

ST. GABRIEL

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

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS...

April

March 31—3rd Quarter

Progress Reports sent home

...1—Grade 2 Field Trip to the
Bubolz Nature Center

...1—Holy Thursday Retreat in
the afternoon

...2-11—Easter Break

...12—School Resumes

...12—Martial Arts class; 3-4
p.m. in the gym

...14—Martial Arts class

...15—Seton Buddy Visit;
grade 5 goes to Seton

...16—Celebration of April
Birthdays at lunch

...16--Luke Peters Day; a day
to show support for a first
grader at SMM who has
cancer; anyone who has
purchased the special shirt will
be allowed to wear it with
uniform pants

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK... Holy Week began on Palm Sunday with Jesus's triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. The Triduum is a special part of Holy Week. It consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. On Holy Thursday, we remember Jesus's Last Supper with his apostles. It was at this meal that Jesus gave us the Eucharist, which brings us closer to Him each day. On Good Friday, we pause to remember Jesus's death upon the cross. Finally, on Easter Vigil and Easter, we turn once again to the Risen Jesus, Our Savior, who overcame sin and death. The students in grades kindergarten through grade 5 will participate in a retreat on Holy Thursday during the afternoon. The focus for the retreat this year is the Triduum (Latin for three days).

LENT PROJECT... Tomorrow, Holy Thursday will be our last collection day for Lent. Our total right now is a little over \$800. The money donated will be split between a donation to the building of the permanent homeless shelter for the Fox Valley in Appleton and for homes for the Haitian people. We will present the contributions to representatives of both groups after the Easter break.

APRIL... The word *April* means "to open." This is the time of the year that leaf and flower buds open. In most northern countries, this is a month of transformation. The days are longer than the nights. Even if the nights are chilly, the daytime sun is strong and continues to grow stronger. The earth itself seems to take part in the Passover of the Lord from death to life.

The TCCES theme for April is MORALITY—the ability to determine what is right and wrong, good and evil. Each homeroom displays a poster featuring a silhouette of a head divided in half—one side, white for good and the other side, black for bad choices. A red question mark is in the center. The students will be discussing what morals are. They will also be role playing situations in which they will have to make a choice and defend the choice based on whether it is good (the right one) or bad (the wrong one).



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

SYMPHONY EXPERIENCE...The third graders participated in the Partners in Education Program, which is offered through the Fox Valley Symphony and the Appleton Art Center. Different musicians and an artist visited our school teaching the students different aspects of art and music. The class attended a performance by the Fox Valley Youth Symphony at the Performing Art Center in Appleton. The program was called Painting Musical Stories. In addition to hearing the Youth Symphony, Monica Chou, a junior at Neenah High School, performed a violin solo and Alan Ridout told the stories of Ferdinand the Bull and The Tortoise and the Hare with the symphony accompanying him by providing music. The artwork the students made was on display hanging from the ceiling. The entire program was an awesome experience. Below are some student comments:

Songs the students enjoyed: *Breeze – Jupiter*; Hanna and Caroline – *Can Can*; Alyssa, Alyiah, and Kaitlyn – *Mars*; and Alex liked all the planet songs.

Caitlyn, Logan, Marissa & Caitlin liked everything; Jeremy liked that everything was performed to perfection; Brianna enjoyed the violin soloist; Garrett liked the way they told the stories and played the music in between; Brittany enjoyed when we got to sing *I Vow to Thee my Country*; Anna Marie liked the story of Ferdinand the Bull; Jackson thought watching the conductor was interesting; Tanner read that the soloist began playing at the age of 4. Wow !!; Claudia's mind was picturing things from the music; Bryce thought it was great that the Youth Symphony performed for us; Joshua preferred the softer musical pieces; Jared liked it that the whole PAC was full of just third graders.

It seems all the students took away different things from the experience, all wonderful. We are fortunate to get to participate. We thank the Fox Valley Symphony for providing this program for third graders of the Fox Valley area.

Keep before you, Faith; Hold fast to hope's embrace,

Keep before you, Love; In the rising of the Son.

HOOKED ON A BOOK CLUB... To celebrate the reading of the book, *Winn Dixie*, the St. Gabriel book club hosted a party based on a party from the book for their classmates. The group enjoyed pickles, fruit juice, and popcorn amidst orange and pink streamers. Pictures of dogs were hung on the walls throughout the room. The students watched the movie of the story and then wrote a critique of the movie or compared it to the book. The Hooked on a Book Club is now reading *Superfudge*. The club is open to any 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader and meets every Wednesday morning. One of the club members always brings a treat which is shared as the group discusses the chapters that were assigned previously.

OLYMPICS... The winter Olympics did not go by without the opportunity to learn many skills at St. Gabriel School. The fourth graders, along with the third and fifth graders, were involved in a three-step program. Each child was able to respond to an Olympic Trivia by searching for answers on the Internet. In another round, students worked in groups making bar graphs about the number of medals countries won in previous Olympic Games. The third round consisted of using artistic talents by designing a new Olympic torch for the year 2014.

All these activities provided a "little" participation in the exciting Olympic Games.

PARENT SURVEY COMMENTS... The St. Gabriel Staff has met several times and discussed the recent computer-generated parent survey and comments. The following are just a few examples of how the staff strives daily to meet the educational needs of all students at St. Gabriel's: the use of a variety of instructional methods to accommodate the learning styles of the students; the use of different forms of technology or media to meet these styles; the use of trade books with different lexile ratings to challenge students with higher reading abilities; projects and class work given to mixed ability groups; providing choices in projects to accommodate different interests as long as the basic criteria are met; and providing an interest/ability topic each month which involves grades 3-5 and another topic for grades k-2. *To be continued, next time.*

There were also some comments about the physical condition of the parking lot. Those issues should be addressed to the St. Gabriel Parish Office. The school has no control in issues concerning the parking lot.