

MQPCS News Notes

March 30, 2010

Principal: Dr. Jan Lancaster
Assistant Principal: Susan Perry

Principal's News

Dear Parents,

During this most holy season of Lent, I have been discussing with the children the meaning of using their time, talent, and treasure to live their Catholic faith. I am so pleased to hear the responses...they are truly living their faith! While the focus is often sacrifice and "not eating meat on Friday," our children have been discussing how to treat others in a Christ-like way. They know the importance of putting others first and that it is up to each one of them to make a difference in the world. Catholic education is most important and I sincerely thank you for the privilege you have given our school in helping you raise your child in the image of Christ.

Recently, Fr. Ronnie, several faculty members, parents and I went to Washington, D.C. and New York with our seventh grade students. In reflecting upon the trip, I think what struck me the most was the way the students treated each other. In the spirit of our Catholic faith, the qualities of holiness, kindness, and respectfulness were constantly demonstrated by our students in all that we did; they worked together to get through an exciting, but exhausting,

educational experience. As parents and educators, we instill these qualities in our children, but I was fortunate to see firsthand how these young adults act when the virtues of our faith have been taught and instilled throughout childhood. Thank you, Seventh Grade...I am very proud to be associated with all of you!

Finally, I would just like to reiterate that, as a ministry of the church, our school's primary purpose is to instill the love of Christ in each child. With the involvement of our pastor, Fr. Ronnie, our students see firsthand how the leaders of the church do God's work. During Holy Week, I encourage all of you to talk to your children about activities and actions you can do as a family to live the ministry of our faith and make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jan Daniel Lancaster



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Easter Holidays
April. 2-11
- ◆ Field Day, PK-1st -
April 19
- ◆ Golf Tournament
April 30
- ◆ Co-Op Meeting
May 11
- ◆ Field Day, 2nd-7th -
May 17
- ◆ 7th Grade Graduation
May 18
- ◆ Honor Roll Awards
May 25
- ◆ Last Day of School
May 26

Pre-K3 News - Ms. Beth and Ms. Leanne

Wow! What an exciting year it has been so far. It is hard to believe that our end is near! We have been moving along with the letters of the alphabet. The students had a "perfect" time learning about the letter "P" and St. Patrick's Day. The students got to wear their pajamas to school, ate popcorn, and did lots of painting! What fun! As luck would have it, we even had a special visit from Lucky the Leprechaun to our classroom!

Pre-K 3 is so happy that spring is finally here! We have been discussing spring and all the wonderful things we see during this season of new life. The students created a splendid sunflower and a beautiful sunny day picture.

It was great to meet the students' grandparents/special friends. They were so proud to show off their art work and classroom. We made marble art frames with our picture for a special gift for our grandparents and special friends.

Easter is quickly approaching and we are looking forward to creating some special Easter eggs. We will also discuss that Easter is great celebration of Jesus' new life. We will also have lots of fun singing Easter songs and finger plays. We will also make a bunny head band. Be on the lookout, you might even see a bunny hopping to your car one afternoon!

In religion, we have been learning about God's wonderful world, and how we can help care for his fabulous creation. We discussed ways we can keep the world clean and take care of God's creatures. "Thank you God for creating our wonderful world. We honor you by taking care of your creation."

Ms. Leanne and I would like to thank everyone for all of their support this year. We couldn't do all of the fun things we do without your help! We feel blessed having the opportunity to be a part of your child's lives. It is going to be difficult letting these little angels move on! Watch out Pre-K 4, here we come!

Pre-K4 News - Ms. Kelly, Ms. Michelle, and Ms. Beth

In Pre-K so much has happened during our third quarter. We celebrated Catholic Schools Week and discussed why we love attending a great catholic school like Mary, Queen of Peace.

We enjoyed meeting and sharing family stories with all of our wonderful grandparents on Grandparent's Day. The grandparents enjoyed our special song. The students were so proud to present their grandparents with their special gifts. The grandparents especially enjoyed seeing how much their grandchildren enjoy learning with a short demonstration of our Smart Boards.

The students are moving right along learning their letters and numbers. We have just completed the letter "Ss" and the number 18. We learned about the life of St. Patrick. We celebrated his special day with a lot of special activities. We eagerly awaited a visit from Lucky, the leprechaun. Lucky left quite an impression by leaving a trail with his footprints and a few messy classroom tricks.

The students celebrated the great works of Dr. Seuss. The students made several clever "Dr. Seuss" crafts. They had a very special visit from Dr. Seuss where they listened to some of his super silly books. The students ended the week with a delicious green eggs and ham

breakfast. Most of the students really enjoyed their green eggs and ham –yummy.

In math, we have had a great time estimating, counting, sorting, and grouping items that go along with our weekly themes. We will continue to work on learning our number 1 to 20. We are beginning number 19 soon. Our students have done a fantastic job learning their birthdays. We will begin to learn our phone numbers and addresses in the fourth nine weeks.

In religion we will be discussing how God gives us new life. During the Lenten season we have focused on ways that we can strengthen our faith by becoming closer to God. We will be attending a field trip to the Landry Poche' Strawberry Farm in Holden, Louisiana in April to visit all of the beautiful and delicious plant gifts that God had created for us. The students will learn about the life cycle of plants and the important role they play in our lives.

The students have grown and learned so much this school year! It is so rewarding to see each student blossom as the school year continues and they prepare to move on to Kindergarten. Children are truly one of God's greatest gifts, and we feel so blessed to have the opportunity to teach them. God bless all of you and your families!

Kindergarten News - Ms. Betsy, Ms. Kim, and Ms. Leah

What a busy February and March we've had! We celebrated so many different things! In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, and we also had pancake and pajama day when learning the letter P! We also had a great time on the 100th day of school! We counted to 100 in many different ways, we made necklaces with 100 fruit loops, and we drew pictures of ourselves and what we will look like when we are 100 years old! We love being 100 days smarter! What fun we had! In the month of March we tried our hardest to trap a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day,,,, man is he quick! We also studied dinosaurs and made our very own volcano erupt which everyone loved! We also had our "Wild West Day" while learning about the letter W! One of the best things we did in this month was to celebrate Grandparents Day, what loving families we all have!

In language arts we have studied the letters, M,P,V,W,K,Q, and J. We are really getting great with our reading. In math we have learned several concepts including, concepts of money, calendar terms, time, as well as, addition and subtraction. We have been very busy! In religion we discussed the Sacrament of Baptism and shared pictures of our own Baptisms. So cute!! We also began to discuss lent and the Stations of the Cross. Our students really love learning about this! In social living we have touched on many things from, Our Country to Dinosaurs to Spring.

We look forward to even busier months during our last nine weeks of kindergarten! We will prepare for Easter by using our Lenten season to get closer to God. We will continue our oral reading as our skills become more and more developed, and our books become longer and more enjoyable. We are getting ready for first grade!

First Grade News - Ms. Paige, Ms. Julie, and Ms. MaryBeth

As first grade enters the fourth nine weeks, we are looking back on a year filled with fun and a lot of learning. We are spending these nine weeks preparing to become second graders. We made it through the Terra Nova tests and found out just how much we have learned this year, but the year is not over yet! We still have one more set of goals to achieve for AR, but we are excited to see just how much our reading has grown. We are learning adjectives in grammar and refining our writing skills. In math we have learned to tell time and now we are getting ready to learn to count money! We will also

learn measurement, and continue to practice our addition and subtraction facts. We will have our final field trip to Red Bluff Farm. Now that we have learned about plants and animals in science, we are ready to see them up close! First grade will also have their Day with Jesus coming up in April. We will spend the day growing closer to God and learning more about His son, Jesus. This last nine weeks still has us working hard, and creating even more memories that will carry us into the summer!

Second Grade News - Mrs. Stiller and Mrs. Collett

As we are entering into our last semester for the school year, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very blessed Holy Week. We have been very busy during the third semester of this school year and the last semester promises to be just as busy, even possibly more rewarding.

All through the year we have been examining different literary genres. Our latest story in reading was an informational non-fiction study of the moon. We actually integrated our science and reading program, which enabled the children to learn so much more about our solar system. Our vocabulary study in reading also helped us to build on our science understanding. We have also studied rocks and fossils

in our science unit.

In math class the children have learned more about money. We've discussed how to budget our money and make change from our pretend purchases. The students are also learning more about time. Times to the half hour and to the quarter hour are a challenge that our students are eagerly ready for. Some of our students are very proudly displaying their new wrist watches and can accurately give us the time!

We will enjoy our field trip to Honey Island on April 15, 2010 this year. This is a trip that the children wait for all year with anxious anticipation. Also planned at the end of April is a visit from Dawn

Second Grade News - continued

Brown, a meteorologist from channel 8. This has been an exciting year for us, and we look forward to the rest of the year to be just as awesome!

The children have also been preparing to receive their first Holy

Third Grade News - Ms. Hebert and Mrs. Rhodes

This 3rd quarter has flown by and we are on a roll in Third Grade. In reading we have finished Charlotte's Web book. We had a great day with fun fair games, putting on skits with our classmates, and munching on yummy snacks while we watched the Charlotte's Web movie. It was a great way to end an enjoyable book!

In math we are flying through. We are finished with multiplication and we know our facts! We are now moving onto division and measurement. We feel so grown up doing a little bit of algebra as well. We have so much fun in Math!

We learned about our Government and what are our rights as a good citizen are in Social Studies. Science has been just a blast! We learned all about the human body and how each system functions. We finished up the lesson by learning about our bones by putting together a miniature skeleton. Now we are moving on to learning about

Fourth Grade News - Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Waguespack

It seemed the New Year just started and here we are at the end of the third quarter. Our quarter began with the celebration of Catholic Schools Week filled with fun activities that expressed our appreciation for MQP and our Catholic education. In religion classes the students continued learning about the Ten Commandments as well as focusing on the liturgical season of lent. On March 15th, the students of MQP welcomed fellow students from St. Margaret Mary to a Lenten Mission Assembly sponsored by the Archdiocesan Mission Office. Together they sang, prayed, played games, and ended the day with a picnic lunch. In class the fourth grade students were busy reading the novel Chocolate Fever. They sequenced events, summarized chapters, and even wrote a three paragraph report on the book. They expanded their writing skills by

Middle School News

Fifth Grade News - Mrs. LaRocca - Religion, Reading, and Social Studies

It is so hard to believe that we are already in the last quarter of school! The students worked very hard during their Terra Nova testing, and we would like to thank all of the generous parents who sent the delicious treats for us. As we relaxed in our cozy slippers and sampled our tasty snacks, we gave thanks for our wonderful parents!

We have begun reading our final novel, Tuck Everlasting. As we read, we are asking the question, "Would we like to live forever?" The characters in our book have different opinions about this theme, and we will see that one of them will have to make a very difficult decision.

In Social Studies we have been learning about the events leading up to the American Revolution. We have met famous American

Fifth Grade News - Mrs. Kurtz - Math, English, and Science

Our fifth grade mathematicians have flown to the top..... the top of the rankings in our new *First In Math* online program. This online program has allowed our fifth graders to compete with other hard-charging fifth graders around the country to earn virtual stickers for each correct math problem they complete. Our two fifth grade classes hold the #1 and #2 rankings for all the teams participating in the New Orleans Archdiocese. In addition, they are also ranked as #12 and #15 in the top 100 teams in the state. This is a super

Communion. On May 8, 2010 they will receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. They are taking this very seriously and at times we can hear them discuss the excitement they are feeling inside. Please keep them in your prayers.

weather. We can't wait for our field trip to Rivertown Museums and visiting the Science and Space centers.

We have been busy writing away in English. We are learning how to write three paragraphs and putting all our grammar skills to use. We have been focusing on adjectives, verbs, and now adverbs. We love to write!

In religion we have been focusing on Lent. We went to Reconciliation to get us ready for Easter. We have been busy learning about lent and what it means to us Catholics. We also are learning about the sacraments and learning what sacraments we have received. We look forward to our retreat next month.

It has been a great 3rd quarter and can't believe the year is almost over. Happy Easter!

exploring types of poetry, and completed the unit by creating their own poetry booklet. Of course they incorporated lots of interesting verbs and adjectives into their writing since those topics were also covered this quarter. In math the students expanded their knowledge of multiplication and division by learning 2 digit by 3 digit multiplication and long division. Social Studies concepts continue to cover the United States. The students explored the Midwest and Southwest and will be preparing to take their 50 states and capitals test at the end of the year. Science classes focused on concepts such as lifecycles, changes to our earth, and the moon's effect on the earth. The quarter ended with a special day for the students and their grandparents and special friends.



Patriots such as Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and George Washington, and discovered why men dressed as Native Americans threw cases of tea into Boston Harbor. We will continue to study about the famous revolution which brought about the birth of our nation.

Our classes have been treated to a wonderful lunch at Father Ronnie's rectory, where both Father Ronnie and Sister Marina shared their vocations with the children. We will continue our look at vocations with our Religion projects and our trip in May to Mt. Carmel Academy where we will celebrate Vocation Day with other fifth grade students from the Archdiocese. Of course, we are still also learning about the sacraments, as well! It has been a wonderful, faith-filled year!

achievement for our students who are so pleasantly surprised to be enjoying their math homework.

In English, we mastered the friendly letter when we sent 52 friendly letters to the Saints players and coaches telling them in grammatically correct English, and beautiful handwriting, how proud we were to have them as wonderful, Christian role models. It has been fun for them to receive Saints stickers and an autographed football card from defensive

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Fifth Grade News - continued

tackle, Sedrick Ellis! Our expository writing has us explaining to one another how to participate and play our favorite games and hobbies. Refining our topic sentences and crafting a well-written paragraph is our goal as we revise, revise, and revise. This expository writing will be further explored in the fourth quarter as we explain through science reports how the various systems of our bodies work.

Middle School - Mrs. Maurin - 6th & 7th grade Religion and 6th grade Reading

In 6th grade reading, our last novel is The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg. It is about four sixth graders and how they all come to be on the Academic Bowl team. This novel has more literary devices such as similes, puns, and different points of view. These literary devices make the novel tricky at times but enjoyable.

In 6th grade religion we will continue to study the Old Testament of the bible. We have come to the end of Solomon's reign as king of Israel. Now comes all the prophets. It can get confusing, but we will

In science, our experiments had us throwing cotton balls at each other as we stared from behind plastic covers, and distilling chicken bones in vinegar in an effort to better understand our skeletal and muscle systems. Our bodies are truly amazing machines, and with greater understanding comes greater respect for our bodies as we strive to learn more, stay healthy, and give the glory to our God.... just like our Saints do!

try our best to see what each prophet's message was.

The seventh graders will be putting on the Living Stations of the Cross for the school on Thursday, April 1st, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. and on Friday, April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. If you can make one of the productions it is very moving and valuable. The seventh graders enjoyed attending mass at the Basilica in Washington D.C. and St. Patrick's Cathedral on St. Patrick's Day in New York. These were two very beautiful churches. We will be ending these nine weeks by studying the seven sacraments.

Middle School - - Mrs. Mares - 6th & 7th grade Social Studies and 6th grade Science

Welcome home travelers! Our seventh grade started the final quarter of this school year traveling to Washington, D.C. and New York. All enjoyed themselves. Now back to the books. In the final weeks of school the seventh grade will study slavery and the events leading up to the Civil War. They will also study about the Civil War and the rebuilding of the South after the war. These topics will end their studies of American History in seventh grade.

In sixth grade Social Studies students began the quarter studying about Medieval Europe. Some topics the students will cover over the

remaining weeks of school are the Renaissance, and Revolutions in America, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolutions and the Second Industrial Revolution.

In sixth grade Science, the students began the quarter studying about Earth's atmosphere. For the remaining weeks in Science the students will study about the climate, ocean motion and oceanography. As you can see we have a lot to do in a short amount of time. Before we know it the summer will be here!

Middle School - - Mrs. Bertel - 6th & 7th grade Language Arts and 7th grade Reading

Our final writing assignment in sixth grade language arts is a 4 paragraph essay in which students compare and contrast two topics. Students are systematically crafting their essays—selected topics, chose points of comparison, and wrote main idea statements. Students then outlined their essays. We studied five strategies for writing attention grabbing introductions. So far, I've noted essays comparing hamsters to dogs, football to soccer, cheer to dance, and the list goes on. Please ask your sixth grader to share their topics and papers with you.

In seventh grade language arts, we're concluding the year by writing an advantages and disadvantages essay as well as reviewing writing conventions. Students will systematically approach their writing beginning with topic selection, main idea statements, and

attention grabbing introductions. Students will create an outline that will organize the order of their ideas. Topics that some students are weighing in on are: playing tackle football at a young age, living in a rural area, text messaging, being an only child, and playing only one sport year round. With the focus on student writing and writing conventions, students will continue to refine their skills.

Our final quarter in reading continues with the study of legends and concludes with the study of biographies and autobiographies. In the outside reading, students may read The Hero's Trail which is a collection of narratives on various heroes—both famous and not so well known. Students may also choose a hero's biography such as The Diary of Ann Frank.

Middle School - - Mrs. Roussel - 6th & 7th grade Math and 7th grade Science

And so the weary travelers have returned! How enjoying it was to hear about all of the adventures our 7th graders experienced as they visited Washington DC and New York City. It sounds as though they had an awesome yet exhausting trip!

7th graders were very busy during the 3rd quarter with science fair projects. The school science fair was held during the month of February. Both 7th grade classes completed very impressive and educational projects. I received many compliments from the judges, parents, students, and teachers about the various projects. Well done, 7th grade!

Math has been very challenging for 6th and 7th graders this 3rd

quarter. Students were introduced to new concepts such as percents, ratios, fractions, and equations. Overall, I was very pleased with their performance on exams and report cards. Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!

With 3rd quarter exams out of the way, we begin the final quarter of the school year. I have a feeling time is going to fly by and before we know it we will be wishing our 7th graders farewell. I am looking forward to all the activities planned as we near the end of the school year.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our 7th graders on their acceptance into the High Schools of their choice!



Enrichment News

Art - Mrs. Amy Spain

Spring has sprung in the art room! We hope that the warmer weather will soon allow us to go outside to draw and paint. This nine weeks we have worked on our self portraits. The kids did an amazing job drawing themselves! We talked about artist Wayne Thiebaud and his cakes and pies. We made our own Thiebaud cupcakes pictures. We also talked about artist Laurel Burch and her crazy cats. We made Laurel Burch bunnies. They look really cool! In Pre-K 3 we have been working on art projects that go with their weekly lessons. The kids really loved the cereal mosaics that we made using cereal and frosting. In first and fifth grade, students made shrinky dink magnets

for grandparents' day. Seventh grade girls had their foil embossing projects on display at Lakeside Shopping Center. Seventh graders are also working hard to illustrate the special short stories that they will publish. This last nine weeks will be fun. We will talk about artists Van Gogh, Picasso, and Monet. We will also work on murals and some summer arts and crafts projects. The most exciting thing for the students is that they can take home their portfolios in May. They can't wait to share all of the wonderful artwork they have done with you.

Computer - Mr. Michael Messenger

With the advancements in technology it is very important to keep up with the times and what's "new!" Over the past few months, Mr. Shane and I have been involved in a video creation class using a flip camera and a green screen at the Technology Institute here in Mandeville where we have learned the basics of movie creation.

This technology is very valuable to the students due to that fact that they can use it in almost every subject they are studying at Mary, Queen of Peace. For example, if the student is doing a social studies project on a select country (i.e. France) using the green screen we can actually place them in France and record the student speaking about the select country of study. Using this technology is both educational and also makes learning various other subjects' fun!

This coming nine weeks we will shift gears and focus on technology in today's society and how it has impacted pop culture. I would also like to concentrate heavily on internet safety as it seems that many students are involved with social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook. I look forward to this final quarter and know it will be a great one!

Physical Education - Mr. Shane Douglas

Over the course of this year in Physical Education has provided the students with fun activities focusing on individual and collective growth. In the higher grades, we play games that develop team building skills and develop individual skills as well. In the past few weeks we have played cabbage ball, kick ball, medic ball, capture the flag, and much more. Each of these games offers many opportunities for growth. We will soon begin physical fitness testing in the older grades in the next few weeks.

With the little ones we try to get them to learn the skills of good sportsmanship and fair play. We want the children to focus on the

positive aspects of playing games and sports. Teaching them that winning is not the number one goal in sports. Being a good athlete and a good Catholic can be one and the same. In all the games we play, we want the children to have fun, be active, and remain respectful to those playing alongside them. We look forward to ending the year on a positive note and having a lot of fun in the process.



Spanish - Mrs. Claudia Amaya and Mrs. Elizabeth Ryan

In the Lower School Spanish Classes we are frequently reviewing and reinforcing the basic Spanish vocabulary allowing the children to master these. We continue to develop the basic concepts introduced with their Spanish workbooks. It is very exciting to be planning our celebration for the "Cinco de Mayo" and we hope to see many parents to help us celebrate the mass. As always is a pleasure to teach your children. As a reminder we will be giving out our certificates in April, so be on the look for that date.

Gracias a todos los padre de familia por el apoyo a nuestra clase de Español durante el transcurso de todo este año escolar.

En este cuarto periodo los estudiantes de cuarto hasta séptimo grado practicaran de una forma didáctica todo lo que han visto durante los periodos anteriores. En el mes de Abril se les entregara diplomas a los alumnos que sobresalieron en la clase de español durante todo el año. En Mayo tendremos la celebración del 5 de

Mayo, la cual se abrirá con la primera misa bilingüe en MQP y cerraremos a la 12:30 PM con la presentación del grupo de música Julio y Cesar, los cuales interpretaran canciones en los dos idiomas. Todos los padres están cordialmente invitados. Gracias de nuevo por todo su apoyo y que Dios los Bendigan.

Thank you for all of your support for the Spanish class during this school year. During the 4th grading period, the 4th - 7th grade students will continue their dialogue practice and vocabulary enrichment. In April, the best students in each Spanish class will receive an achievement certificate that recognizes all of their hard work over the past school year. In May, we plan to celebrate Cinco de Mayo (Wed., May 5th) beginning with a bi-lingual (English/Spanish) Mass at 9:00 am. Next, Julio and Cesar, two local musicians, will play a small concert for the school in the cafeteria starting at 12:30 pm. Parents are invited to attend the performance. Thank you once again for all of your support and God Bless You.

Technology - Mrs. Shannon Hudson

Some 7th graders were lucky enough to learn Robotics earlier this month. With LEGO MINDSTORMS they learned to build and program robots that do what they wanted! They learned to program their very own intelligent LEGO robot, and made it perform loads of different operations. The students fitted their robots with sensors which controlled motors and reacted to light, sound, touch, etc.

The students were challenged to look at their community and

discover how people, animals, information, and things travel. Once they knew how people and things move in their community, they were able to understand and program their robots to do the same.

Enrichment - Mrs. Kelly Hightower

The 6th and 7th grade enrichment students have finished a unit on communication and hieroglyphics. The students wrote their own messages for the future using authentic ancient Egyptian symbols. At the students' request, we conducted a hands-on science experiment in which we made our own modeling clay, then constructed and erupted our man-made volcanoes in groups of three. Parents please don't worry; this experiment is safe enough to repeat at home.

The fifth grade enrichment students are budding writers! Each of them read a biography about a famous person of his/her choice, and then wrote a character analysis in five-paragraph essay format. Using specific examples, these students wrote very descriptive essays that they were proud to read aloud to the class.

The 3rd and 4th grade students are in the middle of a unit on chance and probability. Measuring chance is tricky, but these statisticians will

actually predict the outcome of a penny flip based on their own observations of how often it lands on heads or tails. Without realizing it, we predict our "chances" everyday. The students will come to a better understanding of what it really means to be lucky by actually using math to determine predictable patterns.

In 2nd grade, we are planning a mission to the moon! In order to establish a moon colony, the students are working in groups of 3 to decide the most knowledgeable experts and the most crucial equipment and supplies to take on the journey. The mission teams are also responsible for establishing rules and constructing necessary building plans for the moon colony. It is definitely a lesson in cooperation!

