



# Momentum

St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy Newsletter

www.smdacademy.org

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## From The Principal's Desk

Catholic schools reinforce the importance of academics, family values, self-respect, compassion and respect for others. Overall, it nurtures well-rounded people. Yes, it is our duty to both educate and promote moral and ethical growth in today's children. It is a wonderful thing to be able to discuss with these children how we should be living the kind of life Jesus wants us to live.

We celebrated Teacher's Appreciation

Day this past Thursday as a special day to honor those who devote their lives to educating students in an atmosphere of academic excellence and Catholic faith. Catholic Schools Week is a time to recognize everyone else who contributes to the success of our Catholic school. That includes staff members who keep things running smoothly at St. Marguerite.

It also includes volunteers who contrib-

ute their time and talents, such as families, alumni, parishioners and Education Council members. Not only do parents, guardians and grandparents volunteer their time and talents to make our school successful, they are the schools partners in Catholic education by instilling faith, values and expectations for academic excellence in their children at home. It was wonderful to see so many families in our school all week and at our beginning and ending masses.



## Dates To Remember

**Basketball Tournament**—Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1st and 2nd

**End Catholic Schools Day Mass**— Sunday, February 3rd , 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Blessing of the Throats**—Tuesday, February 5th at 9:15.

**Ash Wednesday**—Wednesday, February 6th. St. Mary's Cathedral at 9:00 AM

**Stations of the Cross**—Every Friday at 9:15 AM

**Our Lady of Lourdes Observance**—Monday, February 11th

**St. Valentine's Day Parties**—Thursday, February 14th at 1:30 PM in the classrooms.

**Mid Winter Vacation**— Monday, February 18th thru Friday, February 22nd.

**Claxton Hepburn Visit**—Wednesday, February 27th. 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

**Education Council Meeting**—Thursday, February 28th at 7:30 PM, in the Library.

# Happy Leap Year!!!

## Pre K

Our themes are Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Teeth.

In Math, our numbers are four and five. Our Pattern is "ABC." Our letters are "R" and "V."

In Religion, we will continue to talk about God's gifts of our world. In ELA, we will talk about plot, syllabication, summarizing, and sequence.



# Giotto

[www.bears.co.nz](http://www.bears.co.nz)

## 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

The Kindergarten students will be learning about Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. We will also be listening to Bible stories.

Reading lessons will continue with letters F, H, and O. We are learning to recognize ending punctuation and will be practicing our printing skills on lined paper.

Our Math goal for the month is to be able to write the numbers 11-20 independently and to recognize numbers 21-30. We will be working on a measurement chapter that includes length, weight, and capacity.

In Social class, we will find out what it was like to be a young child when Abraham Lincoln and George Washington were boys. We will learn some wonderful character traits as we listen to stories about them

We are looking forward to seeing all of our families during our many Catholic Schools' Week activities.

On a personal note, Mrs. Kotz is very proud to welcome grandchild #3, Isabella Jane Kotz who was born on January 23rd.



# First Grade News

We will spend time learning about parts of the mass this month, as the first graders help prepare the liturgy for our school's Ash Wednesday mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Feb. 6, at 9:00 am. If your child has a reading part in the mass, I will be sending it home soon to practice. We hope to see many of our families on Ash Wed.

We will also study the life of Jesus throughout Lent. Students will learn about dental health, and keeping our bodies healthy this month.

First Graders will learn to tell time to the hour and half hour, and continue

write simple stories which they will publish and illustrate on the computers in our lab. Please continue to read with your child every night, as we are working on fluency in reading.

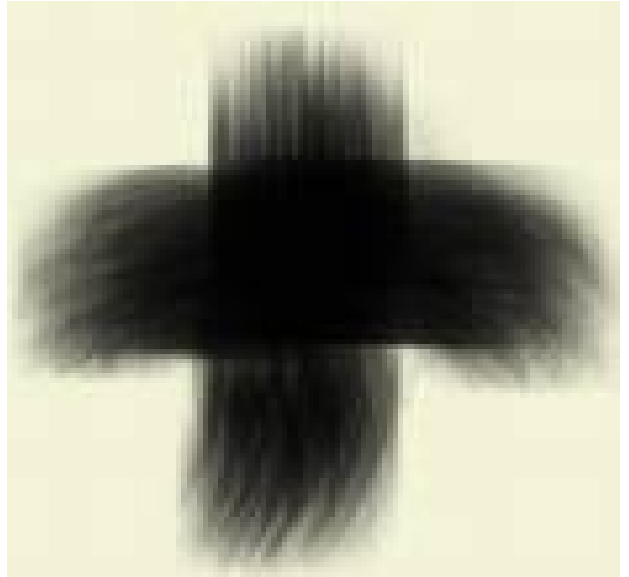
Thank you for continuing to review math facts as well! Our Valentine exchange will be held on Thurs., Feb. 14, during the afternoon.

I would also like to thank all of you for your help at the Fun Festival on Friday, Jan.25th. It is because of you that it is always such a success!

## Monthly Scripture

**Wash away my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

**Psalm 51:2**



# Second Grade News



This month the second graders will become Paleontologists in Science class! We will be digging up fossils, creating our own fossils, and diving into the exciting world of dinosaurs!

Our next Reading Unit is called Story Studio. We will be discussing different types of authors and illustrators as we work to become authors and illustrators ourselves! We are al-

ready great story tellers and we will be working on writing down our ideas and using adjectives to make our stories more interesting. We will also be continuing to practice our sight words.

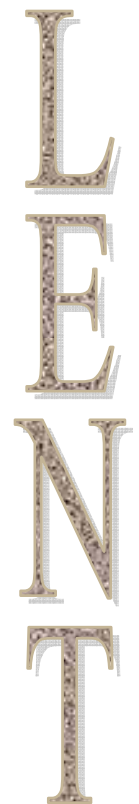
In Math class will continue to practice our 2-digit addition. We will be starting to subtract 2-digit numbers. Please continue to memorize basic addition and subtraction facts with your child at home!

This month in Social Studies the second grade class will be learning about our country! We will be learning about our local,

state, and federal government. We will also be learning how we vote for our leaders!

### Miss Neal: Grade 2 Religion

In religion we have begun learning about the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word. Second Graders are looking forward to the weekly Stations of the Cross services we have on Friday mornings during the Season of Lent.



## Third Grade News

With all of the cold weather, third grade is lucky to be learning some “hot” topics! In math, we will continue to practice our multiplication and division tables. Fractions will also be a new focus this month.

The location of community formation will be the next topic in social studies.

In science, we will be delving into a chapter about rocks and soil after completing a chapter about weather.

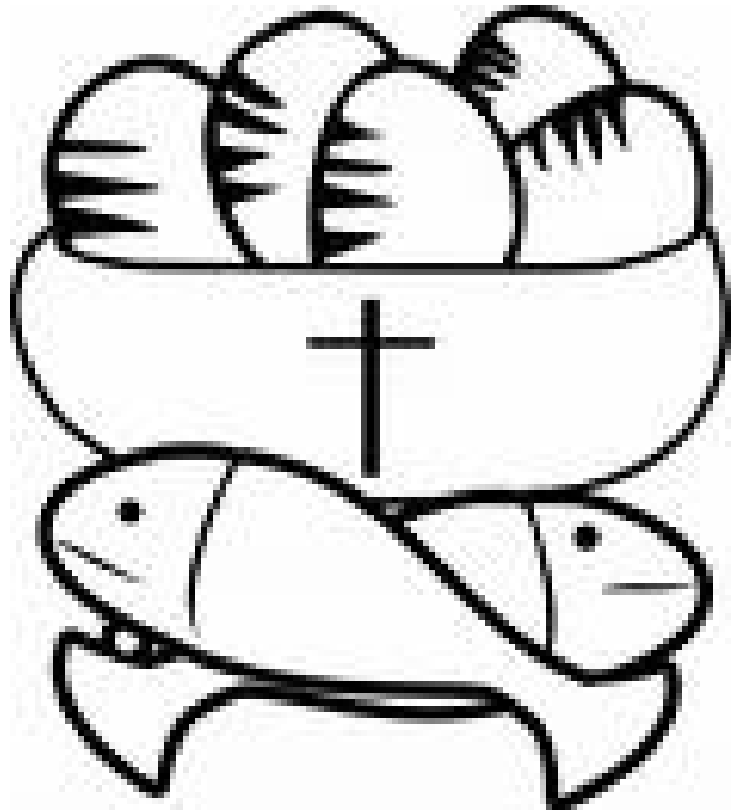
In Religion, our

studies will have a Lenten focal point.

We will also begin practicing for the diocesan religion test, which is given in May.

Finally, we will work with the Junior Kindergarten to design decorated, paper hearts. The third grade will use these hearts to write descriptive paragraphs.

We continue to practice our keyboarding skills in the computer lab.



## Fourth Grade News

We are preparing and gearing up for our next NYS test in Math, which will be in March. Please help your child study his/her multiplication and division facts every night.

We will continue working on NY State history and geography in Social Studies. Students will study how important new ideas were to New York State after the Civil War.

The student will start a new unit in Science next week. Unit C ~ Physical Science ~

will concentrate on matter, energy, and heat.

In ELA the students will continue to practice letter writing and learn the different writing mechanics.

In Religion we will continue studying the Ten Commandments, how to respect earth’s gifts and how the earth belongs to all of us.

In Reading we will start a new unit. The class will read stories such as “The Lost Lake”, “The Desert Beneath the Sea”, “Sarah Plain and /

Tall”, and “The Next Best Thing”.

Our technology class will continue to

practice keyboard typing and choose a person to research on and so a book report about that person.



## From the Classroom of Miss Neal

5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA: This month we begin our unit, *Into the Spotlight*. Through stories by Gary Soto, Lawrence Yep, Norton Jeter, and Sandra Belton, we will work with the literary elements of character, setting, plot, flashback, and point of view. We will continue to develop our skills in making predictions, drawing conclusions, sequencing, main idea and details as well.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: This month we will be working with data, graphs and probability. This will include: collecting data, bar graphs, line

graphs, circle graphs, stem and leaf plots, mean, median, mode, choosing an appropriate graph to represent data, as well as, predicting outcomes, listing outcomes, and expressing probability as a fraction.

We will also be reviewing for the Math Exam in March.

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 continuing our study of plants. We have been exploring photosynthesis which will lead us into what stems and roots do, how plants reproduce,

and what affects plant growth,

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science: We are working on Chapter 11: *Earth's Resources*. We will investigate renewable and non-renewable 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 continues to work on writing essays and responding to reading selections as we work with many genres.

During the month of February we will continue our study of Ancient Rome. We will follow St. Paul's travels as we study the Holy Roman Empire. We will also look at some Roman mythology along with the story of St. Valentine.

In technology we will continue to view

PowerPoint Presentations and write a few of our own. This month is the annual Amateur Radio School Club Round up. Fifth and sixth grades will participate and contact as many schools around the world as possible, using our amateur radio station in the sixth grade classroom.

In Religion we will continue our study of the Old Testament and lives of the Saints. Fifth graders will continue to study the Mass,

sacraments and the beatitudes.

The sixth graders are actively preparing for the New York State Math Test to be given in

March. We are also planning to use the computer lab for review.

Have a Happy St. Valentine's Day and a restful mid-winter break!

