

# ST. JOHN'S LINK

February 3, 2012

## Child Lures

Part of the Diocesan Safe Environment Program is a program called Child Lures. We implemented the program four years ago for students in grades K-6. This series of lessons teaches on many topics that help kids stay safe. In the upcoming weeks the teachers at each grade level will begin teaching the lessons. Please be aware you may have some good topics of conversation at home. If you have any questions on the topics your child will discuss please talk to his/her classroom teacher. If you don't want your child to participate in the lessons please contact the teacher with your concerns.

## Plan Ahead

Feb 3—DACs Talent Show @ Holy Rosary

Feb 4—First Reconciliation

Feb 8—School Mass

Feb 13—Hartley to visit Gr. K

Feb 14—School Commission Mtg. 6:30 p.m.

Feb 15—School Mass

Feb 16—Country Festival Gr. 3-6 during school

Feb 17—Early Release

Feb 20-24—Winter Break

Feb 22—Ash Wednesday

Feb 29—Legislative Day Gr. 6

## ST. JOHN'S DINNER AND AUCTION

March 31st in the Harbor Side Ballroom of the DECC

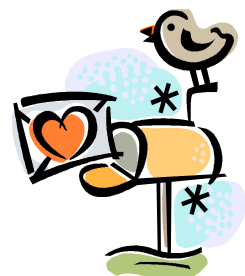
10 things you can do to make this year's event a success:

You can . . . . .

1. Make a donation/solicit items for the auction
2. Invite friends; buy or sell additional tickets
3. Sell tickets after masses
4. Help with decorations
5. Help clean up
6. Donate \$5 for the classroom basket
7. Help with classroom project
8. Check in guests as they arrive
9. Help transport items and set up on Saturday
10. Pray for the event

You should talk to . . . . .

- Chris Shand, Kristen Fish or Angela Day
- Linda Lenard
- Linda Lenard
- Linda Lenard
- Chris Shand or Kristen Fish
- A note will come home in the newsletter
- Chris Shand
- Kristen Fish
- Linda Lenard
- God

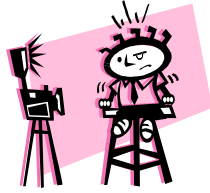


Sign up for supervising lunch and recess at Volunteer Spot

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/10423456339622760122>

### Life Touch Spring Picture

Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, April 4th. Watch for more information.



### Kindergarten Roundup

Roundup will be held on Friday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m. Please contact the school if you know of a child that is not in the preschool program that would like to be personally invited!



### NOW SHOWING!

Check out the new DACS video on our school website. It is amazing!

Click on the link below:

<http://www.stjohnsduluth.org/home.html>

Photos courtesy of Mr. Donald Goenner!

### Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center



Schedule of summer camps and family programs is available. See rack outside gym for catalog or go to [wolf-ridge.org](http://wolf-ridge.org) for more information.



### Box Tops

Please continue to send them in. Don't forget to write your name on the back for a chance to win Monday's drawing for a prize.

### Tea for Two



#### For Mothers and Daughters

For girls 9-11 and their mothers

Sunday, Feb 26, 2012

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Essentia Health/StMary's Medical Center

Cost \$20.00

For more information or to register call 218-786-2378

More information on Community Physical Activities rack.

Out of uniform days the first Friday of the month!



### Back to School Supply Kits



St. John's School will be offering pre-packaged Back-to-School Supply Kits. Kits will be the exact school supplies your child's teacher requested. Back-to-School Supply Kits will save you time and money from running to multiple stores looking for all the supplies. Each kit contains name brand, quality products! You will be able to order on-line. Pre-order your kits starting in April-June 30th. More information to come!

# Early Release: Friday, Feb. 17th

**Grade 2**

**Reconciliation Classes**

**Feb. 4—Reconciliation in the church at 11:00 a.m. Pizza lunch to follow in the church hall.**

**First Communion Classes**

**Classes will begin in March. Watch for more information on dates.**

**April 29th—First Communion Mass at 10:30 a.m.**

**Scrip**

Remember to keep scrip in mind for your grocery, gas, and eating out!! You can check your total donation anytime online. Just log in to shop-withscrip.com and click on view last orders. This page summarizes all scrip profits earned since 7/1/11 to present. Remember if you did not buy out at the beginning of the year, you need to earn \$200 in scrip profits by the last day of school or there will be an additional \$50 added to your scrip balance. Scrip is so easy to order. Simply log on at your convenience, go shopping and send payment on Monday in the Scrip envelope. If you have questions call the Scrip office.



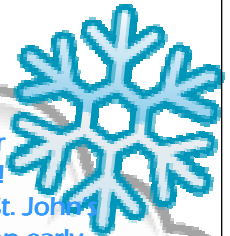
**School Nurse**

If you need to reach our school nurse, Sue Grohn, please email her at:

[susan.grohn@duluth.k12.mn.us](mailto:susan.grohn@duluth.k12.mn.us)



Show your school spirit!  
Wear your St. John's spirit wear on early release days!



**Talent Show**

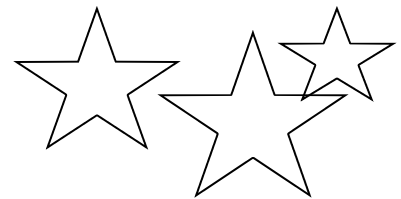


Talent show participants:

- Emily Shand on the ukulele, gr. 5
- Tyler McGillivray on the drums, gr. 4
- Natasha Wallis, vocal duet, gr. 6
- Abby Rowe, vocal duet, gr. 4
- Ben Keppers, piano solo, gr. 3
- Andrew Twomey, soloist, gr. 4
- Graceann Baker, piano solo, gr. 3



- Lauren Goman, dance group, gr. 4
- Emma Johnson, dance group, gr. 4
- Bella Kartch, dance group, gr. 4
- Mya Kunst, dance group, gr. 4
- Abigail Legg, dance group, gr. 4
- Kate Twomey, dance group, gr. 5
- Claire Rhoads, dance duet, gr. 3
- Jessie Berish, dance duet, gr. 3



**Great Job!**

Please check out the school website [www.stjohnsduluth.org](http://www.stjohnsduluth.org) for an updated February calendar. Click on the event for more information.



# NWEA Testing

Students in grades 3-6 just completed the second testing cycle. Teachers should have information by Monday. If you have questions on your child's progress please call the teacher to discuss. There is one more testing period in April. The faculty has found the results to be very helpful in individualizing curriculum needs.

## Duluth to Dominica

The mission trip to Dominica leaves on Friday, February 17th. Please say a prayer for safe travels. Those going on the trip from St. John's and St. Joes, will be visiting with some children from a school there that shares our name. When they return we hope to help out that school by purchasing school supplies and other items they may need. In the upcoming weeks keep your eye out for a good deal on school supplies that you'd be willing to donate.



Keep collecting Campbell's soup labels and Kemps milk tops.



# Ski Program

There is one session remaining in the afterschool ski program. The second session changes to Tuesday's afterschool starting on February 14th. This session ski's on February 14, February 28, and March 6. The fee for second session is \$55 if renting. If you are using your own equipment and free skiing (without an instructor) the fee is \$30. If you are free skiing but still renting your cost is \$55. Call Steve Stingle if you have any questions. All payments for second session must be received before February 13.

Steve Stingle—390-5446  
stingle8@gmail.com



## Wolf Ridge ELC summer opportunities!

Bird Banding will take place Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. This is a FREE opportunity for your family to experience one of the classes that our school trips most enjoy!

### New Fundraising Opportunity

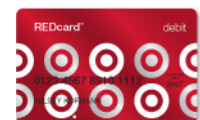
Snail's Pace is a line of eco-friendly, high quality paper goods made by the monks at Abby Press Printing. Everything from note and gift cards to wrapping paper and gift bags! Many have an outdoors or spiritual theme to them. Our school will receive 50% of the profits and the other 50% goes to support the monk's mission. Watch for more information in the coming "Friday News".



## Target Take Charge

Use your Target REDcard to earn money for St. John's School. Click on the link below. Scroll down to Take Charge of Education and Enroll. Choose St. John's School. Target will donate 1% of your REDcard purchases to St. John's School.

[https://redcard.target.com/redcard/content/rcw\\_benefits\\_tgt\\_rewards](https://redcard.target.com/redcard/content/rcw_benefits_tgt_rewards)





# Our Country Festival

**Immigration and its Influence on the**

**Please Join Us!**

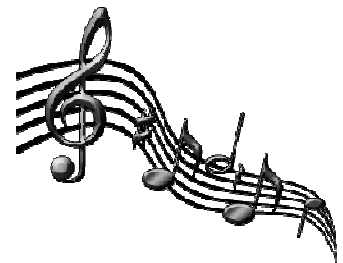
**Friday, February 17th**

**9:00-10:30 AM**

**Church Basement**

**\*3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have been**

**working hard to put together  
a festival to the influence**



# Classroom News

## Preschool

January has found the preschoolers busy learning about the five senses God has given them to explore and learn about their world. So far they have learned about their senses of sight and touch. They have used their eyes to distinguish the sizes of things and sorted snowmen by their size. They learned what it means to be blind and how Jesus helped a man who was blind see. The older children made a group book based on Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin. It is circulating now, and I was very pleased with the results!

In our sense of touch unit, the children learned what opposites are: hard/soft, rough/smooth, and hot/cold. They finger painted and made pictures with ice cubes and with melting crayons. They found objects in our room that were smooth or rough, hard or soft, and the children tried to distinguish between the basic shapes by feeling them in a bag. They also sorted objects by how they felt, and counted how many each texture had. They LOVED the ice cream we made in coffee cans, and they worked hard rolling the cans back and forth to each other. It was a great unit!

The children also learned about families this month and how everyone has a family and how they are all different. They learned Jesus had a family, and the children helped me graph how many people are in their family and we counted and compared the numbers. The a.m. group learned how to sign family names thanks to Mrs. Day who spent one morning showing them how. This month the older children have been introduced to the letters "e", "t", "i" and "s".

This week is our beach week which focuses on learning a bit about the ocean and the life in it. They will be sorting shells by type and touch, patterning with plastic sharks, and making a huge ocean mural to name a few of the activities. It is always a fun week, and the children are really looking forward to our "beach" parties at the end of the week!

Welcome to Max who joined our TTH p.m. group. He is a wonderful addition to our group.

Next month we will continue our sense unit with our sense of smell. We will also learn about feelings and how to stay healthy. For Valentine's Day, we will be having parties, and I will be sending home a group list, before too long, so your child can make valentines for their classmates. I cannot believe how quickly this year is going by. They say time goes by quickly when you are having fun, and your children really are a lot of fun to be with!

Enjoy our mild winter,  
Sue Knetsch

# Classroom News

## Kindergarten

It is hard to believe that we have started the second half of the school year. The students continue to make good progress on their social and academic skills. Report cards went home last week and I believe that each child had great scores to share with their family. I am proud of the hard work that the students have put into school.

The students are enjoying listening to stories from the New Testament. They are continually amazed by the miracles of Jesus. I have been impressed with the great questions the students are coming up with. Father Rich has been great about answering the questions and teaching us about our faith.

In Language Arts the students continue to focus on letter sounds each week, however, we will be doing two new sounds each week. The students will also be working on at least two new sight words each week. Please continue to track these words in the weekly newsletters and practice them at home. In January we worked hard on writing sentences. The students worked on identifying the naming and telling parts of sentences. They also worked on writing and telling stories. The students did a great job of making certain that their stories had a beginning, middle, and end. They loved sharing their stories with their classmates.

In Math class we have focused on numbers greater than 20. In order to better understand these numbers we have worked on place value (ones and tens) and counting on (10, 20, 21, 22). These skills have taken a lot of practice, but students are beginning to grasp these skills. We will begin working with concepts such as Geometry, Probability, Money, Time, Addition, and Subtraction during the second half of the school year.

Also in January, the students learned about how animals survive in the winter through migration, hibernation, and adaptation. They also learned about "winter" animals such as polar bears and penguins. The students also learned about the season of winter and the phases of matter (solid, liquid, gas) by doing experiments with water.

Catholic Schools Week has been a lot of fun. The students have enjoyed dressing up and participating in some extra fun activities. There are many more fun activities for the students to look forward to in February. The students will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School and Valentine's Day. We will enjoy our second field trip to Hartley Nature Center as well as Winter Break. The students will be learning about symbols of our country. The students are also looking forward to inviting a guest to come read to our class for "Read with a Friend" month. There will certainly be a lot of learning packed into the short month!

Mrs. Louwagie

# Classroom News

## First Grade

What a wonderful first half of the school year we have had in the first grade. The children have made such significant progress in all subject areas, but especially noticeable are their improvements in reading, writing, and math skills. I am really looking forward to the second half of first grade now that we can all read. The children have had their first look at our Spring Play: "CHARLOTTE'S WEB" and we have even selected parts and purchased costumes. You will just love this production in the spring.

The children are growing physically, intellectually, and socially. New friendships are made daily and I love to see that the children do not pick the same friend every day. This is such a kind and loving environment in which to work, and that is due to the fine job you have done in raising your children.

For the month of February, the first grade will be responsible for the school masses every Wednesday. The children will do an awesome job and you are all welcome to attend. This will be such a good opportunity to serve God and our church. These first graders are so well behaved in church and they lead by example. It is an honor to watch them participate at such a young and tender age. In religion we are learning about the saints and how we should follow their lead by loving and serving the Lord.

We are now underway with Catholic School's Week and the children are having so much fun with all the special activities and out of dress code attire. We will get up to dance, switch classes for fun games, and participate in the "Living Rosary. The teachers and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class will have a fierce match of volleyball.

The month of February will be a very busy month. We will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in which the children will be drawing themselves at 100 years old and counting, counting, counting. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day as well, and the children will have a party to exchange Valentines.

In social studies we will be completing a short unit on the hibernation and migration of animals in the winter. We will also be talking about ways humans need to adapt to the cold winter months. After the Winter Unit we will move on to a unit about Feelings and Emotions and then on to a unit on Dental Health.

Math concepts are becoming increasingly more complex. We have finished up our chapter on money and we will soon be ending the chapter on time. We will then move forward to learn about place value.

Thank you for your continued support and all you do at home to enhance your child's learning here at school. God bless you all!

Ms. Pavlovich

# Classroom News

## Second Grade

Wow! We had a super fun time over Catholic Schools Week. It gave us a chance to break from our regular routine, try some new things, and have a lot of fun.

**Religion:** We are preparing for First Reconciliation both on Wednesday nights and during our regular religion time. We take time to pray for the intentions of the children, read scripture, and ask questions.

### **Reading:**

Comprehension: We continue to use various strategies: summarizing, finding details, determining main idea, predicting, and identifying cause and effect. Students are also using text tools such as graphs, calendars, and maps to strengthen comprehension.

Phonics: We focused on 3 consonant letter patterns such as /str/, /scr/, and /spr/. We also reviewed word families with long and short /a/ sounds.

Grammar: Students continue to apply capitalization and punctuation rules to sentences and abbreviations. We continue to use commas in a series, in dates, and in addresses. We are identifying and using nouns, proper nouns, and verbs. We are learning the difference between present and past tense verbs.

Book Reports and Chapter Book Progress: Students began their independent reading in chapter books. I conference with the students once a week, track what they are reading, and make sure that they are reading a book at their level. Students are required to write a book report for each book they read. One book report is due each week.

**Writing:** Students researched a dinosaur and wrote a report. The reports are hanging in the hallway. We wrote different types of poems: acrostic, odes, quatrains, haiku, and limericks.

**Math:** We continue to do +/- drills. We finished our unit on +/- with and without regrouping. We started our unit in geometry. We learned what it means when something is “congruent.” We will be learning about symmetry and plane (2 dimensional) and solid (3 dimensional) shapes.

**Science:** We finished our unit on dinosaurs. Students learned the time period in which dinosaurs lived when they created their dinosaur timeline. Students learned that some dinosaurs were carnivores, some were herbivores, and some were omnivores. We learned that we could make a good guess at what kind of food a dinosaur ate by the shape of its teeth.

**Social Studies:** We learned about Martin Luther King and we created a timeline of his life. We just finished a unit on Minnesota. We learned about the fur trade and how life is different today than it was when Minnesota first became a state. We located important landmarks in Minnesota and what sort of industry is found in Minnesota. We learned a bunch of state symbols, including the state flower—the Lady Slipper. We also learned about the Legend of the Lady Slipper. Students wrote a persuasive letter to me trying to convince me to take the class on a field trip to their favorite places in Minnesota...I will let you know which destination I choose!

**Art:** Students created some really cool animals for the door decorating contest. Students also painted a pattern water color painting with Mrs. Marx.

Mrs. Uremovich

# Classroom News

## Third Grade

We are now on our way into the second half of the school year, which is so hard to believe! The year is flying by because we have been so busy in third grade! We finished up our NWEA testing this past week, and the class as a whole did a great job! Students have also been enjoying all of the fun activities that go along with Catholic Schools Week.

In reading, we have been working hard on verbs, and will be learning about the different types including linking and helping verbs. Students have been improving their comprehension using inference as well as determining the author's purpose to help them better understand the story. Our reading goal for this month is 250 pages a month.

In math this month we will be working on finishing up multiplication and moving into division. Students will learn the connection between multiplication and division, and will realize that division is MUCH easier when they know their multiplication facts. PLEASE continue working on multiplication facts with your child every night. It is so important for their continued success in math.

In religion, the students are really enjoying our weekly Good News publications. Not only do they reiterate what the Gospel is about each week, but they include fun activities that help relate the Gospel to the students' lives. On top of that, we will be focusing on our special gifts as well as God's plan for us this month.

In social studies, we are working hard on our Country Festival project. Third graders are researching and presenting an influential immigrant from their group's country. We have been learning how to research and to be able to pull interesting facts out of our research. Students are paired with a fourth and fifth grader and will be presenting their projects on February 17<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to come enjoy the festival!

I hope you all have a wonderful winter break. Safe travels to those of you heading for warmer weather!

God Bless,  
Mrs. Jerve

# Classroom News

## Fourth Grade

The students and I are doing very well as we enter the month of February.

**Science:** Students have created hand-wound telegraphs and are sending Morse code messages across the classroom. Electromagnetism is awesome!

**Grammar/Writing:** 'Types of Pronouns' has been the theme for this week. Using pronouns to formulate questions and answers in proper sentences will keep the language class hopping.

As students get farther into the year they often times start to get a little sloppy in their language skills and in checking their homework. This quarter's report card reflects this problem for some children. Please have the children DOUBLE-CHECK their work, and even read it out loud to see if the answers make sense.

**Spelling:** Chapter seventeen is the unit that will be used for spelling during Catholic Schools' Week. The er, est, es, ed, and ly endings will be drilled hard at the end of the week, although the students seem to understand the usage of that pattern fairly well.

**Reading:** Each week's lessons have themes which inspire the children to read. This next week's books will have stories about dogs and their abilities as companions. The week after will concentrate on nonfiction stories about people who saw a problem and created a solution. The grammar and spelling lessons are all geared toward the theme of the week as well. \*The children still need to read at least 300 pages a month for their Book-It goal for January and another 300 in February.

**Technology:** The computer lab has been well used during the week. Students have been taught to use the internet safely, and they are now learning the basics of using a word processor. Although keyboarding is taught in school it would be nice if the children used a keyboarding program at home as well.

**Religion:** Service to others has been a real focus in the classroom this month. Developing a sense of love and loyalty is easy in the family setting, but is often a new concept when it comes to extending those same traits to others around us. Reaching out and helping others in love is what God asks of each of us.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Our opening Mass was held on Sunday at 10:30. We asked the children to sit in a reserved section in the front of church. Happily, the church was packed and even had people standing in the choir loft.

The children are having an amazing Catholic Schools' Week. This class has a true spirit of sharing and kindness.

God's Joy to You All...

Mr. Donald Goenner

# Classroom News

## Fifth Grade

I am excited for the country festival this month. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade is researching the impact of a specific nationality on the United States. We took a field trip to the public library to learn how to be good and thorough researchers. It was such a wonderful experience. I received many compliments about how well behaved our students were. We are now working on how to organize note cards and a bibliography. The students will be writing a thesis statement as well. All of these steps will get them ready for History Day next year. The festival is filled with song, dance, food and costumes. Please plan on 30 minutes to see everything. All are welcome! It is from 9:00-10:30 in the church hall in the basement on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Book studies are moving right along. We are focusing on nonfiction text as well especially how to be better note takers and summarizers. We are also moving into essay writing. This is such a needed skill as they move into the upper grades. The newest trait of writers we're focusing on is Word Choice. Students will be thinking about strong verbs, precise nouns, and fabulous adjectives in their writing.

It's hard to believe the year is half over. As we celebrate National Catholic School's Week, I can't help but feel blessed by St. John's School. This is such a wonderful community. I am starting to feel like I am part of the family. Thanks!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Sachs

# Classroom News

## Sixth Grade

January brings with it the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, intense History Day studies, and an introduction to integers. All this comes amid the beginning of the second semester. Time is flying!

Catholic Schools Week was a lot of fun. I was pleased at how creative the sixth graders were in their dress, the door decoration, and their thank you cards. My favorite event for CSW is partner read. It warms my heart to see how gentle and nurturing the sixth graders are when paired with a little one. Every parent should come witness this, and that in itself makes all the craziness of CSW worth it.

History Day is in full swing. Just a couple of reminders for parents: every Monday their Weekly Goal Sheet is due. It needs your signature. Also, it is extremely important that they cite all of their sources. Each student has a bibliography worksheet. The final project includes an annotated bibliography, meaning they need to type a few sentences in their own words about the information they obtained from each source. The final project also includes a process paper – a daily journal about the process of researching and putting together their project. I am concerned that some are not keeping up with this. Please look at what your child is doing with an “adult eye”, and encourage them to stay on track. Thanks.

We have moved decimals into the “keep your skills sharp” phase and are now focusing on integers. They can be very tricky, and I am please so far with how well they are grasping the concepts. I will continue to review fractions and decimals each week.

We are still making our way through the Old Testament, seeing how God is revealing Himself and how all of the Bible speaks to us today. Fr. Rich continues to stop regularly and answer our questions. We are truly blessed to have such an involved priest.

God bless you,  
Mrs. Kaufer