

Ark of Angels Montessori Preschool

January, 2008

Happy New Year!

Everyone is happy to be back in school with their friends. Thank you for all of the lovely cards and gifts, we appreciate your support and generosity.

We had a great response to the Food Shelf Donations and Operation Christmas Child boxes! We had 32 shoe boxes for needy children and 8 very full grocery bags of food. Thank you for your participation in this wonderful learning experience for the students.



Classroom needs: Napkins and 5 oz. Dixie Cups

Open House and Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for 2008 – 2009

We have started registering returning students for the 2008-2009 school year. If you have not turned in your registration and plan for your child to attend Ark of Angels Preschool next year, you will want to have it in by January 11. This will give you priority placement over younger siblings and new students. All fees and the class schedule will remain the same. You can find a registration form on the St. Croix Catholic School website, www.stcroixcatholic.com or we can send one home for you.

We will be having a **Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night for Parents and Children on Tuesday, January 22**. Families will have the opportunity for to meet the teachers, visit the classrooms and learn about our Preschool and Kindergarten programs. We will begin in the Social Hall of St Michaels Church at **6:30 pm** with a short presentation and then you will be able to go to the classrooms to explore and have your questions answered by the teachers and parent helpers. There will be simple activities for the children and refreshments. Please feel free to attend, especially if you would like to learn more about the Kindergarten program at St. Croix Catholic. Also, please encourage your friends and neighbors who would like to learn more about the Preschool and Kindergarten to visit us.

On **Sunday, February 3 from 8:30 am to 12 Noon**, St. Croix Catholic School and Ark of Angels Preschool will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week with another Open House. During the Open House, both Ark of Angels Preschool and the SCCS Kindergarten will be accepting registrations for new families and students for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

A **Pancake Breakfast** will also be held in St. Michael's Social Hall from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Preschool Accreditation

This year we are working on completing the necessary requirements in order for Ark of Angels Montessori Preschool to become an accredited program of St Croix Catholic School. This is in addition to our licensed status with the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Every seven years, St. Croix Catholic School seeks re-accreditation by the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). This process includes a rigorous review of all school programs to assure that we meet the high standards of the MNSAA. In addition, every year the school submits an evaluation to MNSAA showing that we continue to be meeting those standards. The Ark of Angels Preschool program is new since the school's last accreditation, so this will be the first time our preschool is included.

The accreditation process begins with a self review and is completed by a peer review by other MNSAA members. The self-review process has already begun and will continue throughout the summer of 2008. The peer review will take place during a week in the fall of 2008.

There are many areas in which we need to document our policies and show examples as to how we implement them, we need to recognize our strengths and weaknesses and state how we plan to maintain or show improvement in all areas.

We will keep you apprised of our progress as we work toward completing our accreditation.

In the Classroom

Religion:

- The Our Father prayer continues to be a work in progress.
- Manners - We are teaching the value of self control, for example controlling our voices by speaking softly and our bodies by keeping our hands to ourselves and walking quietly. We are learning to be patient while waiting our turn, and to not interrupt when someone else is talking. We have talked about respecting others by not writing on their work.
- We will start learning about the life of Jesus and some of his stories. Some of our stories will be: Jesus in the Temple, Jonah, Loaves and Fishes, and Twelve Friends.

Science:

- We have completed our unit on Outer Space, Planets and the Constellations.
- We are now learning about dinosaurs. We are making dinosaur puppets and stamping dinosaur scenes, learning the different names of dinosaurs and playing "Dino Go Fish".

We are learning about dinosaurs galore!

Meat eaters = carnivores vs. plant eaters = herbivore

What is a paleontologist?

What is extinct?

- We are also learning about volcanoes, rocks and fossils.

Culture:

- We have completed our unit on Mexico
- We will begin our unit on Alaska soon.



Dates to Remember

Monday, January 21	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, January 22	6:30 pm - Kindergarten & Preschool Information Night begin in St. Michael's Social Hall
Monday, January 28	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, January 29 – Friday, February 1	Celebrating Catholic Schools Week “Catholic Schools Light the Way”
Sunday, February 3	8:30 am – 12 Noon St. Croix Catholic and Ark of Angels Open House Registration for new students Pancake Breakfast in St. Michael's Social Hall (8:00 – 12:30)