

# *JANUARY - MARCH NEWSLETTER*

## **From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that only nine weeks remain of the 2004-2005 school year! I wish I could say that they will be calm and uneventful; however, numerous activities and events have already been scheduled during this time.

Each year the students of St. Mary's School participate in a service project/fundraiser to benefit a worthwhile organization. This year the school has selected the "Jump for Heart" program sponsored by the American Heart Association. The students will be practicing their jump-rope skills in their Physical Education classes during the first week of April. Family and friends are encouraged to support their child's participation by making contributions which will be used to support lifesaving research and educational programs. Participants will also receive thank-you gifts based on the amount of contributions collected, and our school will earn gift certificates for Physical Education equipment. All donations are due to the office by Friday, April 15. Thank you very much for encouraging your child to participate and supporting this worthy cause.

Several years ago, we completed the accreditation process with the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic Schools Accrediting Association (OCCSAA). One of the requirements of this process is a Family Life component incorporated in our Religion curriculum. This is in addition to the Safe Environment Program recently mandated by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. A Parent Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. An overview of the program will be presented, and materials will be available for parents to preview. Parents have the option to request that their child/ren not participate in this program. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend and would like to preview the materials, please contact your child's teacher.

Registration for the 2005-2006 school year will officially open on Wednesday, April 13. There will be a Preview Night/Open House for all grades on Tuesday, April 12 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to discuss their expectations and curriculum. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Registration packets will be available that evening.

Thank you very much for your continued involvement in your child's education. God bless you.

Peace,

## **Pre-school I**

In Pre-school I we have been working really hard on writing our names. We have also been studying the letters, E, F, G and the sounds that go with them.

In January, we learned about polar bears, while in February we studied lions. In addition, we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. This month we learned about St. Patrick and have been talking about spring and all its wonderful things. Finally, we learned about the celebration of Easter.

By Sadie Vap

## **Pre-school II**

We have been very busy progressing through the alphabet. We are nearing the end, as we are on the letter X this week.

In January, we talked about winter and made a lot of snowmen out of shaving cream, paper plates, etc. For "P" week, we went on a field trip to Pizza Hut, where we made our own personal pan pizzas.

In February, we had Karen Perz come to our classroom and speak to us about dental health. We pretended we were the teeth, and she showed us how to brush and floss using her giant toothbrush and dental floss. Thanks to Dr. Otto, we also received our own toothbrushes and floss.

In March, we have been talking about the weather. We flew a kite one windy day and took turns holding it. For Easter, we colored eggs and had an Easter egg hunt.

By Michelle Becker

## **Kindergarten**

In January, we studied Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the importance of citizenship, respect, and fairness. In February, we celebrated 100 days of school, studied our Presidents, and began attending weekly Mass. During the month of March, we are studying the weather. We also made paper plate lions and lambs. We continue to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

By Kimala Means

## **First Grade**

The first graders have been very busy these last couple of months, especially during Lent. We have been learning about the season of Lent and Holy Week. When the Archbishop came to visit, the first graders sang him a song about Passion Sunday. In remembrance of Holy Thursday, they traced each other's feet and wrote the Scripture verses of Matthew 19:30 and Luke 22:26 which teach us to serve others as Jesus did. They have also been doing the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary. On Holy Thursday, we will be making Easter cookies and decorating them as we learn and think about the new life we will be sharing with Jesus on Easter.

We have also been learning about place value and counting by tens. In April, we will have a classroom grocery store where the students are able to shop and buy groceries (pretend of course). Read Across America was one of our favorite weeks of the year. We read several Dr. Seuss books and other favorites. The first graders just finished a unit on poems and have also written a personal narrative. They are "blooming" right along this Spring!

By Bronwyn Schieber

## **Second Grade**

The second graders have been very busy during the last three months. During the month of January, they completed a unit about Martin Luther King, Jr. and other famous African Americans. This month they also started learning cursive writing. The second graders have learned many interesting facts about the Presidents, especially George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The children enjoy visiting the library every week and checking out books. They have now started reading chapter books. Their favorite chapter books are the Boxcar Children. They are also taking comprehension quizzes on the computer over the books they read.

The second graders made their First Reconciliation on February 26<sup>th</sup>. They were very excited and nervous at the same time. The children are now anxiously preparing to receive their First Communion on May 7<sup>th</sup>. What an exciting year for second graders!

A special unit on St. Patrick was completed in March. The students read books, watched a video, and colored pictures of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland.

By Cathy Koenke

### **Third Grade**

This semester the third grade has made the transition into cursive writing so that we are now doing all of our work in cursive and doing a very nice job of it. We are also studying science this semester in place of social studies. We are into division now and tying it in with multiplication.

We are in our last month of Pizza Hut Book-It. A good number of us have earned free individual pizzas for six months as we have met our reading goals. For the month of March, we are learning the Apostle's Creed after learning the Beatitudes in February.

We have had some very generous people enrich our lives. First of all, the Rotary Club gave each student in the third grade a paperback dictionary. The dictionaries are very nice and have some really interesting sections besides just the word entries. Then, Delta Kappa Gamma presented each third grader his/her own book. We appreciate both organizations being so kind! In February for Dental Health Month, Mrs. Amy Cramsey visited our class and gave us tips on good dental care. We appreciate her time and information.

In March, we performed for the seniors at the monthly Birthday Brunch. Mrs. Martin helped us perform a little musical with several songs and a dance. We enjoyed entertaining them and really appreciate the kind words they had for us. We gave each birthday person an Irish Potato Man and a birthday clover.

Twice this month, we have met with the eighth grade Spanish class, our Buddy Class, to expand our Spanish. By doing activities with them, it helps us realize where we are headed with our beginning Spanish.

We are still collecting pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Oklahoma City. We have filled our large pop bottle (bank) twice and halfway through the third. We would love to have help from anyone who will save tabs for us. Just drop them by the school office, and we will add them to our collection.

By Dottie Kizziar

### **Fourth Grade**

In Math, we have studied division and worked on our Math facts. Next, we learned about several types of measurement. We also learned about the order of operations-remember "My Dear Aunt Sally"? When we learned how to figure averages, we were a little surprised how quickly one low grade can pull down our average grade! We

learned how to measure distance, weight, and capacity, in both customary and metric systems. We even measured lots of things in our classroom! Converting and comparing units of measurement was a little harder. We also learned about time and how to figure elapsed time on a clock and calendar. By the end of March, we were learning about graphing and probability. We made pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and circle graphs.

In English, we studied verbs and how to write better paragraphs. We also reviewed our capitalization and punctuation. We learned how to write an instruction paragraph and wrote one about how to make our favorite sandwich. We even wrote a fairy tale-some of them were quite interesting! We also wrote a few poems about things that could only be together in our imagination. Our Spring Break was the subject of our narrative paragraph-the funniest, the most unusual, and the worst thing that happened during it.

In Reading, we have read several fairy tales, including the Caribbean Cinderella story. We compared it to the Disney version and found quite a lot of differences. We also read a great story about a heat wave where the author used exaggeration to make the story humorous. Our next theme was on problem solvers. We have read several stories, some of them true, where the main character has used creative thinking and determination to come up with solutions. We read Dr. Seuss books during his birthday celebration and had a great time reading with our first grade buddies.

We finished up our study of Oklahoma. We learned about the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, the Oil Boom, and the interesting history behind how Oklahoma City became the state capital. We completed watching the video series "Oklahoma Passage", which pretty closely followed our text. We also learned how our state government works and how our Senators and Representatives function in the national

government. Mr. Hunt came and explained the services the DHS provides us from our state government. Mr. LaBossiere came to explain to us all the services the City of Ponca City government gives us. Next, we began studying the Southeast states. We are working on memorizing the state name, abbreviation, and capital city for each of the fifty states-we have nine weeks left to go to get it done!

We brought a Mardi Gras celebration to the Birthday Brunch in February. The students designed and made crowns and cards for the honorees, and everyone received beads, just for fun! We sang several songs for them and were a hit! We were invited back to sing for the Penance Luncheon. We added a few songs to our repertoire and even got Father Michalicka and Father Larkin to join us for one song! We sang the Our Father song for Archbishop Beltran when he visited our classroom. We have memorized the Diocesan Centennial Prayer and were supposed to say it for him, but ran out of time. We each made two Valentines cards for the Senior Center in February. We attended the Alpin Hong piano recital at East in January and learned a lot about music-even though our favorite piece was Mario!

By Marge Dickinson

## **Religion News**

During Catholic Schools Week, we blessed our classrooms with the Epiphany Blessing. We were very fortunate to have Father Michalicka join us for it in each room. He gave each of us a special blessing, too.

Each of the classes studied about the Real Presence in the Eucharist. We learned about Adoration and Benediction. Each class was able to experience Adoration at the end of February when the school covered its two

hour period for the Year of the Eucharist. We also went to the chapel for a longer time in January. The fourth grade attended Benediction in March, and hopefully, the other two classes will get a chance on another First Friday.

During Catholic Schools Week, we had guest speakers who came to tell us how their faith impacts their own lives. They were excellent! They made quite an impression on the students. Although each had a different story, each one was a terrific example of someone living the Gospel message.

The third through fifth graders have memorized the Diocesan Centennial Prayer and are now working on the Prayer Before a Crucifix. We learned about the season of Lent and what prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are. Each class also learned about Mardi Gras, where it came from, and why we celebrate it. We learned what Ash Wednesday represents and where the ashes come from. Each class reviewed what the Stations of the Cross were and the story behind each one before beginning to pray them each Friday during Lent as a school. We studied the days of Holy Week and the story behind each one. I showed each class how to braid their palms from Palm Sunday.

The fifth grade has been studying the Eucharist and the parts of the Mass. We are also learning the rite, signs, witnesses, minister, and effects of this sacrament. We will finish this sacrament soon and move on to Anointing of the Sick. The fifth graders made "Alleluia" banners and buried them at the beginning of Lent as a reminder that this is a season of penitence, and we do not sing the Alleluia during Lent. We will dig them up after Easter, so that we can again rejoice that our Savior has conquered death!

The fourth grade has been studying the Ten Commandments. So far, we have studied the first five. We have an additional activity book with pages for each commandment that we work on. We learned that to obey our parents and others with authority over us is also to obey God. We

watched a video about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his fight for civil rights, and we discussed how we should treat others. We decorated our candle during Catholic Schools Week for Austin's great-grandmother and pray for her every day in our morning prayers.

The third grade studied the Mass, especially the Scripture readings. We also learned about Adoration and Benediction and the Blessed Sacrament. We studied the Creed, and the third grade has been memorizing the Apostle's Creed for Mrs. Kizziar. Next, we learned about the Passover story and how the Israelites were freed. God also promises us a chance to see the Promised Land-heaven! We learned the stories of Creation, the Fall, the Annunciation, the Presentation, and about Jesus' hidden life. We are learning how God promised us a Savior, and how he planned for our salvation with Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

By Marge Dickinson

## **Fifth Grade**

The fifth grade began the new year by completing the winter bookmarks, Snowman Door Hangars, and Penguin Thermometers they were making for the January Senior Birthday Brunch. In February, they made Valentine bookmarks for Pre-school I and II for Valentine's Day. They, also, began to collect flower vases for Hospice of North Central Oklahoma's "Flowers to Brighten Your Day" program. This was a new service project the fifth grade selected for this school year. Parish members from St. Mary's and St. Joseph's at Blackwell have been good to help us with this project.

One activity the fifth grade has enjoyed tremendously has been going to Pre-school I and II to read and share favorite books and stories. We are looking forward to our next encounter.

Reading lessons in early January centered around “2004, A Year in Review”. Our reading and research helped us to understand how individuals, ideas, decisions, and events can help to influence history. In late January and in February, we studied famous Americans who devoted their lives to making America a better place and to protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans. We used a short play to study the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. In March, we used our Science Research Associates Reading series to further develop our reading range and comprehension, word analysis and language skills, reading rate and concentration, and listening comprehension.

Division facts, patterns, divisibility rules, compatible numbers, estimation, short and long division greeted us after the winter holidays. We struggled, but finally agreed that we needed better mastery of the multiplication facts. March roared in like a lion with order of operations, factors, and prime factorization.

English studies were filled with pronouns and adjectives of every kind, short reports, two-line poems (couplets), and English tests! Our first report of the new year was a report about a famous peacemaker. This required research, notes, rough drafts, final drafts, writing, and presentations to our classmates. Of course, peacemakers we had studied during January and February were not allowed for selection. This restriction resulted in fifteen tremendous reports about truly remarkable people, whose lives were devoted to making life better for others.

Social Studies moved from Columbus meeting the Taino in the New World to the results of the French and Indian War. First, we looked at history from the viewpoint of the Europeans as they came to the New World. We studied the good and the bad results of the Columbian Exchange, trying to determine how the outcomes could have resulted in less bad and more good for all involved. Then we studied the effects of the

Triangular Trade, the good and the not-so-good results. And, after studying the French and Indian War, the fifth grade has determined that most of history has been driven by GREED!

By Nina Schatz

## **Literature/Language Arts**

Historical fiction novels have been the center of literature classes. The sixth and seventh graders have just finished *SECRET SCHOOL* by Avi. The story takes place in 1925; this setting provided some unusual and “interesting” vocabulary. The eighth graders are reading Jack London’s classic *CALL OF THE WILD*. Buck is a character that is worth remembering.

Writing has become a focus in all English classes. Topic sentence, supporting details, and closing sentence are the “keys” to success. The eighth graders have also written concrete poems for competition as well as an essay “A Day Without Electricity”. Vocabulary, an essential part of good writing, is a focus in most classes in an effort to increase and enhance word knowledge in spelling and meaning.

The seventh graders continue their travels around the world by studying Africa. They show genuine interest and curiosity in the subject matter, and they are becoming quite skilled in map work.

Teaching sixth grade religion is a favorite of mine. Sharing with them often takes us out of the book and into our real world. Our book study is about our salvation history, and it gives us an opportunity to meet many people of the Old Testament. We also see how the New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old Testament.

By Pat Schieber

## **Science News**

The seventh and eighth graders have moved further into their study of Earth Science. Now that we are done with the moving surface plates of the Earth, we are now into the atmosphere and what causes weather. This should enable us to put together a number of neat and educational classroom projects.

The sixth grade spent the last four or five weeks on Physical Science. We are in the final chapter of this unit, but it is my favorite. We are learning about the Periodic Table and how atoms form together to make molecules and compounds. Some of our class activities will allow us to mix a few chemicals together to make new substances.

The fifth grade is using their imaginations to see in model form how a molecule is made up of different atoms and how that might look if it were large enough for us to see. We are also learning how those atoms fit into the Periodic Chart of Elements.

The fourth grade is currently learning how heat is produced and how heat is transferred from one place to another. We will be spending some time talking about different fuels and how we can conserve what natural fuel the earth has.

The sixth grade Social Studies class is finishing up their studies of Ancient Cultures with the one that is closest to us but probably the least known to our students, Ancient America. These people include people of both North and South America.

The eighth grade American History class is moving toward the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in their studies. We are now reading about the Spanish-American War. From here we are looking at how America began to increase our lands by the means of imperialism. We will follow this with the time in history where we isolated ourselves from the rest of the world and how that led to our involvement in the First World War.

Finally, it's Science Fair time!! This April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, our fifth, seventh, and eighth

grade students will be participating in the 2005 St. Mary's Science Fair. This is a wonderful time for the students to show what they have learned about the Scientific Method and how to apply it to a subject that they are most interested in.

By Bryan Gamsjager

## **Spanish News**

The third graders have just finished a unit covering parts of the body and are now beginning a new unit on clothing. They have also mastered the days of the week.

Students in the fourth grade are able to talk about many animals found in a zoo and can express how they move (walking, running, flying, or swimming).

Describing oneself and other's personality traits has been the focus of the fifth grade Spanish class. They are embarking on new water as they begin to learn verb conjugations.

The sixth grade class has just completed the first half of a unit on pastimes and places to go to do various activities. Upon completion of the second half, they will wind up the year by reading a short novel.

The pace being kept by the eighth grade is a fast and challenging one indeed. Students have completed units on the house, how to express comparison of nouns, and lots of new verbs. Verbs, verbs, and more verbs is the menu of the day. Before the year's end they will be able to talk about many topics in the past tense. Our must-be reached goal is to be fully prepared for Spanish II next year at PoHi.

Once again, St. Mary's is proud to be sending three Spanish I students to represent our school at the upcoming NOC Scholastic Contest on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Best of luck to Anu Chahar, Amelia Hay, and Carl Schwager!

By Betty Kreger

## Band News

Both the Beginning and Advanced Bands are working hard preparing for two concerts at the end of the year. The first will be Bands in Review on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Hutchins. We will be combining with students from West, First Lutheran, and Ponca City Christian Academy. All band students in Ponca City, from sixth grade through high school, will perform that evening.

Our second concert will be here at St. Mary's and is tentatively scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. Students from First Lutheran and Ponca City Christian Academy will join us for this concert. It will be a multi-cultural experience that includes music from around the world.

By Denise Jones

Candlelight, arrives next week! And we have new biographies of Dr. Seuss, Charles Schulz, Steven Spielberg, and Pope John Paul II., with Tomie DePaolo's arriving by the first of April. There is also a new book for Easter called The Legend of the Sand Dollar, an inspirational story for all ages. With only a few weeks left of the school year, the students will find lots of books and magazines to enjoy.

Please remember to come to Brace Books on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. to take part in "**The St. Mary's Night at Brace Books**". This fundraiser is for the school, and the library and will build school credit at the store with any purchases made that night. Please come, buy, have fun, and help our school!

By Rosemary Glaser

## Library News

The first three months of the new year have been very busy ones at the library. Students have been checking out books by the armloads and returning the majority of them on time! They have been reading magazines; working on speeches, reports and science fair projects; listening to stories and using the area to catch up on homework and tests.

The second grade began reading AR chapter books in February and is discovering The Boxcar Children and The Magic Treehouse stories. Pre-school II visited for Dr. Seuss' birthday and enjoyed a brand new biography of that good man. Pre-school I's weekly visits are filled with adventure as they are having fun with the Zoobooks Magazines and floor puzzles.

New books keep arriving! We now have the first two books of Lemony Snickett's Series of Unfortunate Events, The Magic Treehouse series is complete-or will be when the newest volume, Carnival at

## Math News

Where has the school year gone! It has been a busy year in math classes. We adopted a new text book in the fall, and it is always a challenge for students and teacher alike to make the necessary adjustments. I am very pleased with our textbook choice, as it provides ample opportunity for all students to succeed.

Sixth grade math students have been introduced to integers, positive and negative numbers. This is a concept that we use every day in real world situations. Above and below sea level, checkbook balances, and temperature changes are all examples of when we use integers in our daily life.

Seventh grade math students have been working on problem solving strategies. As adults we use these strategies every day without even thinking about it. Students must be taught these concepts. Working a problem backwards and drawing a diagram are examples of these strategies. The seventh grade students have also been

working with one step algebra problems and integers.

Basic algebra problems have kept the eighth Pre-Algebra math students busy. These problems all include a variable and numerous steps to reach the solution. Rules for fractions, decimals, integers, and order of operation must be applied to solve for the variable. Problems involving inequalities have also been studied. Inequalities have “greater than” or “less than” sign to be considered. Graphing these problems is also a skill we have covered.

In Algebra I our problems are becoming more and more difficult daily. Our most recent concept studied has been factoring. These problems can include factoring trinomials, factoring differences in squares, factoring by grouping, factoring perfect squares, and square roots. We are now moving on to quadratic and exponential functions.

By Randa Bloomfield

## **Computer News**

My, how time flies! A lot of learning has gone on already this year, with just a few short weeks to go.

Students in sixth through eighth grade plus the parents have been presented with information concerning Internet safety issues through the Isafe America program. Awareness and education of all parties is the key to a safe and enriching experience using the Internet. Pay attention to your kids in this area of their life; even if you think they know more about technology than you, they DO NOT have better judgment than you, the parent. Stay informed!

The students in eighth grade have incorporated word processing, Internet research and spreadsheet skills in an effort to learn a little about the stock market. Each student selected five companies whose stock prices they believe will increase over a ten week period. The per share price is

documented once each week in their spreadsheet, and an average percentage change is charted. This is an in-house contest. Stay tuned for results as they experience the ups and downs of the financial world.

Seventh grade students created and presented a PowerPoint presentation providing information about a European country to the sixth grade students. They each worked hard and presented some interesting information. Now they are working in Excel, a spreadsheet application.

Sixth grade students have practiced Internet research skills, creative writing skills, and more through their work in the lab. Students learned to use the Discoverer SIRS informational database to select articles, compose a brief summary, and properly cite the source. It was interesting to me to see the varied topics chosen by the students. Keep up the good work!

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade continue to work in various programs to enrich, enhance, and remediate their analytical and curricular skills. Each class has a program or two they seem to prefer. They have learned so much this year in their regular classrooms, and I can see some of their progress by observing them in the Computer Lab each week.

Thanks for your support!

By Janice Connelly

## **Catholic Schools Week**

St. Mary's School celebrated Catholic Schools Week during the week of January 30-February 4. They began the celebration by sponsoring coffee and donuts following the 8:00 and 9:30 masses on Sunday. On Monday, they kicked off the school week by having a “Breakfast Before School.” All of the students, parents, and their guests were invited to the Parish Hall for donuts and orange juice before school. Later that day

the students met with their Buddy Classes for a variety of activities.

The fourth through sixth grade students attended a piano recital performed by Alpin Hong Tuesday morning. In addition, many of the fourth through eighth grade students shared their talents during the annual Talent Show that afternoon. Haleigh McKain, Teresa Connelly, Tony Mora, Victoria Otto, Jaimie Muzingo, and Katherine Caughlin sang songs, Austin Radka, Patrick Moriarty, and Carl Schwager performed piano solos, and Dwight Ham played a song on his electric guitar. Ethan Evans and Sam Turvey entertained the students with their magic act, and Kyle Karpe and Brett Wilkinson shot baskets.

On Wednesday, all of the parents and grandparents were invited to have lunch with the students. The menu featured chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll, and dessert.

Guests were invited to the classrooms on Thursday to listen to a variety of speakers. They included Father Michalicka, Father Larkin, Deacon Dick Robinson, Sister Pia Thomas, Fred Spellman, Dr. Joe Otto, Bill Bridges, Carla O'Neill, Vonda Blando, and Pam Schwager. These individuals gave presentations regarding their faith and how it helps them in their daily lives and occupations.

Friday was Spirit Day, and the students were encouraged to wear the school colors of green and gold. The Spelling Bee was held that morning, and the Boy Scout Troop 5 and Cub Scout Pack 15 Chili and Nacho Supper concluded an exciting week!

## **Spelling Bee**

On Friday, February 4, St. Mary's School held its annual Spelling Bee in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week. The first grade participants were Kevin Caughlin and Triston McChristian, and the second grade participants were Andrew Neisen and

Matthew Williams. Representing the third grade were Karoline Radka and Gabby Schreiner, while Nicole Muzingo and Sam Turvey represented the fourth grade. The fifth grade participants were Teresa Connelly and Stefan Gelven, and Dillon Horinek and Daniel Soto participated from the sixth grade. Finally, the seventh grade representative was Dwight Ham, while Yatin Chahar represented the eighth grade.

Congratulations to Andrew Neisen, Sam Turvey, and Daniel Soto!

## **Students of the Month**

The following students were recognized by their teachers as Students of the Month for January and February:

Pre-school I-Chandler Brown, Felicity Lawver

Pre-school II-Alexis Lambert, Morgan Didlake

Kindergarten-Julia Hay, Aaron Adson-Lieb  
First Grade-Allison Arechiga, Wesley O'Neill

Second Grade-Andrew Arechiga, Ryan Meyers

Third Grade-Gabby Schreiner, Jeremy Burns

Fourth Grade-Hannah Hunt, Alex LaBossiere

Fifth Grade-Matthew Horinek, Haleigh McKain

Sixth Grade-Mark Perz, John Moriarty

Seventh Grade-Michael Slaughter

Eighth Grade-Josh Plunk, Kathryn Kienzle

## **Read Across America Days**

St. Mary's School celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and "Read Across America Days" during the last week of February. On Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the activities included a "Breakfast Before School" sponsored by the faculty and staff and "guest" readers in the individual classrooms.

Tuesday was “Buddies, Books, and Hats Day”. All of the students were invited to bring their favorite Dr. Seuss book to read to their buddy class and wear their favorite hat! Finally, on Wednesday, the students were treated to green eggs and ham for lunch.

### **DAR Winners Announced**

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) announced the winners of the American History Essay Contest entitled “Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery.” Students in fifth through eighth grade participated in this contest earlier in the year. The fifth grade winners were Victoria Otto, second place and Stefan Gelven, third place. The sixth grade winners were Daniel Soto, first place; Mark Perz, second place; and Ross Otto, third place. The seventh grade winners were Michael Slaughter, first place and Dwight Ham, second place. Finally, in the eighth grade, Carl Schwager was awarded third place.

### **Archbishop Beltran Visits School**

Each year Archbishop Beltran travels from Oklahoma City to Ponca City to visit St. Mary’s School. This year he celebrated Mass with the students on Wednesday, March 9. Following Mass, Archbishop Beltran toured the school and visited with each class. Several of the classes entertained the Archbishop by singing a song and/or reciting a prayer/verse.

### **Jump for Heart**

This year the students of St. Mary’s School are participating in a service project/fundraiser to benefit the American Heart Association. The students will practice their jump rope skills during their Physical Education classes on Monday, April 4 and

Wednesday, April 6. Please support your child’s participation by making a contribution to this worthwhile organization. The majority of these funds are used to support lifesaving research and educational programs.

Participants are also eligible to receive thank you gifts based on the amount of contributions collected. A complete listing of the available prizes is located on the back of the collection envelope. All donations are due to the office by Friday, April 15. Thank you for your support!

### **Family Life Parent Meeting Scheduled**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Family Life Parent Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. An overview of the Family Life curriculum for grades K-8 will be presented, and materials will be available for parents to preview.

### **Preview Night/Open House**

St. Mary’s School has scheduled a Preview Night/Open House for all grades on Tuesday, April 12 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The teachers will be available in their classrooms to discuss their expectations and curriculum, and Child Care will be open for information/registration for the summer program. All parents are encouraged and invited to attend!