

ST. AMBROSE

Monday Memo

April 7, 2014

Principal's Corner

Thanks to Mr. Nowotny for organizing the petition drive at the masses this weekend. The petition that was going around would enable tax breaks for private education.

As Lynne Lang writes, "Our Catholic schools have a significant advantage over our public counterparts in handling aggressive or violent behaviors. Our Catholic identity offers us a way to address such behaviors through the practice of virtue--choosing to pray, integrating the teachings of Jesus in our response. One important consideration, however, is that our goal must be to change the hearts of young people to desire good behavior rather than to simply see punishment as the end result. Taking accountability for actions takes time and effort, but when students are given the chance to make things right, we offer a formative solution rather than a punitive one." It is also vital that as adults we model this same type of forgiveness and healing so that our young people have a source of encouragement, realizing that it may be difficult but possible to achieve. As we finish our journey through Lent, how are we models of forgiveness? How are we models of restoring harm that has been done to others? Our example must always be that of Christ.

Save the Date:

April 17

Holy Thursday

Noon Dismissal

NO AFTERCARE

St. Ambrose Catholic School mission is to serve the spiritual, academic and personal needs of children and their families. We provide a quality education by fostering creativity, divergent thinking and the skills needed to meet the challenges of a changing world. We prepare children to be examples of Christ in the global community by educating in a spirit of understanding, peace, and tolerance.

Dates to Remember

April 12	Girls on the Run Car Wash, 12-3PM
April 14	PTO Special Lunch
April 16	Fourth Grade Trip
April 17	Noon Dismissal, No Aftercare
April 18	Good Friday, No School
April 22	Classes Resume
April 26	First Communion
May 16	Graduation
May 18	Alumni Mass and Breakfast (Graduates must attend)

PTO Corner

Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Nikolai, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. Giudici and Mr. and Mrs. Fuse for such a fabulous event for the mothers and sons on Saturday night. Thanks to Mr. Fuse for preparing the delicious ham and to Mrs. Kelly for the great cookies.

Thanks also to Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Striler, Mr. Weitz, Mr. Brusatti, Jack Nikolai, Christina Guidici, Audrey and Claudia Fuse who helped with different areas.

If you see any of these people around during the week, be sure to thank them! We can only have events like these with a community of supporters.

La Festa is approaching quickly. It is May 4. If anyone can help during the day or for clean up, please contact one of the PTO representatives.

From the Penthouse

The fifth graders are learning about ecosystems by creating one of their own. Each student has an ecosystem in a bottle complete with their own plants and a snail.

The sixth grade Literature Challenge group has begun reading The Witch of Blackbird Pond. It will be interesting to compare a teen heroine from an historic period with the modern day hero they found in Holes.

Academics

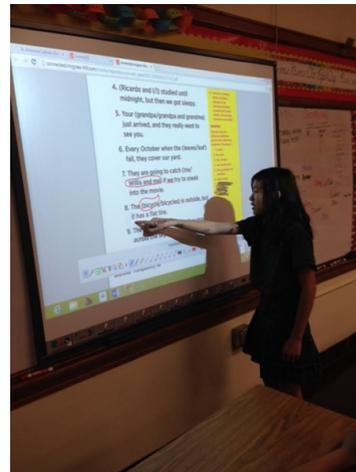
All of the Middle School Religion classes are creating religious “Brain Breaks” for the younger students at St. Ambrose. They will be using their religious knowledge (things they have learned this year) and their technology knowledge to create short videos to pass on some religious doctrine while helping the children work out some energy.

Some of the topics they will be teaching are: Creation, Noah, Joseph, gifts of the Holy Spirit, Beatitudes, 10 Commandments, how to live like Jesus, and THINK (acronym for etiquette for written messages).

The fifth graders used technology this week through interactive websites and online book series. The students sorted word endings, distinguished between different homophones, determined which adaptation meets which need of an animal, and corrected grammar sentences.

Kindergarten has been practicing telling time (o’clocks) on GoNoodle.

The PreK students have been using the iPads to work on letter sounds and recognition.



Spirituality

The eighth graders were Confirmed by Bishop Robert J. Hermann on Tuesday evening April 1, 2014. Their studies in Religion classes consisted of learning about our Church history, the Trinity, and of course the Holy Spirit. They learned about the fruits and gifts of the Spirit along with how the Holy Spirit comforts us, intercedes for us, and gives us the courage to evangelize and help others.

In choosing a saint name for their Confirmation name, they had to research a saint that they had things in common with and write a biography of that saint. They learned a lot about each of the saints chosen in the class. Bishop Hermann talked to them before the Confirmation Mass and was impressed as to how much knowledge they had regarding their chosen saint and the Confirmation process.

Also as part of their learning, they participated in several service projects throughout the year. The 27 eighth graders were separated into 3 groups and each service group was to plan and execute their monthly service opportunities. The groups were Respect Life, School, and Community. The groups successfully completed: fundraisers for charities, cleaning the school to help prepare for Open House, planned the Thanksgiving mass and created wreaths with thankful leaves on them from every person in the school, made blankets for The Fisher House, made cards for the "shut-ins" of the parish, led a prayer service for Pro-Life, gave out hot chocolate to parents at drop-off, cleaned an abandoned cemetery in Jefferson County, helped at the Columbus Day Parade and Festa at Berra Park, wrapped Christmas presents for some of those less fortunate families in St. Louis, served an "Italian style fish fry" for the staff and students at St. Ambrose, and will Bar-B-Q for the upcoming Car Wash, clean around the school grounds and plant flowers in front of school.

The seventh graders prepared Reconciliation circles for the second grade as they prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation back in December. They were discs put together to help them learn about sin and forgiveness.

Vacation Bible School

VBS at St. Ambrose Parish will take place the evenings of June 23 - 27 for incoming Pre-Kindergarten to incoming sixth grade students. Additional information and registration forms will be sent to you via Fast Direct after Easter.

Are you interested in helping share your faith with our children? Consider sitting on the planning team for Vacation Bible School (VBS). You do not have to have children or grandchildren to share your ideas and energy to help plan and implement a faith-filled, fun-filled week for children entering Pre-Kindergarten to entering sixth grade. If you are interested in joining the team contact, please contact Stacey at 314.600.8072 or Christina at 314.440.4455.

(Note: our first planning meeting is Thursday, April 10 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the School Cafeteria ... you are welcome to bring your children.)



Primary students use iPads during Daily 5 time to enhance literacy.