

St. Ann School Newsletter

Feb. 24, 2010

Volume 17, Issue 7

Lenten Spiritual Reflection

“Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him...When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.” ~Luke 19:3-6

Jesus, this Lent I am yearning to wear a Zacchaeus heart. I am wanting to hear you call my name just as you did his. I am anxious to know that you are inviting yourself to my home. I am humbled, amazed, excited, and astounded, just as he was.

But that is where the desire to wear a Zacchaeus heart stops. Because I know what happens when you visit someone's house. Conversations occur. Choices are presented. Changes happen. That's because you look for more than dust when you come to visit and you talk about things more vital than the weather. You move into the heart's dimension. You gaze deeply. You don't just dwell. You interact. You activate. You dwell so lovingly that the truth cannot be resisted.

This Lent help me to welcome you and yearn for your love. Grant me a Zacchaeus heart that turns around and sees the truth. I need the gaze of your love to remind me of my truest self. I, too, need the strong call to make amends and start anew. Hurry Jesus, come and stay at my house today.

~ Joyce Rupp

Parent/ Teacher Conferences Set

**Parent/Teacher Spring Conferences will be held on
Wednesday, March 3, 4-8 PM and Thursday, March 4,
12:45-8 PM.**

Parent/Teacher conference request forms were sent home on Feb. 10. As a reminder Spring Conferences are optional. Conferences are scheduled on a first come, first served basis, so if you have a particular time you wish to meet please return your form as soon as possible. You may also request a conference by contacting us through the email address listed below. Be sure to list teachers you wish to see and names and grades of your children whom you wish to discuss for conferences.



Congratulations, Ms. Leonard



Our principal, Joan Leonard, has been honored by World's Finest Chocolates as one of four Exceptionally Fine Principals for 2010. She will be awarded 25 cases of personalized World's Finest Chocolate Bars for use in fundraising for materials for the school and a special gift for Ms. Leonard.

Order forms will be made available to students after the candy bars arrive.

Ms. Leonard will be mentioned in the April Issue of “Today's Catholic Teacher.” Students and staff, organized by Mrs. Jenny Wahlin, prepared letters, drawings and videos that were submitted in December to WFC.

We are very proud that our principal has been acknowledged nationally. “Students and staff of St. Ann's School are fortunate to be led by an Exceptionally Fine Principal!”



Editor Virginia Carrano

Asst. Editor Joan Leonard

324 N Harrison St.

Stoughton, WI 53589

873-3343

www.stanns-school.org



News From The Principal's Desk

A Simple Recipe For Academic Success

This past weekend I was home visiting my Mom, my sister, Joleen and my niece, Jessie. I was sharing about our Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade Five-Six Information meetings that I was involved in throughout the past two weeks. My Mom and Jessie walked down Memory Lane as they shared about how interested Jessie (now a junior at Clarke College) was when she was four and getting ready to begin Kindergarten. Some of the traits she had at age four are a part of her personality and approach towards learning even at the ripe old age of twenty. Jessie described herself as “a child who always enjoyed exploring new things and asking many questions. Why was my favorite word. I developed a sense of confidence about speaking up and carrying on a conversation with my friends and adults because everyone encouraged me to talk and to read.”

As my Mom and sister listened to Jessie describe herself as a child, they also had some memories of what they did to foster Jessie's creativity and love of learning. “We allowed Jessie to get messy with finger paints, sticky clay, glue sticks, whatever art supplies she was in the mood for on a given day. We had a basket of writing and art tools for her to use. Often we turned on the radio and had her draw what the lively tunes looked like. We would pick her up and move to the music so she could feel the beat. The refrigerator door is still full of some of her creations. As we read to her we would talk about the pictures and use funny voices and facial expressions to add an element of drama. Everyone in the family or even visitors would read to Jessie frequently throughout the day when she would drag her little book bag full of books from her bedroom. She was so interested in words that we began labeling objects throughout the house. Sometimes we wouldn't even read the books, but Jessie would tell a creative story based on the pictures. On Fridays, a trip to the library was a must as Jessie got to select her own books and sit quietly to read them in a different setting. We gave her lots of writing tools from chunky fat crayons to skinny colored pencils. We worked on holding the pencil correctly and writing upper and lower case letters correctly in line paper. We enjoyed all the listening toys that asked Jessie to make the sounds of the letters and to match words with sounds. We had magnetic letters on the refrigerator that were in constant use as words were being formed and sentences were emerging. We enjoyed singing rhyming songs and inventing our own silly songs. Soon, Jessie was talking in complete sentences and even paragraphs and beginning to write her very first story about a purple eggplant that she saw at the store. Many cupboards were emptied as she wanted to find different boxes and cans that were of different shapes. The silverware drawer was emptied as Jessie wanted to establish different patterns. The living room was always filled with constructions made out of blocks., Lincoln logs and Legos. She always wanted to play with money and be the banker as she counted money and made change. When we went somewhere in the car, Jessie was always the co-pilot who directed where she wanted to go: to the airport, the post office, the bakery, restaurants, the car wash, the grocery store, the bank, the library, the park.... Being her cabbie was a real education for us all.”

We could have gone on for hours about the exciting days Jessie spent with Gram, Aunt Mare, Aunt Jo and myself when she was young. Through these simple daily activities, Jessie was being prepared for many years of classroom success, for getting along with others, for developing reading, writing, language and math skills, and for thinking critically and embracing the world around her.. At the end of our conversation, Jessie said to all of us, “ I think a big thank you is in order. You really helped me learn and be a big success.” Her academic and personal success is something that my entire family celebrates as Jessie continues to develop as a student of life as a junior at Clarke College.

Joan Leonard

**National Children's Theatre
Presents...
Mission: It's Possible**

WPPI and Stoughton Utility have funded a program performed by the National Children's Theatre to educate children about energy conservation and energy efficiency. There will be two 30 minute shows held in the Lower Level Community Room on Monday, March 1st starting at 12:45 PM. Parents are welcome to attend.

**6th/7th Grade Multi-aged
Classroom for 2010-11**

St. Ann School will be offering a multi-aged classroom for 6th and 7th grade students for the 2010-11 school year. We currently have 14 students enrolled in this class. Ms. Leonard and upper grade level teachers are working on curriculum and will be observing multi-aged learning in action throughout the Diocese of Madison. We are all looking forward to this exciting new endeavor at St. Ann School.

Ash Wednesday Food Drive

A special thank you to all who helped with our Ash Wednesday Food Drive for the Stoughton Food Pantry. We were able to donate 590 pounds of food. Many thanks to sixth graders, Mr. E. and parents who delivered the food to the Food Pantry. Students were given a tour of the pantry and helped unpack and shelve all the products they delivered.

ACRE Tests

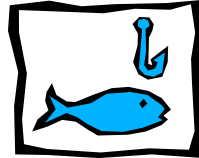
Students in Grade 5 will be taking the ACRE test in March. The ACRE test (Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education) is a test that is given to students in grades 5 and 8. The purpose of the test is to see how students understand their Catholic faith and what they do to live these values in their everyday lives.

The test itself is divided into content and attitudinal values. This format indicates to all that the teaching of religion to young people is a team process with school and home.



**St. Ann School Drama
Club**

This year's drama club production will be Walt Disney's **Alice in Wonderland, Jr.** under the direction of DeeDee Bouzek. Drama Club will begin the week of March 8, 2010. Auditions for 4th and 5th graders will be held on Tuesday, March 9. Auditions for 6th graders will be held on Wednesday, March 10. All students in grades 4 through 6 are invited to participate. Performances are 7 PM May 21st and 1:30 PM May 22nd at the Stoughton Opera House.



**KC's Fish Fry
Dinners**

**Friday, March 19, 2010
St. Ann's Gym
5 -8 PM**

All you care to eat!

Adults -\$9.00, Seniors 65+ -\$ 7.00

Children ages 6-12-\$7.00

5 years old and under free

Takeout: Adult -\$10.00

6-12 years and Seniors 65+ -\$8.00

Child -\$5.00

Free delivery to homebound - call 576-5286 before Thursday, March 18.

Menu: Cod (deep fried or baked), coleslaw, roasted potatoes or french fries, dinner roll, desserts

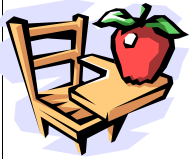
Coffee, milk, lemonade

**Pre-Kindergarten and
Kindergarten Registration**

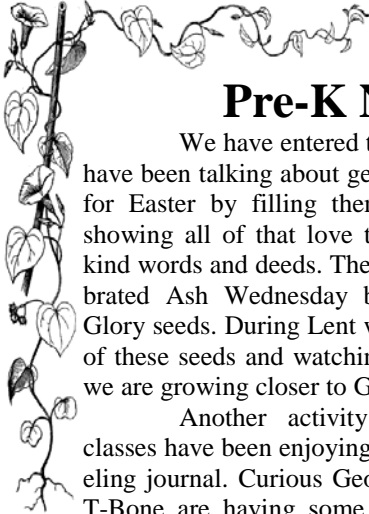
We currently have openings in our 3 and 4 year old Pre-Kindergarten Programs and our Kindergarten program. If you or someone you know is looking for a high quality Catholic experience for PK or Kindergarten, please contact Joan Leonard.

March Calendar of Events

March 1	Mission Possible: 12:45 & 1:20 PM
March 4, 12, 19, 26	8:15 AM Mass
March 3, 10, 17	5:30-6:30 Souper Supper and 6:15 Stations of the Cross
March 3	4-8 PM, Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 4	12:45-8 PM, Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 5	No School In-Services
March 5-7	Men's CEW Weekend
March 11	6:30 PM H&S Core Mtg.
March 12	2 PM Stations of the Cross and Benediction
March 14	3-5 PM 1st Eucharist Parent/Student Meeting
March 15	Monthly and Final Quarterly Tuition Due
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 18	7 PM MOPS
March 19	5-8:30 PM KC Fish Fry
March 22	5-6 PM Market Day Pick-up
March 29-April 5	Spring Break, No Classes. Classes Re- sume on April 6



Classroom News



Pre-K News

We have entered the Lenten season and have been talking about getting our hearts ready for Easter by filling them with love and by showing all of that love to others through our kind words and deeds. The Pre-K 4 classes celebrated Ash Wednesday by planting Morning Glory seeds. During Lent we will be taking care of these seeds and watching them grow, just as we are growing closer to God.

Another activity that the Pre-K 4 classes have been enjoying is the backpack traveling journal. Curious George and Clifford and T-Bone are having some fun adventures with your families. We have even heard some stories of some mischievous behavior---oh my! The kids are anxious to listen to the news about our traveling pals when they return to the classroom after each visit.

The afternoon class continues to enjoy the language arts program, especially the songs that accompany each theme. During our "Going Places" theme, the kids talked about different kinds of transportation; chose pictures of various forms of transportation; put the pictures into categories of land, sea, or air; and then assembled the bulletin board. In our theme called "Growing Up," the class described a person at various life stages: baby, child, man, and grandpa. During our "Backyard Creatures" unit, they had the task of describing an ant and a lizard. They are very observant!

The Pre-K 3 class and the second grade buddies have been working together on lots of great projects. They worked on sequencing, painted with pine boughs, assembled a mini-quilt, and glued a rice rainbow! The Pre-K 3 class has also been exploring the areas of science. We did a sink/float experiment during our Beach Party in which the kids guessed which items would sink or float,

and then we tested their predictions. During "S" week, we will also learn what things are needed to grow a plant and will be planting flower seeds. All of the Pre-K plants will be coming

home at Easter time.

~ Mrs. Fields

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten enjoyed three days in a row of fun and learning about Jesus, right after St. Valentine's Day where we enjoyed opening our valentines with the help of 5th grade. Monday was Red, White, and Blue Day and we made cherry pies to take home in honor of Presidents' Day. Tuesday was Mardi Gras, where we learned about the real meaning of Mardi Gras and the King's Cake. The three kings united as one to see the baby Jesus, and that's why the three colors of green (faith), gold (power), and purple (justice) are used during Mardi Gras. Then, on Wednesday, we celebrated Ash Wednesday with the whole school and many of our parents. Thank you to all the parents who attended Ash Wednesday Mass with us. We were brave and did very well receiving the special ashes!



We look forward to working on becoming more like Jesus during Lent and learning about the Stations of the Cross, and the Easter Celebration.

~ Mrs. McGuire

What's Happening in 1st Grade?

February has been an exciting month. We have been focusing on how we can be like St. Peter. We talked about how Jesus called Peter to "fish for men" and how we can continue this calling in our own lives. Even though the cold weather is keeping most birds away, we have been learning what a Bird's-Eye View looks like compared to looking at something straight on. The students practiced this skill when they created their own maps.

We recently celebrated our 100th day of school! It was filled with counting, measuring, exercising, drawing, and 100 math problems. We enjoyed getting together with second grade to do the 100th day stations. Throughout the month, we have been reading stories of African-Americans and learning about what diversity means. We have read stories of Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks and were shown non-violent ways to solve problems. We are working to put those stories into action in our personal lives. St. Valentine's Day was a wonderful day to celebrate our love for each other, our friends and families, and for Jesus. We discussed the different meanings of love and the first graders were proven to be quite insightful when they were writing their own love stories.

Our minds and hands have been in motion as we dive further into our second FOSS kit. We have balanced pencils on their pointed end by using counterweights, used force to spin tops, and our next challenge is to get our zoomers to spin. Wish us luck! We hope you have had as wonderful a month as we have!

~ Mrs. Hoyer



Second Grade News



Second graders' hearts and minds are filled in February! Our hearts have been busy preparing for Lent and our First Eucharist by learning about the Mass and the sacrifices Jesus made for us. We enjoyed the company of good friends during our class St. Valentine's party. We joined the first graders for fun learning stations on our 100th day of school. To commemorate Valentine's Day, 100th day, and Catholic Schools Week we titled a classroom bulletin board "100 Reasons Why We Love St. Ann School." Here is just a sampling of our answers:

"We get to talk to Jesus and learn about God; Father Healy, our teachers, principal, lunch servers, parent volunteers, Mr. Quam and Mrs. Carrano; Fun Friday, Pajama Day, class parties, field trips, and roller skating; reading, math, science, and grammar; Spanish, art, music, and P.E.; all of our great friends; recess snow piles; crayfish, science experiments, and anything in the Science Lab; Flat Stanley, tacos, and everything!"



In Science we continue to learn about the states of matter and have enjoyed labs learning about energy, simple machines, and magnets. Second graders can now add and subtract two-digit numbers with regrouping and are having a super time exploring geometry. Nonfiction writing and reading have filled our minds this month as we learned about famous African Americans, the rain forest, and started our social studies unit about world cultures. We are also reading and writing poetry and focusing on using adjectives. Finally, check out our Presidential profiles in the hall and see what a second grader would do if they were President. Our hearts and minds are ready for whatever comes next in Second Grade. ~ Mrs. Prechel

Third Grade News

The third graders anxiously await the arrival of our prize of 500 free books from Scholastic! Our class read 100 books before Dec.



16 in Scholastic's Classrooms Care project, and we thought they were donating books to children in need. A couple weeks ago, Mrs. Donovan learned that we won 500 books to donate to whomever WE want to! We can't wait to go on a field trip to deliver them to some special places -

Ronald McDonald House and the Catholic Multicultural Center will definitely be two of the lucky recipients!

Religion class will focus on the season of Lent now as we try to change our hearts to follow Jesus. Our virtues-of-the-month are honesty and integrity. We will enjoy a video and many stories that teach the value of these. Math class focused on multiplication for the past month, and we made ourselves flashcards so we can get quicker with those math facts. Now we are seeing the connection between multiplication and division.

We enjoy learning how adjectives help "paint pictures in our mind," and we will use them to write thoughtful descriptions of special places we love. We can't wait to share our next book reports with each other; we created our own cereal box for it. Social Studies is about map skills and geography this month, and we are excited to finally use our new science kits and study force and motion!

~Mrs. Donovan

Fourth Grade News

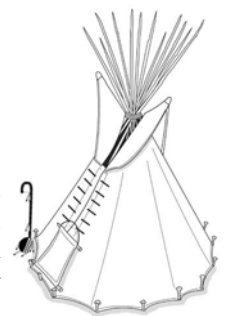


In Reading, we are currently working on the book *Tuck Everlasting*. It is a fascinating story about a girl who meets the Tuck family. She must decide to keep their secret and whether to join them on their journey. For writing, we are working on writing a mystery. We filled out a graphic organizer on the setting, detective, clues, victim, and the solution. We are currently working on verbs in English. Students are identifying the action, linking, and helping verbs in sentences.

In Math, we are wrapping up Unit 5. Students have figured out how to multiply two- and three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. They have also worked on timed tests in multiplication. Once a week they take a five-minute test and try to finish 100 problems. We have been doing this for three weeks now, and the scores continue to improve.

In Science, we have completed the water FOSS kit and have started the earth materials kit. Students analyzed mock rocks and looked at different ways to observe them: smell, texture, weight, depth, and color. They also became geologists and took apart their mock rocks with a nail. They separated the items found in the rocks into piles. Finally, we discussed the difference between rocks and minerals.

In Social Studies, we are wrapping up our Native American projects. Students have looked at five tribes that resided or still reside in the Wisconsin area. Then, they chose a tribe and created a village scene. We will be showing our villages to the rest of the school soon. Next, we will be moving on to the French Explorers who came to Wisconsin.



~ Mrs. Grutzner

Fourth Grade Religion



Thank you so much for your generosity! We filled three boxes of treats for our "adopted" soldiers overseas, and we are waiting to hear back from them. The kids' hand-made valentines were incredible; I'm sure the soldiers were very touched. We've also been studying the Precepts of the Catholic Church and learning how to be a more involved member of our church community.

We've discussed the various types of sin, and after our discussion on capital sin, I imagine you've had some rather interesting dinner conversations. We did revisit capital sin to assure everyone that staying in your PJs on a Saturday is not a sin, but staying in your PJs long-term might not be using the talents and gifts God entrusted you with to the best of your abilities!

Next, we'll be talking about the Forgiving Father and making our Lenten Reflection Journals (similar to the November Gratitude Journals the kids brought home). Each night before bed, the kids will need to reflect on their Lenten promises and how they did that day. I'll collect the journals after Spring Break. Enjoy!
~Mrs. Talbert

Mrs. Stano's Classes



The fifth and sixth grade language arts classes have been busy, to say the least! The Fifth Grade has finished writing two different friendly letters. The first letter has been mailed off to our adopted soldier. I am sure some of the letters will bring a smile to his face.

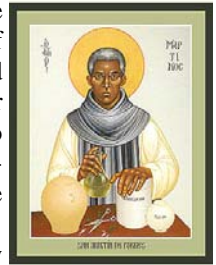
The second friendly letter was written to another fifth grade classroom in one of the 50 states. I received a letter asking that our fifth grade join "The Great Mail Race." Our letter was from a young man named Brandon who lives in St. Louis. He told us a bit about himself, where he lives, and his school. His class also included a survey of their "favorites," what their school was like, and what their state was like. We, in turn, wrote letters to 49 other Catholic schools around the United States describing the "Great Mail Race." We also replied to Brandon's class and included our class survey. We are eagerly awaiting return letters!

The Fifth Grade is currently working on skills from the reading series *Storytown*. Some skills that will be looked at over the next few weeks include: compare and contrast and cause and effect. The students will be reading stories from the genres of historical fiction, tall tales, expository nonfiction, and informational narrative, while focusing on the mentioned skills.

The Fifth Grade is working hard to understand the many uses of pronouns in the English language.

In Religion, the Fifth Grade is finishing up a power point presentation on an African American saint. I continue

to be amazed at what they can do on the computers. Many have learned a lot of interesting facts about their saints, and they are eager to present their power point projects. We will continue to look at the Sacraments. The next Sacraments that we will study in depth are the Eucharist and Penance.



The Sixth Grade is currently working on their friendly letters to the soldier they adopted. Many have written heartfelt thanks for the job he is doing to protect our country. We are hoping to get a return letter from him before the school year is over. The sixth grade will be starting a study on pronouns.

The Sixth Grade is also working out of their *Storytown* books. They were recently introduced to a KWL chart and the benefits that it can provide while reading nonfiction text. We discussed how this type of graphic organizer could help with their upcoming science fair project and the research they will have to do. Other skills that will be studied over the next few weeks include: figurative language and understanding and identifying the theme of the text.

Mr. Eliason's Classes

In sixth grade Religion we have been reading and discussing Exodus, the journey Moses led the Israelites on. We have talked about how difficult the journey must have been and the many hardships the Israelites faced. The students have been able to relate those hardships to modern times and the many difficulties they may face throughout their journey of life.

In Math, we are discussing real-world topics such as sales tax, discount, and simple interest. Hopefully the kids will be excited about the idea of interest and begin to save some money!

Our Social Studies travels have taken us to the continent of South America. We have been learning about the physical features, history, and government of this area. Some unbelievable places like Angel Falls and the Amazon Rain Forest are located in South America, and the kids have done a great job learning all the countries and capital cities, as well.



In Science, we are wrapping up our FOSS Landforms Unit. The students have been working on reading topographic maps and aerial photographs and comparing those to models of the same area. Next, we will start our study of how the body works and conclude with the dissection of worms and frogs, always one of the

best activities of the year.

The fifth graders have been hard at work, especially working through some new geometry material in Math. We have measured and drawn angles, classified polygons, triangles, circles, and discussed basic geometric terms (lines, rays, parallel lines, etc.). This unit continues with topics such as transformations, congruence, and similarity.



In Science, we have been talking about variables and how they affect an experiment. We have worked with swingers (a pendulum setup), lifeboats, and planes. The students have learned how to create a controlled experiment by changing only one variable. This unit has created a lot of excitement and creativity among the students as they design and conduct their experiments.

Lastly, in Social Studies, we are concluding our study of the Revolutionary War. We will end with a discussion of the last major battles and how the colonists were able to agree to terms with Britain. The students have enjoyed our time in the Revolutionary War and have had great questions about the writing of the Declaration of Independence and why the colonists wanted to be free from Britain.

Have a great March!

News from the Art Room

Mini toy characters have invaded the fourth grade classroom. The students welcomed them by constructing an environment specially designed for their visitors. Using a glue-based clay, half the amount for the head and the other half for the body, fourth grade students designed toy characters with characteristically large heads. Their dioramas are on display in the library.



First, second, and third grade students used the same clay to create a bookmark or necklace in the shape of a sun, fish, or cross. After painting them with metallic paint, the students happily and proudly wore them out of the art room.

Fifth and sixth grade students recently completed a design composition using only a compass and ruler. After reviewing color theory (primary, secondary, triadic, complimentary, analogous, and monochromatic) students composed a color scheme for their designs. These are on display in the lower level.

The past month, students have been learning about various art careers from web designers and graphic designers to architects and interior designers with many more in between. The students' favorite, by far, has been the career of a computer animator of movies, television, and video/computer games...go figure.

~ Mrs. Jamison

Computer News

This is the time of year when things seem to really pick up speed. The Sixth Grade has finished their podcasts, using Audacity – a free audio software program that allows students to record and create a WAV or MP3 file. Topics ranged from taking care of hamsters to favorite movies and video games. Now we move into the yearbook, which will keep us busy most of the 3rd quarter.

The Fifth Grade, meanwhile, has just completed their projects using Web Blender – a multimedia web-authoring tool that allows students to create web pages. I'm always impressed at how creative this group is and how they love to be busy. Next, I will be introducing them to Excel and working on spreadsheets and data.



The Fourth Grade is busy creating their own adventure stories, using HyperStudio. They too are enjoying the versatility of the software and are creating some great stories that they will then share with each other.

The Third Grade has spent the past several weeks getting their hands on the laptops and exploring MS Word 2007. They have learned about all the cool features and how to save to their flash drives. They are just finishing their posters on their bedroom rules and will be moving onto fables and creating one with Pixie.

Speaking of Pixie, the Second Grade has just finished sharing their slideshows and also reacquainting themselves with MS Word. We are looking closely at the formatting and drawing tools, and they will be creating a poster, using MS Paint. Lastly, the First Grade is also busy using MS Word. They too will be learning some of the drawing features and will be creating a landscape, using various shapes and color options.



On another note, I am in the process of scheduling a tech committee meeting. I have several staff and parents who have generously offered their time and talents to create a five-year technology plan for St. Ann's. There are so many great things we have done at our school that we want to continue to carry our plans forward. If you would like to be included, please email me.

kara.roisum@stoughton.k12.wi.us.

~ Mrs. Roisum

Marzo ~ March Spanish Classes

The sixth graders are finishing up a food unit. After our upcoming test, we will be working on ordering food in Spanish. Our "final test" will be when we go to an authentic Mexican restaurant and order in Spanish!

The Fourth and Fifth Grades have been studying weather and the months of the year. At the end of this unit, we will present weather forecasts in Spanish and record them using the Flip Camcorder. Watch out, Charlie Shortino!

The Third Grade is almost done with their "tener" expressions unit. When asked to illustrate these ideas with pictures, there is an obvious "pig" theme to their work. Example: The pig is hot. The pig is hungry. The pig is thirsty. The pig is hurt, etc...Our next unit will focus on the family, and for my own sanity, I hope no one has a pet



pig at home!

The Second Grade has started praying the *Glory Be* (La Gloria) in Spanish. Next week they will be quizzed on Lección 5, which includes the numbers 11-20 and shapes. Their next unit of study will be body parts. This unit includes a lot of "Simón Dice.." (Simon says) and crazy dancing!

The First Grade will be adding to their classroom vocabulary as we start Lección 3. We will learn about *la computadora, la bandera, el reloj, los creyones*, etc.

Kindergarten has been working on a few new songs, learning about dientes-teeth, dinosaurios-dinosaurs and presidentes-presidents. We also read *Good Night, Moon* in Spanish!

Two weeks ago, we had bean dip as a recipe to try for our sixth grade food unit. Many of you have asked for the recipe, so here it is:

Mr. Wahlin's Famous (at St. Ann's) Bean Dip

1-16 oz. can of refried beans

2 heaping tablespoons of sour cream

Mix together, cover and cook in the microwave for 1 ½ min.

Stir, then add 1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese and ¾ cup chunky salsa

Mix together, cover, and cook in the microwave for another 1-2 min. Stir and serve with tortilla chips.

¡Es delicioso!

~ Mrs. Wahlin

~ Ms. DePons

Music Notes

We are ready for Spring in the music room! But before we start learning our concert music, we have just a few more weeks to continue exploring the new things we're learning in music class. The Kindergarten has been practicing the high and low sounds in music through song games like "Categories" and our favorite "Apple Tree." In March, we'll continue to practice high and low, but then start adding what we already know about long and short sounds to our class. We'll continue to play the games we've learned, but practice listening for those long and short AND high and low sounds.



First Grade is also working with high and low sounds, but we'll start to learn about the music staff, and where these high and low sounds can be found on the lines and spaces near the treble clef. Second Grade already knows a lot about high and low, so we're going to be learning a new note, the dotted half note! Holding for three beats has never been so much fun! We'll sing and learn songs in English and Spanish that have this great music symbol. Third Grade is going to learn a new note with a dot as well, but this one is the dotted quarter note. We'll start to recognize a new meter signature as well, where our steady beat is felt in these dotted quarter notes. We'll explore how two sounds to a beat can be even or uneven in our new meter, kind of like when we gallop and skip. Fourth Grade is also learning more about even and uneven beats and will also spend more time singing in the pentatonic (that means five note) scale.

Third and Fourth Grades did such a great job on their Boomwhacker Unit, that Fifth Grade is going to share in the fun and start working on one as well. Both Fifth and Sixth Grade will start learning the music for their Spring Concert before the rest of the classes, just to give them a little more time on some of the challenging pieces we'll prepare. We learn a lot about singing and music when we can spend time looking closely at our concert music. Stay tuned for more information on this upcoming Spring Concert!

News from the Gym

All grades recently completed a basketball unit. Sixth, fifth, and fourth grade classes have been playing full-court basketball games, 5 vs. 5 players, with subbing every five minutes or so. You should be very proud of your children. They have displayed excellent sportsmanship, passing to all classmates, enjoying the process, and not focusing on the final outcome. (We do not focus on winners and losers during P.E. class, only on how well the students participate and include all team members in the game.)



The younger grades have come a long way with individual, partner, and small group basketball skills. In a few years they will grow into using those adult-sized basketballs and all of them will be able to shoot a basket.

Our next unit that everybody has been anxiously waiting for is floor hockey. Remember to send gym shoes with your child on Wednesdays. The right shoes do make a difference on their ability to participate fully in all gym activities.

~ Mrs. Jamison