



SUN TIMES

NEWS FROM SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA
FOR FEBRUARY 2012

MISTY HADE, PRINCIPAL

ADAM TJEERDSMA, ASST. PRINCIPAL

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Once again I am amazed at how fast time is passing by. The end of January has brought us beautiful weather, which looks to continue in the month of February. I will be anxiously awaiting the news from the groundhog on how many more weeks of winter we will encounter!

Thank you to all of you for your help with Catholic Schools Week. It was a wonderful experience for all of us, and truly puts into light the importance of the mission of Christ's teachings.

Our School Improvement Advisory Committee has met once a month over the course of the school year. In January the focus was on the information from the parent-satisfactions survey. Within the next few weeks you will receive information on the results of the survey, the recommendations of the committee, and the action plan developed to continue to improve our school.

One aspect of the survey that we knew is that all of us are dedicated to the Catholic education of children at SFA and will continue to work hard to improve services, communication, and student success and satisfaction. We will continue to be successful, all in the honor and glory of His name!

Peace be with all of you~
Misty Hade



REGISTRATION

**FOR 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR
WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 21st TO
MARCH 9TH IN THE SCHOOL
OFFICE! We hope you will find it
convenient to register during your
parent-teacher conferences.**

UPDATE ON GOALS

Reading: Our goal will be to increase the percent of 7th grade students proficient or higher on the Iowa Assessments Reading Comprehension test.

During the 2011-2012 school year the teachers have been involved in year 2 training of Project CRISS. Through this training, teachers have been able to collaborate with other Diocesan educators also using the Project CRISS strategies. Our research team has developed a checklist of all the strategies in order for teachers to be able to check-off when a strategy is taught and the curriculum it was used with.

Math: Our goal will be to increase the percent of 6th grade students proficient or higher on the Iowa Assessments Math test.

During the 2011-2012 school year the kindergarten through fifth grade teachers have been exploring different math curriculum. We have had presentations from Saxon and Everyday math. In January several of our teachers went to observe both of these math curriculums in action. The teachers will be meeting early in the month of February to discuss each of the programs and which one would be the best fit for the students of St. Francis of Assisi School.

FROM FOOD SERVICE WHY WE ABIDE BY THE HEALTHY KIDS ACT?

Background- In 2008 the Iowa Legislature passed a law known as the Healthy Kids Act. There are three aspects to the law designed to improve the health of Iowa's youth: 1) a physical activity component, 2) detailed nutritional guidelines and 3) students receive CPR training. Compliance with the rules will be checked at DE site visits. The adopted rules are available electronically at:
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/BulletinSupplement/bulletinListing.aspx>

Due to the federal subsidy we receive for our school lunch program; we must follow the guidelines put in place by the Healthy Kids Act. The wellness committee, made up of parents and staff, meet on a regular basis to make sure the St. Francis of Assisi is in compliance with the law. One of the ways we are trying to meet this need is by implementing the birthday treat guidelines, as well as, getting students active during the day. This spring we will begin the process of the working with a coach on the HealthierUS School Challenge to continue to promote a healthy school lunch program.



The season of Lent is upon us!

Our theme this year will be **Follow the Savior.** Every week we will focus on the overall theme by walking with Jesus on a path that leads to the cross. This will be developed through focusing on the characteristics of Christ that we, as his followers, can emulate in our daily lives.

The characteristics of Christ:

- Week 1: Loving
- Week 2: Forgiving
- Week 3: Prayerful
- Week 4: Healing
- Week 5: Humble
- Week 6: Obedient

RELATED ART NEWS Reading Recovery- Mrs. King

Fluency is the ability to read, speak, or write easily, smoothly and with expression. Fluency develops over time with practice. Young readers inevitably will sound choppy as they are just beginning to understand how language works and how to break the text into natural sounding chunks. With time and many opportunities to practice reading, young readers develop these skills. How can you help your child be a fluent reader? Students need to participate in repetitive readings of the same material. Model reading a passage with expression and fluency to the child and then give them a chance to read it. Explain the quotation marks and prompt for intonation and inflection. Young readers also need to **hear** stories being read aloud. Modeling fluent reading by reading aloud is most beneficial!



5-8 MUSIC/ SR.

VIKKI

*If it's February,
it's Black
History month
and the rhythms
of Africa are found
in so many musical*

styles.

5th grade students are taking a closer look at music originating with the slaves. They have written lyrics to the 12-Bar Blues form and examined the hidden messages found in the songs of the Underground Railroad. Students in 6-8th are working hard learning the music for their upcoming performances. 6th Grade students are in the middle of

tryouts for character parts and solos for HARMONY HIGH, a mini-musical introducing us to a school where music is a part of every class. They are having a lot of fun with this and I'm so excited for them. Their performance is March 13th at 7:00 P.M. 7th and 8th grade students are reading through GODSPELL and acquainting themselves with character parts and solos. I love watching them come alive as they share sides of themselves we don't always get to see and hear. April 26th is the date for your calendars. MS Chorus is busy preparing music for our CSW liturgy. They always do an awesome job with this ministry. Our rehearsals will begin to include music for the Dimensions Show Choir workshop set for March 14th. As Spring approaches we get very busy in the Music Room! It's an exciting time to say the least!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

Catholic Schools week- January 29 –

- February 3!**
- 1ST 11:30 dismissal
- 2nd DRESS UP FOR JESUS!
Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
Author/ Poet K-2
- 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL!**
- 3rd BINGO at 2:30 PM
- 4th Auction
- 7th SCRIP Athletic Wear
- 8th Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
- 9th K-3 Sid the Serpent
6-8 Let's Move
- 10th Mission Day
First Grade Informances
11:00 AM: Mrs. Curtin
12:45 PM: Ms. Murphy
1:15 PM: Mrs. Gaul
- 12th Confirmation Gathering

- 13th 5th grade to Biz Town
- 14th Valentine's Day K-5 Parties
- 15th Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
2nd grade Eucharist Parent meeting
5:15 or 6:45
- 17th End of 2nd trimester
5th-8th grade Band at Civic Center
K-5 Auction Game Night
Wellness Meeting 3:45 PM
- 20th No School/ Professional
Development Day for Teachers
- 22nd Ash Wednesday. Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
- 24th Progress Reports Home
7th grade to Dowling Catholic
Conference scheduler closes at noon
- 28th DCHS/ SFA spirit wear!
Conferences 4:30-7:30 PM
7/8 teacher conferences- 12:30-3:30
- 29th Liturgy/ 8:45 AM

MARCH

- 1st No Classes
Conferences 11:00 – 7:00 PM
- 2nd No Classes
- 5th Author Skype- Wendy Mass
- 7th Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
- 9th Author Skype- Gordan Korman
Mission Day
- 11th Confirmation Gathering
- 14th Liturgy/ 8:45 AM
- 15th Author Skype- Roland Smith
- 16th No School
- Spring Break- March 19-23**
- 27th DCHS/ SFA spirit wear
- 28th Liturgy/ 8:45 AM

Mission of St. Francis of Assisi:

We, the parish family of St. Francis of Assisi, are a Catholic, Christian Community striving to live the mission of Jesus Christ. As partners in faith, we witness our love of God through liturgy, social outreach and life-long faith formation. We embrace the spirituality of St. Francis, challenging us to be instruments of peace and love. As a Catholic school we will develop and inspire learning for life by providing a world-class education within a Catholic environment for our students.