

Saint Raphael the Archangel

The Guide

A weekly newsletter for the school community

Volume 5, Issue 3

September 8, 2016



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Kim Vangel

Dear St. Raphael School Families,

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th; it was truly a day that changed all of our lives forever. Our school is now filled with children who were not born until **after** those attacks. Although most of these students have heard stories about September 11th, 2001, they did not live through it. And this is a pretty significant point in understanding the kids of today and the world in which they are growing up.

Today's world does not feel as safe as it once did. It is a world where we are bombarded with information and images at a staggering pace. The world has grown much smaller in the sense that we have access to people, cultures, news, music, entertainment, and ideologies from all corners of the globe - our kids today are not afraid to explore new people and ideas - they embrace all of that access.

Technology grows by leaps and bounds continuously. As soon as you purchase an electronic device, it is obsolete. We cannot even imagine what the future looks like anymore, and neither can our students. This is their world. And we are trying to provide them with the education they need to be happy and successful in that world of unknowns and uncharted territory.

We know that Faith is a critical component of happy and successful lives here on earth, and that Faith is the path for getting to Heaven and Eternal Life. This is why St. Raphael the Archangel School exists, plain and simple. We can provide education with the foundation of Faith and Formation in the Catholic Church. This is not an easy task in today's world, and we are always trying new ways to reach our kids and help them to grow stronger in their Faith.

In terms of academics, sometimes parents tell me that they wish we could just do things "the way they used to be done." Usually they are talking specifically about grading. Some parents long for traditional teaching and grading because it is familiar and known. We understand that longing. But we also understand that the world in which our students are growing up is incredibly different from the world that supported traditional teaching and grading. That was a world of predictability, of firm and strict boundaries, of clear roles and responsibilities. That clarity no longer exists in the same way. Today's world demands flexibility, energy, collaboration, creativity, and mobility. And so our approaches to education must emphasize these newly important characteristics.

At St. Raphael the Archangel School we have embraced Standards-Based Grading (SBG) as a way to provide clear direction to teaching and learning, and as a way to promote education that emphasizes flexibility, collaboration, and creativity. Teachers are responsible for ensuring that students know what they are to be learning, and why they are learning it. Teachers are exploring flexible and individualized ways of teaching with groups, more hands-on learning, lots of individualized feedback to students, and support for learning instead of catching and punishing kids who are performing poorly. We know that the SRA version of Standards-Based Grading is not perfect, nor is it perfectly implemented. It is definitely a work in progress and we are in a continuous improvement mode. But at this moment, SBG holds the most promise for ensuring top-notch learning in an environment that makes sense in today's world.

I encourage all parents to come to our SRA Preschool - 8th Grade Curriculum Night this coming Wednesday, Sept. 14th to learn more about Standards-Based Grading, and to get details from your children's teachers about what will be learned in their classrooms this school year. We will start in the Gym at 6:30pm for a short overall presentation. We'll then move to a series of three 20-minute sessions where teachers will give an overview of their curriculum for the school year, and a snapshot of what happens in their classrooms. They will provide a mini-syllabus for parents so you know what to expect as the year progresses. This is an evening primarily for adults, and we'll have you out of there by 8pm. Be sure to check in with your children's homeroom teachers during Curriculum Night so your kids get to participate in the Dress Down Day on Friday, Sept. 16th!

Thanks for your support as always, and please keep our students and teachers in your prayers.

Peace & Blessings,
Kim Vangel
Principal

Seventh Graders are in charge of safety patrol at the corner of Bishops Place and Highfield. Students should arrive by 7:30 in the morning and again in the afternoon at 3:10. Thank you!

1st quarter patrol schedule:

Week of September 12th

AM - Gillian and Grace

PM - Billy and Sean



RECESS/LUNCH DUTY

Want to spend an hour during the day helping out at recess or lunch duty at St. Raphael? We would love your assistance! The times of lunch and recess are as follows: 11:10am Preschool goes to lunch—11:15-11:40am (PreK-3) - 11:45-12:05pm Lunch (4-8). All volunteers must have completed their Protecting God's Children requirements. If you can help, please email Lori Stawizynski at loristaw76@yahoo.com

Monday, September 12 Pam A. & Donna V.

Tuesday, September 13 Nicole R. & Mark P.

Wednesday, September 14 Bobbie S. & Candice O.

Thursday, September 15 Marti F.

Friday, September 16 Keith W. & Megan H.



St. Mary's Dragon for a Day

Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, Friday, September 23, 2016, 8:00am – 12:00pm.

Activities: Tour the School, Visit Classes and Meet Freshmen Teachers, Dragon Style Games and Pizza Party.

RSVP to Katie Albin albink@stmaryshs.com 314-481-8400 x 110 by September 16th. Students will not experience a typical school day. As a result, we also encourage students to schedule a time to shadow.

Kougar for a Day on Wednesday, October 5, 2016

7:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

8th grade girls - come check out Rosati-Kain!

For those who would like to know a little more about the spirit of Rosati-Kain, join us for a half-day of class observation and discussion with faculty, students and ambassadors. Family tours are not required to join in this day!



STUCO News

Congratulations to our newly elected STUCO class representatives, Frannie Benoist (8th, 5th, and 2nd), Gabbi Smith (7th, 4th, and 1st), and Mia Thompson (6th, 3rd, and kindergarten). We are so excited to have you as part of our amazing student council.

Thank you for your donations to the food drive this week. I know the people of the St. Vincent Food Pantry will be most appreciative.

Upcoming Events: Pretzel Boy's order due Wednesday, September 14th and delivered on Friday, September 16th.

Red Ribbon Week - October 24-27



Miss Chris Preschool Room B

We are working on the letter B this week by learning all about Bears. We have created some fun art projects using a variety of mediums this week. We used a glue/shaving cream mixture to paint polar bears with a sponge by dabbing it over a polar bear stencil. We used yarn to create “fur” on our bears that we constructed out of a bubble letter B. We are learning about the Bible during our Jesus Club. It’s been a “Beary” busy week in Preschool B.



Kindergarten News: Miss Morris & Mrs. Doyle

This week Kindergarten is focusing on the importance of their name and what it means to be a good friend. We read the book *Fill A Bucket* by Carol McCloud, which focuses on filling everyone's invisible bucket by doing kind things for one another.

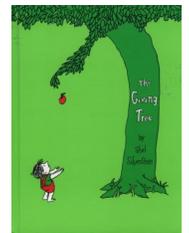
In Math our Kindergarten students continue to write and recognize their numbers. Thank you for the support!



First Grade News: Mrs. Louise Balicki-Smith

First Graders have been reading my favorite book, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. We examined the character traits of the Tree and the boy. Students also analyzed the problem and the solution in the story. This theme correlated to our Friday Prayer Service on Generosity in which the Tree was used as an example of selfless generosity.

Our Fabulous Firsties are striving to live as an example of generosity just as the Tree in our beautiful story.



Second Grade News: Miss Stephanie Amsler

This week Second Grade is working with words that are spelled with long e vowel teams: ee, ea and y. We are also figuring out how to use details in a story to identify the setting. We continue to practice using proper punctuation and capitalization when writing sentences.

In Religion we are learning about the different gifts God has given to us individually and the gifts He has given us as a whole community. It helps us better understand our school theme this year, “We Are One Body”. We know that God created each of us in His own image, therefore, We Are One Body!



Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson

Third Grade is truly enjoying our Thursday liturgies and singing from our new hymnals. We had a lovely three-day weekend and came back ready to learn. Ms Polson finished her read aloud of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. In our Journal we recorded all the characters in the story. For Science we discussed the five groups of animals with backbones and some distinguishing characteristics. We are learning some life cycles for different animals and focused on one new vocabulary word: metamorphosis. In Math we know place value and are adding multi-digit numbers and classifying them as to odd or even.



Miss Patti Woods: Social Studies, Science, English (4-5)

In Fourth Grade English we continue to work on proper sentence structure and recognizing complete sentences vs sentence fragments. We are also working on finding the subjects and predicates in sentences. A unit test will be coming up soon, though I don't have a definite date yet. In Social Studies we continue to learn more about the Constitution of the United States and the importance of laws in our lives. We had some fun by looking at some silly laws that are still active in some states. Did you know that in Missouri it is against the law to drive down the highway with an uncaged bear in your car? Make sure your bears are in cages! In Science we have learned more about the properties of matter.

In Fifth Grade English we completed the unit on proper sentence structure and have taken the unit test. Next up in English is the unit all about nouns. In Social Studies we are researching more about the Declaration of Independence and will soon be wrapping up this unit. In Science we will practice using a balance to find the mass of some common objects. We will find objects we think are comparable in mass and then check our predictions.

Miss Amanda Imo: Reading, Math (4-5)

Fifth Grade: The Fifth Graders have been very excited about learning how to use their Bibles. They loved doing a Scripture hunt to find ways that Jesus worshiped. During Math the students worked on estimating products and multiplying with multi-digit numbers. Our story in Reading was about two illustrators. The students got a chance to connect to the text by writing a story and then illustrating a classmate's story. This was a hands-on way to experience what it is like to be both an author and an illustrator for a story.

Fourth Grade: The Fourth Graders are working on rounding numbers through the millions place during Math class. We also worked on estimating sums and differences of numbers. In Reading we are continuing to work with the short story "*Sleeping Ugly*." We compared and contrasted characters within the story as well as to the story "*Sleeping Beauty*."

**Mrs. Peggy Martin: Physical Education Grades Pk-3**

In four year old Preschool and Kindergarten we are playing lots of memory games to help us remember our squads in gym class. This week I had the Preschool children go to their squads. It was a week ago that we practiced and 75% of the students remembered their places without a prompt. Miss Molly and I were so proud of them, I just had to share. The students are continuing their work on soccer and kickball.

Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education-Grades 4-8

This past week students in class worked on strength and conditioning by flipping tires and all went well. Students will work in stations and review the fitness activities that we have performed over the past few weeks. I will continue to stress fitness activities throughout the school year.

We will begin work on volleyball skills the week of September 12-23.

Mrs. Christy Connor: Social Studies & Religion (6-7-8)

Religion: Students in Grade Six have learned how the Bible is separated into two parts and that there are four types of books in the Old Testament. They are also practicing how to find specific passages in the Bible. Students in Grade Seven began their study of the Confirmation program, learning how important it is to make the right choices in life. Eighth Grade students learned about the communion of saints and reviewed what happened on Pentecost Sunday.

Social Studies: Grade Six students have completed a section about the physical geography of the Earth. They will begin a chapter about how humans use the natural resources that are available to them. Grade Seven students continue to learn about the early exploration of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and how this exploration impacted the lives of the people living there. Grade Eight students are completing a section about westward expansion after the Civil War. They will begin to learn about the second Industrial Revolution in the United States during the late 1800s.

Mrs. Laura Berns: Standard Math (6-7-8)

Sixth Grade SMath:

We just completed our assessment on decimal operations and are currently working on operations with fractions.

Seventh Grade SMath:

We just completed our assessment on integers. Please continue having your child practice at home. We are currently reviewing operations with fractions.

Eighth Grade SMath:

We are currently solving equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. Please continue having your child practice with integers at home.

Mrs. Jennifer Runiewicz: Literature (6-7-8)

Literature: Simple Solutions will now be covered in Miss Bussmann's class, along with grammar instruction and writing. Vocabulary Workshop assignments are due on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students should all have the schedule either taped/stapled to their vocabulary book cover or in their assignments books. I have also shared the schedule with each of them on Google Drive.

Eighth Grade is working in literature circles for the next few weeks, exploring various roles in group discussions, director, specialist, detective, builder and illuminator.

Seventh Grade is busy researching the lives of both slaves and those who escaped slavery to the settlements of Canada.

Sixth Grade is learning about the benefits and pitfalls of a utopian society.

Miss Schaaf: Science (6-7-8) Challenge Math (6&7) Algebra 8

Yesterday my Eighth Grade Algebra students took their first chapter test over chapter 2. It covered simplifying and evaluating expressions, real numbers, probability and properties. We will start the next chapter as we continue on with the week.

Today my Seventh Grade Challenge Math students took their first chapter test over chapter 1. It covered expressions, integers and inequalities. We will start on the next chapter tomorrow, which will entail rational numbers.

My Sixth Grade Challenge Math students is finishing up chapter 1 this week and is expecting to test over this material sometime next week.

Miss Bussmann: Writer's Workshop (6-7-8) Spanish (4-8)

Spanish: Fourth and Fifth Graders are working on phonics. We pray together twice each class and students have begun to lead prayer.

Sixth Grade is working on greetings, goodbyes and introductions.

Seventh and Eighth Grade are reviewing uses of the verbs ser and estar which both mean "to be." Seventh and Eighth Grade also wanted to make prayer books so we have taken some time to do that.

Writing and Grammar:

Middle school will now have Grammar class Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will work on Simple Solutions English Grammar during this time. Our first grammar review topic was types of sentences.

Middle school will begin writing assignments related to their novels from Literature class beginning Thursday.

Mrs. Gewinner: Learning Consultant

As the IOWA Assessments testing dates come closer, a lot of parent, teacher and student stress follows. Most important all of us should take time to relax. The assessments are a snapshot of what your child is able to achieve. If students show any weaknesses, these can be addressed all school year long. Your child should take these tests seriously. Get plenty of sleep the night before and eat nutritious meals, especially breakfast. Make sure they have several #2 pencils sharpened and ready to be used, as well as a clean eraser.

NO MECHANICAL PENCILS PLEASE. These pencils cause a lot of time wasted getting the lead to function properly.

Mrs. Kim Westrich: Art

Please donate any extra magazines to the art room!

Grades 3-8 have been introduced to collage. We looked at some collage artists and discussed the Studio Habits of Sketch & Explore and Envision. The ideas coming out of the art room are amazing!

*Kindergartener Carter, drew a person with two different sized knees, because one was broken and sore.

*4th grader Vanessa, liked another student's art from the recycling bin and used it in a book she created.

*6th grade boys collaborated in the mutants they created from magazine images.

*5th grader Skyler, recognized a collage in a magazine after we just learned about it.

*3rd grader Lilly, giggled with delight when digging through scrap papers and finding great papers to use.

*3rd grader Justin, made an astronaut with a bubble wrap space suit. He is planning on adding a jet pack and rocket ship.

Corrections for SRA Buzz Book 2016 – 2017

Please note the following updates and corrections to the SRA Buzz Book that you received in your August Welcome Packet.

Preschool

Hahn, Caroline & Emilia PKA Victoria Hahn vjwhahn@yahoo.com

Meier, Sean PKA John & Katie Meier 5818 Delor 63109

Kindergarten

Meier, Patrick John & Katie Meier 5818 Delor 63109

First Grade

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Riley, Jameson Kirsten Bray 4825 Germania St. 63116 636-688-0039 kbray747@gmail.com

Second Grade

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Susan Kiel-Bennett 19 Riverbluff Dr. Crystal City, Mo. 63019 314-403-3592

Third Grade

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Wulf, Jude John Wulf 314-605-1022

Laura Wulf 314-704-2989

Fourth Grade

Atchison, Alexander Christopher & Jessica Sullivan

Mountain, Emillie Ryan & Jen Mountain 314-585-8932

Eighth Grade

Jugo, Merritt Kirsten Jory 314-704-7208 kirsten.jory@purina.nestle.com

As of 9-8-2016