



# St. Patrick School News

December 23, 2007

## Nursery Program

**Mrs. Mulligan & Mrs. Frend**

The children have been very busy learning their shapes and colors. In addition, they have been learning number and letter recognition. The nursery program is a structured program in that each day the children participate in circle time as well as structured play. At circle time, the children learn the days of the week, month, weather, letter and number recognition, as well as shape and color recognition. We practice counting one to twenty.

The children are busy completing Christmas projects in which they have the opportunity to watercolor, paint, and glue to reinforce their fine motor skills. Each day a story is read. The children are very excited about learning their Christmas songs. Each day, the children say the "Our Father" prayer, a snack prayer and complete religion projects. We are also learning about Advent. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and healthy and Happy New Year.



## Pre-K

**Mrs. Van Slyck & Mrs. Comito**

Mrs. Van Slyck and Mrs. Comito's Pre-K students have been preparing for the celebration of Christmas. They have been discussing the meaning of Advent and what their wishes are for the coming year. Over the past several weeks the children have worked very hard to create wonderful holiday decorations, which are on display in the hallway. The Pre-K students have been learning letter



recognition, practicing writing the letters that they have already learned and are using manipulatives to master their basic math concepts. Their class would like to wish everyone in the parish a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

## Kindergarten

**Mrs. Bienz & Mrs. Cronin**

The kindergarten is learning about the Advent season. Advent means preparing for the coming of Baby Jesus. They have been discussing what good deeds they can do for their family and each other to show Jesus that they are ready for him. They have been working very hard on learning word families. They understand that these families will help them to sound out bigger more challenging words.

The kindergarten has also started to learn one-to-one correspondence. This concept will help them in future math lessons throughout their academic careers. The Kindergarten would like to wish everyone a wonderful and joyous Christmas.



## First Grade

**Sr. Patricia**



The first graders in Sister Patricia's class are all busy getting their hearts ready for the birthday of Jesus. They have made Advent wreaths and memorized the poem, "A Child at the Christmas Crib." They have all given of themselves and collected money for the poor. They have set up mangers under their Christmas trees. This week they will act out the Nativity as a special birthday gift for Baby Jesus. They know that Advent is a time to become more loving and to help others. They all know in their hearts that God's best gift to us is Jesus.

## Second Grade

**Mrs. Bubolo & Mrs. Spina**

This month the second grade students have been working on learning about Advent and why Christmas is so special. They wrote several short stories this month including *Reindeer Conversations & What the Most Beautiful Christmas Looks Like*. They also wrote descriptive paragraphs telling what their Christmas Trees looked like. The second grade is discussing every day the most important thing about Christmas....Jesus' birth.



## Third Grade

**Mrs. Scholldorf**

"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!" The students in Mrs. Scholldorf's third grade class have created 30 adorable Christmas cards. They are exchanging them with schools across the United States for the Technospud Internet Holiday Card Exchange project. To date, the students have received twenty cards in return! Mrs. Scholldorf's class has also created a large wall mural of an Advent wreath. The students have written what Advent means to them and what they are doing to prepare for this blessed season. Mrs. Scholldorf and her class would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



## F.Y.I.

*St. Patrick School is a founding member of the Catholic Middle School Athletic Association (CMSAA) of Suffolk. Students in grades 6 through 8 compete in soccer, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball and cheerleading.*

## ***Third Grade***

**Mrs. Tighe**

The class of 3-1 has been busy this December. In writer's workshop, the students worked on fantasy trickster tales and wrote advertisements about their towns. They were very creative and exciting. Multiplication is here! The students are beginning to memorize their times tables in order to improve their speed and accuracy. In social studies, the students are learning about the immigrants who came to America - what obstacles they had to overcome and what they did here in America. They are researching how their families immigrated to this country as well. The students of 3-1 have created Advent wreaths out of



their hands. They are learning about the preparation of Advent for Christmas. In between all the academics, the class has been working some Christmas magic and is making holiday crafts. 'Tis the season. Mrs. Tighe and the children of 3-1 wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas.

## ***Fourth Grade***

**Mrs. Dizinno & Mrs. Darmanin**

This has been such a magical month for the fourth grade. They have been working on so many community projects. In order to celebrate Advent both classes are decorating the small trees outside in between the two school wings (weather permitting). They have also been working on several community projects. Class 4-1 took stars from our very own parish trees. They raised \$76.00 for Mrs. Darmanin to take and purchase gifts for those less fortunate. Both 4-1 and 4-2 have been collecting socks for the poor and homeless in New York City. Mrs. Rodriguez, a parent in 4-1, is our liaison with the organization. We thank her for her help. Both classes are living the Beatitudes in order to prepare for the birth of Jesus. They realize the first rule of Christmas, it is far better to give than it is to receive.

Academically, the classes have been hard at work writing, writing, writing. In order to combine Christmas magic with academics Mrs. Dizinno and Mrs. Darmanin are having the

students write a comparison piece focusing on the book, *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Alisburg and the movie, *The Polar Express*. The students have completed a Venn diagram showing how the two stories are alike and how they are different. They are working on their essays, which will displayed by the new year. Please stop by and see.



## ***Fifth Grade***

**Mrs. Smith**

This month, 5-1 decorated the bulletin board in the east wing with "Gifts to the World." Each students created their own present and wrote about what their gift to the world would be this Advent season. They chose such gifts as donating clothes to needy families. class 5-1 also completed other Advent

activities to show that they truly understand the season. They made Advent calendars on which they wrote good deeds they would do each day until Christmas.

In Science the fifth graders continued to learn about adaptations and they are starting a new chapter on Ecology. They will learn about ecosystems, how living things get energy, food chains, energy pyramids, and cycles in the ecosystem such as the water cycle. The sixth graders are continuing to learn about minerals and rocks. They are starting a new chapter on plate tectonics, which explains the theory that pieces of the earth's lithosphere



are in constant motion driven by convection currents in the mantle.

Mrs. Smith and 5-1 wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## ***Fifth Grade***

**Mrs. Pacinello**

The 5th grade was assigned a religion project entitled, "Imitating Jesus." They were asked to find magazine and newspaper articles in which people were imitating the life of Jesus. Then



they were asked to find the specific Bible verses to which the article relates. Mrs. Pacinello and her fifth grade class are happy to report that after review of newspapers and magazines, there is still "Good News" to be found in the world! Merry Christmas!

## ***Sixth Grade***

**Mrs. DiSpaltro**

In addition to their vocabulary studies, both fifth and sixth grades have begun units on pronouns. Grade six is learning about the elements of the short story, and all classes will view and respond to Patricia Reilly Giff's "*Pictures of Hollis Woods*," a December Hallmark presentation. All fifth and sixth graders have completed their first book club presentations and are very enthused about picking their next books after Christmas break. They have inspired one another to grow as fine critics and public speakers. 6-1 wishes a Blessed Christmas to all!



***For more information  
on St. Patrick School,  
call 724-0285 or  
visit [sps-smithtown.org](http://sps-smithtown.org)***

## *Art*

with Mrs. Albanese

It's holiday time, gorgeous outside, and energy abounds. VISIT AN ART MUSEUM!

See the fabulous artwork of three St. Patrick seventh graders on exhibit at a real art museum. The Long Island Museum in Stony Brook will display their art from mid-December through mid-January. Be sure to stop in.

How about the MOMA (Museum of Modern Art)? It is just around the corner from St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Big Tree! There you will see *The Starry Night*, which is the piece inspiring the second graders, who are as we speak, working on their own versions of this piece. You will also see Claude Monet's *Water Lilies*. The first grade is currently being inspired by this piece. Perhaps you can pick up a poster or post cards of the famous paintings there. Just a bit north on 5th Ave. is the MET (Metropolitan Museum of Art). The Met is four blocks long with a wonderful Ancient Egyptian wing housing mummies and a temple! Ancient Egypt is just what the 6th grade is learning about in Art and Social Studies right now!



## *Guidance Program*

Mrs. Mary Mulligan

This past month has been a very busy and productive one. In addition to the implementation of the "Act of Kindness" program, I have implemented the "Peace Program" at St. Patrick's School. This program emphasizes acceptance and showing empathy towards others in addition to treating each other with kindness and respect. I have visited the fourth and seventh grade classrooms to reinforce these principles. I asked the fourth and seventh graders to list one way in which they create peace within their classroom. They made "peace signs" and decorated them. They are on display in the form of a peace tree in the main hallway as well as in the seventh grade classrooms. I have made classroom presentations to the fifth and sixth grade classes on how to handle differences and conflicts in a positive, proactive way.

This past week, I visited the seventh grade when I discussed effective study skills. I am discussing how students can make effective use of their time, how to organize an essay and their agendas and outline chapters as well as effective note taking tips. This is an ongoing program that I have implemented with the seventh graders and will also be implementing this with the fifth and sixth graders.

I continue to meet with students and parents individually and welcome the opportunity to meet with you. I am available on Tuesdays and Thursdays as I work as a guidance counselor on these days and work as a nursery school teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and healthy and Happy New Year.



## *Music*

with Mrs. Benkovsky



The Christmas concert on Tuesday December 11th was the best it has ever been! Mrs. Benkovsky was so proud of everyone who helped make that day and night a complete success! The twirlers were adorable. The new Recorder Club was terrific. The chorus was absolutely fantastic. Special thanks to the chorus officers, piano player and her assistant, and to our solo singer. All of them did a great job. The band played the best they have ever played. The children of this year's Christmas Concert really shined! Mrs. Benkovsky would like to wish everyone a Happy & Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Just a reminder to check out the website for NYSSMA, Talent Show and Spring concert information.

## *Student Council News*

Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Hammer & Mrs. DiSpaltro



On Friday, December 7th, 32 students were inducted into the St. Patrick School Student Council. The President, David Groeneveld and the Vice President, Kevin Long called the names of students from grades four through eighth grade up to the altar. They were greeted by the Student Council advisors, Mrs. DiSpaltro, Ms. Hammer and Mrs. Martin. They each received a Student Council pin and the oath of office. After they all received their pins, they recited their oath of office and were blessed by Father Walden. The 2007-2008 student council members are; Fourth grade: MaryKate Morris, Austin Rodgers, Ciara McMullin, Matthew Martin, Kelly Fielder, Alexa Cebulski. Fifth grade: Danny Groeneveld, Holly Habian, Tara Caemmerer, Andrew Mundy, Katie Curry and Gina Giamundo. Sixth grade: Carole Garveson, Nichole McCormick, Joseph Wanderlingh, Michael Ward, Luke Marcello and Kristie Kaufmann. Seventh grade: Jack Mundy, Nick Parente, Nicole Schmidt, Michael Clinton, Holly Vulpis, and Olivia Verhulst. Eighth grade: Nicolas Shearman, Jessica Exantus, Nicolette Margiotta, Christian Vulpis, Brittany DeLaurenti and Jennica Bryant. President: David Groeneveld and Vice President: Kevin Long



## *Gym*

Mrs. Manfred

All the students enjoyed speed stacking, especially seeing how high they could build their own cups. The 3rd , 4th, & 5th grade stacked to help the World Speed Stack Association reach a new world record for the greatest number of stackers in one day. The new record will be recorded in Guinness World Record Book. Our numbers are added in the count of 143,530 which surpassed the old record by more than 6,000. Way to go St. Patrick's and all the stackers in the world!