



St. Agnes Academy News

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Headmaster – James Stankiewicz

Headmaster Headlines...

New School Year Kicks Off With Energy and Excitement

I am excited about the 2017-18 school year! St. Agnes Academy has a dedicated and passionate faculty, supportive parents, and creative and energetic students. We are going to do great things together.

With your support, we will continue to develop the very real gifts and talents of all of the students at St. Agnes. On behalf of the staff, we are energized and excited about the upcoming year and we look forward to working with your children! Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me or any of our staff if you have additional questions.

St. Agnes has an active PTO. They are always looking for each of you to join them in any capacity to support our school. Please consider helping out in any or all of the many PTO initiatives.

I am truly excited about the year!

God bless you and your families.

-Jim Stankiewicz

NEWS BITS...

Preparations Underway for Middle School Science Fair

Middle School kicked off preparations for the science fair during the second week of school. Students all have questions to research and experiment and are working on conducting background research while they await approval to begin the experimentation stage.

The annual St. Agnes Academy Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 10. There will be a session for pre-K through grade 5 students to see the results in the morning. Parents, families, and the general public will be welcome to visit with students about their projects in the evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Judging will take place that day and award winners will be invited to the Regional Fair at MCLA a few weeks afterwards. St. Agnes students often perform well at the fair and we're excited to see how this year's projects turn out!

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DA's Leadership Program Offers Skills for 8th Graders

The eighth grade had its first session in the District Attorney's Peer Leadership Program. We look forward to learning skills such as critical thinking, decision-making, problem solving, communications, and self-reflection.



Eight graders engage in team building exercise under the District Attorney's Leadership Program.



The Community Service Club raised \$400 during its recent bake sale to support humanitarian projects both locally and nationally.

Community Service Club Opens Year with Successful Event

The Middle School Community Service Club kicked off the year with a fundraiser on Sept. 21. That evening,

students hosted a bake sale and Lularoe clothing party, which raised over \$400! All proceeds from the evening's event will go to fund upcoming projects for the club such as the creation of fleece blankets for cancer patients, donations to local animal shelters, and efforts to assist those currently rebuilding after the devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other islands in the Caribbean.

Students Learn Folk Dancing and Playing the Ukulele

St. Agnes' Music program is off to a great start! Each grade is reviewing musical concepts learned last year and brushing the dust off of their singing voices. We have been learning folk dances from Israel, France, and America, as well as experimenting with using movement as a form of expression.

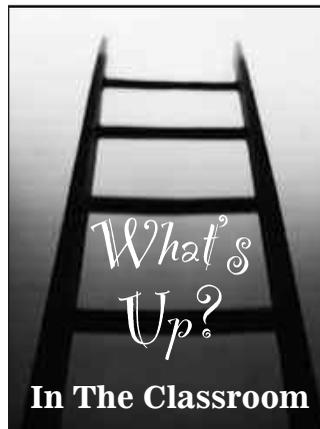
Students in grades 4-8 have been offered the opportunity to order a recorder if they need one. Parents should help students remember to bring their instrument and book to class on their music day. Eighth graders have begun getting to know the ukulele and will have the chance to bring their instruments home to practice soon!



Fifth graders learn the steps and movements of folk dancing.

Calendar of Events:

- October 5 – PTO board meeting 6 p.m.
- October 7 – First Friday Mass – 9 a.m.
- October 7 – In-service - No school
- October 9 – Columbus Day- No school
- October 11 – Fire Safety Week - all grades
- October 12 – PTO meeting at 6 p.m.
- October 20 – Diocesan In-Service Day – no school
- October 27 – Halloween party
- October 31 – Halloween
- November 1 – All Saints Day Mass at 9 a.m.
- November 2 – All Souls' Day
- November 2 – PTO board meeting at 6 p.m.
- November 3 – First Friday Mass at 9 a.m.
- November 9 – Family taco night – 5:30 p.m. at school
- November 10 – Veterans Day observed – no school



In Mrs. Leja's and Mrs. Kulpa's pre-Kindergarten, students have settled nicely into the daily routines of school. Everyone seems to enjoy playing with their friends as well as participating in various activities of the day.

Our younger class began their first theme with a unit about the farm. They have been learning about life on

the farm through songs, picture books, crafts, and games. They have been busy creating farm animals and painting cornhusks to decorate their classroom for their Hoedown, which is a very fun and exciting event. We might even see a "do-si-do" dance or two.

The children in our older class have been learning about our five senses. Each day we have been reading various books about our sense of seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting. Our daily project for this unit has been to make our own book about the five senses. Our class has also begun our alphabet and number books.

We are all looking forward to October because both classes will be taking a walking field trip to the Dalton Fire Station in celebration of National Fire Prevention Week. In addition, we will be looking for signs of Fall and anticipating the excitement of Halloween.



Pre-K gathers for class time.

Mrs. Patti's Kindergarten is off to a wonderful start! The children have been busy making new friends, being bucket fillers, and having fun learning many new things. We are celebrating fall by learning all about apples and sharing other signs of autumn. We read about Johnny Appleseed and celebrated his birthday by tasting different apples. The children then made a graph to show which Apple was their favorite. The winner was "Red Delicious."

In reading we are well under way in our Reading Street Series, along with learning about rhyming, practicing writing our names the "kindergarten way," and learning about letters and sounds.

We are in full swing in our math program and have finished Topic 1, which taught us about sorting, and have begun Topic 2 which will teach geometry and

patterns. Religion class has focused on teaching us that God created the world and all the wonderful things in it.

Another exciting event in kindergarten was meeting our eighth grade Big Buddies. The eighth graders will visit every other week and do many fun projects throughout the school year with our class.

The month of October will focus on fire safety, which also means a trip to the Dalton Fire Department, along with learning about pumpkins and spiders.



Kindergarten students pay special attention during a recent morning meeting.

Mrs. Shapiro's first grade was very happy to welcome a new student Marley Lacey. Welcome aboard! The children have just begun a new unit on Reading Street. The name of this unit is My World. Over the next several weeks, our class will be reading about and discussing the places and people in a child's world. The Big Question for this unit is *What is all around me?* In math, students started Chapter 1: Numbers, Number Words, and Ordinals. They are off to a great start learning about numbers to 12. In science, we are learning about the seasons. Their favorite book is *Fall Is Not Easy* by Marty Kelley. They enjoyed making a fall coloring book and singing Dr. Jean's CD Seasons song.

We are beginning a theme-based literature study focusing on bears. This study will integrate literature while building and reinforcing reading/ writing skills. Some of the popular children's books we've read so far are *Corduroy* by Don Freeman, *Ira Sleeps Over* by Bernard Waber, *The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward, *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey, and *Every Autumn Comes the Bear* by Jim Arnosky.

Religion class has focused on the "Golden Rule" and the Sign of the Cross. We recently finished Chapters 1 & 2 in *Blest Are We (Our Church Community, We Gather to Celebrate Mass)* and the children have enjoyed singing the unit songs. We've read *Each Kindness* by Jaqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. It's a beautiful picture book with a powerful message about how even small acts of kindness can change the world. I am happy to say that the students are busy reporting to me how they have helped someone and having a great first month of school!

In Mrs. Blefari's second grade, September is here and the students are ready to go! The children are

settling in very well. They seem to be excited to get reacquainted with their classmates.

We have spent much of September reviewing First Grade curriculum, trying to undo "Summer Slide." I'm amazed at how much they have retained over the summer months.

In reading, we have already begun our first reading incentive program. *Pawsome Readers* is the title of our new reading program. Each child receives a tally sheet on Fridays. They are asked to read orally to a parent for 15 minutes per day throughout the week and return the tally sheet the following Friday. Each child who completes the sheet gets a "Scratch Ticket." Underneath the scratchable sticker a prize is listed, which the child receives. The children seem to enjoy this program and it really seems to get them into the habit of reading daily to an adult. The more they practice, the better they will get!

This is a very special year for the second graders who will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist this year. The children are excited and ready to go! We have started off this year by discussing the sacrament that most of them have already received - Baptism. The children have been bringing in their baptismal candles and white baptismal garments to show one another. We've discussed the different symbols on the candles from the different churches and their meanings. We've discussed Original Sin and how, during Baptism, the Original Sin is removed. So on Thursday, Sept. 21, we went over to the church and took a closer look at the Baptismal Font, and the other elements of the Baptismal Ceremony. The children asked many questions and seem to enjoy their mini field trip!

Please keep these youngsters in your prayers as we help them prepare for these wonderful sacraments.



Cam shows his classmates his Baptismal certificate and candle.

In Mrs. King's third grade, it is hard to believe that we have already completed a month of school! The third graders have transitioned nicely, and we have had a very busy few weeks. In Language, we are working on Unit 1 entitled "Living and Learning." We are learning skills that will help us achieve our goals in the future. We have written fables, thank-you notes, and are currently writing descriptive passages.

The students completed their Sandwich Book Reports which went along with their summer reading assignment. We are now reading mysteries and will be making puzzles to go along with the written book report. At the completion of this project, we have a puzzle day and the kids all try to solve each other's puzzles. We are reading *Ivan*, a story about a silverback gorilla, and the kids are loving it. There are many valuable lessons to be learned from this amazing story.

In math, we are finishing up with place value, rounding, and comparing numbers. We have written numbers in standard and expanded form, and have also counted money. We will be moving on to adding with and without regrouping and three-digit addition.

The social studies curriculum focuses on our state, so we have been learning about our resources and have been using maps to help us locate cities and towns within our state. We have talked about the differences between cities, towns, and suburbs.

The class seems to be enjoying science. The unit we are presently working on is Life Science, and we are focusing on plants. We have watched seeds sprout and have talked about the parts of plants and their functions. We have classified plants as flowering and non-flowering. The students enjoyed taking care of a variety of plants in our classroom.

In religion, we have just begun our unit on Sacraments of Initiation. We have learned that being a Catholic means welcoming others and loving each other as God loves us. We have been thinking about our friend Ava and her family who moved to Florida. The kids have been worried about her because of the hurricanes, so we have made cards and written messages to let her know that we are thinking of her and her family and wish them well.

In Mrs. Adams' fourth grade, the motto is "Work Hard, Be Nice." We are doing a good job at both. The focus of the religion curriculum has been on God's goodness, the story of Creation, and the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Students have been sharing what they are thankful for and have an understanding of the Mass as a sharing of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Word.

The Language Arts curriculum encompasses five strands: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. The skills we have focused on in comprehension have been sequencing and summarizing. In language, we have been learning and practicing vocabulary, prefixes, suffixes, and declarative and interrogative sentences. In writing, we are studying realistic fiction. The guiding question for the first unit is "What can we discover from new places and people?" The main selection was an excerpt from *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

In math, we have been reviewing place value, comparing and ordering whole numbers and exploring estimation. We have been reviewing multiplication and working on solving word problems. Students have been working on individual white boards for math and writing.

In social studies, the guiding question is "how does geography affect the way we live?" We have been studying different regions of the United States as well as reviewing and learning new map skills.

In Mrs. Young's fifth grade, students have had a great start to the year. They have been studying an introduction to the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic

Church, as well as how each of us can live the Beatitudes in order to find true happiness. In math, the boys and girls have been working on their place value skills, as well as their rounding, addition, and subtraction abilities. They have just recently taken a test on these concepts.

In reading, students have been enjoying stories such as *Red Kayak* and *Thunder Rose*. They have been learning about how people can overcome challenges and act courageously. Students have also been working on writing directions and a tall tale. Science class has brought upon many good discussions while learning about how technology affects our lives. Students were able to manipulate a model of a prosthetic arm and try to pick up certain objects. Students are off and reading in their Forty Book Challenge.

In Mr. Lange's sixth grade:

Math: Students began the year working on solving problems involving standard mathematical operations such as adding, subtracting, and multiplying whole numbers and decimals. Currently, sixth graders are working on a new skill: dividing decimals. The students are working hard in class and are doing a good job with their calculations.

Science: Sixth graders are currently studying space. More specifically, they are focusing on gravity, phases of the moon, eclipses, the fundamentals of the solar system, and the Milky Way and other galaxies. They seem to enjoy venturing into the unknown.

Social Studies: Students are learning the core concepts of geography, including latitude, longitude, and how to read maps. Soon, we will move on to a mini unit on economics and governments.

Literature: Over the summer, students read *Hatchet*, an adventure story by Gary Paulsen and completed an extensive project that included a summary of the book as well as a vocabulary journal. Currently, we are reading *Lawn Boy*, also by Gary Paulsen. Rather than being a tale of survival (like *Hatchet*), *Lawn Boy* is a humorous story of a young entrepreneur who starts his own lawn mowing service. The final project for this book will require students to plan their own business and write a business plan and present it to their classmates.

In Mrs. Dudziak's seventh grade:

Math: We begin the year learning a new and difficult concept: operations involving integers (positive and negative numbers). Students are working hard and stepping up to the challenge, and there has been some strong improvement as a result.

Science: Students in grade 7 are learning about how Earth's surface changes over time. Currently they are studying how forces within Earth's interior cause tectonic plate movement and earthquakes. Soon, we will explore how volcanoes and erosion also contribute to Earth's ever changing crust.

Language Arts - We reviewed kinds of sentences, conjunctions, and fragments and run-ons. We began our study of proper nouns and proper adjectives, and the use of commas and interjections.

Literature - We have spent our time discussing the summer reading assignment *A Long Walk to Water*. We learned about the *Lost Boys* who covered Africa on foot, searching for safety. We wrapped up the unit by working in groups to research Salva Dut's organization, *Water for Sudan*, and the work he has done for the Dinka and

Nuer communities in southern Sudan.

Religion: We are currently learning about the early history of the Catholic Church and the early popes.

Social Studies: Students have started their study of Ancient History with a chapter about early humans such as Neanderthals. We've also discussed the different tools used by archaeologists to study and research artifacts and fossils. Our upcoming unit will focus on the history of early Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent.



In Mr. Lange's science class, students learn how weather systems develop.

In Mrs. Jamros' eighth grade:

Science: The class is studying space science, however, they are focusing their efforts on how the Earth and moon's position and movements within the solar system causes day and night, the changing of seasons, and tides.

Social Studies: Students started the year with a chapter on the fall of the Roman Empire. We are now delving into a study of the Middle Ages.

Math: We defined rational numbers, practiced writing them in equivalent forms, and graphed them on a number line. We also identified their additive inverses and absolute values. Next, we worked on finding the greatest common factor, least common multiple, and least common denominator. We are off to a good start!

Religion: We began our study of the New Testament by learning about the people who wrote about Jesus.

Students researched the life of one of the Gospel writers or Paul, and they presented a biography highlighting how their writer became a disciple of Christ. Our next unit is on the Mystery of the Incarnation.

Language Arts: We reviewed complete and simple subjects and predicates. We also practiced forming compound and complex sentences. We will continue working on grammar usage and mechanics as we write sentences with commas, semicolons, and colons.

Literature: We have been having in-depth discussions on our summer reading assignment, *The Pearl*. We also did a "Who Dunit?" activity to see who could come up with the best theory as to who may have been responsible for some of the events that took place in the story.

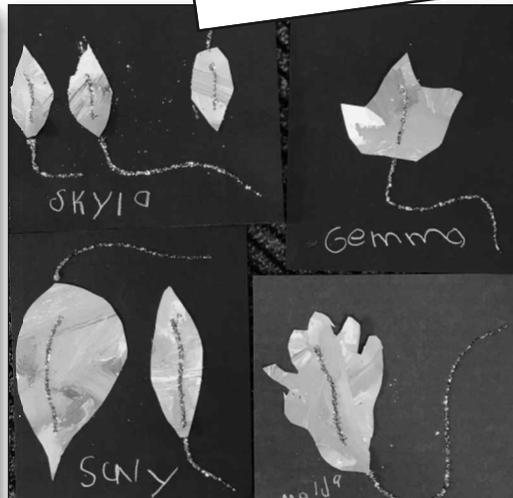
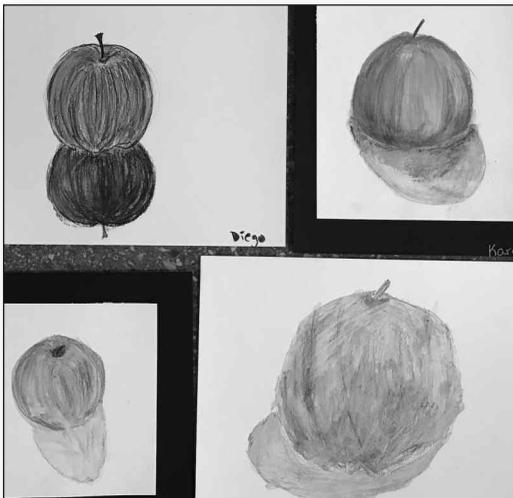
We have met with our Little Buddies in kindergarten and have had fun getting to know them. It is going to be a fun year!



The school year has started out fantastic! We have started the cash calendar drive and the students are very excited about the new top seller awards this year. Top seller gets a \$150 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods, second place receives a \$100 gift card to Target, and third place wins a \$50 gift card from iTunes.

We have some fun events coming up and the first is the Halloween party on Oct. 27 which is organized by the first and second grades. The second event is Family Taco Night on November 9, which is run by the pre-school and kindergarten.

PTO has its first meeting Oct. 12 from 6-7 in the library and we hope that many parents can attend. The PTO greatly appreciates all the parents that volunteer their time to make all the things we do possible. We look forward to a very fun-filled year ahead!





Letter from Burkina Faso

Sr. Linda Answers the Call

October 2017

Making a Difference

One of my greatest joys is seeing what sponsorship does for the children who are fortunate enough to have a sponsor.

Barka is a perfect example of how sponsorship changes lives. St Agnes Academy has been part of her life for over 10 years - and what a difference that has made. She has grown from a sweet girl to a lovely young lady. Through the years, she has worked hard in school always wanting her sponsor to be proud of her. She recently passed a test similar to an entrance exam which allows her to advance to university level. She hopes to study medicine but many factors will determine the direction her future takes.

Maybe you are considering sponsoring a child. I would love to have other children know the love and hope Barka has experienced.

Siesoma is looking for a sponsor. Please contact me at burkinababies@gmail.com if you would like to impact her life. Or visit our website at Take-Action.sheltering-wings.org. Choose Child Sponsorship, Burkina Faso, and select Ruth and Linda to view the children in our area.

We are ever so grateful for the many dedicated sponsors from St. Agnes Parish and for all you do for me and our children here.

