

# Glad Tidings

A Newsletter from the Assumption School Angels

December 2018 Volume 3, Issue 2

Dear Parents,

May the spirit of the Christ's birth be within your heart! This is the time of year to remember the blessings in our lives and Assumption School has an abundance to be grateful for this year. Our students, under the guidance of our dedicated teachers, strive towards their goals in academics and community service. We are blessed to have Father Dan who guides our school in the right direction. Of course the most important blessing is you, our Assumption families, who continue to help make our school the best school it can be!

Blessings on a joyous Christmas season!

Mrs. Olson =)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

We continue the school year applying and extending the math skills students learned in the first quarter.

**Grade 6** - Students extended their Number Sense proficiency learning to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole and multi-digit decimal numbers. Students learned how to estimate sums, differences, products and quotients using rounding and compatible number methods. We learned about and how to apply exponents and scientific notation. We will continue to learn how to evaluate and solve algebraic equations, apply order of operations and practice writing mathematical expressions to solve every day word problems.

**Grade 7** - Students completed their study of Chapter 2, Expressions and Equations, learning more advanced skills necessary to solve multi-step algebraic equations and related word problems. In addition, students have been learning about geometry: the relationship between points, lines, planes and angles; how to describe, construct and measure geometrical figures; and measuring and calculating the perimeter and area of 2-dimensional polygons like triangles, quadrilaterals and circles. We are just starting to learn about Inequalities; how to recognize, write and graph inequalities, how to express word problems as inequalities and determine the variable values that make an inequality expression true or false.

## GRADE 3

This is a busy time of year! Not only do we have our special holiday celebrations we also work very hard learning. We have worked on regrouping in subtraction and are now subtracting 4 digit numbers! We worked on learning how to tell time better and are now beginning multiplication. In social studies we are learning many new terms such as immigrant and ethnic neighborhood and how important they are in relation to our countries history. After several weeks studying space and the solar system we are back on Earth learning about the Periodic Table of Elements, atoms and molecules.

Last but not least, we were very fortunate to have a special visitor in our classroom for almost a month. His name was Amazon and he is Maxwell's pet tarantula. We are all hoping he will be able to visit again soon!

## ART

Fall is such a beautiful time of the year. As an artist, I observe the changing colors and scenery throughout New England thinking of new ways to share the season's beauty with my students. Grade 2 completed their fall reflection paintings with watercolors and pastels. It was like magic to see our pastel fall trees reappear in the clear blue painted lake. Grade 5 tried out new watercolor paint techniques, wet on wet and wet on dry. Amazing scarecrows came to life using paint in a new way. Kindergarten explored apples, their colors and shapes. They observed how the inside apple looks compared to the outside. After reading, Apple Pie Tree by Zoe Hall, the outside of the apples were created with sponge paint, while torn paper was used for the inside.

## KINDERGARTEN

In the month of November Kindergarten was busy talking about what we are all thankful for. We worked together to make a thankful quilt that the children made with each square representing what the children were each thankful for. In handwriting class we wrote and decorated cards to Veterans saying thank you for your service. In math class we practiced counting to 100 by 10s with a turkey plate craft and we even played Thanksgiving bingo. We made Thanksgiving bracelets to help us tell the story of the first Thanksgiving. Our class even had a Thanksgiving meal together! Gobble Gobble!



## GRADE 6 HEALTH

Who are you? What makes you you? Did you know there is more to your health than eating right and exercising? You have many different aspects of Health and we are going to explore them all. We will learn a little more about who we are and why we do the things we do our way. Also, listen - did you hear that? Probably not, you were probably thinking about what you wanted to say, that you missed out on what was being said. Or maybe you didn't catch some body language that would have given you a clue on to how the person you are talking to is feeling. We will be talking about how to listen as well, before we dive into smoking and why we shouldn't start. We will prepare to enter the annual anti-tobacco poster contest as well.

## GRADE 7 HEALTH

We took a slight detour and added in a discussion about sleep. We are almost finished, and while I would love to test out some napping theories, there will be no sleeping in Health class. When we are finished with this topic we will be getting into the Dove Self-Esteem program. It is a wonderful 5 series program that offers lots of valuable information for students. There is also a tab for parents to visit full of information and ways to talk to your children about sensitive subjects. Visit [www.dove.com](http://www.dove.com) for more information.

## COMPUTER GRADES 6 & 7

Computer classes are working on investments. They are buying stocks and/or commodities that they will track in Excel every week until the end of the school year. They will use the internet to gather information and do graphing written in Excel to show the activity of their investments. The Sixth grade has begun a spreadsheet on the 'cost' of the 12 Days of Christmas if every item had a monetary value. The Seventh grade is beginning to build a probability spreadsheet on past lottery numbers (Mass Cash) to see if the numbers that come up are truly random or if there are some that repeat more than others. These assignments help the students work on their keyboarding skills and developing a project by following the assignments detailed instructions.

## GRADE 2

The second marking period brought snow but that didn't stop the Second grade from plowing ahead to learn new things. They made their way through the land of the P's and learned all the rules for proper, plural, and possessive nouns. While learning that nouns are things they also learned in science that all things are called matter. They loved experimenting with the three states of matter and discovering that matter can be changed. They will soon be full members of the Church when they make their First Communion. They are working very hard to learn the steps of Reconciliation and to understand about making the right choices and forgiveness. Grade two can't wait to celebrate Advent and to continue the learning process.

## MUSIC

The Seventh grade did a great job helping Mrs. Z. get ready for the Christmas Show on December 14th. Frosty will come to life! See how children see Jesus in different ways! The band and chorus will also be performing!

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish, French, and Latin classes are progressing nicely. Kindergarten, First, and Second grade are practicing how to say the days of the week, months, and seasons in Spanish. Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade are mastering the use of adjectives in simple sentences. Sixth and Seventh grade are now navigating the world of numbers, and connecting Latin roots with familiar words, such as unicorn and quadrilateral.



### Oh! What Beautiful Mornings! GRADE 1

The First graders are all reading and it seems that they are truly loving it. Every morning this past week, as I came into the room, I was greeted by enthusiastic children talking to each other and rummaging through the books on the reading table. They were busy trying to find their next book selection to take home. They just couldn't wait to show me their choice! To see their excitement, it just warmed my heart. Wow! Are they on the move! Also, after I tallied up their daily reading lists, the children, all together, have read over 300 books so far this year!!! Keep it up! I'm so proud! What a phenomenal way to start the day!!!



### PreK

As we begin the Christmas season, we are reflecting on how much our students have already grown. Most came in as timid children and we have watched them work on their communication skills and become outgoing students. We are currently doing an in-depth study of letters. Each week we focus on a new letter, identifying it, recognizing the sound and writing it with proper form.

### GRADE 6 GEOGRAPHY

Grade 6 Geography students have started their travels around the world by exploring our diverse continent, North America, beginning here in the United States. They learned why we are considered a "melting pot", then looked back at their own ancestry. They have discovered our neighbors to the north, Canada, and created posters to advertise the attractions of some of its major cities while learning about the geography, government, economy, and people. The students will continue their travels on to the next stop, Mexico, to learn about the geography, economy, and culture including their Christmas customs at this festive time of year. Feliz Navidad!

### GRADE 7 SCIENCE

Yep, we are still stuck on cells. Man for little things, they sure do have a lot of information. We learned about what was in a cell and all of the functions each organelle has. We learned how they divide through Mitosis and Meiosis. We will soon be learning about DNA and what makes us us. Oh and here is a fun fact... the Science fair has been postponed till next year!

### STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council held its annual food drive to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society stock their food pantry during the holiday season. The whole school took part with such great enthusiasm! A total of 2,837 non-perishable items were donated, which was 281 over last year's total. Along with students and staff, members of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division also donated to the Assumption food drive.

### GRADE 6 SCIENCE

Matter and Its Changes is our next topic of discussion. Physical and chemical changes. Short sweet and right to the point. Then we will be moving into Atoms, elements, and the periodic table of elements. What are they made of and how do they work together to form different things.

### GRADE 7 WORLD HISTORY

Grade 7 World History students have just completed investigations of the military empires of the Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Persians and the contributions they made to advance society. They compared the governments and military prowess of each and decorated shields to reflect the ideology of these civilizations. We will next explore Ancient America and Africa before moving on to the Greeks and the many ways they have influenced our lives today.



## GRADE 5

We are having a busy and fun time in the Fifth grade classroom. In Language Arts, students wrote Personal Narratives and presented them to the class. I was beyond impressed. In Social Studies, we finished a chapter on the different Native American tribes and did many fun activities related to the chapter, such as making dreamcatchers, designing totem poles, and reading a book about a friendship between a young European settler and a Native American from the Eastern Woodlands. In Reading, we are in the middle of one of my favorite childhood books, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. We are keeping journals about each chapter and discussing the actions of the characters in the story. I am so proud of the growth that I have seen in my students.

## ENGLISH & LITERATURE GRADES 6 & 7

Students continue to work to improve vocabulary use as well as grammar and writing skills. Grade 6 students are focusing on the use of pronouns and Grade 7 will complete use of verbs and move on to the study of adverbs. In addition to writing short selections in their writing notebooks, students will be writing essays and arguments with evidence to back up their assertions.

Both Grade 6 and Grade 7 students have been reading short fiction and nonfiction selections and learning how to apply their reading skills for comprehension and analysis of the text. Our upcoming class novel for Grade 6 is *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford and Grade 7 will read *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson. The students will read, discuss, and analyze their novels as a class before demonstrating their understanding by sharing projects of their choosing.

All students are reading the "outside" reading books they have selected from the genres of either fantasy or science fiction and will complete graphic organizers. They will share with their classmates descriptions of the plot, characters, and life connections they make, as well as make recommendations with thumbs up or down on their choices.

## GRADES 5 - 8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Football is finished and the rain is not our friend. We have been inside and making the best of it. We missed out on capturing a turkey, but there is still time. We are getting ready for some hockey action and Christmas time fun! We shall defeat the Grinch and bring order back to the world.

## GRADES K - 4 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Rain, rain, go away, little children want to play! Well outside at least. We had some Halloween and Thanksgiving themed fun and are now perfecting some throwing, tossing and kicking skills. Then, it is off for some Christmas/winter time fun. We will sled ride, have snowball fights, pretend we are Santa and walk on roof tops, train our reindeer, ice skate and much more. We shall not have the winter blues!

## PreK—PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Left, right, forward, backward, balance, jump and land. We are having a great time moving all around and trying to figure it all out. What happens if we jump without using our arms or if we do not bend our legs? How do we jump up on something or over something? How do we land? How many different body parts can we balance on? What kind of objects can we balance on? All these questions and more are being discovered right here in PreK PE world.



## GRADE 4

Over the past few weeks we have been back in New York City, but this time it is the New York Times Subway Station. There we met the Bellini family and Mario who found Chester the cricket in a pile of rubbish. Chester was considered a jinx as he ate a \$2 bill and set fire to the family's newsstand. Now he is playing opera, a rumba, and classical music and bringing an abundance of customers to the once struggling newsstand. We will finish this book, *A Cricket in Times Square*, with a few different activities such as New York City and Connecticut travel brochures.