

The Quill

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St. Paul Newsletter

December 2011

From the Principal's Desk...

Stories told about the real St. Nicholas rival the tales of Santa Claus and are part of the Catholic tradition. St. Nicholas found real joy in giving to others. Many stories about St. Nicholas focus on his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors.



St. Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, an ancient seaport city in Lycia (Lysh'uh), an area which is in present-day Turkey. So many legends have been told about St. Nicholas that some people wonder if he was a real person. But there is evidence that a very real St. Nicholas participated in the Council of Nicea. It has also been recorded that he was persecuted and imprisoned for his faith by the Emperor Diocletian.

As a young man, Nicholas lost his parents when they became ill during an epidemic. He used his inheritance to help the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He became widely known and loved for his dedication to God and his generous service to those who needed help.

One story about his generosity involves a man who had three daughters. The man was so poor that he couldn't afford to provide dowries for the girls. Without husbands to protect them, the girls were in danger of being sold into slavery. To save them from that fate, Nicholas provided a bag of gold for each girl. It is said, though, that he did so anonymously, throwing the bags of gold into a window of their home. According to the story, the bags landed in the girls' shoes that had been left on the hearth. Because of this story, children in some countries leave their shoes out on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, in hopes of receiving gifts from St. Nicholas.

In another story told about St. Nicholas, he was returning by ship from the Holy Land when a storm threatened to break the ship apart. His prayers calmed the wind and the seas, and all were safe. He is often credited with saving sailors caught in stormy seas and is considered the patron saint of sailors and those who make sea voyages.

The Church honors St. Nicholas on December 6, the day of his death. Because of his love of children, the tradition of St. Nicholas bringing gifts to children on his feast day is observed in many European countries. Children receive treats and small gifts in their shoes or in their stockings. Immigrants brought the tradition with them to the United States. The generosity of St. Nicholas, and a mispronunciation of his name, is also responsible for the tradition of Santa Claus, who brings gifts on Christmas Eve (Pflaum, Publishing).

St. Paul School students in grades K-2 will be treated to a visit from St. Nicholas on December 6th. The teachers and staff will be treated to a St. Nicholas Day breakfast prepared by Miss Gillivan and me. We will be using a recipe handed down from Mr. Walt Miller who was the principal of St. Paul School from 1984 until 1997.

On a side note, there is a beautiful stained glass window of St. Nicholas in our new church. If you have not already found it you may want to take time with your family to find St. Nicholas among the many beautiful windows in our church. It is truly a treasure.

Happy Saint Nicholas Day!

Kathy Norris
Principal – St. Paul School



IMPORTANT TUITION INFORMATION FOR THE 2012 – 2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Mark Your Calendar with the following information regarding Diocese of Columbus Tuition Assistance for the 2012-2013 School Year!



- ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE DONE **ONLINE** AT (www.factstuitionaid.com)
- SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY **MARCH 15, 2012**
If you do not have internet access, please check with your local library or see if you can make arrangements with your school.
- FILE 2011 TAXES EARLY!!

To be considered for the Diocese of Columbus Tuition Assistance Program:

1. You must be registered in one of the Diocesan schools by **March 15, 2012**.
2. The Diocese will only accept **ONLINE APPLICATIONS** (www.factstuitionaid.com).
The application must be submitted by **March 15, 2012** and supporting documentation must be postmarked by **March 15, 2012**. (Please file early in case additional documentation is requested by FACTS .)
3. Payment of the **\$25.00** application fee must accompany the application.
4. Only one application per family is required.



Please remember that if there is a financial need families have two options. First, application can be made through FACTS Tuition Assistance (deadline March 15, 2012) and secondly families may apply for tuition assistance through the parish. However, in order to be considered for financial assistance from the parish, families must first have applied through FACTS Tuition Assistance.

Early Dismissal: Tuesday, December 20th @ 1:30pm.

November Student of the Month:

Kindergarten – Mallory Kish, Camden Newell, Carson Vidra, Brandon Heil

First Grade – Ellie Reash, Connor Lofthouse, Janie Bowers

Second Grade – Erin Johnson, Ashleigh Zehala, Caitlin Kohut

Third Grade – Maggie Moc, Evelyn Sarle, Carter Pittroff

Fourth Grade – Caroline Elicson, Gianna Ricci, Bella D'Amico

Fifth Grade – Carter Hilleary, Zach Lewis, Brigid Haugh

Sixth Grade – Cole Conkel, Jake Sattler, Jackson Montoya

Seventh Grade – Max Freeman, Remington Giller, Tony Castrodale

Eighth Grade – Eric Myers, Taylor Bishop, Justin Doney

Spanish – Amy Feltz

Library – Natalie Hoffman

Gym – Jacob Cudnik, Andrew Massie

Music – Barbara Murnane, Nicholas Lusky

Art – Cate Leithauser, Jacob Mevis, Jodi Shelton

Nurse – Kevin Macias

Band – Lindsay Cira

Computer – Alanna Jordan



Kindergarten News:

- December will be filled with Advent activities as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday.
- The magical themes of Christmas will be integrated throughout our days with activities to help us strengthen our basic skills and increase our critical thinking skills.

Holly Rose

Kelly Grote

First Grade News:

The first graders had a very busy November. In **Social Studies**, we studied Pilgrims, Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. This unit was culminated by a celebration. During the celebration, the children participated in early American and Native American crafts and games. Thanks to all parents who helped make this day special and meaningful for all the children.



In **Health** class, we studied nutrition and concentrated on the basic food groups.

In **Religion** classes, we celebrated the community of saints. We discussed ways that we can follow the examples of the saints to make our world a better place to live. During December, our classes will spend a great deal of time learning about the season of Advent. We will discuss Advent calendars and Advent wreaths. We will make preparations for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

The children are working very hard to become better readers. We encourage them to do as much independent reading as possible in class and we are pleased with the progress we see. We encourage parents to keep reading at home with your child. Hopefully, these first grade hard workers will be rewarded with a book from Santa.

Our **Math** classes have been problem solving by finding how many “in all” and how many “are left”. The children should be solving facts by counting on or counting back. We are continuing to practice addition and subtraction facts with sums and differences through ten. The children should continue to memorize these facts. (Flashcards are great stocking stuffers!)

We are looking forward to our field trip to the Nutcracker on December 14th. This ballet will surely put us in the spirit of the holidays.

Happy Holidays,

Marie Kadel Kris Pinciotti Michelle Posani

Second Grade News:

We were very pleased to meet with all of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences. We would like to thank you again for continuing to actively support your child’s education.

In **Religion**, we are preparing the students for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which they will celebrate on December 11th. We will be practicing the “Act of Contrition” and learning the steps of Reconciliation in class. We will also be teaching about Advent, a time to wait and to prepare our heart for celebrating the most wonderful gift of all – Jesus!

In **Math**, please continue to work on facts to 18. Mastery of this concept requires avoiding “finger counting” whenever possible, so home practice is essential. Students will continue to do two-digit addition and subtraction (with and without regrouping). Counting coins and telling time are concepts coming up soon.

We would like to wish you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas Season and a New Year filled with good health and lots of happiness.

Peggy Oxley Theresa Rodocker Laurie Schneider



Third Grade News:

Thank you for coming to Parent-Teacher Conferences, and taking an interest in your child’s learning. It was great to meet with each one of you. We hope that everyone had a nice break for Thanksgiving and enjoyed some extra time with family.

As December advances, we will continue with multiplication and move to new math concepts that include measurement and geometry. A fun way to practice multiplication is to play games on the computer. There are numerous websites to engage your child with math facts. The following are just a few suggested websites.

www.mathfactcafe.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.funbrain.com

www.fun4thebrain.com

With all the holidays approaching it is very important that your child continues to keep up with homework on a nightly basis. A suggestion is to also have your child study for their Friday Simple Solutions test every Thursday. The test includes the previous four lessons they work on throughout the week.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy this Christmas season.

God Bless,

Mary DeGenova Joanne Durbin Andrea Shearn





Fourth Grade News:

The 4th Grade would like to wish all of our St. Paul families a Merry Christmas. We hope this Season is filled with the joy and love shared with us by God, our Father.

As we approach our holiday break, the 4th grade will be enjoying a visit by the Ohio Historical Society as they present The American Indian Experience on Tuesday, November 29. We look forward to furthering our knowledge of the Ohio Indian tribes that were present here long ago, and which may still reside amongst us today.

We also look forward to sharing some Christmas spirit with you as we present our annual Christmas program on Tuesday December 6th at 7:00. Come celebrate the season as we sing carols and present our special Nativity.

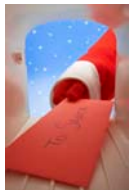
Presently, the Language Arts classes are reading James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl. While we read this classic story, we are practicing comprehension skills through Literature Circle activities. We are also practicing our writing skills by writing a research paper on the history and tradition of the Jesse Tree.

The Science classes are studying electricity and enjoying the hands-on presentations and activities offered in class.

We continue to pray for Mrs. Valentine's recovery from her recent illness and ask that all 4th graders continue to practice math facts at home. The math classes are now studying multi-digit multiplication and will soon be working on long division. Both of these areas require a good working knowledge of core math facts.

Once again, we hope you have a safe, happy, blessed Christmas holiday.

Liz Ryan Debbie Valentine Beth Werner-Smith



Fifth Grade News:

On Tuesday, December 20th, the fifth grade will be leading the all school Christmas Prayer Service. Parents are invited to attend the "dress rehearsal" in the morning. Dress rehearsal time is at 10:30a.m. This will also give parents an opportunity to take pictures since photography is not allowed during the actual prayer service. On the 20th, students will need to bring a packed lunch to eat. Since both early dismissal and the prayer service are scheduled on the 20th, we have a different and very limited lunch time. Packed lunches will allow us to give the students the most amount of time to eat.

On Thursday, January 12th, we will be having D.A.R.E. graduation at 8:30 a.m. Mark your calendars.

The fifth grade teachers enjoyed meeting with their homeroom parents during conferences. Thanks for taking the time to meet with us and we hope you and your families have a blessed Christmas!

Candice Brown Kathy Lane Colleen Tegeler

Sixth Grade News:

Language Arts: Science fiction will be our literary focus for December. We will read several sci-fi stories and watch some *Twilight Zone* sci-fi episodes then discuss how these authors use story-telling to capture our attention about the future. We'll connect these stories, some written decades ago, to current events and trends in our culture. Mark your calendar for the 48+-hour *Twilight Zone Marathon*, December 31 (New Year's Eve), 8:00 a.m., on the SyFy Channel. Check your cable listing for the specific details.

In the weeks before Christmas, we'll return to vocabulary, Units 4 and 5. In their evaluation and feedback of first quarter, students shared with me their positive opinions about working together in packets for vocabulary. They enjoy working together and helping each other with use of the words in context (the most challenging part of the vocab unit).

Sixth graders are wonderful pleasure readers! Congratulations to all the "+" in independent reading from first quarter! Keep up the good work! Share your love of books with your family.

In **Science**, we are continuing our practice and study of measuring and will begin our rocks/mineral/soil unit with a visit from a professor from The Ohio State University! In religion, we will be learning about the order of the Mass, the changes in the Mass, Exodus, and using this time of Advent in *Celebrating Christ's Coming with Justice and Charity*. More family homework to come!! Have a blessed and holy Advent season and a very Merry Christmas!

Social Studies: We will continue our study of the River Valley civilizations with the Indus River Valley (currently India and Pakistan) and the Huang He River Valley (China). Students will also learn about some religious views and faiths that emerged from these areas: Hinduism & Confucianism.



Prayer of Our Lady of Guadalupe

O Blessed Mother of God, your beautiful image miraculously appeared on the cloak of the humble Indian, Juan Diego, in Guadalupe. Just as you promised him, let nothing discourage me; let nothing depress me; let nothing alter my heart or my countenance. Let me turn to you, the fountain of my life. Mother of love, of sorrow, and of mercy, pray for me. AMEN

May your “waiting” during this holy season be one of anticipation and renewed hope that the Baby Jesus, Our Christ Child, will fill you and your homes with peace and love.

Math

Prime factorization

Greatest common factor

Least common multiple

Fractions: add, subtract, multiply & divide

Please check your child’s homework nightly.

A Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to you and yours.



Angie Kuhn

Anne Cody

Beth Sheumaker

Jr. Hi News:

Science: Happy Holidays! As our days get busier, **please, please, please**, double check your student’s work. All the assignments are put on the web page and must be turned in on time. Check the organization of their binders and make sure good effort is being put into every assignment.

The common thread during conferences was students are not studying for tests; they are waiting till the night before and cramming! This is not helping them be properly prepared. Please help them by setting up a specific study time during which they review their notes for each subject. Five – ten minutes each night for each subject will help them be better prepared and learn good study habits that will benefit them for the rest of their educational careers.

Students should have completed the “Research Permission Forms” on line. You are the adult sponsor for your child’s experiment unless they have a mentor who will be watching them do their experiment safely. After the forms are returned to them with my signature, they may complete their experiment. They should not make changes to the approved procedure unless I know and approve of the changes.

These forms are kept and must be part of their report that they turn in when their presentation is due in February.

Seventh graders will be studying volcanoes and minerals in December. Eighth graders will study compounds, elements, mixtures, atoms and The Periodic Table.

7th Grade Language Arts:

Christmas is nearly upon us! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Seventh grade is beginning a secret and special writing project in collaboration with Santa! This is a favorite activity each year, so I hope each of you enjoy the final product. It will include many of the recipes your student brought in after Thanksgiving.

We are starting *Nothing but the Truth* in reading class. I used to teach this book in conjunction with President’s Day, but have changed it to the late fall time frame. The book deals with First Amendment rights and provokes some lively debate among students. Next, we will read short holiday stories and poetry. I especially enjoy an “out of print” book entitled *The Children of Christmas*, by Cynthia Rylant. With the help of PAC, I have purchased some used copies through Amazon so that we will have a class set of six to use in reading groups. We will also re-write the endings and create illustrations to these somewhat poignant stories to share with our third grade prayer partners. This process meets another important reading/writing standard for 7th grade students, that of studying various literary forms and genres across the curriculum.

In grammar, we are continuing our review of parts of speech. You will most likely hear your student singing the “preposition song” during December and January. Most of them learned the song in fifth grade, but a little review is in order! We will also be diagramming sentences and reviewing direct and indirect objects this month. We will finish Unit 6 in vocabulary and then use some context words from the Cynthia Rylant book.





8th Grade Language Arts

It is hard to believe that November is over and the Christmas season is already here. December will be a busy month full of exciting lessons.

Reading: We have finished reading *The Outsiders*. In this novel, the author introduced several themes that we hold dear to our hearts: family, friendship and never giving up on our dreams. This encouraged the students to realize how blessed they are to have such wonderful people in their lives. The students are currently reading an autobiography or biography about someone they admire or want to learn more about. They will be creating an ABC book about that person.

Grammar: This month we will be finishing up Unit 3 and moving into Unit 4. Please encourage your child to review past lessons and basic grammar definitions. If they are struggling to identify subjects, verbs, objects and modifiers they will continue to struggle the rest of the year.

Writing: The students have learned the 6 basic parts of a business letter and how to write a business letter in block format. They each wrote a letter to an organization they wanted to learn more about. Each student wrote a persuasive essay and had a chance to share it with the class. The next area of focus will be how to write a compare and contrast essay.

Spelling/Vocabulary: We will be testing on Unit 5 before Thanksgiving Break and will move right into Unit 6.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Mrs. Power 6th, 7th, 8th Math

6th Grade

- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Multiplying and dividing fractions
- Solving one step equations with fractions
- Changing units in the customary system
- Simple Solutions – weekly quiz

7th Grade

- Continue work with integers
- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Multiplying and dividing fractions
- Solving one step equations with fractions
- Simple Solutions – weekly quiz

8th Grade

- All operations with integers
- Solving one and two step equations
- Solving and graphing linear equations
- Solving and graphing inequalities
- Simple Solutions – weekly quiz



Math & Religion – Gary Norris

The **Algebra** students just completed a quiz over inequalities. They will be continuing to focus on inequalities, but now they will deal with compound inequalities, absolute values, and graphing patterns of inequalities and absolute values. Here again we can take advantage of our graphing calculators as an instructional tool.

The **Advanced** Math students just completed a quiz over rational expressions where they had to convert from decimals to fractions and back again and solve simple equations containing decimals and fractions with common denominators. Next they will work on sequences and series with primary emphasis on Arithmetic Sequences.

The **seventh grade religion** students just completed a unit on the changes in the Mass. We took the opportunity to explore the parts of the Mass, how it evolved into the celebration we have today, and some of the real meanings behind things we take for granted. The next direction they will go is to the season of Advent and the preparation for Christ's birth. They will continue to do weekly Bible searches and reflections.



7 Green Religion

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for here at St. Paul. We are getting into the heart of second quarter and we have some things coming up.

On the 30th of November we have our reconciliation service. This is a tie day for the boys. I want to reiterate the point that the students have been learning to develop their own prayers and have written their own Acts of Contrition. The students will need that with them on that day. The students will have the option of using that during their reconciliation, or just use it for personal prayer while they wait.

We are starting to wrap up our unit on Who is God and we will be moving on to Who is Jesus. This is an important unit because our Catholic Christian identity is found in this time. In addition, we will be taking a closer look at what type of service Jesus called us to do. This will be evident in our Service Logs this quarter. There will be an added element of a reflection sheet. Each child will be asked to pick one of their services and reflect on it by filling out the reflection sheet. We are hoping that this adds to their service experience and guides them down the path of being in service as Jesus served.

As always, continue to send in Box Tops and the Campbell Soup Labels for Education. We are and we want to be supportive of these endeavors. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at miporret@cducation.org.

Eighth Grade Religion

8th Grade Religion- Unit 2: "Who are Our Ancestors?" This follows the curriculum of Standard II: Discover, recognize and use God's revelation in the Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church. Students will also be continually working to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Keep up the great work with services! Many of students have really found a need within their school, parish, Westerville and Central Ohio communities. A reminder to record all service in the log sheets provided. A service reflection has been provided to each student to reflect on how our gifts and talents help others.

REMINDER- Confirmation Parent Meeting- Sunday, January 8th at 2:00 All parents are asked to please attend.

Social Studies - 7th Grade World History- We begin our new textbook. ☺ This book has many interactive tools that can help students to further develop an understanding of the information. Usernames and passwords were given. Please keep these in a safe, known place (on the refrigerator is always good.)

We begin in the era of the Renaissance and the Reformation. Next is Chapter 2: Exploration and Expansion. Students are continually working on cultural advances and interactions of different nations. Geography is also a focus as well. There is usually a map quiz every-other week. Lists of countries on the quiz are given well in advance.

Study Skills- Students should have been working on their study skills over the past month. We are concentrating on our Chapter Study Guides. I am asking that a parent sign this assignment to assure that the students are working to their potential. Students need to create a type of study guide they can use to help them better prepare for quizzes and tests. Their study guide needs to contain all the important information from the book. It helps to use the section assessments as a guide to the quality of their assignment.

This month, we would like to focus on studying a little each night for tests and quizzes that are coming up.

Grade 8 Social Studies – Mr. Gruz

It was a pleasure meeting parents during our recent conference days. Thank you for taking time to stop in and discuss your student with me. I always look forward to these conferences as valuable opportunities to discover additional insight into your student's interests, behaviors and academic needs.

During the month of November we took an opportunity in the classroom to discuss the challenges faced by our soldiers and veterans as thousands prepare to return home to difficult economic conditions. With input provided by the students, we decided to embark on a letter-writing campaign to encourage our locally and nationally elected officials – along with businesses from the private sector – to assist returning veterans. Students researched their respective Ohio voter districts and developed a list of names and addresses, then wrote at least three letters. Their mature approach to this assignment was indicated by the creativity of their recommendations and by the quality of their completed letters.

Parents are reminded that we generally complete one lesson from the *We the People* textbook per week. Taking time to review the Lesson Review questions at the end of each lesson with your student will help them prepare for quizzes and tests. Additionally, we will be administering the annual





Geography Bee the first week we return from Christmas Break in January. Recommended geography websites will be posted to the school website to help prepare students for the contest.

Thank you for your continued support. Please email me (sgruzs@cdeducation.org) should you have questions or concerns.

Geography Bee for 7th and 8th Grade students will take place the first few days back from Christmas Break. This will take place during all Social Studies periods. Suggestions for quizzing preparation http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games.htm
<http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/index.html>

Student Council

A special thank you to all Student Council members who assisted in making items and working the Christmas Bazaar. Proceeds went to our Washington DC general fund. Their hard work and friendly smiles were greatly appreciated. ☺

Our recycling program is going well and we appreciate all the continued help and support from our parish community. Our “Abitibi” recycling bin is located at the West end of the Activity Center behind the large wooden gates. Keep up the great work!

Look for some new exciting activities from Student Council. Coming soon!

SCHOOL STORE: Our School Store will be open every Wednesday morning from 7:35-7:50 and during all lunch periods.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.
From Student Council ☺



Have a terrific and safe Christmas and New Year. God bless you!

Margie Ford, NBCT, Gary Norris, Karen Rawlins, Saya Becker, Mike Porretta, Jenni Sage, Marcine Power, Steve Gruzs

Music 4-8:

Students, parents and St. Paul Staff, Thank you so much for your prayers, dinners, cards and kindness during my recent surgery. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. I am so glad to be back. I missed the students a lot!!

The Oct. Bible verse was Matthew 22:37 & 39 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Our Nov. Bible verse was Psalm 69:30 “I will praise God’s name in song and glorify Him with Thanksgiving.”

December is here! Mark Your Calendar!

4th grade Christmas Concert: Tues. Dec. 6th at 7 p.m.

5th grade Prayer Service: Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 10:30 am for parents

6th grade is working hard on Beethoven and the Nutcracker

7th grade is studying Mozart and can sing the Books of the New Testament. They are also learning about Tchaikovsky’s ballet, the “Nutcracker”

8th grade is studying Irving Berlin and enjoying the movie “White Christmas” as my Christmas treat to them.



Our Dec. Bible verse is Isaiah 9:6 “For Unto Us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Grades 4-8 also listened to the verse sung in George Fredrick Handels’ oratorio “The Messiah” (along with the Hallelujah Chorus).

I hope you all have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and to steal a line from an Irving Berlin song in “White Christmas” that I hope we all remember: “When I’m worried and I can’t sleep I count my blessings instead of sheep and I fall asleep counting my blessings!!”

God bless you and Merry Christmas
Jamie Kolp

Library News:

Thank you for your support of the Library Book Fair. We made a profit of \$1977, which will be used to purchase items for student use in the library.

The 7th and 8th grade are building a 'Battle of the Books' team which will compete against other Diocesan schools this spring. With a set list of 85 books, our team is busy reading, reading, and reading in preparation of the big day.

Our author this school-year will be Jennifer Armstrong, a writer whose books ranges from kindergarten to 8th grade. She will be at our school April 2 and 3. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to her visit.

May you and your families have a joyous and blessed Christmas.

Nancy Beverage,
Librarian



St. Paul Instrumental Music Department:

The Christmas season is upon us! You are very close to seeing all the progress your students have been making. We have a concert coming up on Wednesday, Dec. 14th HERE AT ST. PAUL. The calendar says otherwise, but the concert is here at St. Paul. Please look for an email from me regarding times and procedures for the evening.

We will be recording the concert this year thanks to the efforts of PAC. PAC purchased for us a video/audio recorder that we will be able to use to not only document our public performances but also will help me assess the students and give better feedback to them.

A big thank you goes out to Dr. Norris for allowing us to purchase a tuba for the program. This will really help in filling out our group and it should be here shortly after the new year. Dr. Norris has been very supportive of our program and I hope everyone gets an opportunity to thank her.

Additional progress is being made. Thank you to all the parents who are working hard to help our program to become stronger. Please consider helping out in any way you can. Please consider volunteering for things or donating. We are in the process of trying to grow our booster account...any help is help! We are working on shelving and music stands for our room. If you can't donate, that is okay...even just turning in the survey that went out is a big help to our parent leaders.

The uniform shirts have been tried on and are in the process of being ordered. We should have them about a week prior to the concert. I will be passing them out to the students in their classrooms. If there is a problem with one of the shirts, please notify me as soon as possible so we can correct it. I will be sending home an email regarding the money side of this project.

Please continue to encourage your child to practice at home...even make a special spot for them to practice. The more they practice, the better they will get. In turn, the better the groups will be as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at miporret@cducation.org.

Mike Porretta

Las noticias de la clase de español (Spanish class news)

Hola!

Can you believe it? It is diciembre which means "Feliz Navidad" y "familia"! What a wonderful time of year! We are continuing to learn MUCHO en español and are trying to integrate canciones (songs) de Navidad, as well as some fun new vocabulario!

In fifth grade, we are finishing independent Spanish culture projects...some of us cooked delectable treats from Spanish-speaking countries like Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Peru, amongst many others while others of us attended Hispanic Masses, explored Hispanic/Latino música, and checked into the awesome artwork of many "pintores famosos"! We are also enjoying playing PONGA (Spanish BINGO) in class to review our classroom objects and commands. We are looking forward to engaging in more conversational Spanish in the weeks to come! We need to continue to bring our cuadernito (mini Spanish notebook), Spanish class packet, Spanish class folder, and homework and participation sheet to each and every class!





In sixth grade, we are progressing quickly...that is for sure! We are now exploring Barcelona, España with amigos...we have been working hard on navigating the web to plan a visit for our dear “tía” (aunt); we are planning a fun itinerary for her when she comes to visit us in Barcelona...from there we will be moving into our very own interactive story about Barcelona where we will further delve into the awesome artwork and sites of this ciudad famosa! We are continuing to utilize our cuadernitos, Spanish class folders, and Spanish class packets that we will be expected to keep throughout the remainder of our time at St. Paul. We are also expected to bring our participation sheet and any homework/handouts to each and every class!

In the seventh grade, we just wrapped up our first in-class interactive story, and we did great! We even wrote our own mini-stories in Spanish! We are excited to utilize the textbooks in class a bit more to aid us in improving our conversational Spanish...we will continue to learn how to discuss people and their backgrounds, interests, etc. while throwing in a few fun Christmas vocabulario and canciones! We also did a wonderful job on translating letters for the children of El Salvador...what an awesome experience! We need to continue to be attentive and respectful in the classroom, and we also need to continue to come to class prepared – always bringing our cuadernitos, Spanish class folders with participation sheets, homework, and handouts, and our Spanish class packets with us to each and every class!

In the eighth grade, we are doing wonderfully! We are exploring Puerto Rico via the web with amigos and are about to embark in independent proyectos regarding the food, music, art, and other fabulous aspects of Puerto Rico. We are also delving more heavily into “la gramática”...we need to continue to apply good study skills and really strive to use our Spanish “afuera” (outside) of the classroom, so that it becomes second nature! We, too, just finalized translating letters for the children in El Salvador...we are becoming pros at that, and are grateful for the opportunity to serve! We need to continue to bring our cuadernito (mini Spanish notebook), Spanish class packet, Spanish class folder, and homework and participation sheet to each and every class!

Some additional notes:

HOMEWORK & “La Hola”- As stated in the initial letter that went home the first week of school and the September Quill article, grades 5-8 will have homework just about every night (that they have class). Assignments are always posted on a weeklong HW board in the room, as well as online; furthermore, we discuss the HW in class daily and the students are **REQUIRED** to write the assignments in their assignment notebooks at the **BEGINNING** of class. Generally, assignments take no more than 5-10 minutes and are to be taken seriously. Due to the fact that we have limited time being immersed in the Spanish language, it is important that students complete assignments on time and find ways to study and practice Spanish outside of the Spanish classroom.

Homework is to be placed on students’ desks as soon as they enter the classroom, and the students are to follow “La Hola” (our version of “bell-work” located on a board in the room) and complete any tasks listed. Tasks usually include copying the next night’s homework from the homework board, practicing conversing in Spanish with a friend, or studying a few pages that we may be focusing on in class that day. Other times, it may include a quick fun competition or beginning a quiz. Both homework and La Hola are important to the success of Spanish class and help to encourage the students to be prepared, organized, and ready to learn upon entering the classroom.

Participation/Speaking Grades – This year, students representing grades 5-8, will be not only assessed on their formal speaking assessments (interviews, in-class presentations, guided group conversations, etc.), but also on how much Spanish they utilize in the classroom on a regular basis via volunteering, giving demonstrations, and following directions for Spanish partner conversational work by speaking in Spanish through the entire activity. In order to assess students, students have a Participation Sheet where they tally every time that they earn a speaking point in Spanish; Señora Jamil also keeps track of tallies on the students’ seating chart; every week or so (depending on grade level), the students receive Spanish stamps for the amount of tallies that they have marked, so long as they match up to what Señora Jamil has marked. Both the student and Señora Jamil will be keeping track of points, so that the system encourages honesty, responsibility, and accountability. This system is practiced in many foreign language classrooms, and its goal is great in that it encourages students to speak in the target language, Spanish, as much as possible.

SPANISH CLUB – grades 7 and 8 had their first Spanish club meeting at recess, September 12th! What a great turnout we had! We brainstormed ideas as to what we would like to do in Spanish club, including teaching the younger grades again, partnering with international organizations, and finding



ways to experience Hispanic culture where we live in Westerville, Ohio; we look forward to setting out a plan as to what we would like to accomplish this semester in Spanish Club. Some other ideas we are contemplating include learning how to cook authentic Hispanic/Latin American cuisine, learning how to create Hispanic/Latin American arts/crafts, learning Hispanic/Latin American dance, playing games in Spanish, serving others, perhaps in the Hispanic community, and maybe even learning to perform mini-dramas in Spanish. We are currently planning to visit the 1st grade classrooms and teach a fun Christmas lesson and helping with Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass on December 9th at 6 PM at St. Paul Church! If anyone has any information or connections with any of the above please feel free to contact me at ajamil@cdeducation.org or send the information with your student to the next club meeting.



There is so much more to be said about the wonderful progress that all of the students are making and about our future goals, but there is simply not enough space nor time! Therefore, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at ajamil@cdeducation.org. And again, be sure to check out the Spanish page on St. Paul School website – it is updated daily with homework, study suggestions, helpful websites, and assessment reminders!

Muchas gracias, Mrs. Amanda Jamil (Señora Jamil)

Physical Education K-3

Hello everybody!

The students' attitude and participation have been great as we gear-up towards this Christmas season.

This month I started to introduce a fun and educational tool called the ABC's of wellness. This tool takes a letter in the alphabet and associates it to principles of fitness, health, wellness, and personal responsibility.

This month I introduced the letter "A" aerobic, and anaerobic exercises, followed by a fitness challenge demonstrating aerobic and anaerobic exercises. Next we will talk about "B" body balance. This will focus on mental, physical, and social health. Stay active St. Paul!

Coach Kochany

Health and Physical Education: Grades 5-8.

In Health and Physical Education we will be focusing on and praying for the virtue of courage. We will continue to talk about ways to demonstrate courage while trying to do the right thing in different situations in our lives.

In Health class we will develop our physical component of wellness and continue on the topics of eating disorders and healthy weight while introducing the Social Health component of Wellness. We will be learning about healthy relationships and communication. In Physical Education the 5th through 8th grades will be starting a new team game called ultimate soccer. This activity will continue to challenge students at various levels of technique, teamwork, strategy and discipline in order to reach their goal.

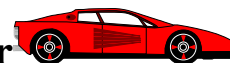
As always the students are really working hard and we are extremely pleased with their attitudes and motivation to develop spiritually, physically, mentally and socially. Participation has been outstanding and we are excited about all of the learning that will follow in the coming weeks.

Merry Christmas,

Deke Hocker



Mr. Carr's Counseling Communicator



The Westerville character education "Word of the Month" for December is *Caring*. This time of year we can get "wrapped up" in the stress of the season. Long shopping lines at the stores, trying to find a parking spot, looking with no luck for the "just perfect" gift to give; many times we can say or do something that is not very caring toward our fellow human beings. Caring is being compassionate and empathetic, being considerate and expressing gratitude, being charitable and helping people in need. Caring about others is a key component of being a person of character. Friends, families, schools, and communities cannot thrive without people who care for one another. Kindness to all people with whom we come into contact is the cornerstone of a caring person. Many great philosophers and poets have noted that the best of humanity is represented in acts of kindness and caring.

Quotes:

“Kindness is never wasted” *Aesop*

“People should see kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile” *Mother Teresa*

“If I can stop one heart from breaking/ I shall not live in vain;/ If I can ease one life the aching,/ Or cool the pain,/ Or help the fainting robin/ Into his nest again,/ I shall not have lived in vain” *Emily Dickinson*

“Art thou lonely, O my brother?/ Share they little with another!/ Stretch a hand to one unfriended/ And thy loneliness is ended” *John Oxenham*

“Those who are kind are happy people. Kindness will also be given to them” *Jesus Christ*

Sermons We See by Edgar Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way. The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear; Fine counseling is confusing, but example's always clear

Happy Holidays to You and Yours!



Happy Holiday Season to All!



Health News:

CONGRATULATIONS ST. PAUL SCHOOL!!!

We received the 2011 Stellar Award from the Ohio Department of Education. This is a recognition of our efforts to include policies and practices that promote a healthy school nutrition environment. A special thanks to Mrs. Cockerell and Mrs. Neja and all who help them in the cafeteria as well as all of the staff at St. Paul!

Vision and Hearing Referrals: It is so good to see many students with new glasses and contacts! Reminder to parents** If you received a vision and/or hearing referral for your child, please make sure to have your health professional complete it and return it to the nurse. The nurse will be doing follow-up calls for reports not returned. Thanks so much!

Pneumonia: There are still many cases of pneumonia. If your child has a cough with or without a fever, please seek healthcare immediately!

Whooping Cough (Pertussis): In previous years, St. Paul has had Whooping Cough (Pertussis) outbreaks. So far so good this year! However there is some going around in the community. Parents have asked about immunity following having the actual Whooping Cough disease. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), immunity following Whooping Cough is not permanent. Therefore, contact your physician to discuss an additional immunization. **Adults** also need to check with their physicians, as there is an immunization for adults too. **6th graders need to get a Tdap vaccine. It is required to have this vaccine to enter 7th grade.**



Anti-Smoking Day was on November 17. Please get the message out to ensure our children breathe smoke-free clean and safe air.

Secondhand Smoke Affects School Attendance: Children who live with smokers are more like to miss school because of respiratory ailments than children who live with nonsmokers, according to a University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) study. While that may not be surprising, the rate at which these kids miss school IS news: they are 27% more likely to miss school if they are exposed to the smoke of one person and 75% more likely to be absent if they live with two smokers. What's more, kids with asthma, from homes with smokers, missed school 10 times more than asthmatic kids with nonsmokers at home.

Commenting on the study, Dr. Anthony J. Alberg of John Hopkins University said that missing school is only one problem secondhand smoke causes kids. “Lurking behind school absence may lie sleepless nights, physician visits, emergency room visits, excessive sleepiness, poor concentration, parents missing work and poor asthma-specific quality of life.”

Mrs. Johnson attended the Children's Hospital Annual School Health Update Conference on October 28, 2011. Topics included:

Rashes

Diabetes Pump
Food/Peanut Allergies
International Adoption/International Students
Speech Therapy
Cyber Bullying



Pediatric Clinical Trials through Nationwide Children's Hospital (formerly Columbus Children's Hospital)

Clinical Research Resources For Families

Nationwide Children's is an international leader in pediatric research. Scientists are transforming health in major ways. Currently, Nationwide Children's is actively involved in more than 1000 clinical research projects. These projects range from small studies that are designed to simply collect information about a disease, to those that investigate the potential new treatments or procedures that are at the forefront of clinical innovation and discovery.

Clinical research takes what scientists discover in the lab and attempts to answer the questions: "Will this work in people?" and "Will this help treat a disease or condition?" Clinical research helps us learn more about health and helps us find better ways to prevent and treat disease and illness.

When you enter Clinical Research Services, located on the 4th floor of Timken Hall at Nationwide Children's Hospital, you'll see handprints of children who have participated in research studies. These handprints represent the "Children Helping Children Through Research" philosophy and show how children of all ages have volunteered their time to help others who have illnesses similar to their own.

Clinical Research Services Obligations

Our Obligations to our Patients and our Families at Nationwide Children's Hospital

- We will treat each family as our priority, providing them with the respect, attention and care that they deserve
- We will remove your child from the study if we feel it is in your child's best interest to do so
- We will notify you when we receive new information that may affect your willingness to continue in the study
- We will ensure that your visits to Clinical Research Services are comfortable and completed in a timely fashion

Patient Bill of Rights

Anyone participating in a research study has the right:

- To be provided with information about why the study is being done
- To be given information on what will happen during the study (what procedures will be done, how many visits will occur, etc.)
- To be told about any risks or discomfort that may be experienced if you decide to be in the study
- To be told about any benefits from being in the study
- To be given information about alternative therapies and treatments for your condition
- To have the study staff review the study and consent form information with you so that you can ask any questions that you may have
- To be informed of what you should do if you have a complication from being in the study
- To be given information that you may stop being in the study at any time, without compromising your future healthcare



Pediatric Trials at Children's Hospital are attempting to improve children's health through research. They have had children and adolescents participate in studies such as: migraine headaches, ADHD, seizures, high blood pressure, vaccines and many others.... Trial categories change so check to see what current research is available.

Qualified volunteers may receive at no cost:

Study related medical and psychological evaluation

Study related medical care

Compensation for time and travel

For more information, please call:

(614) 722-2650



Try to stay well for the holiday season and make healthy choices!

Get enough sleep

Eat breakfast
Eat healthy foods – include plenty of fruits and vegetables
Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water per day
Include some exercise everyday
Smile and laugh

GET VACCINATED FOR THE FLU!

Healthy Tips from the American Heart Association:

FISH 101 – YOU WANT ME TO EAT WHAT?

Fish is a good source of protein and, unlike fatty meat, it's not high in saturated fat. Fish is also a good source of omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 fatty acids benefit the heart of healthy people and those at high risk of — or who have — cardiovascular disease.

The American Heart Association recommends eating fish (particularly fatty fish) at least two times (two servings) a week. Each serving is 3.5 oz. cooked, or about ¾ cup of flaked fish. Enjoy fish baked or grilled, not fried. Choose low-sodium, low-fat seasonings such as spices, herbs, lemon juice and other flavorings in cooking and at the table. Some types of fish may contain high levels of mercury, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), dioxins and other environmental contaminants. Levels of these substances are generally highest in older, larger predatory fish and marine mammals.

Five of the most commonly eaten fish or shellfish that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock, and catfish. Avoid eating shark, swordfish, king mackerel, or tilefish because they contain high levels of mercury. For more information go to www.americanheart.org

Thank you!!! A special thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped and made donations to the clinic.

Have a Healthy Holiday Season!

Betsy Johnson, M.S., R.N.
School Nurse
614-882-6892
bjohnson@cdeducation.org



PAC Meeting - November 3rd, 2011

Attendees: Elizabeth Miceli, Bill Graver, Laura Cavanaugh, Karen Gavin, Sharon Gillivan, Kris Doney, Colleen Pittroff, Deni Benedict, Lindsay Richards, Jerry Nieman, Ted Jordan

Beth Miceli, PAC President, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer and reflection.

All present approved October meeting minutes.

Officer Reports

President: Playground is to be installed this weekend. Details in Playground Committee Report.

First Vice President: Will be getting updates from committee chairs and will give an update report at next meeting.

Second Vice President: Lindsay Richards reports that Teacher Wish List receipts are still coming in.

Treasurer: We will be switching to a new bank – Benchmark. Walk-a-thon was success. Net was \$36,394.82. We had \$2500 from sponsors.

Parliamentarian: Laura Cavanaugh reported that the Teacher's grant letter is being drafted. Once approved an application will be attached.

Committee Reports

Playground Report: Playground is to be delivered on Friday November 4th. Looking for volunteers to help in assembly of playground on Saturday November 5th. Emails are being sent to all St Paul families. Supervisor from Play World will be here to help out. Rubber flooring will be poured after concrete is completed.

Christmas Bazaar: Colleen Pittroff reported that the bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 19th. Colleen reported that since they are using the Activity Center that they have more space this year. Colleen requested that next year we extend to other vendors besides just handmade crafts, such as Tupperware, Longaberger, Thirty One, etc. They have had several requests for these vendors this year



and they were turned away due to not being homemade crafts. Now that we have more space we will look to include those vendors next year. Letter goes out in April and will be rewritten to include larger vendors.



Old Business

SAB Activities: The School Board is putting together a summary of the parent survey to send out to families. SAB is still putting together X-Clubs, after school clubs. School Board Bylaws are still being revised.

Skating Party: Bill has been corresponding with the Chiller North. We will have a school skating party on December 21st at Chiller North. More information will be sent out.

New Business:

Teacher/Staff Gifts: There was discussion in regards to giving the teachers gift cards to Giant Eagle for which they can purchase the gift card of their choice or use for shopping at Giant Eagle. All present were in favor of the change. Amounts will be discussed next month.

Angel Ornaments: PAC will be doing a holiday thank you to committee chairs.

Family Fun Night: Becky Granata will head up this year's Family Fun Night. We will again try to get the Friday before Catholic Schools week, Jan. 27th, at Super Games.

Guest Speaker – Deni Benedict of Juice Plus: Deni presented an opportunity for St Paul to raise money by families purchasing the Juice Plus program. This is not a door to door sale. St Paul would receive a percentage purchased by school families. PAC would like further information before considering. Topic was tabled until next meeting.



Upcoming Dates:

Gift Drive	December 12-16
PAC Cookie Plates	December 13 th Miller Hall 8a.m. (cookies needed)
Christmas Break	December 21-Jan 2 nd
PAC Skating Party	December 21 Chiller North, 8144 Highfield Dr. 11:00am – 2:00pm \$5.00 per student
Family Fun Night	January 27 th at Supergames

NEXT PAC MEETING – Thursday January 5th at 9am.

Thanks everyone for coming!

St. Paul Christmas Toy Drive

The St Paul Christmas toy drive benefits our sister parish Holy Rosary/St John and the Community Kitchen in St John's Center. If your family would like to participate please have your student bring in a gift for a child that is his/her own age and gender. This will help us collect a wide range of gifts. Please wrap the gift and attach a tag noting the appropriate age and gender of the gift recipient. (e.g. *boy age 10* or *boy/girl ages 8-10*) This makes the distribution of your gifts much easier.

Gift Suggestions: footballs, basketballs, sleeping bags, bath/shower sets or hooded sweatshirts for older boys and girls. Please, no electronics, DVDs, CDs or stuffed animals.

Gifts can be brought to school the week of December 12th – 16th.

The gifts are distributed to families, along with a turkey dinner, before Christmas. As always, the generosity of St Paul families is greatly appreciated.

