

# Blessed Sacrament School Newsletter

"A Feinsein Leadership School"

Newsletter December 1, 2017  
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## Principal's News

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we have reached the Christmas Season and a new Liturgical Year. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the frenzied commercialism that surrounds this special time of year. I believe we should step back and enjoy the season, but we should also remember that Advent is most importantly a season where we prepare ourselves for the renewal of Christ's birth in our lives. The students will be reminded that God comes to us; He does not wait for us to reach him. We will remember the steps God took to prepare for Christ's birth, and think especially of Mary and John the Baptist.

We will be setting up an Advent Wreath by the front entrance to the School and the students will learn how people across the millennia have marked the passage of time with the light of the sun. In this holy season of Advent, we will observe the passage of time through the light of the wreath, for each candle represents another week closer to the radiance of the newborn Son, Jesus. I will continue to pray that every member of the Blessed Sacrament Community enjoys a happy and healthy Christmas season and that we all grow closer to God's light in our lives.

As many of you know, Mrs. Hays donated a subscription to the **Renaissance Accelerated Reader** program for this school year. Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Fogarty, Mrs. Kachel, and Mrs. Hays have been working hard getting all of the books in our library leveled by reading ability, so our teachers

### PTO News:

Our PTO will once again sponsor the **Santa Shop** in our school library. Preview day will be on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Students will get a chance to make a shopping list so they can **budget** for their gifts. This is a very important activity for many students as this may represent the only time they can shop for their parents' Christmas present. The shop will be open for business on Thursday and Friday, and we can always use more volunteers to help with the set-up and breakdown. Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you can help!

**Looking Ahead: The Catholic Schools Week Mass will be at 10:30 AM on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. The Bake Sale will be held after all masses that weekend. Please let us know if you can contribute a baked good.**

can always be sure their students are reading at just the right developmental level. I'm proud to report that Mrs. Keough has been using the program extensively in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and the students love it. They are even asking to take quizzes after each book! It just goes to show that when students read accessible and challenging books, they will learn to love reading, and they are much more likely to become **college-ready** scholars!

Just a reminder !! We continue to collect **Box Tops for Education**. This is a GREAT FUNDRAISER that takes very little time and it will keep your student involved by having them glue or tape the tops to the collection sheet.

God Bless,  
--Mr. Weber

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ December 18, 2017- Cookies & Milk/Photo with Santa-Sponsored by Grade 8.
- ◆ January 2, 2018- Regular Class Schedule resumes.

### Upcoming Events

**December 2, 2017: Catholic High School Placement Exams. Contact your "first-choice" school for details.**

**December 2, 2017: P-Bruins-BSS Discount Night. Choir will sing. 7:00PM at the Dunk.**

**December 8, 2017: Feast of Immaculate Conception School Mass hosted by Grade 5. 9:00 AM**

**December 12, 2017: Christmas Concert in the Church. Students should arrive at 6:00 PM.**

**December 13-15, 2017: Santa Shop in the school library.**

**December 14, 2017: Fall picture re-take day- school uniform.**

**December 15, 2017: Dress-Down Day-Sponsored by grade 5. \$2.00**

**December 15, 2017- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress reports go home.**

**December 21, 2017-January 1, 2018: Christmas Vacation-No School**

Joy!



## Pre-Kindergarten News 3 year-olds

Pre-k-3 students are learning how to share, communicate with each other in a nice manner, be patient, color in the lines, and make some progress with fine and gross motor skills. They still will be learning how to **write** their names and recognize numbers and letters. We are doing crafts that deal with Winter, snow, and Christmas. I can see your children growing each day and it is amazing.

## Pre-Kindergarten News 4 year-olds

In PreK-4, we will be practicing our letters and letter sounds with fun games like Pass the Santa Hat. In **math**, we will work on our counting, playing Build a Santa and making "Christmas Stew". We will be reading a variety of books that tell the story of the birth of Jesus and the children will be able to retell the story using our magnetic nativity figures. There will be lots of Christmas songs and Christmas art projects too. A special visitor will also be stopping by for a surprise visit!

## Kindergarten News

Christmas will soon be here, and we can hardly wait! This month, the students will continue to focus on the following **High Frequency words**: Have, is, like, my, we, for, he. The children are doing very well blending and reading the following words: Am, at, mat, Sam, sat, Pam, pat, map, sap, and tap, Tim, tip, cap, cat, Mac, it, pip, pit, sit, sip. Please continue to read for at least 20 minutes each night, and fill in your "Pizza Hut Book – It" calendar to receive a free personal pan pizza when we return from Christmas break!

In **Math**, students will learn to compare and order numbers to 20. Practice counting and grouping objects into sets of 5's and 10's to make 20. When **writing** both letters and numbers, please remember to start at the top!  
In **Religion**, we are learning about Advent. The children will enjoy making Advent Wreaths as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Be sure to check your child's Friday Folder for updates regarding Cookies with Santa and Pajama Day!

## First Grade News

**READING**: We will begin Unit 2 in *Reading Street* this month and the theme for these stories is community. The first three books focus on communities and people and the last three stories are about animal and plant communities. During December, I am hoping some parents will be able to share how their jobs affect our community. If you have 10 to 15 minutes to share a presentation about your job and how you make an impact on our community, please email me so we can set up a time.

**MATH**: We are learning more about double facts, doubles plus one and doubles plus two, which is one of the ways for children to use mental math. In Topic 5, we will also be learning how to add three numbers such as;  $5 + 5 + 2 = 12!$  We continue to use cubes and other math materials in class to count, add and subtract. Please have your child use real things at home to help with math, but it is also important for your child to memorize basic math facts. This semester, focus on double facts and make a game of it. Who can say  $7 + 7$  the fastest! Have some fun with math!

## Second Grade News

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*-Margaret Mead*

December is a wonderful and exciting month for the children. We begin the month celebrating the season of Advent and preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will get ready by making angels, Christmas trees, candles, and stars. In **reading**, we are nearing the end of Theme 2, Working Together. The children enjoyed reading about **Abraham Lincoln** and learning about scarcity and meeting people's needs. They will continue to read two additional stories that reinforce working together. I am proud of the progress the children are making with fluency and comprehension. The students are excited about the **Accelerated Reader** program. Reading for twenty minutes every night will help them reach their goals, earn a certificate, and strengthen their reading skills foundation.

Remember, children learn to read in Kindergarten through Grade 2, and read to learn in Grades 3 and beyond. The key to success is a strong foundation. We are progressing in **math**. The students are learning strategies for adding and subtracting two-digit numbers, in preparation for regrouping. Fluency with basic math facts is also very important. The Providence College students prepared fun lessons to teach the value of coins. Please visit the websites: [www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com) and [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com), for extra practice. In addition, we are practicing for our Christmas concert. The children are working very hard to make it a special event.

## Third Grade News

December is a very busy time in third grade. In **religion** class our focus will be on Advent and preparing for Christmas! We will be making Advent wreaths, coloring Jesse Tree symbols, listening to Old Testament readings about Jesus' family tree, and creating tissue paper stained glass Nativity scenes! The third grade

Advent project will involve collecting hats, scarves, and gloves for needy families. The students having been working hard to prepare for the school Christmas concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be moving on to multiplication in **math**, and learning about the water cycle in **science**, as well as conducting some experiments about evaporation, condensation, and precipitation! During **language arts**, we will be writing Christmas poems and stories of the Nativity from the point of view of a donkey.

## Fourth Grade News

Welcome December! It's the most wonderful time of the year and Grade 4 is preparing for it! The students completed their third **In-Class Novel Study** on a new genre in **literature**, historical fiction. They read *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan. Along with the hand-written book reports, the students made amazing dioramas detailing a setting in the book. They were simply amazing! In **Math**, the students completed Topic 4-Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers, and are

beginning the next lesson, Topic 5-Number Sense: Multiplying by 1-Digit Numbers. In **Religion**, the students will be working on many Advent projects to prepare for the coming of the Lord, as well as starting the unit called *The Commandments Help Us to Love God*. In **Social Studies**, they will begin the chapter *Regions Around You* focusing on the United States territories. In **Science**, the students will begin the Life Cycles chapter, concentrating on plant and animal life cycles. There's a lot to look forward to this month. Wishing all of our students and families a blessed holiday season. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me via e-mail: [kblessing@blessedschoolpvd.org](mailto:kblessing@blessedschoolpvd.org) -Mrs. Blessing



*Sarah, Plain and Tall*-Diorama

## Grade 5 News

We have been using our brains to do good thinking in 5th grade! We are working hard as we explore new texts and synthesize mathematical concepts. In **math**, we are working with long division and double-digit multiplication. We are delving into **literature** as we compare and contrast texts and connect to other works we have read. As we travel through time in **social studies**, we are learning about the Native Americans. Did you know that Native Americans used quilting to tell stories and commemorate special events? In **science**, we are focusing on biology concepts! In **Religion**, we are growing in our faith as we comprehend the

church calendar. **What is on the horizon for grade 5?** **Literature** that explores the art of inventions and creations, **math computations**, including division and multiplication with decimals, **science** experiments to bring more meaning to vocabulary words and **history** lessons to connect us to the early Americas. Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

## Middle School Spanish

**Grade 6:** Chapter 1 objectives include: words to describe yourself, talk about what you like and don't like, and friendship in Spanish-speaking countries.

**Grade 7:** Chapter 4 objectives include: telling what you like and don't like to eat, give reasons for your preferences, saying whether you are hungry or thirsty, and talking about eating customs in Spanish-speaking countries.

**Grade 8:** Chapter 6 objectives include: describe the color, fit, and price of clothes, tell where you bought clothes and how much you paid, and compare where people in Spanish-speaking countries shop for clothes in the United States.

## Middle School Literature & Creative Writing

**Grade 6** finished reading the *Tales of Ulysses*. There will be a test and writing assignment at the end of next week. We will then focus on **Grammar and Writing Skills** for the following week and begin working on Medieval Fairy Tales.

**The 7th grade** completed their project on the Prologue to the Canterbury with rap about their assigned Pilgrim and illuminated manuscript. They are currently working on reading a "*Tale of Two Cities*" and learning about the French Revolution. There will be a project assigned upon completion.

**Grade 8** has started reading the Ray Bradbury work "*Something Wicked This Way Comes*," along with the audible application. The novel is broken into several sections, and each section includes a power-point analysis and accompanying assignments. There will be an assignment given on this book upon completion.

## Middle School Skills

**Grade 6 Skills:** Having a test on Unit 6, and beginning Unit 7. HW 3x each, sentences and a writing assignment. Students also complete work in their skills workbook and always have access to online materials. \*\* HW is on **google classroom** for students to complete.

**Grade 7 Skills:** Having a test on Unit 6, and beginning Unit 7. HW 3x each, sentences, and a writing assignment. Students also complete work in their skills workbooks and always have access to online materials. \*\* HW is on **google classroom** for students to complete.

**Grade 8 Skills:** Having a test on Unit 6, and beginning Unit 7. HW 3x each, sentences and a writing assignment. Students also complete work in their skills workbook and always have access to online materials. \*\* HW is on **google classroom** for students to complete.

## Middle School Social Studies

# Ancient Egypt

**6th Gr. Social Studies:** Completing a Pharaoh project and having a test on Chapter 3.(Ancient Egyptians)

Students will also begin Chapter 4.(Ancient India)

**7th Gr. Social Studies:** Completing their Colony Brochure project and having a quiz on chapter 3. (Colonies take Root)

**8th Gr. Social Studies:** Finished Chapter 16. Beginning Chapter 17 (The West Transformed). Students will be having a quiz prior to break.

## Middle School Mathematics

**Grade 8 Algebra:** Students are working on solving equations and reviewing ratios and proportions. Our next topic is solving inequalities.

**Grade 8 Pre-Algebra:** Students are continuing to work on solving equations, studying rational numbers, using formulas and working with powers and exponents, including scientific notation.

**Grade 7 Pre-Algebra:** Seventh graders are finishing up with comparing fractions and decimals and learning about scientific notation. We will then be reviewing operations with fractions.

**Grade 6 Math:** Students will be studying algebraic expressions and solving equations.

**All students are encouraged to utilize Khan Academy online. They have emails (through which they log-in) and passwords!!!!!!**

## Grade 5-8 Religion

**Grade 6:** We will begin the month on chapter 9. It covers Moses and the Ten Commandments.

**Grade 7:** We will begin the month on chapter 10. The theme is, "Jesus the Healer."

**Grade 8:** We will begin the month on chapter 10, which covers the Church's fight for the Holy Land and the Inquisition.



## Students of the Month-December

Pre-K-3: Benjamin Carter

Pre-K-4: Jeffrey Gutierrez

Kindergarten: Theodore Weiner

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Rose Carter

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Cullen Dempsey

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Sebastian Fernandez

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Deryan Gonzalez

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ayana Guzman

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Marienny Vargas

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Radley Dorcelus

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nataly Larios

**Congratulations to All!**



## Middle School Science

**Earth Science- 6th grade:** I am so very proud of the Land-form project the students created! They worked really hard and very well together in their groups. Well done Grade 6!! Our next project will be geared toward our **Science Fair** in late January. The students worked so well together, they really want to do another project, I am more than happy to say "YES." It was a lot of fun!!

**Life Science- 7th grade:** The students are learning about **osmosis and diffusion** in cells. They just completed a science experiment using Gummy Bears. Ask them about the results! The next few chapters we will be learning about DNA, heredity and DNA connections. Using parents' baby pictures and students' baby pictures will be a part of our next project!

**Physical Science- 8th grade:** We are continuing to learn about **matter** and the different states of matter. The students are working with the Triple Beam scale to weigh matter and its volume and density. We will move onto the characteristics of a solid, liquid and gas state, and what it takes for a liquid to turn into a solid.

Music: Our Christmas Concert will be held in the Church on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 @ 6:30 PM.  
Students arrive by 6:00 PM.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Honor Roll

**Grade 3: High Honors:** Ruby Bastan, Kate De La Cruz, Sebastian Fernandez, Rayannah Flowers, Dariel Justiniano Chavez, Kaylee Smith. **Honors:** Rere Akanji, Jayda Isom, Bolu Oyetibo, Ariana Perdomo. **Grade 4: High Honors:** Jaden Givens, Tailee Ortiz, Samuel Weiner. **Honors:** Dominic Alarcon, Edward Tavarez, Jayden Ovalles. **Grade 5: High Honors:** Giada Achille, Autumn Andrade, Zarianne Dazulme, Ayana Guzman, Marianna Kollie, Melanie Sanchez. **Honors:** Achilles Asencio, Elvis Goins, Yvonne Hernandez, Daniel Mancebo, Roly Paz, Brian Sanchez, Noah Walker. **Grade 6: High Honors:** Raul Almanzar, Amira Beltrand, David Demelo, Destiny Joa, Arlisenny Rodriguez, Jayla Smith, Kailey Vicente. **Honors:** Danaja Baptiste, Jorge Barragan, Jianna Caines, Sarah Gonzalez, Funmilayo Mclin, Valeria Tudela, Marienny Vargas, Benjamin Youn. **Grade 7: High Honors:** Ambar Torres, Julio Ramirez, Jessica Lebrun, Ralphletha Flowers, Josaun DeLawrence. **Honors:** Alyssa Pierre, Angelina Luna, Ciara Johnny, Aidan Briceno. **Grade 8: High Honors:** Selena Stevquoah. **Honors:** Ramon Guzman III, Colin King, Jezreel Polanco, Arielle Emile, Danielle Lanoue, and Nataly Larios

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The Hope of the Harvest is in the Seed.

We're on the Web!  
<http://blessedschoolpvd.com>

