



# Sun Times

News from Saint Francis of Assisi School  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Volume 6, Issue 7

Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe, Principal ~ Denise Mulcahy, Assistant Principal

March, 2005

Dear St. Francis Families,

We pray that this Lenten season is one of growth and renewal for you and your families. Our parish Lenten theme of Lord, Open My Heart calls us to open ourselves to Jesus and we strive to walk in his ways. May we take the remainder of these 40 days to reflect upon, and apply to our lives, His call.

Thank you to all of our families for their generous sponsorship of our recent Missions projects. Our 100th Day of School coin collection raised over \$2000 for Catholic Relief's work in the tsunami struck region of the world. This collection has traditionally gone to our Media Center, but given the large-scale relief needed in Asia, we wanted our collection this year to contribute to this world-wide effort. Thank you also for responding generously to our small toy collection during Catholic Schools Week and Jeans for Hygiene this past week. We were able to send many boxes of toys around the world to be distributed and we were able to deliver many needed hygiene products to our local Catholic Worker House.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conferences. Please refer to the individualized notes sent home for your specific conference time. You may register for the 2005-2006 school year in advance of conferences if you have a tight schedule on conference days. Check the website for special registration times. Whether you register early or at conference time, please be prepared to complete the registration process, forms and fees, at those times.

The 2005-2006 diocesan calendar is in the final

stages of refinement. It looks like the first day of school will be Tuesday the 23rd of August. When the calendar is final we will publish it as quickly as possible.

March is full of activity here at school. Remember to go online for the rest of your packet to get all the information you need. We hope you are finding the website and reminder e-mails from the school office helpful communication.

Finally, it seems very strange that we will be on Spring Break during Holy Week. Holy Week is one of our very favorite times of year to be in a Catholic School. We will miss being with your children during this special week of faith, but what a great family week of faith it can be for you. Whether you are here at St. Francis or join with other people of faith in your vacation location, as Catholics, Holy Week is a universal experience. I encourage your family to immerse itself in the days of Holy Week and the Blessed Triduum no matter where you are for Spring Break.

Blessings during these remaining days of Lent.

Praying for Peace,

Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe,  
Principal



## Home and School News:

Would you like to get more involved in St. Francis?  
Nominations for Home and School officers are being accepted for the following offices:

President-Elect  
Corresponding Secretary  
Recording Secretary

Nominations may be dropped off in the school office to the attention of Linda Laughrun, Home and School President. Feel free to self submit!

Thank you! We appreciate your help and involvement in Home and School!



### **INTERNET SAFETY ALERT . . .**

Google.com has implemented a new feature wherein you can type someone's telephone number into the search bar and hit enter and then you will be given a map to their house. Everyone should be aware of this!

Think about it--if a child, ANYONE gives out his/her phone number, someone can actually now look it up to find out where he/she lives. The safety issues are obvious, and alarming. In order to test whether your phone number is mapped, go to:<http://www.google.com/>

*Note that you can have your phone number removed or blocked.* Type your phone number in the search bar (i.e. 555-555-1212) and hit enter. If you want to BLOCK Google from divulging your private information, simply click on the telephone icon next to your phone number. Removal takes 48-hours. If you are unlisted in the phone book, you might not be in there, but it is a good idea just to check. If your number does come up if you hit map, it will show you a direct map to your house.

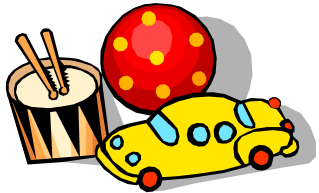
***www.google.com***

### **Catholic Schools Week Toy collection**

Our week long toy collection was a huge success!  
The school children collected 225 1/2 pounds  
of toys in 17 bags/boxes! We were able to send the  
toys to Sri Lanka, South Africa, Iraq,  
and to several locations in Des Moines.

Your generosity will help bring some happiness to  
the lives of children around the world  
and here at home!

***THANK YOU, SFA FAMILIES!***



### **REMINDER for PARENTS:**

Please be sure to contact  
the school office if you  
child will be out ill.  
The office number is  
457-7167.



## **Guidance Corner** by Mrs. Julie Heckle

February conferences are fast approaching. I invite you to schedule a time to meet with me during conferences or just drop in if the need arises. Your child's teacher will have a packet from the guidance department to give to you at conferences. This contains information about our human growth and development curriculum, "Growing In Love". This year we will be sending home the second edition of the *Family Resource Guide*. These guides focus on reviewing the chapters we have discussed in class and have less sensitive information than the previous edition. If you prefer to purchase the family guides used in the past, I do have some available. Many of you have kept your resource guides for future use with your younger children. These are still applicable and there is no need to purchase a new guide unless you prefer to. After you have read over the material, you may share the student text with your child to help prepare him/her for class. The packet going home will include:

- A letter explaining how we implement the program here at St. Francis.
- A copy of the second edition *Family Resource Guide*, which is an optional purchase for \$2.50.
- A copy of the student text for your review. (3rd-6th grade only) These books will need to be returned before the program begins.

If you have any questions regarding our human growth and development program don't hesitate to call. Lessons should begin after Spring Break.

During the month of March each grade will be learning age appropriate information about communicable diseases. The focus will be on how to keep ourselves safe and healthy.

Hope you all stay warm and healthy as we wait for the glories of spring!



## TECH TALK by Mrs. Diane Nitzel

I hope everyone had a great time at the Catholic Schools Week Open House. It was nice to see everyone and to be able to match kids with their parents. Last month in the lab, the 2nd graders came in to create a cover for their Nate the Great books. They used Word Art for the title, and then copied and pasted clothing and prop clipart to their picture. They had a fun time with that. The 3rd graders came into the lab to type a descriptive paragraph of a picture they saw in class. They came up with some very lovely paragraphs. The 4th graders are still typing away, but they also created a State Symbols page. They copied 4-6 symbols of their assigned state from a website, and using text boxes, they typed in what the symbols were and an interesting fact under each picture along with a text box at the bottom of the page for their bibliography. The 4th graders also created a State Timeline using Word. They used the arrow tool to draw the time line, and then used text boxes for the dates and information. They used either the arrow tool or the line tool to attach the text boxes to the timeline. Afterwards they found appropriate clipart to insert along the timeline. The 5th graders came in and visited a website about Amelia Earhart to collect information for a news article. I even learned a lot of new facts about Amelia Earhart!

## Staffing News-by Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe

In education, the more specific/specialized a teaching area gets, the fewer applicants there are in the general pool. Applicant pools are usually smaller for middle and high school positions and areas such as music, art, band, etc. We are currently receiving applications for our advertised positions for the 2005-2006 school year. We are blessed to have a strong applicant pool.

Interviews for 2005-2006 will be held the week prior to Spring Break for:

Third grade

Sixth grade religion and social studies

Seventh grade language arts

Middle school science

Mrs. Jeanice Prohs, Third Grade, will not be returning to SFS in the fall. We wish Mrs. Prohs many blessings as she enjoys being home with her baby daughter. Thank you for your ministry at St. Francis School, Mrs. Prohs. We will miss you!!

## VOLUNTEERS!

### Remember, the Bishop has mandated:

1. Every parish church/school employee and volunteer must attend a Virtus "Protecting God's Children" training session -- please have people register online with the yellow "registration" link at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)
2. Every employee/volunteer with regular contact with minors must fill out the forms for a background check and the Code of Conduct -- available on our web site at [www.dmdiocese.org](http://www.dmdiocese.org)

- 06/12/05, 6:30 PM, Dowling Catholic High School (West Des Moines)



## Gym Shorts by Mr. Mike Hazel

During Christmas break, workers dug new holes in the gymnasium for our volleyball standards. We have been waiting a long time for volleyball and other net sports in PE.

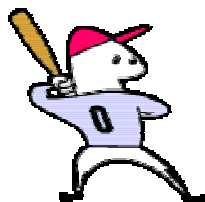
As March rolls around, several classes will be engaging in volleyball, Hoover ball (and "blind" Hoover ball), tennis, pickle ball, and badminton. Racquet and volleying sports are fun lifetime activities that we can all look forward to in the upcoming springtime. Tennis especially is an inexpensive, fun way to get the whole family involved in some good physical activity. Even if you're not highly skilled, you can at least go chase the balls for everyone else!!!

Coming up in April is our Rollerblading unit. Grades 1-6 will be participating; no Kindergarten because we get the equipment for 5 PE days (2  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks), so they would only have 2-3 sessions. It is a great deal for everyone else—5 sessions of Rollerblading for \$4.00/student. You will receive more detailed information on this soon.

*March Madness, baby!! Good luck with your pools!  
(hint...North Carolina, not Illinois)*

## **Take Me Out to the Ballgame!**

Mark your calendars for  
St. Francis School Night at the Iowa Cubs!  
Friday, May 20th  
Iowa Cubs vs. Fresno Grizzlies (AAA team of  
the San Francisco Giants)  
7:05 pm  
FIREWORKS!!  
More details after Spring Break.  
Four tickets/student will come home  
on April 22nd



## **ON OUR PALETTES**

By Mr. Jason Southward

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon creating wonderful works of art with your family.

The Des Moines Botanical Center is having a Sunday Sketchers program on Sunday, February 20th from 12-5pm.

The Botanical Center will be opening it's doors to aspiring artists who are welcome to sketch, draw, or even paint an original work of art using the tropical dome as a subject. There will be artists lectures throughout the day and will end with a juried art contest of works created that day. Admission is \$4.00 per person. Don't forget to bring your own art supplies.

Hope to see you there.

## Book Nook Mrs. Head & Mrs. Hardy

A sincere thank you to the families who submitted names of extended family for our "Generations Reference Library" drive and for those families who donated to the drive in such a generous way. As of today, there has been \$7,064 donated.

Our reference library has expanded dramatically. We have purchased:

- The Encyclopedia of Scientists (4 volumes)
- Coming to America series (12 volumes),
- 2005 set of World Book Encyclopedia (22 volumes),
- World Book Student Encyclopedia set (13 volumes),
- World Book People and Places (6 volumes),
- World Book Christmas Around the World (23 volumes),
- World Book World Atlas,
- World Book Illustrated Atlas
- World Book Animals of the World (30 volumes)
- World Book Make It Work! Geography set (4 volumes)
- World Book Science and Nature series (12 volumes)
- World Book Ecology series (10 volumes)
- World Book Dictionary
- World Book Student Dictionary
- Bartlett's Famous Quotations
- The Biographical Dictionary
- Introduction to Art guide
- A Beginner's Atlas
- Encyclopedia of the Roman World
- Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt
- Encyclopedia of Planet Earth
- Encyclopedia of World Religions
- Timelines of World History
- Butler's Lives of the Saints
- The Material World
- Women in the Material World
- Essential Atlas of the World,
- Book of Knowledge,
- Blackbirch Encyclopedia of Science and Invention (4 volumes)
- Discovering World Cultures (4 volumes)
- The Enchantment of the World set 1, 2, & 3, (75 volumes)
- Faith in America series (12 volumes)
- Children's First Encyclopedia
- The World History Encyclopedia
- Introduction to Music guide



*"What a fantastic reference library...thank you to everyone who participated."*

What a fantastic reference library for our fantastic school! Thank you to everyone who participated. We will do an "update drive" during the 2007-2008 school year! Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this endeavor a smashing success.



## Enrichment News by Ms. Chris Joslin

Hello Parents!

Thank you for having patience with the Enrichment Program. Between Mother Nature's blasts of snow, special programs and my schedule, I feel like I have been treading water (or snow and slush) since school began in January. Because my programming has been disrupted in many ways, I hope that your children have been taking advantage of all the opportunities that the school offers outside the pull-out program, such as Book Buddies and Chess Club. There are also wonderful programs at the Des Moines Art Center, Science Center, Community Playhouse and Botanical Center for students with the energy and desire to learn more about these subjects. I would highly recommend any of these programs to you.

I am piloting a program with 5th and 6th grades on a Technology Fair project. With Mrs. Nitzel's help we will be exploring the potentials for participation with the Heartland AEA Tech Fair this spring. If we find that it is a good match for our students, our time and our resources, we will develop a more extensive program next year.

Each year, we are finding more and more opportunities for students to become involved in outside-the-school competitions. Most start at the Middle School level but offer beginning, non-competitive opportunities as low as 4th grade. In order for some of these to fly here at SFA, we will need parent volunteers to help coordinate them. One is Math Counts, a wonderful expansion of math and logic skills development. I would love to offer this next fall BUT need a parent willing to lead it. We would also like to have more than one Mock Trial team next year but need volunteers to lead additional teams. I know you all volunteer in many, many ways but I hope that you will think seriously about these opportunities to work with SFA students in these exciting ways! I will help with coordinating times, places to meet and student referrals.

Thanks again for your patience and interest!



## MUSICAL NOTES by Mrs. Angie Murphy

March is "Music In Our Schools Month". We will be celebrating this event in the music classroom during this month. We start out the month with a festival for selected 5th and 6th graders. The Iowa Choral Directors Association is having a festival on March 8th in Newton, Iowa. The following students have been selected and will be spending the day with the guest conductor and then performing that evening.

**Fifth Grade:**

Anna Price  
Megan Bowman  
Stephanie Henscheid  
Megan Ball  
Meredith Havekost  
Emily Fisher

Hannah Vestal  
Ian Murphy  
Joe Biegger  
Maddie Bosworth  
Allie Vaughan  
Presley Thomas

**Sixth Grade:**

David Allen  
Sam Bonin  
Elizabeth Boyer  
Elizabeth Klein

Ben Bonin  
Maria Bosworth  
Ana Goeser  
Elizabeth Mireault

I invite all of you to come to Newton High School at 7:00 pm on March 8th for an evening of song.

Have a musical "MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH"!

*Sing joyfully to God our strength,  
Shout in triumph to the God of Jacob!  
Take up a melody, sound the timbrel the sweet sounding harp and lyre.  
Psalm 81:2 and 3*



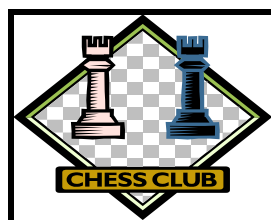
# READING RESOURCE

by Mrs. Sarah Harmeyer and Mrs. Libby Hartleib

There is nothing like talking about what you have read to help develop comprehension and vocabulary. We are often asked, "What can I do to help my child with reading?" St. Francis offers a great program called BOOK BUDDIES. It is designed for 4th-6th grade students. The student picks an adult buddy to read the same book that s/he is reading. Their adult buddy joins them at St. Francis on the first Tuesday evening of the month to discuss the book with other students and their buddies.

It is not too late to sign up for the March 1st meeting. The book choices are: A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L Engle and The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden. Your student needs to sign up by February 23rd.

We highly recommend the program. It is a great opportunity to invite aunts, uncles, grandparents or neighbors to be a part of our school. We have very positive feedback from those who have participated. We hope you think about giving it a try.



## CHESS CLUB

Our Chess Club recently competed in a tournament and brought back two trophies! A 4th place trophy was earned by our K-3 players. A

2nd place trophy was earned by our K-6 players.

Also our club members won numerous individual grade level honors. The members were great representatives of our school at the tournament. We are proud of all our chess club participants!

### 22 St. Francis Team Members Participating:

Matthew Beigger	K
Cameron Lang	K
Tyler Lien	1
Tommy McIlhon	2
Harrison Gudorf	2
Adam Goodman	2
Ross Carpenter	2
Cole Carpenter	2
Connor Lang	2
Brady Kutz	2
Nate Shepard	2
Nathan Christian	3
Trip Bartlett	3

Keaton Banwart	4
Lincoln Banwart	4
Tyler Gudorf	4
Paul Goodman	4
Kohl Lang	4
Matt Mallisee	4
Dan McIlhon	4
Caleb Nost	4
Christian Jiron	6

Team trophies were awarded using the top 4 members' scores.

#### K-3 - Fourth Place Team:

Trip Bartlett	3
Cole Carpenter	2
Adam Goodman	2
Tyler Lien	1

#### K-6 - Second Place Team:

Trip Bartlett	3
Paul Goodman	4
Christian Jiron	6
Keaton Banwart	4

Individual medals were awarded for the top score for the grade level.

#### Individual Medalists:

Christian Jiron	6
Paul Goodman	4
Tyler Lien	1