



Sun Times

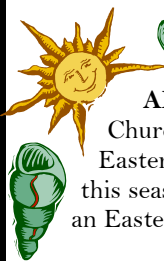
*News from Saint Francis of Assisi School
West Des Moines, Iowa*

Volume 7, Issue 9

Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe, Principal

Denise Mulcahy, Assistant Principal

May 2006



Dear St. Francis School Families,

ALLELUIA!! HE IS RISEN!! The Catholic Church celebrates fifty days of Easter joy. May the Easter promise fill the lives of you and your families this season and may we live the whole year through as an Easter people.

May is the month we celebrate our prayerful relationship with the Blessed Mother. Please join us for our May Crowning at liturgy on THURSDAY, May 4th. Each student is invited to bring ONE flower to add to a homeroom bouquet that will be used in the processional at church. We will also pray the rosary on Monday afternoons in May. Please join us or pray the rosary at home as a family during the beautiful month of May.

SACRAMENTS

We pray for our second graders and parish eighth graders as they receive First Communion and Confirmation within the next few weeks. Blessings to all of them as they receive these Sacraments of Initiation in our Church.

MISSIONS

Thank you for your participation in our mission work this year. Our final collection will be for the summer work of our own St. Francis Youth Ministry program. Our high schoolers will be traveling to the hurricane ravaged sections of Mississippi this summer to assist with the ongoing rebuilding of the area. SFS can go with the youth in prayer and spirit and send with them our financial assistance for their projects. Please give generously.

MAY EVENTS

Happy 85th Birthday, Mrs. Hardy!! Help us celebrate on May 22nd by sending a card to the office for Mrs. Hardy. We'll bundle them in a special birthday package for her.

We look forward to the many musical events at SFS during May. Our bands and seventh graders will be performing at their respective concerts. Music performance is a part of the diocesan standards and benchmarks and is part of the assessment process at St. Francis School. Please check e-mails from Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Purviance as well as the monthly calendar for specific dates.

We hope to see many SFS folks at the I-Cubs game on Friday, May 26th. Third graders will sing the National Anthem

and one lucky homeroom will lead us in the seventh inning stretch song from the top of the dugout!

VOLUNTEERS

It is so beautiful outside this time of year. The downside of that is our volunteerism really drops off in May. Please, if you have signed up to volunteer at the greeter table or in the lunchroom know that we really, really need you. We are so grateful for your help, service and ministry you provide by volunteering. If you haven't volunteered this year, we'd love for you to take a shift next year. Please sign up for next year when that sign up sheet rolls around.

And finally, as the hustle and bustle of the end of the school year and outside activities keep us all busy in May, I don't want this thank you to be lost in the shuffle.

Countless people do so many things up front and behind the scenes all school year long. Thank you for the parts each of you play in making St. Francis School, first and foremost, a wonderful Christian community. We have so many blessings and because of this, so much should be expected of us as we work to bring about the Kingdom of God here at SFA and, most importantly, for others.

I'll leave you with the scripture focus we have had as a school staff this year:

*"God has been kind enough to trust us with this work. That is why we never give up. Our message is that Jesus Christ is Lord. He sent us to be servants."
2 Corinthians 4:1,5*

This summer I pray that your work as a Christian and servant of Christ is blessed and produces much fruit for the Kingdom.

Many blessings to all of you until we meet again in August.

Sincerely,

Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe,
Principal

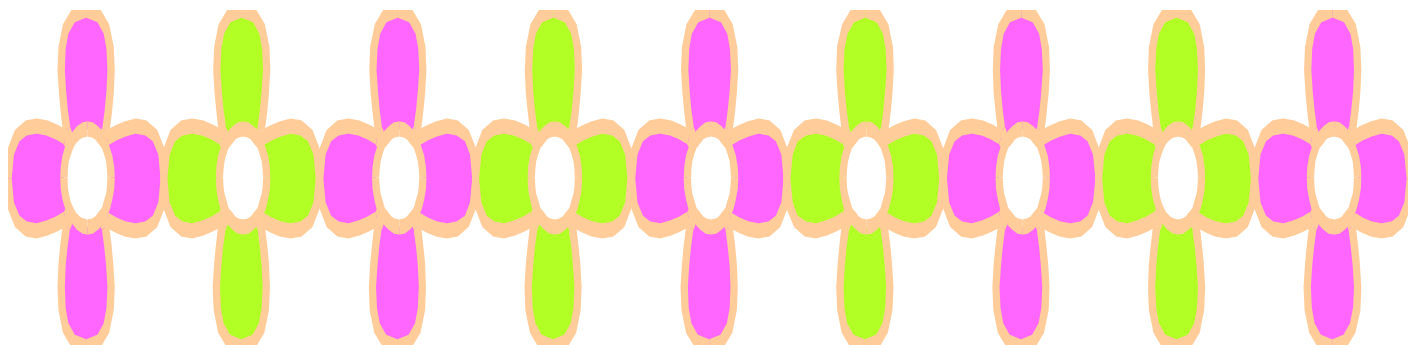


STAFFING NEWS

FAREWELL AND CHANGES

We wish two staff members blessings in their new endeavors away from St. Francis School next year. Thank you to Mrs. Angie Murphy for the gift of her music and the development of the music program over these past six years and thank you to Miss Scheve for her service in fourth and fifth grades. We will miss you both!!

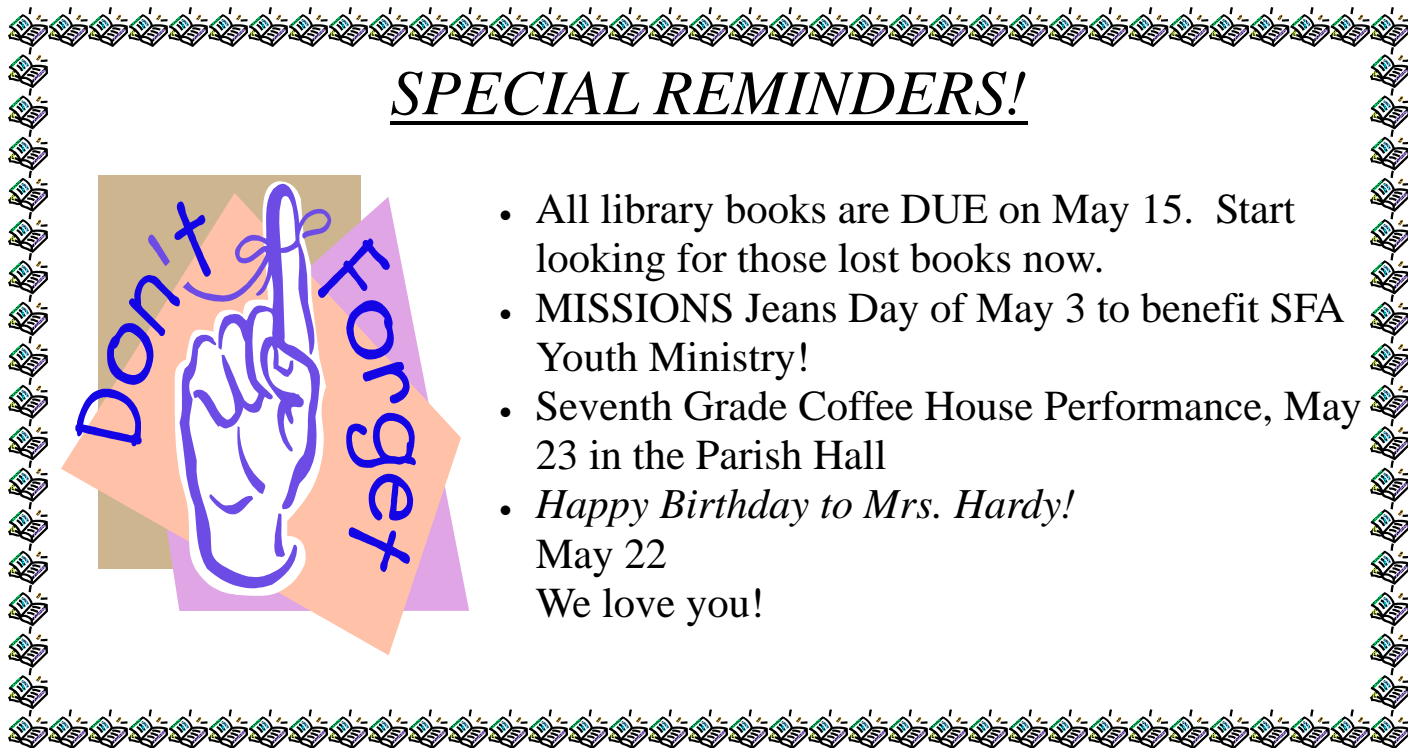
We welcome Miss Shull full-time to St. Francis next year. In addition to Miss Shull's half-time middle school student support position that she began this year, she will assume the duties as the second through fifth grades student support teacher as well. Miss Shull will spend half of her day upstairs in the middle school and the other half in Activity Room #4 in the fourth/ fifth grade pod.



SPECIAL REMINDERS!



- All library books are DUE on May 15. Start looking for those lost books now.
- MISSIONS Jeans Day of May 3 to benefit SFA Youth Ministry!
- Seventh Grade Coffee House Performance, May 23 in the Parish Hall
- *Happy Birthday to Mrs. Hardy!*
May 22
We love you!



Camp Invention

We are excited to announce that the Camp Invention program, an exciting weeklong summer day experience for children entering grades one through six, will be coming to Sacred Heart School in West Des Moines the week of June 26-30, 2006!

The program is designed to inspire creativity and inventive-thinking through loads of hands-on activities and F-U-N! Children will participate in five inventive modules each day, which include: disassembling old machinery and using parts to make their own inventions in **I Can Invent™**; crash-landing on an imaginary planet and figuring out how to get back to Earth in **Problem Solving on Planet ZAK®**; creating and building the most exciting ride of all, a roller coaster, in **Imagination Point: Ride Physics™**; learning about physics and motion while becoming automobile safety designers in **Spills & Chills™**; and creating mind-boggling new games in **AMAZing Games™**. The Camp Invention program integrates science, mathematics, history, and the arts in an exciting environment conducive to learning, and disguised as fun!

This year, the Camp Invention program is being hosted by Sacred Heart. Mrs. Theresa Doss will be the camp director, and local certified teachers will lead the five modules each day. Enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as counselors. The program features a low staff to child ratio, with one staff member for every eight children.

Camp times are 9:00-3:30. The registration fee includes all snacks and a cool T-shirt! Register with a buddy before May 31th and you'll both receive \$20 off the base registration price.

Registration is limited to 110 children. Don't let your child miss all the fun! To register, or more information, visit www.campinvention.com or 800.968.4332. Local contact: Theresa Doss, Sacred Heart School * 515.223.1284 ext 107 * tdoss@dowling.pvt.k12.ia.us



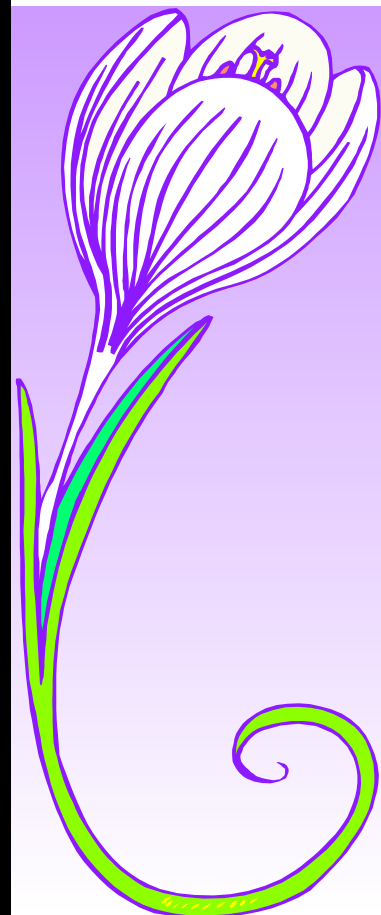
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Want to be a MENTOR?

Volunteers are needed to serve as mentors to families new to St. Francis School.

Please contact
Aimee Rooney, 987-8321

Thank you!





Book Nook by Mrs. Mary Head

In early April I joined other school librarians, classroom teachers, reading specialists, Title 1 teachers, college professors, and administrators at the 2006 Iowa Reading Association Annual Conference. I came away from the two-day conference with a number of new ideas to help reading come alive for children.

An important date to remember as the school year ends is **May 15**. All library materials are due on that date so we can begin the annual inventory. It is time to launch an all-out search for library materials. Replacement costs for the ones that are on "forever lost" status are \$20 for hardcover books and \$8 for paper.

Thank you to the Home/School Association for their committed support to our library and to numerous generous benefactors who honored the library with monetary donations – some in memory of loved ones. We cherish the books purchased with these gifts and memorials.

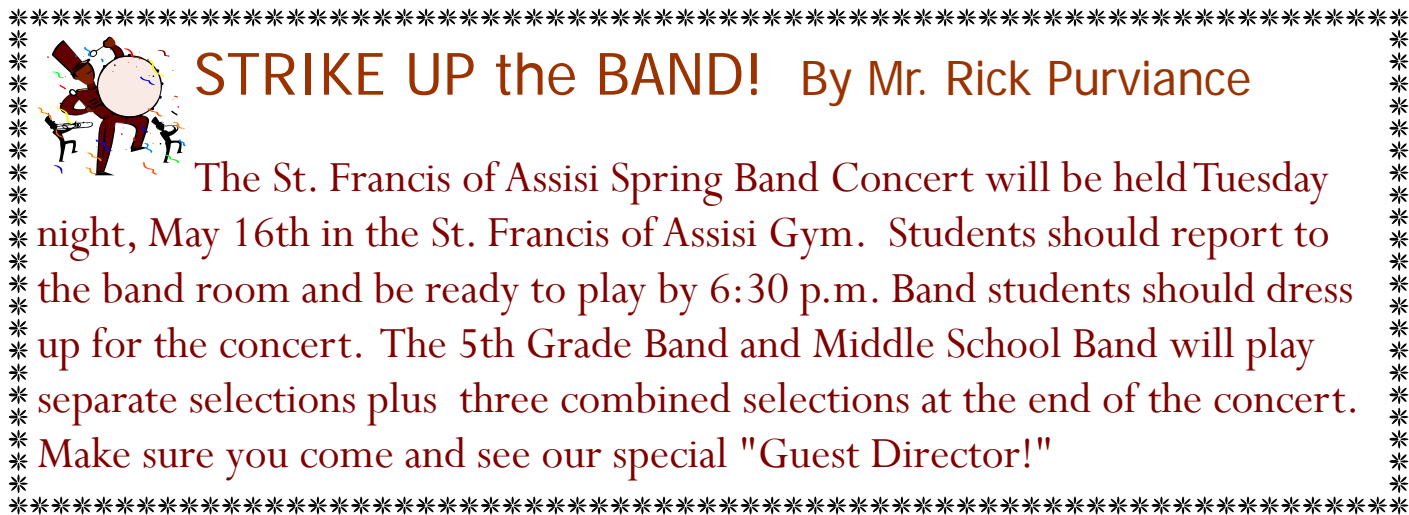
LIBRARY COLLECTION	NUMBER OF BOOKS APRIL 2006
Fiction	4339
Reference	311
Biography	916
Easy	3209
000-099 (General Works)	96
100-199 (Philosophy & Psychology)	93
200-299 (Religion)	135
300-399 (Social Sciences)	836
400-499 (Language)	54
500-500 (Natural Science)	1697
600-699 (Applied Science)	879
700-799 (The Arts)	924
800-899 (Literature)	308
900-999 (History & Geography)	1248
Professional	154
<hr/>	
Totals	15,199

Please don't forget to read to your children over the summer and have them read, as well. My suggestions for summer reading are posted on the "Media Center" link on our school web site.



STRIKE UP the BAND! By Mr. Rick Purviance

The St. Francis of Assisi Spring Band Concert will be held Tuesday night, May 16th in the St. Francis of Assisi Gym. Students should report to the band room and be ready to play by 6:30 p.m. Band students should dress up for the concert. The 5th Grade Band and Middle School Band will play separate selections plus three combined selections at the end of the concert. Make sure you come and see our special "Guest Director!"





ENRICHMENT by Mrs. Chris Joslin

It's May!!! I just blinked and another year is winding down! It has been a good year and I have learned so much! We entered more competitions, I was involved in more classrooms and most importantly I have had the opportunity to work with many new students as well as whole classrooms this year. One project, the Olympics, spurred projects and participation that went beyond my expectations. The flags are still flying in the library!

Next year, I will be four days a week at SFA, coordinating Enrichment only. It will be a change from splitting my time with middle school social studies and even though I would not have changed that part of my experience here for the world, it will be good to focus entirely on Enrichment next year. Through being a classroom teacher, though, I have grown to know the daily routine of students and of teachers. I will have a better understanding of their needs and routines.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS: This spring we are focusing on the Dowling Middle School speech contest. Practices for that will begin soon with presentations in early May.

MOCK TRIAL CAMP: All 6-9th graders (school year 2006-7) are invited to attend a Mock Trial Camp at St. Theresa's, July 17-21. If there is enough interest there will be separate Beginner and Advanced groups.

Fifth Grade: Construction is our next big project. Students will be gathering canned goods for the DMARC Food Pantry and then using them to build a structure in the hallway. This will incorporate leadership skills, math, design, planning, advertisement and religion.

Fourth Grade: One group is researching the impact of global warming on the rising numbers of violent storms (a timely project!) and the other is working on identifying 10 mystery sites around the world from clues on the hours of sunlight each site reported. We are also very grateful for all the postcards you and your families have sent to us from around the USA and the world. In May we will share these with the rest of the 4th grade classes through some activities.

First grade: We have a small group working on discovering movie making and the use of special effects to produce our own music video. It is experimental in nature as the students are writing their own songs as well as doing the art work.

I am looking forward to summer as I am sure all of you are. I am on a wait list for a class in Germany but otherwise might be staying closer to home than last summer.

Be sure to look for summer opportunities for your children at the YMCA, the Des Moines Science Center, the DM Art Center, the DM Playhouse and local recreational offices.



MAY MISSIONS \$1.00 Jeans Day
SFA Youth Ministry Program
 May 3

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SFS can go with them in prayer and spirit and send with them our financial assistance for their projects.

Please give generously.

FOR YOUR FAMILY SAFETY!

- www.familywatchdog.us/search.asp
 Choose State
 Enter zip
 Click on SHOW MAP
- www.iowasexoffender.com
 Click on search
 Click on "I understand and agree..."
 Enter city
 Choose county
 Enter zip
 Click on SUBMIT



Take Me Out to the Ball Park!!

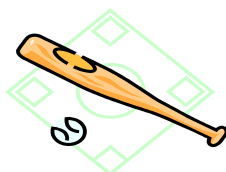


St. Francis School Night at the Iowa
 Cubs

Friday, May 26
 7:05 PM

I-Cubs Vs. Nashville Sounds
 (AAA team of the Milwaukee Brewers)

FIREWORKS after the game!



7th Grade Dance
St. Anthony School

Friday,
April 28
7:00-9:30PM
Cost: \$5.00



Don't forget
your
student I.D.