



SUN TIMES

NEWS FROM SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

"Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child."

Volume 8, Issue 8

Roberta Harvey, Principal

Denise Mulcahy, Assistant Principal Apr 2007

Dear Parents,

As April approaches we continue our observance of the season of Lent. Our theme, "Change Your Heart" has been evident in our classrooms and in prayer services and at Mass. We hope that this Lenten journey is one that is bringing each of your families closer to God through prayer and service to others.

NCEA: This year the NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) conference is being held in Baltimore the week after Easter. The convention is a great time to attend sessions that build knowledge in teaching and also in faith development. It is uplifting to attend a conference and see thousands of people who are engaged in the same career that you are! This year Miss Chapman and Mrs. LeWarne will be attending the conference with me.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT: Speaking of faith development, on March 16 our teachers spent the morning at a Day of Renewal. This day has become a tradition at St. Francis and is a day when the teachers gather to learn about, talk about, and think about their faith and how they share it with the students, their colleagues, and their families. This year we spent the morning completing the Echoes of Faith module on Catholic morality. We began

this discussion in the fall and finished it as a part of our Lenten journey this spring. This day always provides us with the opportunity to regenerate our faith as we move toward the end of the school year.

ITBS SCORES: Iowa Tests of Basic Skills have been returned and will be coming home once they have been processed in the school office. We remind you that these tests give us a glimpse of how well your child is doing in school, but the best way to know their achievement is to look at the daily work that comes home or at their Edline information for Middle Schoolers.

THAT TIME OF YEAR: It is that time of year when we begin the process of hiring new teachers for St. Francis School. As always, we ask you to pray for those involved in the hiring process that the Holy Spirit may guide them as they choose the teachers who will join our school family.

Blessings for a beautiful Spring!

Denise Mulcahy,
Assistant Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

for Grades 7 & 8

St. Anthony's School

April 13

7 pm-9:30 pm

\$6.00

School ID's **REQUIRED**



Transportation Reimbursement Reminder!

Deadline for second semester reimbursement forms is May 1, 2007.

You will find reimbursement information and forms on the front page of the website. You must submit a form to your local school district's transportation office in order to receive your reimbursement. Mileage requirements may apply.

As always, call the school office if you have any questions, 457-7167.



STRIKE UP THE BAND!

by Mr. Rick Purviance

St. Francis of Assisi band students participated in solo and ensemble contest at Norwalk Middle School on Saturday, March 10. Students competed for a rating of I+ (Highly Superior), I (Excellent), II (Good), or III (Fair). St. Francis had 46 entries and received 39 division I+ ratings, 7 division I ratings, and no division II or III ratings. Two St. Francis students also received outstanding performance or best-in-center awards. Those went to Ryan G. for his trumpet solo and Nick D. for his snare drum solo. All of the students who participated did an outstanding job.

A special thanks is extended to Rachel Mohr and Judy Schliesman for their fine job as accompanists.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

St. Francis Night at the I-Cubs!

Friday, May 25

7:05 PM

School Kick-off, Friday, April 27

Tickets come home on this day!



Book Nook by Mrs. Mary Head

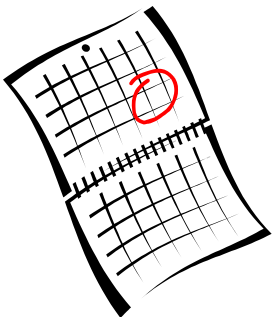
Congratulations to all the students who voted for their favorite Iowa Children's Choice book in February. The favorite book at St. Francis was Wenny Has Wings by Janet Lee Carey with 24 votes. The second place vote went to Three Days by Donna Jo Napoli with 15 votes.

At the state level - 20,849 voters from 259 schools and 4 public libraries participated in the voting. The World According to Humphrey by Betty Birney got the top number of votes (2,056) second place was Dork on the Run by Carol Gorman with 1,793 votes.

The Iowa Children's Choice books for 2007 - 2008 have been selected and are available for checkout in our library.

A reminder that there are no fees for overdue books, but if a student has three or more books that are past the due date they will not be allowed to check out until books are returned. Thank you for cooperation and understanding!

CALENDAR DATES for 2007-08



We are still awaiting a final calendar for the 2007-08 school year. We do, however, have the following dates available for you.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Wed, Aug 22 | 1st Day of School |
| • Wed, Nov 21 | Thanksgiving break |
| • Thurs, Dec 20 | 11:30 Dismissal for Christmas Break |
| • Thurs, Jan 3 | Classes resume |
| • Fri, Mar 14 | NO SCHOOL, Staff Development |
| • Mar 17-21 | Spring Break week |
| • Mon, Mar 24 | NO SCHOOL, Easter break |
| • Fri, May 30 | 11:30 Dismissal—LAST DAY! |

READING RECOVERY/READING SUPPORT

by Mrs. Mary Anne Conway

High Frequency Words

One way to work with readers regarding word recognition and word solving is to teach them high frequency words. Readers benefit from having a large core of high frequency words under their control. High frequency words are those words that appear so frequently in text that automatic recognition is helpful.

One of the main ways a reader learns words is through the problem solving he does during reading. The high frequency words work as a monitor, letting the reader know whether he is right and can keep reading, or wrong and must problem solve.

Mary Ellen Giacobbe compiled the following information about "ANCHOR" WORDS:

These 22 high frequency words identified by Marie Clay give early readers an "anchor" in beginning reading books. They're words a child cannot get from picture cues but can use syntax cues or first letter to help locate them.

I	and
a	at
is	here
in	on
am	up
to	look
come	go
like	this
see	it
the	me
My	we

In our lessons we work on developing a large core of high frequency words in reading and in writing. We also work on learning the sounds and chunks within the high frequency words. We use this for our chunking and analogy activities in our lessons. For example, knowing "and" can help the children get to "sand" or "hand." In later lessons, knowing the high frequency word "come" may be used with words that have less predictable sound sequences, such as "come-home." First graders use their high frequency words to make new words "ham" or "pin." They also use their high frequency words to break words apart.

In reading, we might ask the child to show what they know about look to figure out the new word (took). First graders are shown how to use what they know about high frequency words to help them read new words.

In writing, students use their knowledge of high frequency words to write new or similar words. For example, "You know look. What would you keep the same to write book?"

Happy Reading and Writing!



MUSICAL NOTES by Mrs. Lee Randall

- ⇒ The 7th Grade Students attended a performance of "Godspell Jr." put on by St. Augustin students. It was well done and very enjoyable. This was a great experience for us to view as we prepare our own musical "Joseph- from the Pit to the Palace". **7th grade parents please be checking your emails for important information pertaining auditions, costuming, and other important items.** Preparation is coming along nicely in all sections of the class.
- ⇒ 6th and 8th grade parents - **double check your calendars!** The concert is scheduled for May 15th at 7 p.m. Students are required to be there! Students are expected to dress up for the concert (uniform not required, although it is acceptable) **Absolutely no jeans, tank tops, spaghetti straps, or skirts above the knee!**
- ⇒ The 3rd-5th grade students will be wrapping up their recorder units shortly after spring break. Check in to see how many belts they have earned. A popcorn party is planned for each class once the students have successfully completed the unit.
- ⇒ The 3rd grade will be participating in its annual trip to an ICUBS game. We will learn and sing the National Anthem for the game on May 25th. Details to follow!
- ⇒ K, 1st, and 2nd grade continue to add to their knowledge of music through movement, game, and singing activities. The 1st and 2nd grade have been playing simple instrument patterns and singing specific pitches. We have been learning songs with 4-5 pitches and the related game strengthens their ability to recall songs and the pitch level.
- ⇒ The DCHS Jazz choirs will be coming to perform for students in April. Details to follow!!!



April Missions Jeans Day!

"Pennies for Patients"
Leukemia/Lymphoma Research
April 19, 2007

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Nationwide Pennies for Patients program, has raised over \$15 million to help fund lifesaving cancer research and services for patients. Over 180 Iowa schools joined the fight and as a result, more children and adults diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood cancers in American have hope of a healthy future.

Please be a part of our April Missions by sending your spare change, dollar bills, checks (made to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society). Our Mission Jeans Day will take place on Thursday, April 19. We can make a difference!

The State of Iowa and the Catholic Diocese requests that you to check the Sex Offender Registry List regularly to keep your family safe.
www.iowasexoffender.com



ENRICHMENT by Mrs. Chris Joslin

Middle School: SFA has several groups of students in competition this spring.

- Four 8th grade photographers submitted photos to the Ankeny Art Competition. This is the first time that they have submitted works to be judged. CONGRATULATIONS go out to the following:
 - * **Natalie Cacciatore**, won two 1st place trophies with her photo of the interior of St. Francis church and for "Paintpots", a view of Mr. Southward's sink. "Paintpots" then won BEST OF SHOW in the youth division
 - * **Mary Kate Wisnieski** won a 3rd place in "People."
 - * **Jon Wisnieski** won a 1st place in "Places."
 - * **Mrs. Barb Wisnieski** was awarded an Honorable Mention.
- Congratulations to all who submitted photos! This show was a wonderful opportunity for our students and I hope it, will inspire them to submit work for the Iowa State Fair this summer.
- In early March, all 6th graders took the Heartland AEA Math quiz, thanks to Mrs. Westholm, and the top 4 scorers test results will be submitted. If their scores are high enough they will be invited to compete in a regional contest in May. Mr. Wenthe will work with some of these students on expanding their math concepts as time permits.
- Since last November, each Wednesday study hall period, we have had guest tutors in cribbage. I would like to thank Mary Bernabe, Steve McLuen, Jonna Wisnieski and Pat Hoffman for their hours of help. We will continue to meet to help the students become more comfortable with the game which teaches great math, logic and organizational skills.
- Two 7th grade teams will represent the school at the National History Day Regional competition at the State Historical Museum on March 29th. They have been working very hard on documentaries; one is *Polio the Triumphs and Tragedies* and the other is *Chernobyl: Up From the Ashes*. They produced a documentary, a progress paper and an annotated bibliography PLUS will answer questions about their work at the presentation. They should be very proud of their hard work!
- On March 30, Keaton Banwart, 6th grade, will participate in the State Geography Bee at Drake University. He is one of the 100 top scores in Iowa on the written geography test. Ms. Joslin will be one of the readers for the contest but that will mean she will not be able to see him compete. We wish him well as it is a very stiff competition with the winner going on to represent the state at the National Bee in Washington, D. C.
- On April 17th, there are several teams from 5th, 6th and 7th grade who will participate in the Heartland Area Educational Agency's Technology Fair. They will be submitting many different technological projects. In the past, SFA has done very well at the Fair and we hope that this year will continue that tradition.
- In early May, Middle School students will be able to participate in the Middle School Dowling Catholic High School speech contest. Arrangements are being made now for DCHS students to coach anyone interested. To sign up, the students need to contact Ms. Joslin.
- Third grade small-group has been exploring the world within their classroom curriculum as well as in a short term pull-out time with Ms. Joslin. They have been looking at the distribution of physical features, population, industry and wealth. They will bring their knowledge back to their classrooms to share.
- Fourth grade small-group students are measuring hours of sunlight (photo periods) in 10 mystery locations around the world. They will be using photo period amounts as well as cultural clues to discover the mystery sites. We already know one is on Antarctica, one is on the equator and two are at the same latitude as Des Moines....but the earth is so big, it can be anywhere at that latitude, so the culture clues will be very important!!
- Fifth grade small-groups are working on the design for our annual Canstruction project as well as two projects for the technology fair; one on history and one on geography. The Canstruction will be in April so if any 5th grade parent with architectural or engineering expertise has some time, we will be needing a volunteer to help! Other opportunities to help with the project will be in photography and producing a power point AND of course, with donating cans of food for the DMARC Food Pantry.
- Lastly, I hope to be able to help Mrs. Randall with the 7th grade musical as much as I can. I have already been listening to the actor-wannabes, giving tips for interpreting the dialogues and in timing. Once parts are assigned, I hope to be able to work with them as individuals on their specific roles. We have some potential Tony nominees amongst us and it will be great to see them shine! A small group of 8th graders are reading Shakespeare and I would love to give them an opportunity to share that too.