

St. Ann School

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Wednesday Memo

Lunch supervision volunteers must arrive by 11:15 AM

Total for 18 Lunches for Nov. : \$52.20

Monday, Nov. 25	Hamburger Patty and Gravy
Supervision	Wiese, Wood
Tuesday, Nov. 26	Subs
Supervision	Kuhn, Trautman
Nov. 27-29	No School, Happy Thanksgiving



Quarterly and Monthly Tuition was due on Friday, November 15.

PIE BAKE AND TAKE EVENT—We still have room for your family!

The Family Enrichment Committee invites you to a **Pie Bake & Take** on Nov. 23rd from 2-5 pm. Come to the gym and make up to 4 pies from scratch (apple and pumpkin) to eat at home and to donate!

We provide it all...just come with your family and enjoy cooking together!

Please email Virginia Carrano TODAY at

virginia.carrano@stoughton.k12.wi.us to RSVP so we can estimate the amount of materials we will need. The extra pies will be made available for purchase at \$6/pie or 2 for \$10 and sold after Mass on Sat. & Sun. and before/after school on Mon. If refrigerated, they will still be good on Thanksgiving Day!

*We would be most grateful for donations of fresh apples, canned pumpkin, sugar, flour, & cans of sweetened condensed milk, and 9" disposable pie tins. A donation box is available in the alcove across from the school office and are appreciated. Please BYOPP (bring Your Own Pie Pan) if possible, to take your own pie home in.



COOK FOOD YOU LOVE WITH PEOPLE YOU LOVE...WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!



SAVE TONER, INKJET CARTRIDGES AND OLD CELL PHONES FOR ST. ANN SCHOOL. THANK YOU!

Needed: Volunteer Lunch Recess Supervisor on Friday, December 5 and Monday, December 16. Please call or email the school office if you can help.

All School Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

2:00 PM in St. Ann Church

Please join us for an All-School Thanksgiving Prayer Service.

Winter Wear Reminder

As a reminder, please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for weather conditions. Children should be well prepared with hats, gloves/mittens, warm jackets, snow pants and boots. All jackets, snow pants, etc. are to have a one inch loop so they can be hung up inside the locker. Snow boots must be worn during the winter and each student should have their boots at school every day. Children will usually go outside for recess unless the wind chill factor dictates otherwise. It has been determined that a wind chill of 0 F is our limit for determining if children will go outdoors for recess.





Principal's Corner

The Celebration of Thanksgiving

This past Sunday, I traveled to Dubuque for my weekly visit with my mom and two sisters. Since it was a very rainy day, we didn't take a road trip but stayed at home playing cards, watching TV, sharing lunch and catching up a bit. At two o'clock, mom proclaimed that I should get on the road to get home before dark and before the deer started roaming. When I gave mom a hug and kiss, she shared a litany of thanks for all the things we did together in the six hours I was in Dubuque... "Thanks for driving to see us. Thanks for playing cards. Thanks for buying me some new clothes. Thanks for going grocery shopping with Jo. Thanks for doing the dishes and the laundry with Jan. Thanks for taking Spirit for a walk. Thanks for coming to spend the day with us." Mom's litany invited me to reflect upon the upcoming holiday of Thanksgiving and the true meaning of this holiday, an invitation to be grateful for our many blessings.

As Catholics, our entire prayer life centers on the Eucharist. If we remember what we learned when we were preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time, the Eucharist means "Thanksgiving." Celebrating together at Mass and receiving the Eucharist frequently should make us more cognizant of what it truly means to be thankful.

As we soon enter this Thanksgiving holiday weekend, let us take a look at how we can focus on being more thankful people. First, we need to examine our prayer life. What is our attitude when we pray? How often do we thank God for our blessings? Do we include a prayer of thanksgiving in our family prayer time?

Secondly, it would be good to examine how grateful we are to others, to those in our family and those outside of it. As children, we are taught the magic words... "please and thank you." But as we get older and busier, they lose their magic. We tend to stop using them and we tend to stop requiring the same of our children. Do we thank our children for setting the table, cleaning their rooms, taking out the trash, cutting the grass? Do we thank our spouse for preparing dinner, for making home repairs or for having the car serviced? Do we thank our child(ren)'s teacher(s) for sharing their time and knowledge with our child(ren) throughout the school year? Do we thank Fr. Randy for being our spiritual leader for our parish family? All of these are normal, every day type actions that go unnoticed and unrecognized in many families. Perhaps, we could again emphasize the magic words "thank you" and see what happens.

Giving thanks is a simple act. There is nothing complicated about it, as you can see from the examples above. So what makes it so difficult to be thankful people? Part of it is the pace of our society. Society wants us to concentrate on wanting more and more and we never have the time to do the simplest acts. As your family enters this Thanksgiving week, attempt to reverse this trend. Dedicate time to thanking God and others. Develop an attitude of Thanksgiving for the entire year, not just for the holiday of Thanksgiving.

~ Joan Leonard

Congratulations

A special congratulations is extended to the following students who will represent their grade level in the Final Competition of the St. Ann School National Geographic Bee to be held on December 11 at 10:40 a.m.: Nick Mathias and Emma Mueller (Grade Five), Jack Nelson and Patrick Wolter (Grade Six), Thomas Apel and Elizabeth Hammond (Grade Seven) and Brady Schipper and Collin Maloney (Grade Eight).

It's a CLASS ACT

Kindergarten News By Mrs. McGuire



The Kindergartners have been learning about foreign counties and continents. Many thanks to all the parents who sent in foreign country snacks and items to share. We have learned all the names of the continents and specifically discussed the countries of China and Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and the Amazon River and Jungle, Northern and Southern Africa, and England, Russian Federation, U.S.A., Australia, Italy, and Germany! Antarctica will be discussed in January, Ireland in March, and Norway in May!

Ask a kindergartener to sing the continent song to you to the tune of "Oh my darling, Clementine"!

North America, South America,
Europe, Asia, Africa,
Antarctica, and Australia,
Seven continents in the world!

If any parent, friend of the family, or Grandparent would like to come in and talk about and /or show items from any country that may interest us, please feel free to set up a 10-minute time with me to do so. We would really enjoy it! From now until the end of the year is ideal now that we have had a broad overview of the differences between the continents.

We will be lighting our Advent candle each week during Advent. Ask us what the significance of the circle shape, the evergreen branches, the red bows, and the 4 candles are.

This month in Kdg. we are *very* busy. The children are looking forward to singing in the School Advent Concert on Tuesday, December 17th. They will also be practicing Christmas carols with some of the 6th, 7th and 8th graders so that we can go over to the Nazareth House on Thursday, December 19th at 10:00 A.M. to carol. Anyone that would like to join us, you are welcome! We will be breaking our piñata and opening teacher gifts to students during the week sometime, and all week just having a great time!

Kindergartners are doing a great job memorizing their own telephone number and address and are practicing writing their first and last names in the lines. In January, we will be doing units on transportation, grocery store, and a Teddy Bear Picnic.

Does anyone want to take our frogs, and/or our bird home for the Christmas Vacation or for Easter break and summer? Let me know if you are interested, or just willing! Sometimes it is very hard to find volunteers for this fun project! We would be happy to have any child in the school take the animals home.

Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas break!



It's a CLASS ACT

The Purpose and Power of Play by Mrs. Fields



Why do we play in Pre-K and 4K? If you ask the children, they may say, “Because it’s fun!” If you ask an early childhood teacher, you should get another answer. Sure, play *is* fun. Play also serves a very important purpose in the life of a child. Play is essential to a child’s development in all areas.

According to the Position Statement from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), there are 12 research-based principles of child development and learning that inform practice. I will mention only three of them as I feel they relate to the topic of play.

*Principle 10: Play is an important vehicle for developing self-regulation as well as for promoting language, cognition, and social competence. **

There are many forms of play and each has its own benefits. When children engage in active play, they use large and small muscles to manipulate themselves and objects in the world around them. When children participate in imaginative play, they communicate with each other, plan and negotiate with each other, problem-solve, act out roles, take turns, create rules. Do you think they will need these skills later in life??

*Principle 7: Children develop best when they have secure, consistent relationships with responsive adults and opportunities for positive relationships with peers. **

I do spend quite a bit of time each day interacting with the children in a whole group, in small groups, and one-on-one. I know it is important that each child feel not only comfortable, but safe and special when he/she is in the classroom and away from family. This is one reason why I offer Show & Tell opportunities. When the children bring in their prized possessions, I get a peek into what interests them, what they hold dear, and what they do at home. This is a bonding time for us, whether they know it or not.

I also allow time for the children to interact with each other. Ours is not a quiet classroom! The children have their small groups and snack friends, but it is through play that they really get to know each other and develop relationships with each other. I love listening in on snack conversations that involve the planning of their free choice time. They can come up with such intricate scenarios!

*Principle 1: All the domains of development and learning—physical, social and emotional, and cognitive—are important, and they are closely interrelated. Children’s development and learning in one domain influence and are influenced by what takes place in other domains. **

Teaching is an art and a profession that involves balance. I know I must address each of those domains each day to really say I am doing my job well. Therefore, to leave out play when it is such a significant factor in the learning and development process, would mean I would not be supporting my students’ growth and essentially, their education. I would not be doing my job. When children play, they learn so much more—about themselves and about relationships with others— than I can teach them in a “lecture” or a storybook. All that, AND it’s fun. It’s great to be a kid. It’s also great to be an early childhood teacher.

** Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs (Third Edition ed.). (2009). Washington DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.*