



Shamrock News

12/18/15

Announcements:

We have made it to Christmas break. On behalf of everyone here at St. Patrick School, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May God bless your break and may you find some time for rest and relaxation.

Jean Days:

Friday, January 8: This jean day will be sent to Ally Barrick-low. Ally was a member of the Class of 2016 who moved away to Arizona after her 5th grade year. She has been diagnosed with cancer recently. Please keep Ally in your prayers.

Friday, January 15: This week's jean day will go to the Trinitarian Sisters of Mary located in Lowell, MI. Srs. Rita and Sophia recently visited St. Patrick School and Church during Vocations Awareness Week. They rely on donations to make their ministry work.

Congratulations:

To the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams for wrapping up their successful seasons on Wednesday evening.

Thank You:

To everyone who represented St. Patrick School by walking in the Portland Holiday Fest parade this past Saturday.



Merry Christmas

Calendar of Events

- 12/18 JV & Var. Girls BB @ Dansville 5:30p
- CHRISTMAS BREAK - December 19 - January 3
- 12/19 5/6 Grade Boys BB vs. IHM/St. Casimir @ SPS 10a
- 1/3 Athletic Association Meeting Parish Hall 6:30p
- 1/4 School Resumes
- Bowling vs. Central Montcalm Home 3:30p
- Chess Club Room 112 3:50-5p
- JV & Var. Boys BB vs. Ashley @ PMS 6p
- 1/5 PFCU Student Run Branch during lunches
- JV/Var. Girls BB @ Ashley 6p
- 1/6 Sanchin Ryu room 209 6p
- 1/7 JV & Var. Boys BB @ Saranac 5:30p
- 5/6 grade Boys BB @ St. Joe (green) 7:15p
- 1/8 JV/Var. Girls BB vs Saranac @ PMS 6p

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Hi Parents!

What a busy time of year it is. . . Yet, what a sacred, blessed time it is as we celebrate our Savior's birth!

Here's a huge shout out to the parents who attended our first annual College Prep Parent Night. . . THANK YOU!!! Your feedback has been very positive and encouraging! In case you missed it (and believe me you won't want to next year!), Santos Gutterez from Lansing Community College and Damon Boukamp from Aquinas College were our featured speakers. Santos shared information on LCC and information on community college admissions, costs, programs and many other interesting subjects. Damon gave the audience great tips on college planning, the new SAT format, financial aid suggestions, scholarship and admissions information, and basic suggestions to choose a college pathway. We ended the night with some door prizes generously donated by our speakers.

Many junior high and high school parents have asked the questions "WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DOING TO PREPARE MY CHILD FOR COLLEGE AND ADULTHOOD?" There are many answers to this. . . Here is a rundown:

- Career Development Class (12th grade, extremely helpful, rarely offered at public schools)
- Personal Finance Class (12th grade, relevant, not offered as core curriculum at public schools)
- College Prep Parent Night (this will be offered in the fall, but we need YOU to come!)
- Individual student meetings with guidance counselor for every junior and senior
- Financial Aid Information Night (will be offered next fall, watch for more information)
- Timelines in my Counselor's Corner news
- Constant staff support and information in various classes

So, there is a brief list of how we can help partner with you, but we need YOUR help in the following. . .

- Attend college meetings offered at school with your child
- Visit colleges often, starting in junior high is not too early! College admission officers will set up tours, and usually offer free lunch. This is fun to do in the summer and fall. Make a day of it and enjoy visits!
- Visit <https://FAFSA.ed.gov> website. This is the website that you will use to apply for financial aid senior year. Spend time now looking at the information you will need.
- Check into FREE practice test opportunities at www.kahnacademy.org. You will find practice SAT tests (which used to cost up to \$75, but now are FREE!!! Yippee!)
- Start having conversations with your child about careers and BRING HIM OR HER TO work with you! Yup, not kidding. . . Your child may not have a frame of reference for what "WORK" actually looks like. Set up opportunities for your child to job shadow other interesting jobs as well. Ask human resources departments if they offer tours. Make it fun. . . Enjoy the process!

I wish you all a blessed Christmas Season!

Be sure and give your child a hug today.

~Valerie Hynes McCaul, MA CTAS



ST. PATRICK
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Shamrock Art Attack

Lower Elementary: DK to 2nd

DK

The students have been working on creating their special Christmas Projects. They learned how to mix colors and work on a special painting! They will be coming home for the holiday!



K

The students created special Christmas Ornaments and were able to work on their coloring skills with a special Christmas booklet. Helping enforce patience in this hectic time of the year.



1st

The 1st graders have been learning about special shapes and how to see them in everyday objects by working on their Christmas projects. They are learning about how to start drawing complex things by breaking them down into shapes they recognize and building up their drawings.



2nd

The second graders have been working on a Christmas project that incorporates new art techniques and challenges them to pace themselves! They are incorporating drawing, with weaving to complete their Christmas projects. The students have been working hard on creating these lovely projects for the holiday.

When the students return from break they will be working on various winter projects that will allow them a chance to grow in new ways and try new materials!

Have a Very Merry Christmas!!



Middle School: 6th

The 6th graders have been finishing up their animal collages over the past month. The students have worked really hard on finding colors that work for their pieces and making their creatures look like the animal they have been focusing on.

Some of the students have been able to work on a simple Christmas project before the holiday. During their last class before break they played a few holiday games and strengthened their drawing skills by playing Pictionary.

High School: 10th

The 10th graders have been working on their Monochromatic animal paintings which is allowing them a chance to learn about color and tints and shades through the process of mixing paint. It is a long process and one that requires patience! They will be continuing to work on those projects once we are back from break!

For their exam time the students were able to take a mental break from testing by creating gingerbread houses out of frosting, graham crackers, and candy! They learned new tricks on how to use icing bags and make art using food! They used creative ideas to make very unique creations! It was a sweet way to wrap up the week!

Upper Elementary: 3rd to 5th



3rd

The third graders have been learning about color schemes as they work on their Christmas Project. They have also had the pleasure of going on the Language Artists field trip hosted by the Grand Rapids Art Museum. It was a great day and the students learned so much about how to view



and talk about art. They will also be taking all they learned and create an art project once we are back from break!



4th

The fourth graders had the pleasure of having a guest teacher come in and help them work on their Christmas Project! Mrs. Gerri Ryan came to class a couple times and taught the students new techniques and tricks to drawing and coloring. Thank you Mrs. Ryan!

5th

The fifth graders completed their Yarn Monsters...finally! They all did a great job and worked really hard on making habitats for their creatures. They created a quick Christmas Project, just in time for the holiday! When they come back from Christmas break the students will be focusing on learning about shading and will create an abstract image that incorporates the techniques they learned!



We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

* Artworks must have parent permission and be visible on the website. ** Comments must be parent-approved and visible on the website ,