

December 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message - Father Pat

December for Christians is the season of Advent. At our Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Advent is our preparation for the celebration of the Christ Child. For all of us Christmas is a happy time. We share with each other in the spirit of Santa Claus, we gather with loved ones, we enjoy good food.

Children receive good presents for Christmas. Christians want children to receive the best gift. That best gift is the presence of Jesus in our lives. Children are reminded to pray every evening for their family members and for the needy. Children learn to be givers not takers.

It is so important to understand what happened in the town of Bethlehem on that Christmas night. "God so loved the world He sent His only begotten Son so that all who believe in Him may enjoy eternal life."





From Our Principal - Mrs. Sikora

Good Samaritans:

K-2 Zoey Bright

3-5 Zaydee Cossin

SFS students and staff are preparing for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Our beautiful Night of Worship was a great beginning for the Advent season providing us with both educational and spiritual opportunities. We look forward to a visit from Bishop Brennan on December 15. Bishop Brennan will tour the school, and celebrate Mass with the students at 1pm. We invite all families to join us for Mass. Please enter through the school main doors.

The Christmas Parade was SO much fun! It was the biggest parade that I can recall. Thank you to the Cloer family, Hardin family and Smailes/ Pauley family for volunteering their time and trucks.

Congratulations to fifth grader Ian Burns and fourth grader Persephone Lasure for being selected to represent SFS in Math Field Day. We are proud of you!

I am working on adding enrichments for the school. This week safety window tinting will be installed on the cafeteria windows and main doors. The film is shatterproof, thereby adding an extra layer of protection against intrusion. Also this week, electricians will begin upgrading electrical lighting in the building. We are retiring the present lights for new LCD lighting, which is brighter and cost efficient. I also worked with a playground planner to design our new garden/ play area. A shelter will be installed with picnic tables, rubber mulch and planters. We are all excited about the outdoor learning opportunities this will provide. First grade and kindergarten classrooms will be receiving Promethean Active Boards in the next few days. These high tech boards are the result of a partial grant and



are a teacher's dream! Thank you to Tom Buscher, Tommy Buscher and Jonathan Buscher for installing the boards.

We look forward to the modified return of the K-5 Christmas program on Thursday, December 16. Writer/ Director Fr. Pat has been diligently rehearsing with the students. Preschool students will celebrate with their classes. Ms. Amy's class on December 14; Mrs. Ervin's class on December 16; and Ms. Libby's classes on December 16 & 17. Teachers will be sending home details.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you experience the joy of the season through the eyes of your beautiful children.





Preschool- Ms. Libby

Wow, it is hard to believe December is here! Christmas is just around the corner and the preschoolers are excited!

This month we will learn about the birth of Jesus, hibernation and mailing letters and Christmas cards. We will also work on the letters N, O and P.

Thank you so much for the generous donations to Operation Christmas Child. We were able to fill several boxes! It was wonderful to see their excitement in giving to others.

We are looking forward to our class Christmas parties. Information will be sent home soon, so please check your child's folder.

We would like to wish Jack and Brisayus "B" a very Happy Birthday this month!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!





Preschool - Ms. Burns

Happy Holidays! We are going to have a very busy and fun month in preschool! We will continue to learn the letters of the alphabet and the numbers 1-20. We have begun the weekly county literacy program in our classroom. We are also studying "Boxes" this month, which is one of the children's favorite study starters! Over the next few weeks we will be hard at work making holiday crafts and surprises for our families. I am so proud of the children and all of their hard work so far this year! Ms. Hunt and I wish everyone a Holiday Season full of Joy and a very Happy New Year!





Preschool - Ms. Ervin

December is such a busy and fun month in Pre-K! We have begun a new study on boxes in which we will discuss what we know about boxes, investigate how we use boxes, sort and classify boxes by size and shape, as well as learn about jobs in the community in which boxes play an important role (i.e. UPS drivers and USPS workers). The holiday season lends itself to talking about boxes and students will get to play in the sensory bin with boxes and other gift wrapping materials! We also continue to work our way through the alphabet by learning a new letter each week!

Our class will be spending a good amount of time on extra crafts and fun activities this month as we learn about and celebrate this holiday season!

Happy Birthday to Isaiah and Lorelei!





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 after the new year. 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.

We will have our school Christmas program on December 16th. We are practicing our songs daily and looking forward to sharing our talents with you all.

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 Jillian, Reagan, Aidan, and Carson 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

First Grade Newsletter December 2021

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.

To help us begin the Advent Season, Father Pat taught the children a wonderful lesson about the meaning of the Advent Wreath. Soon, the students will begin 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. They are having a great time playing math games and working on their math quilts with Mrs. Pukall!

The children are enjoying practicing their songs for "A Night of Carols" with Ms. Ramella! She is teaching them a beautiful Italian Christmas song. It is amazing to hear them already memorizing the words! The students will be performing December 16th from 5:30 until 6:15. We will meet in the classroom at 5:00. We look forward to seeing you there!

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



Second Grade - Ms. Grishaber

Hellooooo December! I love this season. I love the spirit of it, teaching about the Christmas Story, and the warmth that I feel inside regardless of the weather! With so much to be thankful for, these kids are at the top of my list! I love spending each day with them and hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas season and get to do all of the things that bring you joy.

We have been doing great in class! We are a well oiled machine and have really improved our levels of independence. For ST Math, we should be getting close to 50% by now and many are! Each AR goal needs to be met as well, as this is a grade. We take time each week to test and have time daily to read so this is something that they should really be working on!

In English, we are backing up just a bit to really make sure we are strong with what we have already learned. As it gets harder, particularly in the upper grades, it really helps to make sure we have a solid foundation even if it takes longer. This will really benefit them!

In November, we did a Family Home Project to disguise a turkey. They went GREAT! So great that we are doing another one for Christmas. It will be going home and given plenty of time to finish that as well. I hope that these projects bring you joy and is time well spent together.

I hope you all have a wonderful, blessed, healthy, Merry Christmas and New Year!

Love,
Ms. Grishaber



Third Grade - Mrs. Forrester

Happy December!

We have so many exciting events coming up this month. We will be continuing our studies on Advent, Native Americans, working towards 50% on ST Math, and our AR Goals! We are excited for our field trip to the Children's Theater on 12/9, to welcome Bishop Brennan on 12/15, and for our own play on 12/16. Please continue to practice lines and message me with any questions. I hope you all have a wonderful Advent season with your families!

Blessings,

Mrs. F





Fourth Grade Mrs. Martin

We began our first day of December with an evening of worship with our families. We are celebrating the season of Advent. The word Advent means, "coming." Advent is a season of both expectation and preparation. We are currently making Advent wreaths and the light grows as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are practicing our roles for our annual Christmas play, beautifully written and directed by Father Pat. On the eighth of December we will be celebrating with a school Mass, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Fourth graders have been working very hard in all of our subjects and I am really proud of their ST Math percentages and all the work they do with your guidance to prepare for class each day. It takes a lot of time, love and devotion to make it through the school year, and I am thankful for the parents, grandparents and families who make it work. Please keep encouraging your child to read each night and reach their AR Goal. Merry Christmas to all and have a Very Happy and Healthy New Year from the fourth grade class.





Fifth Grade - Ms. Lodge

Happy Holidays!

December is a busy and exciting month for our wonderful school! We have a lot of events to look forward to this month. Some important dates are --

Dec. 1st - Evening of Worship at 6pm

Dec. 4th - Christmas parade in SA 4pm

Dec. 9th - K-5 field trip at 8:30 am

Dec. 16th - K-5 Christmas program

5th graders play a big role in our Christmas program each year. Please have your student practice their lines each evening to prepare. I know our class will be SPECTACULAR! Our Marco's Pizza Fundraiser was a big success! Great job selling, 5th grade! We do still have around 100 Marco's Pizza Discount cards left. Each one costs \$10 and the cards are valued at \$80. These would make a nice stocking stuffer this year!

In our classroom, we are working hard in many different areas. In Social Studies, we are studying the Industrial Revolution and in English we are working on our quality of writing. The class recently wrote narrative essays for the Thanksgiving holiday. We learned how to proofread and edit rough drafts using the proper markings. I was impressed with how creative our class can be. In our daily journals, students are given a prompt each morning to complete. They are currently writing at least seven sentences and illustrating. Our writing is improving every day!

Congratulations to Ian Burns and Persephone Lasure! These students will represent St. Francis of Assisi at Kanawha County's Math Field Day in February.





Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year

