



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School NEWSLETTER

Principal's Letter

Dear St. Mary's families,

With a full month under our belt, and after some fits and starts, it feels as though we have hit a stride in this young 2021-2022 school year. We establish routines, make clear our expectations, and communicate effectively in order to provide the best educational experience possible for all who are involved.

We are so grateful to all of the faculty, staff, students and parents who go out of their way to fulfill our challenging and necessary mission. Any successful school year requires a determined team effort, and you'll likely agree that this one particularly more than most. Thank you to all who do the difficult and amazing work to keep our wheels turning.

With the season's change upon us, we look forward to back-to-school nights, upcoming field trips, a basketball season, and progress reports from our classrooms. We welcome new students. We celebrate our first family Sunday mass in quite a while.

We temper some of this welcome "normalcy" with our responsibility to remain vigilant and proactive with regard to our ongoing health and safety precautions, many of which are inconvenient, but nevertheless necessary and effective. Thank you all for playing your part to support the healthiest conditions for all on our campus.

Approaching the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We encourage you to join us to pray in his words. We remind ourselves and our students to aspire to serve as instruments of God's peace. Through Him we pray to bring love to hatred, pardon to injury, faith to doubt, hope to despair, light to darkness, and joy to sadness.

Happy fall to all. God bless,

**Please help us with our upcoming fundraiser the
Harvest Run
visit our website at www.stmarysukiah.org**

OCTOBER 2021

Buck a Jean Day	Oct. 1
Awards Week	Oct. 4-8
Student of the Month-KC	Oct. 4
Million Word Award	Oct. 5
Principal/Personal Success Award	Oct. 6
Ropes Course-6/7	Oct. 7
Student of the Month/Holy Spirit	Oct. 8

FUTURE EVENTS

Dia de los Muertos	Nov. 2
Harvest Run	Nov. 10
Veteran's Day-No School	Nov. 11

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

**Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose
for their generous donation**

**Vera Vargas,
Antonio and Johanna Lopez
for their donation in memory of
Evelyn Busch**

KINDERGARTEN

Happy Fall! Kindergarten is busy practicing phonological and phonemic awareness. We are identifying rhyming words and beginning sounds and counting the number of words in a sentence. We are also learning to identify letter names and sounds and to read and write the high-frequency words I, like, the, and and. We are reading books about families, going to school, pets, jobs, and helping and learning what good readers can do to better understand what they read. On September 27, we celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day with a story, art project, and apple investigation. We also made our own crockpot applesauce.

FIRST

Reading, Reading, Reading is the name of the game in first grade. Reading groups started day two of school with our amazing aide Emily Scaturro. First grade is learning routines- homework, spelling tests, and for fun painting with water colors.

SECOND

Our first few weeks have been wonderful in second grade! We have already been learning about dinosaurs and all the things that fossils can teach us. Reading groups are off and running. Students are enjoying traveling to gardening, and music, as well as being able to have Spanish and computers in the classroom. I am looking forward to a fun, academic filled year and am so happy to all be on campus together. Please continue to read with your child at home and practice subtraction and addition.

THIRD

In third grade we’ve been exploring the ocean and outerspace! Students wrote a narrative about an underwater creature they discovered. In science we are learning about the planets in our solar system. In math we are working on rounding and we are studying landforms and California’s regions in social studies.

FOURTH

Happy fall y’all! Fourth grade has been busy working hard and having fun. In Life Science we are studying the flow of energy and matter. We have been looking at food chains, food webs, and have made wonderfully artistic food chains to display and enjoy in our classroom. In Social Studies we are learning about California’s geography and its four distinct regions: the Mountains, the Coast, the Desert, and the Central Valley. We are also working on map reading skills with latitude and longitude coordinates as well as reading elevation and population maps. In Math we have been furthering our study of Multiplication and Division meaning and facts, and are now moving into our study of analyzing and generating patterns. In Language Arts students are doing a great job with their homework, reading, and writing. We are learning about parts of speech, sentence structure, as well as paragraph structure and form. Students are furthering their descriptive writing and encouraged to use lots of adjectives, adverbs, and rich vocabulary. Students wrote about their terrific selves and created amazing “Tee-rific Me” tee-shirts describing themselves through art. Tee-shirts are full of color and hung with clothespins in our classroom. We also made fall trees and wrote fall Haikus. In Religion we are learning about prayers and some of the happenings before Christ. Fourth grade had a fantastic August and September!

FIFTH

5th Grade is SUPER excited to start the writing process of our first writing assignment of the year: Our Super Natural story! We recently completed the book Tuck Everlasting, and now it’s our turn to write our very own fantastic epic. More Big Time News at the end of this month, we will begin our voyage to California’s historic Fort Ross. Our two day adventure will include a hands on experience that will provide a lifetime of memories.

SIXTH

In 6th Grade English, we are reading The Cay by Theodore Taylor. This is a story of survival and growing up. The students just completed their Raft Team project. They worked in groups building miniature rafts out of natural and artificial materials. We held the Raft Races Tuesday morning on the field. The rafts were judged for buoyancy, navigability, speed with and without wind, and cargo-carrying ability. All the rafts performed well and a lot of work and creativity went into them. Great job, 6th Grade!

In 7th Grade English, we are reading The Little Prince by Antoine de St. Exupery. There are many opportunities for creativity and self-expression in the lessons for this story. One student this week built an excellent model of the Little Prince’s planet out of Legos. Another student created a new species of flower and played --beautifully, I must say-- an accompanying musical piece on the piano for the class.

In 8th Grade English, the students are reading The Pearl by John Steinbeck. They are learning to recognize symbolism in the literal details of this author’s work. The 8th Graders are also hard at work on their Proteus projects. We have students working on controversial topics, such as Increased Wildfires, Vaccinations, Israel/Palestine, and Animal Testing, to name a few. This year-long project culminates in a 3,000-word minimum research essay and a presentation of 10-15 minutes.

Field Trip! The 6th and 7th Grade classes will also be taking a field trip to Challenge Sonoma Adventure Ropes Course on October 7. So glad these students will be able to have this outdoor adventure!

SEVENTH

For the month of October, middle school will be exploring all over the world! Sixth grade will be studying Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Kingdom of Kush. Seventh grade will be transported to the Islamic world. Studying geography, culture and Arabian history. Eighth grade will be diving into the American Revolution. Examining the Revolutionary and American wars.

**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

Maggie Selzer, 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,

EIGHTH

Eighth grade is off to a running start! Academically everyone is on track for a great year already taking aim at Proteus the Constitution test and science fair projects. Because of COVID restrictions their 40 service hours are all general hours. For this year there will be no “elderly” or “less fortunate” hour requirements. Eighth grade sweatshirts are on the horizon so keep your eyes peeled for some sharp looking outer wear!

MUSIC

What a gift it is to return to music classes after a year plus hiatus! There is an abundance of ammunition for our musical fires as all of our classes are off to an amazing start.

We are setting the tone with the importance of focus, teamwork, and interdependence central to all we do in the music classroom. This starts with rhythm, and sharing a common pulse to start together, end together, and most importantly, to stay together. The younger grades are learning the language of rhythm by hearing, playing, reading, and writing using rhythmic notation, discovering the natural rhythm of words and poetry, body movements, improvisation, and even composition on all kinds of unpitched percussion instruments.

The upper grades are working with more complex rhythms in ensemble, featuring syncopation, and trickier subdivisions of the beat. They are improvising and composing their own rhythmic ensembles, focusing on different layers and textures of instrumentation, and the need to leave/fill space when playing or composing as a group.

As each class turns the page to apply melodic concepts to their rhythmic sense, the younger grades begin these discoveries vocally, using solfege (do-re-mi, etc.) They learn to identify relative pitch (low vs. high,) contour (ascending vs descending,) and the early skills required to use the musical staff.

In the older grades, this vocabulary expands, again, through improvisation and composition, to include intervals (the distance between notes,) major and minor modes, scales and tonal centers, and musical phrases, sequences, and patterns.

As we've discontinued the recorders for now, our melodic exploration is taking place on our xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels. We will take these concepts to the keyboard and ukulele eventually.

In an attempt to make up ground and traditional content lost to last year, third graders are identifying the instruments and families of the orchestra. Fourth graders will be experts on all things Beethoven. Fifth graders will soon be singing, playing, and writing in the blues form. Sixth graders will discover the stories and music behind Beatlemania.

I'm looking forward to a great year back where I belong!

SPANISH

In Spanish K-6 your students have been learning about Mexican Independence Day, September 16th and talking about heroes in Mexican and US History. They have artistically made American and Mexican Flags. A tasty treat of Michoacana helado(ice cream) was enjoyed by all to help celebrate this special day. The students are learning “a word of the week” in Spanish in order to get their Friday reward. During the month of October we will be preparing for our “Dia de los Muertos” celebration on November 2nd. The children will be watching the movie Coco and decorating masks making papel picado and in grades 2-6, sugar skulls. This activity requires icing which each child needs to bring in, more information will follow. Decorating sugar skulls are scheduled for October 21st and 22nd. Parents who would be willing to help decorate the gym on Monday, November 1st may email be at katherineshipley@att.net. I thank you for your help in advance. This activity requires many hands!



ST. MARY of the ANGELS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL