



# Momentum

St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

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## From The Principal's Desk

In this modern, rapidly changing world, a solid foundation of learning is essential for successful living. Education offers students the skills and knowledge needed to lead rich, rewarding lives, to adapt and prosper in the workplace, and to be active participants in our democracy.

As we continue to pray for the success of not only St. Marguerite, but all Catholic schools, we know that all who enter our classrooms will

come to know Jesus in a more meaningful way.

Yes, Catholic schools light the way for a child who has developed his own character, compassion and values. SMDA is a school where faith and knowledge meet everyday.

As we enter this Advent season I look forward to our annual Christmas concert on December 12th. Shortly after the holy season, Catholic Schools Week begins,

with the theme this year being: "Catholic Schools Light The Way". We at SMDA continue to "Light the Way" for your child everyday.



## Dates To Remember

**Picture Retakes**—Picture retakes will be held Monday, December 3rd at 9:00 AM. **(In Uniform)**

**Jesse Tree**—Begins Monday, December 3rd and every day during morning Prayer.

**Saint Nicholas Visit**—Thursday, December 6th at

**Family Fun Christmas Activity Night**—Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 PM

**Baby Jesus Prayer Service**—Tuesday, December 11th at 8:30 AM

**Christmas Concert**—Wednesday, December 12th. Dress rehearsal at 1:00PM. Concert at 6:30 AM.

**Book Fair**— Begins Friday, December 2nd and Ends Friday, December 14th.

**Advent Penance**—Tuesday, December 18th at 9:00 AM

**Claxton Hepburn Visit**—Wednesday, December 19th at 1:00 PM

**Christmas Parties**—Thursday, December 20th at 1:00 PM

**Pajama Day**— Friday, December 21st. For Pre K through 2nd grade **ONLY!**

**Christmas Vacation**—Begins Monday, December 24th. Returning on Wednesday, January 2nd.

## Pre Kindergarten News

Our theme for December is Advent/Christmas. We will add characters to our Advent Calendar and talk about the significance of each character. We talk about the Advent Wreath, the Nativity, Angel Gabriel, and the Holy Family.

Our letter is "C." Our pattern is "AB." We are reviewing geometric shapes.

In ELA, we will compare and contrast, summarize text, and identify character.

Plus, Jr. K will be sponsoring the Hat and Mitten Tree.

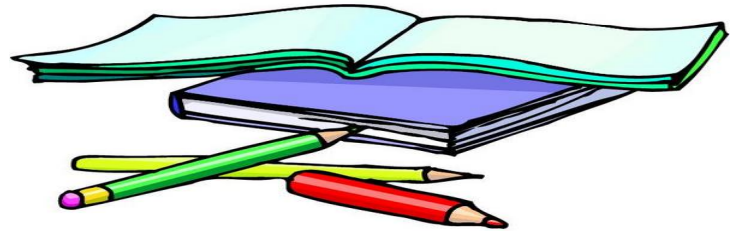


## Library

Library is every Friday. Please return books on Thursday. JrK—2nd grade have library bags to keep track of their books. Please return books in those bags for those grades. Thank You.

Monica LaRose

Librarian



## Kindergarten News

We will be discussing the season of Advent, learning about the Advent wreath, and coloring, cutting and pasting a nativity scene as we all anxiously await the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Our Reading lessons will concentrate on our new letters C,K,P and I. Our objectives will be to read connected text, read high-frequency words in context, and apply new phonics skills for our new letters.

Math class will find the students recognizing ordinal numbers through tenth, using number lines, skip

counting by 2's and 5's, and counting, writing and comparing numbers 11-20.

December is a fun month for arts and crafts. We will be making stockings ,parent gifts, cards, ornaments, gingerbread houses and other classroom decorations.

**A Very Blessed And Merry Christmas to all our school families from Mrs. Kotz, Laura, Mrs. Colby and Mrs. Wicks.**

[www.craftideas.info](http://www.craftideas.info)



## First Grade News

First graders will become world explorers this month as they study traditions of Christmas from around the globe.

They will sample foods, music, and games from a variety of countries and learn the significance of the Christmas symbols they see all around them, such as the candy cane and Christmas trees.

They will also become meteorologists as we predict and graph the weather patterns during December.

The students will begin the second of five Reading Units for the

year! Great job everyone!

Thank you for continuing to make reading a part of your evening routine with your child. We will continue practicing addition and subtraction, and will continue to work on sentence structure, and writing to a topic.

We will also learn about Advent and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus so that the students understand more fully the reason we are celebrating.



## Monthly Scripture

Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you;  
he is Christ

Luke 2 1:11



## Second Grade News

We are beginning our third unit in Scholastic Reading called Lights! Camera! Action! Each story will feature individuals working together as a team. We are continuing to improve our fluency as we read.

Our grammar lessons will be focusing on past tense verbs, plural nouns, and adjectives.

In Math, we will continue working on place value to one hundred. We will be using mental math to add tens

and add ones. This will prepare us for adding two-digit numbers. Please continue to practice memorizing basic addition and subtraction facts with your child at home.

In Social Studies we will be extending our study of types of resources, producers, and consumers. We will be focusing on the difference between goods and services, along with how people work to earn money to purchase goods and services.

This month in science we will be continuing our study of food webs and what can cause changes in a food web.

This holiday season the second graders will be making decorations to hang on the Christmas tree at the hospital. May everyone enjoy a safe and happy holiday!

Miss Neal: Grade 2 Religion:

We are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are completing our unit about the ten commandments as we discover and learn more about "sin." Please continue to practice the Act of Contrition prayer at home. Thank you.



## Third Grade News

The month of November just seemed to fly! In December, we will be learning about the Advent season and the Jesse Tree.

Third graders will be learning about voice in our writing workshop and then we will write about Christmas from a different point-of-view.

Our life science studies will end with a discussion about healthy habits and our earth science unit will begin with the topics of water and weather. Climate, eco-

system, and regions will be the key words in our new social studies unit, which will begin later in the month.

In math, we have just constructed our own graphs. We will be starting to talk about multiplication. Now would be a good time to break out those multiplication flash cards!

**Have a blessed Christmas!**

## Story of the Candy Cane

According to the legend, there was a candy maker who wanted to invent a candy that was a witness to Christ. The result was the candy cane.

First of all he used a hard candy because Christ is the Rock of all ages.

- This hard candy was shaped so that it would resemble either a "J" for Jesus or a shepherd's staff.
- He made it white to represent the Purity of Christ.
- Finally a red stripe was added to represent the blood of Christ shed for the sins of the world and three thinner stripes for the stripes He received on our behalf when the Roman soldiers whipped Him.

Sometimes a green stripe is added as a reminder that Jesus is a Gift from God. The flavor of the candy is peppermint which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is in the mint family and was used in the Old Testament for purification and sacrifice. Jesus is the Pure Lamb of God come to be a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

So the next time you see a candy cane, hear the Sermon it preaches: Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, is the Rock of all Ages who suffered and died for our sins.

## Fourth Grade News

December is a short month for students, but our focus will be on preparation for the NYS ELA exam which will take place January 7th.

We have been practicing note taking and will continue note taking as well as writing short answer questions, moving onto longer answer questions, and then onto essay type questions in our Language Arts classes.

In Religion, we will continue learning the Ten Commandments and how the first three commandments teach us

to love God. In Social Studies we will learn about life in colonial New York. The student will get into multiplication and see how multiplication and division relate to each other in math.

We finished the study of animal adaptation, the ecosystem and now we will move onto earth science, the study of water cycle and weather in science.

Spelling will continue to challenge the students and the words continue to get harder.

We will read stories such as "The Desert Beneath the Sea", and "The Lost Lake" in reading.

In technology class the students will go into the computer room and continue to practice keyboarding. We hope to see you at our Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 12th.

**We wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season.**

## Special Notes

Due to the changing weather. Please make sure that your children have their hats, gloves and coats for our outdoor recess time.



COOLCLIPS.com

## From the Classroom of Miss Neal

I wish you all a happy Advent season as we prepare for Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA:

Our December unit is titled; Voyagers. The stories in this unit include; The Bunyans, Ship, Homesick: My Own Story, and Wilma Unlimited. Throughout this unit, the students will be working on comprehension (understanding point of view, note taking, sequencing and understanding cause and ef-

fect) vocabulary and writing.

We will be reading Christmas stories, writing, and making crafts with our Kindergarten friends this month too.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:

In chapter 6 we will begin our study of geometry: measuring and classifying angles, investigating polygons such as triangles and quadrilaterals before moving into symmetry and transformations. Please continue to work with your child on all math facts!

Technology: We are working on Type to Learn 3 for keyboarding. I continue to make great use of the Scholastic Website for my Grade 5 class-page. I hope you are logging onto the Scott Foresman web site, [www.sfsuccessnet.com](http://www.sfsuccessnet.com) to take advantage of the math enrichment activities.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:

We are working on Chapter 3: Human Body Systems.

We are learning about the circulatory system, respiratory system, digestive

and urinary systems.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:

In math we begin our study of percent in chapter 7. In this chapter we will investigate: the meaning of percent, finding percent and using percent.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:

We are working on Chapter 11: Earth's Resources. We will investigate renewable and nonrenewable resources, energy resources, fossils fuels and how to reduce the harmful effects of fossil fuels.

## From the Classroom of Mrs. Burns

This month Sixth grade is preparing for our Christmas Concert as we practice our traditional sixth grade Nativity Scene.

In ELA we are focusing on preparations for the New York State ELA test which will be given on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

We are working on such concepts as plot, climax, foreshadowing, metaphors, similes, interpreting poetry, understanding rhyme, meter, irony, comparing and contrasting reading selections, etc... We are also writing essays and

working with many genres.

We are continuing our study of Ancient Greece in Social Studies. We are also reviewing many of the areas in Ancient Mesopotamia as we study the Early Patriarchs of the Old Testament. We are preparing our Jesse Trees to share with the school during the Advent Season.

In technology we are learning to format font and insert saved pictures. Our culminating project will be using the poem, "Twas the Night before Christmas".

In fifth grade religion we are learning about the Old Testament Bible characters found on the Jesse Tree. They will be studied in detail in sixth grade.

We just finished taking the New York State Test in Social Studies. The fifth graders seem to have done

very well. We are now continuing on in our study of American History.

The Sixth Grade Class would like to invite you to our "Shower for Baby Jesus" on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM. We wish you and yours a happy and holy Advent Season.



**Giving of yourself is one of the best gifts you give. Whether it is at Christmas or any other day of the year. Here are some ideas for ways that you can give by yourself or as a family.**

- **The Giving Tree at Church**—Just pick a name and buy a gift for someone who is in need.
- **Toys for Tots**—Find a local Toys for Tots drop off spot and donate a NEW toy to a needy child.
- **Mitten Tree**—Jr. Kindergarten has a Tree every year. Bring in some new hats and mittens for those children who do not have these essentials for the cold winter weather.
- **Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul** —Donate gently used clothes and put money in the Red Pots.
- **Help out at the Knights of Columbus**—Christmas volunteers are needed to serve food.
- **Nursing Homes**—Make cards or visit a nursing home. Many Nursing Home Residents do not have family or any one to visit them.
- **Show Appreciation to your Parish Priests**—Write a family letter expressing your gratitude for all they do.
- **Family Sacrifices**—Put snack, coffee money, etc. in a jar and contribute to Missions.
- **Volunteer Your Time at Church**—Your church can always use volunteers. Children can volunteer as altar servers. Children and parents can volunteer in their churches Adult and Children's Choirs. There are many areas that families can volunteer in there church. Call your parish office or speak to your pastor. Volunteering for God is one of the best gifts we can give him. Especially when you do it with love.
- **Volunteer Your Words**—Show your appreciation. Tell your family members and others how much they mean to you. Make sure you tell people the things you like about them. Sometimes mom might not know that you love it when she cooks your favorite dinner or dad might not know that you are really happy when he takes time out of his busy day to play a board game with you. Your brothers or sisters might not know that it makes you so happy when they play with you when they would rather be doing something else.

### Here are a few websites for you to visit

**Interfaithhouse.org**—Help the homeless by making a donation towards hats, gloves, pajamas. Money will also go towards real home cooked meals for those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Newbornsinneed.org**—These donations go to premature babies in incubators. This donation will allow for distribution of T-Shirts, receiving blankets and other essentials.

# Classroom Coloring Contest



Each class will have a coloring contest this month. Color your picture and bring it back to your teacher.