



ST. GABRIEL

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

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS...

December

...3—Grade 5 Field Trip to the Paine Art Center in Oshkosh

...6—St. Nick Social at St. Gabriel Parish featuring the Cake Walk; 10:45 – 1:30 p.m.

...8—Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation); Liturgy planned by Miss Lamecker's kindergarten class at **12:15 p.m.**

...9—Grade 4 Field Trip to Heritage Hill

...10—St. Gabriel Christmas Concert held in the church; Dress Rehearsal at 1:00 p.m. and evening performance at 6:30 p.m.

...11—Sweetness of Christmas in the afternoon for grades k-5.

...15—Liturgy planned by Mrs. Olsen's kindergarten class at 8:15 a.m.

...16—Eat at or order take out at Perkins in Neenah; 10% of money made between 5-8:00 p.m. goes to St. Gabriel School.

...22—Liturgy planned by Grade 5 at 8:15 a.m.

...23—Early dismissal; 11:30

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK... Advent has begun! Christmas is coming soon, very soon! It is the time of the year when we are busier than ever. Most of us don't mind, though, because it's all about celebration and family in the name of Jesus. You no doubt have your own traditions that honor Jesus in your home at this time of year. These traditions are what families are all about. It is important to share them and the stories behind them with our children. In our family, certain ornaments have been passed down from family members who are no longer with us. It is a time to remember these people and times we shared. The third, fourth, and fifth graders have been working on Christmas traditions from different countries. They have been making the symbols and hearing the timeless legends that explain them. It is a wonderful time of the year to appreciate the past and slow down and enjoy the present as we build memories for the future.

A SWEET SAINT... St. Nicholas is celebrated each year on December 6 (his feast day). Tradition holds that kids who leave their shoes out on the hearth or by the door before they go to sleep on December 5 will wake up with their shoes filled with candy or small treats, which means St. Nicholas has been there! Including St. Nicholas in your family Advent traditions is a great way to learn more about one of our greatest saints and emphasize giving over receiving. Nicholas (who died about 350 A.D.) came from a wealthy family, with parents who were always generous to the poor. When they died, Nicholas gave their money away to help people in need. He became a priest and was soon made a bishop. He was known for caring for children in trouble, healing the sick, feeding the hungry and saving sailors from storms. He often performed secret acts of kindness, such as leaving coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him. After he died, stories of his goodness spread to many countries. He became known as Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Don't forget the St. Nick Social at St. Gabriel this weekend! Be sure and stop at the Cake Walk—all desserts are donated from St. Gabriel School families.

Proceeds will be used for whiteboard erasers and markers.



NEWS FROM TCCES FOOD SERVICE...We would like to remind all parents of the importance of maintaining a positive balance in your child's hot lunch account. We are currently experiencing problems with a number of students taking meals that are ultimately not being paid for due to accounts that have reached the charge limit. If this continues, we will be forced to increase the price of meals due to the high cost incurred by the program. We do not want to deny any child a meal; however, if a student's account does not have enough money in the account to cover that meal, we will be unable to serve them a lunch. Low account balance notifications are sent out semi-weekly via e-mail to any account that falls below a \$10 balance, and monthly balance statements are sent to every hot lunch account. Because these provisions are in place, we feel that parents have adequate notice when their child's account is about to reach its limit, and additional funds will need to be added to the account. If you are not currently receiving these notices, please call 967-0107 to verify that we have your correct e-mail address on file, so that you can stay notified of your child's account balance. We offer a variety of payment options, including automatic monthly deduction from a checking account, in order to ensure the greatest ease for families. If your family is having trouble maintaining a positive balance due to financial hardship, contact the food service office at 967-0107 to find out about available services or meal plans that may be of assistance to you.

Thank you for your cooperation, and please remember to maintain a positive balance so your student will be able to enjoy their lunch.—*Lynn Graves*

FOOD COLLECTION...The third grade Brownie troop, #2142, decided to organize a food drive for Fr. Carr's Place 2B after receiving an e-mail stating the shelter was in low supply. The Girl Scouts designed posters, wrote commercials for the morning announcements and decorated the boxes for the food. The food drive ran for two weeks. The goal of the troop was to collect five boxes of food items for the shelter, but over eight boxes were filled. The girls were very excited with the outcome and grateful to the families and staff members who contributed to the collection. *GREAT JOB, GIRLS!*

TCCES BUSINESS OFFICE... The schedule for the holidays will be as follows:

Wednesday, Dec 23--Regular hours 7:30-4:30;
Thurs/Fri, Dec 24 – 25—Closed; Mon – Wed, Dec 28 – 30--8:00 to 3:30; Thurs/Fri, Dec 31/ Jan 1—Closed.

St. Gabriel School Office will be closed from noon on Wednesday, December 23rd until Monday, January 4th.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Jn.3:17

ST. GABRIEL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

INFORMATION... The annual school concert under the direction of Mr. Rhex Arboleda will take place on Thursday, December 10. There will be two performances: the Dress Rehearsal will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the evening performance at 6:30 p.m. Both performances will be held in the St. Gabriel Church. The students should be dropped in their classrooms between 6-6:15 for the evening performance. Seating will be available in the church beginning at 6:00. The concert will last about an hour.

The students should dress their best for the concert. Students can either dress their best or wear school clothing for the performances. Jeans, sweatshirts are not appropriate attire. Unfortunately, the hot lunch program is serving spaghetti on the day of the concert.

We are all looking forward to the concert.

ST. GABRIEL PTO NIGHT AT PERKINS... On Wednesday, December 16, from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m., 10% of all net sales at the Neenah Perkins will be donated to the St. Gabriel PTO. This includes take-out orders, eat-in meals, and the bakery to-go. This is the first time the PTO has tried this fundraiser, if you can please help make it a success.

CHRISTMAS UNIT... To begin the Christmas season the third, fourth, & fifth graders were intermingled into groups to study the origin of many of our Christmas symbols. Six different countries were studied: Germany, Italy, United States, Mexico, Great Britain, and Russia. Each group was divided into smaller groups. These groups either did the research or created the symbols. One group practiced reading a book about the symbol. The individual groups of countries each presented their findings and creation to the whole group. The stories were also shared to all. It was very interesting and a lot of fun. Now as the students see these symbols throughout the holidays, they can understand the story behind them. The work done by each group is on display in the display cases in the hall. A picture of each group is included in the display.

FIRST RECONCILIATION... The following St. Gabriel students will be celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next week: Ben Seidl, David Schermerhorn, Kyle Krysiak, Scott Grassman, Hayley Dunlop, Michaela Kegley, Nicholas Jost, Annalise Zwickey, Alex Rosiejka, Sam Knott, Marcus Wittmann, Adam Wintheiser, Abby Keuler, and Brittney Keuler. . We remember them in prayer as they participate in the sacrament. The sacrament will also be offered to all who have previously received it on Monday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m.