



Panther Pages!

November 2008



St. Pius X School, Westerly RI

Thanksgiving: A Time to be Thankful

Mary B. and Sarah L.

During the Season of Thanksgiving, we should remember all the things and people we are thankful for. Many people honor the most important people in their lives by praying for them or thanking them personally. Some other ways of showing your gratitude to others can be by:

- ☺ *Getting together with your loved ones for a meal*
- ☺ *Playing a game with your friends*
- ☺ *Going to see a movie with friends and family*

The important thing is that they know you appreciate them. If you are thankful for *something*, you can pray to God in thanksgiving, thanking him for all those special things, such as your home, clothes, and belongings. We can be thankful for everything every day of the year, but we especially honor them around the time of Thanksgiving. (Here's something I bet you didn't know about Thanksgiving: It's also celebrated in Canada!!!)

Pre-K

Pre-K 3

Miss Becca is got together with Pre-K 4 as a whole group to make a friendship wreath, and shared what they like about their friends. On October 8th fireman Dennis came to discuss fire safety with the children and they were able to go on the fire truck. *James J.*

Pre-K 4

The students in Pre-K4 are getting to know the classroom rules, and are

learning that they each have a special gift from God. They have taste tested apples, and graphed the results. It turns out that most of the children like the yellow apples the best. One of the best highlights of the year so far was doing an investigation

on who tore apart the lunar moth specimen in their science center. They acted like private detectives and tried to gather clues. It seems as though the investigation may turn into a cold case, though. *Laura-Jo K.*

Elementary

Kindergarten

The students in Kindergarten have been learning the letters t,b,f,m,n,c,a, and their sounds. Echo and Baby Echo help the students to have fun learning these sounds. In Math, the students are using position words like over, under, behind, left, and, right. For Religion, the focus has been learning that God is our Creator and he loves all creation. One day, Father Ray was in the office. Upon hearing his voice, one of the Kindergarten students calls out, 'I hear Jesus.'

Grade 1

In Grade 1 these past few months, have been learning sounds in Phonics, "Foundations".

Also in Science they have been learning about plants. In Reading they have been getting to know Grade1 level books. In Math they have been adding addition facts. Also in Spelling they had four spelling tests so far. The interesting moments was when Ryan brought in a book about St. Pius X and Mrs. Whitman giving spelling tests. Keep up the great work guys! *Ashlyn F.*

Grade 2

Mrs. Cozzolino said that the Religion chapter that they have started primarily revolves around Reconciliation. Some of the students are even working on extra-credit Science and History projects! She also said that she serenaded Mrs. Nelson with "You are my Sunshine". *Laura-Jo K.*

Grade 3

Third grade has taken their first visit to the Westerly Health Care nursing facility. They will visit these patients once a month as part of a program called Building Bridges, and will do a fun project

with the patients and share a treat. They often play games.

They are ending a reading theme soon, and will be doing dioramas to depict scenes from the story that they enjoyed best.

In their Scholastic News, they have read about the upcoming election. They sent in their votes for the Presidential candidates.

After their science lab examining the seeds of various fruit, they planted herb seeds for each student. One student agreed to keep hers as a control, and they placed her plant in a dark cabinet without water for one week. The student became apprehensive and wanted her plant taken out into daylight. Consequently, there is not a control plant to observe. *Liz A.*

Grade 4

The fourth graders have been very diligent in class. In Math they learned about place value, and in Science they learned about plant life. They have also been having a blast making timelines in English. The point is to help the children learn how to organize information. Mrs. Kimmel enjoys teaching fourth grade because the children keep her active all day long. *Matt D.*

Grade 5

In Math, fifth grade just finished Ch.1 on place value, and the students are off to a good start. In Social Studies, fifth grade is following the presidential campaign with their brand new Scholastic News booklets that keep them up to date with current events. They also just completed a chapter about early European explorers and how the East met the West. In Reading, their upcoming mystery book report will be due soon.

Middle School

Literature

The 6th grade reading class chose classmates to be readers of parts in "Anne of Green Gables". It was very entertaining, and it seems there are some budding actors and actresses in Grade 6!! *Sarah L.*

English

Grade.6 - Students individually recited the poem "Wind Song" by Lillian Moore. They are practicing the correct use of prepositions such as besides, into, etc.

Grade 7 -Individual students recited from memory "September" by John Updike. They are reinforcing the use of simple, compound, and complex sentences in their writing skills.

Grade 8 - Individual students recited from memory "The Mist and All" by Dixie Wilson. Putting finishing touches on essay - Why America's Veterans should be honored - essay contest is sponsored by local V.F.W. posts.

Science

All of Mrs. Swain's Science classes were visited by Miss Jennifer Siegel. She is the manager of our Rhode Island Blood Center. Miss Jen shared so much valuable and interesting information with the students. Did you know that just one pint of blood has the capacity to save three lives?! The students found all of the presentation very exciting, and, as an added bonus, no one was "grossed out" while watching the DVD presented about donating blood. Granted, Middle School kids aren't legally old enough to donate blood, but the idea was to get their parents to come to the St. Pius X Blood Drive and donate in their child's name*.

The Science classes made posters for the blood drive, and put them on the walls of the church hall. The parents were then able to see their child's artwork and/or message about donating blood.

The 6th graders had the opportunity to gather their "resting pulse rate" as they sat quietly at their tables in the Science lab. They then went outside and hopped, skipped, jumped, and ran around to get their "active pulse rate". Finally, they went back in the classroom to time their "cool down rate". The assignment that went along with that was to make a bar graph depicting these rates. It was an excellent learning experience all around. *Check out Mary B.'s article to learn more!! *Sarah L.*

Social Studies

Gr. 6 recently learned about the discovery of the "Iceman" who had been covered in ice for 5000 years. Gr. 7 just completed a group project in which they learned about various Native American tribes. Gr. 8 has been studying the western United States during the late 1800s. *Mary B.*

Math

Grade 6 is adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals. Grade 7 got introduced to variables and expressions, and how to evaluate expressions. They are working very hard. And last but not least, Grade 8 is also evaluating expressions and solving equations, using what they learned from last year. They also got to graph using M&M's.

Religion

Grades 6-8 all worked on timelines about themselves. It was very interesting to see what each student felt was important in their life. Grade 6 has been discussing the Old Testament about Abraham, Sarah and their decedents. Grade 7 has been talking about Jesus' birth, Baptism, and

Christian conscience. Grade 8 has been talking about the beginning of our church.

***Mr. Fiore's
Joke of the Month***

Adam and Eve were busy naming animals one day. Adam saw an animal and said, "Eve, let's call this one a hippopotamus." Eve asked, "Why do you want to call it a hippopotamus?" Adam answered, "Because it looks more like a hippopotamus than any other animal we have seen!"

Specials

Resource

In resource, Miss Lepore played "Simon Says" with Gr.2, who she said are great listeners. She is also enjoying meeting and talking with the new students.

As the "new kid on the block" (as Ms. Magowan says), Ms. Magowan is getting to know the "ins and outs" of St. Pius X school. She says it is a great school, with great students and staff. It is funny for her as well, because she graduated from St. Pius back in 1971! She is happy to see that the school remains focused on God and our faith. She also likes the motto, "Doing our best to be our best with the help of God"! *Nicolas W.*

Music

They began their year in the Music Room on a positive note! Miss Schackner says it was wonderful to see all of her former music students and meet her new students. Working with Pre-K 3 to Grade 8 gives Miss Schackner the opportunity

to see the students continue to grow and develop musically. The choir sang at the Mass on Monday, October 6, 2008 and are now diligently preparing for the November Mass and Prayer Service.

It is difficult for her to pinpoint funny and interesting moments, as they have many in the Music Room. *Tyler G.*

Italian

Ciao! That's hello/goodbye in Italian. Grade 8 is studying this language with Mr. Fiore every Tuesday. So far they are practicing pronunciations and greetings in Italian. In grammar, they are studying the definite articles. From what I've been told, Gr. 8 has been increasing their vocabulary. An active participant in their classes is none other than Seminarian Eddy, who has been welcomed by the 8th grade in all their classes! So, until next time...Ciao. *Tyler G.*

Latin

In Latin, Grade Five is discovering that Latin is "hiding" inside many of our common (and not-so-common) English words. They translated and colored their own version of the famous Shield of Faith that was carried by the Crusaders. Grade 6 has already translated the beginning of Genesis, taken a virtual tour of the Vatican, and is beginning to translate the family tree of Christ as written down in the Gospel of Matthew. Grade 7 has begun to translate the opening verses of the Gospel of John.

Library

Mrs. Burris stated that meeting all the new students has been delightful. Seeing how well they are adjusting is wonderful. *Laura-Jo*

Art

Mrs. Kay's Kindergarten art class ~The Kindergarteners have been having a great time in art class. They made torn paper collages and learned the significance of using their hands as tools.

Mrs. Kay's first grade class~ the first graders have been working extremely hard on their self portrait collage. They were not allowed to use pencil, however, they could "draw with scissors". Projects like these are great for small children because they are ordinary assignments tweaked, which help students think outside the box to become more creative and artistic

Physical Education

In Gym classes 4-6 they are working hard on their mile run, so they can pass at a National or Presidential level. The K-3 programs are playing games involving special awareness using their 5 senses.
Nate E.

Spanish

The first part of every year in Computer we focus on age-appropriate "computer safety" lessons. From the youngsters' videos of "Hector" the porpoise, to the older kids' discussions concerning safety in chat rooms and IM, we stress again and again the importance of keeping your personal information private! *Alex B.*

Computer

Some of the fun things we have been doing so far in Spanish this year: First grade is learning "family words" and has just met the incredible Cabezagrande (Big Head) family! Third graders have been making sentences by shuffling around vocabulary cards. Grade two has been listening and responding to the exciting adventures of Pedro and Petunia, the "elefantes invisibles". Kindergarteners daily add to their

"Gracias list", thanking God for all his generosity.

Sports

Girls' Basketball

Recently, I talked with Mrs. Lennon, the St. Pius X assistant coach. She is very excited about the upcoming season. I then asked her the following questions:

Q. What are you planning to do in the 2008 season?

A. We are going to try to incorporate prayer more into the practices and games more than they did the last season. We are going to work hard and have a lot of fun together.

Q. Have you set a goal this year for the team?

A. Our goal is just to do our best and have fun. If we make it to the championship, then great! But if we don't, let us have learned something in the effort. Learning and trying-that's the most important part.

Looks like St. Pius is going to have a great season!

Boys' Basketball

Q: What are you going to do in the 2008 season?

A: We want to build unity and character. The boys are all great and we expect to learn the game and learn the game.

Q: Have you set a goal for this year for the team?

A: Our goal this year is to learn to play the game and to learn to accept losing and not get caught up in just winning.

James J.

Special Accomplishments

Jillian B. in Grade 1 started piano three months ago, and is now getting ready to learn some Christmas music.

Caroline in Grade K and Jack in Grade 2 collected money Pennies for Peace, one of the fundraising arms of Central Asia Institute. Pennies for Peace uses money donated to purchase school supplies for schoolchildren in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Stewart M. in Grade 2 received an orange belt in Shorin Ryu Jun Shin Kai Karate.

Jessica K. in Grade 4 scored her first goal in soccer.

Maggie S. in Grade 4 won a trophy in Karate.

Connor M. in grade 5 ran his first 5K road race on September 9, 2008. He placed 3rd in his age group.

One day, Paul Allen in Grade 1 was at school and his mom came to pick him up. She left his Poppie (his grandfather) in the car. When they returned he was gone. He had wandered off. They saw a police car and Paul told his mom to ask him for help finding his Poppie. The police man said yes and found him. Paul's mom said it was a great idea to ask the police man for help.

Ashlyn F.

Interview: Seminararian Eddy

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. Guatemala

Q. What was it like growing up in Guatemala?

A. My childhood was sane. My family did not have a lot but we were happy.

Q. Describe your previous education.

A. I attended grammar and high school in Guatemala then I went to college at Vinney Seminary College.

Q. Describe your family.

A. I had a very small family. I have one brother that lives in Utah, a sister who lives in California, and my parents still live in Guatemala.

Q. How did your family react when you told them you told wanted to be a priest?

A. It was like a bombshell for my mom, but now she is blessed to have a priest son. my father was always supportive.

Q. How did living in Guatemala affect your decision to become a priest?

A. I felt sorry because of the lack of money.

Q. When did you start thinking about entering the priesthood?

A. It got in my head when I was about 7 years old.

Q. When do you expect to be ordained.

A. In the next four years.

Q. What brought you to St. Pius X?

A. The bishop sent me here but I like everyone here.

Nate Ellis

St. Pius X Students Published in the Diocese Newspaper, "RICatholic"!

Here's their letter:

Dear Readers,

We are writing this letter addressing the purpose of Veteran's Day and why we celebrate this important holiday. Here at St. Pius X we are grateful not only to be able to pledge allegiance to the flag every day but also because we have the freedom to pray and express our faith openly. We know that this right is given to us at the hands of the service of our veterans. They put their lives on the line to give us the freedom to be who we want to be in this free country of America. We can't imagine the sacrifices they have made to give us freedom, and we should all be grateful for everything they have done. Here at St. Pius we know that Veteran's Day is more than just a day off from school, it is a day to honor these brave men and women.



We know that these veterans have seen it all, done it all, and suffered for our right to be free and protect this country that we love. The veterans and families of all who serve our country will be in our prayers and thoughts not only through this special holiday, but throughout our whole year.

Sincerely,

Student Council, St. Pius X School

Nicole Corneau

Katie Boegler

Sarah Lennon

Tina Pearson

Ashlyn Farrel

Sarah Phillips

Rachel Phelps



Blood Drive Thank You

St. Pius X School would like to thank all those that gave blood on Monday September 29. Sixty-nine lives were saved from your generous donations. Again, thank you very much!! *Mary B.*
