

Catholic Gazette

St. Anne's School

December, 2007

Tis the season for a lot of things this holiday season, but most of all, it is the season for caring and sharing. Around school it has become very apparent to me that the students are working diligently to raise the bar toward being excellent Christians. Our tree in the main entrance is nearly full of hats, mittens and scarves and the boxes for the food shelf were plump full. Even the anticipation of sharing K.K. gifts was very exciting to see the students engaged in. Thank you for instilling such blessed qualities in your children and for allowing me to be apart of their lives at St. Anne's.

I am truly grateful for each one of them.

*Because of the observations I have made and the students willingness to go above and beyond to help their neighbors I have used this last week of school to reward each grade with a Christmas party where we had treats and watched *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The students seemed to enjoy the break away from working so hard in technology and I was happy to share a piece of the holiday season with them!*

Again, the sixth grade class conquered yet another edition of the Catholic Gazette. With a busy schedule preparing for the Christmas program (which they were marvelous in) and their extra studies, I was pleased with their hard extra work put into our holiday edition. Thank you sixth graders!

As the last few hours before Christmas soon approach, my hopes for all St. Anne's families are that the last minute shopping comes to a close, that your homes are filled with warmth and love and that God may bless each of you in every way he possibly can. Merry Christmas to all of you, may 2008 bring you much peace and good health.

Have a safe break and see you back in 2008!

Happy Holidays!

Ms. Wilson

Best Time To Build A Snowman

By: Samantha Alander

The best time to make a snowman is when the snow is about one inch deep and sticky. This weather is not good weather to make a snowman because it's cold outside and the snow is hard. You can't even make a snowball!



First One Inch Snow Fall Prediction

By: Samantha Alander

This December I wanted to know when the first one inch snow fall would occur. But I know no one can make perfect predictions all the time. So I asked some kids at school. Justin Randall guessed right, December 1. Good Guess Justin!

Favorite Thanksgiving Food

By: Justin Randall

Ham (2) or Turkey (7)

Squash (4) or Corn (5)

Potatoes (5) or Stuffing (5)

Pumpkin Pie (8) or Apple Pie (2)

This year I wanted to do a survey on the school's favorite Thanksgiving food because the sixth grade class didn't do a survey like this last year.



Favorite Holidays

By: Adam McDonald

This November I wanted to see how many people liked each holiday. This year people in our school like Christmas the most. It came in at 63 votes. New Year's came in at 3 votes. Thanksgiving came in at 7 votes and last but not least Valentine's Day at 4 votes.

Happy Holidays!

X-Mas Program

By: Adam McDonald

The St. Anne's Christmas and Spring Musical tradition goes back many years. Many parents will remember Art Straub's production as well as other music teachers of the past. Mrs. Miller has been teaching music at St. Anne's since 1997.

"That year St. Anne's did not have a music teacher so I volunteered to do that Christmas program for them. After Christmas Sister Shirley asked if I would consider a contract with the school to continue teaching music. The rest of history," said, Mrs. Miller.

Mrs. Miller said each year she tries to pick a play that would be suited to the skills and personality of the sixth grade. Of course it has to have a good script and the music must be suitable for elementary voices. To find the right musical she searches music catalogs, previews music and scripts and then finally make a selection.

"Music has always been a very important part of my life. Music requires discipline because you must practice if you are to perform and that practice exercises your mind and your body. Music also soothes, relaxes and uplifts the spirit. I cannot imagine a world without it," Mrs. Miller said.

The Christmas musical this year was Miracle At Midnight and of course told the story of Jesus' birth. The songs were fun and the script as well. We performed this year's production on Tuesday, December 12 at 12:30 and 7:00 p.m. and invited everyone to come and hear the good news of Christmas. The St. Anne's students are a talented group and they worked very hard to be their best. This year was no exception!



Turkeys

By Dackotah Montgomery

On November 7, we celebrated Thanksgiving at school.

We had sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, a buttered roll, dressing, corn, cranberries and ice cream. It was awesome! We had the whole school in the lunch room and ate the lunch. We said a special prayer for the farmers. We sat at assigned tables that Mrs. Segna assigned for us!



Favorite Gift

By: Selena Wiederich

I wondered what Christmas gift people would want this year and I got to find out!

Electronics came in first with 29
Stuffed Animals came in second with 12
Legos came in third with 9 votes
Movies came in fourth with 8 votes
CDs came in fifth with 4 votes
Board Games came in sixth with 2 votes

Each year we wait for Christmas to come. We usually think Christmas is a time of getting gifts. We sometimes don't think what Christmas is all about. Christmas is a time to think about when Jesus was born. So this Christmas don't just think about gifts, think about what Christmas is really about.

Opportunities to Help at St. Anne's

By: Samantha Alander

Hat and Mitten Tree

We put up two trees, one in the school and one in the church. We decorate them with new hats, mittens, scarves and socks. You may bring them to school or anytime they're open. The last day to give to this awesome project was on December 19. Last year we gave them to Sue Rynda, Director of Human Services in Le Sueur County. We will again be giving to them this year. The mittens and hats will be given to those in need. It's fun to buy things you like and give them away.

Adopt a Family Program

Kathy McNamara, a 4th grade teacher at St. Wenceslaus School in New Prague, is our contact for this program. Every year she contacts our school and we adopted a few families. This year the need is very high and we have taken on five families. Families that want to be adopted must register with the Adopt a Family Program and be a resident of Le Sueur County. Families give Ms. McNamara a list of their needs and sizes. We do not know the names of the families, but are given a number that belongs with each family. Like St. Nicholas who gave away all of his wealth to poor children and whose feast we celebrate on December 6. We can take part in that same spirit of giving and follow in the footprints of this holy saint. Set a goal as a family to give to others this Christmas like St. Nick did many years ago. This program ended on December 5. Did you notice I used the word Family nine times in the above note, wow! It sure is all about family.

Special Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 2 and every Sunday leading up to Christmas-marks the four Sundays of Advent

December 6-Feast of St. Nicholas (year 345)

December 8-Saturday mass at 10 a.m. Immaculate Conception

December 24-Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 4 p.m. and
Congregation Mass at 7 p.m.

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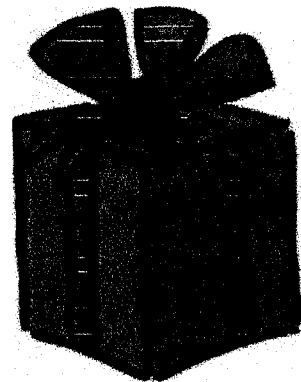
Christmas Day-Check bulletin for times January-Epiphany

As long as I can remember St. Anne's school children, teachers and staff take part in the Kris Kringle (K.K.) tradition of giving to one another. Soon after Thanksgiving we all draw a name from among ourselves and keep it a secret from each other, but not our parents (they help us shop for the final gift). Traditionally, we give notes, poems, make up games and jokes and/or a small treat during the few days leading up to the final gift exchange (not to exceed \$5). It sure is fun to guess and give little notes and treats to our K.K. during this time. I can't wait to see the kindergartners joy when we do this.

Advent

It means "the coming" and refers to the four-week season of preparation for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day and the anticipation of his coming again. Advent starts the Sunday closest to November 30. St. Anne's will celebrated the four Sundays of Advent on December 2, 9, 16 and 23. My family keeps time with the Advent Calendar (there are many types to choose from). There are 24 flaps, one ot open every day starting with December 1. Under each flap you may find a biblical scene and verse about the coming messiah or maybe a project to do with your family or act of kindness to do for someone else. I like them because they help you slow down in this time of hustle and bustle, but it doesn't have to be that way if we take the time every day during advent to prepare for the BIG event, which is Jesus' birth.

Jesus is the reason for the season! Peace and Joy to you and your families this Christmas!



Character Traits

By: Connor Wiederich

Every month at St. Anne's we focus on a special character trait.

They help you be a well rounded and good person.

September was respect and October was building peace. November was empathy which means entering fully, through imagination, into another's feelings or motives, identify with a person or their feelings. December is sharing. Like buying toys for kids who don't have any or the mitten tree, which we put scarves, mittens and hats on for the kids who have none. We're practicing to be peacemakers and living out our faith. Each month the classes choose a student who practices these qualities. Each

month at St. Anne's we have a different character trait.



Waffle Breakfast

By: Hunter Ludwig

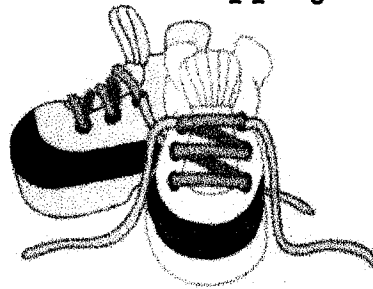
St. Anne's had their first annual waffle breakfast. It was held by the Patrons of St. Anne's. It was not just waffles, it was toppings, sausages, cookies from the cookie walk and more.

The breakfast was held on Sunday, December 9 at the St. Anne's school cafeteria from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The total amount made was \$1,675.36 and with the matching grade of \$500 from the National Catholic Society of Foresters the grand total was \$2175.36.

Grandparent's Day

By: Justin Randall

On October 12 St. Anne's celebrated Grandparent's Day. We played a game called Are You Smarter Than Your Grandchild. The topics were food, animals, sports and miscellanies. After we sang songs and played the game we had cupcakes. You could decorate your cupcake and put as much frosting and sprinkles on as you would like. We also were served apple juice.



Update on Walk Jog Run

Connor Wiederich

Miss Wavrin does walk jog run and is the phy ed teacher. She helps us to be healthy and exercise right. She does other activities like bike, skate and ski. Walk jog run takes place at St. Anne's School. It's down hill where there are two baseball fields. It is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Each time you run around both fields you earn one lap. The laps are put on a clipboard. For each lap a student does he or she gets a popsicle stick. Four laps equals one mile. Each time a student gets 25 miles or one hundred laps that person gets a certificate, a gatorade and a token that has a number of how many miles that person has.

On snow days we are able to do laps, but some of the days we can use skies. The first two students to get the most laps of the school were Ambriel Fulghum with 357 and Thomas Wavrin with 801 laps. Connor Wiederich is in first with the most laps this year so far and Hunter Ludwig is in second. Sixth grade has the most laps so far and kindergarten is second. Mrs. Wavrin gets as many laps as she can squeeze in each day, but on most of the days she does 12 laps. She loves doing walk job run almost every time. It's hard for her to do a lap under one minute.

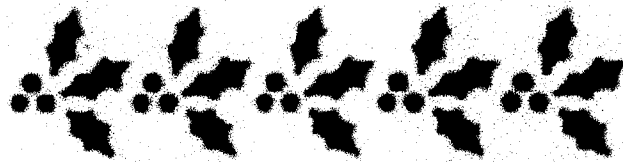
WOW WOW WOW

By: Selena Wiederich

Read this article and you'll find out what the third grade did with their adopted grandparents! They had a blast having treats and making name tags. They had lots of fun and had a lot in common. Here are their adopted grandparent's names:

Annemarie-Hazel
Rhett-Anne
Janie-Adiline
Alex-Dorthy
Joey-Leona
Hunter-Geneva
Matt-Nelda
Jack S.-Clint
Jack N.-Clinton

I remember when we went, we had an awesome time!



Winter Survival

By: Hunter Ludwig

Winter is not even here yet and it's already getting colder out. Be ready because you don't want to be out in the cold without your winter stuff on. So it's time to get out our winter coat, gloves, scarves, hats, winter boots, mittens and make sure you're warm. If you don't have your winter stuff on you could get frostbite or hypothermia. And I doubt you would like it either. If you get hypothermia your body temperature drops and you could die.
So make sure to dress warm during winter!

Peer Mediators

By: Noah Hynes Marquette

On Monday, October 15 we went to the Ney Center for peer mediation training. The students that went to the meeting from our school were, Noah Hynes Marquette, Hunter Ludwig, Bailey Wilmes, Abby Clark, Maggie Hahn and Amelia Froehlich. We played games that involved teamwork or they could not be done. One game they would point to three people and say elephant. One person would be the head than the two on the side would have to be the ears. At the meeting there were chaperones and those chaperones were Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Segna, Park Elementary supervisors and Hilltop Elementary recess supervisors. The whole purpose of this meeting was to teach the peer mediators how to solve conflicts when we recess.
If you have a conflict come to us.

5th Grade

By Andrew Clark

The fifth graders have been very busy! Some things they worked on were getting ready for Thanksgiving, taking a math test on multiplication and an English test on nouns. They are now learning about poetry. The fifth graders are reading a book called Number the Stars and their reading theme is called "Give It All You Got." Which include some stories about Michelle Kwan and La Bomba. The fifth graders learned about architecture in Art. They had to draw their dream houses and also went to a construction site on Doppy Lane.