



# St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Letter

Blessings to all,

On the eve of a well-earned week off for our students, faculty, and staff, we find ourselves in the full splendor of spring, in this, the third and final trimester of a whirlwind 2021-22 school year.

We pray that April will bring the much-needed showers for the bloom of our May flowers. We also continue to pray for the eventual waning of the pandemic, and all that it has wrought upon our school, our families, and communities across the world. Finally, we offer a prayer for peace, internally, eternally, and especially in eastern Europe, where the nightmare of war begs for the light of Christ to shine upon those who would do harm to innocent civilians.

We give thanks for the blessed return of our weekly Lenten observance of Stations of the Cross, a powerful and prayerful practice that allows our school to gather in our Lord's house and reflect upon Jesus' difficult, final moments and miraculous and triumphant resurrection.

Our classrooms are alive with progress, projects, and experiential learning. Field trips, presentations, and performances are in the works across our grades, enhancing the academic experience of our students. Their smiling faces reflect the turning of pages to a brighter chapter.

On the horizon are the Spring Auction and an open house. We appreciate the generosity and sharing spirit of all who donate their precious time, talent, and resources to St. Mary's. We are especially grateful to all students, staff, and parents, whose thoughtful contributions to our surveys help to chart a course for our constant efforts to improve student learning, and the overall school experience for all.

Our book fair was a success, helping classes meet their reading goals, and augmenting our library's collection in the process. The Koins for Kids fundraiser raised nearly \$1000 to assist schools of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose to equip economically disadvantaged students with crucial school supplies.

We look forward to an annual visit from Sister Mary Susana Vasquez, in her charge as the liaison for the DSMSJ affiliated schools, of which we are proud to be a part. Her time with our classes and faculty will reinforce our adherence to her order's four pillars: Community, Service, Study, and Prayer.

We close with the hallmark blessing of the Dominican order -

*May God the Father bless us.*

*May God the Son heal us.*

*May God the Holy Spirit enlighten us,*

*And give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with,*

*Hands to do the work of God with,*

*A mouth to preach the word of salvation with,*

*And the angel of peace to watch over us and lead us at last,*

*By our Lord's gift, to the Kingdom.*

*Amen!*

## APRIL 2022

School Resumes	Apr. 4
Stations of the Cross-7th	Apr. 8
Palm Sunday	Apr. 10
Panda Express Fundraiser	Apr. 13
Awards Week	Apr. 11-14
Stations of the Cross-8th	Apr. 14
Seder Meal	Apr. 14
Good Friday-No School	Apr. 15
Holy Saturday	Apr. 16
Easter Sunday	Apr. 17
Easter Monday-No School	Apr. 18
School Mass-8th	Apr. 20
Jr. High Dance	Apr. 22
3rd Tri Progress Reports	Apr. 25
Spring Pictures	Apr. 28
Gold Rush Field Trip	Apr. 25-26

## Upcoming Events

Spring Auction Kick Off Drive Through Dinner

May 5th 3:00-6:00pm

Virtual Auction May 5-7th

**St. Mary's School would  
like to thank...**

**Lorena and Gil Tournour for  
their generous donation  
to our school**

## KINDERGARTEN

Happy spring! In kindergarten, we are busy learning about how things grow. We read Zinnia's Flower Garden, a book about growing a flower garden. We answered the essential question, "What steps can someone follow to plant and grow flowers?" We learned that plants need soil, sunlight, and water in order to live and grow. We also learned about the different parts of the plant and what each part does. This week, we planted sunflower seeds in tiny greenhouses. We will watch our seeds sprout before repotting them in soil. In language arts, we are identifying letter names and sounds, blending and segmenting words, reading and writing high-frequency words, and writing sentences. In math, we are reading, writing, and decomposing teen numbers.

## FIRST

As always, first grade is all about reading, writing and spelling. Some of our students are beginning to read short chapter books and take AR tests. Math concepts are becoming more advanced and fun and we are doing well with understanding place value. Lots of learning happening as we look toward 2nd grade.

## SECOND

I know that I have said this before, but this year is really flying by! Today the students learned the saying, "Time flies when we're having fun!" We are having so much fun as we learn in our classroom. We have also been thoughtful during this time of advent, while excited that He lives and gives new life. Spring is upon us and brings so much new life. We have so many fun things to discover during this season. Thank you for all you do and enjoy your time off!

## THIRD

Third grade has been having a blast in math! We have been playing games on Fridays that help us practice our multiplication, division and fractions skills! After the break, we will be transitioning to cursive writing in all of our work! We are looking forward to studying the U.S. Presidents in social studies and changing environments in science.

## FOURTH

In fourth grade students have been reading books, working hard, and having fun! Together our class has read over 15,746,017 words! We are studying America's westward movement towards California in social studies and are starting the award-winning novel "By the Great Horn Spoon". Students have been writing about their future goals and plans to achieve them while focusing on fluency, descriptive language, cursive, grammar and proper paragraph form. In math we are building fluency with long division, continuing to practice mastery of multiplication and division facts, and we learned about Pi on National Pi Day! We are learning about the formation and classification of rocks and minerals in science. Students have been reading in church, preparing for our presentation of Stations of the Cross, reviewing internet safety, and our Circle of Grace.

## **FEBRUARY AWARDS**

### **Student of the Month**

Dashiell Parkinson,  
Walter Feather, Clark Dawson,  
Madeleine Dalistan,  
Kenadie White, Cassidy Geimer,  
Emma Rodrigue, Connor Salas,  
Chelsea Hiatt

### **Principal Award**

Vida Asfour, Jack Mulholland,  
Carolina Kircher, William Hale,  
Brayden Bushway, Hunter Salas,  
Tyson Woodall, Drake Porter,  
Delaney Kornegay

### **Personal Success**

Landon Hildreth, Ibrahim Zeidan,  
Jacob Rinehart, Lucy Young,  
Serafina Pardini, Dre White,  
Aurora Griffith-Johnson,  
Orion Schindel, Finn Sullivan,  
Daniel Flores, Max Vargas,  
Bella Menton, Addie Ross,  
Molly Kaluna-Jones

### **Language Arts**

Samuel Trigg, Lyla Estevo,  
Carmen Gonzalez, Jude Johnson,  
Andrew Hanna, Giada Giacomini,  
Tulsi Bixler, Cassidy Geimer,  
Stella-Brooke Spencer,  
Caleb Hubley, Sarah McGrath

### **Athlete of the Month**

Brayden Harmon, Gavin Kornegay,  
Molly Kaluna-Jones

### **Million Words**

Addison Campbell  
Tulsi Bixler, Chelsea Hiatt,  
Joseph Collins

**FIFTH**

So many reasons to feel good about 5th Grade! The students did an amazing job with their floats and it was so exciting to have back our State Float Parade. Thank you so much to all the students and faculty for their support and applause during the parade. The memories will last a lifetime. I also want to give special thanks to the 5th Grade for a wonderful Stations of the Cross. It really was spectacular to watch...Looking forward, we have many reasons to be excited! Our Endangered Species Report will begin after Spring Break, so only a couple weeks away! Also, we’ll begin practicing for our class musical, 13 Colonies! Students will soon know their roles for the production and we will take the next several weeks to prepare for our shows in May. I know I speak for Sr. Kircher when I say how glad we are to have to have this production back on campus!

**SIXTH**

In Middle school English, the 6th graders are continuing their reading of The Westing Game, wherein they are the murder mystery sleuths investigating multiple crimes within the novel. In the end they must prove “who done it” in a multi-pronged final paper. The 7th and 8th graders have begun their reading of William Shakespeare’s Hamlet. We read this timeless classic aloud in class--Elizabethan English accent optional. In the end, both classes will render their storyboard version of the play, including scene drawings and important lines. The 8th graders are near the finish line of their year-long Proteus Project and will submit their final drafts next week.

**SEVENTH**

For the month of April, 7th grade will be studying the intriguing world of The Scientific Revolution. They will be covering Galileo and Issac Newton’s biographies. 6th grade will be continuing to study the Roman World, specifically Christianity in Rome. 8th Grade will be transitioning from the Jefferson Era to the Jackson Era of our New Republic Nation.

For P.E., we are continuing Nutrition! Learning all about what goes in our food and what’s the best food for our bodies. Middle school will be finishing up the Mile and transitioning into Ping Pong! We will be training hard for the tournament at the end of April. Please bring your water bottles! Go Eagles!

**EIGHTH**

Eighth graders are finally sporting their new sweatshirts. Black with hot pink emblematics is a very nice combination. We are looking forward to our physics curriculum which will include bottle rocket competitions, Newtonian physics demonstrations and preparing for the egg drop toward the end of the year. Eighth graders are looking forward to caring for their “Think-it-Over” program where they will be required to care for a robotic child for five days, Monday through Friday after spring break.

**St. Mary’s School  
Faculty & Staff****Pastor**

Fr. Peter Reddy

**Principals**

James Caruso, Andrea Keffeler,

Sam Kircher

**Kindergarten**

Katie Carlsen

**Grade 1**

Rosemary Janiak

**Grade 2**

Julie Wilson

**Grade 3**

Dana Geimer/

Andrea Keffeler

**Grade 4**

Nicole Quigley

**Grade 5**

Jack Brown

**Grade 6**

Jim Caruso

**Grade 7**

Shannon Whetzel

**Grade 8**

Dan Vilotti

**Music**

Sam Kircher

**Spanish**

Kathy Shipley

**Gardening**

Jill Scheller

**Librarian**

Marilyn McGrew

**Computer**

Joe Selzer

**Kitchen**

Kristin Myers

**Classroom Aides**

Kenzie White, Emily Scaturro

Kathi Gower, Breanne Land

**Kid’s Club**

Joanna Trigg, Alexis Martyn

**Finance**

Lisa Cavalin

**Secretary**

Kris Scaturro

**Athletic Director**

Katie Ford

**Maintenance**

Mike Myers

**Student Learning Expectations****A St. Mary of the Angels Student is a child of faith who:**

Respects all of God’s creation, Lives the Catholic faith and traditions, Serves others

**A St. Mary of the Angels Student is a lifelong learner who:**

Succeeds academically, Communicates effectively, Integrates technology efficiently

**A St. Mary of the Angels Student is responsible citizen who:**

Demonstrates leadership skills, Appreciates and respects diversity,

**SPANISH**

¡Feliz primavera! Happy Spring! Your students are continuing to build on their knowledge of the Spanish language. In grades K-4 we review weekly the vocabulary of the current month, days of the week, number of days in the month, the colors, the weather and the birthdays of the month. Your child should be able to tell you how old they are in Spanish if in first grade or older. During March, we learned a bit about San Patricio and several children were blessed with a shamrock in “el nombre del padre y del hijo y del espíritu santo”. Grades 2, 4 and 6th took a quiz on the movie Encanto and the country of Colombia and proved they learned some interesting facts. The favorite part of Spanish class continues to be the receiving of lucky coins at the end of class for good participation. They are saving these for either a sombrero or something from the prize box after Easter. As Springtime ushers in the sport of “beisbol”, we will be learning vocab associated with this fun sport. The 6th graders are learning difficult grammar from their workbooks and continue to be challenged. The 5th and 6th graders are looking forward to our trip to Hectors in May. More information will follow about this trip after Easter break. ¡Felices pascvas!

**MUSIC**

Spring is in the air, bringing life and laughter to the music building! Some recent highlights include kindergarteners providing a soundscape to Abiyoyo Returns with sound effects and musical phrases that augment the narrative, action, and emotion of the story and its rousing theme song. First and second graders are exploring waltz time and solfege by way of beloved tunes from The Sound of Music. Third graders are dipping their toes into the ukulele pool, strumming out chordal accompaniment to simple folk songs. Fourth grade is taking on four-piece ensemble arrangements to uplifting tunes by Bobby McFerrin and Bob Marley. After a two-year hiatus, the fifth graders are chomping at the bit to rehearse and perform the beloved Thirteen Colonies comic musical theater production. The sixth graders are connecting the staff to the keyboard and their ten fingers, while the seventh grade has been writing and performing original “riffs” a la Professor Longhair on the ukes. Eighth grade is engaging in a “battle of the bands” , in their version of March madness five on five.

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**We need your help!! We need solicitors to help make our on-line auction successful!**  
**Get your parent hours by soliciting 5 business for 5 hours or 10 for 10 hours!**  
**Remember each family is required to donate one auction item at a value of \$50 or more.**  
**Please turn in to Kristi Ross or the office by April 22nd**  
**Ideas – giftcards, experiences, giftbaskets, services (hair, nails, tree work etc)**

