



## *February 2021 Newsletter*

---

### **Pastor's Message - Father Pat**

This month we celebrate Saint Valentine Day. Saint Valentine was an early Christian martyr who had a heart filled with love. Love is the most beautiful gift God gives to us.

This month I hope you join me in thanking our principal, our teachers, our staff for the love they show our Saint Francis children. Love can be measured by the sacrifice and dedication a person bestows on other people.

So we thank our principal, Erin, for both teaching and being principal. We thank Kelly for her always kind ways with our little ones. We thank teachers for their ability to teach in person and online each day. I thank our whole staff for courageously doing such a great job through this year of pestilence. The children of Saint Francis of Assisi are so blessed by such good people. Children eat delicious meals. They learn about the wonders of God's universe. They freely laugh and smile throughout the day. Our children attend a school where Jesus is Lord, where love is the way, where knowledge is achieved.

As pastor, I pray for and thank all those who have given their lives for the children. The holy nuns from long ago, the retired teachers and staff who sacrificed so much. My fellow brother priests who served us so well. For the children of years past, now men and women living their Christian faith.





## From Our Principal - Mrs. Sikora

Good Samaritans:

K-2 Aiden Caldwell

3-5 Zoie Bowles

*Good Samaritans are selected based on demonstrated charity to others.*

*The timing of Catholic Schools Week is perfect! It breaks up cold weather days with fun activities. The students and staff had fun dressing for the daily themes. Catholic School Week is also a time to treasure SFS. In 1948 families wanted a Christian school option for their children, and worked to make SFS come alive. Today's parents share their values: Christian education, daily structure, family atmosphere, caring teachers and staff, and high academic expectations.*

*Each year a fifth grade student is selected as the recipient of the Thomas Aquinas Award. The award goes to a student who demonstrates Christian devotion and academic achievement. Congratulations to Emily Jividen for being selected as this year's recipient! We are so proud of you!*

*Please continue to pray for students Patrick Willard (K) and McKenzie Bego (5th) who recently lost their fathers. Please pray for the Grigsby/Smith families who lost their grandfather Roger Randolph to COVID.*

*Finally, I want to thank you, our families, for your conscientiousness in keeping everyone at SFS healthy. Often, families call the office to say their child may have been in contact with COVID or have developed a symptom, and they are keeping their child home. Because of our families, we have had ZERO spread of COVID at SFS, and I thank you.*

*I pray your February will be full of love and good health.*





## Preschool- Ms. Libby

January was a cold and snowy month outside and inside our preschool classroom. We had so much fun discovering polar bears, walruses, and other animals that live in the Arctic.

Since February is Dental Health month, we will learn about the importance of taking care of our teeth and healthy eating habits. We will continue on our way through the alphabet working on the letters O, P, Q, and R. We will also concentrate on shapes and spelling our names.

We would like to wish Ruby Pauley and Evan Lively a very Happy Birthday this month!

Happy Valentine's Day!





## Preschool - Ms. Burns

We have really enjoyed getting back into our routine this month! We have been busy writing our letters and numbers, working on patterns, and studying animals and their habitats. In February our theme is "Garbage and Recycling". We are excited to learn how we help our environment and reuse items in creative ways! Thank you again to our parents for their flexibility and support this school year. Ms. Cindy and I appreciate you all very much!



## Preschool - Ms. High

We are having a lot of fun dressing up this week for our Catholic Schools Week Celebration. Our new study is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! The children are learning about trash and different ways we can recycle things to make something new. Our Kindergarten roundup will be on Saturday, February 27th by appointment. We are starting to talk more and more about kindergarten and what it will be like. We are learning to name all of the letters of the alphabet and numbers 1 through 20. Alphabet Bingo and Numbers Bingo are becoming a class favorite!





## Kindergarten - Mrs. Lopez

February is here so Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Our class will decorate a bag in Art class. Our class party will be on Friday, February 12 during our recess time beginning at 11:45. Students may bring in their Valentine's beginning this week. Reminder-students only need to write their own name on the valentine.

We all really enjoyed Catholic Schools Week and we are looking forward to 100th day celebration on Tuesday, February 16th. Students will dress up like they are 100 years old. This is a fun day for all the students. I will send reminders, thanks in advance for your help.

I would like to wish a happy birthday this month to Shelby and Harper!!!





## First Grade - Ms. Potter

The students are excited for Catholic Schools Week! They are looking forward to dressing up each day. My favorite day is Career Day! I always like seeing what the children want to be when they grow up. They will also be writing about their career choices and sharing their writings and pictures with each other throughout the school day.

In math, the students are continuing to count money, tell time to the half hour, and identify and draw congruent shapes. To provide extra practice with two-digit addition, the children are adding items on receipts. They are using dimes and pennies to find the total cost of the items. They are also practicing addition and subtraction facts daily. Please continue to practice these skills at home too.

In Religion, the students completed their thematic unit on The Birth of Jesus. They can't wait to bring their completed book home to share with their families. They did a wonderful job of writing neatly and they took their time to color their pictures. Mrs. Maruish bought them a beautiful activity sheet to make the cover of their book. She has worked hard to put all of their lessons together. We appreciate Mrs. Maruish so much!

Please continue to check over your child's homework and help him/her correct mistakes. Spending just a few minutes each day reviewing their work helps tremendously! Thank you for all of the support you are providing at home!





## Second Grade - Ms. Grishaber

Welcome to February! I cannot believe we are over half way through this school year. It is amazing to me how much these kids have grown and how they have matured. We have learned so much. I say 'we' because they have taught me just as much as I have taught them!

Our math is starting to increase in difficulty. We are regrouping with addition, beginning our subtraction unit, and as always money and time continues and I encourage as much practice with that as possible. I am definitely impressed with their money and time skills, but it is always one that needs continual practice. We are working hard with ST Math and want to be at 100% by the end of the year. I encourage 10 or 15 minutes a few nights a week on this program.

For reading, we have done a lot! We are writing more and more with our stories, our fluency is improving, and comprehension is also strong. For AR (Accelerated Reader), we do need to individually reach our goals again to receive full credit and a free ice cream! We already have Josiah Stump to have passed his goal on our wonderful snow day that we had! Go Josiah! We are currently typing a story about finding a time machine, and these stories rock! I am very impressed.

As far as religion goes, we are continuing with our program to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion, HOWEVER... I am unsure of any official dates or specific details. All I know is that when the time comes, we will be ready! I will keep you updated on DoJo with any information that comes in regarding these events. I am looking forward to these special events in their lives.

As always, if you need anything at all please reach out! You can contact me through the school, email, or on DoJo. Have a wonderful month!





## Third Grade - Mrs. Sikora

Mrs. Forrester and baby Selena continue to do well, and Mrs. Ervin and I are enjoying teaching the third graders! They loved reading about Ramona Quimby's experiences in third grade. They have been writing their Young Writers stories and their SMART529 essay. Maybe someone will win a scholarship prize!!! At any rate, they are all winners because of the writing experience. I am thrilled that they love to write and impressed by their creative ability! They are very proficient with Google Docs, and I often hear, "Did you read mine yet?"

In Math, they are working hard to learn multiplication facts. Title I Math teacher, Mrs. Pukall has been working with the class on "Number Talks," which teaches students to use number connections to find solutions. We are also working on ST Math. Third grade builds the foundation for higher level math skills, such as long division.

During Catholic Schools Week, third graders enjoyed donning their 'Caring Kids' aprons and coordinating the food drive for Christ's Kitchen. The response was overwhelming! Thank you! Caring Kids will continue to collect: canned ravioli, tuna, cream of chicken, salsa and hamburger and hot dog buns during the month of February.

Students who wish to send in Valentine's can do so by February 10. They will have a Valentine's dance party with DJ Jazzy Jay during their recess period 12:30-1:10pm. A Zoom link will be set up for families to join the fun. The PTO will provide pizza and cupcakes for lunch.







## Fourth Grade Mrs. Martin

We are beginning the month celebrating one of our favorite times of the year, Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is Faith. Excellence. Service, which applies not only during Catholic Schools Week, but all year long. We will begin our Lenten season on Wednesday, February 17th on Ash Wednesday. In Social Studies, we will be studying Black History Month. We are looking forward to the Grand Opening of Martin Mart as we approach our Math lessons on percentages and sales tax. Each student (clerk) will be given lots of practice figuring percentages. Please have your child continue memorizing their multiplication facts each day and continue reading to reach their AR goal. Our students are excited about the Young Writers Contest and the Smart 529 Essay. Please continue to be safe. Thank you again for your continued support and I am always here if you have any questions or concerns.





## Fifth Grade - Ms. Lodge

Happy February!

We have started the third quarter off strong! It has been wonderful to have the students back in-person! We have a lot of fun activities this month. For Valentine's Day this year, please send your student with their Valentines for the class by Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> in a closed baggie. Fifth grade has 17 students. Students will be able to decorate their own white paper bag in Art class to collect Valentines this year.

Students will also be able to enjoy a Valentine's dance in the gym with DJ Jazzy Jay during their recess period. The school will provide a Zoom link for families to participate. Fifth grade recess period takes place at 10:30 am each day. I hope you will be able to join in on the fun!

Fifth grade has been busy writing essays. We just finished up writing essays for the West Virginia Young Writers contest. The students have done a wonderful job on these essays and will be bringing them home. Students brought home an information sheet on this contest and how to enter. Next, we will be working on essays for the West Virginia Smart529 "When I Grow Up" Contest. Please be on the lookout for more information about this contest in your student's backpacks.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and blessed February!



