

It's Elementary

A Publication of St. Walter School



Fall 2014

From The Principal's Desk

Dear St. Walter School Families,

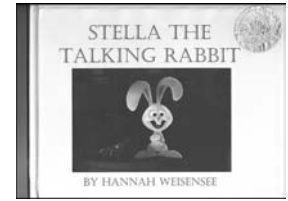
We hope you enjoy this edition of *It's Elementary*. As we continue our journey through the fall season, we are very proud of how well our students have adapted to the new school year. They had a very good first quarter, have shown good academic progress and are continuing to both learn about and practice our faith.

We are already deeply engaged in our commitment to serve others as we partner with our parish community and the many opportunities spearheaded by our Student Council.

The St. Walter School community continues to be focused on mission and academic excellence in Catholic education, and we continue to be grateful for the goodness of this community.

May the blessings of this Thanksgiving season be with you and your families.

Mrs. Mary Lloyd
Principal



8th Graders Author Children's Books

A required writing assignment turned into something worth celebrating in Mrs. Laura Celaya's 8th grade English class. Students were given the task of writing a short children's story. The unit emphasized the conventional parts of creative writing, helping students to strengthen their writing skills, as well as master the elements of fiction writing. The authors demonstrated their talents of creating vivid and relatable characters, while recognizing the importance of writing for an intended audience.

The assignment propelled students' writing beyond the classroom and into the publishing world. The students worked on formatting their books to include illustrations to support their text on each page, and also designed title pages and covers to captivate their audience.

The eighth graders read their stories to kindergartners, first, and second grade classrooms. As the eighth graders read aloud, the young students cheered for the heroes and laughed at the comedic characters.

"This assignment's objective helped students bridge the gap between exercises in English class, to writing for an audience in mind, and the merits of taking pride in your own creativity in writing," states teacher Mrs. Laura Celaya.

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Early Childhood Learns About Our Church

Early Childhood students took a very informative tour of St. Walter Church. This special visit allowed our younger children to view all the special and holy places within our church. In addition, children learned about the history of St. Walter parish.

Guided by the early childhood teachers and the Director of Early Childhood, Mrs. Donna Burke, the children had the opportunity to learn and see the many parts that make up our sacred worship space. Children blessed themselves with the holy water of the baptismal font, while hearing about the beauty of the sacrament of Baptism. In the sacristy, the children learned about the priest's vestments and sacred vessels. They viewed and discussed the history of the stained glass windows, visited the choir space, and stopped by the life-size wooden carvings of the Holy Family located in the narthex. Gathered around the altar, the children heard how the priest celebrates the Eucharist at the sacred table.

As the children entered the chapel of reservation, they prayed with bowed heads at the tabernacle where the Eucharist is kept. Children also learned that the lit candle in this chapel means that Jesus is present. This experience gave the young children a beautiful and prayerful glimpse of our church, and gave them information and insight they can share with their families.

Second Graders Help Flat Stanley Travel the World

Second Graders are learning about the world through the eyes of the fictional character, Flat Stanley. Based on the title character from the 1964 book by Jeff Brown, Stanley Lambchop travels the world by mail after getting flattened by a bulletin board.

Second graders created their own Flat Stanley, and sent him on his way to adventures all over the world. They mailed the two dimensional character to friends and family members in anticipation of receiving back a story or a picture of his travels. Flat Stanley has gone as far as Africa and as near as neighborhoods right here in Roselle.

Students keep track of Flat Stanley's escapades in a journal and share his stories with classmates. They record the cities he has visited on a large map and post the pictures received in their classroom for all to see. "This literacy project inspires students to develop communication and writing skills and is also a wonderful way for students to learn geography, and world cultures", state second grade teachers, Mrs. Erin Corliss and Mrs. Shannon Sullivan.

Second graders invite you to stop by their classroom in November during parent conferences to see for yourself the adventures of their globe trekker friend, Flat Stanley.



Guiding Hands Award Nominations

Nominations for St. Walter School's 2015 Guiding Hands Award are being accepted through the close of school Wednesday, December 3. This annual School Board award recognizes a person or married couple who has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the growth and philosophy of St. Walter School. It is the highest honor given by the school and will be presented at the school's Endowment Gala on Saturday, February 21, 2015.

Application forms are available online at www.stwalterschool.com, linked via Edline, through the school office or by calling Mrs. Wojda at 630-529-1721.

Please Note: St. Walter School's current administration, faculty, staff, School Board members and spouses of School Board members are not eligible for the Guiding Hands Award.

Understanding Landforms

Landforms can be thought of as nature's sculpture of Earth's surface. Third graders had the opportunity to explore how the world's landforms were shaped during a fun and exciting classroom experiment.

As a culminating activity to their third grade Social Studies lesson, students used shaving cream to experiment with the formation of various landforms. The exercise enabled students to recognize how landforms such as islands, canyons, and mountains were shaped. They discussed the effects that weather has on our landscapes, and how these changing patterns affect where people live and work.



"This hands-on activity really enabled the third graders to learn the lesson and through discovery with other students", states teacher, Mrs. Sarah Zaprzal.

The Incredible, Edible Cell

Recently, students in fifth grade learned about the structure of a plant cell in a unique way when they built models completely of food items.

Selecting assorted foods such as candy and fruit to represent the various internal parts of the plant cell, students constructed and discussed their models with the class. The activity helped students understand the physiology of cells. Students talked about the function of each organelle and why it is important for the survival of a cell. The exercise reinforced the concepts of cell structures and functions, and helped students to visualize cells as three-dimensional structures. Working in groups, students were able to explore cell structure in a hands-on setting that was fun, educational and very delicious!

Junior High Students Forge Friendships With Students From Across the Globe

Giving them a window into other cultures, our 7th and 8th grade Spanish students are letter exchanging with students from other countries, giving them a window into other cultures.

The 7th grade students' Pen Pals are from Plasencia, Spain. Plasencia is in western Spain and is well-known for its medieval wall built in 1198 AD. The 8th graders' Pen Pals are from Coronel, Chile. Coronel is a small mining town located on the west coast of South America.

The Pen Pal program began in September and students are enjoying corresponding with their newly found friends. In their letters, they learn about one another's schools, their hobbies, and they share information about special holidays and traditions. In addition to letters, students have exchanged mementos and souvenirs. Our students have received samples of the local currency, important religious icons and a soccer jersey from one of the schools.



"This Pen Pal program is a fun and exciting way for students to learn about other cultures firsthand and enables them to polish their language skills", states their Spanish teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth DeYoung.

News & Notes

Find Your Textbook at the Roselle Library!

The Roselle Library has copies of all non-consumable textbooks for **Grades 3 - 8 at the reference desk.**

If your child forgets a book, the Roselle Library can come to the rescue!

Asbestos Management Plan

Please be advised that the Asbestos Management Plan for St. Walter School required by 40 CFR 763.93 and the Illinois Asbestos Abatement Act is available for inspection during normal business hours by representatives of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Illinois, the public, including teachers, other school personnel, and their representatives, and parents at the following location:
201 W. Maple Avenue, Roselle, IL 60172

During 2014, St. Walter School underwent the required asbestos re-inspection process. The results of that are included in a document available from the school office. If our school conducted an asbestos removal project, that information is also contained in the asbestos management plan.

If you would like a copy of the asbestos management plan or other asbestos management documentation, please contact the school office at 201 W. Maple Avenue, Roselle, IL 60172. We will provide a copy within 5 working days after receipt of a written request for inspection. The school may charge the reasonable cost of making any copies requested.

If you have any questions about the school asbestos management plan or its contents, please contact the principal, Mrs. Mary Lloyd, at 630-529-1721 or Richard Kaffka, the Diocese of Joliet asbestos designated person, at 815-722-6606.

After Hours Building Access

We ask our families and students to please not return to the building on Tuesday after 3:30 pm. Religious Education classes are in session, and students may not interrupt these classes for forgotten books or materials.

We also ask that students and parents not enter the school building after our main office has been closed. This includes the late afternoon, on weekends, and before and after Masses on Saturday and Sunday.

All staff, maintenance personnel and parish volunteers have been instructed to deny access to the school building when regular staff is not present. Thank you for your cooperation.

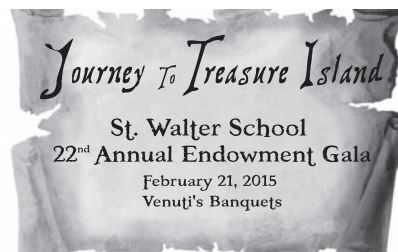
Save on Your Tuition Bill Through Our Shopping Certificate Program

St. Walter School offers you the ability to purchase gift certificates for a number of popular retailers through the Shopping Certificate Program. 60% of the savings earned by purchasing gift certificates through this program are passed along to St. Walter School. As a participant, you decide where the savings go... Your Family's Tuition or SWS Endowment Fund.

A list of participating retailers, along with an order form, can be found at www.stwalterschool.com. Orders can be placed by 3:00 PM on Fridays most weeks. You will receive your gift cards the following Thursday. Weekly Grocery Shopping – Caputo's, Meijer and Walmart gift cards are in stock and available for purchase in the Main Office every Friday.

School Board News

Save the Date!



The **Golden Raffle** is back and has been sent home to all school families. Tickets are only \$20.00 each. Purchase or sell all 5 tickets and you will be eligible for the bonus drawing and a chance to win \$1000!

Grand Prize: \$20,000 CASH!

1st Prize: \$1000

2nd Prize: \$500

Early Bird – Purchase at least 1 ticket by Thursday, December 18 and you will be eligible for the 2nd Early Bird Drawing and a chance to win to \$500. The Early Bird Drawing will be held at the Christmas Concert on December 18.

The Golden Raffle and the Endowment Gala benefit St. Walter School and the St. Walter School Endowment Fund. If you would like more raffle tickets to sell to co-workers, friends or family members, please contact the school office. To find out how you can help with this year's Endowment Gala or to donate an item to the auction, please contact Kris Campton at 630-251-4272 or email her at kcampton@NationAir.

**St. Walter School
2014-2015
School Board**

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