



St. Gabriel School January Newsletter 2011



Happy New Year to all of you! On behalf of the St. Gabriel community, we hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday with family and friends.

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN JANUARY

January 1 & 2	Food & Fuel Weekend (4 th Grade are asked to donate food this weekend at Mass)
January 3	Classes Resume
January 7	Report Cards sent home 2:05 p.m. Geography Bee for Grades 4-8
January 10	Student Raffle for PFA (Monday – Friday during lunch)
January 14	2:05 p.m. Spelling Bee for Grades 5-8
January 17	NO SCHOOL – MLK Day
January 18	7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting
January 20	8:00 a.m. Baptismal Celebration for January/July 7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting
January 25	PFA Meeting – Mrs. Bleitner, our school counselor, will speak about her role and how to help your child report issues of bullying.
January 27	Pro-Life Mass (Baby items will go to Birth Right and Nurses for Newborns)
January 29	8 th Grade Follies
January 30	Catholic Schools Week Open House from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Artwork from students of Grades K-4 will be displayed as well

Lord, may we be like the Wise Men

Lord, may we be like the Wise Men who were guided to you by a star.
Give us the wisdom to seek you, light to guide us to you, courage to search
until we find you, graciousness to worship you and generosity to lay our
gifts before you, who are our King and our God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Classes Resume

Students will return to class on Monday, January 3rd.

Mission Projects

Our mission project for the 3rd quarter is to help Nurses for Newborns. Money collected in the classroom mission banks will be sent to Nurses for Newborns. Baby items collected at the Pro-Life Mass in January will be divided between Birth Right and Nurses for Newborns.

A little about Nurses for Newborns Foundation: This exists to provide a safety net for families most at-risk in order to prevent infant mortality, child abuse and neglect by providing in-home nursing visits which promote healthcare, education, and positive parenting skills. Nurses for Newborns Foundation provides services to babies who are born with medical problems, born to teen moms or born to mothers with disabilities/mental health concerns, or who are born into families who do not have money for even basic necessities. In addition to medical care, we assist families whenever possible with donated materials needed for safe care, such as diapers, formula, baby food, clothing, bedding, and cribs. We welcome hundreds of volunteers each year who help us manage the logistics of this work.

Our students have been very generous this year in donating for our various mission projects thus far. Knowing that the economy is difficult on many, it is wonderful to see the sacrifices made by our families to help those who are less fortunate.

Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on January 7th. If any family is behind in their tuition and/or other fees, report cards will be held until compliance has been met. Also, your access to on-line grades will be disabled. A letter will be sent home with your child. We ask that you tell your children that the report cards should be opened at home; this will alleviate any embarrassment for a child who opens the letter at school that addresses a balance due.

On Friday, you will also receive a report for your SCRIP account. Report cards are not held for those behind in SCRIP purchasing.

Auction Student Raffle

The auction committee will hold its annual student raffle to raise money for the auction. Money raised from the raffle will be used to purchase an item for the auction in the name of St. Gabriel Students. The raffle will be held the week of January 11th during lunch. More information will be sent home by e-blast.

PFA Meeting

The next PFA Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Our speaker is Mrs. Bleitner, our school counselor. She will talk about her role at the school. Mrs. Bleitner will also share ways with you on how to help your child report incidences of bullying.

The students will receive a “dress down” pass if their parent attends the meeting. Babysitting will be available.

Cold Weather

Please keep in mind that the children will go outside for recess during all but the most inclement weather. Students need the fresh air after a morning of classes. It is important that students come to school dressed for the cold weather. They also need to understand how important it is to zip up coats, to wear hats, gloves, etc. The teachers do their best to assist the children, however, with our large student population; it isn't possible to make sure everyone is ready for the outdoors. Thank you for your assistance.

Health News

The cold and flu season is upon us, so we ask that you follow these simple reminders.

- Children should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness
- If your child is ill, please keep him/her home.

Snow Watch

When severe weather dictates the need to close school or begin on a snow schedule (9:30 a.m.), we will contact families by using our Schoolreach phone program. Information will also be announced on the following radio and TV stations:

KMOX 1120AM (announced at 6:00 p.m.; 9:00 p.m.; 5:30 a.m.; and 6:30 a.m.)

KTVI – Channel 2

KMOV – Channel 4

KSDK – Channel 5

You can also check the ‘Principal’s Message’ on the school website for a message if we are not in session due to inclement weather.

If it begins to snow during the day, we will only close school early if it becomes very bad. However, as a parent, if you feel the need to take your child out because of the weather, it can be done at your discretion. The decision to close school is always made with the safety of our teachers, children and parents in mind.

Catholic Schools Week

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from January 30th – February 5th. This is a special time during the year that we celebrate the communities of our Catholic schools. We will be sending home more information about the various activities scheduled for that week. We hope that you will be able to join us.

A few things to put on your calendar:

Sunday, January 30 th	Open House from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. All the Catholic schools in St. Louis City will be hosting an open house.
Monday, January 31 st	Storyteller 7:00 p.m. in the gym, doors open at 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, February 1 st	Dairy Queen/LeGrands lunch.
Wednesday, February 2 nd	Blizzard treat for students; Ice skating event Steinberg Rink from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. A number of Catholic schools are joining together to offer this event.
Friday, February 4 th	School will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. so the teachers can have a special luncheon.

Art Displays

Artwork from students in Grades K-4 will be displayed during Catholic Schools Week – January 30th – February 5th. The school will be open on Sunday, January 30 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. for families and parishioners to view the artwork as well as the school. Please tell family, friends and alumni about the open house.

The Archdiocesan Student Art Exhibit will be held at various shopping centers throughout the St. Louis area during Catholic Schools Week. St. Gabriel School will be represented at one of the malls that will be announced in the Catholic Schools Week bulletin.

The Art Fair for students in Grades 5-8 will be held in late April and early May.

PFA Auction

The Auction planning is well underway. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 26th. More information will be sent in late January. The auction is our only major fundraiser that we have for the school.

The proceeds of the auction are still to be determined. But as in years past, the money has always gone to help improve the school in some way. Student desks, teacher desks, file cabinets, computers, dry erase boards, Smartboards, classroom doors are just a few things that we have been able to add to the school. Last year we were able to purchase new computers for the lab and the classrooms.

Financial Assistance

We have not received information from the St. Louis Archdiocese about the format for applying for financial assistance. The information will be sent by e-mail once we get it.

If you are not a parishioner of St. Gabriel you are not eligible for assistance from our parish. However, if you are registered in another Catholic parish, you may be eligible to receive assistance from your home parish. Non-Catholics are not eligible for assistance from St. Gabriel or the St. Louis Archdiocese.

This application will also be used to determine if you are eligible for the Catholic Family Tuition Assistance Program.

Registration for 2011-2012 – Mark your calendar

The registration packets for 2011-2012 will be available at the Registration Meeting on Tuesday, **March 1st** and Thursday, **March 3rd** at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. You will only need to attend one meeting. By offering two nights, we hope that this will accommodate your schedule. At the time of registration, one-half of the book fee and the full registration and cafeteria fee are due. We will offer the opportunity for families to roll the book fee into the FACTS payment.

If you have a Kindergartener or a child that will be attending St. Gabriel School for the first time, pre-registration was on November 30th. If you have not yet registered, please contact the school office immediately.

Registration packets will not be given to families who are behind on tuition and/or other fees. Once compliance has been met, the packet will be mailed.

Lost and Found

During the winter months, we have more items that are turned in to the 'Lost & Found' box. The box is located in the hallway next to faculty room outside the cafeteria. The last week of each month the items are placed on the stage in the cafeteria for the students to pick up their lost items. Many items are not picked up at the end of the week. The maintenance staff takes any items left to Good Will or a clothing donation box. Please remind your child to look for lost items.

Campbell Labels, Box Tops, Ink/Laser Cartridges

We are collecting items for the programs listed above. Please have your child deposit labels and box tops in the containers throughout the school building. The cell phones and ink cartridges can be dropped off in the school office. Please remember to put cartridges in a plastic bag.

Congratulations To...

...A. Evola for receiving Honorable Mention for the Mayor's Christmas Card Design Contest.

...the following students who are the finalists in the St. Gabriel Geography Bee to be held on January 7th at 2:05 p.m.

D. Beckman (8S) P. Genovese (7G) R. Mazanec (7M) M. Reda (8F) X. Stevens (4M)
N. Eberle (8R) H. Hunter (6P) S. Pottinger (5S) M. Smith (6W) S. Tettamble (7L)

...the following students who are the finalists in the St. Gabriel Spelling Bee to be held on January 14th at 2:05 p.m.

B. Adrian (6P) G. Killingsworth (5S) H. Lauer (7L) S. Olwig (7M) E. Roeder (7M) L. Swaney (8S)
J. Barbey (8S) D. King (5H) L. Leisure (6P) L. Le (6D) G. Ruggeri (6D) S. Tettamble (7L)
A. Dangos (8R) K. Kirner (5P) J. Lux (5H) L. Pfitzinger (7G) N. Smith (8R) S. Whyte (5P)
D. Gheradini (6W) W. Klug (8F) T. Martin (8F) B. Renfrow (5S) M. Smith (6W) M. Zanaboni (7G)

A Special Thank You To...

...the 3rd Grade Parents and the PFA for providing the reception for the 2nd Grade Reconciliation.

...the Beginning, Intermediate, Concert, and Jazz Bands for sharing their musical talents at the Christmas Band Concert.

...the students in Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and Honor Choir for sharing their vocal musical talent at the Christmas Concert.

...Mrs. Shaver and Sr. Gail for their time in preparing the students for the Christmas Concerts.

...the Zychinski Family donating books to the library.

...the Favazza Family for donating a podium.

...the Zetzman Family for donating good paper.

...the Simokaitis Family for donating five boxes of books for the library.

...the Wienhoff Family for donating scrap paper.

...to all those who gave baked goods and candy to the teachers during the week before the holiday break.

...the generosity of our parents, the parish, and PFA for their contributions to the Staff Christmas Fund.

...and to all of you for the support that you give to the Faculty and Staff of St. Gabriel School.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to express our sincere appreciation for all the warm holiday wishes and special thoughtfulness expressed to our staff by all the children and parents.

Blessings to you and your family for the year 2011!

Sincerely,

Ann M. Davis
Principal

**Go to the website to check the
school calendar**

http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_2

and the cafeteria duty calendar

http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_1