

Virtue of the Month: GENEROSITY

December 8, 2011

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Upcoming Events

- November 28th-
December 9th, Toy Drive
- 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
- Monday, Dec. 12-
Wednesday, Dec. 14th, Food Drive
- Wednesday, December 14th, School Mass, 8:30am, Virtue Assembly, 3rd Grade
- Thursday, December 15th, Christmas Program, 7:00pm, Students here at 6:30pm
- Friday, December 16th, Pajama Day
- December 19-January 2, Christmas Break
- Tuesday, January 3rd, Birthday Free Dress for January and July birthdays

Message from the Principal

St. Francis Families,

The teachers spent time this year identifying information they feel is important to communicate with parents about their child's progress. As a result of this effort we have reorganized the report cards in an attempt to standardize and simplify the grading scale at St Francis.

First through eighth grade report cards are divided into three sections:

Core subjects
Social development and work habits
Specialists

Your child's GPA is based on core subjects. The social development and work habits section allows the teachers to communicate how your child is interacting with others and their progress towards developing the skills required for lifelong learning.

The specialist's report card is a separate document and is divided into two sections.

How the student is performing on key concepts in the subject area
The student's level of responsibility

The school's grading scale has not changed and letter grades for third through eighth grade are determined using the following scale:

A=93-100
B=85-92
C=77-84
D=65-76
F=64-0

First through second grade uses the following marks:

E = Exceeds grade level requirements
S = Meets grade level requirements
U = Time needed to meet grade level requirements.

Kindergarten uses the marks:

+ = Mastered Skill
~ = Developing Skill
- = Needs Improvement
/ = Not applicable at this time



Message from the Principal (cont.)

Honor Roll and Permanent Seals on Report Cards

At the conclusion of each Trimester, students in Grades 6th -8th are recognized for outstanding academic achievement with a seal on their Report Cards. The criteria to receive a seal are as follows:

Scholar:

A grade average of 4.0 in all core subject areas and a “+” in all social development and study habits categories.

First Honors:

A grade average of 3.7 in all core subject areas and at least a “Ö” in all social development and study habits categories.

Second Honors:

A grade average of 3.4 with at least a “Ö” in all social development and study habits categories.

In addition, students in 6th, 7th and 8th Grade that earn “+” marks in all social development and study habits categories are recognized with an Excellent Citizen Award.

If you have any questions about your child’s report card please contact their teacher.

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.



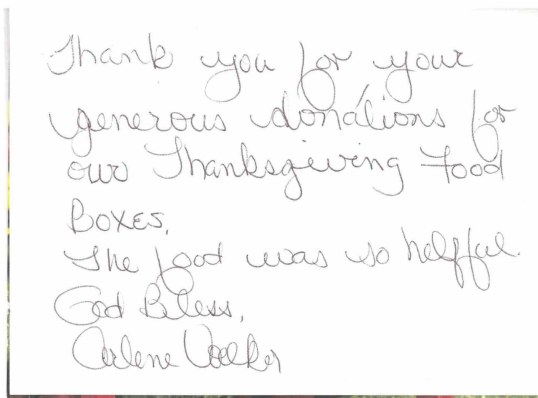
News from the School Office

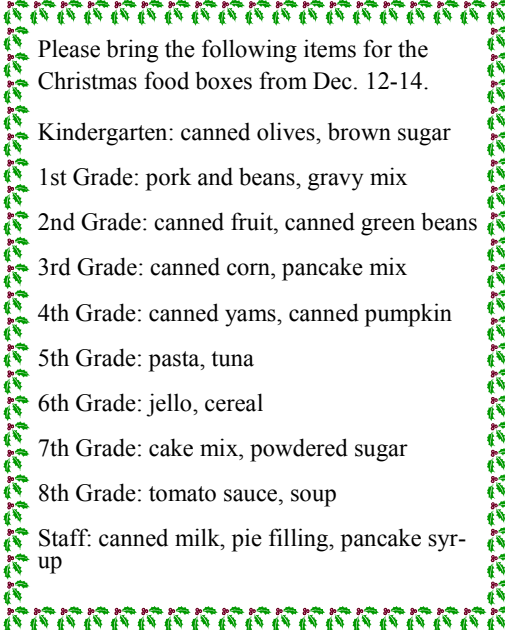
Be sure to have your student bring a coat to school for outside recess and car line.

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.

From Arlene-St. Francis Parish Social Action:



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- Please bring the following items for the Christmas food boxes from Dec. 12-14.
 - Kindergarten: canned olives, brown sugar
 - 1st Grade: pork and beans, gravy mix
 - 2nd Grade: canned fruit, canned green beans
 - 3rd Grade: canned corn, pancake mix
 - 4th Grade: canned yams, canned pumpkin
 - 5th Grade: pasta, tuna
 - 6th Grade: jello, cereal
 - 7th Grade: cake mix, powdered sugar
 - 8th Grade: tomato sauce, soup
 - Staff: canned milk, pie filling, pancake syrup

PSO News

Family Fun Night, Friday, December 9th from 6:00-8:30.

Art Class Help Needed

20 volunteers needed to participate in an all-day, all-school art event on Friday, January 13th, 2012! Sign up in the front office. Thank you!

NOTES FROM THE WOLF'S DEN



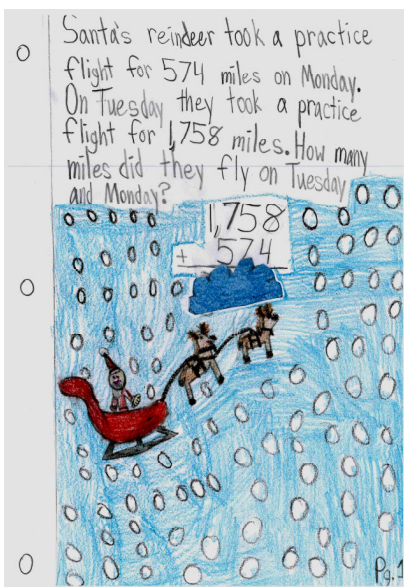
St. Francis,

Shoes, shoes and more shoes! St. Francis there were shoes all over the hallway this week. The kindergarten through fourth graders were anxiously waiting to see what St. Nicholas was going to leave them on Tuesday. Turned out he filled their shoes with candy - sure wish I wore shoes. I would have put all four of them in the hallway too.

You know if I wanted to know more about the number of shoes I could ask any one of the classes to figure it out. I watched them work with numbers this week and they are really good at manipulating them.

The kindergarteners could tell me the order of the shoes. They have been studying and working with ordinal numbers. After mastering first through tenth place with unifix cubes they lined up and identified which place they were in. Then because they are so good at ordinal numbers they turned their line around and figured out which place they would be in facing a different direction. So I know with all that work they could certainly tell me which shoe in the hallway was first.

3rd Grade Merry Math

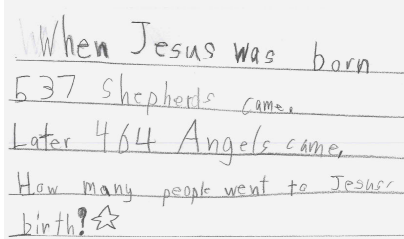


The first graders were practicing addition and subtraction using number lines, rulers and pictures so I know they could certainly find a way to use all those shoes in the hallway to help them practice their math facts.

The second graders could go out and count the shoes and then use their graphing skills to make bar graphs of the shoes for me based on color, size or how many shoes are by each door.

The third grade could use the shoes to write more story problems for their Merry Math books. They could create subtraction problems with borrowing such as: St. Nick put 142 pieces of candy in the shoes in the hallway. A wolf, who loves candy, wandered by and ate 87 pieces of candy. How many pieces of candy were left for the children?

I bet if I asked the fourth graders how many shoes are in the hallway they would use the estimating skills they've been practicing to figure it out. I wonder though which strategy they would use, front end estimating or adjusted estimating? Either way after practicing how to estimate numbers with decimal points I'm sure estimating the number of shoes in the hallway would be no problem for them.



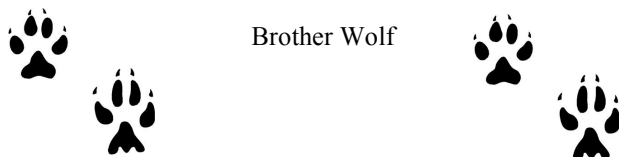
The fifth grade would probably count the shoes and then figure out which fraction of shoes belonged to each grade. I'm not sure they would be able to fit all the shoes in the egg cartoons they were using in class to show fractions, but they understand fractions so well that I'm sure they could apply what they've learned to solve the problem.

The sixth grade would not only count and identify the fraction sets of all the shoes they would then order the fractions from least to greatest or greatest to least. After figuring out how to find the common denominator and converting fractions with different denominators to order them in their homework working with a set of fractions for shoes would be no problem for them.

The seventh graders would use the number of shoes to create a function table and then input the data into their graphing calculators.

Then the eighth grade could take all the data the classes created and make a graph of all the shoes in the hallway. They could use what they've learned about how to graph linear equations and how to find the X and Y intercepts to create graphs of the shoes, shoes and did I mention more shoes!

Brother Wolf



ST. Francis Lego Robotics “Mad Cow” Team

Good Luck to the Lego Robotics Team at the FLL Regional Tournament at Mentor Graphics this Sunday, December 11th. At the competition they will see how their robot with its attachments and programming, which they developed this fall, will stand up against this year’s “Food Factor” challenge. As part of the challenge they will also be presenting their research project on how to improve the way toxic E coli can be detected in beef. In order to learn more about how companies currently prevent toxic E. coli, they recently travelled to Natural Meats in Dayton to interview an expert in the meat packing field. Good Luck to the St. Francis Mad Cow team!

2011/2012 Team Members

Suzie Geisler, Grade 7

Joey Biever, Grade 7

Ian Erwert, Grade 7

Claire Dempsey, Grade 7

Joe Engstrom, Grade 7

Katelyn Snook, Grade 5

Ellie Erwert, Grade 5

Jake Engstrom, Grade 5

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; 503-625-5830

Parish Quilters are in need of baby yarn. If you have extra baby yarn, please consider donating it to our Parish Quilters. The yarn can be left in the Narthex.

Hope Diner: We have openings on the Hope Diner Teams. Please contact Arlene on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays at 503-625-7067.



Out of Parish News

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.

Participate in Sherwood’s own Small Town, BIG TALENT contest. Enter by February 1st at VPAfoundation.org. Performance on February 25, 2012. Cash prizes.