

It's Elementary

A Publication of St. Walter School



Winter 2014

From The Principal's Desk

Dear St. Walter School Families,

As we continue our Advent journey, we are mindful that Scripture tell us to "Prepare the Way". We are very aware of the traditional definitions of "preparing" - shopping for the perfect gifts, decorating our homes, finishing our holiday letters and cards, baking our favorite cookies and planning for family traditions.

However, as Catholic people, we know that the clear message of the Advent season is to prepare the way to welcome the Christ Child into our lives and homes. With time for prayer, giving to others, reconciliation and reflection on the beautiful Scripture readings of the Advent season, we can "Prepare the Way" with a faith-filled sense of peace.

May each of your families be renewed in the spirit of the Christ Child, and blessed with the peace and joy of this Christmas season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lloyd".

Mrs. Mary Lloyd
Principal



"In the desert someone is shouting,
'Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him.' "
- Matthew 3:3

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Second Graders Celebrate Reconciliation

Congratulations to our second graders who received the Sacrament Reconciliation in November!

Polar Express Stops for Primary Students

The tale of Chris Van Allsburg's brought the spirit of Christmas to the primary students.

All Aboard First Grade

With their tickets in hand, first grade students boarded the steam train for a glorious adventure to the North Pole. Just like the beloved children's book, "Polar Express", the young students took off on an imaginary train ride to the North Pole.



With their classroom set up like the inside of a train, the students experienced what it would be like to make the magical trip. They enjoyed warm cocoa and delicious chocolate bells along the way. They listened intently as their teacher read aloud the story and imagined what it would be like to actually arrive at the North Pole to see Santa off on his annual sleigh ride. With great excitement, they listened for the sweet sound of the Santa's sleigh bell that still rings for those who truly believe.

Polar Express Fun in Second Grade

After reading the novel, "Polar Express", second graders, got into the polar fun by writing letters to Santa, and inventing new flavors of candy canes. They even worked out some math problems, calculating the number of cookies that would be eaten on the train ride to the North Pole.

The week of fun Polar Express activities ended with a cozy hot chocolate party. Students snuggled in their sleeping bags, with their favorite stuffed animal and watched the delightful movie, "Polar Express". It has been reported that the tinkling of Santa's silver sleigh bell could be heard by all the second graders.



Fashion Week Hits Spanish Classes

Recently, students in Señora DeYoung Spanish classes put on a fashion show. In true fashion style, students walked down the "runway" to music and fashions of their own selection. Working in teams, students took turns describing, in Spanish, the outfit that they were wearing. They included the names of the articles of clothing, colors, cost and a little about each student model.

The activity was the culmination of their Spanish studies of clothing, prices, descriptions and the use of past tense and other grammar usage. "It was an excellent project for the students to use their knowledge of Spanish in a real situation and enjoy their study of the language," stated Señora DeYoung.

HONOR ROLL

FIRST QUARTER

Grade 5

High Honor Roll – Alexis Abbott, Allison Ardito, Skyler Bialek, Joseph Bollard, Giovanna Breslin, Francesca Butera, Joseph Consoli, Michael Corliss, David Deimling, Joshua Dohnal, Alex Fonseca, Cassidy Gibson, Lina Jensen, Jake Koch, Marion Krowczyk, Michael Mangialardi, Alexia Morawa, Jacob Nowakowski, Drew Piaskowy, Isabel Salter, Matthew Schrack, John Streck, Albert Sudor

Honor Roll – Tianna Bongiovanni, Tommy Campton, Anne Ciccone, Alexa Cirrincione, Ross Coulolias, Abigail Gesswein, Briana Gonzalez, Aedian Knox, Ryan Lane, Liliana LoCascio, Vincenza LoCascio, Julia Maffei, Will McAteer, Angela Menchaca, Haley Mills, Caroline Nelson, Joseph Pelagio, Julian Ragusin, William Rath, Daniel Reilly, Brianna Velazquez Riter, Ryan Rochford, Emilia Rzeszutek, Zachary Soderberg, Andrew Sommers, Luca Sorrentino, Jacob Vera, Mason Vourazeris

Effort Honor Roll – Brooke Arquilla

Grade 6

High Honor Roll – Michael Breslin, Timothy Buranicz, Liliana Castellese, Julianna Chiappetta, Alyssa Choi, Alyssa Coladipietro, Nicholas Degen, Caroline Derango, Isabella Dudas, Olivia Essary, Giacomo Fanizza, Daniel Feutz, Emilio Filippo, Jack Finn, Dylan Freeman, Trey Gora, Madelyn Hatfield, Quinn Jaeger, John Jimenez, Matthew Johnson, Matthew Kazmirak, Luca Leuzzi, Sarah MacQueen, Emma Mangialardi, Ariana Marchese, Samantha Miranda, Charles O'Leary, Grace Oleksyk, Mathew Oleksyk, Olivia Perez, Anthony Pitello, Ann Poremba, Emily Roth, Julia Sakowicz, Gianna Saverino, P.J. Scales, Sebastian Schlau, Morgan Schoebel, Max Strzelecki, Emily Swiderski, Andrew Thennes, Ella Walsh, Michaela Wilson, Alyssa Wojtowicz, Jamie Ziegler

Honor Roll – Mia Arquilla, Summer Balaskovits, James Biernacki, Thomas Biernacki, Lily Boyle, Gianna Bucaro, Francesco Console, Capri DeRosa, Isalie Dominguez, Donald Falk, Cole Konieczka, Nikos Kopulos, Sarah Kruse, Patricia Lachowicz, Kaitlyn McGehee, Frank Parente, Ashley Ptak, Kayci Regalado, Madeleine Weber

Grade 7

High Honor Roll – David Anderson, Matthew Angus, John Bialek, Elise Bollard, Stefano Bucaro, Angelo Castillo, Savanna Dixon, Madeleine Fasana, Michael Fasana, Tyler Freeman, Danzcel Gerona, Isabella Illescas, Paige Jahaske, Jake Kenney, Andrew Locascio, Nicolas Pelagio, Ben Radel, Michaela Rosenow, Marisa Ross, Adrianna Rotondi, Samantha Shah, Daniella Surdo, Clement Tom, Robert Troiola

Honor Roll – Antonio Bavaro, Anthony Butera, Ryan Carey, Gaetano Console, Connor Franco, Nicholas Guida, Jennifer Hart, Olivia Hartnett, Simeon Ivanov, Andrew Koch, Bryce Koch, Megan Kruse, Aidan LaPorta, Blake Lipowsky, Giuseppe Maffei, Barbara Mann, Anthony Naples, Nina Neri, Robert Nocek, Jacob Perez, Anthony Piraino, Bridget Rath, Luke Sgarbossa, Riley Spoczynski, Henry Stelter

Grade 8

High Honor Roll – Faith Adcock, Kaylee Alvarez, Nicholas Buranicz, Grace Castellese, Clarissa Consoli, Gabriella Gariti, Abraham Husmillo, Diana Jahaske, Maxwell Kaiser, Catherine Kranich, Alexa Leon, Jack Locascio, Keith Lyman, Sage Morton, P.J. Patterson, Jasmine Perez, Nathan Peters, Zach Radel, Louis Ranieri, Michael Ruth, Natalia Sakowicz, Jacob Solomon, Jake Sullivan, Nicholas Surdo, Anna Swadener, Joseph Tarolla, Marisa Vandini, Anika Wilen, Lucy Yunker

Honor Roll – J. J. Arey, Alexa Aristodemo, Zachary Buckley, Molly Burns, John Deimling, Brian Feutz, Thomas Finn, Garret Fritz, Elise Grzynkowicz, Trenton Kachur Klein, Erin Lally, Mia Mangialardi, Daniel McPartland, Zachary Metzner, Kelly Mitchell, Ryan Nelson, Vincent Neri, Jessica Pineda, Fallon Poremba, Matthew Ratajczyk, Donald Saccomonto, Frank Saverino, Tiphany Schlau, Christian Seegers, Michael Shuff, Christopher Sorensen, Sara Swadener, Brooke Swierski, Hannah Voncina, Hannah Weisensee, Adam Wiatr

Effort Honor Roll – Vincenza Binetti

“Keep Your Christmas Heart All Year Round”



In conjunction with the Parish Giving Tree, students in each homeroom put aside their own excitement of the season to enthusiastically support one of the young residents of Marklund. Marklund is a residential home for children with severe developmental disabilities located in Bloomingdale. The gifts purchased from student donations will be presented to a representative from the Marklund organization at the all school Mass on December 19.

Our students learn that Christmas is not all about the lights and decorations, but rather, it is about giving of oneself that will truly fill their hearts now and through-out the coming year.



On the ~~First~~ Worst Day of Christmas

The students at St. Walter School enjoyed the Drama Club’s annual Christmas production. The club, composed of all eighth graders, performed the play, “On the ~~First~~ Worst Day of Christmas.” The humorous play was centered on a church’s Christmas pageant and the amusing antics of its members.

We congratulate director, Mrs. Claire Adachi, and all the drama club members for an outstanding performance.



Drama Club Members

Faith Adcock Kaylee Alvarez Alexa Aristodemo Raymond Beacom Vincenza Binetti Grace Castellese Clarissa Consoli John Deimling Garret Fritz	Gabriella Gariti Katie Kranich Erin Lally Jack Locascio Keith Lyman Mia Mangialardi Kelly Mitchell Sage Morton Vince Neri	Jasmine Perez Nate Peters Jessica Pineda Fallon Poremba Zach Radel Louis Ranieri Sydney Roth Donnie Saccomonto Tiphany Schlau	Christian Seegers Michael Shuff Sara Swadener Marisa Vandini Maggie VanValkenburg Hannah Voncina Hannah Weisensee Anika Wilen Lucy Yunker
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Early Childhood Celebrates The Feast of St. Nicholas



In Early Childhood, the legend of St. Nicholas was retold. The young students learned about the many good and loving things that the Bishop did during his lifetime.

Students celebrated his memory by helping those less fortunate than themselves. Gloves, hats, books and small toys were collected for poor children living in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky. Students helped to box the gifts. Representatives from the class presented their gifts to Father Jim who promised that they would make it to the children in time for Christmas.

The celebration ended with each student receiving a candy cane, the symbol of the bishop's staff and a reminder of the "J" for Jesus.



Lyric Opera Backstage Tour

Eighth graders had a once in a lifetime experience to go behind the curtain of the Chicago Lyric Opera. This unique field trip enabled students to get a glimpse into how an opera performance is brought to life onstage for audiences. Guided by professional staff members, the students journeyed into the recesses of the opera house. From makeup and wardrobe, to props and scenery, the eighth graders had an opportunity to witness the inner workings of the historic theater. They were also able to see in the depths of the orchestra pit and walk on a catwalk six stories above the stage.

"The unique experience provided the students with an insight into what it takes to prep and manage a large-scale production and will help them prepare for their own upcoming Spring Musical", states teachers, Ms. Joan Figley and Mrs. Claire Adachi.



Theodore Roosevelt's Accomplishments Come to Life in Illustrations

As a culminating assignment at the end of their studies of the 26th President of the United States, students were asked to illustrate one of Theodore Roosevelt's major achievements. Students were able to select from his wide array of accomplishments including Rough Riders, conservation, Panama Canal, Nobel Peace Prize and the invention of the Teddy Bear. The assignment enabled students to construct an analytical understanding of the time period. They presented their visual images to classmates. The audience was captivated as they described their illustrations, and demonstrated their knowledge of the subject matter.



*Illustration by Kelly Mitchell.
Depicts President Roosevelt's Conservation Program.*

"Encouraging students to use visual images often results in deeper thinking and a better understanding of the material," states teacher, Mrs. Lauren Volk.

News & Notes

Please Take Note. . .

Grades 1 through 4 will perform the Christmas program for the student body on Friday, December 19. **Due to space limitations, we will not be able to accommodate any additional guests.** We appreciate your cooperation!

Uniform Policy

As the cold weather has arrived much earlier than we all had hoped, we have many girls opting to wear slacks. Please note that girls may only wear uniform slacks – leggings, skinny leg pants, jeans, yoga pants, etc. are not part of our uniform. Please refer to the approved uniform slacks found on the Schoolbelles website – www.schoolbelles.com.

Also, a reminder that girls should not be wearing low cut sports socks with their uniforms, and all boys should have their hair cut and styled above the collar.

We thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Emergency School Closing Procedures

Please know that we will be communicating school closure information by **sending an email to the Parent account on Edline**. This new procedure will replace the individual phone notifications, and will enable us to communicate with you in a quicker and more efficient manner.

We will also continue to notify the media and post school closings on our website.

Please be sure to activate your Parent account and make sure that you have a **current email address setup in Edline** to receive the communications!

Upcoming Holiday Events & Schedule



Christmas Program

Thursday, December 18
Grades 1- 4
7:00 PM in Gym
(Doors open at 6:00 PM)

Kindergarten Togetherness Morning

Friday, December 19
Morning & Afternoon Sessions
will gather for the AM Session

Christmas Vacation

Friday, December 19
11:30 AM Dismissal
Please Take Note:
No Preschool • No PM Bus • No PM B.A.S.I.C.

Classes Resume

Monday, January 5

St. Walter School 2014-2015 School Board

Rob Burns – President
Catie VanValkenburg – Vice-President
Kris Campton – Secretary
Michael Butz
George Menard
Carl Olofson
Beth Sommers

“God spoke
... and the world began.
God heard
... and promised a Savior.
God loved
... and came to dwell among us.”



May your Christmas be a joyful celebration of God's unending goodness
-- St. Walter School Board