

Centered in Jesus, Saint Gabriel Catholic School is committed to excellence in developing our faith, academics, and service.

Saint Gabriel Catholic School Mission Statement, reviewed in 2008

FIFTH GRADE GAZETTE
ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

January, 2012




RELIGION: Fifth studied the Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist which bring us into full union with the Church. The gift of grace we receive from the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation provides us with the strength to live our lives as Jesus taught us. We also learned about the Apostles' Creed. It is a summary of our faith. In the first part we profess our belief in God the Father and the work of Creation. In the second part, we profess our belief in Jesus and the mystery of the Redemption. In the third part, we profess our belief in the Holy Spirit. We completed Unit 2 and are moving into our study of the Eucharist.



MATH: Our focus this month has been on fractions and mixed numbers. Fifth graders learned how to find equivalent fractions and write them in simplest form. They also worked with changing decimals to fractions and mixed numbers and fractions and mixed numbers into decimals. Then they compared and ordered them. They estimated fraction and mixed number sums and differences as well as added and subtracted them with like and unlike denominators. We moved on to adding and subtracting decimals through thousandths!



LANGUAGE ARTS: Our essay and poem entries for the Catholic Daughters contest are complete. We really do have some beautiful writers! Our grammar study has concentrated on subject-verb agreement and using correct verb tense. We are just starting to learn about adjectives. We think we heard a rumor that some pet rocks are coming!!!

MISCELANEOUS: Catholic Schools Week was a lot of fun and a good chance to celebrate our Catholic identity. To demonstrate our leadership skills, we led the school talent show on Tuesday. Each one of us participated in some way. Our room collected 74 cans for the "Souper" Bowl—way to go! We will celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14th with a Valentine exchange and some snacks. 



READING: We have read a realistic fiction, biography, and a short story. Through these stories our reading skills focus has been on identifying the elements of a plot, using graphic sources, and analyzing characters. We are always working toward better comprehension. Vocabulary was also developed through our story selections. Remember that by rereading stories orally at home, we can earn auction tickets and, better yet, a good score on the comprehension checks! We began reading the children's classic *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. It's the kind of book that we just don't want to put down!

SCIENCE: What's the Matter? We began our Physical Science unit with the study of matter. Reviewing our understanding of what is matter was the beginning of our study. We then went into what is an element and how they are grouped on the periodic table. We learned about the different kinds of information the periodic table provides us. Each student took an element and made a sample of it that went on display in the hall. Our study proceeded into molecules and compounds. We used gum drops and made samples of compounds. We finished up with understanding chemical reactions. It was a hands-on unit.



SOCIAL STUDIES: Our focus has been on the Spanish, French, and English settlements in the Americas. It was especially fun learning about the lost colony of Roanoke Island, Jamestown Colony, and Plymouth Colony. We are beginning to study the 13 English colonies.



FORENSICS: We are busy working on our forensic pieces. There are four groups consisting of one play acting and three group interpretation. We also have two prose entries. Our first competition is at Seton Middle School on February 29. Our second competition will be on March 5 at Saint Mary Central High School. We practice during the school day, but any help at home would be greatly appreciated. By just listening to us and offering positive suggestions, we will gain more experience and confidence.