

St. Ann School

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Wednesday Memo

Lunch supervision volunteers must arrive by 11:15 AM

Total for 15 Lunches for Dec. : \$43.50

Monday, Dec. 16 Supervision	Tator Tot Hot Dish Villarreal, Hanson
Tuesday, Dec. 17 Supervision	Soft Chicken Tacos Wise, Trautman
Wednesday, Dec. 18 Supervision	Grilled Cheese and Soup Ellison, McGee
Thursday, Dec. 19 Supervision	Spaghetti and Meatsauce Wiese, Hanson
Friday, Dec. 20 Supervision	Popcorn Chicken Cisewski, J. Martin



Advent Concert Reminder Grades K-8

As a reminder, St. Ann School Advent Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 17, in the school gym at 6:30 PM. Students should arrive to their classrooms by 6:10 PM. Information about dress code for the concert was sent home in last week's Wednesday memo.



We are asking families to please bring one to two dozen bars, cookies, or healthy treats for the Advent Concert reception. As a reminder, all items are to be free of nuts or nut products. These items can be dropped off at the school kitchen anytime on Tuesday, December 17, before the concert. We look forward to seeing you at the concert!

Lunch Supervision Needed For January

We are in need of Volunteer Lunch Supervisors for the following dates in January:

January 8,10,14,16,22,23,27,28,29,30

If you can help, please call or email the school office.



The next order deadline for SCRIP is Monday, December 16 by 3:00

PM either online or in the school office or emailed to Diane Neumeyer at

neumeyerdiane@yahoo.com

Bilingual Mass Tomorrow

As a reminder, we will have a all-school, Spanish/English Mass at 8:10 AM on Thursday, December 12 in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please join us.



Reminder: Market Day Pick-up is this Monday, December 16 from 4:45-6 PM in the gym. Thank you for supporting St. Ann School through Market Day.



Don't forget to turn in an item or cash donation for your child's classroom basket raffle by Dec. 13 to enter the classroom contest for the ice cream party. We would like to begin assembling the baskets as soon as possible. All donations should include your name so that you can be entered in a drawing to be held on January 13, 2014.



Principal's Corner

Signs... Symbols... Slogans

We all admire and enjoy the clever slogans, symbols and other trademarks that enable us to instantly recognize a product. We often find ourselves humming a tune from a commercial or using a particularly catchy phrase in our conversation. However, these slogans, symbols and signs are often fads that pass away with time. They are surface creations, not given too much depth or much meaning.

The signs and symbols, the images of the readings for this season of Advent offer us something more substantial. We need to become characters in the readings of the Sundays of Advent. John the Baptist appears in the Gospel reading for Sunday, December 8. He challenges us to make a straight path of our lives so that we will see God's salvation. John the Baptist must have made quite the impression on people. His message of repentance and forgiveness came across loud and clear. When he spoke of mountains, valleys, winding roads, rough surfaces, smooth ways and level paths, people began to see the path of forgiveness that needed to become a part of their lives.

During the remaining two weeks of Advent, may we take some time with the symbols of the Advent season so that they may become a way of life for us. May we pray for the gift of forgiveness and reflect upon how we need to ask for forgiveness and how we can express forgiveness to others. May we enjoy the peacefulness of living a life of straight paths. God bless you as your Advent journey continues to unfold!

~ Joan Leonard

O, Come Emmanuel!

Come into our world and bring us peace.

Come into our lives and grant us your favor.

Come into our homes with your love.

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, through the days of Advent.

Be with us wherever we go.

Be with us in whatever we do.

Prepare us for your birth.

May your birth enlarge our hearts.

May we prepare a place for you there.

Jesus, make room within our hearts for others.

May your birth awaken us to the Good News.

Jesus, Make us worthy of you.

O, Lord, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

It's a CLASS ACT

It's a fact – we need to know our math facts! By Mrs. Kleitsch

In this world of technology, it may seem a little “old fashioned” to you for children to study their math facts. However, this is every bit as important to their future education as daily reading time is!

I am alarmed at the number of students who still “count” on their fingers or “guess” when asked what 7×8 is. This should be second nature to all of our students by the time they reach middle school math. I wish that I could tell you that there is an easier way besides nightly practice, but there isn't. Repetition is the key to success in memorizing math facts!

Let me explain to you why it is so important. Soon your child will be asked to find the least common multiple between two numbers. They will be asked to find a common denominator or to factor an equation. Common questions in my class are “What number goes into both?” or “What number can we factor out?” or “Both these numbers can be divided by what number?” If they don't have their math facts down perfectly, this becomes an impossible task and their homework time nearly doubles.

So, onto the solution! We work on math facts every day at school. We are asking you to make it a priority at home, too. There are many ways to have your child practice. You can buy flashcards at most any store, or make your own. If your child likes computer games, below is a large list of online resources to go to. While you are driving in the car, just throw out a multiplication or division fact. You will know in a hurry if your child needs extra practice or not! Finally, there is a book that Mrs. Stano found that has helped several of our children learn their facts in a non-conventional way. I have found it on Amazon.com. It is:

Times Tables the Fun Way Book for Kids: A Picture Method of Learning Multiplication Facts

By: Judy Liautaud and Dave Rodriguez

Here are the links to the computer games that practice facts:

<http://mathfactspro.com/#/home>

<http://jmathpage.com/JIMSMultiplicationfactspractice.html> - This website has a huge listing of links to games.

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm> - Another page with a huge listing of activities.

<http://www.playkidsgames.com/games/mathfact/mathFact.htm>

http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/math_games.html

<http://www.xtramath.org>

<http://www.aaamath.com>

Because we believe more emphasis needs to be placed on the student's knowing their facts, the teachers have begun to make it part of each test that they give. So, not only will they be accessed on the day to day subject matter, but now we will also be testing their proficiency in knowing their math facts.

Our goal is to have the best math students in Stoughton! Please join us in reaching that goal!

It's a CLASS ACT

Computer Classes by Mrs. Roisum

I am very proud of the work the students have been doing in Computer Class. Sometimes I forget just how young these kids are compared to the complex computer programs they are using each day. After spending several weeks on developing mouse skills and becoming familiar with the laptops, the 1st Grade is learning all about Pixie. They are creating a Christmas picture for the Holidays. The 2nd and 3rd Grades just finished a fantastic Web-based interactive program entitled, "Welcome to the Web." The website includes a wide variety of topics, including "Internet Safety," "Web Browsing," and "Browsing Tips and Tricks." These topics will help them as they begin exploring the Internet more in class as well as at home.

The 4th Grade has been exploring the world of Google. Beginning this year, much of their work is completed, using a number of Google applications, such as Gmail and Docs. Each student now knows how to create labels and folders, filter email messages, add attachments, and create, collaborate, and share their documents and presentations. This knowledge will especially prove beneficial since the Stoughton School District has now created its own Google Educator account with the Stoughton.k12.wi.us domain. Once students graduate from St. Ann's and move onto the high school, they will already be immersed in Google.

The 5th Grade is just completing a huge unit on Internet Safety. The class discussions have been very thought-provoking and interesting. It's a bit surprising to see how many of our young people have already experienced some form of online bullying or know of someone who has. This unit had students watching videos, through the Netsmartz website, and answering questions on our Ning's Forum section. In addition, they collaborated on a Google Presentation and are now creating a Pixton comic, illustrating one of the Internet Safety topics. By the conclusion, each student will have excellent knowledge of how to be safe online.

Finally, 6th Grade has spent an intense amount of time creating Google Treks of fantasy vacations they'd like to take. I've been extremely impressed at the amount of effort these students have put forth in researching every aspect of their destination. Each Trek had to include interesting description, photos, links, and even videos of things to do and see. They then presented their Treks to the class, sharing their knowledge. As a final project, they will be learning Photoshop and will embed themselves in a postcard. As always, if you'd like to know more about the software we are using or what's happening in class, drop me a line:

kara.roisum@stanns-school.org.



RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation Service

Students in grades 3-8 will be participating in a Communal Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00 AM. We will have several priests available and parents and parishioners are welcome to participate.