



May 6, 2022

# 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,

We are finally welcoming spring into our Minnesota world and the kids are loving it. The volume during lunch slowly builds until they get out that door into the beautiful weather. Praise be to God! Life is good!

There have been a lot of things happening this week. Students have been celebrating their wonderful teachers by bringing in treats and little notes. I even saw Ms. Nora with tears in her eyes after receiving a little gift and note of gratitude for her help over the years. Yesterday the teachers even were able to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a meal from El Loro. Thank you, teachers, for all of the time that you put in teaching and getting to know your students like they were your own. You are all AWESOME.

We celebrated our second graders that made their First Holy Communion. It is such a big step in their lives. They all got to celebrate with their families after their Mass and then we recognized them as their school family when they got to wear their finery and process in to crown Mary at our Thursday school Mass. Congratulations to: Kenzie, MJ, Peter, Garrett, Andrew, and William.

This weekend we celebrate all of our mothers. "*Mothers* hold their child's hand for a moment and their hearts for a lifetime." May God bless you for all of the sacrifices you make for your children.



## Calendar of Events

- 5/9-13 Father out of the office
- 5/9 K-2 Reading Testing
- 5/10 K-2 Math Testing
- 5/12 Mass hosted by grades 2-3
- 5/12 6:45pm OLP PTA Meeting in Roedel Hall
- 5/13 Climb Theater science based performances in Roedel Hall PreK-1 at 1PM & 2-6 at 2PM
- 5/19 Mass hosted by grades K-1
- TBD End of the year field trip
- 5/24 Last day of Preschool
- 5/25 8:30am Preschool Graduation Mass; reception after Mass
- 5/26 Last day of school early release at noon parent pickup day 8:30am 6th grade Graduation Mass; reception to follow

## A Word from Father Michael..

Last weekend we celebrated First Communion with our Second Graders! Congratulations to them and their families as they continue their initiation into the Roman Catholic Church with their third sacrament! It is a great blessing to be able to join around the altar and feast on the very body and blood of Christ who holds nothing back in offering all that we need to achieve salvation! Reception of Holy Communion allows us to partake in the life of God and God's love fills our bodies and souls to nourish us with the spiritual nutrition that we need. So special is this occasion that it requires a great deal of preparation with much study and work to recognize the special presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we remember to honor her in a very special way. On Thursday our second graders crowned Mary at the school Mass. It is always a highlight of the year and a sacred tradition of our school.

Crowning Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth is a great celebration of our veneration of Mary as the mother of Jesus, therefore the mother of God and we reverence her in a special way as she was filled with grace from her conception! We entrust all of our cares and needs to her powerful intercession before God and ask her to look over our parish named in her honor! She is truly our queen and mother who cares for us as her very own and constantly helps us with her prayers for our well-being. She is able to share many graces with all of us, so let us not fail to ask for the many blessings that she obtains for us! Our Lady of the Prairie...pray for us!

God bless you  
Father Michael Kaluza



PTA Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, May 12th  
**Time:** 6:45pm  
**Place:** Roedel Hall

We will be doing a Gala wrap up. All parents are members of the PTA. It is your school and your voice matters.

It's YOUR PTA  
Get INVOLVED!

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



## Mrs. Olson (Teacher Ashley) Preschool

After waiting 21 days our chicks have hatched. Preschoolers practiced handwriting in their journals. Writing and drawing the things they observed during the hatching process. Lots of new vocabulary words emerged during the hatch, creating an awesome learning opportunity. Math with eggs and chicks. Our incubator provided warmth and hatched 23 chicks. A miracle to have such a hatching success! This brought up the topic of new life and creation. The baby chicks also had different "fluff" patterns and colors. We will be naming them before they go live on a farm. A few name ideas: stripes, chocolate chip, peep, and many more. Thank you Eve Hennen for the awesome experience.

To celebrate mother's we read 2 books: Are you My Mother? and A Mother for Choco! Have a Happy Mother's Day.

## Miss Schroer's Kindergarten & 1st Grade

It seems that spring is here- finally! Our weekly readers and activities have been themed around spring things like insects, plants, and trees. Figuring out what creatures are insects and what plants need to survive have been a few topics we've been learning about with this.

Last week the students took their Spring Map tests and the K-1 class did very well! There was a lot of growth in both reading and math overall. This week we have been getting back into our regular math and reading routines after testing. In math the kindergarteners are starting their subtraction unit while the first graders are starting their adding tens and two-digit numbers unit. In our religion books we have been reading about the gift of the Holy Spirit and our early church.



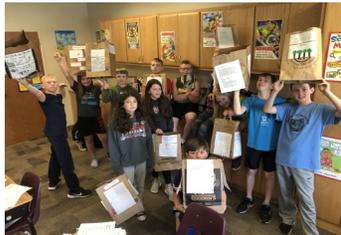
## Ms. Cates 2nd & 3rd Grades

We did it, it's that last month of school! This past weekend was a very special weekend for my second grade friends. They were able to receive their First Holy Communion. What a wonderful celebration. We ended this week with May Crowning. The whole school got to honor Mary with flowers and crowned with a special crown that was brought up by one of my second grade friends. As for our learning, in math, third graders are continuing to work through their times tables. My second graders finished their money and time unit and are moving onto area and fractions. In religion we are learning about the different parts of the Liturgy. My second graders also had a chance to train as altar servers. In social studies, we started our economic unit. Finally in science, we are finishing our slow and quick change land unit.



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

Even as we can see the finish line of this amazing school year our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are still focused and working hard!! In Math they are working on Graphing on a Coordinate Plane and reviewing measurement skills. In Language Arts we are finishing up our last big book report and having some fun creative spelling lists. In Social Studies we just finished the Cold War Era and are now covering the Civil Right Movement. And in Science we are ending the year on a high note with everyone's favorite unit - Science Experiments!



## Mrs. Gleason Music

Congrats to our OLP Band students on a fantastic spring band performance last week!

We are working on a beautiful song in music with the entire K-6th grade students for the upcoming Graduation Mass on May 26th. 5/6th graders are wrapping up the Romantic Period of Music listening to both Chopin and Tchaikovsky this week. 4th graders are being challenged by creating rhythms with eighth notes and dotted half notes. 2nd/3rd graders are having fun doing some bucket drumming! Kindergarten and 1st graders are creating rhythms using Quarter and Eighth note patterns. Preschool will be wrapping up our musical year singing some of our favorite songs and playing some circle games.



## May Crowning/ Baby Chicks

