

Blessed Sacrament School Newsletter

"A Feinsein Leadership School"

Newsletter January 1, 2017

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"Helping to better the lives of others is the greatest of all achievements."—Alan Shawn Feinstein

"As a Feinsein Leadership School we are committed to teaching our students to be caring of others."

Principal's News

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! As we look back on 2016, we can be very thankful for all of the service our faculty has given to our students and we can also be very thankful to all of our Feinstein Jr. Scholars for the good deeds they accomplished during the year. Indeed, our Feinstein Jr. Scholars collected over 1,200 lbs. of food for the Rhode Island Food Bank during our *Spooktacular, Dare to Care Food Drive*.

And during Advent, our Feinstein Jr. Scholars collected over 300 items to help our music teacher, Mrs. Wiles, in her mission to better the lives of migrant sugarcane workers in the Dominican Republic. Thank you students for all the good deeds you are doing!

I hope your Christmas vacation was restful and rejuvenating. **Parents, please keep in mind that January marks the beginning of re-registration for the 2017-2018 school year.** The registration packet will be going home in the January 6th Friday folder. Please return the completed application by Thursday, January 26th.

There will be no tuition increase for the new school year!

God Bless,
Mr. Weber

Financial Aid:

Dear Families: Please remember to log-on to our FACTS Page to apply for financial aid for the 2017-2018 school year. Priority is given to families who apply on time and verify early!



4th grade Feinstein Jr. Scholars supporting breast cancer research.



Grade 8 Feinstein Jr. Scholars packing up the truck.

Contents

Principal's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Pre-K News	2
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
Fourth Grade News	3
Fifth Grade News	3
PTO News	3
Middle School News	3
Students of the Month	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Religion	4
Fine Arts	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 29th through February 4th-Catholic Schools Week.
- ◆ January 29th-February 3rd, Scholastic Book Fair in Library.

Upcoming Events

January 3, 2017-School re-opens.

January 6, 2017-Gourmet Café Fundraiser for Valentine's Day begins.

January 9, 2017-Grade 3, 4, & 5 Field Trip to Brown University.

January 9-20, 2017-Mid-Term Assessments

January 16, 2017- Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School

January 26, 2017-Report Cards go home.

January 29, 2017-Catholic Schools Week Mass: 10:30 AM

Our Feinstei Jr. Scholars donated over 300 items to sugarcane workers in the Dominican Republic. Great job!



Pre-Kindergarten News

During the month of January, we will be exploring snow and ice through literacy activities, science experiments, art projects and music. We will also be learning about animals that live in cold climates. The letters we will be working on this month will be F, N, X, and G. In **Math**, we will be learning about patterns and creating our own patterns. God's gift of animals will be our theme in **Religion**.

Kindergarten News

Happy New Year and welcome back! We will begin 2017 with a few fun new changes, such as **journal writing**, a "mystery bag", and a lending library. Each day, in place of rest time, students will draw a picture and write a three to four word sentence to tell about it. Your child may enjoy practicing at home. Please remind your writer to

begin each sentence with a capital letter, leave a finger space between each word, and end with a period. The "Mystery Bag" is an exciting way for students to learn more about letters, sounds, and rhyming. Each day, a student will have a turn to bring the bag home, and put one non-breakable item in. Return it the next day with three clues, such as, the beginning and ending sounds, how many syllables in the word, and/or what it may rhyme with. The ideas are endless!

First Grade News

Happy 2017! The children, Mrs. Cole and I are all very happy to be back in school. January is a great month in grade one because the children learn the *Months of the Year Macarena*, and we read *Chicken Soup with Rice*, written by Maurice Sendak. I will teach the children the music to this book written by Carol King. Both songs are great fun and music is an awesome way to practice **reading**. At this time of the year we will begin to focus on helping children with

their fluency. Of course these are tailored lessons and for the children already reading fluently, we help them develop pace and inflections. For the children who read one word at a time, we have them practice reading the same material over and over again. This *rereading* helps the children gain confidence as readers. At home it is very important that children **REREAD** their books. Rereading is a key strategy to developing fluency.

Second Grade News

Happy New Year! The cold winter months are a great time for learning and **reading**. Creative Ideas is our theme for Unit 3. The children will read stories about creative ways that can help them communicate and solve problems, along with ways that can lead to a surprise. I am certain the stories will help the children think creatively as they become scientists, and create inventions of their own at home. Information will be sent home regarding the project. We will read and learn about George Washington Carver and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The long vowels e (ee, ea, and y) and o (oa, ow), and compound words are the phonics lessons for the beginning of the unit. The children will learn to add using regrouping, which will be both challenging and exciting. For continued academic progress, please read nightly and review new math topics taught. Remember to visit www.spellingcity.com and www.pearsonsuccessnet.com. Grade 2 will continue to work as disciples of Jesus. We would like to take this time to thank Mrs. K. and Mrs. Lucas for helping us in our classroom. The students and I appreciate all that they do for us. They are perfect examples of what a follower of Jesus does, and they reinforce what is taught in **Religion**. We will begin to prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Third Grade News

January is a very busy time in the third grade. In **religion** class, we will begin our Family Life series, *Fully Alive*, which helps us understand how unique and special each one of us is, not only in God's eyes, but in our own families as well. We will be reading mystery books and writing book reports. Third graders will explore the **writing** of cinquains and stories with a "snow" theme this month.

We will continue with some experiments in our study of weather and the weather instruments meteorologists use to aid them in their weather forecasts. In **math** class we are learning about all the different properties of multiplication and division, while working toward memorization of our math tables. Third graders will be taking a field trip along with fourth and fifth graders to Brown University. We will learn more about some different career choices and see a Brown basketball game. It should be a very exciting day!!

"Our Great Kids"

The Feinstei Foundation's weekly TV show, "Our Great Kids," can be seen on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00am on PBS 36 and Cox 8.

Feinstei Jr. Scholar Cards

Did you know that your Feinstei Jr. Scholar Card entitles you, and one adult guest, free admission to a number of great attractions like **Mystic Aquarium**, the **Alex & Ani Skating Rink**, **Battleship Cove**, the **Providence Children's Museum** and a **Blackstone River Boat Cruise**? Simply present your card and start enjoying the benefits of all your good deeds.

Fourth Grade News

Happy New Year to one and all! January is going to be an exciting start of the year for Grade 4! Last month, the students completed their fourth **In-Class Novel Study** on the genre, Mystery. Each student read a book from the **A to Z Mysteries series by Ron Roy**. Along with reading the books, the students noted 3 main details of each chapter and created a "Wheel Book Report." They did a fantastic job on this project! In January, the students will be

reading **Charlotte's Web** by **E.B. White** and completing a **Character Analysis**...stay tuned! **In Math**, the students completed Topic 5-Number Sense: Multiplying by 1 Digit Numbers before the break. They will begin Topic 6 when they return. **In Religion**, the students will continue with the unit The Commandments Help Us to Love God. **In Social Studies**, the students are participating in the **Great Mail Race**. They finished writing letters to 4th grade students from all 50 states. The next step in this project is researching the states where their letters are being mailed. This has proven to be a fun way to learn about the 50 states in our nation through pen pal letters! **In Science**, the students will continue the Life Cycles chapter, which concentrates on plant and animal life cycles. Also, Grade 4 will be attending a field trip event "What I Want to Be" hosted by the Brown University Girls Basketball Team at Brown University on Monday, January 9th. There's a lot to look forward to this month. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me via email: kblessing@blessedschoolpvd.org. Mrs. Blessing

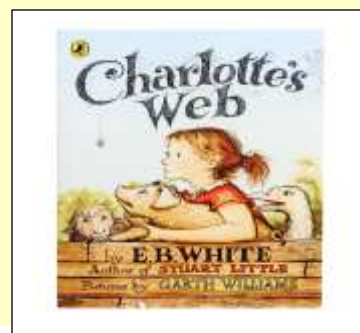
Fifth Grade News

Welcome 2017! Fifth grade has started off the New Year with new **literature** circle books. These books include *Henry Hugins* by Beverly Cleary, *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl, and *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl. These marvelous books are keeping our reading periods filled with hard work, but with laughter too! For **social studies**, students are learning about explorers. Together, we wish the fountain of youth really existed! In **science**, we are discussing adaptations and how animals learn to survive in their environment. Looking forward, students should be excited about an upcoming explorer project and comparing and contrasting Roald Dahl books with their movies. Grade five is always preparing for middle school!

PTO News

Thank You to everyone who helped out with last month's Santa Shop and Cookies with Santa. Mrs. Hoskins did a great job with Santa pictures and both events combined, raise over \$600.00 in support of our school!

We are looking for additional help this month for our **Scholastic Book Fair** and **Catholic Schools Week Bake Sale**. Please contact the office if you can help!



Middle School Spanish

Grade 6: We continue our study of adjectives in chapter 1. There are only 10 pages until the end of this chapter and the chapter 1 test!

Grade 7: We will continue with our food chapter. We are about 12 pages from the chapter 4 test.

Grade 8: We will continue our clothing and shopping chapter. We will learn about the position of adjectives and demonstrative adjectives.



Middle School Social Studies

Grade 6 will begin a chapter on ancient India after an excellent unit on ancient Egypt.

Grade 7 will begin learning about the age of revolution and world conflict.

Grade 8 will begin learning about events in the early 20th century.

Middle School Skills

Grade 6 skills will continue onto unit 6 in vocabulary and we will incorporate some creative writing as well.

Grade 7 skills will continue with creative writing and will be working on enhancing their use of descriptive language.

Grade 8 skills will pick up on unit 5 in vocabulary and will incorporate some writing as well.

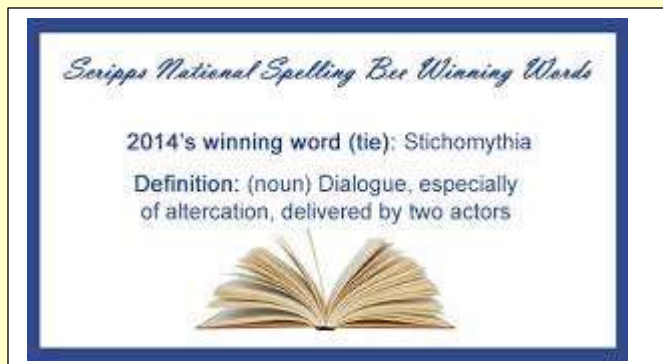
Middle School Literature

6th grade will begin reading "My Brother Sam is Dead."

7th grade will begin reading "The Outsiders."

8th grade will continue reading "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Grades 6-8 will also begin preparation for the National Spelling Bee.



Grade 5-8 Religion

Christian Service Club (grades 5-8)- I would like to have a meeting of the Christian Service Club on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

Grade 5: We will be learning about the Eucharist for the next two chapters. The Unit 2 test will follow.

Middle School Mathematics

Grade 8- Algebra students will be finishing up with multi-step equations. They will begin solving and graphing inequalities (Chapter 3). **Pre-Algebra** students are learning to use the Pythagorean Theorem.

Grade 7- Pre-Algebra students will continue their study of geometry. This will include congruence, circles, area, perimeter, and circumference (Chapters 7 and 8).

Grade 6- Students will finish up their study of operations with fractions. They will next study ratio, proportion, and rates (Chapter 7).

Ms. Rico's Grade 6 & 7 Math Classes have begun to solve one step algebraic equations.

Grade 6: We will be learning about the prophets, King Solomon, and the Psalms (chapters 11 & 12).The Unit 2 test will follow.

Grade 7: We will finish chapter 12 then study for the Unit 2 test

Grade 8: We will finish chapters 11 & 12 then study for the Unit 2 test. We are also going over some vocabulary for the ACRE test that will be taken in February.

Students of the Month-January

Pre-K3: Benjamin Thurber

Pre-K4: Christina Villalobos

Kindergarten: Lizeth Aquino

1st Grade: Valerie Ottich-Seiwald

2nd Grade: Kate De La Cruz

3rd Grade: Yvette Hughes

4th Grade: Roly Paz

5th Grade: Raul Almanzar

6th Grade: Talia Laflamme

7th Grade: Valerie Taveras

8th Grade: Andrea Avila

Congratulations to All!



Middle School Science

Earth Science: 6th grade will begin Chapter 5: Plate Tectonics. They will study the earth's interior beginning with the earth's crust.

Life Science: 7th grade will begin section 4 of Chapter 3 on Respiration. They are continuing to study the cell in its environment.

Physical Science: 8th grade will begin section 3 of Chapter 3 on Gas Behavior. They continue to look at states of matter in great depth.

Grades 6-8 will also begin the brainstorming part of the **Science Fair. This year's theme is Invention Convention.** All projects are due Monday, January 30th.

Fine Arts

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**The Hope of the
Harvest is in the
Seed.**

We're on the Web!
<http://blessedschoolpvd.com>

Music: Thanks to all the hardworking students and teachers who helped to make our Christmas 2016 Program a delightful event. We have really expanded the musical expertise of the students by adding the rhythm instruments, Boomwhackers, recorders, and bucket drumming. In addition to that, the students memorized a lot of music! We know that music is a foundational subject that helps the students learn other subjects and helps them relate better to the other students and better understand the world around them.

This semester we will focus on age appropriate skills. PreK and K will learn cooperative skills using dances, rhythm echoes, and stories that connect to the music. Grades 1 and 2 will continue to do more complicated dances and will learn to read written rhythmic notation and be introduced to notes on the treble clef. Grades 3 and 4 will still work on the cooperation needed with Boomwhackers, add 16th note rhythms to their skills, and will become more proficient at singing notes on the treble clef as well as naming them. Grades 5 and 6 will complete level one of *Recorder Karate*, continue with more complicated rhythm patterns, and delve into music history and composition. Grades 7 and 8 will continue the bucket drumming, and begin the introduction to bass clef notes, and also learn music history and composition.

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