

May 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message - Father Pat

May is a very special month for our Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School. The children take part in honoring Mary, the Holy Mother of Jesus Christ. From the beginning the Christian Church has prayed to Mary as that important person in our Saviors life.

Mary said "Yes" to God. At that moment, Jesus was conceived in her womb. "The Word became flesh." The Gospels tell the most beautiful story ever told about the first Christmas night. In a humble stable, the child who would bring us to salvation, was born. Angels sang, shepherds knelt as the Word was fulfilled "God so loved the world" that He sent his only Son so we could gain eternal life.

Mary was with Jesus as he died on the cross. Mary was brought to heaven so we would know the way.

Our fourth and fifth graders will be our teachers as we crown Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth. In this traditional ceremony the children bless us with their faith and innocence.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death"





From Our Principal - Mrs. Sikora

Good Samaritans:

K-2 Alyssa Lake

3-5 Kian Ries

Good Samaritans are selected based on demonstrated charity to others.

As we look forward to the last month of the school year, I am grateful that we are able to continue some of the St. Francis traditions. First Holy Communion, May Crowning, fifth grade year-end activities, preschool and kindergarten year-end celebrations, and the school picnic will be/were held, although in modified versions. I thank families for their patience and understanding this year as we worked diligently to keep the children and staff safe from COVID and the doors to our school open. On numerous occasions, families reached out to me out of concern their child may have a symptom or possible COVID contact and were keeping their child home to protect others. I can assure you; this level of concern for others is the key to our success.

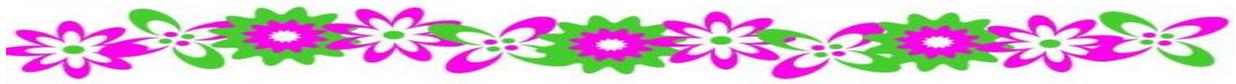
I do not know what next year looks like from a safety standpoint, but I can only hope that restrictions will ease, and we can once again open the school to families and friends. I am working with the Diocesan building supervisor on installing an Ionization Clean Air system in the next few weeks. This system will purify the air in the school, church and gym so it is germ free, virus free and mold free.

I would like to thank everyone for their support on One Day One Mission. Our Advancement Director, Mrs. Oxley devoted many hours coordinating this Diocesan-wide initiative, and she did a tremendous job. Thank you Mrs. Oxley!!! Our goal was to raise \$10,000 and we raised over \$12,000!!! Thanks to your efforts, we financed the air filtration system and added four new cameras to our security system. As promised, Father Pat, Mrs. Oxley and I will **KISS A PIG** on Wednesday, May 12. The students are so excited to see it! *I hope it's a cute pig!*

Our wonderful Collaborative Preschool teacher, Ms. Clarissa High will be us leaving as she is getting married this summer and moving to Huntington. Best wishes!

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for installing our new flagpole.

I will continue to pray for our students, families and staff over the summer months and hope that everyone has a restful break.



Preschool- Ms. Libby

It is hard to believe that this is our last month of preschool. The time has passed by quickly! I am proud of all that our preschoolers have accomplished this year! We have had a fun time learning, playing and making new friends!

In May we will continue to review letters, numbers and shapes. We will also talk about ocean life and summer safety.

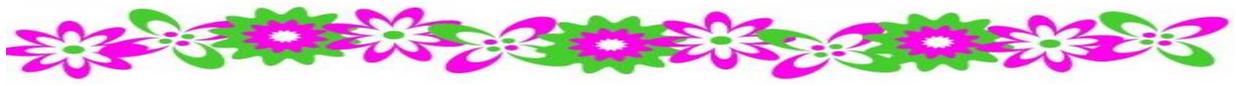
A BIG thank you to Whitney Price and Hunt Tidd for all of their help in making this a truly amazing year! I want to add another, BIG thank you for the generous Caring for Classrooms gift cards for our preschool class. They are very much appreciated!

Our preschool celebration will be on Thursday, May 20th at 10:30, on the preschool playground. We will distribute certificates, and then have a morning of fun! Parents are welcome to join us!

Happy summer birthdays to Evelynn Frye, Lennox Kirk, Henry Cutlip, and Owen French!

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!

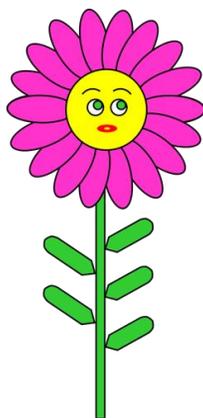




Preschool - Ms. Burns

It is hard to believe this school year is coming to a close! We have had so much fun helping the children learn how to work with others, follow rules and routines, and self-regulate. The children have progressed in all areas throughout the school year, and we are so proud of their hard work! This month we were busy learning about trees, insects, flowers, and sand. We have been very busy inside and outside and the children love finding insects everywhere!

We will be focusing on kindergarten readiness from now until the end of the school year. We are discussing how preschool is similar and different from kindergarten. We will also be reviewing all the letters of the alphabet and the numbers up to twenty. We do yoga and meditation daily in our classroom, and it has really improved our focus and attention span! Ms. Cindy and I are so grateful to have been given the opportunity to spend time with these children this year. We are also very grateful for the support from the parents. This has been a wonderful school and we are excited to celebrate together on May 24th! Thank you to everyone for a fabulous school year!

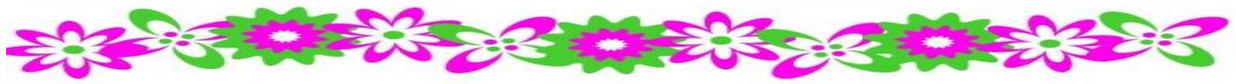




Preschool - Ms. High

May is always an exciting, yet bittersweet time in the school year. I am so proud of all of my preschoolers for all their hard work and progress this year. They are ready and very enthusiastic to start kindergarten. The children are working hard on growing some Marigold flowers. The ecstatic look on their faces when they notice it growing more and more every day is priceless! This month we will be focusing on the Sand study and the Transition to Kindergarten study. The End of the Year Celebration will be on May 24th at 12:30 on the main playground. Families are welcome! I would like to wish a Happy May Birthday to Evie and William! I would also like to wish a Happy Summer Birthday to Dylan and Aubrie! I hope you all have a nice and relaxing summer. Thank you for a wonderful school year.





Kindergarten - Mrs. Lopez

We have almost made it!! We have had an exciting year, but we are counting down the days until summer break! Important dates to remember:

May 11th St. Francis Marco's Pizza night-your pizza will be served in a customized pizza box by your student, **May 21st** our Kindergarten year end celebration at 1pm on the big playground. Students get a free jeans day and families are welcome on the playground. **May 27th** field day (free jeans day), and **May 28th** our last day of school picnic.

This year has been a year of a lot of firsts, but the kindergarteners have handled it well, and I am so proud of all of them. I want to thank all the kindergarten families for all your help this school year; I couldn't have done it without your support. Please continue to practice the word lists and turn them in as the students finish and also the leveled readers. I promise all this practice will pay off!

I would like to recognize more students who have completed their kindergarten ST Math - Way to go Felicity, Landon, Kennedy, and Ava! Happy Birthday to Nathan and Jordan!! I hope everyone has a great summer.





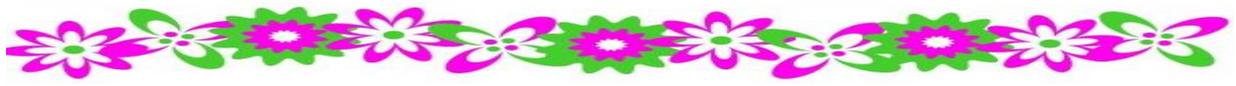
First Grade - Ms. Potter

Thank you first grade families for the gift cards to Caring For Classrooms! I sincerely appreciate your generous donations! I'm looking forward to shopping for items for our classroom. Your donations will benefit children for years to come!

Due to an overwhelming request, we will begin our lessons on Italy during the last few weeks of school! Some of our activities will be modified because of restrictions. Notes will be coming home within the next few days with more information. The children will enjoy learning about this beautiful country. We would like to thank Ms. Ramella for creating these wonderful lessons and making it so special for the children!

It is hard to believe that we are near the end of the school year! Thank you parents for your support throughout the year! It has truly been a blessing to work with such wonderful families! Have a safe and relaxing summer and read with your child every day! Please visit the library over the summer break and enjoy some of the fun activities they offer for children.





Second Grade - Ms. Grishaber

As we are ending the year, I have just got to say one more time how proud I am of these kids. We have done it all this year and they haven't missed a beat. We have got to have so much fun and got to learn so much. Each month I feel like I have said the same things about how proud I am but I really can't say it enough!

We have started multiplication, specifically our 1x, 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 10x, and 100x facts. We are reading SO WELL and enjoying it! Many of us are doing great with cursive writing. We can count money, tell time to the minute, skip count, count backwards, round numbers, estimate, measure, and so much more. We can read and comprehend texts, predict, use a dictionary, put words into alphabetical order, and more!

I really can't believe how fast this year has gone and I will miss these kids terribly! Good thing that in the fall, they will be just next door for me to visit and pick on them a little. Over the summer, please continue reading and questioning things. Let them count coins at dinner, read recipes, and anything else. It is all beneficial and helps to relate what we have learned to the real world.

Parents, thank you for everything! You have all been so great with me during this year of so many unknowns. I appreciate that you have trusted me and the school to keep your children safe. I have enjoyed getting you know you all throughout the year even without being able to have you in our classroom. Thank you for everything! If you need anything throughout our last month here, as usual please message me or call the school to get in contact with me.

Ms. Grishaber





Third Grade - Mrs. Forrester

Third Grade Families,

We're almost there- just a few short weeks until summer! Here's what you need to know to get us through the last month.

Firstly, our math series is beginning to ramp up in complexity. Your student should still be having homework every evening until we finish the series. Remember- on test days, they are still required to do 30 minutes of ST Math after school. I do take a homework grade each week as well! They also need to be practicing multiplication facts each and every night. With long division, these skills really need to be automatic! If we finish Saxon early, we will continue to work on our skills to complete the year.

Also, the Reading series is now in the Journeys magazine. I have not been able to find it on the online Journeys hub. Please remind your student to bring their "book" back and forth each day!

Lastly, Accelerated Reader will be coming to an end very soon. I have challenged the class to reach 100% of the third grade goals by May 20th! We will be giving a few minutes each day for tests, so please remind your students to read!

Thank you all for your help with retreat and First Communion, and as always, for your support. It has been an honor to teach your children during this crazy year.

Have a wonderful last month and summer!

Mrs. Forrester



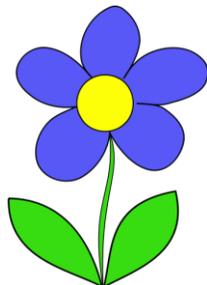


Fourth Grade Mrs. Martin

It is hard to believe it is May! We are currently studying the history of our beautiful state, finishing our textbooks and working diligently on our chromebooks with math, vocabulary and spelling to name a few. We have enjoyed keeping up with current events with our friend, Carl from CNN10 Student News. It has truly been an awesome year despite the pandemic. We began our month with a beautiful First Holy Communion Mass and at the end of this week, we will celebrate our May Crowning. Izzy Stone will crown our Blessed Mother.

We look forward to our field day and our end of school picnic. I am so proud of my fourth graders and their accomplishments.

I wish each one of you a very happy and safe summer.





Fifth Grade - Ms. Lodge



Happy May!

We have made it to our last month of school! This has been an amazing school year with this 5th grade class! I am so proud of all the hard work this class has accomplished this year. We have a lot of exciting events happening this month to celebrate this wonderful class! Please remember to submit student permission forms for the pool party and RSVPs for the graduation dinner at Angela's on the River.

- Friday, May 7th – May Crowning Ceremony at 1 PM
- Thursday, May 20th – Graduation Mass at 8:15 AM (*Reception to follow in the gymnasium*)
- Tuesday, May 25th – Graduation Dinner at Angela's on the River at 6 PM (*2 guests per student*)
- Wednesday, May 26th – 5th Grade Pool Party at St. Albans City Pool 10 AM to 2 PM

As we work through our final weeks of school, students are working on some wonderful projects about our great state of West Virginia. We are focusing on our West Virginia Tourism Challenge Projects – a display board, brochure, commercial and trivia game. Students have been put into groups and assigned a region of our state. They are to persuade others to come and visit our state. I am excited to see their final projects! We will also be wrapping up our chapter book, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who donated towards our 5th grade classroom. I greatly appreciate everyone's kindness and generosity! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to message me on ClassDojo or email at llodge@sfsww.com



