
ST. ELIZABETH NEWS

February 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

Tuition is due on the 5th of every month. If your tuition becomes 20 days past due your child(ren) will not be allowed to return to school until this has been brought current.

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

- February 2 – Language Arts Teachers Mtg. @ 3:30 pm
- February 5 – Principals Mtg. @ St. Marks
- February 9 – Coordinators Mtg. @ 3:30 pm
- February 9 – Advisory Council Mtg. @ 6 pm
- February 10 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9 am
- February 11 – Math Teachers Mtg. @ 3:30 pm
- February 12 – Class Picture Day
- February 12 – Faculty Mtg. @ 3:30 pm, NO TUTORIALS

- February 14 – Confirmation Rehearsal and Retreat @ 9 am – 12 noon
- February 17 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9 am
- February 19 – 8th Grade Snack Sale
- February 22 – Confirmation Mass @ 12 noon, Reception following
- February 24 – Tuesday Tours for Prospective Families @ 9 am
- February 25 – Ash Wednesday, 8 am Mass
- February 26 – February Monthly Breakfast Fundraiser
- February 26 – Buck-a-Jean Day
- February 26 – Third Quarter Progress Reports
- February 26 – Registration for the 2009-2010 school year begins
- March 2-3 – Principals Retreat
- March 5 – Faculty Mtg. @ 3:30 pm, NO TUTORIALS

FROM CHRISTINA CLEM, PRINCIPAL

I wish to thank everyone who helped to make this year's Catholic Schools Week the best ever! It was evident throughout the entire week that the theme was "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." I appreciate so much the help of our faculty and staff to make the Spaghetti Dinner and Recognition Assembly a great success. I also appreciate everyone's team effort in making all of the week's activities run so smoothly with special thanks to Mrs. Belcher and Mrs. Kuterbach for coordinating the Opening Liturgy on Sunday, Mrs. Connelly and Josh Clem for coordinating the dinner, Mrs. Kuterbach for creating the awesome PowerPoint video, Lucy Diaz for the beautiful recognition bouquets from Bella Flora Florist, Mrs. Price for coordinating the school spelling bees, Mrs. Robb for coordinating the field trips and the Science Fair, Mrs. Hickey and the fifth grade parents for coordinating the Science Night Dinner, Mrs. Barrientos and Mrs. Robb for coordinating the Carline Cocoa, our 7th graders for doing a superb job with the morning carline patrol and carline cocoa, Mrs. McClure and Mrs. Clack and our second graders for coordinating Friday's liturgy, Mrs. Kuterbach for coordinating the handbell presentations, our 8th graders for their help with the younger students, Coach Clack for coordinating the Faculty/8th Grade Volleyball Game, all the classes that completed an additional service project this week, and the many other individuals who stepped up to help whenever and wherever needed! Our St. E. scholars were all truly outstanding in the Spelling and Science Fair competitions, and it was so rewarding to hear the

cheers of students excited about their academic endeavors!

During the CSW Recognition Assembly, the following individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions to St. Elizabeth School over the past year(s):

The Guadalupanas, Angie & Liz Gutierrez, Dana & Joshua Choate, Diane Dooley, Daryl Good, Angel Tucker, Bea Brown, Mariva McDaniels, Jesus Corona, Marybeth Jones, Debbie Gleason, Susan & Dennis Vrana, Pati & Jacinto Reyes, Don Gamble, Tina Goegel, Michele Mills, Sheri Edelman.

I also want to take this opportunity to give an EXTRA BIG THANK YOU from the Family Volunteer Organization to all of the individuals who donated items, money, and time to make January's breakfast fundraiser possible! We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our teachers, staff, students, Advisory Council members, 8th grade parents, and the breakfast squad regulars from many classes who immediately pitched in when asked for help!

Many thanks, once again, to the Reyes family and the Grounds and Facilities Committee for the ongoing work which is being done to level out and improve our athletic field!

We would like to congratulate our spelling bee winners, Jeffery Cervenka, who represented St. Elizabeth School at the Diocesan Spelling Bee, along with Dallas Swayzer, first runner up! Congratulations also to the winners of the Pre-Intermediate Spelling Bee, Sydney Swayzer, first place, and Antonio Barrientos, runner up! Keep up the fantastic work!

Please pray for our 8th Grade Students who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on February 22 and our 2nd graders who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation on March 7th

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year will begin on February 26th. Please look for the registration packet and additional information about our school which will be sent home in the Thursday communication envelope later this month.

We are all so blessed here at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School to be part of such an awesome community! Let us continue to pray for one another and for the intentions of our school community!

Congratulations and Kudos!!!!!!

2008-2009

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Sheri Edelman

Mrs. Michele Mills

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Beth Belcher

FROM BETH BELCHER, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings! I hope that you will all join me in congratulating our principal, Christina Clem, for her reception of the Work of the Heart award given to her at the opening of Catholic School's Week Mass, by Ed Schaffer of the Catholic Foundation. It was certainly an appropriate forum to receive such a distinguished award. Christina gives her heart to our school and it is only fitting that she should be honored in front of the entire school/parish community. Congratulations, Christina!!

The liturgical season of Ordinary Time which we have been in since Epiphany, reminds us that we are growing in the love of the Lord as we prepare for the next holy season of Lent. King cakes are a popular way to celebrate this time. They commemorate the three Kings journey to find the Christ Child, and that is why the baby is hidden in the King cake. They took a circuitous route to find Jesus and then to back to their home by another route. Tuesday, February 24 is Mardi Gras and Wednesday, February 25, is Ash Wednesday. Though Ash Wednesday is not a holy day, we will celebrate Mass at 8:00 a.m. as a school community and invite any and all parents to join us. Ashes will be distributed.

Please keep the 8th graders in your prayers as they continue to prepare for Confirmation. They will be going on a parish-sponsored rehearsal/retreat Saturday, February 14 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Confirmation will take place on Sunday, February 22 at the 12:00 noon Mass. We invite the entire school community to witness this beautiful sacrament. The second graders will be celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation in March. Please remember them as they prepare for the second sacrament of initiation.

Thanks to all of the 7th and 8th graders who are participating in the morning carline. The cars are moving faster. Mr. Dettmer and Mrs. Connelly are the supervisors of the students. They are doing a wonderful job!

ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

At the Back to School night in September, Pati Reyes presented the school with a check for \$15,726.00 from the Endowment Fund to be used for tuition assistance. Many families have been helped through this gift to St. Elizabeth School, for which we are all most grateful. I urge everyone to continue to support the fundraising

efforts of the Endowment Board for the benefit of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Parent Annual Giving Drive Update: Did you know that the \$34,620.00 donated to this year's Development Drive has come from a mere **10%** of the 232 St. Elizabeth families? We are challenging the remaining 90% of you out there to join this lonely, yet supportive group by making a pledge at whatever level is possible for your family. Whether you donate \$5.00 or \$5,000.00, every gift is greatly appreciated and goes right back to your children.

Please keep in mind that you do not have to submit a check at the time you send in your pledge card. You will have until May 1, 2009 to make your contribution.

Thank you to the families who have made their pledges, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Aguilar Family, Bagayna Family, Belew Family, Bianco Family, BNSF Foundation, Burciaga Family, Byrd Family, Cervenka Family, Clem Family, Dooley Family, Edlmann Family, Goegel Family, Hayes Family, Kral Family, Lauer/Phillips Family, McVean Family, Salters Family, Schmitz/Franklin Family, Stratton Family, Swayzer Family, Ventura Family, Vrana Family, Walkley Family, West Family.

Magazine/Gift Drive News – Many of you may have received renewal notices from the publisher of the magazine you ordered during the magazine/gift drive. Please **DO NOT** use those notices to renew your magazines as St. Elizabeth School will not receive credit for your subscription. Please renew either online at QSP.com, using the St. Elizabeth account number **710333281** or contact QSP's customer service at 1-800-678-2673.

Thank You to the Goza Family (Madison in PK4) for their generous donation of a Provo Craft Cricut Expression Cutting Machine, cutting mats, card stock paper, cartridges, toolkit and extra blades. Our teachers are thrilled about the endless possibilities this machine will offer for classroom decor!

ST. ELIZABETH ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Our February meeting dates will be on Tuesday, February 10th and February 24th. Meetings are always on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. In January, the kids learned how to make homemade surface cleaners that are non toxic, cheap and always ready to use. After we made simple surface cleaners, the club donated the cleaners to the school!

Environmental Tip – FIND THE HIDDEN TOXINS

Just because you buy something at a store does not mean it is safe. There are a surprising amount of toxins

in your home from oven cleaners to personal care products. There are many inexpensive, easy to use natural alternatives that you can substitute for commercial chemical products. Some items are: Simple surface cleaner – 1 c. water and 1 c. vinegar; this is a useful mixture to wipe down kitchen surfaces without the need for rinsing. Use herbal products that act as repellants or cedar chips or cedar oil instead of mothballs (made from 100% paradichlorobenzene – which is harmful to your liver and kidneys).

Natural Stain Remover – ½ c water, 1 tbsp. natural dish soap, 1 tbsp. vegetable glycerin – mix; rub well into stain and wash clothes.

Hope this is helpful! Have a great month!

MONTHLY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Our next breakfast will be Thursday, February 26th sponsored by the 1st grade class. Please join us and have breakfast with your student and the school community.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

We are approaching the end of our basketball season and only have two weeks of hosting games left. We will have games in our gym on Feb. 21st and Feb. 28th, so if you are interested in working the concession stand and earning volunteer hours please contact Diane Dooley for the schedule. Baseball/Softball registration forms went home last week and are due back by Feb. 24th. We will have a field prep day this Sunday (February 15th) to start the process of getting the field ready for the upcoming season. Anyone interested in helping with the field and earning some volunteer hours in the process is welcome to attend. Rakes, shovels, and eager volunteers are needed. Hope to see you Sunday. 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 February. Happy Birthday to

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Hannah Johnson | Christopher Pena |
| Angela de la Llana | Curtis Walkley |
| Arturo Pozo | Marcella Barrilleaux |
| Michael Green | Mark Hernandez |
| Abel Hernandez | Kathleen Marquez |
| Nazario Cavazos | Morgan Williams |
| Carrington Rodriguez | Regina Kier |
| Gabrielle Jones | Josef Barrilleaux |
| Amber Houston | Emily Alva |
| Henry Crone | Andrew Lopez |
| Chuck Belcher | Audrey Blackburn |
| Alexandra Solano | Morgan Walker |
| Harrison Cruz | Dustin Bagayna |

TEACHERS’ NOTES

Mrs. Strunk & Mrs. Mendez – Pre-Kindergarten

January was a very special month because of Catholic Schools Week. A fun time was had by all. The children really enjoyed the pajamas and a movie day.

During February we will continue Learning about “Things that go”. We are working on beginning sounds and ending sounds. We have be comparing and contrasting the “Gingerbread Man Story”. The children have had fun acting it out. We will finish by decorating a Gingerbread Man.

We will be sequencing and working with numbers 1 – 15. We are measuring different types of objects using paper clips. We will also be weighing different objects.

We are finishing up with the Solar System and will begin discussing the 7 continents at Science. In Social Studies we will learn about some different types of customs from around the world.

Jesus’ life is what we will be talking about in Religion. Ash Wednesday begins on February 25, 2009. We will be discussing this too and getting ready for the season of lent.

PRE-K does a Valentine’s Exchange. The children bring 20 valentines; one for each student. They only need to sign their name on the back, put it in the envelope and bring to school. The children will then put a valentine into each child’s valentine box.

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

It was great to see so many of you during Catholic School’s Week activities! We are sure you are proud of all the work you saw in the classroom at open house. As you can see, we have been very busy! This month we continue to work just as hard! Be sure to thank Mrs. Baez, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Gonzales, Mrs. Bagayna, Mrs. LaCaze, and Mrs. Torres for all their help with reading groups. The children have greatly benefited from their hard work and dedication.

Language Arts

The children are reading so well!!! Decodable books are now being sent home daily (these are the small paper back books). Please be sure to sign the reading log nightly after reading with your child. The reading log needs to stay in your child’s daily folder. We continue to write in our journals using inventive spelling. Help your children with spelling by helping them sound out words and writing what they hear. Students will also write their page for their class Student Treasure Class Book. (This is a hard cover book published by a publishing company. Each student has an opportunity to buy their class book.)

Math

We have begun a new subtraction unit. This skill can easily be reinforced at home using any type of household manipulative. We are learning to use the correct mathematical terms such as: minus, subtract, and equals.

Religion

The children are making a time line book including many of the important events of Jesus’ life. Their

drawings are beautiful and books will come home upon their completion.

Social Studies

We will begin a new unit covering the seven continents including a tea party, murals, and other class projects.

We are looking so forward to the 100th day of school celebration and seeing the projects that the students have made. They are always so creative! We will also pass out Valentines to each other on Friday, Feb. 13th.

Don't forget to congratulate Ms. Martinez for her Teacher's Work of Heart award! She comes in often on her days off just to help out, she really deserved this award!

Dates to remember:

Feb. 26 Buck-a-jean Day/ Progress Reports

Mrs. Fabian – 1A and Mrs. Patton – 1B

We have another busy month ahead of us in first grade. Some important dates to remember:

February 7th – 1A Mass - they did a great job!!!

February 12th - Class Pictures – Wear Mass Uniform that day

February 13th - 1B Mass - Good Luck

February 13th - Valentine Card exchange

February 26th - First Grade will host the Monthly Breakfast. Please check with the Room Moms to see what they need.

February 25th - Ash Wednesday – Mass at 8 am

Tutoring is on Monday's & Wednesday's – 3:30-4:00 (we will email if we have a meeting)

Language Arts – The letter /j/ spelled ge and gi.

Introduce the long /e/ spelled e, e_e, ee, ea, _y, and _ie_. The long /a/ spelled ai_ and _ay. The long /i/ spelled ign. Review of rhyming words. Long vowels followed by r (fire, cure, more). The rule of y: change to i and add es (ies) and words that end with ied. Read every night with your student for at least 20 minutes.

Religion – We will finish Parables and Miracles that Jesus performed followed by a test before Ash Wednesday. At the end of the month we will talk about what Ash Wednesday is and how we need to prepare ourselves during the Lenten season.

Math - Finish Chapter 5 – counting by 2's, 5's, 10's, even and odd numbers. We will have the Chapter test on February 12. We will then start to learn about money and time. Practice with your students their math facts at home every night.

English – For the month we will be writing our Class Treasure Book. Watch for information regarding the purchase of these books. We will be reviewing homophones and how to write a complete sentence for the month.

Science – On February 16th we will have the test on Sunlight, Water, and Soil. For the rest of the month we will start a new unit on Animals and Their Habitats.

Social Studies – February is Black History month so we will learn about famous black inventors and people who have made a difference in others lives. And at the end of the month we will learn some interesting facts about our past Presidents.

Guidance/Health – The Dallas Fire Department will be helping us with a program called Risk Watch. The DFD came in on February 6th and gave the 1st and 2nd graders their pre test before the program starts. A letter was sent home in your students Thursday folder explaining the program.

Mrs. McClure – 2A and Mrs. Clack – 2B

Religion: We will continue to practice for reconciliation. We will read and discuss the miracles and Parables of Jesus (a parable is a short imaginary story told to learn about God and the way to heaven). Please be looking for information about First Reconciliation information at the end of this month.

Social Studies: We will continue to study and identify the contributions of Black Americans who have influenced our nation. We will have a quiz on these Famous Black Americans (packet went home last week). The Famous Black American Project and quiz will be all on February 27, 2009.

Math: Our little sweethearts will be deciding between "exact" and "estimations". We will continue to work on problem solving and building charts based on these problems. For the remainder of the month of X's and O's, we will be working on geometry. All X's and O's in Math during this lovely month. ☺

Language Arts: We will continue to write in our daily journals. We will be picking our favorite piece that we have written and we will begin working on our class book that we will be submitting to be published and featured later this year. Please be looking for the information in the yellow packets to purchase your own copy. These will be coming out pretty soon! We will also continue to work on Shurley Method as well. WOOOHOOO!!!! I feel the love this month~ ☺

Science: We will continue to work physics. We will have a test during the month of February so be looking for those dates. We have just finished discussing the

topic of “gravity” as an invisible force and will move on. The topic of “Force” will be our main focus for a while as we begin to discuss the wheels and axles. We even have the opportunity to build a candy and index card car. WHOOHOOO, we are going to be having sooooo much fun this month in science. ☺
Reminder: Please remember parents that it is very important to make sure that we are staying on top of reading and practicing our math facts. We hope you have a wonderful month of February filled with many warm fuzzies!

Ms. Bright – 3A and Mrs. Price – 3B

Happy February/Valentine’s Day

We are spending a lot of time reviewing concepts learned in English grammar and Reading for our Student Treasure books. These will be individually written and will be a compilation of the various genres that have been learned this year. We are having fun writing them and learning more in the process, too. We have now begun our Reading Counts program, too, for Reading! It is important for you to be encouraging your child to read his/her selected book as the tests will be taken every 2 weeks or so and this will dramatically improve their reading/comprehension skills!

In Religion we have been and will continue to discuss Jesus’ public life as we study the miracles and parables. In Science we are learning so much about elements and atoms; this is such a wonderful unit and has been touched on in Math and health, as well. In Social Studies we are finishing up learning about communities and where they are located and how the climate determines many things for a community. In Math we have made great progress with multiplication and even learned to do some multiplication artwork!

This month we will finish our Student Treasure books (they go to the publisher at the very beginning of March); be watching for information to come home regarding orders of extra copies (each student receives his/her original for free beginning in 3rd grade). In reading we will work a lot on comprehension (fact/opinion, sequencing, inference, etc.). For spelling/phonics we will concentrate on long /u/, a review of all long vowel sounds, and words with double consonants. In science we will move on to a unit on physics and in social studies we will begin discussing the use of an atlas, maps and landforms. Information will be coming soon for a project we will do in social studies on maps. We will continue with our discussion of Jesus’ public life and begin discussing the Ten Commandments in religion. We are moving on to division in math; please continue to have your child practice the multiplication facts as this will make division easier for them.

Mrs. Schmitz – 4A

Religion

We have been working on our Beatitudes. We just finished making a Beatitudes booklet and taking our test over them. We are going to begin discussing the Ten Commandments in detail. We will focus on the first three commandments first. These commandments deal with our relationship with God.

Math

Wow, what about these students! We have just finished up working our division unit. We are now learning order of operations and finding the mean or average of numbers. We will continue to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and all other concepts throughout the remainder of the year. We are beginning to work on measurements and time once we finish learning about mean.

The 4th graders are also getting faster at completing their mad minutes. Our goal is 100 problems in 5 minutes!

Science

We finished the Science Fair projects with great success. We are now finishing up our unit on plants. We have been discussing how plants grow and reproduce. We discussed the different parts of a plant and why scientists would want to artificially reproduce plants.

Our next topic of discussion in Science will be cycles in nature which includes the water cycle, and life cycles.

Social Studies

We have been discussing early explorers and reasons why the French and Spanish would want to explore Texas. We also discussed the purpose of presidios and missions. We looked at time lines and how they are used. Hopefully they had fun putting together a time line of their own life. We are wrapping up chapter 4 and then we will begin discussing colonies and the desire for independence. This will lead to learning about the people and details of the Alamo. I will be sending home parent permission slips for the students to be able to watch the Alamo when the time comes.

ELA

We just finished reading Gone Away Lake in Reading. We will now begin reading the novel Watson’s go to Birmingham. We are still finishing up our Treasure books in class. Everyone has finished their wishes, now it is a matter of making final adjustments and making the beautiful pages for our books. We are going to be writing a research paper this quarter in ELA. Students will be given details soon. They will have to research their topics, provide source

information, and write good paragraphs of their findings. Hopefully this will be a fun learning experience for them.

Ms. Hickey – 5A

We made it through the Science Fair! I want to thank all of my 5th grade parents for all of their help with the Science Fair dinner – your donations of food and time were much appreciated! We raised enough money to hire the charter buses for our trip to the Pines! Congratulations to all of you – and thank you especially to Mrs. Brown for your help coordinating everyone!

English: This month we will be working on our Treasure Books and completing lessons 15-18 in spelling. We've been doing rough drafts of short poems and will be creating our Treasure Books around them by the end of this month.

Reading: We've begun reading "A Family Apart" and will continue the book through this month. We will build vocabulary as we read – please provide your child with notecards, as they can make studying for the vocabulary tests easier.

Science: We'll be covering Chapters 7 & 8 this month. Chapter 7 is all about weathering and soil formation, Chapter 8 is about erosion and deposition. We'll have a test at the end of the month over both chapters.

Mr. Barta – 5B

Math

This month 5th grade will be adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Toward the end of the month we should begin multiplying fractions.

Social Studies

This month we will study the Revolutionary War from the British invasion of New York in 1776, to the British surrender in Yorktown in 1781, and the eventual Treaty of Paris in 1783. Next we will cover the circumstances that lead to the calling of the Constitutional Convention, and the writing of the Constitution, as well.

Religion

This month we will learn the true use of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for the healing and edification of the very sick. After that we will study the Sacrament of Matrimony as a God-ordained instrument of sharing His love with humanity and growing the Body of Christ on the earth.

Mrs. Belcher – MS Religion

8th Grade

The eighth graders have made huge strides in spirituality during this past semester. I expect that they will do good things in high school and that you will continue to be proud of them. As our preparation for Confirmation comes to a close I remind you that all students will be graded on the following activities: Confirmation rehearsal/retreat on Saturday, February 14 from 9 – 12 noon, and Confirmation on Sunday, February 22 at the 12 noon Mass. I have reserved seating for your students and I ask that they arrive in their Sunday best. The students will continue to work on their Student Treasure books, which are their 8th grade year books. We will finish these and send them out with the rest of the school by March 7. Beginning in March we will begin Church History.

7th Grade

The seventh graders have been working on apostle information, and all did a great job on their WANTED posters! We will continue our study of the sacraments. Their Sacraments of Initiation booklets are due on Thursday, March 5. Our perpetual study of Scripture will continue with the Parables of Jesus.

6th Grade

The 6th grade is learning about how God inserted Himself in salvation history and how our spiritual ancestors were faithful, how the Hebrews settled in Egypt and how they finally got out with the help of God and Moses. The students have been making a 'family tree' of the patriarch and have seen Joseph (with his colorful coat) as a precursor to Jesus.

All of Middle School have a Current Event, using an Internet resource, due Wednesday, February 18. They must use the forms which have been provided. Some students are not receiving full credit since they are missing questions if they are not using the forms provided. Please email me at bbelcher@stelizabethofh.org if you would like for me to send you an updated copy. Thanks so much!

Mrs. Powell - MS Social Studies

6th Grade

We have finally finished mummifying our "Pharaoh Hens." They came out great! They decorated them with jewels, anointed them with oil and seasoning, all while listening to Egyptian music. We had a great time. I will be sending pictures home of each group's finished project. For the month of February the students will be publishing their own Student Treasure Books. Each student has chosen a historical topic to write and illustrate in their books.

7th Grade

The students did awesome on their Multimedia Projects over the Texas Revolution. I enjoyed watching them. Thanks to all of the parents who helped in coordinating the times for the kids to get together and tape. During the month of February, we will be studying chapter 8 and chapter 9 in our book. Chapter 8 deals with the outcome of the Texas Revolution and their major victory at San Jacinto. Chapter 9 deals with the setting up of The Republic of Texas: 1836-1845.

8th Grade

In the month of February the students will be studying chapter 8 and 9. Chapter 8 deals with government, citizenship, and the Constitution. We will be learning about the goals and principles of the Constitution, how the government is divided into three branches and the checks and balances of them, the amendment process, the role that state and local governments play in our daily lives, and how being an American citizen brings both rights and responsibilities. In chapter 9, we will be discussing the launching of a new government in 1789-1800. This includes the forming of the two political parties: Democratic Republicans and the Federalist. We also will be discussing President John Adams' policies.

Mrs. Robb – MS Science

Congratulations to all of the science fair winners this year. The students did a great job. I am still grading all of the projects. It is a slow process. Science Articles due this month on the 18th.

6th Grade

Students are currently studying Chapter 9, Motion and Acceleration. Next we will cover Chapter 10, Forces and Chapter 12, Work and Machines. Students will make a simple machines portfolio for chapter 12.

7th Grade

We are finishing up Modern Genetics. Next, we start unit 2 which includes bacteria, viruses, protists, fungi and then plants.

8th Grade

We have moved into our 2nd book of the year, "Animals." Students will be comparing the anatomy of various animals with the anatomy of the human previously studied.

Mr. Dettmer – MS Math

Sixth grade will finish fractions and then for a change of pace do the chapter on geometry. Seventh grade will be doing percents. Algebra classes, one will be working on quadratics and the other will be solving systems of linear equations.

Ms. Johnson – MS English/Literature

6th Grade English—We are in our last unit of grammar, Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections, before we begin the research paper. The test is scheduled for February 18. The research paper will be done mostly in class, taking approximately eight weeks. The topic and supplies (new folder, paper, lined white note cards, note card box) are due in class February 18. Spelling for February includes lessons 20, 21, 22, and 23.

6th Grade Literature—Our most recent novel, Johnny Tremain, includes very interesting vocabulary words...we learned what was once acceptable language is now considered unacceptable slang. This historical novel will take us through the Revolutionary War as viewed by a fourteen year old boy. We will meet several historical figures such as John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and Joseph Warren. We will complete the usual vocabulary and comprehension questions as well as memorize a poem, design a poster, and follow Paul Revere's ride on a map. The next AR test is due by February 18.

8th Grade English—We will be studying verbs (our longest unit) all month. This will include action, linking, helping, principal parts (regular and irregular), six tenses, active, passive, troublesome, agreement, gerunds, and infinitives. The test is scheduled for February 24. Spelling for February includes lessons 19, 20, 21, and 22.

A/B honor roll for 8A are: Marisa Adame, Kathy Garner, Christina Kral, and Brianna Perrin. Congratulations!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your kind thoughts and faithful prayers. Please continue praying for my recovery as well as my family.

Mrs. Borth – MS Literature/English

7th Grade ELA

Our Science/ELA Research Papers are finally finished. So many students took advantage of being able to make corrections and resubmit their paper. Well done! We are currently reading and watching Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare. In preparing for this, Dr. Ferguson was kind enough to share her wisdom and her time with us. We all learned a lot – thank you, Dr. Ferguson.

8th Grade Literature

We are currently finishing The Crucible by Arthur Miller and are working on our essay. Our test over The Crucible will be February 13th. We will continue with our vocabulary every two weeks, and we will continue to create power points to accompany each lesson.

Next, we will compare and contrast specific fairy tales – I have copies of the ones they will need.

Please continue to check my website for handouts and important dates.

Mrs. Barrientos – Pre-K-8th Grade Spanish

Pre-K: We continue to concentrate with colors, but we are also learning to count, the days of the week, greetings, and body parts. We do all of this with songs and body movements.

Kinder: We are now on our letter “P” in our phonics mini books, but we also do many other fun stuff. We are working on our shapes, cutting and pasting as we call out the shape name in Spanish. We will do four shapes only cuadrado, rectangulo, triangulo and circulo.

1st Grade - We have finished our unit on shapes and moving on to clothing. We will learn some articles of clothing as well as shoes, boots and sandals. This is in addition to our Spanish basics that we do every time we come to Spanish.

2nd Grade - We had fun with occupations and voicing what we want to be when we grow up. We are now moving on to transportation. We will then distinguish which ones have wheels, which ones fly, which ones go on water and which ones we can ride on land. We will use the colors to describe them and start making distinctions in gender to give it the right description.

3rd Grade - We did great on our pet’s descriptions. We all enjoyed it. We are finishing up our farm animals unit and will move on to sea animals. I am going to go back and review AR verbs and introduce ER verbs to combine them with this unit.

4th Grade - Lesson 3: Reading a calendar, places we visit, the verb IR = to go (voy, vas and va), preposition “a” (a la and al).

5th Grade - Lesson 5: Seasons and the information we have learned on weather combined together to ask and answer questions in complete sentences. We will then shift to the verb GUSTAR, TO LIKE and combine other AR verbs that we have learned.

6th Grade - Cardinal numbers was a breeze, but I do not know if I can say the same as writing the steps to a recipe. Saying time in Spanish is getting better! To the exact hour, time after and time till. We will do our workbook exercises and will practice orally in class. At the end they will write “A day in the life of _____..... In which they will say what they do from the time they wake up until they go to bed.

7th Grade – (Translating a Spanish book into English, we can’t do that). The students did a great job and enjoyed the readings in Spanish and English.

Preposition “A” indicating direction, “A” indicating which person is the direct object of the verb (worksheet).

8th Grade - We are giving directions from our house to the school! How are we going to do that in English? No, all in ESPANOL! They used prepositions to give directions as well as naming at least 10 big places that they encounter on their way to school. We are moving on to **preposition “A” – omission when used after a verb and before an infinitive that completed the thought.**

Mrs. Connelly – Library/PK-3 Computer

Library News

February is a short month but quite a busy month in the library. During the month of February, the library celebrates Groundhog Day, Chinese New Year (the year of the Ox), Presidents’ Day, Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras, and Black History Month. Kindergarten and 1st Grade students will check out library books for reading at home. February, also known as Library Lovers Book Month, will feature book displays presenting new books for reading enjoyment.

This past month library students celebrated New Year 2009 and Catholic Schools Week. Students used library resources for science fair projects and enjoyed fairy tales, fables, tall tales and legends. Besides checking out library books for Reading Counts and AR tests, circulation has been lively with students checking out books for reading pleasure.

Important Notice: All Six Flags Reading Logs are due to homeroom teachers no later than Tuesday, February 24. It is important to return the reading logs by the deadline – **no late reading logs will be accepted after that date.** Participation in the 6 hour reading program rewards students with a free Six Flags Ticket. This great program gives kids an opportunity to receive a free coupon for summer fun. If any student needs another reading log, please contact his/her homeroom teacher for a replacement.

PK-3rd Grade Technology

PK students practice their mouse techniques on such sites as switchzoo.com. In February PK students will be introduced to beginning keyboard. 1st-3rd grade students have been working very hard improving their keyboarding skills; many students have reached levels 2, 3, and 4 on the “dance mat typing” typing program.

If at all possible, I encourage all students to practice computer skills at home, especially keyboarding. The

more students familiarize themselves with the keyboard the more success they will have in class.

St. Elizabeth technology students rock!

Mrs. Kuterbach – Music

Let me begin by paying compliments to all of the wonderful cantors we have had for our student masses this year. I would especially like to thank the singer that came to the CSW Sunday mass and sang so beautifully. Thank you to our 8th grade handbell players for a beautiful job at mass and at the spaghetti dinner. An awesome job from these musicians!

The 6th grade has done a brief introduction of Music of the Holocaust to go along with their studies in English. The 7th grade is focusing on opera and music of the Renaissance to enhance their learning of Shakespeare. The 8th is taking a break from the handbells and reading articles from the *Music Alive! Magazine*. Kinder through 5th grades are taking a closer look at the music of America's heritage.

February has begun with the composer William Grant Still. Our composer study this month will introduce us to other composers such as Scott Joplin and his wonderful ragtime music for piano.

As always thank you for your support of the fine arts program at St. Elizabeth.

Ms. Cekosky – Art

Happy Valentine's Day!!!

In art class, we will be doing lots of things for Valentines. Each class through 5th grade will be bringing something home for that holiday. Middle School classes are studying proportion, and most will get a chance to paint or use some other fun medium.

Thank you so much to families who have sent extra art supplies to the art room. It is greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Stepniewski – 4th – 8th Grade Computer

This month concludes the 8th grade computer hardware project. If their computer still works after they have taken it apart and rebuilt it, they will have succeeded.

Thanks to a suggestion by our 5th grader, Hank Blackburn, we are using the MIT programming language "Scratch" in many of our classes. The students learn sequencing: thinking systematically, iteration: looping, conditional statements: if and if-else, variables, boolean logic, to name a few concepts all while having a great time manipulating their 'sprites'.

The Tech Club and Library are hosting **Teen Tech Week** March 8-14, 2009. As in the past, there will be a variety of contests on various days during the week, such as a movie contest, type-off, pinball, and Guitar Hero. Look for flyers and announcements about the upcoming event. Any adults who want to participate are asked to email mstepniewski@stelizabethofh.org or mconnelly@stelizabethofh.org. Your input and help would be greatly appreciated.

As always, all students should practice the keyboarding drill at every opportunity, *Azaqxsxwddcdefvfrgbgthnhymjuk,kil.lo;/;p*, while using the correct fingering.

Mr. Clack – P.E.

The 6th-8th grades have turned in their first food journal this week. The students will use these to track the calories they eat each day and help them to build healthy eating habits. We will continue with the fitness and nutrition sections of PE this month. PE uniforms are required for each class period for the 4th-8th grades. Students will receive a maximum grade of 70% each class they do not bring their clothes. Please help your student to remember their PE bags for class.

Super Fun Science

SuperFunScience.com bridges the gap between the classroom and the home in a fun way by allowing students to learn more about science from their own home computer.

Parents now have a route they can use to teach their kids science, while children are pleased to learn that the subject has a place in the everyday things they do and see. There is a strong emphasis on learning science together as a family which is a relief for parents who do not excel in science subjects but want to support their child's science education.

When kids access the website, they can choose from a range of science topics such as astronomy or biology. They can visit the technology section or watch a video featuring the Super Fun Science Feline Assistants for some fun information.

The sections aim to teach kids science in a way that is easy to understand while still covering the important areas.

Students can also participate in message boards, where topics such as the color of milk are covered. Kids can ask questions and have them answered on the message boards.

Because the site is focused on teaching kids, it also has a commitment to school districts. A fundraiser called the Thank You Dollars Program for districts is built into the website.

Failure Is Just the Beginning

The late and great country singer Johnny Cash is quoted as saying "You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space."

Following Cash's advice can reveal that for most of us, failure is just the beginning on the road to success.

We have all watched our children learn to ride a bicycle. After many repeated attempts and often scraped knees, they can finally stay upright and ride on their own, and they soon forget their many painful failures. Our job through all of this has been to give them a helping hand in support and encourage them to get up on the bike again even as they are crying that they just want to go home. The most important lesson that they learn when they finally break through is that failure is just another part of learning.

As our children go through school, they may often face similar situations with a particular class or subject. Sometimes we can see them stall as they get frustrated with a concept or idea that they just don't understand. A gentle nudge from a parent or teacher can often be enough to break the stalemate and allow them to move forward. But sometimes they get stuck because they have a fear of failure.

That is a particularly dangerous situation for any child because it may mean that he or she will fail to take advantage of an opportunity. If the fear is allowed to remain, the child may get stuck for a long time. There are countless stories of people who managed to overcome this fear of failure to go on to great success. But there are millions of other children who become so afraid that they don't even finish school, or they find themselves in dead-end jobs because they were just too afraid of failing to even try.

Our job as parents and teachers is to help our children overcome this fear of failure and to let them know that it's okay to make mistakes, but it's never okay to stop trying. It's our job, too, to remind them that we can also learn from success as well as failure. Norman Vincent Peale once said "We've all heard that we have to learn from our mistakes, but I think it's more important to learn from successes. If you learn only from your mistakes, you are inclined to learn only errors."

Every success, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, should be acknowledged and celebrated. Success really does breed more success, and any child who receives positive

reinforcement for a project completed or a job well done will learn that lesson early in life.

With this perspective, children have two ways to learn, not just from their painful mistakes, but also from their progressive successes.

Jump High for Better Bone Health

Skipping and jumping have been shown to improve bone health in adolescents. Researchers from the Bone, Muscle and Movement Group at the Griffith Institute of Health and Medical Research found that 10-minute, twice-a-week warm-ups with jumping prior to sports activities and physical education classes (for about eight months) significantly improved bone and muscle strength in healthy teenagers, when compared to regular warm-up sessions.

Eighty percent of bone mass is accrued during the first 20 years of life, especially around the time of puberty, due to circulating hormones, experts say. The warm-ups in the study included tuck jumps, star jumps (jumping jacks), side lunges, and skipping with gradually increased complexity and repetitions. Students worked up to about 300 jumps per session by the end of the study.

The findings were first published in the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*.

“Quotes to Quote”

The only thing that stands between a person and what they want in life is the will to try it and the faith to believe it possible.

--Rich Devos

There is more to life than increasing its speed.

--Mahatma Gandhi

Move out of your comfort zone. You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new.

--Brian Tracy

Be careful of the environment you choose, for it will shape you. Be careful of the friends you choose, for you will become like them.

--W. Clement Stone

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between political parties either, but through every human heart.

--Alexander Solzhenitsyn

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

--Marcel Proust

Money-giving is a good criterion of a person's mental health. Generous people are rarely mentally ill people.

--Dr. Karl Menninger

We aren't what we ought to be. We aren't what we're going to be. We aren't what we want to be, and we aren't what we will be. But thank God we aren't what we were.

--Anonymous

Believe in yourself, and there will come a day when others will have no choice but to believe with you.

--Cynthia Kersey