

Smack Dab in the Middle

St. Croix Catholic Middle School Newsletter

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Curriculum Highlights

Religion: Mrs. Lynch

Grade 6 - THE OLD TESTAMENT: We continue our study of the Old Testament with the stories of Joseph and Moses. Students learned that through Joseph, God saved His chosen people from starvation and the effects of war. They will make beautiful murals depicting the life of Joseph.

In January we will read the story of Moses in the book of Exodus. This includes the early life of Moses, his call by God to lead the Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt, the ten plagues, the first Passover and its fulfillment in the Mass and the crossing of the Red Sea. Students will write stories and draw symbols of each plague as a culminating project.

Grade 7 - THE NEW TESTAMENT: During this Advent Season, students have completed a unit on John the Baptist. They learned that John had a three-fold mission in preparing the way for Jesus. He fulfilled this mission as a precursor, preacher and a prophet.

We also discussed the main political groups present during the time of John the Baptist. Students wrote a journal entry and drew a visual about a day in the life of a political group member.

Grade 8 - THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS: Students are concluding the Social Teachings unit with Care for Creation. They realized that God calls us all to be stewards of His Creation. We are all created with God given gifts and talents to be used to care for other people and creation.

In January we will begin an in-depth study of the sacraments in preparation for Confirmation.



Student Council Report:

Submitted by Patty Dierberger

Student Council has just wrapped up Operation Christmas Child and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Just today they delivered Christmas Grams to the Middle School students. In January, we will begin to work on Catholic Schools Week and selling Val-o-grams. The next meeting is January 5, 2010.

Testing News:

In the fall, the 8th graders took the SAT-10 test. This full battery test was given to all 8th graders within the Minneapolis St. Paul Archdiocese.

The results look good! While the compilation of results for the Archdiocese is not yet complete, the reports distributed to parents in report cards show how we compare to the nation.

All subjects tested above the 70th percentile rank-stanine! Our highest results were found in Mathematics Problem Solving (85-7) and Thinking Skills (84-7).

*You are invited to St. Croix Catholic School's
Middle School Information Fair
For students currently in 5th-7th grade and their parents
January 14, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.*

*Come for the Evening to:
Enjoy a dessert bar * Gather with other MS families
Hear from recent SCCS graduates * Collect information
Visit interactive stations and displays in the classrooms*

<p><u>English:</u> Ms. Lass</p> <p>6th grade – Students are finishing up the novel <i>The Cay</i>. They will be in literature circles for the months of January and February. Grammar's focus will be on pronouns.</p> <p>7th grade – Students have wrapped up the novel <i>Johnny Tremain</i> and have begun the novel <i>Sarah Bishop</i>. Grammar emphasis is on different functions of pronouns.</p> <p>8th grade – Students are reading the <i>Hobbit</i> and are in the midst of Bilbo Baggins's journey to adventures and treasures in the Misty Mountains. Grammar lessons are on the adjective and its importance in good writing.</p>	<p><u>Computers:</u> Mrs. Donlon</p> <p>6th grade classes are completing this first PowerPoint with a presentation to the whole class. We will now be adding buttons, animations, hyperlinks and sound as the students apply their skills to an Invention Presentation. This will be followed up with adding to their skills with a non-linear presentation in game format or choose your own ending format.</p>
<p><u>Health/P.E.:</u> Mr. Slaikeu</p> <p>During the month of January, we will focus our skills on floor hockey, followed by racquet sports.</p> <p>Also this month, students will be studying Health during the week of Jan 18th to the 22nd. This Health week will examine stress and conflict management, along with some aspects of growth and development, how as we grow older our bodies change and our stress levels may rise and how do we deal with those stresses.</p> <p>Upcoming Events: Feb 9th Middle School Ski Day - Afton Alps</p>	<p><u>History:</u> Ms. Lass, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Donlon, & Mr. Slaikeu</p> <p>Grade 6 World History – 6th graders have left ancient Egypt and are on their way to Mesopotamia and its contributions to civilization.</p> <p>Grade 7 American History (Pre-History – 1850) – Students have been studying the French and Indian War and the turmoil over taxation as they ready themselves for the American Revolution. Additionally students have been participating in a tax and good behavior simulation that will culminate this week with an auction of neat and interesting items that they can use for fun or little Christmas gifts.</p> <p>Grade 8 American History (1850 – Present) – During the next month students will be diving into Unit 7 which takes a look at the new role of the nation and what it all means. From the late 1860's through the end of World War I, the country grappled with an array of issues and crises: political corruption, social reform, industrial expansion, racial tensions and much more. With our own problems in the United States, we also had to deal with what role the United States would play in world affairs. This unit will focus on our role in the world and what it means to us all.</p>
<p><i>Check out the honor rolls on the back page!</i></p>	<p><u>Mathematics:</u> Mrs. Novack & Mrs. Bates</p> <p>Course 2: In chapter six, students compare and order integers and perform integer addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The definition of rational numbers is discussed and then they graph points in the coordinate plane.</p> <p>Pre Algebra: Pre Algebra students have been busy learning about working with rational numbers and equations. Their next chapter will bring the topics of ratio, proportion and probability.</p> <p>Algebra: In the new year, Algebra students will begin their work with solving and graphing linear inequalities.</p> <p>Geometry: Students in Geometry have completed their work with polygons with three sides (triangles) and will be moving into four sided polyons, specifically quadrilaterals.</p>

Science: Mrs. Glaser

6th grade: We are continuing with the study of forces. We have learned about Newton's three laws of motion, friction and gravity, and balanced and unbalanced forces. We have been doing some activities to test acceleration and will be doing one after Christmas break to test friction.

7th grade: We are learning about the classification of living organisms. We researched the scientific name of a plant or animal to create the seven levels of classification for that particular organism. We will looking at viruses and bacteria and figuring out what they are, how they multiply, and how small they are. We will also look at some of the benefits of bacteria and the role that bacteria plays in the food that we eat.

8th grade: We are studying minerals. We will look at how minerals are classified and how geologists identify the different types of minerals based on a variety of characteristics. We will look at the household uses of minerals and practice identifying them based on their characteristics.

Spanish: Sra. Bates

The **eighth graders** are completing their unit study on hobbies and will be beginning chapter four. This is a popular chapter, as the students love the theme, FOOD! They will have the opportunity to extend their knowledge of Spanish as they describe what they like and do not like to eat and drink, tell when they have meals, and say whether they are hungry or thirsty. Culturally, everyone will be comparing and contrasting the eating customs in Spanish-speaking countries and the United States.

Communications: Mrs. McCarron

In the middle of January, the 7th Grade Communication classes will be producing their own short video programs at the Valley Access Channels' TV studios in Stillwater. They are currently learning what it takes to prepare for a taping session, including how to write a video script. They've also been learning about persuasion, and their assignment is to produce a persuasive video presentation that will hopefully change certain behaviors to make this world a better place.

At the same time, the 7th graders are beginning their research and planning for producing an issue of the middle school newsletter, the *MidKnight Express*.

Near the end of this trimester, the students will be performing their one-act plays. Watch for more information on the two comedies that the students will be preparing. Second hour Communications class selected the play *The Mystery at Throckmorton Manor*, and the third hour class selected *The Soldier, the Witch, and the Tinder-Box*.

Upcoming Attractions:

Monday, January 4th, 2010

Welcome Back

Wednesday, January 6th

9:15 Mass

Tuesday, January 12th

7th grade to VA

Wednesday, January 13th

9:15 Mass

Thursday, January 14th

7th grade to VA and

Middle School Information Fair

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 14th

All School Spelling Bee

Friday, January 15th

Middle School Dance

Wednesday, January 20th

9:15 Mass

Sunday, January 24th

Catholic Schools Week

Open House and Pancake

Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 27th

9:15 Mass



Four 8th grade students (Nick Brevitz, Sarah Lentz, Henry Luloff, and Nathan Purdie) participated in the 17th annual Archdiocese Quiz Bowl held at St. Thomas University. Our group placed 19th out of 48 schools.

Did you hear?

St. Croix Catholic School
2009-2010: Trimester 1
High Honor Roll

Students achieve High Honor Roll status
 by attaining a GPA of 3.50 or higher during the trimester

6th Grade Students

7th Grade Students

8th Grade Students

Brittney	Ayers	Grant	Bowersox	Patrick	Bushman
Tyler	Benson	Rose	Bruchu	Gabrielle	Harvey
J.P.	Boosalis	Lucas	Campbell	Helen	Keyes
Carrie	Brevitz	Shane	Colburn	Andrew	Landsem
Andrew	Burt	Joseph	Fedor	Lucien	Lemanski
Anne	Campbell	William	Henschell	Sarah	Lentz
Colin	Corcoran	Lauren	Lampright	Ashley	Mancuso
Matthew	Crea	Colin	Little	Grace	Mikutowski
Megan	de St Aubin	Joshua	Nelson	Margaret	Ogren
Davis	DeMeuse	Marta	O'Malley	Anna	Osmian
Maxwell	Faust	Jaime	Purdie	Nathan	Purdie
Molly	Frisch	Joseph	Riehm	Claudia	Schulte
Matthew	Henschell	Mikayla	Schraut	Vincent	Ternes
Mary	Keyes	Maximilian	Stevens	Kallie	Uner
Edward	Kiolbasa	John	Talbot		
Timothy	Koenning	Brian	Treacy		
Elizabeth	Krsiean	Matthew	Treacy		
Mitchell	Krueger	Misty	Vogel		
Mariah	LeRoux	Sophia	Wallerich		
Sarah	Ogren	Agwa	Watba		
Michael	Osmian	Catherine	Wessel		
Teresa	Romportl				
Nathan	Schlosser				
Sydney	Schmelz				
Alexa	Thurmes				
Andrew	Valerius				
Phoebe	Wing				

**St. Croix Catholic School
2009-2010: Trimester 1
Honor Roll**

Students achieve High Honor Roll status
by attaining a GPA of 3.00 - 3.49 during the trimester

6th Grade Students

Cristopher Bradley
Matthew Brown
Andrew Burt
Jason Gozum
Lauren Greeder
Gavin Keogh
Arianna Krenz
Kristin Lentz
Samuel Luloff
Getahun O'Malley
Brandon Rolf
Catherine Seifert
Jordan Swanson
Matthew Theirl
Allison Wasinger
Temesgen Wessel

7th Grade Students

Molly Barrett
Patricia Dierberger
Jennifer Hammer
Marta O'Malley
Danielle Renteria
Tucker Tomek

8th Grade Students

Cole Anderson
Carly Glaser
Henry Luloff
Oliver O'Keefe
Benjamin Sullivan
Patrick Witzmann