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# ST. ELIZABETH NEWS

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April 2009

## Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School is to serve God through our ministry of educational excellence and to develop the spiritual lives of our youth within the framework of the Gospel and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

## Philosophy

Our fundamental task is the education of the whole child, combining learning with faith, Catholic doctrines and moral teachings. We strive to instill in our students a lifelong commitment to learning, to Christian values and citizenship, and like our patroness, to community service. We are dedicated to achieving these goals within a supportive and diverse Christian community and to living our faith daily with the understanding that education is a process that never ends.

## TEXAS CATHOLIC CREDIT UNION

PLEASE NOTE: All tuition loans for the 2008-2009 school year must be **PAID IN FULL by Monday, April 20, 2009**. Please call the credit union to get your final payoff amount. You may contact Bridget Guerrero at 214-348-8670 Ext. 114.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 2 – Faculty Mtg., NO TUTORIALS
- April 3 – Christian Witness Awards after 8 am Mass-PRIDE
- April 7 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9-10:30 am
- April 8 – PK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Faculty Language Arts Mtg. @ 3:30, NO TUTORIALS
- April 9 – Holy Thursday, NOON DISMISSAL, NO EXTENDED DAY CARE!!!
- April 9 - All School Stations of the Cross @ 11 am
- April 9 – Report Cards/3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Letters go home
- April 10 – Good Friday, NO SCHOOL
- April 13 – Easter Monday, NO SCHOOL
- April 14 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9-10:30 am

- April 16 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Snack Sale
- April 16 or 23 – Pep Rally TBA
- April 17 – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Day Field Trip @ 10 am-2:30 pm
- April 20-24 – Spring Book Fair, “Lights, Camera, Action”
- April 21 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9-10:30 am
- April 23 – April Monthly Breakfast Fundraiser @ 7:30-8:30 am
- April 24 – Young Authors Day
- **April 26 – St. Elizabeth School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass & Reception @ 10 am**
- April 28 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9-10:30 am
- April 30 – Buck-a-Jean Day
- April 28-May 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Sky Ranch
- May 3 – First Eucharist Rehearsal @ 10:30 am
- May 8 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Reports

## FROM CHRISTINA CLEM, PRINCIPAL

I wish to thank everyone for all of your well wishes after receiving the Work of Heart Grand Award this past Sunday at the 10 am liturgy. Whenever an individual from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School is honored in some way, it brings honor to our entire school because we are all many parts of one body. I am extremely humbled that others would want to bring honor to our school through this special recognition. I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful faith-filled community.

This recognition is especially meaningful as it comes during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School. We have planned a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass for April 26, 2009 at the 10 am liturgy to honor the School Sisters of Notre Dame and all those individuals who have contributed to the ongoing success of the mission of our school. This Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Kevin Farrell. I sincerely hope that all of you will consider joining us in our celebration of this momentous occasion. A reception will follow in our school cafeteria.

As we move into the final quarter of the school year this week, your child's teacher will be contacting you if there is a possibility of summer school or retention. Report cards are being sent home today, April 9. Third quarter progress letters will also be sent home to any student whose yearly grade average is 75 or below in

any subject area. At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, if your child has failed one subject for the year, s/he will be required to attend summer school or an enrichment program for that subject. If your child has failed two or more subjects s/he will be retained in the present grade for the next school year.

Please note on the Important Dates for April Calendar that following a noon dismissal today, Holy Thursday, there will be no school on Good Friday, April 10, or Easter Monday, April 13. Also, you should have received a Renweb email announcing that on Friday, May 22, our school hours will be from 7:50 am until 4 pm to make up for our inclement weather make-up day. On that day, we will go to Mass at 8 am. Following Mass will be the PK4 and Kindergarten Graduations, and Grades 1-8 will have a Field Day. Please let the office know if you would be interested in helping out on that day.

“Lights! Camera! Action!” Please plan on attending the Spring Dinner Theatre, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm followed by student performances at 7:00 pm. Our St. Elizabeth students will provide the entertainment for both evenings. The St. Elizabeth School Family Volunteer organization will be sponsoring this event in conjunction with a Raffle Ticket Sale. The price of the raffle ticket is \$1.00 with great prizes to be awarded. I would like to encourage all of you to get out and sell those tickets to help with the success of this important Spring fundraising event.

I wish each and every one of you a very blessed and holy Triduum and Easter Sunday. Please also continue to keep in your prayers our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who will be making their First Holy Communion soon in May. Let us also continue to pray for one another and for the needs of our school community! God bless!

#### **FROM BETH BELCHER, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

A hearty congratulations goes out to our principal, Christina Clem, as she was the recipient of the Catholic Foundation Grand Award for the Work of the Heart and was honored at the Palm Sunday 10am Mass. Her dedication to education and strong moral fiber have been an example to all who know her. Thanks to all who were there! Please be sure to congratulate Mrs. Clem when you see her!

The eighth grade out did themselves this year with their depiction of the Passion of Christ. They worked very hard and did an outstanding job. Thank you to the eighth grade!

Please note that Palm Sunday began Holy Week. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening services are

called the Triduum, meaning the three days. These are the highest holy days of our Church year. Please join us at 7:30 each evening for these meaningful services in preparation for Easter Sunday. Be sure to consult your Texas Catholic Newspaper for three separate articles written by our pastor, Fr. Mike, addressing Easter themes including Easter baskets, the color purple and answering questions people have had. I hope you enjoy the articles as much as we have!

Please mark your calendars and join us for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass on April 26 at the 10am Mass. Bishop Farrell will preside over the student-led Mass!

The following classes will lead Mass for the month of April: 17<sup>th</sup> - 2A; 24<sup>th</sup> - 2B and in May: 1<sup>st</sup> - 1A; 8<sup>th</sup> - 1B; 15<sup>th</sup> - KA; 22<sup>nd</sup> - KB; 29<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please be sure to contact me with any questions you may have concerning the Religious Education Program here at St Elizabeth's.

#### **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT**

**Development Update:** As of Tuesday, April 7th, total pledges and contributions to our Development Drive, have increased to \$35,585.00 from 30 families out of 233 (13%) and one Employer with Matching Funds. Many thanks to the six families who responded to our “Why We Give” flyer last month. Your support is very important to St. Elizabeth School. We would like to reiterate our challenge to every family who has not participated in this year's drive to consider a donation of at least \$19.58 in celebration of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please prayerfully consider what your family can afford and make your pledge today. If would like more information on the Parent Annual Giving Drive, please call *Elizabeth Belew @ (214) 331-5139 Ext 24* or *email – ebelew@stelizabethofh.org*.

***Those of you who pay your tuition through the Catholic Credit Union may want to consider making your Development contribution during the month May since your last tuition payment will be in April!***

Thank you to the families who have made their pledges, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Aguilar Family, Bagayna Family, Carlos & Rosa Barrientos Family, Belew Family, Bianco Family, BNSF Foundation, Burciaga Family, Byrd Family, Cervenka Family, Clem Family, Dooley Family, Edelmann Family, Gentry Family, Goegel Family, Gonzales Family, Gonzalez Family, Hayes Family, Kral Family, Lauer/Phillips Family, McVean Family, Mendoza

Family, Mills Family, Salters Family, Schmitz/Franklin Family, Stratton Family, Swayzer Family, Ventura Family, Vrana Family, Walkley Family, West Family

### **SPRING DINNER THEATRE**

Lights! Camera! Action! Please plan on attending the Spring Dinner Theatre, Thursday May 14th and Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by student performances at 7:00 pm. St. Elizabeth students will provide the entertainment both evenings. Dinner consists of brisket, potato salad, Texas toast, drink and dessert. Take-Out/Advance orders will be available. Door prizes such as Spa and Salon Service Packages, a Pool Party, and Landscape Services just to name a few will be raffled each night. Walk the red carpet, mingle with student stars, have your picture taken by paparazzi, enjoy a delicious dinner and show – see you there!!!

The St. Elizabeth School Family Volunteer Organization will be sponsoring the event in conjunction with a Raffle Ticket Sale. The price of the raffle ticket is \$1.00 with the following to be given as prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$1,000 Tuition for 2009-2010 school year  
OR \$500 Cash Gift Card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$800 Tuition for 2009-2010 school year  
OR \$400 Cash Gift Card
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Family of 4 Season Pass to Six Flags of Texas

Top sellers will win:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$100 Gift card
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$50 Gift card
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$25 Gift card

The homeroom with the highest ticket sales will win a pizza/coke/movie party.

### **ST. ELIZABETH ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB**

Thank you so much for your T-shirt orders! Our next environmental club meeting will be next Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 4:00 in Mrs. Strunk's room. We will have our after school field trip on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Lake Cliff Park. Parents are required to attend since we have no transportation. Please turn in your child's permission form by the next meeting – April 14. Parents must be present for the field trip. Thank you! We are looking forward to a great month!

### **MONTHLY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

Our next breakfast will be Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Please join us and have breakfast with your student and the school community.

### **ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

Our basketball seasons finished as action packed as they started with four teams reaching the playoffs. Congratulations to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys on their second straight undefeated season and back to back championships. We would like to thank all of our coaches, parents, and volunteers who helped make this basketball season a success. We also thank the many volunteers that worked the concession stand during the volleyball and basketball seasons. Our focus has now turned to track, softball, baseball, and our spring soccer seasons. Schedules for all spring sports can be found at Saintspride.com under the booster club tab. Work on our field continues as we continue on with our plans to improve our baseball field and surrounding areas. Thank you to Jacinto and Pati Reyes for all of their hard work and generous donations to this project and to Dennis Vrana for the countless hours he spends helping oversee everything. We hope to see everyone come out to support our athletes as they compete this spring. GO SAINTS!!!

### **GROCERY STORE FUNDRAISER**

Notice: Kroger recently changed their community giving program from Kroger Cares to Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program. Once approved, we will provide St. Elizabeth families with a barcode to present with your KrogerPlus Card upon checkout at Kroger that will link your KrogerPlus Card with St. Elizabeth School. From that point forward you will only have to present your KrogerPlus Card for your purchases and St. Elizabeth School will receive a percentage of that total!

Did you know that two of the major grocery stores in our area donate a portion of your purchases to St. Elizabeth School? Kroger and Tom Thumb all have community programs to donate 1% of every dollar you spend at their stores back to St. Elizabeth School. But, they do not donate to St. Elizabeth unless you sign up for their programs and designate St. Elizabeth as your beneficiary.

To participate in:

Tom Thumb – St. Elizabeth's number is #648. Turn in a completed application at your Tom Thumb store; they will give you a Reward Card, present that card to the cashier during your transaction. To change or verify the designated beneficiary of your current Reward Card, ask the cashier during your transaction. The more people that designate St. Elizabeth as their beneficiary school the more dollars St. Elizabeth earns to help defray the costs of tuition.

Thank you for participating in this fundraiser.

## CAMPBELL LABELS & GENERAL MILLS

Don't forget to send in your labels. A box is in the front of the school for your children to drop off any labels. Also a flyer will be sent out with all the labels that we can collect.

### Student Birthdays

The following students will be celebrating a birthday in the month of April. Happy Birthday to

Caroline Robb	Cody Robb
Courtney Martinez	Carlos Pozo
Matthew Martinez	Seth Mendez
Nicholas Gleason	Joe Martel, Jr.
Anissa Rangel	Marissa Munoz
Alexandria Duarte	Kyle Carpenter
Marisa Adame	Natalie Escanuela
Adorabella Chiquito	Sara Martinez
Alyssa Baez	Sydney Swayzer
Alfredo Rosales	Clarissa Esquivel
Lauren Pena	Collin Heard
Ethan Manalansan	Cole Gentry
Ramon Curiel	Madison Goza

## TEACHERS' NOTES

### Mrs. Strunk & Mrs. Mendez – Pre-Kindergarten

This month we have exciting things going on.

#### Religion

We are practicing and will be performing a Passion Play. We will be working with the New Testament also.

#### Math

We will be working with numbers 1 – 20. We will also be working with addition.

#### Language Arts

We will begin a new unit called "Changes". We will also be working on beginning, ending and middle sounds.

#### Science

We are watching our plants grow. One group has beans coming up. We are also talking about the Scientific Method.

#### Social Studies

We are learning about the USA. Towards the end of the month we will learn about Texas symbols.

**We want to wish all of our families a very happy and blessed Easter.**

#### Dates

April 14, 2009 - Easter Egg Hunt – your child can bring their Easter Basket.

### Mrs. Guerrero & Mrs. Miranda – KA and Ms. Vercillo & Ms. Martinez - KB

We have been so busy this month preparing for all the special events we have coming up. Please be sure to read the note we sent home concerning important dates. We have two performances and two field trips coming up. You should have all details in hand by now. We are looking forward to Young Author's Day. We will perform a play for the entire school at 12:30 with a second performance at 1:30. We will have a picnic lunch that day at 11:00. Please feel free to join us. We want to thank all of you for the creative costumes you sent in, they look great!

#### Religion

We have learned a great deal during this season of Lent. We have also been learning all about the Stations of the Cross and will perform the Living Stations of the Cross at 9:30 a.m. on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The children have worked very hard, and they are adorable. We will celebrate the Last Supper, as a class, to begin our observance of Holy Week.

#### Math

The kids picked up time on the hour so quickly! We will continue our unit with time on the half hour. We are also working diligently on writing, identifying, and counting to 50. Next quarter children need to be able to master these same skills up to the number 100. A few children are finding this difficult, please be sure to practice at home. Our next unit will be identifying money. To reinforce this unit we will have a classroom store. Please send in any old toys or games that you would be willing to donate for this activity. Students will use play money to purchase these items. This activity will give students an opportunity to practice several skills involving money in a real life way.

#### Language Arts

We continue to read our decodable books. The kids are doing a fantastic job reading! They are also stretching and spelling many words on their own. Our sight word list has grown to almost 40 words! All our hard work has paid off. The children will begin first grade with a great head start! We have begun working with Ms. Esther, the Wolf Trap storyteller. The kids are having a great time while learning to use their imaginations.

### Mrs. Fabian – 1A and Mrs. Patton – 1B

We want to wish all families a Happy Easter. The Easter Egg hunt will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm by the grassy area in front of the Chapel. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, please bring 12 plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy and then tape the egg closed. Have your student bring their Easter baskets to school that morning also. We will have cookies and juice before the hunt.

Language Arts/Reading- We will finish reading our decodables by mid April and start reading the hard cover book with stories in each book. In Unit 1 we will read stories about games. We will be working with comprehension skills and characterization of each story. A review of short vowel sounds, long /u/ spelled ew and ue, compound words, and /aw/ will be included with the stories.

English – A review of antonyms, pronouns, nouns, verbs, and types of sentences will start our month. We will finish with word endings and plurals.

Math – Measurement will be focused on for the month. We will measure with a ruler, tape measure, cups, pints, and quarts. We will weigh different objects and also estimate what objects might be heavier. We will look at the different tools that we would use to measure different things.

Religion – The last week of Lent, we will talk about what each day means in the church leading up to Easter Sunday. When we return we will start Chapter 20 – Jesus is Risen.

Science – In April we will become physiologists, the study of the human body and what is inside. The unit test will be on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Social Studies – A new unit titled Our Earth, Our Resources will be the topic of the month. In this unit we will learn about kinds of weather, looking at our land and water, our earth's resources, farm history, and caring for our resources. For Earth Day, April 22, we will have a project that involves recycling. Watch for details the week after Easter break.

Health/Guidance – In health we will learn about the food pyramid and healthy food we should be eating. In guidance we will go back to our Second Step program and pick up Impulse Control and Problem Solving so we will be ready for second grade.

### **Mrs. McClure – 2A and Mrs. Clack – 2B**

Reading and L.A.: Our little bunny writers will continue to work on paragraph writing of up to at least six sentences. Journal writing daily will continue as well as prediction writing and creative writing. We will continue to move forward in our Open Court book. The students will continue to work on their jingles and Shurley Method. The students are still working hard on taking apart sentences and labeling each piece. We have really come a long way this year. YIPPEE for the bunnies in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade! Please continue to read at home daily. This is very important as we try to keep our little ones up in their reading scores and comprehension.

Math: Boy oh boy! We are just so proud of your little ones! I think most of our children should really look into becoming future bankers! Kudos to you parents! We can tell that you really worked hard with them at home with money.

We are coming along in the concept of time. Time is a very hard concept and will take a while for the kids to get it down pat. As our book moves on we will continue to ask time so keep out those analogue watches and keep practicing this at home with them. In April we will work on Calendars as well as moving back into adding and subtracting, regrouping where needed. However, there will be one slight change.....THREE DIGIT NUMBERS, WHOOOOOHOOOOOO!!!! I am just so excited! Keep practicing math facts at home. This is a must!

Science: Our little hairy, long eared physicist will continue learning about the 6 simple machines. We have discussed inclined planes, wedges, screws, and will be moving into levers (1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup> class), parts of a lever, Wheel and Axel and Pulley. Our next science test will be coming up in a few weeks. Be looking for the review late next week.

Social Studies: We will continue to practice for our program as well as discuss the states in class. We have recently worked on economics as well as our government in Washington D.C. Please be aware that their project is due on April 23, State Cookies on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and the program has been moved to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. We are very sorry for this inconvenience but we had a conflict with another event at school. Again, **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 in the gym at 1:25pm.**

Religion: As we move closer to our big day, we will be practicing and preparing for our next Sacrament that 2<sup>nd</sup> graders receive which is the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. We will continue to discuss the parts of the mass. During April 2<sup>nd</sup> grade masses are as follows, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2A and April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2B. There will be a rehearsal for the Sacrament of First Communion held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at 10:30 am at the church. Dress is casual. The following week May 9<sup>th</sup>, is the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dress for this Sacrament will be given in a hand out as the day approaches.

We hope you all have a wonderful and very memorable Easter holiday filled with much laughter! Have an egg-cellent and Hoppy Easter! ☺

### **Ms. Bright – 3A and Mrs. Price – 3B**

Happy Easter and may the glory of the risen Lord be yours throughout the year!

We have been reviewing many concepts and honing our skills in English and we will be picking up the

Shurley Method once again as the final quarter begins. We will be working on diagramming sentences and picking out different parts of speech. To this end, we will also be doing more creative writing and another book report. In Reading we have begun our second anthology reader and the students are really enjoying the new stories. We will be reading more class chapter books and everyone should continue reading books on their Lexile level for the Reading Counts program (think: a book every two weeks, and read for comprehension, not just enjoyment). We will be Lexile testing the students again this week and we expect to see further improvement overall.

In Science we are almost finished with our unit on Physics (matter, mass, volume, temperature) and we will be moving on to a unit on Meteorology. In Social Studies we have been working on our Atlas skills and we will complete a project on maps this month, too (further details to follow). In Religion we have been concentrating on the final days of Jesus' life as He prepares to give us His greatest gift: His life for our salvation! The students have worked very hard on our presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross, and we hope you enjoyed this special liturgy if you were able to be present with us. We will now move on to study the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. In Math we have been working on graphs and then we will be moving on to learn measurement (time, linear, volume; both metric and customary). And, as always, we will be working with WORD PROBLEMS!

Coming up we will be having a science test over our Physics unit next Thursday. Students should be continually reading books for their Reading Counts tests. These tests may be taken at any time during the week as soon as the student has finished reading his/her book (the goal is one book every 2 weeks).

### **Mrs. Schmitz – 4A**

#### Religion

In Religion we are discussing in detail the 10 commandments. Our focus right now is on the first three commandments because their focus is on our relationship with God. We are beginning to realize that we all are the body of Christ and we need to be kind to everyone because we all represent God here on earth. We will continue to work on the 10 commandments until they have all be looked at in detail.

#### Math

We are finishing up time, temperature and graphs. Once this unit is complete we will begin working on Fractions. We will be adding, subtracting, finding common denominators, and much, much more. By the end of the year we will have covered the entire fraction unit as well as worked on geometry concepts. We will

also continue to review everything we have learned this year to keep it all fresh in our brains!

#### Science

We are beginning to study weather in Science. We are discussing the different instruments that are used to measure the different conditions. We are learning about the different types of clouds that we see in the sky and what they mean. We are also discussing the different layers of the atmosphere. Along with this we will discuss topics like global warming and what we can do to prevent damage to our Mother Earth. We will also be attending Earthfest which should be fun.

#### Social Studies

We are finally approaching our class discussion of Texas Independence. We have learned about heroes that fought for Texas that were Catholic including Stephen F. Austin. We have also been discussing conflict resolution and if this had been utilized, we could have avoided many conflicts. We are trying to use this concept with issues that we have identified in class as well.

#### ELA

We are finishing up The Watson's Go to Birmingham. This has been a very enjoyable book for the class to read. It also has some very good life lessons and connections with the Life Long Guide lines that we have been focusing on this year. Once we have finished this book, we will begin reading Flushed which is another fun book to read.

We are beginning to write a research paper. The students have been asked to select an animal and come up with three things they would like to learn about their animal. This is going to be a very challenging task for the class but I am sure they will do just fine. Everyone will receive grades for each of the steps in the process which include: Bringing supplies to class, subject selection, note card writing, outline, rough draft, final draft, and bibliography cards.

### **Mrs. Shelton – 5A**

#### Reading

The students will finish reading the novel A Family Apart. While reading the book, the following historical events will be discussed: Underground Railroad, Historical Children's Society, Children's Aid Society, Charles Loring Brace, Missouri River, St. Louis Missouri, Bounty Hunters and Shoe Shining Kits. While continuing to complete the novel, we will be learning how all of the above events, people and places came together to form our rich American Heritage. All of this rich American History will guide us into our next novel that we will be reading will be Caught in the Act. This novel will continue "The Orphan Train Saga" following the six Kelly children as

it focuses on Mike Kelly, the oldest boy who is adopted by the Friedrichs, a German immigrant farm family living in Missouri.

Starting next week, the students will be required to complete a weekly reading log. A new reading log sheet will be sent home every Friday and is due back the following Thursday. Students will need to read an average of 5 hours of reading a week. The students can pick their own reading material. I ask that the parents sign the reading log.

### Writing

The students will continue to write short paragraphs from fabulous writing prompts. This will increase their knowledge of how to write a paragraph on random topics using their imagination and sharpening their creative writing skills.

### Language Arts

The students will continue to work on their research paper. They will have class and computer time to complete the work during school hours. We will also be putting together a chapter by chapter book using the novel A Family Apart. The students will work in pairs and will be assigned a particular chapter, and they will write descriptive and pictorial accounts of the history and effects that the Irish Potato Blight had on the Kelly Family and other Irish families who immigrated to the United States.

### Spelling

Chapters 22, 23 and 24 spelling words and work will be mastered. Starting next week, the students' spelling test will include 3 short dictated sentences that will include past and present spelling words.

### Science

We will complete Chapter 11 on Fresh Water and will make a smooth transition into Chapter 13 about Ocean Motions which will guide us into becoming meteorologists. We will be preparing a class Science Project that will enable each student to give the class a weather report.

On Friday, April 17, 2009, our class will be taking a field trip to Earth fest in downtown Dallas. We will emphasize the importance of recycling and how we can do our part to conserve, recycle, and reuse every day to keep Mother Earth healthy and happy.

### **Mr. Barta – 5B**

Math – Students will be busy studying multiplication and division of fractions.

Social Studies – Students will study American westward expansion, industrialization and the causes of the Civil War.

Religion – Students will study the sacrament of Holy Orders and will begin learning about the Church's value of human life and being socially active in taking care of the needy.

### **Mrs. Belcher – MS Religion**

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The eighth graders did an awesome job of the Passion Play. Many people stopped me to say that this was the best depiction that they had seen; each year it gets better and better. Congratulations to you for bringing such wonderful children into the world!

When we get back from Easter until the end of the year the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be working on several things. The first is a Vocations Game; then a Church History timeline; and finally a famous people from religious history discussion panel. This is always a very interesting and exciting time of the school year!

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Your students did a marvelous job with the Parable projects and are ending their work on their Miracle Mosaics. We will continue our studies with excerpts from Acts of the Apostles, an in-depth study of the sacraments that we haven't covered yet and the Ten Commandments as well as our life in Grace. As a reminder: Service hours are due no later than May 15. This is a total of 10 hours.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will continue their study of the marvelous love of God and His covenant of the Old Testament. We will have an overview of the Ten Commandments and then see how Jesus distilled them down into the Two Great Commandments. We will also see the Scriptural basis for the sacraments. A special thank you goes out to all of the parents who volunteered and/or donated to the Seder Meal. You are awesome!

### **Mrs. Powell - MS Social Studies**

The Middle School had a wonderful time at the King Tut Exhibit. Thank you once again for your involvement.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

We will be studying the Byzantine Empire, the religion of Islam, and the golden age of Muslim civilization. Chapter 11 will introduce you to the early history of Africa and to some of its great civilizations. Chapter 12 will introduce the civilizations that existed in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

In chapter 11, we will be studying immigration and migration to Texas: 1836-1861. We will discuss Texas as a growing state, new Texans from other states, the

Germans in Texas and other immigrants from around the world. Chapter 12 will discuss the Civil War and Reconstruction: 1861-1876. This includes causes of the Civil War, the Civil War and Texas, life on the home front, and reconstruction in Texas. Chapter 13 will discuss closing of the frontier: 1866-1888. This includes the Frontier Wars, cattle kingdoms, westward expansion and the Texas Rangers.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

In chapter 11, we will be studying the nation growing and prospering. This includes the Industrial Revolution, American move westward, unity and division, and new nations in the Americas. Chapter 12 will discuss the Jacksonian Era, a new era in politics, Jackson in the White House, and a new crisis, where Jackson supported states in their attempts to relocate Native Americans, but he opposed states' rights during the Nullification Crisis. An economic crisis hit the country after Jackson left office. Chapter 13 discusses westward expansion, including Oregon country, the Republic of Texas, California and the Southwest, the Mexican War, and Americans rush west.

#### **Mrs. Robb – MS Science**

Next science article due is April 22.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Just finished up a unit on Simple Machines. Next, they will be studying the characteristics of waves which include light and sound.  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Students are reading Fever 1793 which describes yellow fever and how it spread. Students will receive information about an infectious disease project this week.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Students finished their study on Animals. Next, they will be receiving a new textbook on Environmental science. They will finish out the year studying about various aspects of our environment which ties in well with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders trip to Sky Ranch. Students will leave April 28<sup>th</sup> and return, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Mr. Dettmer – MS Math**

Sixth grade will begin positive and negative integers. Seventh grade will do solid geometry, volume and surface area. One Algebra class will do systems of equations and the other will be multiplying and factoring polynomials.

#### **Ms. Johnson – MS English/Literature**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade English—The sixth grade continues writing and editing the research paper. A copy of the typed rough draft is due to me April 15 as well as being due to turnitin.com by midnight on April 14. I have sent an email explaining how this web site works. We will then begin a unit on capitalization and punctuation which

will include commas, semi-colons, colons, quotations, titles, and capitals. The test is scheduled for April 29. Spelling for April includes lessons 28, 29, 31, and 32.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature—We just finished our Revolutionary War novel, Johnny Tremain with the first shot fired at Lexington. Our final novel of the year, The Hobbit, takes us on a journey of fantasy through Middle Earth. We will encounter hobbits, dwarves, goblins, forest spiders, and the ultimate evil dragon, Smaug. Each chapter will be illustrated by the students with either a drawing or clip art; these will be due each Friday. The class will also have comprehension questions and a few vocabulary. A travel brochure explaining Middle Earth will also be a major assignment. AR for April, which must be sixth grade level, is due April 22.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English—We are well into the unit on prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. The test is scheduled for April 15. The class will then begin a unit on capitalization and punctuation which will include end marks, commas, semi-colons, colons, quotation marks, underlining, hyphens, apostrophes, and capitals. The test is scheduled for May 7. Spelling for April includes lessons 27, 28, and 29.

#### **Mrs. Borth – MS Literature/English**

##### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

We have just completed our unit over Shakespeare and will have a birthday party for William Shakespeare on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our next novel that we will be reading is To Kill A Mockingbird. We will have a test over sentences next Wednesday. This test will cover simple, compound, and complex sentences along with sentence types.

##### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature

We have just completed our compare/contrast unit and will be moving on to Night. Students will need to have this novel when we return to school from Easter holiday.

#### **Mrs. Barrientos – Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish**

I think this is the most fun quarter of Spanish simply because it involves FOOD. Every grade will be studying food as well as body parts. I will accommodate some of the verbs, especially the verbs *querer* (to want), *gustar* (to like) as we study these two themes. I am going to need your help in providing some of the delicious food that we will be learning, so that they can also enjoy it.

Pre-K: We will continue to work on clothing and will focus on body parts and fruit for the last quarter.

Kinder: We are almost done with our phonics mini-books, but we have also started our clothing unit and

body parts as well. We will also focus on fruits and milk products.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: We have been working hard on our body parts and clothing. Fruits, milk products and some veggies will be the concentration of this quarter.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: We are going to be focusing on the following verbs: tener (to have) will be used with body parts and querer (to want) gustar (to like) will be used with food.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: We just started our body parts unit, however all year we have been practicing our body parts using songs and body movements, so we are very familiar naming body parts. Our main focus will be writing the body parts. We will also cover clothing and some foods. We will also continue to use the indirect object pronouns: me, te and le with some of the verbs.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Body parts and foods using AR verbs and the verb tener, gustar and hacer as well as indirect object pronouns.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Using ar verbs as well as the verb tener with our body parts unit as well as querer and gustar for our food unit)

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Using the verbs tener with our body parts and what we do with each body parts.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Writing, writing, writing using the verb gustar, querer, and ir. Students are planning a vacation in which every member of the family wants to go to a different place. We will be moving on to body parts and food using other verbs.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Reviewing for our placement Spanish test in High Schools.

Felices Pascuas! Happy Easter!

### **Mrs. Connelly – Library/PK-3 Computer**

#### Library News:

Important dates to remember for this month are: Lights! Camera! Book Fair! (April 20-24), School Library Media Month, National Library Week (April 12-18), National Fun Day (April 1), National Poetry Month, and National Kite Month.

PK-1<sup>st</sup> students will enjoy reading The Legend of the Bluebonnet and other Easter stories. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade should enjoy the activities based on Amber Brown books by Paula Danziger. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will explore Magic Tree House books. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades have been reading Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli and will be focusing on activities based on the book.

The Library Birthday Book Club welcomed new members: Carlos Alba, Viviana Chapa and Morgan Williams. Students celebrating summer birthdays can still donate a book and become part of the Birthday Book Club. Please contact Priscilla Romero at 214.331.7538 or email me at [mconnelly@stelizabethofh.org](mailto:mconnelly@stelizabethofh.org)

Thanks go out to Pati Reyes for her generous monetary donation to the upcoming Book Fair and to Liz Gutierrez, Mrs. Rosa Araiza and her daughter Rosa for helping count Box Tops for Education.

**Lights! Camera! Book Fair!** Mark your calendars, April 20-24, for another exciting Scholastic Book Fair. Look in Thursday folders for information and updates concerning the Fair. As usual, volunteers will be needed. It's a great way to get in those last-minute-much-needed volunteer hours.

Enjoy shopping, browsing, storytelling, as well as the daily activities:

- Monday - Red Carpet Premier
- Tuesday – On Location
- Wednesday – Breakfast with Stars
- Thursday – Wacky Wardrobe
- Friday – Super Star (Young Author) Day

#### Computer PK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

PK and Kinder are working hard and have improved their mouse techniques using educational and fun Internet sites. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade visited switchzoo.com and came up with original and unusual zoo animals, wrote a story describing the new zoo animal and printed the pictures and story. The new zoo animals are posted outside the downstairs lab. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is busy with PowerPoint. They are working on a PowerPoint presentation complete with clip art, original pictures, and animation.

### **Mrs. Stepniewski – 4-8 Grade Computer**

Congratulations go out to our Teen Tech Week Winners:

#### **Type-Off**

Morgan Walker 5A	<b>72 wpm</b>	80% Accuracy
Marisa Adame 8A	<b>60 wpm</b>	82% Accuracy

#### **Pinball**

Andrew Rivas	8 million + points
Michael Martinez	5 million + points

### Scratch

Jonathan Cuevas	War 1945
Hank Blackburn	Skate or Die
Reese Logan, Josef Barrilleaux, Travis Robb, Aaron Hernandez, Dylon Hebert	Super Stick Man and Ice Man

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade boys have finished their disassembling/reassembling-computers project. The girls will begin as soon as possible. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have a series of assessments on Office programs and typing in anticipation of high school competencies.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade is working in xhtml. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade is finishing their computer history unit. They will be studying algorithms in computer programs and ASCII and binary code. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be working with Publisher on a newsletter while 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is creating a brochure for their Biome Project.

#### **Mrs. Kuterbach – Music**

As we enter the fourth quarter we begin to wind down our study of musical elements. The eighth grade will soon begin working on their handbell music for graduation. It will be here before we know it! Right now we are hard at work on material for the Young Authors Day to be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys will present the mini-musical “Stone Soup” and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls will present a story and dance from the Philippines.

The seventh grade has begun a unit on Music and the Movies. We are discussing how music can change the viewing experience of a movie. The sixth grade is working on a project about folk songs. They will research a folk song and determine how it represents the culture of its origin. All of this will be presented in a PowerPoint that will include a recording of their song performed by themselves. The intermediate and primary grades will continue to explore the elements of music and how they fit into the puzzle of music.

Always remember to join us for our weekly student masses. Our student cantors work hard each week to assist with the singing at mass. Hopefully you were able to attend a school Stations of the Cross during Lent where you would have heard lovely singing from some of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls leading the songs.

#### **Ms. Cekosky – Art**

Every class will have a chance to make something for Easter. The lower grades will be studying patterns w/ Easter eggs, and woven backgrounds. Second grade will get to use glittery water colors to finish a perspective composition. Fourth grade will paint Easter “eggs” made out of styrofoam, and fifth grade

will be working on lanterns w/tissue paper to study stain glass.

The upper grades are studying artists and time periods. 6<sup>th</sup> grade is studying different aspects of Asian art, 7<sup>th</sup> grade is studying various artists for their ceiling tiles that will be displayed in the junior high hallway downstairs, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is studying Georgia O’Keeffe, and Grant Wood.

Happy Easter!!

#### **Mr. Clack – P.E.**

The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will continue to work on their food journals. This is the second of four parts to this project that will count as one test grade. Since we will not finish until May, the entire project grade will be counted during the fourth quarter. We will work on basic exercise and fitness in the lower grades with a focus on overall stretching and flexibility.

## Helping Kids Be Themselves

Our children face a lot of challenges, such as trying to be popular and successful at school and maintaining a good relationship with their families. The pressures to achieve these goals are enormous. At the same time children also have the pressure of just trying to fit in with their peers. There is almost nothing worse for a child than to be singled out as being different from everyone else. That can result in taunting, bullying, and being ostracized from social networks and activities.

We can see the effort children make every day to look, talk, dress, and act like everybody else. Sometimes they do it to be popular, but mostly they are just trying to fit in.

Often this attempt to appear like everyone else can have the effect of turning them into somebody else. They can lose the ability not only to express themselves in appearance, but also to think and act independently. This can lead to many difficulties ranging from a loss of self-confidence and esteem to blindly following the path to early drug or alcohol use.

Parents have a crucial role to play in helping children be themselves and be true to their own values and beliefs. Even as we gently nudge our children toward the path we would like them to choose and the people we would like them to be, we also have to recognize their individuality and encourage them to be their unique selves. With the pressure they receive at school to conform with friends, they just don't need a similar push to conform at home.

We have to find ways to let children express their individuality at home so they will feel confident enough to stay strong when they interact with others. This doesn't mean allowing lax or inappropriate behavior, but it does mean celebrating and acknowledging their differences and uniqueness, even within the family unit. We can also provide solid direction and guidance so that they can find their own path and individuality within acceptable social and family norms.

This is not an easy challenge for many parents to meet, but if you can help your children find their own way to fulfilling their destiny, they will feel good about themselves and confident in their abilities to succeed. You can also reinforce the message that just fitting in will never be good enough to allow them to reach their full potential. Each person needs to be not just himself or herself, but the best self he or she can be.

## Reinforce Resilience in Kids

Trying to make a child feel better about a disappointment, failure, or loss by simply saying, "It doesn't really matter," or "It's not that important," rarely helps, and it is not exactly the best way to handle the situation. Experts say this kind of feedback only makes children feel worse, and it doesn't teach them how to handle stressful events or deal with upsetting news.

Studies show that resilience--the ability to bounce back when something disappointing happens--is what separates students who flourish from those who flounder under stress. That's why resilience may be one of the most important skills you can teach your students. How can you accomplish this? Try these suggestions:

- Remind students that bad stuff doesn't last. Children don't often have the resources to understand that if they get a bad grade, lose a ball game, or get dumped by their best friend, it's not the end of the world. They tend to believe their negative feelings will last forever, or that one failure will ruin everything. Help them understand that these situations are temporary. Show them ways that a result can be changed and/or improved. Give them reasons to hope and to persevere.
- Promote problem-solving. Action is the best antidote to feeling helpless and deflated. For example, children who are upset with bad grades will recover more quickly if they can think of ways to sharpen their skills and improve their study

habits, rather than feel sorry for themselves. Then, the next time a problem occurs, they'll know they have the resources to jump in and try to solve it.

- Know when to intervene. Be patient and supportive when your students ask for advice or come to you with questions or problems. Very often a show of support is all a child needs to feel encouraged to succeed. However, if you can see that a situation clearly hurts or confuses a student, you should encourage that child to back away and look for suitable resources elsewhere. Assure your students that you are in their corner and they can always feel comfortable asking for your help.
- Set reasonable boundaries. Children need adult guidance in order to feel confident about how to act in certain situations. Set up rules in the classroom and at home and stick to them. Ask for student input on what the rules should include and how they should be reinforced. Make the expectations clear to everyone.
- Accent achievement. Ego-boosting praise is a great buffer against disappointment. It encourages resilient thoughts and actions. Children will learn to link success with hard work. They'll also learn that even when they think they can't do something or believe they have failed, perseverance, a positive attitude, and hard work can lead to achievement.

## Quotation

*It's not what you are that holds you back, it's what you think you're not.*

--Denis Waitley

*If you keep saying things are going to be bad, you have a good chance of becoming a prophet.*

--Isaac Bashevis Singer

*Change by example. Just be the way you want others to be and hope they pay attention.*

--Larry Winger

*The true measure of an individual is how he treats people who can do him absolutely no good.*

--Ann Landers

*Humility, like darkness, reveals the heavenly lights.*

--Henry David Thoreau

*I don't care how much power, brilliance or energy you have, if you don't harness it and focus it on a specific target, and hold it there, you're never going to accomplish as much as your ability warrants.*

--Zig Ziglar

*Many of our fears are tissue-paper thin and a single courageous step would carry us clear through them.*

--Brendan Francis

*Each handicap is like a hurdle in a steeplechase. When you ride up to it, if you throw your heart over, the horse will go along too.*

--Lawrence Bixby

*The strongest single factor in prosperity consciousness is self-esteem: believing you can do it, believing you deserve it, believing you will get it.*

--Jerry Gillies

