

# St. Ann School Newsletter

Oct. 28, 2009

Volume 17 Issue 4

## Spiritual Reflection

*All Saints Day*



Almighty God,  
your saints are one with  
you  
in the mystical body of  
Christ:  
give us grace to follow  
them  
in all virtue and holiness  
until we come to those in-  
expressible joys which  
you have prepared for  
those  
who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord,  
who is alive with you in  
the unity of the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God now and for  
ever.  
**Amen.**

## Grandparent/Special Person Day, Friday, Nov. 6

Grandparent/Special Person Day will be held on Friday, November 6. There will be a morning session from 9-11 AM (guests are invited to join us for all school Mass at 8:10 AM) and an afternoon session from 1-3 PM. The visit will include a prayer, entertainment, refreshments and activities.

Reservations are required and were due last Friday. We need accurate numbers for seating and refreshments and activities. Please make sure that you have made a reservation if your child is planning to bring a guest to either the morning or afternoon session. As a reminder, due to space restrictions, we will not be able to accommodate younger siblings and parents. We look forward to honoring your child's grandparent/special person on this day.



## H1N1 Immunization Clinic at St. Ann School

Dane County Public Health has scheduled an H1N1 immunization clinic at St. Ann School on Monday, November 23 in the morning for students in grades K-6 and PK who are 5 years of age. Permission/refusal forms were sent home last week. Please return the form as soon as possible so that we can plan for staffing for this clinic. Nasal and injection vaccines will be available. Public Health Dept. does not know exactly how much of each type of vaccine they will have at any given time. Therefore, depending on the child's health concerns, the nurses will



decide the vaccine type each student will receive. In many cases, children under 10 yrs. will receive the nasal spray.

*Currently the Public Health Dept. has informed us that they are out of the vaccine and hope to have more by mid-November. We will keep you updated if there are any changes in our scheduled clinic date. In any case, please return your permission/refusal form if you have not already done so.*



## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conference schedules were sent home last week to those who scheduled a conference. As a reminder, conferences are held on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 4-8 PM and Thursday, Nov. 12, 12:45-8 PM. There will be no classes on November 13 for a Teacher In-Service.

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# News From The Principal's Desk

## The Communion of Saints

During the past weekends, my sisters, my brother and my cousins have gathered around my mom's table to visit with her and to journey together to visit my Aunt Mare in the nursing facility. Precious time has been spent catching up on the family news, sharing stories and memories and lounging around together. Throughout these weekend visits, I have felt the presence of family members who have died and who are no longer with us. As we talk, laugh and look at pictures, I can hear the laughter of my brother, John, who constantly teased me. I remember the words of wisdom that my dad shared on our dad-daughter hikes. I can hear my Grandma Minnie's words of encouragement as she taught me a new card game. I recall clearly the nightly ritual of our family standing under a starry sky on our back porch wishing blessings on the stars for the people who have been, are and will be a part of our lives. I can feel the energy of the love I continue to share with my dad, my brother, my grandparents, my uncles, my aunts and friends that have died.

Our time together gives us a sense of courage and hope as the Leonard clan, a small communion of saints. Death did not divide John and Dad and other family members from us, but rather made them even more present to us in love as we continue to remember them, share stories about them, celebrate their lives and pray with them.

As we prepare to celebrate the feasts of All Saints Day on November 1 and All Souls Day on November 2, do take the time to gather your children together to recall the gifts your family holds in the memory of those who have died and gone to be with God. Do take time to pray, "Dear God, we thank you for all people you have brought to this family to guide us, to give us examples of your love. Help us remember our family saints. Help us to be a strong and faithful family. Help us to be examples of goodness as the saints were. We pray for assistance from those family members who are with you now. Pray for us and be with us forever. Amen."

During the month of November with hearts full of Thanksgiving, we invite families to send to the school office pictures of loved ones who have died. We will place the pictures on our special Altar of Memories as a special part of our Day of the Dead celebration. On a daily basis, we will pray as a school community for these special persons in your lives.

*Joan Leonard*

## Parent-Teacher Conference Tips

St. Ann School will hold Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 12. Your conference with your child's teacher will be fifteen minutes in length. To make the conference a meaningful experience for you and your child's teacher reflect upon the following questions to ask your child's teacher:

Is my son/daughter well-prepared for class? Is she/he attentive during class activities? Does he/she participate in class discussions? What are my son/daughter's areas of strength and areas that need improvement? How does my son/daughter get along with his/her classmates? How can I become more active in helping my son/daughter at home?

We hope this Parent-Teacher Conference opportunity will be a meaningful experience for you and your child's teacher.



## Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Please join us on Tuesday, November 24 for a special  
All School Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 2:00 PM in the Church.



## St. Ann's Knights of Columbus Annual Turkey Dinner

Sunday, November 8, 2009

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

St. Ann's School Gym

Grilled turkey with all the trimmings  
and fresh home-style cranberry sauce!

It's an all you can eat buffet!

	Eat-In	Carry-Out
Adults (13+)	\$9.00	\$10.00
Youth (6-12)	\$6.00	\$7.00
Children (5 & Under)	Free	\$5.00
Seniors (65+)	\$6.00	\$7.00

We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up on Saturday morning November 7<sup>th</sup> and for serving food on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you are a baker and would like to donate a pie or cut and serve pies, your talent would be greatly appreciated. Please call Greg Pigarelli at 576-5286 if you would like to help at this annual event.

Please join us at 1:00 PM for the Holiday Gift Fair Raffle Drawing to support the 10 girls from St. Ann's who are attending the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Kansas City. We have over 30 items in the raffle. Tickets will be available for sale at the door prior to the drawing.

## Winter Wear

Children are to dress appropriately according to the weather. Children should be well prepared with hats, gloves/mittens, warm jackets, snow pants, and boots. All jackets, snow pants, etc. are to have a one-inch loop so they can be hung up inside the locker. Snow boots must be worn during the winter and each student should have their boots at school every day. Children will usually go outside for recess unless the wind chill factor dictates otherwise. It has been determined that a wind chill of 0 F will be our limit for determining if children will stay inside.



## Food Drive for the Stoughton Food Pantry

St. Ann School will be holding a Food Drive for the Stoughton Food Pantry November 16-20 and at all Masses on November 21/22. The 6th grade class will be sorting and delivering food to the Food Pantry on Tuesday, November 24.

Please bring the following items for the food drive:

**PK:** Personal Care (shampoo, deodorant, soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shave cream, etc.)

**Kindergarten:** Baking Supplies (flour, sugar, salt, shortening, oil, chocolate chips, cake mixes, frosting, etc.)

**1st Grade:** Canned Fruit/Canned Vegetables, Baby Items (diapers, wipes, etc.)

**2nd and 3rd Grade:** Pasta (mac and cheese, ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs, hamburger helper, etc., as well as spaghetti, noodles, rotini, shells, rice, etc.)

**4th Grade:** Breakfast—(cereal, juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, powdered milk, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal.)

**5th and 6th Grade:** Soup and Sandwich (soup, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, canned chicken, canned stew, saltines, oyster crackers etc.)

Thank you for your generosity to the Stoughton Food Pantry.

## November Calendar of Events

Nov. 1	All Saints Day, Daylight Savings Time ends. Set clocks back one hour.
Nov. 2	All Souls Day, 8:15 AM Prayer Service, 4th go to St. Ann Cemetery
Nov. 4	End of 1st Quarter
Nov. 5	School Picture Retakes, morning only
Nov. 6, 12, 20	8:10 AM, All School Mass
Nov. 6	Grandparent/Special Person Day
Nov. 9	6:30 PM, H&S Steering Com. Mtg.
Nov. 10	Report Cards Sent Home
Nov. 11	4-8 PM, Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 12	11:20 AM Dismissal, P/T Conferences 12:45-8 PM.
Nov. 13	No School, Teacher In-Service
Nov. 15	3-5 PM, 1st Reconciliation Meeting for Parents and children
Nov. 16	Quarterly and Monthly Tuition Due
Nov. 16-22	Food Collection for Stoughton Food Pantry
Nov. 16	3-5 PM, 1st Reconciliation mtg., parents and 2nd grade students
Nov. 16	5-6 PM, Market Day Pick-up
Nov. 20	2nd Grade visits Post Office
Nov. 21-22	Advent Sale
Nov. 24	2 PM Thanksgiving Prayer Service
Nov. 25-27	No School, Thanksgiving
Nov. 29	1st Sunday of Advent—Advent by Candlelight



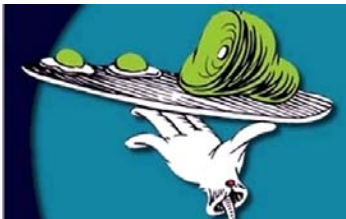
# Classroom News



## Pre-Kindergarten News

What has been happening in the Pre-K room? Let me tell you! The Pre-K 3 class has really been enjoying their second grade buddies! They have helped us do several projects including gluing cotton ball clouds, un-sticking and re-sticking dot stickers, cutting out circles for our bats, and counting out our five fish in the fishbowl. After the table activities are complete, the second graders work on puzzles or read with their pre-k pal of the day.

The four-year-olds have done many fall activities including nature walks, watercolor painting leaves, carving pumpkins, and cutting out leaves to



decorate our room. During "E" week we enjoyed the book Green Eggs and Ham and did a little

cooking and made green eggs of our own. There were plenty of joyful squeals as we added the food coloring! The children did not need Sam-I-Am to convince them to try the green eggs, though. They were eager to try something new, and even asked for more!!

The Pre-K 4 afternoon class has been busy in the science lab. Thank you to Mrs. Lukowiak for sharing her science knowledge and spirit of adventure! We have mixed colors to make new colors and mixed drops of colored paint into white paint to see what would happen. We filled jars with dirt and observed the dirt after shaking it up and letting it settle. We also simulated the effects of freezing and thawing in nature and froze and cracked rocks! They are very inquisitive—a great quality in a scientist!

Our upcoming events include lots of glue, some glitter, green and gooey things, and many preparations for our Thanksgiving feasts!

~ Mrs. Fields

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten will go to the Grandparent/Special Person Day Mass with the "big kids" and their special person, and then the All Souls Day Prayer Service on November 2nd. For the All Soul's Service, please have each child bring a picture of a loved one who has passed so that we can honor them in a special way.



Next month, Kindergarten will be starting our foreign country unit, and we will be learning about many, many cultures different than our own. We will eat foods from different countries, and play games that other children in different lands play. We are already working on our continent song to learn to name the seven continents! Get your maps and globes out!

~ Mrs. McGuire

## Fall Fun in First Grade

The beauty of Autumn is upon us and in first grade we have been learning to enjoy God's creation. We took a short walk around our school and filled bags with fallen leaves and twigs. The first graders put their creative minds into action when they used these nature pieces to create characters and write stories. It is amazing the imagination they have! We have delved



into our new FOSS Science Kits and have welcomed three different insects into our classroom. We are taking care and observing mealworms, wax worms, and milkweed bug eggs. The first graders will be finding out just how much these insects will change and grow over the next several weeks. We are also learning what they need in order to survive and about their different habitats.

The first graders love reading and stories and we have been learning about three strategies to help increase our comprehension. We have learned how to make connections, to ask questions, and to monitor our reading. It has been exciting to hear them discuss their readings with each other.

We have spent the last several mornings learning the prayers of the rosary and it has been a calm and reverent way to start our days.

We wish everyone an energizing autumn!

~ Mrs. Hoyer

## Second Grade News



October is a month of Mary and we celebrated by making our own Rosary Decade bracelets to help us pray daily. We have learned the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Luminous Mysteries. This is a big year for our second graders as they are preparing to receive two sacraments - Reconciliation and Eucharist. We are currently writing and illustrating

booklets to help us learn the 10 Commandments.

Social Studies this month taught us about government. These kids are amazing - I didn't learn what the three branches of government were until junior high!

We read fictional and non-fictional stories about pets and wrote our own pet-care paragraphs. We are almost finished with our chapter book, "Bunnacula" - about a vampire bunny! We performed a Reader's Theatre presentation of "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything." The kids did a great job. I wonder if they were inspired by our field trip to "Seussical?"

Second grade is crawling with great learning! We have really enjoyed using our Foss Science Kit- Life Structures. We are currently growing beans hydroponically, caring for crayfish and bess beetles, and working on individual science projects. We are doing everything from weighing the crayfish to finding out their favorite food, singing and dancing about plants, and starting our own worm farms. Ask a second grader to fill you in on all the creepy-crawly details.

~ Mrs. Prechel

## Third Grade News

October has been a busy month of special activities for the third graders. We launched our campaign to lead the school in collecting aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Madison. It gives parents a place to stay while their child is cared for in a hospital. The children went around to every classroom to explain the good they could do for others and where to collect the tabs. Together, we made eight tied-fleece blankets together to donate to Project Linus, which gives gift blankets to children fighting cancer and other ailments. Our eight plus six Mrs. Donovan made at home will help 14 children feel a little warmth and comfort and let them know we care. One of the blankets we gave as a gift to Ash Guiles, a baby boy from Stoughton, who is in a Milwaukee hospital.



October 22 we traveled to the Mackenzie Environmental Center and learned a lot about animals and conservation. It was a cold and rainy day, but we still enjoyed ourselves!

We have learned the mysteries of the Rosary, focusing on the happy, sad and glorious times in Mary and Jesus' lives. Science centers on animals right now, and in Social Studies we are learning about urban, suburban, and rural regions of the U.S.

~ Mrs. Donovan

## Fourth Grade News

In Social Studies, we just finished up the Northeast region of the United States. Students presented their power point on an attraction within the 10 states. They also learned about the Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence, and why John Hancock signed his name so big. We are moving into the Southeast region looking at the geography and its history. Students will learn about the Civil War.

In Science, students just finished learning about photosynthesis and the life of a plant. This week we will begin our look at the systems within the human body as they create a skeleton and label the main bones.

In Language Arts, we are working on theme 2. Students are focusing on the conflict and resolution of the story as well as the author's purpose and perspective of the story. We read a story about "Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World" and how he was upset that he could not do any chores right. Luckily, with the help of his Grandpa, Justin learned to do many jobs well. In English, we are working on nouns.

In Math, we are concluding chapter 2, which focuses on adding and subtraction whole numbers and money. We will be moving on to multiplication next week.

~ Mrs. Grutzner



## Mrs. Stano's Classes

It feels wonderful to be back from my maternity leave, and to get back into the school year routine although I have to be honest, I do miss my children and the time that I spent with them. I was so fortunate to have two wonderful teachers, Mrs. Wahlin and Mrs. Talbert, to teach the students while I was away.

The fifth graders have been very busy studying the seven sacraments. They created flipbooks, which contained what happens when the sacrament is celebrated, and what symbols are associated with that sacrament. The first sacrament that the fifth graders will begin to look at more closely is the sacrament of baptism. The class took a field trip to the church to closely examine the church's baptismal font and to sketch it.

The fifth graders are working hard in their *StoryTown* reading books. They have been working on how good readers ask themselves questions to be sure that they understand the story. They have been working on developing the theme of the story through the characters' actions and motives.

The sixth graders have started to read the very exciting mystery novel, *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. They have created suspect profile drawings, and on these drawings they will be keeping track of the characters' traits and any clues that may come up involving that character. The sixth graders are working in literature circles to discuss the novel.

In both fifth and sixth grade Language Arts, we have been very busy with weekly spelling lists and packets, DOL, and daily journal writing. It is a pleasure to listen to their thoughts on journal topics. It is evident how journaling is improving their writing skills.

Both the fifth and sixth graders are examining the world of nouns. Some noun lessons are a good review like common vs. proper nouns, and some noun lessons are brand new like finding the subject and subject complement of the sentence.



~ Mrs.. Stano

## Mr. Eliason's Classes

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we have gotten off to a great start this year! In Religion, we have discussed Old Testament stories about Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah. The students have done a great job relating these stories to today and how they can take the lessons they learned and apply them to their lives.

In Math, we have been reviewing decimals (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing) as well as getting into the new, exciting topic of scientific notation. Next, we will be solving equations with decimals. I know the students are always excited about a new challenge!

In Social Studies we are learning about the government of the United States—everything from checks and balances to the duties of the president. After we close our unit on the United States, we will begin our study of our neighbors to the north, Canada!

In Science we are discussing the smallest living things on Earth, our cells! The students have learned about the many parts of a cell and how it divides during the process of Mitosis. Our Smartboard® has given us the opportunity to watch a live cell divide, it is quite the process.



In 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math we have started to dive into some basic algebra. The students have learned to write algebraic expressions as well as solve simple equations. At first they were a little scared of having "letters in Math," but now they have the hang of it.

Our social studies travels have taken us to the 1500's and the many explorers and conquistadors of that time period. Soon, your child will begin a research project in which he or she will actually become their favorite explorer. This is one of the most fun assignments of the year!



Lastly, in Science, we have started to work in our FOSS Landforms Kit. The students have had a great time working in the science lab each day and "learning by doing." We have built a model and map of our school courtyard and will soon be creating stream tables to show how the Grand Canyon was formed.

~Mr. E



## Music Notes

Students have been doing a wonderful job preparing for Grandparent/Special Person Day in music class this past month, and are excited to share our patriotic songs with our Grandparents and special people on November 6<sup>th</sup>! With that concert complete, we will be moving right

along into our songs for the Advent concert. Our concert on December 15<sup>th</sup> will be based upon the story "Why the Chimes Rang" by Raymond McAlden. This story focuses on the special gifts of Christmas; love, peace, and most importantly, Jesus. The students are excited to begin learning their new selections!

While we are learning our songs for Advent, we will continue to learn new skills in Music. Kindergarten will keep practicing the steady beat they have discovered in our games songs, but will also begin to see how our songs move up and down and contain high and low pitches.

First graders will continue to name and work with two pitches, SO and MI. We will use games such as "Apple Tree" and "Bee Bee" to help us with those.

Second grade will work finding SO, MI and DO on the staff, and also start listening for changes in dynamics (loud and soft) in the music we hear.

Third grade has started to learn some new notes in music class, and will continue to learn about half rests and dotted half notes.

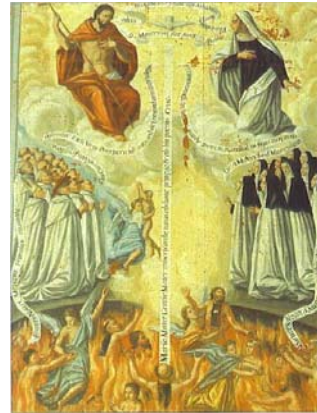
Fourth grade has started a new note naming game in music class. "Ready, set, go!" are music sheets that time each student to see if they can name more notes in a shorter amount of time. Students are already breaking their own records!

Fifth and Sixth grade have completed their study of composer Camille Saint-Saens, and in November will be moving on to American composer, Aaron Copland. Also, due to the difficulty of the Advent music, both grades have already begun to sing their pieces, and are doing a wonderful job singing in parts!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our Advent concert on December 15<sup>th</sup>!!

~ Ms. DePons

## What's New in Spanish Class?



El Dia de los Muertos. (Day of the Dead) ....also known as All Souls Day, on November 2nd. We will celebrate this day of remembering our loved ones who have passed away, with a prayer service at 8:30 am. In Mexico, many families

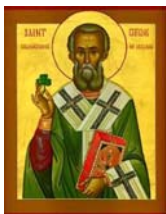
visit the graves of their loved ones, clean the area up, bring flowers, candles, photos, music and even food! We are constructing our own altar of remembrance in the Hispanic tradition. It will be in the Gathering Area off of the church. Students have made paper flowers, banners (papel picado), and traditional sugar skulls to decorate the altar. We ask that you send in photographs of loved ones who have passed away to be placed on this altar during the prayer service.

Starting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will dive into new territory! Mrs. Martinson did a great job reviewing with students by playing games and other fun activities! The 4-6 graders will be learning weather expressions, the 3rd graders will start "tener" expressions and 1-2 graders will work on classroom vocabulary, days of the week and colors! There will be busy days before we break for Thanksgiving.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to bake our "Bread of the Dead." If you would like to help....give me a call at 877-0430.

~Mrs. Wahlin

## All Saints Day, Sunday November 1



We celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> every year. For many years, our school celebrations of this feast have included a 'procession of saints.' Since Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> lands on a Sunday, we won't be having a school Mass, but we would like to invite all children AND adults to dress up as a saint and walk in the opening procession of any of the three weekend Masses. If you choose to do so, meet in the gathering area about 10 minutes before Mass to receive instructions. You will be asked to write the name of your saint on an index card for the singing of the Litany of Saints. (If you want to prepare a card beforehand, that would be great!) Thanks!

~ Kathy Smiley

## News from the Computer Lab

# Ning

Now that I'm finally over the jet lag, I have discovered October gone and November here, and there are still tons of things to be done. My latest graduate class has

us focusing on Web 2.0 tools, and I am discovering that there are numerous educational benefits to using sites like Wikipedia as well as those centered on blogging. Last month, while the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders were hearing and learning about Anne Frank, I decided to give the notion of blogging a try with these students and so created a Ning for our classroom use. A Ning is an online service that allows users to create their own social network, similar to Facebook. I like Ning, however, because it's the platform we use for my graduate classes and so is more familiar to me. On our Ning, the students answer, or blog, questions that I pose each week. Right now the questions have focused on Anne Frank, and the students' responses have been thought provoking and insightful. I have heard nothing but positives from them, and they are excited to log onto our Ning and surf it and add to it. As the creator of our Ning, I have taken the necessary security measures and made participation based on invite only, and anything the students publish, or any action that they try to take for that matter, must be approved by me first. If any 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents would like to see our Ning and perhaps start blogging as well, email me, and I'd be happy to email you an invite and link.

As I am quickly discovering, the technology movement is shifting from working in isolation (i.e., typing a Word document and printing it for a teacher) to solving problems, collaborating **globally**, and publishing online as experts. Therefore, I create projects with the intent that it first inform and second be publishable. In addition, I want our students to become Internet wise and so have really started focusing on Internet safety and media literacy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> grade is busy learning all about the Pixie drawing program and will soon be moving onto Frames where they can create slideshows to be viewed online. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is using their Internet know-how to find excellent educational games for Mrs. Prechel to use in her class. They first explore several websites to get a hands-on feel for various games and then select one to write about and report on to the rest of the class.

With the help of Netsmartz.com, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has learned all about Wizzywigs – those bad guys out there on the Internet – and have created a Kidspiration review sheet on them. Now they, along with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, are beginning and reviewing their keyboarding skills and are finding them very challenging. I encourage all parents to have their 3-6<sup>th</sup> grader visit <http://www.freotypinggame.net/free-typing-lesson.asp> several times each week and practice their keyboarding. With everything else we do in class, we have very little time for keyboarding. This site is free and offers excellent lessons, games, and tests. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, drop me a line,

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

~ Mrs. Roisum



## Art News

A big thank you goes to Elaine Kissling and Heather Wahlin for helping me organize the "Art To Remember" Fundraiser orders. The purchased items should arrive around the first of December.

The second through sixth grade students are working on self portraits after having spent a lot of time learning to draw facial features with accuracy. First grade students are about half way through their bug books. Sickness has delayed a lot of progress for most classes. We seem to be at the tail end of it though so we can now get back to our self portraits and bug book.

~ Mrs. Jamison

## P.E. News

The students recently completed a successful football unit.



It was a sight to see the first grade students race down the length of the gym carrying a football and pretending to be scoring a touchdown. The younger classes enjoyed learning how to throw, catch, lateral, carry and hike a football. The older classes

finished the unit with a game that combines football, basketball and soccer: The students split into two teams and using a football, they passed like in basketball and played positions like in soccer. A very successful football-like game minus the tackling.

After a day of playing modified dodge ball to suit different ages we have recently just begun a soccer unit.

Thank you for having your kids wear gym shoes on Wednesdays. Many kids are dressing in comfortable clothes for the day as well and some students quickly change in the bathroom right before gym. Wearing the proper clothes for gym activity does help them perform better. Thank you parents for facilitating.

~ Mrs. Jamison