

St. Ann School

December 21st, 2011

Counting our Blessings...

St. Ann School Mission Statement

We at St. Ann School are guided by the Holy Spirit to provide an exceptional Catholic education for students spiritually, academically, physically, and socially.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00PM

Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM,
and 5:30PM

January Events

- 3 - School resumes
- 4 - Loaves & Fishes
- 4 - B Spirits @ St. Mary, 5:30PM
- 4 - A Spirits @ St. Mary, 6:30PM
- 5 - B Spirits vs. Trinity, 5:30PM
- 5 - A Spirits vs. St. Pete, 6:30PM
- 8 - K of C Parish Breakfast
- 14 - Girls Basketball Tournament,
Time: TBA
- 24 - Advisory Mtg., 6:30PM
- 25 - PALS, 1:50PM
- 28 - Winterfest, 7PM-Midnight

From the Principal

I'm pinching myself because I can't believe that we are ready to celebrate Christmas at the end of this week, with family and friends, as well as, say goodbye to 2011 and welcome 2012 (a leap year and Olympic year)! Our three day week has flown by with a lot of very exciting and enjoyable events and activities. Our 6th and 7th grade girls basketball team played their final game of 2011 at Gladwin on Monday night, which was followed by our students in JrK-7th grades participating in Christmas Around the World (Sweden, Switzerland, Mexico, etc.). The students enjoyed learning about the customs that other countries practice as they celebrate Christmas. Today will feature our 5th grade leading our Liturgy (altar servers, readers, and gift bearers) and then Reconciliation for grades 3-7. Santa Claus will visit classrooms this morning before lunch and then the entire school will enjoy the Polar Express movie in the afternoon. School will be dismissed at 2:35PM as we begin our Christmas Vacation through January 2nd, 2012. I, and our staff, would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I would like to update you on two very important events that took place this week. Mr. Rick Gebhard, our 7th grade teacher, and his family had a serious house fire this past Saturday. The entire family escaped unharmed but the home is seriously damaged due to the fire, as well as from smoke and water damage. The cleaning and rebuilding process has already started, and Mr. Gebhard and his family want me to relay to you how much they appreciate your thoughts, prayers, and offers of help. I will let you know if there is anything the family needs in the upcoming weeks as it becomes apparent what they will need. The second item I would like to update you about is that through the generosity of St. Ann students, staff, families, choir, Knights of Columbus, and generous community members and businesses, we were able to provide eight families with food, presents, and gift cards so they may enjoy a Merry Christmas! Thank You!

The month of January will have several very important events including a Parish Breakfast on Sunday, January 8th, after the 8:30AM and 10:30AM masses, the 3rd Annual Winterfest on Saturday, January 28th (a fun-filled evening for adults!), and the beginning of Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 29th. Please continue to read the school and classroom newsletters carefully to stay updated on important upcoming events. I should also mention that at some time we will actually have snow (so Peter Meyer tells me) so please remember that we follow CAPS decision to delay or close school due to inclement weather (snow, freezing rain or fog). Please check the TV and/or radio for that information and if we have any evening events scheduled, they will be cancelled if school is cancelled that day.

Mr. Robert Kellogg, Principal
800 W 13th Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

231.775.1301
www.stanncadillac.org

The new year will bring the continuation of our wellness activities, which will include skiing, swimming, and roller-skating/rollerblading off-site opportunities. I am also considering our involvement in the NFL program called Fuel Up to Play 60. I am looking for parent volunteers to work alongside staff to take charge of this program. Please check out www.fueluptoplay60.com for more information and let me know if you are interested in being involved.



Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January 2012

St. Ann School

Fr. Murphy, Pastor Bob Kellogg, Principal

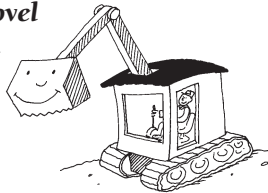
Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*

Mary Anne is a hardworking red steam shovel. Her driver, Mike, is upset because all of the jobs are being given to shiny new trucks that run on gas or electricity. What will happen to Mike and Mary Anne? A classic tale by Virginia Lee Burton. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *I Lost My Tooth in Africa*

Your child might be surprised to discover that the African tooth fairy leaves chickens in exchange for lost baby teeth. Based on a true story, Penda Diakité's book tells of her little sister's exciting experience during the family's visit with relatives in Mali.



■ *A Day with No Crayons*

The world is full of art supplies! That's what little Liza discovers after she colors on the walls and her mother takes away her crayons. In this story by Elizabeth Rusch, Liza finds other ways to express her creativity—using mud, flower petals, and even toothpaste.

■ *Andy Shane, Hero at Last*

Andy isn't sure he can win a bike-decorating contest against his friend Dolores. But as the children ride their bikes in the town parade, Andy has a chance to be a hero. The latest book in the Andy Shane series by Jennifer Richard Jacobson.



Fun at the library

Where can your child go to hear a good story, find the latest books and magazines, and surround himself with information about almost any topic? The public library! Here are a few ideas for making the most of your next trip.

Listen to a story. Ask a librarian for information about story hour. Some libraries even have special read-alouds that include crafts, puppets, or snacks. You can also have your own story time. Let your youngster choose a few books. Then, find a quiet corner and read to him. Or let him pretend to be a librarian—he can read to you or to a younger sibling.

Find out what's new. Look for a "new arrivals" display. Your child can read the latest book from his favorite author or discover a brand-new writer whose stories he might enjoy. (Tip: Put his name on the waiting list for new or upcoming releases you think he'd like to check out.) Also, browse the children's magazines. He can



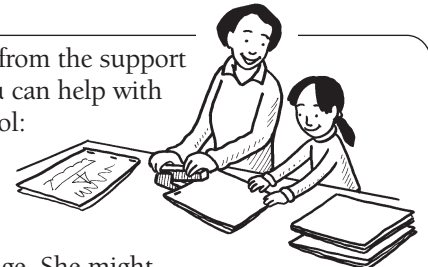
read the most recent issues of *Fun for Kidz*, *Ladybug*, *Click*, *Humpty Dumpty*, and others.

Read around a theme. Together, choose a theme for your library visit. You might pick something your youngster is studying in school or another topic that interests him. Then, encourage him to explore different sections of the library as he gathers books that go with his choice. A winter animal theme, for instance, could include a story about a polar bear, a non-fiction book on penguins, and the biography of an Antarctic explorer.♥

Reading helpers

As children learn to read, they can benefit from the support of as many adults as possible. Here's how you can help with the reading program at your youngster's school:

- Offer to read aloud to the class, small groups, or individual students. You could also listen while students read to you.
- Tell the teacher if you know another language. She might pair you up with a child who speaks that language and is learning English.
- Make books. When students write stories, volunteers may be needed to staple or bind the pages together.
- Help children use computers and encyclopedias to look up information.
- Assist with after-school events such as book fairs or literacy nights.
- Volunteer during your youngster's library time to help students find books they'd like to check out.♥



Writing: Step-by-step

A writing plan can help your youngster make sure that her story turns out just the way she wants it. Share these steps with your budding author.

Sketch

Suggest that your child divide her paper into three columns: “Beginning,” “Middle,” and “End.” Then, have her fill each section with sketches that show what might happen in that part of the story.



Draft

Your youngster can use her plan to write a rough draft. Ask her to say each sentence aloud (“I have a cat named Peanut Butter”), and then help her put the words on paper. This will keep each idea in mind as she writes.

Check

When your child’s draft is finished, ask her to read it aloud and to stop if she wants to add a detail or if something doesn’t make sense. Help her add capital letters where they belong.

Share

Finally, let your youngster type her story on a computer or print it neatly on a fresh sheet of paper. Encourage her to illustrate it and read it aloud to your family.♥

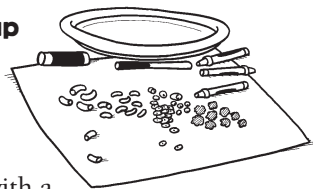
Fun with Words

Crafty spelling

Turn spelling time into craft time! Your youngster can learn how to spell common words, and stretch her creativity, with these projects.

Alphabet soup

Ask your child to color the center of a paper plate lightly with a crayon to look like a bowl of soup. Then, have her flip through a book and look for *sight words*, or words that are used frequently. *Examples:* “the,” “and,” “like,” “went,” “you.” She can use a dark-colored marker to print them in the “soup.”



Q&A

From choppy to smooth

Q When my son reads aloud, it sounds choppy. How can I help him read more smoothly?

A Reading sounds slow and uneven when a child focuses on one word at a time rather than stringing words together fluently. This can happen if a book is too hard or if he doesn’t have a lot of experience reading out loud.

If your son is stumbling over a lot of words (say, 1 out of every 10 or so), offer him an easier book. But if he knows all the words and still isn’t reading smoothly, he just might need more read-aloud practice.

Encourage him to read the way he talks. Try reading a passage aloud together so he can match your pace. He might also like to record himself reading into a tape recorder or cell phone. When he plays it back, he’ll hear how he sounds. Then, he can practice a few times, make another recording, and compare the two to see how much he has improved.♥



Cute as a button

Help your youngster gather a variety of craft supplies (buttons, dry noodles or beans, sequins, beads, pom-poms). Have her write words that she is learning in glue on a sheet of construction paper. Then, let her press the objects onto the glue. When it dries, she can run her fingers over the letters—touching them will help her remember how to spell the words.♥

Parent to Parent

Solving mysteries

In school, my daughter Ella recently discovered mysteries. Her teacher reads them to the students, and they pretend to be detectives, listening for clues that will help them crack the case.

Ella asked if we could do this at home, so we checked out some from the library: the Young Cam Jansen series by David Adler and A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy. I gave her a small notepad and told her it was a detective’s notebook.

I suggested that she use it to jot down the clues as I read. For example, she drew a van that appeared to belong to no one and a character who sneaked out of a party without an explanation.

After reading a couple of mysteries, she solved a case before the detective in the story. She was excited, and I think this has been good for her, because it helps her really understand and pay attention to what’s happening in a book.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated

128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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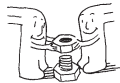
Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building excitement and success for young children

January 2012

St. Ann School
Fr. Murphy, Pastor Bob Kellogg, Principal



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Make a blueprint

Let your child map out her bedroom on a sheet of paper. She can draw the shape (square, rectangle) and mark the windows and doors. Then, have her add her bed, dresser, and other items. On another piece of paper, she might sketch out a way to redesign her room. As she draws and plans, she'll practice spatial relations skills.

Experience nature

When it rains or snows, step outside together and let your youngster use her senses. She can *look* at the clouds, *smell* the air, *touch* the rain or snow, *listen* to the sounds, and even *taste* the drops or flakes. Go back inside and help her write a "senses poem." (Snow looks like _____. Snow feels like _____.)

Book picks

Through poetry and pictures, children will practice finding patterns in *Busy Bugs: A Book About Patterns* (Jayne Harvey). A great way to build math skills in little ones who like bugs!

Share a story of seasons and life cycles through the eyes of two Native American girls, one from long ago and one from today. *When the Shad-bush Blooms* (Carla Messinger) is a beautiful look at the environment and family traditions.

Worth quoting

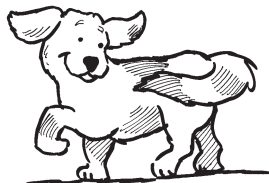
"Wisdom begins in wonder."

Socrates

Just for fun

Q: What follows a dog wherever it goes?

A: Its tail.



Sorting things out

When Jason plays with toy trucks, he likes to separate them into groups by color. His friend Carl puts big trucks in one row and small trucks in another. Both of these children are *sorting*—a fun way to play and a good way to build math skills.

You can give your child a chance to practice sorting at home with these ideas.

Matching game

Put out a pile of nuts, bolts, and washers. Have him tape one of each onto separate index cards. Then, he can sort the hardware by piling each type on its matching card. Or put a different coin (penny, nickel, dime, quarter) in each cup of an empty egg carton. Give him a handful of change to sort into the correct sections.

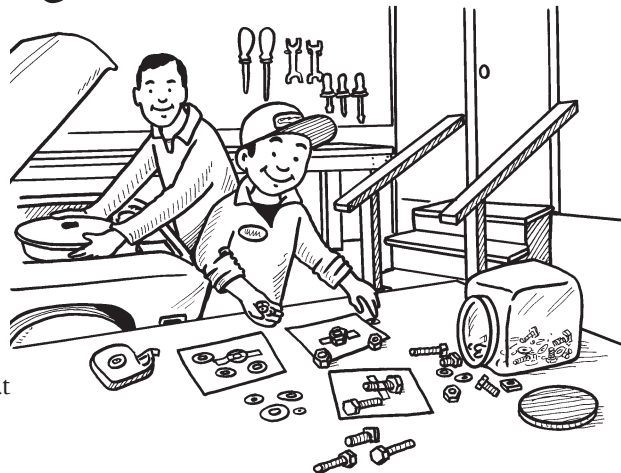
Sorting plans

Help your youngster make a "sorting map" out of a large poster board or a white plastic tablecloth. He can draw six circles and use crayons or markers to make each

one a different color. Have him gather toy cars and "drive" each one onto the matching circle. Another idea is to let him decide how to sort something (things with metal vs. things without metal), and then you have to figure out his "sorting rule."

Cleanup system

Build responsibility by combining sorting with cleanup time. Help your child label shelves or bins by drawing pictures or writing words (blocks, games) on mailing labels. Then, each day when he finishes playing, he can sort his toys into categories and put them where they belong. 🐛

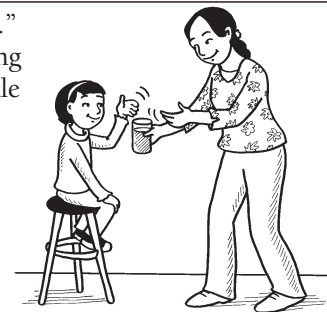


Learn about "wafting"

Introduce your child to the technique of "wafting." It's a fun—and safe—way to smell substances during science experiments (and it's even a fun word for little ones to say).

To waft, she should hold an item about 8 inches from her face and wave her hand over it and toward her nose. She'll safely smell the material without directly inhaling it.

Let her practice with liquids like scented dish detergent, grape juice, or perfume. First, have her hold the item close to her nose and smell. Then, have her try wafting. What's the difference? (When she holds it close to her nose, the odor is much more intense. That's why it's safer to use wafting during science experiments.) 🐛

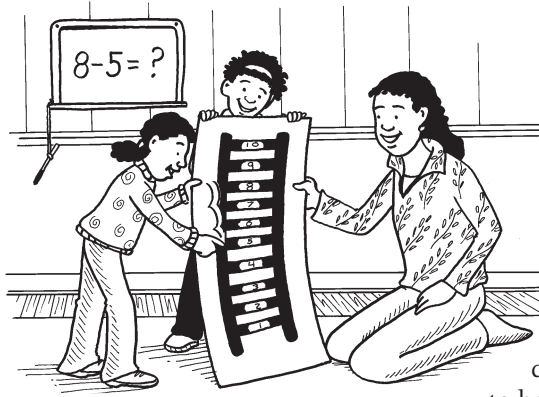


Take-away lessons

Subtraction is fun with these hands-on activities. Try them with your child.

Find the missing number. Put out 10 buttons, and have your youngster close her eyes while you hide some under a bowl. Ask her to open her eyes, count the number left (4), and figure out the missing number (6). Take turns doing this, and then play again with 15 or 20 buttons. *Tip:* Each time, have your youngster write the number sentence ($10 - 6 = 4$).

Draw a ladder. Help her draw a ladder with 10 rungs and number each rung. Give her a subtraction problem ($8 - 5$),



and let her use the ladder to count down. The number of rungs from 8 to 5 (3) is her answer. Have her practice with more problems, and then she can draw a 20-rung ladder and try two-digit problems.

Act it out. Make everyday situations into subtraction questions. When her sister wants to borrow barrettes, you can say,

“You have 14 barrettes. If Maggie borrows 2, how many will you have left?” Then, she can lay out her 14 barrettes, give 2 to her sister, and count how many she still has (12).

MATH CORNER

Taller or shorter?



Let your youngster practice measurement skills as she compares her height to objects around her.

First, have her lie down. Lay a piece of string or yarn alongside her from the top of her head to the bottom of her feet. Cut the string. Now let her use the string to measure objects in your home. How many objects can she find that are taller than she is (coat closet, refrigerator) or shorter (coffee table, ottoman)?

Then, use string to measure other parts of her body, like the length of her arm or leg. What objects can she find that are shorter and longer? She could also compare the strings to each other. What's longer: her arm or leg? Her hand or foot?



Idea: Make a string measurement for each person in the family. Your youngster will enjoy comparing who's taller or shorter than the bookcase or kitchen cabinet.

SCIENCE LAB

No more brown apples

“Yuck! I can't eat these apples. They're all brown!”

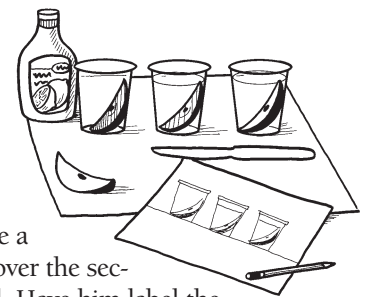
With this experiment, your youngster will learn a way to keep apple slices from turning brown.

You'll need: apple, knife, 3 clear plastic cups, water, lemon juice, marker, paper, crayons

Here's how: Slice the apple, and let your child place a piece in each cup. He should leave one slice alone, cover the second one with water, and put lemon juice on the third. Have him label the cups (“air,” “water,” “lemon juice”) and draw a picture of each one. He can observe the apples several times for a day, each time drawing pictures to show changes.

What happens? The apple that was exposed to the air only will quickly turn brown. The one covered in water will turn light brown. The one coated in lemon juice will stay white.

Why? Apple slices turn brown when they are exposed to oxygen from the air (they oxidize). Lemon juice protects them from oxygen and keeps them from turning brown. Being submerged in water slows down, but doesn't stop, the oxidation process.



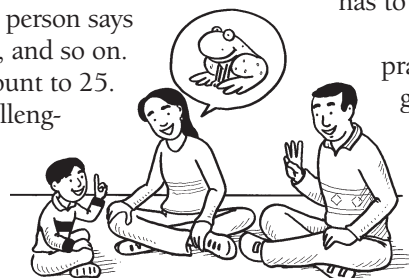
Q & A Mental math

Q: My son's teacher mentioned that they're working on mental math this year. How can we help him practice at home?

A: To get your child used to doing math in his head, try a game that requires keeping track of numbers. Sit in a circle, and count—the first person says 1, the next person says 2, and so on. Keep playing until you count to 25. Make the game more challenging—and funny—with this twist: say “frog” for every even number (1, frog, 3, frog, 5, frog, and so on).

Or give your son a math problem ($3 + 4$). When he answers, ask how he solved it. Explaining his reasoning will help him feel comfortable doing mental math. Also, you could let him check his answer on a calculator—he'll feel confident when he gets it right (or realize he has to try again if he doesn't).

You can use car time to practice, too. Take turns giving each other math questions to answer (“Which is more—11 or 9?”) or patterns to complete (2, 4, 6, ___).



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January 2012 School Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 School Resumes	4 Mass, 9:00 AM Dress Code Attire Loaves & Fishes B Spirits @ St. Mary 5:30 A Spirits @ St. Mary 6:30	5 B Spirits vs. Trinity, 5:30 A Spirits vs. St. Pete 6:30	6 Mrs. Schroeder's B-Day	7 Mass, 4:00 PM
8 Mass Schedule 8:30 & 10:30 AM 5:30 PM K of C Parish Breakfast	9	10	11 Mass, 9:00 AM Dress Code Attire	12	13	14 Mass, 4:00 PM Girls Basketball Tournament, Time TBA
15 Mass Schedule 8:30 & 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	16	17	18 Mass, 9:00 AM Dress Code Attire	19	20	21 Mass, 4:00 PM
22 Mass Schedule 8:30 & 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	23	24 Advisory Mtg., 6:30 PM	25 Mass, 9:00 AM Dress Code Attire PALS, 1:50 PM Sacramental Prep. 7 PM	26	27	28 Mass, 4:00 PM Winterfest 7:00 PM - Midnight
29 Mass Schedule 8:30 & 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	30	31				

January 2012 Hot Lunch Menu

Have you heard of *Fuel Up to Play 60*?

Fuel Up to Play 60 is a wellness program sponsored by the National Football League to get students and families moving for a better and healthier lifestyle.

We currently have a school-wide wellness activity planned for each month. We also have a running club whose participants run on Monday.

In the new year, we challenge all students and families to see how many activities they can participate in throughout the school year (or a shorter timeframe). Make physical activity a family focus not only for the physical benefits but also special time spent together as a family. Physical activity does not just mean running or going to the gym. How about cranking up your favorite tunes and dancing, or maybe a heated game of bowling, or a few runs down the sledding slope.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 NO SCHOOL	3 Chicken Nuggets	4 Burgers	5 Pizza	6 Grilled Cheese
9 Corn Dogs	10 Spaghetti	11 Nacho Cheese	12 Bosco Sticks	13 French Toast
16 Hot Dogs	17 Lasagna	18 Tacos	19 Hot Turkey Sandwich/Gravy	20 Mac & Cheese
23 Chicken Strips	24 Cheese Burgers	25 Chicken Noodle Soup	26 Pizza	27 Cheese Omelet
30 Chicken Patty	31 Ravioli			

Each day's hot lunch menu includes the entrée or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a protein, vegetable, fruit, bread, milk, and full salad bar.

Cold lunch students may purchase the salad bar for \$1.25.

Elementary lunch \$1.80 • Middle School lunch \$1.90 • Milk 35¢