

Classroom News

Kindergarten

This month was exciting and fun in kindergarten. The kindergarten children learned about the Pilgrims and Indians at Plymouth Rock. At the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock the pilgrims decided to have a feast to celebrate and give thanks to God and the Indians for surviving their first year in the new world.

The kindergarten children reenacted this Thanksgiving feast. Half of the children represented Indians and the other half pilgrims. In preparation each child made clothing for the celebration. The Pilgrim girls designed a white hat and a white collar. The Indians boys and girls designed leather vests made out of brown paper bags and headbands with feathers. They looked very cute!

Food preparations began on Thursday, when the children made seven pumpkin pies. On Friday morning each child prepared the following food: prepared his/her own turkey (Cornish Game Hens), peeled and cut potatoes, mixed corn, and prepared corn bread. It was delicious!

Decorations consisted of the following: turkeys with "at" words printed on the feathers, turkeys with feathers, and decorated place mats made with each child's hand print turkey on it!

At the celebration the children wore the clothing that he/she made, sang three songs, thanked God for his blessings, and shared

this feast with family members and friends!

The kindergarten Thanksgiving celebration was a great success due to the wonderful participation and helpfulness of the kindergarten parents, grandparents, relatives, and school friends! Without your thoughtfulness, time, and effort, I could not have managed this fun learning project! YOU are the GREATEST!

Our Thanksgiving Celebration helped the children realize that this is a time to remember God and to give thanks for our family, friends, food and our homes.

The kindergarten religion class objectives: God Creates My Senses: The five senses are gifts from God, we become more aware of the five senses and we praise God by celebrating the five senses. God Gives Me a Family: We appreciate the families that God has given us, we realize that our families take care of us and give us love, we thank our families by loving them, we can help our families, and we celebrate the love of our families!

Congratulations to the following Students of the Week: Jazlyn Adams, Ethan Ramirez, Monica Chairez, and Cooper McStay.

1st Grade

The first grade class has a geography center. We began the year learning about North America. After units on U.S.A., Canada and Mexico, we learned about the llamas and rain forest of South

America. The end of November involves the sewing of moccasins in geography. There are many books featuring Native Americans that extend our unit.

One of the themes in center time has been raccoons. We wrote a tale about raccoons, made hats and tails, did some rubbings of their tracks, and read a poem with finger puppets. The best part was finishing the unit with raccoon tail cookies that the class made themselves. We found out that you have to be a good reader to read recipes!

The class is doing a great job with their reading. One Wednesday Mass, they did the Readings. First grade was proud to share their time and talent with schoolmates and parents.

First grade has begun doing weekly Spelling tests, and are doing a super job with Spelling. We continue to encourage them to read at home and turn in those Reading lists.

The week of Thanksgiving, we skip the usual center time, and do Art and more Art. Besides making pottery, we make turkey centerpieces, sand art, and even get a head start on Advent wreaths.

Students of the Month are Maggie Cook, Alex Cook, and Keeley Hartman.

2nd Grade

Here we are already in the middle of November. Conferences held



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the week of November 9 - 13 went well. It was a pleasure visiting with all the parents about their students. Thanks so much, parents, for your cooperation and willingness to help. Thanks also to those of you purchasing books for our classroom. Those books are so appreciated.

Even though the tailgate party and the Halloween party were a week late, they were still lots of fun. We owe our appreciation for this special day to Mrs. Brown and her helpers, and to our great parent volunteers who brought fun and food for our Halloween party.

On Oct. 28th, we had a special guest visit our room. We welcomed Jim Gilman who came to add to our skeleton unit by talking about his artificial leg. He is a good sport, and we do appreciate him sharing his story with us.

Mrs. Svitak and Mrs. Yonts will continue to teach those important math and reading lessons. Parents reading stories and practicing math facts from 10-18 with your student will help them with their academic growth. Please do what you can.

The second grade is very thankful for Father Vince and the weekly Masses he provides. We hope all of you and your families will have very Happy Thanksgiving. Spencer Schaff is our November birthday and Students of the Week are Cody Fosket, Izayah Pelster, Michael Cushing, and Quentin Scott.

3rd Grade

'Tis the season to be joyful! It is hard to believe that it's so near December and with it being the week of Thanksgiving I'm reminded of all the wonderful things I have to be thankful for: a wonderful community of believers here at the school, an outstanding group of staff members to work with, excellent students, and most of all the gift of the King.

On November 12th, Greg Goerke and Darrell Lewis came as representatives of Scottsbluff/Gering Rotary Club to present each of the third grade students with their own student dictionaries. (A special thanks to them.) We are using our dictionaries in class.

We had fun making decorations for the North Platte Valley Museum Christmas Tree decoration contest. You can vote for our school's decorations during December. We are practicing using different parts of speech in past, present, and future tenses. In Math, we're learning multiplication and fractions. Keep practicing multiplication facts at home.

On December 8th the third grade students will help lead 12:00 Mass. Come support your children at Mass and celebrate with us the Immaculate Conception. Also on December 10th the class will be putting on a little presentation as part of our Progressive Nativity at 8:15 AM in the Learning Center.

It was good seeing everyone at Conferences. Your children have been reading this month. I'm pleased to say that all of the 3rd grade students met their goal of 400 pages for the month of November. Congratulations to each of them. November's Most Excelled Reader award went to McKenna Hackett.

4th Grade

Greetings and Salutations! The month of November is upon us already...can you believe it? First of all thank you so much to all who helped out with the October celebration (Miller, Garcia/Mata, and Witcofski families). Thank you so much for your willingness to lend a hand.

My sincere thanks for all who came to support the trivia bowl team! Also, thanks to all who helped the team be successful by studying with their children and providing after school snacks. Fourth graders Kaitlyn Hayhurst, Noah Hafner, and Kenny Witcofski were all on the team. Give them your congratulations if you see them! The team won second overall and we are very proud!

Thanks also to all families who made the hot dog feed a success! We wouldn't have been able to raise money to buy gifts for underprivileged families without you! We truly appreciate you teaching the value of giving with an open hand. Many children were very excited and even gave from their own private allowances; many families gave more than asked. The fourth grade enjoyed helping to



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serve the meal and learned the value of hard work. Thanks again for helping us to teach children about helping others!

In the wonderful world of literature, we are really emphasizing reading aloud. We are talking about reading rate, pausing, emphasis of words, volume, and emotion as part of reading well. We are doing this by working on a play adapted from the book St. Nicholas and the Tub by Brian Burland. Help your child read with pizzazz at home as well!

In math class we have started fractions, using compasses, and are continuing working with missing addends. The math will be getting progressively harder so be careful to monitor the papers coming home.

We are continuing to explore the cell and its parts in science. We have also begun to study how scientists classify and name things from kingdoms to species. Social studies class is the continuation of Nebraska history, which will be the focus of this year. We have covered traveling across Nebraska and how transportation changed over time. We also covered how the land itself changed over time.

Nouns and all the way they are used is the focus of our next English chapters. In writing, we are focused on having solid beginnings with a clear lead, middles that are full of details, and ends that say "the end" without saying "the end".

Reading incentive has been very exciting and we walked to Applebees on Thursday, November 19. We all had a great time! Our

Most Excelled Reader for fourth grade was a tough choice as so many are doing well. In the end, Kaitlyn Hayhurst came out victorious. In addition to reading more than the required goal, she consistently turned in book reports, and had everything signed. Way to go Kaitlyn! Thanks to all parents who are encouraging a love of reading in their children. Remember, above all else the reading incentive program is to spark that love of literature!

Thanks to all parents who have been so awesome about helping out in the classroom. Whether volunteering time, supplies, or just being an active participant in your child's education, I truly appreciate you! Thanks so much for making this a wonderful year.

Sam McCaslin celebrated his birthday November 13! Happy birthday, Sam.

5th Grade

Greeting friends and family of St. Agnes! Like always, we have been very busy this past month and will continue to be busy next month.

Congratulations to the quiz bowl team for placing second! They worked very hard and it showed! Thank you for all those who help support them! Another congratulations to Ethan Parks for most excelled reader this month! Great job reading! For reading incentive this month we had a lot of fun eating at Applebee's. Next month, we will be having our reading incentive Christmas Party with several fun activities planned for that. Keep reading!

Our hot dog feed was a HUGE success! Thank you for everyone that donated time, money, and food. We appreciate it and we know the kids we help will too. We were able to pick five names to get gifts for. We had a great time shopping for them.

In school students have been learning a lot. In social studies we have been learning about early Americans and explorers. During science we have continued studying Earth. We learned about different types of rocks and minerals.

In reading we finished the Whipping Boy. Now we will start reading a Gary Paulsen book called the Lawn Boy. In Math, we are continuing to work hard on our division and fraction skills.

Thank you for all your support! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

Music

On December 3, 2009 at 7:00 PM, St. Agnes will present *Light of the World*, a Christmas musical by Mark Patterson. The program combines original songs and familiar carols from around the world to tell the Christmas story. Through narration, drama, and song, we will share how Jesus came to be "Light of the World" over 2,000 years ago.

Please come and join us in celebration of the Christmas season.

