



Principal's Message:

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Merry Christmas!! I would like to wish all of you and your families a very blessed and merry Christmas. I am so thankful for each of you. I continually brag about all of the families in our school. We are a close knit, cooperative community for which I am truly grateful. School will dismiss at 3:00 pm on December 21. BASC is available until 5:30 pm. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

4th/5th Grade Retreat: Last Monday, the 4th and 5th graders participated in a day long retreat here at school, led by the Camp Gray staff. The students learned several new songs, watched skits, and held small group discussions about their faith. The event was sponsored by the Home and School Association.

Citywide Middle School Retreat: Then, this past Tuesday, the middle school students from all four Janesville Catholic Schools met at St. William for a day long retreat. The retreat again was led by members of the Camp Gray staff. The students learned more about their faith and each other through various small and large group activities. The day concluded with a special Mass. Thank you to the Catholic School Advisory Committee for planning this retreat.



A Great Performance!

Thank you to Mrs. Lentz and all of the preschool through fifth grade students for their wonderful performance this past Wednesday. I know they have been practicing for several months, and they were glad to finally perform.



Congratulations! Jenna McDade has been selected as this year's Outstanding Student for the Serra Club of Janesville. Jenna is an 8th grade student at our school and is the daughter of Mark and Lisa McDade. She has been in the children's choir, cantored for weekend Masses and is an Altar Server. She has participated in school Masses as a reader, greeter, usher, server, and cantor. Jenna is also involved in Student Council, Catholic School Advisory and has participated in volleyball, basketball and track. She has participated in the school spelling bee and

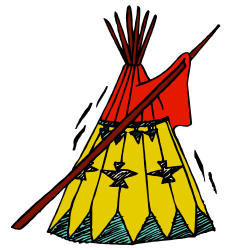
geography bee in seventh grade. Last year, she won third place out of the whole middle school in the geography bee. Jenna has also been a part of the summer Vacation Bible School, helping the young kids learn more about the Catholic faith since fourth grade. Jenna will receive her award at a special Mass and program on December 29, 2011.

Athletic Update: The fourth grade basketball team competed in their final tournament in early December. This was an exciting year for them as they began to learn the basic skills needed for basketball. Thank you to coaches Mrs. Karen Pearson and Mr. Kevin Kueng for their time and dedication to our students. Also, the volleyball season for the 5th-8th graders ended last weekend with the league tournaments. All of our students did a great job representing our school and displaying positive team sportsmanship. Thank you to our volleyball coaches—Mr. Bob Getka, Mrs. Kris O'Leary, Mrs. Sharon Treinen, Mrs. Amy Kettle, and Miss Danielle Kettle. All of our coaching for every sport is completely volunteer. Without the commitment of these coaches, our students would not be able to participate in these activities. Please know you are truly appreciated. **Student athletes in these sports should return their uniforms to the office clean and labeled in a bag with your name.** Basketball season for the 5th-8th graders will begin when we return from Christmas break. For those students who signed up, there is additional information in this folder.

Marketing Committee Update: The school marketing committee is in need of some additional members. The committee meets once a month in the evening. The goal of the committee is to continually promote our school. Please contact Mrs. Rebut if you are interested in learning more.

Class Tidbits

Fourth: It's been a busy second quarter for Fourth Graders! You may have noticed the biography reports that we recently completed hanging in the hall. Who knew that real people's lives could be as interesting as fiction? We are delving further into non-fiction reading this month as we learn about various Native American tribes that lived in North America before European settlement began. Our research includes our books, the internet, reference books, and print encyclopedias. We are making posters to highlight the tribe's environment, food, clothing, shelter, and culture. To create their posters, students will be learning and applying new technology skills including Word Art, scanning, and word processing. I think they're going to be something special to see and hear about when they do class presentations!



The gym has been a great place to be lately, and not just for gym class! Last week students were treated to the St. Nick assembly where they learned some of the history and traditions surrounding the Bishop of Myra. We were so taken with the idea that we are now spending some time learning about Gift-Bringers who represent many different cultures. This week Fourth graders really enjoyed a very special opportunity –our Camp Gray Retreat Day. The day was full of songs, stories, prayer, and activities designed to help us learn more about ourselves and about our relationships with God and our classmates, and... so much fun!

In less dramatic fashion, but exciting in its own way, fourth graders are learning up a storm in the classroom! They have had their first introduction to algebra - variables, evaluating, and solving for x happen at an early age these days! In science we are learning about cells and classification of life; social studies has had us working on landforms, regions, and environment of Wisconsin.

Fourth graders had a great time shopping at the annual Christmas Bazaar! It's so heartwarming to watch them as they choose that perfect gift for their family member or their class "Secret Santa! We are also busy this Advent preparing the manger for Baby Jesus by doing acts of sacrifice or kindness for their classmates. For each act, students put a piece of straw into the manger. We hope our gentle words and actions – which will bring peace and harmony to our days - will translate into a gentle and comfy bed for Jesus, who brings ultimate peace and harmony to the world! A blessed Advent to all!

Mrs. Gensler



Music: What a busy month we've had in music! I am so proud of all of the students at St. William's for all of their hard work and dedication to the music program! From pre-k all the way up to 8th grade we have students who are eager to participate and take part in musical activities and I am so blessed to have them! A lot of their enthusiasm comes from our teachers, who are always encouraging them to do their best, and from our parents, who are supportive of all of the opportunities that are offered at St. Williams. I would also like to thank all who attended the middle school concert and play. The students and their parents worked so hard on their music, dinner and performance. It was great to see all of the school and parish families who came out for some entertainment and Christmas cheer. The Pre-K through 5th grade concert was great as well. I know they all look forward to dressing up and performing for everyone and I am very proud of their vocal accomplishments. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas! Mrs. Lentz



Preschool:

The preschoolers have been excitedly discussing the holiday season. On an almost daily basis they eagerly share what preparations are going on at home and whether or not they have been to visit Santa. The children have also been celebrating the true spirit of the season with Acts of Kindness. Each time a child performs an Act of Kindness they get to put a red holly berry on their Advent wreath. There has been a lot of kindness in the classroom this week!

Additionally, the children have been learning about winter animals/hibernation and have created some wonderful holiday art projects for display in the classroom and on hallway bulletin boards. The preschoolers are also decorating the classroom tree every day, counting rings to see how old Mrs. Sheehy's Christmas tree is this year, and cutting pine branches – the classroom smells wonderful! Lastly, the children did a great job at the Christmas Sing on Wednesday, performing a medley of Christmas songs for family and friends as only they can.

In December, both classes had their Holiday Workshop – a chance for Moms and Dads to spend some special time with their preschooler during the busy holiday season. The children went on a color and shape treasure hunt, sang Alligator and Bear Hunt, made a Christmas Wreath and a Candy Cane Cradle for Baby Jesus, played in centers, and enjoyed a snack. Happy Holidays! - Mrs. Sheehy



Altar Server Schedule



Dec. 20
Kirsten O’Leary
MaKayla O’Leary

\$crip News:

Remember our local vendors K & W, Natale Photography, Rainbow Rays, Super Wash and our list of Special Order vendors.

Christmas orders are due Dec. 19th by noon in order to get here before Christmas.

Please place large orders by Monday morning.

Scrip will be available Dec. 22 and until noon Dec. 23 at the Rectory.

Scrip will NOT be sold at the Christmas Masses or New Year Masses.

Scrip will be available at the Rectory from Dec. 26- 30th and January 2nd.

Calendar of Events!!

Dec. 21—Mass-1st; BASC is available

Dec. 22-Jan. 2—Christmas Break NO SCHOOL

Jan. 3—School Resumes

Jan. 6—Mass-8th

Jan. 10—Catholic School Advisory 7:30 am

Jan. 11—First Reconciliation Retreat 6:15 pm
Parish Hall; Basketball @ St. Matthew B-girls 4:30, A-girls 5:30

Jan. 12-14—Basketball Tournament @ St. Mary B-boys

Jan. 15—Children’s Mass 10:30 am; Basketball A- & B-girls vs St. Mary

Jan. 16—Basketball B-boys@St. Paul 6:00 pm

Jan 16-28—Basketball Tournament@ St. Andrew A-girls

Jan. 18—Market Day-4th

Jan. 20—Mass-6th

Jan. 21—Janesville Jets Night

Raffle Calendar Winners

Dec. 5, 2011—Sue Folk \$50.00

Sold by Jacob Petter

Dec. 7, 2011—Ryan & Heather Risseeuw \$50.00

Sold by Logan Risseeuw

Dec. 9, 2011—Amy Loppnow \$50.00

Sold by Carter & Noah Herbst



Fundraising Results!

Kwik Trip Milk Moola—\$118.80

Market Day—\$195

The winner of the December Market Day contest was 7th grade. They will enjoy a special treat in the near future. Thank you to all who ordered this month.

Wednesday, December 21 is the last day for students to collect Campbell’s labels for the December contest. The labels will be tallied and the winner announced in January. The January collection contest is box tops, so start saving up!



Be a Santa Badger!

On Wednesday, December 21, students are encouraged to dress in red and white. This is a way to do double duty—dress for the Christmas season and display team spirit for the Wisconsin Badgers’ berth in the Rose Bowl. There is Mass that morning, so remember no jeans. Face paint and artificial hair coloring are also not allowed. Have some fun, get into the holiday spirit, and support the Badgers!

Save your old Electronics!

The Catholic School Advisory Committee will be conducting an Earth Day fundraiser in April for a local charity. They will be collecting and recycling anything that plugs in. This includes appliances, electronics, old computers, televisions, VCR and DVD players, etc. The Committee will be paid according to the weight of the items. More details will follow as the event approaches, but Advisory members wanted to let everyone know since many of you may be receiving new items as Christmas presents