

# Virtue of the Month: GENEROSITY

December 1, 2011

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## Upcoming Events

- November 28th-  
December 9th, Toy Drive
- November 29th-  
December 6th Online Auction
- Friday, December 2nd,  
Noon Dismissal,  
Professional Development
- Wednesday, December 7th, NO SCHOOL MASS
- Thursday, December 8th, School Mass, 8:30am, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 4th grade
- Friday, December 9th, PSO Family Fun Night, 6pm-8:30pm
- Sunday, December 11th, Lego Robotics Competition. Go Mad Cows!
- Monday, December 12th, Principal's Tea
- Wednesday, December 14th, School Mass, 8:30am, Virtue Assembly, 3rd Grade
- December 15th, Christmas Program, 7:00pm

## Message from the Principal

St. Francis Families,

In this week's packet are the results of your child's most recent standardized test results. This fall, students in grades 3-8 took the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and students in grades 3, 5, and 7 also took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGAT). Having the test results in the fall allows the teachers to use them to better support and further your child's learning this year. These tests are well-researched and nationally normed for fall testing.

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills assess your child's achievement in reading, language, math, social studies, science, and sources of information. Please keep in mind that these scores are only one small snapshot of your child's achievement. Some children perform very well in the classroom, and not as well on tests. If children are anxious about testing or aren't feeling well, their scores may not be representative of what they really can achieve in the classroom. For our third graders, this is the very first time that they have ever taken a standardized test, and that might also impact their results. If you have concerns or questions about the enclosed test results, please contact your child's teacher.

As you read your child's report, here is some information that you might find helpful:

### For Grades 3-8:

You will see a box that lists subject areas, scores, and a bar graph. **NS** means national stanine score. Stanine scores of 1-3 are lower than most children who take this test, 4-6 are typical scores for your child's grade level, and 7-9 are above average compared to other children in Catholic and public schools around the country. **NPR** means National Percentile. A percentile is not the percent of answers that your child got correct. It shows where your child performs compared to other students of this grade level across the nation. For example, a child who scores at the 64<sup>th</sup> percentile did better than 63 of every 100 students across the nation who took this same test. For a student with a score at the 64<sup>th</sup> percentile, 35 students of every 100 performed at a higher level. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is the middle range for children of that grade level. The bar graph is just a visual of your child's national percentile scores, so that you can easily identify your child's relative strengths and needs in the different subject areas.

### For Grades 3, 5, and 7 Only:

Your child also took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGAT). This is not an IQ test. It gives us an idea of your child's approaches to reasoning and measures verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal abilities. It is a test that helps us to understand a little bit more about your child's reasoning strategies. Children demonstrating strengths in the verbal area are often strong in reading, writing, and speaking, are good listeners, and can follow directions where words are used. Children strong in the quantitative area are generally good in math. They typically process numbers and problem solve well. Children with strength in nonverbal areas are very visual and often learn best with hands-on and/or visual materials, these children are often especially good at reading maps and graphs, interpreting visual patterns, etc. Some children are strong in all three areas. Others have relative strengths and weaknesses in the way they reason. Once we understand their learning profile, we can adapt our teaching strategies to help them best learn. If your child is in grades



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## Message from the Principal (cont.)

3, 5, or 7, the box at the top of your report listing subject areas also has a score called **PNPR**—or predicted national percentile rank. This is the percentile score that would be predicted for your child given the abilities shown in the CoGAT results. If your child's PNPR is higher than the NPR, it means that we would predict that your child did not achieve at the level that we would predict given your child's ability scores. If your child's PNPR is lower than your child's PR, this means that your child is performing at a higher level that would be predicted based upon his/her ability profile.

You will see a second box lower on your report that contains your child's Cognitive Abilities Test results. You again will see national percentile and national stanine scores. You will see scores both by grade level and by age, to give you a good idea of how your child's results compare to other children of the same grade and of the same age. This information is particularly helpful if you have a child who is younger or older than most other students in the same grade level. You also will see a little bar graph that shows visually where your child is performing.

Below those scores is an **Ability Profile**: a combination of a number and one or more letters. Some of those letters may have a + or a - sign. If you go to [www.cogat.com](http://www.cogat.com), you can enter your child's Ability Profile letters and numbers into a quick and easy to use Interactive Ability Profile Interpretation System. This website will provide you with specific information about your child's profile, giving you ideas about how your child learns and about ways to best help him/her succeed in learning.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed test results, please contact your child's teacher. I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

Kimberly Fadden

Principal

### Shoes in the Gym

With the change in the weather we have been noticing more debris on the gym floor. Because the finish has not had enough time to properly cure there is a risk of damage to the floor from debris being ground in. Currently we are planning to have another coat of finish applied over Christmas Break and then again during the summer. Until the floor has a few more coats on it and the finish has had time to cure we need to be extra cautious in our care and use of the gym. To that end we are asking all students beginning in January to bring a pair of non-marring athletic shoes to school to use during P.E. class and indoor recess. Thank you for your help in ensuring that we are taking proper care of our school facilities.



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# NOTES FROM THE WOLF'S DEN

Dear St. Francis,

The children here have been busy learning about the First Thanksgiving. The kindergarteners created a list of reasons why the Pilgrims were thankful for the Native Americans. They included how the Native Americans taught them how to grow food by showing them how to bury fish with their seeds, and that gave them food. That's why they invited them to a feast that lasted three days. Ms. H then asked the kindergarteners who else the Pilgrims thanked and they knew right away that they were thankful to God. They also said, "That you should always say thank you – always always. "

The first graders took their study of the First Thanksgiving to the stage. They pretended to be Squanto, Governor John Bradford, Pilgrims and Chief Massasoit in the play *Squanto Helps the Pilgrims*. They memorized their lines, made their costumes and then performed the play for their families.

The fifth graders in their study of Thanksgiving created a photo history of the Wapanoag and the Pilgrims. They looked at maps to locate where and how the Wapanoag lived. They discovered that they grew crops and fished for food. I found it very fascinating to learn that there were so many fish where they lived that when the Wapanoag fished they could actually just reach into the water and grab a fish with their bare hands.

While the kindergarten, first and fifth graders were studying Thanksgiving the middle school students were discovering the amazing architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. It was fascinating how each group looked at his work with a different perspective. The sixth grade noted his use of geometric and abstract shapes. The seventh grade focused on the way he incorporated the environment into his buildings. They discussed the way he used water and fountains in his architecture like in his design of Fallingwater. Whereas the eighth grade concentrated on the impact his mother and education had on him. They talked about how his mother always wanted him to be an architect even before he was born, that he began going to school at a very young age and that he was only 16 when he went to the University of Wisconsin.

When I visited the third grade classroom I found the third graders watching television, only they weren't watching regular shows. These special television sets aired shows created by the third grade. Their shows were based on books they read. Each show included the title, main and supporting characters, a scene from their favorite part of the book, credits and even a commercial. Best television I have ever seen.

I was napping again in Principal Fadden's office when I heard festive music coming from the gym. It was so different from the calm yoga music from last week that I just had to go and find out what was going on. When I went in to the gym I found the fourth graders square dancing. They were standing on dots and arranged as head couples, side couples, and corners. There was also "someone" called a caller, but I all could see was a box on the floor where the music was coming from, but the fourth graders assured me that was the caller. They looked like they were having a lot of fun so I tried promenading around the gym too but apparently I have four left paws.

Finally St. Francis it was a very special time for the second graders. They have been preparing for First Reconciliation by learning the Prayer of Sorrow, practicing talking with Father and examining their conscience. It all came together on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> when they went to the church for a very special service and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Brother Wolf



# News from the School Office

Noon Dismissal, Friday, December 2nd.



Be sure to have your student bring a coat to school for outside recess and car line.

We will follow the Sherwood School District for closures and delayed openings due to weather. Information is available on local TV stations, radio stations and their websites.

Thank you to our kind and generous families who have provided meals for those in need. Now it is time to come get your dishes out of the school office. Those not picked up will end up on the "free" table in the parish hall.

Mass Change: Mass will be on Thursday, December 8th for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (a holy day of obligation), not on Wednesday the 7th.

## Auction News



The online bidding had begun and continues through December 6th. The link is available on the auction website [www.stfrancisauction.org](http://www.stfrancisauction.org). Lots of great items available. Share the link with your family and friends.

## PSO News

Family Fun Night, Friday, December 9th from 6:00-8:30. Be sure to reply to your invite.

## Boxtops and Campbell's Labels

There is a Box Tops and Campbells Labels Contest Winner! (Finally!) First off, let me apologize for it taking so long to make the announcement. I have known for quite some time who the winner is, but I had some hiccups getting the prize together. As a school, we did a wonderful job bringing in lots and lots of labels. You are all awesome! For those of you laboriously removing the whole label off of cans for Campbells labels, I want you to know that all you have to remove is the UPC label. I run my kitchen scissors down the right side of the label, then peel and tear off. It literally takes seconds as opposed to trying to remove the whole label without tearing it.

Secondly, the fun part- announcing the winner! That would be Lindsay Manning! Lindsay took advantage of the bonus point promotions and was able to pull together over 1000 points. Those opportunities seem to present themselves a lot in the fall, but if they come around again during this school year, I will be sure to keep notifying all of you. Lindsay will receive a \$10 iTunes gift card, compliments of the PSO and our Scrip program, and a free dress pass for each of her boys to use in December (on a non-Mass day of course).

Thank you all for making a big difference in this fundraiser!  
Angie Johnson

 **Please Remember.....**  
**Crafty Christmas Creations**  
Registration forms available in the office

Calling all students (grades K-8)! Want to come hang out in the art room and make stuff? Need to create a few last minute gifts? Enjoy watching Christmas videos? Then come and join Mrs. Green and your friends! All supplies are included to make a variety of ornaments, hand-made gifts, cards, and wrappings. Open studio style! Supervised fun while Mom & Dad wrap up for Christmas. Snacks provided.

Fee: \$20 per workshop payable to St. Francis School

**Register by Friday, 12/9/11**



Monday, December 19 9am - noon

Monday, December 19 1 - 4pm

Tuesday, December 20 9am - noon

Tuesday, December 20 1 - 4pm

Wednesday, December 21 9am - noon

Wednesday, December 21 1-4pm



## St. Francis Parish News

WindSong Christmas Trees will donate 10% of your purchase amount to the St. Francis Capital Campaign. Simply mention St. Francis Church at the time of the sale. Be sure to let your friends and neighbors know too. They will be opening the Friday after Thanksgiving. Hours are Weekends- 9am to dusk, Weekdays- 2pm to dusk. 25570 SW LaBrousse Road, Sherwood, OR. Follow the signs at Hwy 99 and Brookman Rd. [windsongchristmastrees.com](http://windsongchristmastrees.com); 503-625-5830



## Out of Parish News

**St. Mary's Academy** is having Sunday basketball clinics starting Nov. 20th through February 12th, for all girls grades 1-8. 5pm for grades 1-5 and 7pm for grades 6-8. Call 503-228-8306 for more information.

**Sherwood VPA presents "The Spirit of Christmas"**. Come to the Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 10th at 2:30 or 7:30pm at Sherwood High School. Tickets are \$7.50 and are available at Let's Make Music in Old Town or online [VPAfoundation.org](http://VPAfoundation.org).

**Participate in Sherwood's own Small Town, BIG TALENT contest.** Enter by February 1st at [VPAfoundation.org](http://VPAfoundation.org). Performance on February 25, 2012. Cash prizes.

**Blanchet Catholic School** is having a Family Information Session on Sunday, December 4th at 12:30pm at the Wilsonville Holiday Inn.