good book. We spend time every day at our library and sitting for a little quiet time to ourselves. It is often their favorite part of the day! Math is getting a little harder with fractions, money, and time. No worries though, we will repeat these skills ALL YEAR LONG. I am so confident in these kids after all the time off that we have had due to the pandemic. We have picked up right where we would be had we not been virtual. If you have any questions or need to get ahold of me for any reason, you are all connected to my DoJo but may call through the school or email me. I hope you have a blessed and healthy month! -Love, Ms. G





Third Grade - Mrs. Forrester

Third Grade Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We have a short few weeks left in the second semester before we break for Christmas. I loved conferencing with you all about your awesome kids- they have grown so much already this year! With your help, they are becoming so much more independent and learning so much.

Here are some events coming up this month:

We will be wearing Christmas accessories on 12/4's Jeans Day; Silly Socks with uniform on 12/11; and Ugly Christmas Sweater day with 12/18's Jeans Day. Our Red and Green Day will be on 12/22 with a recess party that afternoon. 12/23 will be a Remote Learning day. Please have your students continue to read and take AR Tests, as well as spend their 30 minutes solving puzzles per week on ST Math. They are also able to do these things at home. The 2nd quarter is finished on January 19th, but it would be wonderful to have their goals finished before Christmas!

As you all know, I am expecting my second daughter this month, and will be on leave from Christmas until spring quarter. I'm very fortunate that Mrs. Ervin and Mrs. Sikora will be taking over while we acclimate our newest member of the family! My class is in very capable hands, and I can't wait to see how much they will grow while I'm gone. Thank you all for your kind wishes!

Have a wonderful Christmas,

Mrs. Forrester





Fourth Grade Mrs. Martin

December is an exciting month in fourth grade. We are celebrating the season of Advent. The word Advent means "Coming." Advent is a season of both expectation and preparation. Each week we light an additional candle on the Advent wreath. The light grows as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Fourth and Fifth grade religion students will be making their own Advent wreaths.

I ask that you please keep encouraging your child to read each night to meet their AR goals, which is a Reading Test grade at the end of the nine weeks.

I so enjoyed our parent/teacher conferences. Thank you again for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and A Very Happy and Healthy New Year! God Bless You and Your Wonderful Family from the Fourth Grade Class!





Fifth Grade - Ms. Lodge

Happy December!

December is an exciting month with Christmas so close! Students should be reading for 15 minutes each day. Accelerated Reader will be a grade this nine weeks.

I would love to see our entire class meet their Accelerated Reader goals this nine weeks. Students will receive an award when their goal is met. Let's read, read, read! Congratulations to Izzy Stone and Emily Jividen for already meeting their goals!

ST Math continues to be an important task we do daily. I am always proud to see the students learning and achieving new goals in ST Math. Students are now expected to document their daily minutes onto our ST Math log they keep in their folders. I will continue to check their log daily.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year

