



St. Francis de Sales School Times

Here are just a few things that happened...in March



In Pre-K...we

- ✦ learned the importance of breakfast for energy and to build our bodies in the "Think Breakfast" program.
- ✦ shared stories and shamrocks as we celebrated St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day.
- ✦ learned about sharing and giving to others during Lent.
- ✦ decorated our hallway with flowers and birds.

In Kindergarten...we

- ✦ are telling time on an analog clock and a digital clock.
- ✦ are developing skills and an understanding of money.
- ✦ are noting language patterns (fantasy/realism), decoding letter words, and identifying ending sounds.
- ✦ are celebrating the Easter Story.



In First Grade...we

- ✦ learned about Lent and Holy Week and tried to be good followers of Jesus.
- ✦ completed a social studies unit about natural resources and the 3R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- ✦ enjoyed our reading theme "Creepy Crawlies" and then created our own "creepy crawly" stories
- ✦ learned to use picture graphs, bar graphs, and tally marks.

In Second Grade...we

- ✦ learned about rocks, erosion, and weathering in science.
- ✦ learned "Jesus is the Bread of Life" in preparing for our First Communion on April 10th.
- ✦ learned how to say "No" to drugs, tobacco, and alcohol in Health.
- ✦ are becoming experts at subtraction with regrouping.
- ✦ are practicing our uppercase letters in cursive.

In Third Grade...we

- ✦ worked on a project in Religion starting 12 days before Easter. Each egg contained a symbol and a statement regarding the Passion of Christ.
- ✦ reviewed for the NYS ELA and Math tests.
- ✦ worked on multiplication and division facts.
- ✦ sent an Easter package to a student's relative in Iraq.
- ✦ did some Tai chi for relaxation.

In Fourth Grade...we

- ✦ made a Lenten mobile and illustrated the Stations of the Cross for Lent.
- ✦ did an experiment on properties using a "mystery box"
- ✦ are reading biographies for our monthly book report.
- ✦ learned about figurative language and made posters illustrating simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and others.
- ✦ used our artistic talent to draw the Earth's structure.

In Fifth Grade...we

- ✦ went to church and prayed the Stations of the Cross.
- ✦ wrote business letters to the states we're working on for our State Fair requesting information for our projects.
- ✦ are working on "How-to" papers and will give an oral presentation/demonstration when we're done.
- ✦ made colorful butterflies and mandalas to brighten up our room for spring.
- ✦ read The Orphan of Ellis Island & discussed immigration to the United States at the turn of the 20th century.

In Sixth Grade...we

- ✦ read Anne of the Green Gables in play form, then viewed the movie. After, we wrote a character sketch of Anne, supporting our choice of Anne's traits with details from both the play and the movie.
- ✦ discussed "pop art" and did some Andy Warhol drawings.
- ✦ have begun reading The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.
- ✦ are using our protractors to measure and draw angles.
- ✦ are starting to work on our country projects.
- ✦ are learning about the Roman Empire.

Technology Class

- ✦ *Kindergarten* is learning to use software programs that are enhancing their phonics and reading skills.
- ✦ *1st & 2nd grades* are on their last section of the keyboarding program.
- ✦ *3rd grade* has completed their keyboarding program & are using software to support their classroom learning.
- ✦ *4th, 5th, & 6th grades* are working on their final word processing assignment, which incorporates skills and techniques they have learned.



Notes from the Music Room



Students in pre-k - 1st grade explored pitch changes by listening, singing, and moving. They also listened for fast or slow tempo and kept the beat with various movements. Beginning music theory was on tap for 2nd and 3rd graders – learning about meter signature and note values. Upper grades developed an accompaniment to the book "Wild Thing" and performed it on various pitched and unpitched percussion instruments.

Coach's Corner



Happy March Madness! In the last month, I introduced the students to games such as Castle Ball and Scooter Basketball. We learned the basics on how to throw and catch a frisbee and even played "frisbee hoops" with the 4th- 6th grades.

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April Upcoming Events/Schoolwide Information – Mark Your Calendars!

- ✦ There will be no school on April 1st and April 2nd as we celebrate Holy Thursday and Good Friday.
- ✦ We celebrate Easter Sunday on April 4th.
- ✦ First Holy Communion for grade 2 on April 10th at 11:00 in the church.
- ✦ DARE graduation for 6th grade on April 12th at 7:00 PM.
- ✦ PSA Meeting on April 13th at 7:00 PM.
- ✦ Report Cards for kindergarten – 6th grade will go home on April 16th.
- ✦ There will be no school April 19th – April 23rd due to Spring Recess.
- ✦ New York State ELA tests for 3rd – 6th grade will be held on April 26th, 27th, and 28th.
- ✦ St. Francis de Sales parish fair from April 30th – May 1st.



Award Winning Storyteller Performs for Our Students

On March 26th, students in our pre-k – 6th grade were entertained and inspired by the award winning storyteller performances of Jonathan Kruk, M.A.Ed. Throughout his career, Jonathan has received many awards including “Parents’ Choice Awards” and a “National Parenting Publication Award” for his work with audio books and storytelling. His performances for our students ranged from finger fables to folklore. Ask your child about “Rabbit and Turtle”, “The Stonecutter”, or “Who is Mightiest” and they may have a story to act out and share with you. After listening to his tales, students in 4th–6th grade also participated in a “Storymaker’s Workshop”, where they brainstormed, created their own tales together and stretched their imaginations!



We recently received a “thank you” from Catholic Charities thanking us for our donation for Haiti. We also received a thank you from the Ronald McDonald House for our donation of almost 10 pounds of pop tabs! We will continue to collect the pop tabs throughout the rest of the school year.

Attention! Friends and Alumni



You are cordially invited to our

Spring Dreams Auction

On Saturday, June 5th, 2010, we are hosting our annual Spring Dreams Auction. You are invited to join us for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, reconnect with old friends, and to show your support for our school. There are only 200 tickets, so when the event is full, we will have to close the doors. Respond now and reserve your seat! For advance tickets, please send check or money order for \$10 per person to the St. Francis PSA at the address below:

St. Francis de Sales Regional Catholic School
220 Henry Street
Herkimer, NY 13350

We are still soliciting auction items/donations. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, or donating to this event, please contact Lisa Elwood at lelwood7@yahoo.com or call the school office at 866-4831. Thank you!

Monthly Raffle Winner



Congratulations to our
March monthly raffle winner!
Linda Dillon