

# Blessed Sacrament School Newsletter

"A Feinstein Leadership School"

Newsletter December 1, 2018  
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Ph. 401-831-3993

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## Principal's News

Dear Families,

As many of you know, we are in the second year as a **Renaissance Accelerated Reader** school. Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Kachel, and Mrs. Hays have nearly completed "leveling" all of the books in our library, so our teachers can always be sure their students are reading at just the right developmental level. I'm proud to report that all of our elementary teachers have been using the program extensively, 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.

It's amazing how quickly 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

### PTO News:

Our PTO will once again sponsor the **Santa Shop** in our school library. Preview day will be on Wednesday, December 12<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 27<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.**

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!

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 17, 2018- Cookies & Milk/Photo with Santa-Sponsored by Grade 8.
- ◆ January 2, 2019 Regular Class Schedule resumes.

### Upcoming Events

**December 1, 2018: Catholic High School Placement Exams. Contact your "first-choice" school for details.**

**December 6, 2018: Advent School Mass hosted by Grade 3. 9:00 AM**

**December 8, 2018: Catholic High School Exam Make-up Exam. Contact your "first-choice" school for details.**

**December 11, 2018: Christmas Concert in the Church. Students should arrive at 6:00 PM.**

**December 12-14, 2018: Santa Shop in the school library.**

**December 14, 2018: Dress-Down Day-Sponsored by grade 5. \$2.00**

**December 14, 2018- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress reports go home.**

**December 18, 2018-Fall Picture Re-Take Day: School Dress Uniform**

**December 21, 2018-January 1, 2019: Christmas Vacation-No School**

## Joy!



## Music News

**Our Christmas Pageant**, *“Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child* will be held on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Blessed Sacrament Church. Please see all paper work for information on dress and call times. I look forward to sharing this very special occasion with all of you! **Drama:** *The First Leon* will premier as part of the Christmas Pageant on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Call time for all drama students will be 5:45 to give time for warm ups and set up. I look forward to this special night.

## Pre-Kindergarten News

In PreK-4, we will be reading a variety of books that tell the story of the birth of Jesus. The children will be able to retell the story using our Nativity set and magnetic Nativity figures. We will be working on our fine motor skills through lots of fun Christmas themed activities, including lacing cards, cutting and gluing wrapping paper and decorating a small Christmas tree in our home center. In **math**, we will practice making patterns when we make a candy cane art project. We will end the month with a surprise visit from someone special! Merry Christmas!

## 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

It is the season of Advent and a busy time getting ready for Baby Jesus! We will have Prayer Partners, work on special activities and practice kindness every day to prepare our hearts for Christmas. **READING:** We are beginning Unit 2 and the stories focus on different types of communities. We will also begin learning about long vowel sounds. You will notice the work become increasingly more challenging. Completing the *Family Times* activities with your son or daughter, which is sent home every week, will help your child achieve success in class.

**MATH:** We have begun Topic 5, and the children are adding with numbers up to 20. We should also begin Topic 6 this month, which is subtracting with numbers to 20. A fun way to help your child memorize basic math facts is just by asking questions such as; what is 6 + 6, or what can you add to 4 to make 10.  
I would like to thank you for all you do. God Bless you all and may you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## 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 will act out a Fairy Tale about four animals who become friends and read a folk tale about a clever coyote and mouse. Both stories reinforce the importance of working together. I am proud of the children’s progress with reading fluency and comprehension. Our **Accelerated Reader** program is wonderful. Please see that your children read for twenty minutes each night. This will help them reach their goals, earn a certificate, and strengthen their reading skills.

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 very important. Please visit the websites ABCya.com, [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. I look forward to seeing you at the concert, and wish you a very blessed and joyous Christmas season.

## 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 and creating tissue paper stained glass Nativity scenes! Grade 3 is also preparing the December Advent mass on

December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to attend! The students have been working hard to prepare for the school Christmas concert on December 11<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

The days and weeks are flying by in Grade 4. Just a reminder, every Friday we have a spelling test. The students receive the spelling words on Monday, along with related homework assignments all week. Make sure you ask your child about it! For **Math**, we are breezing through rounding whole numbers and moving on to word problems. They will learn some strategies on how to solve tricky word problems. Keep practicing the multiplication facts because every Monday we have **MAD MINUTE MATH** drills. Ask your child how they are doing! In **Science**, we are continuing to learn all about the human body.

This chapter we are focussing on the heart. Ask your child some fun facts about the heart. For example, "how many times does the heart beat in 1 minute?" As we round out the calendar year, we will move on to the Skeleton and Muscular System. In **Social Studies**, the students will have a chance to work together on a group project when we discover the different regions of the United States. More details to follow as we begin to look more closely at those regions. Every Wednesday, the students have been practicing their paragraph **writing**. They are writing 6-8 detailed sentences on an assigned topic. This writing assignment will now be a homework assignment. I will give the topic on Wednesdays and their "proper paragraph format" paper will be due on Fridays. Please make sure they edit their paper before they turn it in. Spelling, punctuation and complete sentences will count towards their grade. With the blessed holiday season coming up, **Religion** class is a time for the students to reflect on the importance of Advent. We celebrate the birth of our Lord and the true meaning of Christmas. With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season around the corner, make time every day to gather together and pray as a family. Have a blessed holiday season.

## 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!

What is on the horizon for grade 5? We are growing in our faith as we learn about the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist. **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? We will accomplish all this and more while being in our heavenly Father's loving care. May you and your family have a blessed, and holy Advent season.

## Middle School Spanish

**GRADE 6:** We will take the Chapter 1 test in a couple of weeks.

**GRADE 7:** We are looking at the theme of FOOD. We will also study the plurals of nouns and adjectives. We will learn how to conjugate verbs ending in -er.

**GRADE 8:** We continue our review of Book A. The theme is FOOD.

## Middle School Literature & Creative Writing

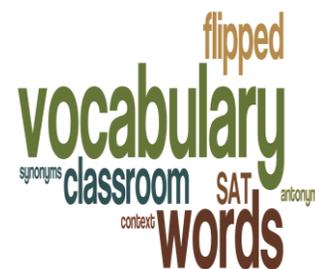
**Grade 6** finished reading the *Tales of Ulysses*. There will be a test and writing assignment at the end of next week. We will then focus on **Grammar and Writing Skills** for the following week, and begin working on literature on Ancient Rome.

**The 7th grade** is working on the *Tales of King Arthur, Knights and Chivalry*. They will write their own Fairy Tale along with an illuminated manuscript. We will then focus on grammar and writing skills.

**Grade 8** has been preparing for the Catholic School test. Next week, they will work on grammar and writing skills, and before we break for the holiday, the students will read an account from an event that happened at Christmas during World War I called "Silent Night."

## Middle School Skills

Students have completed Unit 5 and are finishing Unit 6 in their workbooks! Students will begin working on Units 7 & 8. Homework goes as follows: 3x each in notebooks & on Google classroom. Students will complete sentences & a writing component for each Unit. Each class also works on a reading and writing component at the end of each unit. They learn how to take notes from a reading, and answer questions.



## Middle School Social Studies

**Grade 6:** Students have been working in Chapter 7 *Ancient Rome*. There have been quizzes and a chapter test that will be coming up. This coming month, students will be working on Ancient China, Chapter 5. Homework assignments are section review questions within the chapter, studying for quizzes and tests.

**Grade 7:** Students began working on Chapter 5, *The Road to Revolution*, where students will continue to learn more about the French & Indian war, protests and rebellions from colonists leading up to the seven year war. Each section's questions are homework. Each section will have a quiz, then a chapter test at the end. After Christmas break onto Midterms!

**Grade 8:** Students have been working in Chapter 18, *Industry and Urban Growth*. This chapter, they have been learning about the Industrial Revolution, labor laws, city growth, immigration and culture. Their Industrial Revolution project is due December 3rd. Students had a selection of 7 options for their projects. They will also be presenting them!

## Middle School Religion

**Grade 6:** We are learning about the, "*Building of the Covenant Nation.*" How the Israelites went from being an enslaved people to being a prosperous nation.

**Grade 7:** Unit 2 begins with a review of what the prophets said about the Messiah to come and ends with Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension.

**Grade 8:** Unit 2 begins with the early Church and ends with the Protestant Reformation.

## Middle School Mathematics

**Grade 8 Algebra:** Grade 8 students are finishing up with our study of integers, algebraic expressions, real numbers, and the Distributive Property in Chapter 1. We will then study equations in Chapter 2.

**Grade 8 Pre-Algebra:** Grade 8 pre-algebra students are finishing their study of variables and expressions, order of operations, integers, and equations in Chapter 1. There will be a Chapter 1 Test!!!! Chapter 2 will include a study of using formulas and scientific notation as well as a review of fraction operations (including negative fractions).

**Grade 7 Pre-Algebra:** students will finish studying percent in Chapter 6. There will be a Chapter 6 Test!!!! We will then review decimals and study integers in Chapter 1.

**Grade 6 Math:** We will finish with measures of central tendency – mean, median, mode, and range – as well as different types of graphs (Chapter 2). There will be a Chapter 2 Test!!! We will then work on patterns and variables in Chapter 3.

**ALL GRADES:** Students have homework most week nights. All students should have simple calculators for use in the classroom and at home when needed. In addition, Khan Academy provides instructional videos and practice sets for all topics. Every student has an account and a mission. Please encourage your student to utilize this valuable resource.

## Students of the Month-December

Pre-K-3: Mia Almanzar

Pre-K-4: Logan Barraza

Kindergarten: Liedson DePina-Oliveira

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Camila Zuniga

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Valentina Zuniga

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Almely Polanco

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Dariel Justiniano Chavez

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Gabriel Mejia

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Achilles Asencio

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jianna Caines

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rebecca Sanchez

Congratulations to All!



## Middle School Science

**Grade 6 Science:** Students have been studying States of Matter. Next, we will be exploring how adding thermal energy affects particle motion, temperature, and state.

**Grade 7 Science:** We are continuing to learn about Human Body Systems. Next, we will learn how systems supply energy to the body and how the nutrients in food get distributed to cells throughout the body.

**Grade 8 Science:** As we continue to study Forces and Motion, students will be able to determine the differences between speed, velocity, and acceleration. We will round out the chapter by exploring Newton's Laws of Motion.

Music: Our Christmas Concert will be held in the Church on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018 @ 6:30 PM.  
Students arrive by 6:00 PM.

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

**Grade 3:** High Honors: Jill Banka, Daniel Burton, William Carter, Sofia Concepcion, Cullen Dempsey, Sandra Gonzalez, Lorenzo Knight, Amely Polanco, & Mariska Poldor. Honors: Jeremie Charles, Jr., Jeremiah Ferruzola, & Jeancarlos Mendez.

**Grade 4:** High Honors: Abby Jennings & Rayannah Flowers. Honors: Ruby Bastan, Dariel Justiniano Chavez, & Kaylee Smith. **Grade 5:** High Honors: Jaden Givens, Deryan Gonzalez, Gabriel Mejia, Genesis Monzon, Aiyannah Robinson, Dominic Alarcon & Dominic Correia. Honors: Haymi Miranda-Garcia & Charles Johnson.

**Grade 6:** High Honors: Achilles Asencio & Ayana Guzman. Honors: Melanie Sanchez. **Grade 7:** High Honors: David Demelo, Arlisenny Rodriguez, & Jayla Smith. Honors: Raul Almanzar, Jianna Caines, Sarah Gonzalez, Bianca Bautista, Amira Beltrand, Valeria Tudela, Marienny Vargas, Kailey Vicente, & Destiny Joa. **Grade 8:** High Honors: Ralphletha Flowers (Distinction). Honors: Yaily Camacho, & Justin Castillo.

Find us on 

Please visit our new Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/blessedschoolpvd>

The Hope of the Harvest is in the Seed.

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

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