

St. Jude the Apostle School Newsletter



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A Letter from the Principal

My dear parents,

Soon we will say goodbye to the alleluias! The season of Lent will begin on Wednesday, March 1, 2006. During this holy season of Lent we put away the lively song of "Alleluia.: We will not sing it again until Easter, when we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus. Lent is not an unhappy time, but it is a serious time. With our families, we take this time to think about how much the Gospel means to us and how well we are living up to God's law of love. We watch and pray with Christ. We will be watching, praying and waiting for this glorious resurrection with our children here at school.

On Ash Wednesday, March 1st, our children will be attending Mass at 8:00 a.m. During Mass we will have the distribution of Ashes. Each morning as we gather in the school auditorium for Morning Prayer, we are reminded of the promise that springtime will follow these last days of winter. We are reminded of the promise that Easter will follow the hard work of Lent. There is a beautiful Lenten Preface that captures in powerful words the spirit of Lent: "Again and again you set your Church upon the road of Exodus, to journey through the Lenten journey through the Lenten desert; to walk

toward your holy mountain with a humbled and contrite heart." As we walk this journey together in this holy season, know that your are kept in heart and prayer.

Please note on your school calendar that we have a series of spring testing coming up. The New York State Mathematics Exam is scheduled for March 6 – 10. This is given in grade four. The testing period for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) will be from March 20-31st for grades two through six. Please also remember that Friday, March 3rd is a half-day of school for teacher conference.

Once again we give a great big "Hats Off!! to the "fun"d raising committee for a spectacular Wing Wars Two. This wonderful and fun-filled event yielded over \$7,000 in revenue for our school. In just one night? Well, yes and no! Although the actual event was just one night, please realize the many, many months and hours of hard work behind this event. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our committee. Please, please remember to say thank you to any and all of our fundraising committee when you see them at school events, at the skating rink, bowling and all other such events sponsored for our children.

Thank you once again to our PSC for a fun-filled night of Ice Skating at the

Knickerbacher Arena. This evening was such fun and so successful that many parents asked if we would do another. The PSC will meet the first week back from winter break to plan this event. We will keep you posted.

Again, thank you to all of our parents who were able to support us in the Education Tax Credit Rally. We appreciate the effort so many made to support this event, especially on a work-day. We will keep everyone posted on the next steps we will be taking to support this very important endeavor.

As we begin to settle our hearts to enter into the season of Lent, may we do so in a spirit of gratitude to the Father for the gift of His only begotten Son. It was this supreme sacrifice that gives new life to us all. May God's love be forever yours.

Prayerfully,
Cathleen A. Carney
Administrator



Pre-K News

We in pre-k have had a wonderful start to the new year. We have been working very hard on our letters of the alphabet. Most recently the letters I, M and P. The letter I brought wonderful instruments for us to play. We really love to make music. The letter M was fun too, with lots of talk about mittens, muffins, and marsh mellows, Yummy! With the letter P, we were able to have a fun pajama party. Ho doesn't enjoy wearing their pajamas? And of course popcorn and a movie were enjoyed as well.

Last, we all had a very nice time celebrating Day together too. Have a great vacation!

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is back in full swing with exciting weekly themes, which tie in Reading, social studies, science, math, Religion, and art! In January we have learned about snowflakes and snowmen. We used our imagination to create our own books entitled, *The Snowman*, based upon the book by Raymond Briggs.

We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Big Words", based upon the book by Doreen Rappaport. We gave many examples of using peaceful solutions and loving choices while we made our Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Peace Train, which adorns our hallway. Our big project for the week was the quilt that we made to celebrate "Martin's Big Words". We will proudly hang our quilt in the school. Hopefully it will remind everyone to work towards peace through loving decisions.

We also learned about other African Americans who stood up for their beliefs. We learned about the escape of Harriet Tubman and how she led so many others to freedom. We learned about Rosa Parks and her courage to stand up for herself.

We learned about Insects through the books and art of Eric Carle. We used his multi-step painting techniques to create collage pictures of insects. We even wrote him a letter!

Dinosaurs returned from ex-

tingtion in Mrs. Graham's class this month. Each student was assigned a dinosaur and learned a great deal about his/her species, their "cousins", and other dinosaurs throughout the five main groups. We made fossils, had an archeological dig into some pudding, and heard many non-fiction and fictional books about dinosaurs.

We participated in a "Froot Loops Project" along with 400 schools in 44 states and Canada. Students sorted, counted, and graphed Froot Loops by color. I submitted our results and then we were able to compare our results with the other 400 schools. It was a great introduction to graphing!

In February we are learning about the Senses, Famous Presidents, and we celebrated Valentine's Day and our 100th day of Kindergarten!

Grade One is Fun

February may be a short month but it will be a busy one in our class. Grade One has been counting the days of school since September. We are rapidly approaching the very exciting 100th day of school. We will discover many different ways to count to 100. We will count, sort and graph. The children will make posters showing 100 words that they know.

In February we celebrated friendship on Valentine's Day. We will take Valentine cards and cookies to the hospitalized veterans at the Veterans Hospital in Albany. Grades One and Four will sing for the veterans and distribute treats. First graders have been visiting the veterans twice a year for some time now. The veterans look forward to our visits.

In addition we have begun talking about the Winter Olympic Games. Grades One and Two will hold their own version of the Games. Doing your best is a part of the Olympic Creed. Everyone in Grade One is a gold medal winner.



Grade 2 News

In math this month, the children continue to work with money. This goes well with the unit we are working on in Social Studies on Economics. Students focus on consumers and producers in the United States and round the world.

In science students have been studying the earth and its many changes. The students enjoy learning more about the world around them.

Students are getting creative in Language Arts, creating stories about their favorite foods.

Last, as we look ahead to Lent, the students have begun to visit the Church and the Station of the Cross. We discuss each station and what each one means. Have a great vacation!

Grade 3 News

Happy Winter! Third graders wrote compositions contrasting January and July. We also voted on our favorites. Check out the results outside our classroom.

We've reviewed counting money and started to learn to make change (without the use of a calculator!). Now we're moving on to subtraction of large numbers.

We've read about cool plants that eat bugs....did you know there's more than just the Venus Fly Trap that eats bugs? We've studied food chains and food webs. We're even growing our own mold and observing decomposition in action! To supplement this unit, we'll be taking a trip to the Museum of Science and Technology (formally The Junior Museum) in Troy. We'll participate in a program about food chains. We'll also spend some time in the planetarium.

In social studies we're "visiting" Germany and learning about their culture and customs. We'll also learn a little about the Olympics and their history this month.

In religion we're talking about compassion and mercy. We've learned about how Jesus showed compassion to others and how we can do as He did.

Grade 4 News

Technology is our word for the month. The class watched Freshwater Wetlands, Our Wonderful Wetlands-Marshes, and Our Wonderful Wetlands-Bays in the United Streaming Program to supplement their textbook lessons for science and social studies. The information on the videos was related to how scientific facts were ignored and therefore contributed to the disaster of the Gulf Coast, especially New Orleans during hurricane Katrina.

The class used the internet and the school library to research Rachel Carson and John Muir, two of the first environmentalists that warned the world how man can alter and destroy or protect and appreciate the interrelationship of the animal's habitat and the interdependence of man's home, earth.

Fourth grade learned many new facts and espionage skills when on January 23rd they participated in the first video conference at St. Jude the Apostle School with The Ward Melville Heritage Organization in Stony Brook, N.Y. The name of the program is Windows Through Time: Journals of American Revolutionary War Spies

The students prepared for the conference by reading documents written by The Culper Gang, a spy network in New York City. The presenter showed the class how she, acting as a spy during the war, worked with other patriots to bring important information to General Washington. The teacher from the Long Island museum taught the class how to decode symbols. Each student presented the role they played in a unique spy plan. They had a code name and a special occupation that helped them move easily through the British lines in the scenario that they devised.

The class is finishing "The Sign of the Beaver". They took a brief break while they took the fourth grade New York State ELA exams.

The math class has enjoyed understanding the relationship between multiplication and division by using the Cuisenaire rods. They have a visual

understanding why a number is or is not a factor of another number. Our math vocabulary now employs the words odd, even, factor, operation, prime, composite, and unique.

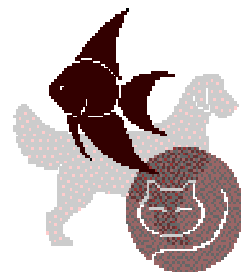
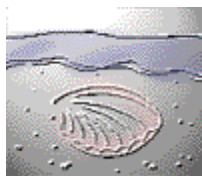
Our religion class is working on drawing pictures of the Stations of the Cross. Each student is responsible one station. Two students are working on the picture, Jesus has risen.

Grade 5 News

The 5th grade students have been busy working this month. In Social Studies, the students are studying about the American Revolution. They are also working on a report in technology class to celebrate black history month. Students were to choose a historic African American, complete a graphic organizer in Microsoft Word using research from the internet then write paragraphs with the information they gather. They are learning how to include a bibliography and the importance of putting the information they gather into their own words. They learned what plagiarism means and how to avoid copying other's work directly from the internet.

In Language Arts, students are learning comma usage which they can then apply to a book report they are writing. Students were able to choose a person to complete a biography book report. Students were to include information such as when the person lived, their accomplishments, and why they chose this person. They also were to include a drawing or a photo of the person they chose. This is due after vacation.

In Math students are learning multiplication with decimals. Last, in science students are learning about Habitats and Ecosystems. Enjoy a nice and restful vacation.



Grade 6 News

The Sixth Grade has been working hard! In reading, we have just completed our Poetry Books. The students were required to find examples of 8 specific literary elements that are used in both prose and poetry. The books will be on display on our Hall of Fame outside our classroom. In addition, we will also soon begin on our annual Class Motto project! The students will write a persuasive essay each arguing that his or her quotation should be chosen by the class as the Class Motto! These essays will also be on display outside our classroom toward the end of February.

In math, we are completing the chapter on Measurement. This chapter required students to use formulas to compute the areas of straight-sided figures, circles, AND the infamous irregular figures! Many students find this chapter very challenging! After completing this chapter, we will move on to learn all about fractions. Many of my students now realize that we wouldn't even have to study fractions if the United States adopted the metric system of measurement. All of my students would vote in favor of this change in policy!

In English, the students are completing their study of nouns. This is a huge unit. In the coming weeks, the students will learn how to identify whether a noun is used as a direct object, object of a preposition, indirect object, or in possession. Whew! We will then turn our attention to pronouns. This is also a very challenging group of lessons.

In social studies, we are just completing our study of ancient Egypt. We will shortly begin our study of the ancient civilizations of Asia and the Americas. We will study the Indus River valley civilizations, the early dynasties in China, and the Olmec and Mayan civilizations in the Americas.

In science, we are learning about basic cell processes. We had a lot of fun creating our "edible" cells. The next big lab will require the students to extract DNA! You will see the results of this project on our Hall of Fame!

Finally, in Religion, we will continue our study of the Old Testament. Please stop by and visit our Hall of Fame to see examples of the wonderful work these Sixth Graders are doing!

Music News



The Kindergarten class is singing several motion songs, and they are working on call and response songs as well.

This helps young children to match pitch and sing in tune. Of course, we are having fun while doing it!

The first graders worked hard practicing their patriotic songs to sing for the Veteran's Hospital. We made the trip there on February 16th to honor the veterans.

The second grade class is learning about musical phrases and as well as strong and steady beats. They will be putting these techniques on unpitched Orff instruments in the near future.

The third grade class is going to be spending time on the recorder. We took a break to prepare for the Christmas concert, but now it is time to review our notes and to play some new, fun songs.

The fourth grade class is also going to be playing the recorder, including an arrangement of Mozart's! This is in honor of his 250th birthday.

The fifth graders are starting a unit on playing percussion and singing. We are going to be busy making different beats while we sing along.

In sixth grade, the students have been discussing the lives of composers, also in honor of Mozart's birthday.

An exciting new addition to the Saint Jude the Apostle School music program is our church choir! Students practice Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:45, and will sing for our Monday morning mass.

Febrero News

After much practice with numbers and colors, Kindergarten is practicing the parts of the body with their new song! 1st grade is having a ball learning

all the animal names. 2nd grade is learning how to order their favorite food from the restaurant. 3rd grade is busy learning the days of the week and the months of the year. 4th grade is putting their meteorologist hats on while learning about the weather. 5th grade is learning the basics of sentence structure with nouns, verbs and adjectives. 6th grade is looking forward to telling time and learning what subjects they like best! Have a nice vacation!



Computer News



After taking time during the holidays for some internet fun, classes in Pre-K and Kindergarten are reviewing Keyboarding. We are completing lessons and using software to reinforce letter identification both on the keyboard and then also finding items that begin with the letters they are studying in their classrooms.

Grades one through six have begun a unit on word processing. Students are learning how to use toolbars, specifically formatting and standard toolbars to create and manipulate text. They are learning how to change font style, size and color, learning to use the toolbars to edit documents for spelling and grammar and are also learning how to insert pictures and other items into their document. Students are also learning to cut, copy and paste within their document and also by using the paint program can copy and paste from another program into their document. Students are learning many valuable skills that assist with writing papers, completing research and other classroom tasks. Ask your children to show you some of the things they can do on the computer.

The technology committee is scheduled to meet the first Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 2nd, 6:30 in the com-

puter lab. Come and get involved in the next phase as we continue to improve and expand our technology program.



The 2005 Price Chopper Tools for Schools has come to an end. This year we earned 33,239 points toward school equipment. This year we were able to purchase playground balls for each classroom and for physical education classes and also a new "No Sting" volleyball. Thank you to Price Chopper and all of you who enrolled in this program.

Library News



Read, read, read!!! That's the motto here in the library. The Pre-K classes continue to work with the letter of the week. They enjoy

finding that letter in the letter cards and in the books they read each week. The kindergarteners have begun using the doorbells to select a book and are now signing out their books by themselves. These are exciting steps for them! The students in grades K – 2 have read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books and are now learning about biographies and autobiographies. The students in Grades 3 – 6 are wrapping up a unit on finding information on a title page. Next up is the card catalog and how to use it as an information tool. Don't forget to ask your student each week about the book he or she has checked out of the library!!

A very special "Thank you!!" to Mrs. Pasquale and the first grade Christmas library angels!! They donated a wonderful collection of new books to our school

Library!! Each book was beautifully wrapped and Miss Larkin had a great time opening the presents to see what was inside!! Our school will enjoy your thoughtful gifts for years to come!! You should be very proud of yourselves!! Thank you very, very much!!

Art News



The students in Pre-K and Kindergarten are doing projects relating to winter. The students in sixth are learning to make sculptures using a cord and different colors of yarn; the sculptures will be on display at our Spring Art Show!

Congratulations to the following students their horse pictures have been chosen to be displayed at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York. The students that were chosen are: 3rd grade Alyssa Montanye, Angelica Oliveri, Jeanette Catone, Madeline Montero, Katherine Dill, Elizabeth Kempter, Emily Beebe, Emily Schultz, and Isabella Barone, 4th grade Courtney King, Chelsea Mullen, Michaela Omecinsky, Taylor Sweet, Sarinah Pond, and Kristie Milos, 5th grade Cierra Sweet, Cierra Fernandez, Amaal Yehia, Songye Pai, Olivia Tripodi, Emily Varkony, Elizabeth Waters, Brian Reardon, and Alex Glodny, 6th grade Taylor Pochobradsky, Morgan Pochobradsky, and Ashley Sweet will be with 7th grade (Ashley's picture was done at St. Jude the Apostle School during summer lessons). Congratulations to every student for getting into the show.

Health News

(Grades 3 through 6)



The students in grades 3 and 4 are finishing up a unit on communication and anger. They have been exploring how to be a better listener and things they can do to help themselves when they are feeling angry. Next up is a unit on the human body with the nervous system being the first system they will investigate. Grades 5 and 6 continue to work with the Project Alert curriculum. They have been looking at advertisements to examine how they work and whether they believe what is being presented in the ad. They have also been practicing ways to say no to drugs and standing up to pressure through role-playing and other activities.

Physical Education News

Happy New Year everybody!!! Parachute was the opening activity for the New Year in Physical Education for every grade. It certainly was a fun way to kick off the year!! The remainder of the month will find the students developing their hand-eye coordination with volleyball type activities. The Pre-K students will work with balloons and beachballs to develop striking and catching skills. Grades Kindergarten through 2 will use the balloons and beachballs to develop basic volleyball skills as well as striking and catching skills. Grades 3 through 6 will be developing the basic skills used in the game of volleyball using the beachballs and volleyball trainer balls and learning the basic rules of the game. Grades 5 and 6 also be prepared for the annual fifth and sixth grade volleyball game against the St. Jude's parents/guardians and the staff. The game is an exciting tradition for Catholic Schools Week here at St. Jude's. Their practice paid off, in a hard fought game the Parents and Students tied at 2 games each!!! What a great event and exciting games we had. Thank you all for your participation this year!



News from the

Health office

It's that time of year when it seems everyone has a cold or flu. Some tips to remember:



- * Wash your hands for at least 30 seconds.
- * Always cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing and discard any tissues immediately in the garbage.
- * It's also a good idea to crack your windows to allow stagnate, germ laden air out and fresh, clean air in. Cold air will not make you sick, just be sure to dress properly.
- * **Please remember to bring your hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots for recess.**

Parent School Connection



The PSC officers would like to acknowledge Miss Carney for her wonderful accomplishment - National Catholic School Principal of the year! WOW!

In the month of January PSC hosted the Scholastic BookFair. We'd like to thank Marie Barhold for the time and effort she put into chairing this event. Her expertise and organizational skills made this event a big success.

During Catholic Schools Week PSC also hosted an ice cream social for all the schoolchildren.

In the month of February the PSC sponsored a FREE ice skating event. This event took place on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th at the Knickerbocker Ice Rink in North Troy. It was a great success!!! Mark your calendars and watch for more information on this event.

In addition PSC will be covering the cost of tickets for the 1st and 2nd grades' upcoming trip to the theater.

Fundraising

The 2nd Annual Chicken Wiing War was a great success again this year. The winners this year are:



3rd Place: Lakeview Inn



2nd Place: Doby's





And For the Second Year in a Row...

1st Place: Rusty's Pizzeria

Thank you all for your help!!!

March 2006

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Ash Wednesday 	2	3 Bingo Team B Qtr 3 Progress Rpt 1/2 day of School 11:00 Dismissal	4
5	6 Grade 4 NYS Math Exam Week	7	8	9	10 Bingo Team C	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Bingo Team D 	18
19	20 IOWAS Test Week	21	22	23	24 Bingo Team A	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Bingo Team B	