



# The "Know it all" News

Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church and School, 200 East Church Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

## The Principal Says...

Dear Parents,

What an exciting week!! Let's start with the Rake-a-thon. Wow! Our goal was \$5,750 and we raised \$8,205! The kids were very pumped up to hear that great news. Not only did we perform a service for others, we collected prayer requests, and helped our school monetarily. The students started going over to church during their religion period this week to pray for those requests.

Here are our top fund raisers: Emma S., Stella S., William S., Cole C., and John S. These 5 students brought in a total of \$2,535 alone. They will be having a DQ lunch of their choice and eating with Father Michael and me next Tuesday. Our winning class was the 4/5/6 graders. They will be having an ice cream sundae and movie day next Friday. Great work everyone!

The Halloween Bingo night was a great success. I am so glad so many of you came to the event. From the tacos to pumpkin activities, and the bingo, everything went very smoothly. A special thanks to Carolyn for spearheading the event, Alanna for preparing the taco meat, and to all of the teachers and Father Michael, for being present to help serve. Thank you! What a great way to get everyone involved in the fun!

Lastly, we had our Halloween costume party. Trying out something new in the form of a small carnival was a great way to spend a Friday afternoon. All was done with only a minimal candy intake. The kids had a great time!

Father Michael has noticed many of our students at the weekend Masses. He is so pleased to be seeing them and hopes to have them continue. Sunday Masses are not only our obligation but they are another way to see classmates. It is a great way for parents to meet other parents and make lasting connections.

Have a great Halloween!  
Blessings, Peg Scott

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- ◆ 11/4 Mass hosted by grades 4-5-6
- ◆ 11/5 End of First Quarter
- ◆ 11/10 OLP students packing Boxes of Joy (service project)
- ◆ 11/11 Mass hosted by grades 2-3
- ◆ 11/11 Report cards will be sent home

## A Word from Father Michael..

All Saints

On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Church celebrates a very important holy day of obligation – the Solemnity of All Saints! Because it falls on a Monday this year, the Church presumes that all of us were in church the day prior and dispenses the obligation, but it still remains a holy day. We will offer Mass on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m.

We honor and venerate the memory of all saints, those known and unknown who populate heaven and worship God for all of eternity in the presence of his Majesty and Grandeur. The Tradition of the Church has marked this date already in the earliest centuries of Christianity.

Saints are known for their heroic virtue in the sole desire to love God above all else. They provide models for us, because they motivate us to imitate their longing for union with God. However, not all of the saints began their lives with this desire. Some were horrible sinners and their life stories demonstrate great conversion and help us to understand that God has placed within each of our souls that longing to be close to God. Some people easily find this and others struggle to come to this realization. That is part of what makes the study of their biographies so interesting. The lives of the saints are also unique accounts of how God works through various people in various cultures and times. There are saints who are soldiers, kings, queens, learned, unlettered, married, single, ordained and in religious life. This demonstrates that there are various paths to sanctity and we can use the gifts and talents that we cultivate to seek union with God.

Some saints have days on the church calendar, while many do not have a special feast day set aside for their remembrance. So in setting aside this day, we consider that many who have gone before us have given us an example of attaining holiness of life and we ask them to pray for us so that we too may seek holiness and ultimately arrive safely in heaven.

God bless you, Father Michael Kaluza

## COOLER FALL WEATHER

The weather is starting to get colder. Please dress for the morning bus stop temperatures.

Please make sure your child has a jacket, hat, gloves or mittens.

We don't want anyone getting sick and missing school.



## OLP HSA

Will be hosting Donuts, coffee, and fellowship on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 after the 8AM and 10AM Masses.

We need 4 families to volunteer, 2 for each Mass, Serve & make coffee.

# Here's what's happening in the classroom:



## Mrs. Olson (Teacher Ashley) Preschool

Wow it's been a busy week at preschool! First our preschoolers worked really hard raking! We tried to rake the biggest pile of leaves, like in the Clifford story, The Biggest Leaf Pile. Each day we made some fun Halloween decorations. A lot of Halloween fun including bingo and musical spiders. Have a fun and safe Halloween.



## Miss Schroers Kindergarten & 1st Grade

This week was our Rake-a-thon and the students did a wonderful job of raking yards for those in our community as well as for our school. We will now work on praying for all the intentions we collected in the church and in our classroom in the coming days. In math, the kindergarteners have been working on counting and ordering numbers. The first graders are solving for unknown addends in addition and have started to work on subtraction facts. Kindergarteners are continuing to work on letter sounds and letter writing and first graders are starting readers to take home. We have also learned how different animals are nocturnal such as owls and bats!

## Ms. Cates 2nd & 3rd Grades

This week we all participated in our school's Rake-A-Thon Marathon. It was a gorgeous day to get out and rake. It was such a rewarding experience to spend time giving back to our school and community. A big thank you to everyone who donated and sent in petitions. My students loved spending extra time in the Church praying for you all! In math, the second and third graders are wrapping up their addition units and will be starting their subtraction units next. In religion, we spent time learning about the Seven Sacraments. In social studies, we are learning about the branches of government at all levels: community, state, and national. Finally, in science we started our landform unit!

## Mr. Lopah 4th, 5th & 6th Grades

With the end of the 1st quarter approaching the 4th, 5th, & 6th graders are growing as learners and craving more of a challenge. In Social Studies each student is researching a specific European country before we jump into our US History unit on Expansion and Immigration. Also students are flying through their Math lessons and proving mastery over skills such as Multiplication (4th) and Decimals (5th & 6th). For Reading we just completed our first Oral Book Report Presentation with flying colors and students are really showing a love for reading and enjoy sharing what they have read. In Science we are going to begin exploring the relationship between the Earth, Moon, and Sun. And in Religion, in addition to participating in the Mass by serving as readers, cantors, and writing original prayer intentions, the students are very excited to be actual Altar Servers during Mass.

## Mrs. Gleason Music

Preschoolers have been exploring slow movements to slow songs as well as high and low sounds. Kindergarten and 1st graders are focusing on short and long sounds. 2nd and 3rd graders are training their ears to identify So La and Mi pitches. 4th graders are working on learning different note values and lengths. 5th-6th graders have begun their Music Ninja series. They earn a belt after they complete a challenging music unit. We soon will start working on songs for our Christmas Pageant!!



Our Lady's Cafe

We would like to add a special thanks to Lisa and Trent for helping rake with the students. Thanks to Keith and Pat for picking up and hauling all of the leaves away. And also to our wonderful Knights, Jason and Troy, for supplying the root beer floats. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

## Rake-a-thon of Prayer Marathon/Great Pumpkin Bingo

