

St. Ann School Newsletter

March 24, 2010

Volume 17, Issue 8



The condition of Christ's risen humanity

By means of touch and the sharing of a meal, the risen Jesus establishes direct contact with his disciples. He invites them in this way

to recognize that he is not a ghost and above all to verify that the risen body in which he appears to them is the same body that had been tortured and crucified, for it still bears the traces of his Passion. Yet at the same time this authentic, real body possesses the new properties of a glorious body: not limited by space and time but able to be present how and when he wills; for Christ's humanity can no longer be confined to earth, and belongs henceforth only to the Father's divine realm. For this reason too the risen Jesus enjoys the sovereign freedom of appearing as he wishes: in the guise of a gardener or in other forms familiar to his disciples, precisely to awaken their faith.

Christ's Resurrection was not a return to earthly life, as was the case with the raisings from the dead that he had performed before Easter: Jairus' daughter, the young man of Naim, Lazarus. These actions were miraculous events, but the persons miraculously raised returned by Jesus' power to ordinary earthly life. At some particular moment they would die again. Christ's Resurrection is essentially different. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. At Jesus' Resurrection his body is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: he shares the divine life in his glorious state, so that St. Paul can say that Christ is "the man of heaven". ~Catholic Online http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/transform_easter.php



1st Eucharist Celebration

St. Ann Parish is preparing to celebrate 1st Eucharist on Saturday and Sunday, April 24/25 and Saturday and Sunday, May 1/2. Students from St. Ann School who will be celebrating their 1st Eucharist are: Elizabeth Balthazor, Alexander Cisewski, Evan Herbst, Megan Howard, Derek Karlen, Nicholas Kuhn, Matthew Lukowiak, Emma Martin, John Martinson, Erin McClimon, Jack Nelson, Chloe Neumeyer, Ashlyn Sarbacker, Ron Schultz, Gabriella Unitan, and Patrick Wolter. Please remember these students in your prayers as they prepare to receive this wonderful sacrament.

April Calendar of Events

March 29-April 5	Spring Break
April 1	Holy Thursday 7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 2	Good Friday 1 PM Service, 6:30 PM Reflection
April 3	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass 8 PM
**April 4	Easter Sunday Please note: Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11 AM
April 6	Classes Resume
April 7	End of 3rd Quarter
April 8	6:30 PM H&S Core Committee meeting
April 9, 16, 20, 30	8:10 AM Mass
April 13	4, 5, 6th grade to Narnia
April 14	Report Cards sent home
April 15	Monthly Tuition Due
April 15	7 PM MOPS
*April 18	2:15—5 PM 1st Eucharist Prayer and Practice
April 20	8:30—12:30 PM Arbor Day Field Trip for 4th Gr.
April 22	11:20 AM Early Release, In-service in afternoon
April 23	In-service, No School
April 24/25 & May 1/2	1st Communion Masses
April 26	5-6 PM Market Day Pick-Up
April 28	Kindergarten Field Trip
April 30	Walk-a-thon for St. Jude's Hospital



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News From The Principal's Desk

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

When I was a teen-ager, I loved to watch Alfred Hitchcock movies. Alfred Hitchcock specialized in films which placed innocent people in jeopardy and have unusual twists in the action. Nothing in a Hitchcock movie is what it seems to be: birds are not chirping, gentle animals; the old woman down the street is not the ordinary senior citizen; the respected neighbor is not an upright member of the community.

With such a skill of deception, Hitchcock would seem to be the right choice to film the action of Palm Sunday, a day when nothing was what it seemed. Riding into Jerusalem in triumph, the world at His feet, Jesus seemed at last to have fulfilled the dreams of those who sought a Messiah who would end Roman oppression. With “Hosannas” ringing in His ears and palms decorating the dusty road before Him, Jesus seemed to be at the height of His ministry.

So it seemed. But the irony of Palm Sunday is that none of the glory of the day would last beyond the following week. An innocent man was in jeopardy and He knew it. The shouts of “Hosanna” would turn to “crucify Him” before the week was over. The palms in the road would be replaced by stones over which He would drag the cross. The acceptance of the early week would quickly disappear and rejection would take its place.

Such turns and twists and ironies are not unknown to each of us. We have experienced acceptance and rejection, victory and defeat, hope and despair, love and loneliness. Jesus shared these experiences also. For the moment, Jesus was exalted, but he knew it would not last. Yet, His love and mercy remained intact. He would not surrender to despair or hatred. In the days ahead, he would be tried, but His words still spoke of forgiveness and hope.

As we face the daily ironies and difficulties of our lives, let us gain strength as we remember the irony of Palm Sunday and how Jesus dealt with it. Let us gain strength from fixing our eyes on Jesus and looking beyond as he did to the glory and triumph of Easter.

Joan Leonard

Tuition Contracts for 2010-11

St. Ann School Tuition Contracts were sent home March 10. Please read over the contract and sign the white and yellow copies. We will return the yellow copy to you when we have also signed it. The Parish Verification form should be returned at this time. Curriculum Fees for 2010-11 school year are due on June 1, 2010. We have had much success with Automatic Transfer of Funds for Tuition Payments. If you are interested in this hassle-free type of payment, please contact Virginia Carrano and we will set it up with you.



Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week April 19-23

Governor Doyle has proclaimed April 19-23, 2010 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. On April 22, 2010, a statewide tornado drill is planned. The National Weather Service will issue mock tornado watches and warnings. If actual severe weather occurs anywhere in the state on April 22, the tornado drill will be postponed until Friday, April 23 with the watch.

The drill will begin with a simulated watch at 1:00 PM followed by a simulated Tornado Warning at 1:10-1:55 PM. The drill will conclude at 2:00 PM. We are dismissed at 11:20 AM that day. Therefore we will be conducting a school-wide drill that morning and teachers will be discussing severe weather conditions and safety measures with the students.

Extended Care Summer Program

Just a reminder, the Extended Care Program is offering a summer day camp program. The program is available Monday-Friday between the hours of 7 AM and 5:30 PM. Day camp is open to students in Pre-K through 6th grade. Registration forms are available in the office. Please contact me with any questions at 712-9177.

Lyra Gullickson

St. Ann School Drama Club will be presenting ...



Stoughton Opera House
May 21, 7 PM

May 22, 1:30 PM
Drama Club began March 22, 2010, and will continue to practice from 3-5 PM Monday through Thursday

Drama Club will not meet during Spring Break or on days off of school. ****Please check your child's rehearsal schedule to see what days your child needs to attend.**

Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game! Roles are plentiful, including three Cheshire Cats and dozens of other wonderfully wacky characters.



St. Ann School Walkathon for Cancer

April 30 (Rain Date May 12)

St. Ann School Walkathon for Cancer

St. Ann School students and staff will participate in a Walkathon for Cancer on Friday, April 30 beginning at 12:30 p.m. The students and staff will walk from St. Ann School to downtown Stoughton. All proceeds will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Enclosed in your family envelope today is a letter regarding this special St. Ann School event and a pledge sheet. We ask that students collect pledges from family and friends over Spring break for walking the entire walk. Pledge sheets are due in the office by Thursday, April 22. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution for this very worthy cause.



Spring Choral Concert Notes and Reception

St. Ann School Spring Choral Concert featuring students in grades K-6 will be held on

Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 PM in the church. Please mark your calendars.

As far as the attire for the spring concert, we are going to do a color theme again this year. Any color pant/skirt, and preferably a solid color top in these colors: Kindergarten: Green, 1st and 2nd grade: Blue, 3rd and 4th Grade: Black, 5th and 6th Grade: Yellow, Green, Blue or Red

There will be a reception in the gym following the program. Please provide one or two dozen bars or cookies or other healthy snacks for the reception. As a reminder, all items are to be free of nuts or nut products. The items can be dropped off at the school kitchen anytime on Tuesday May 4, before the concert. Thank you for your support of this event.



Classroom News



Pre-Kindergarten News

Although March was a short school month, we still had plenty of fun activities going on in the Pre-K room! The three year olds tried painting with string and enjoyed some individualized learning with the folder games. During “T” week, they had a great time decorating turtles with tissue paper, talking about teeth, and tracing triangles. For “U” week they dot painted umbrellas and our new spring name cards that will be unveiled after Spring Break! Be sure to watch for our bulletin board with our white paint blotches; they may look like spilt milk but they’re not!!

Both four-year-old classes decorated and cut out the snakes hanging from the ceiling. The Chicka Chicka Boom Boom bulletin board was put up to compliment our reading of the book and the shakers we made to musically accompany the story. These children have rhythm, let me tell you!



The afternoon class has been working hard in the science lab. They used their listening skills to guess what was making the sounds that were coming from inside the plastic eggs. Teamwork was required for that experience! Another day, they tested the strength of a real egg. It may look weak and fragile, but they discovered how strong it really is.

I hope you have a blessed Easter and a safe and enjoyable Spring Break!!

~Mrs. Fields

What’s Up In First Grade?

The month started with many new science lessons. We finally got our zoomers to spin and discovered that wheels and axles are a great way to get objects to roll. They work much better than just disks alone and we found many different wheel and axle combinations that roll straightly and quickly.

We celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday with story writing and lots of reading! The first graders brought in their favorite Dr. Seuss book and took turns reading aloud to the class and in small groups. We learned about alliteration and each student had the chance to write a silly alliteration sentence. They were quite a treat to read! Our latest writing project has been learning how to write friendly letters. We all wrote letters to Jan Brett, one of our favorite authors, and will be sending them in the mail soon. We hope to hear back from her! The first graders also wrote letters to friends and relatives and we learned how to address and mail them.



We have recently finished our third Storytown reading book. The first graders have a love of reading, that’s for sure! It’s amazing to see their growth throughout the year. We have read stories of many different genres, including biography, fantasy, non-fiction and realistic fiction.

As we continue on our Lenten journeys, we have been learning more in-depth about the Stations of the Cross. The students have been very prayerful and reflective as we read and learn about Jesus’ journey up to Calvary. As we approach Easter, we will learn more about Jesus’ last days and how we can continue to live as he did. We wish everyone a bright spring!

~ Mrs. Hoyer

Kindergarten



Kindergarteners are enjoying the warm weather and learning about Springtime and New Life that Jesus gave to us, and how to prepare our hearts for Easter. We went to Stations of the Cross with the whole school after we read about the stations in class and went right up to each station in church to talk about them.

In Math, we are learning adding and subtracting up to 10, and how to write an addition or subtraction sentence and some of us are going past that! We are watching our seeds grow into plants, and we watched an egg lose it’s shell in vinegar!

We are looking forward to going on our last few field trips of the year. . . first, to the bakery this month and library (again), next month to Ward Brodt, the Fire Station or Hospital, and McDonald’s, and in May to the zoo!

~ Mrs. McGuire

Second Grade News



Second graders are busy preparing for First Eucharist which they will receive at the end of April or beginning of May. They have learned the order of the Mass, the importance of Holy Week, and what Eucharist is all about. We enjoyed a field trip to the Bishop O'Connor Center in Madison. We toured the chapel, office of evangelization and catechesis, office of the Bishop, and Catholic Herald; attended Mass, and visited residents at All Saints Assisted Living Facility. It was really neat!

If you walked by our room at conference time, you may have seen some of the awesome cultural projects second grade students put together. They worked very hard here at school to research and present facts about a country around the world. They put together projects to show us something cool about their country. We ate sushi, looked at different model homes, viewed animals, tried on crowns, and much more. They did a great job!

Now that we are more than halfway through the year, it's time for some tough learning in second grade. *Time* is our new math unit. Telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, estimating time, and knowing elapsed time are hard concepts but we are quickly learning. We are in full swing of writer's workshop, where students are choosing their own subjects to write about. We have many different genres of writing including comics, research papers, how-to articles, movie reviews, poetry, and fictional stories. Speaking of stories, we are reading some pretty difficult chapter books in our reading groups...and loving it. Our reading and writing get better every week. It's wonderful to see the children's amazing progress.

Finally, March was a fun month, too. *Read Across America* was celebrated on Dr. Seuss's 104th birthday with our 3rd grade neighbors by sharing a treat and reading Dr. Seuss books. We felt lucky on St. Patrick's day as we did some "charming" math activities. Fun Fridays have been great with our 1st grade buddies, writing poems, making kites, and having an Olympic torch race.

Have a wonderful Spring Break and Holy Week.

~ Mrs. Prechel

Third Grade News



The big news in third grade is that we won the *Classroom Cares* contest, and we had fun sorting through 500 books! We each picked out one book to add to our class-

room library, and then we divided the rest to give to four special groups: Catholic Multi-cultural Center, American Family Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, and St. Ann's Prison Ministry. We took a field trip to deliver them, and it was fun to see their thankful faces and to know we made many people happy with our gifts!

Religion class will focus on Lent and Easter for the next few weeks, and our virtue-of-the-month is *fairness*. We finished our math units on multiplication and division and are now having fun with geometry. We are ready to begin another literature group as we read *Homer Price* together. It looks like a fun novel. Mrs. Donovan read *The Lightning Thief* aloud to the class, and we got so hooked on it that now many of us are going on to read the rest of the books in the series. Our new read-aloud book is *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket. It begins in a rather sad way compared to the *Lightning Thief*, but we'll see where it takes us.

In April language arts class will focus on two things: poetry and creative writing. It will be fun to share our poems and stories with each other! We enjoy using our Foss science kits as we continue to study force, work and simple machines. Our social studies classes focus on the history of our country and other civilizations. Happy Spring!

~ Mrs. Donovan

Fourth Grade News



In Fourth Grade we are completing our unit on rocks and minerals. Students have conducted experiments to test the hardness of several rocks and minerals. They have used their fingernail, penny, and paper clip to see which ones were harder. Next, we looked to see if there was the mineral calcite in some rocks. We soaked a rock in vinegar. If there was calcite, the vinegar immediately started bubbling all over. Finally, we poured the vinegar into evaporation dishes. After the liquid disappeared, we saw white residue in the dish.

In Math, we are working on dividing two and three digit numbers. The students have worked

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hard to figure out how division and multiplication work together. They have learned the steps of long division and will move to finding averages next week.

In Language Arts, we just finished our literature groups on the book *Tuck Everlasting*. This story involved a family who could live forever, and a young girl's decisions to help them. Last week we watched the movie and talked about the differences. This is leading into their next writing assignment where they will compare and contrast a book and its movie. For now, in writing, they are completing their mystery stories. After spring break, we will invite parents in to listen to their stories over coffee and cookies. In English, we are finishing up the lessons on verbs. Students have learned how to distinguish between action, being, and helping verbs. We have also looked at their tenses and when to use them.



In Social Studies, we have started researching our famous Wisconsinite. Students chose someone who was born in Wisconsin or came to Wisconsin and became famous. Our class will have a living wax museum where they will dress like their famous person. We will

have sports athletes, artists, politicians, and more at this event. Students will also present a three-minute speech to the class on their person.

~Mrs. Grutzner

Fourth Grade Religion

This month we're still discussing God as the forgiving Father. We're focusing on how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus and how to quiet our lives a little bit to open our hearts to Him. It's hard for the kids to imagine a world without iPods, cell phones, computer games, and the Wii, but we're working on it! They should be writing nightly in their Lenten Reflection Journals, as those will be collected after we return from Spring Break. Each day our conversations about Scripture are becoming more in-depth. Their interpretations and the way they personalize the meaning of the Gospel for themselves always amazes me. Thank you!

~ Mrs. Talbert



Mrs. Stano's Classes

The fifth grade religion class has been working on the Family Life series. We have been discussing the importance of family, feelings, and good communication. When we finish this series, we will return to our religion curriculum. We will continue to learn about the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

The Fifth Grade has enjoyed our trips to the Catholic Multicultural Center in Madison. We have all learned what a big difference our help makes during the time that we are at the center. We only have two visits left before the end of the school year!

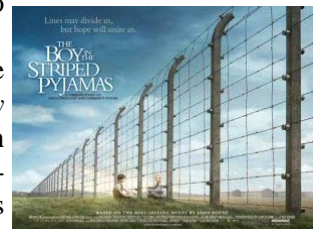


The Fifth Grade just finished up a unit on pronouns in language class. We are set to embark on our journey through adjectives and the various ways that they are used within our writing and speaking. The Fifth Grade is also putting their finishing touches on the fairy tale that they wrote. We will be using HyperStudio to record and illustrate our stories, so they can be shared with the younger grades.

As the Fifth Grade finishes up work on the skill of causal chains, how one cause can lead to an effect/cause then another effect, they are very excited to begin reading *The Watsons Go to Birmingham- 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. It is a wonderful novel told from the perspective of 10-year-old Kenny, who has a bully of an older brother and a noisy younger sister. The family is traveling to Birmingham only to witness one of the saddest events in American History.

The Sixth Grade is finishing up their fractured fairy tales, and as a class, we have entered an essay contest promoted by the Stoughton Senior Center. Each sixth grader has written an essay expressing why their grandparents, grandmother, grandfather, or special older friend has made an impact on their lives. There are some very touching essays that I hope will be shown to their grandparent! I also hope we have a winner from this talented group of writers! The sixth graders continue to work on pronouns.

The Sixth Grade will be starting to read the novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. The sixth graders are currently studying WWII in Mr. E's history class and this is a very fitting story to add to their knowledge of the war. They are very eager to get started!



~ Mrs. Stano

Mr. Eliason's Classes

In sixth grade Religion we have begun our discussions in the *Benzinger Family Life* book. The students have enjoyed talking about issues such as genetics, knowing who you are, and goal setting. We will have many more interesting discussions to come in the next two weeks.

In Math, we have started to work with positive and negative integers. Next, we will use that knowledge to graph ordered pairs on a coordinate grid. Our next chapter focuses on Geometry, a chapter that many students thoroughly enjoy.

In Social Studies we recently completed our World War I unit and have just started in on World War II. The kids are fascinated by the events that took place leading up to and during World War II. Their thoughts and line of questioning always amaze me.



In Science, our dissection unit of frogs and worms gave the students an in-depth view of how the body works. After the initial shock of cutting open a once-living organism the students did a great job of being precise and thoughtful when looking at the different organs. We have started our next FOSS kit, *Variables*, and we will work our way through that for the next couple of weeks before taking a break to begin work on our Science Fair Projects.

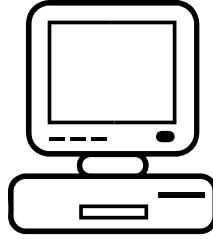
In fifth grade Math, we have delved into fractions, finding common denominators, and ordering them from least to greatest. Within the next week we will start adding and subtracting fractions, as well as making sure they are in simplest form.

In Social Studies, we are studying how our country was built after the Revolutionary War. We will study the structure of our government and some of the early leaders of our country.

Lastly, in Science, we have begun work on the Levers and Pulleys FOSS Kit. The students are beginning to understand why levers and pulleys are used and what practical use they have in every day life. Like in Sixth Grade, after spring break we will begin work on our Science Fair Projects. The Science Fair is on Tuesday, May 11.

~Mr. Eliason

Computer Classes



We're in the home stretch in computers. Sixth Grade is knee-deep, working on the yearbook. They are busy, studying layout and design, photo editing, and collaboration skills. Our deadline is next month, so I plan on having some of them work during

recess to complete the book.

Fifth Grade is very busy as well. They just finished their Web Blender projects, and they were terrific! I have tried to upload them to the St. Ann's website but am running into some roadblocks. We are now taking our survey results from the projects and analyzing our data in Survey Monkey. From here they will be transferring the data to an Excel spreadsheet and creating graphs to display their findings and presenting them to the class.

Fourth Grade has also just completed a project in HyperStudio. They created a "make your own adventure" story and have been spending class time interacting with each other's stories. Listening to their comments and insights has been hilarious. Next, I'll be working closely with Mrs. Grutzner on the Wisconsin project that she has the fourth graders complete.

In Third Grade, we have been spending a great deal of time on the laptops. The skills they have accomplished in just a couple of short weeks are amazing. They now know how to save and access their flash drives, run Explorer, download You Tube videos, and create Word and Powerpoint 2007 documents. The list is huge. We'll be continuing our study of Powerpoint 2007, and they'll be creating a show to share with the class on the Smart Board.

Finally, First and Second Grades are busy as ever with Word. Second is reviewing the clip art features, while First is learning about clip art. Teaching clip art also encompasses many other significant computer skills, such as troubleshooting, creating layers, and incorporating important design elements.

As always, I'm encouraging parents of 3rd-6th to have their children log onto any free typing website and practice their keyboarding skills. I'm finding that many of them, especially the Sixth Graders, are getting sloppy again. They have to constantly be reminded to stick to the home row. Any reinforcement you can give them from home would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, kara.roisum@stoughton.k12.wi.us.

~ Mrs. Roisum

News From the Art Room

Weaving, once again, has captured the interest of the first, second, third and fourth grade students. In first and second grade, students learn to paper weave. They first make a simple loom from paper and then use strips of paper to weave back and forth. In the next art session, they turn their weavings into picnic baskets and use cut paper and glue to create a variety of food items. Third and fourth grade students graduate to yarn weaving, fourth grade creating bookmarks and third grade making a wall hanging. By the end of the lesson they have learned various weaving terminology such as warp and weft, loom and shuttle. They have experimented with a variety of weaving techniques. Finally, they learn how to remove it from the loom and to add beads or other embellishments.

Fifth and sixth grade students participated in a day of origami. I recently came across a new origami book describing four or five items that we used to do in school when I was their age. I remember it being a huge hit. I was a bit nervous introducing this simple project to our high tech kids, bracing myself for a possible flop. But I was pleasantly surprised by their enthusiasm and attention to making a "snapper" and many "snapping mouths."

Someday, I would like to study the psychology of weaving and paper folding and its calming effect on children.
~ Mrs. Jamison



News from the Gym

The floor hockey unit was a great success. Many St Ann students participate on an ice hockey team outside of school so they easily make the transfer to floor hockey. I do have a few kids who quietly come up to me and ask when floor hockey is going to be over, reminding me that not everyone likes the same gym activities.

We are in between units so all classes are having what I call "game days." This is when the scooters come out to everyone's enjoyment. After spring break all grades will participate in a volleyball unit. Remember to send those gym shoes on Wednesdays. Many kids are changing into shorts for P.E. class. So if you want to send shorts on Wednesdays, feel free to do so. They change back into their regular clothes at the end of class.

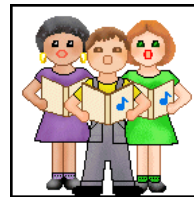


~ Mrs. Jamison

Notes from the Music Room

We are busy in the music room this month! We've just finished up our last rhythm and melody units, practiced a new time signature and learned about a new instrument while celebrating St. Patrick's Day! Now it's time to begin working on our spring concert music. This year's theme is *God's Creation*. We'll be singing songs about the smallest creations; swimming, crawling and flying creations; the largest creations; and finally ourselves as creations.

As we did last year, each class will have a different color to wear for our concert. The following is a list of the assigned colors for each grade. Please have students wear a color top (as close to solid as possible) with dress pants or a skirt on the bottom. Girls may wear a dress in their class color.



Kindergarten: Green
1st and 2nd grade: Blue
3rd and 4th Grade: Black
5th and 6th Grade: Yellow, Green, Blue or Red

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our spring concert, **Tuesday, May 4th at 6:30 pm.**
~ Ms. DePons

Español

All classes got a chance to make (and taste!) homemade corn tortillas last week. The kindergarten students even rolled their own! Later this spring, we will make salsa and have a little feast.

The sixth grade students just finished a food unit and we went to Señor Pepper's in Oregon to celebrate! The students ordered their food and drinks in Spanish. Thanks so much to the parents who drove us (Mrs. Tobias, Mrs. Skotzke, Mrs. Schieldt and Mrs. Neumeyer). The food was *excelente!!*



The fourth and fifth grade students just finished up a unit on the months of the year. Next week we will start a lesson on clothing! The third grade students completed a unit on "tener" expressions and will start practicing numbers 20-30. The second grade just started a unit on body parts. Classroom nouns continue to expand in the first grade class as we add more and more to our vast vocabulary knowledge!
~ Señora Wahlin