



# Momentum

## St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy Newsletter

Volume1, Issue 3

Newsletter Date November 1st, 2007

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Happy Thanksgiving!	

### From The Principal's Desk

We are pleased to announce that Notre Dame Parish has provided SMDA with a new roof. This is a wonderful gift and we thank Father Jim and the parishioners for having done this. The new roof is an assurance to the teachers, parents, students and friends of St. Marguerite, that we plan to be a school of excellence long into the future.

SMDA continues to provide a faith-filled, quality education to our students. The school is

readily accessible to the parishes in the surrounding area. St. Marguerite boasts some of the finest certified teachers in the system and this is proven through the scores on New York State Assessments. I can affirm to each of you that the feelings of community, fellowship and learning are a part of St. Marguerite and remaining ever-present with today's Students. Those who take advantage of a school where faith and knowledge meet are commit-

ting their children to a faith filled school of distinction.

The parents and staff always make a difference in a school and these same parents and staff who have made my work so enjoyable. They work hard for St. Marguerite, and truly make a difference. The toils of the last seven years have truly been a labor of love, which I would not have missed for the world.

Thank You!

### Dates To Remember

**All Saints Day Mass**—Held at Notre Dame (2nd Grade) on Thursday, November 1st at 9:00 AM.

**Election Day**—Tuesday, November 6th.

**Claxton-Hepburn Visit**—Wednesday, November 14th between 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM

**Regular Dress Day**—Friday, November 16th. Wear Regular clothes today.

**Thanksgiving Prayer Service**— Tuesday, November 20th, 8:30 AM. (5th Grade)

**Thanksgiving Vacation**—No School on Wednesday, November 21st thru Friday, November 23rd.

**School Resumes**—Monday, November 26th.

**Education Council Meeting**—Thursday, November 29th, 7:00 PM in the Library.

**Book Fair Begins**— Friday, November 30th, in the Library.

## Pre Kindergarten News

November themes are Dinosaurs, Thanksgiving, and Meteorology. Our letters are "D" and "T."

In Math, we will be working with "AB" patterns and size. We will review all of our geometric shapes.

In Religion, we will talk about being thankful and God's gift of people.

In ELA, we will talk about main ideas, rhyming words, previewing, predicting, classifying, comparing, and contrasting.

## Library

Library is every Tuesday. Please return books on Monday. 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

Religion class in November centers around learning about saints and giving thanks to God for all the good things that He gives us. We learn to appreciate the special gifts of family, friends, food and shelter.

We will be learning to recite the prayer, *Grace Before Meals*. Each child is asked to bring a canned good to school to make a food basket for a needy family.

Reading will concentrate on phonic sounds and children will explore picture detail, recall events from a story, help to complete

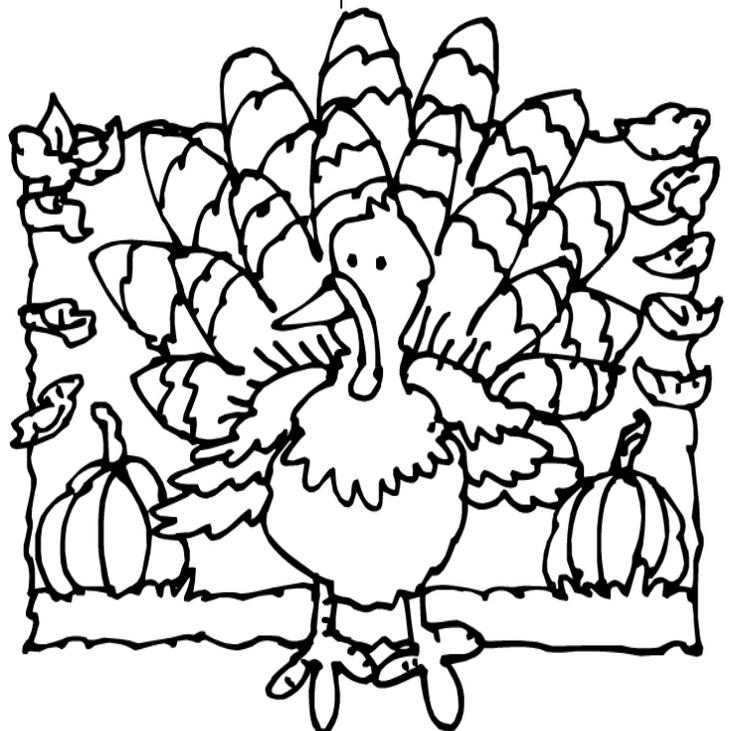
rhyming verses, explore sequence, and make predictions.

Our new unit in Math will be, "Understanding Numbers through Ten." We will use objects to represent and count 6-10, to write the numbers and order them in sequence. We will also be using the words sixth through tenth to identify ordinal positions. We will practice our patterning as we string Indian beads.

Social Studies class will center on a unit about Pilgrims and Indians. We will re-enact the First Thanksgiving feast and make

butter, paper turkeys, and draw Indian pictographs in our journals.

I am looking forward to talking to all the parents at November conferences!



## First Grade News

During the month of November, students in first grade will study many subjects through our cross curricular unit on Pilgrims and Native Americans. They will learn why the pilgrims came to this country, and the hardships they endured.

We will study geography, and learn to name and find the continents on the globe, in particular North America and Europe.

Students will talk about the cultural differences between these two groups of people, styles of living, clothing, foods

and many others.

First graders will have the chance to read about these topics while sitting in our Native American teepee Reading center.

They will learn to distinguish between wants and needs, as we talk about what the pilgrims needed to survive, and compare these to our own blessings of today.

In Religion, we will focus on sharing what we have with others who are less fortunate. Students will learn addition sums to twelve,

and continue subtraction as well.

We will continue sentence writing, and the students will learn to navigate their way through a website on the computers in the lab, as well as some basic key-boarding.

We will continue in our Reading series, learning about main ideas, details, problems and solutions.

We will also be scheduling parent/teacher conferences this month, so I look forward to meeting with each of you soon!

### Monthly Scripture

I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify Your name forever.

Psalm 86:12

## Second Grade News

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Halloween! November is going to be a very busy and exciting month for second grade! At the beginning of the month we will be starting cursive writing.

We just began our second unit in Scholastic Reading called Super Solvers. In each story there is more than one way to solve a problem. We are continuing to improve our word recognition skills as we read.

Our grammar lessons will be focusing on the parts of a sentence, nouns, pronouns, and verbs.

In Math, we will be working on place value to the hundreds. We will also be learning how to count money. Please continue to practice memorizing basic addition and subtraction facts with your child at home.

This month in science we will be learning that

plants and animals depend on each other for food. In class we will be looking at pictures of food webs and food chains.

In Social Studies we will be recognizing and describing landforms. We will also be reading stories about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving.

I hope that you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!

### Miss Neal: Grade 2 Religion:

The second grade is buzzing with excitement!

On Thursday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> we will lead the school Mass for All Saints Day.

Everyone has chosen a saint to learn more about. They will be dressed as their saint for the Mass.



## Third Grade News

First of all, a big thank you to all of the parents who donated food for the brunch and cupcakes for the students on the feast day of St. Marguerite. It was all so delicious and greatly appreciated. If you are missing a dish, just send me a note. Thank you also to the parents who joined us during the mass. Your presence helped make the day a family affair.

This month, the third grade will be learning about forgiveness and the sacrament

of Reconciliation. We will complete our fall literacy profile as part of our English and Language Arts work. Our writing topic will be how to write a friendly letter. Time and graphing will be our math themes. Also, we will continue to practice our basic facts. In social studies, we will learn about other cultures and how they celebrate different occasions. Lastly, our science studies will continue to focus on the plant and animal kingdoms.

## Homework Help

Make sure that your child has

- A quiet place to work with good lighting
- A regular time for homework
- Turn off the television
- Basic supplies, such as paper, pencils, pens, markers and ruler.
- Aids to good organization, such as, an assignment calendar, book bag, and folders

Questions to ask your child

- What is your assignment today?
- Is the assignment clear?
- When is it due?
- Do you need any special resources?
- Do you need any special supplies?
- Have you started today's assignment?
- Which assignment have you finished?
- How long are you expecting it to take?
- Do you need to make a plan?
- Do you need any help planning the work?

## Fourth Grade News

November will be both busy and fun for fourth graders. In math, we will learn beginning algebra, and division.

We are learning the ecosystem of both living and nonliving worlds in science.

In Religion the students will learn the Commandments and how they are laws of God for us to follow.

In ELA we will continue getting ready for the exam in January by practicing our listening and writing skills.

In Reading the students will read "The Doughnut" by Robert McCloskey and "Wings" by Jane Yolen.

Keyboarding will continue to be our focus for technology.

Iroquois and Algonquin Indians will be our study for Social Studies.



## 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

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA: Our November unit is titled; It's a Mystery. The stories in this unit include; Red-headed League, The Case of the Secret Message, The Secrets of Veruivius, and Sky Pioneer. Throughout this unit, the students will be working on comprehension (understanding the use of flashbacks, mood, metaphors, summarizing, comparing and contrasting and reviewing the plot), vocabulary and writing.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: In chapters 3 and 4 we will be working on dividing whole numbers with one and two divisors. When dividing whole numbers we will address: patterns, estimating quotients and how to check their work. Please continue to work with your child on all math facts!

Technology: We are working on Type to Learn 3 for keyboarding. I also will use Inspiration. 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 website, [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 will learn about the circulatory system, respiratory system, digestive and urinary systems.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: We are working on Fractions. In this chapter we will use our knowledge of GCF (Greatest Common Fac-

tor) and LCM (Least Common Multiple) to help us in adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers, estimating sums and differences of fractions and mixed numbers before moving on to multiplying and dividing fractions.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science: We are working on Chapter 10: Reshaping the Earth's Surface. We will investigate how the earth's surface changes, the affect water has on the Earth's features and the affect waves have on coastal landforms.

## From the Classroom of Mrs. Burns

Sixth Grade welcomes student teacher, Amanda Love, to our classroom for the month of November. We look forward to her engaging learning in our room.

In religion, this month we continue the Old Testament patriarchs. Towards the end of the month we will review the characters of the Old Testament and the Salvation History as we prepare to make our Jesse tree symbols for the month of December.

We are finishing up our Ancient Egypt Unit and are beginning

to study the Ancient Greek Civilization. We connect that civilization to the Letters of St. Paul to the different Greek communities, Corinth, Thessalonians, etc...

During the month of November, in fifth grade, we are reviewing for the New York State Test in Social Studies. We are practicing writing constructive response and document based questions.

We continue our study of the seven sacraments in religion class.

We are preparing

for the New York State exam in ELA. We are using a program called New York State ELA Coach and English 6 Extreme Review.

We continue reading and writing book reports and interpreting poems. We complete "Daily Paragraph Editing" every day.

We just finished essays on the life of St. Marguerite D'Youville which are displayed on the wall in front of the library.

We used technology to publish the essays

and make timelines of October Saints. The students saved pictures which they inserted into their essays.

We also have been using a site called "Wacky Web tales", where the students substitute different parts of speech completing a story. The finished product is actually quite funny.

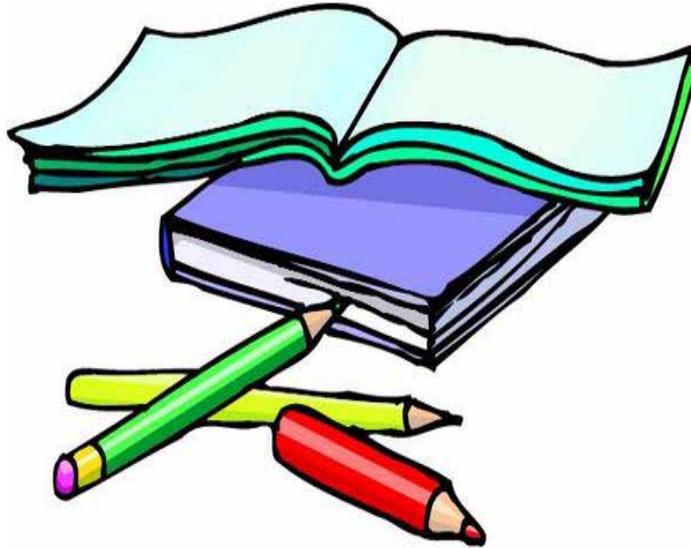
During the month of November we thank God for our many blessings. We wish you all a

**Happy  
Thanksgiving!**

## Library

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Monica LaRose  
Librarian



## Latchkey

Please welcome our new Latch Key Coordinator, Sandy Bertrand. Latch Key is provided from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM every day after school. If you have any other questions please feel free to call the School Office.

## Music Notes

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