

May 2010

## Guardian Angel-St. Boniface School

### Reflections from the Principal . . .

Our final weeks of the 2009/2010 school year are upon us. Congratulations to parents and teachers for the completion of successful 3rd quarter conferences. Our students are excelling academically and spiritually. Our goal is to help students meet their full potential – not only in academics, but as Catholic, Caring, community members who will use their skills to help make the world a better place in the future. Our mission is simple – strong Catholic schools contribute to the future of our churches. No one person can do everything, but everyone can do something. Thank you to the communities of Colton and Uniontown for continuing to support this mission of our church. Our lives are daily enriched by the blessings our children bring to the classroom each day and will continue to bring to the world they live in.



God Bless,  
Lori Becker

### From Our Pastor . . .

With winter now behind us, we begin our drive towards the end of the school year. Your children have had great opportunities to learn more about their world, its peoples and our faith that gives them direction for life. GASB continues to foster academic, moral, physical and spiritual development in your daughters and sons to better prepare them for the road that lies ahead. Soon our eighth graders will move onto that new horizon known as high school and we will welcome our first kindergarten class ever. Please pray for these last several weeks of learning for all of our students, the junior high retreat, our soon-to-be graduates and those receiving sacraments. Much thanks to all who have made this past year a great one for our Catholic school.

## 1st and 2nd Graders

Happy Spring, Colton and Uniontown! Just as the trees' buds are revealing new green leaves, the first and second graders have been budding into a fine group of boys almost ready to take on the third grade! Here's what we have been up to the past couple of months:



Perhaps the most significant highlight was in March when our three boys, Christopher Wolf, Kian Ankerson, and Jackson Meyer, received the sacrament of Reconciliation. We had prepared both in the classroom and at home for many weeks preceding the event. In the end, they were left with a feeling of a "weight being lifted" and a sense of peace. Those same boys are currently researching Saints and preparing for their next two sacraments, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The ceremony will take place at 7:00 on Thursday, May 27 at St. Boniface followed by a reception in the GASB gym. Please keep these gentlemen in your prayers, and we hope to see many of you there.

Also in March, the boys earned a "Green Day Celebration" for outstanding behavior in the classroom. The theme was The Lost Atlantis which incorporated Legos. Imaginations were running wild!

Other interesting areas of study were working with maps (Never Eat Soggy Waffles!), and a unit on rocks and minerals. The class was fascinated with peeling the layers of biotite and muscovite mica! The metallic qualities of galena and pyrite were also pretty cool. Later this month we have a real live geologist from Uniontown coming to share his expertise with us. We are certainly looking forward to his visit.

In April we celebrated poetry month by reading, writing, and reciting a variety of poems. Shel Silverstein and Kenn Nesbitt are popular authors with the students, while I tend to favor the local talent of current GASB second graders! We had fun playing with words and creating some quality original pieces of poetry. I especially enjoyed the haiku and diamante poems, and have included a few samples for you to enjoy.

It is hard to believe this year will quickly be coming to an end. I have had an incredible year with this group of second grade boys. It will be a fine note to end this chapter of my life on. This is my final newsletter for Guardian Angel-St. Boniface School. My husband recently accepted a new position at Briar Cliff University, so we will be relocating to the Sioux City, Iowa area. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of you in the community and thank you for the memories and for your warmth and support over the past three years. You will be missed, and remain in my prayers.

Farewell,  
Mrs. Kristen Janowiak

## The Year Winds Down in the 3rd/4th Grade

"Where has the time gone?" is a constant theme in the 3rd/4th Grade. We're constantly shocked at how fast our days go by! But, it's no wonder. These students work hard and we've accomplished so much. I'm so sad to see the year wind down.



This month has certainly shot past us, and our last two will certainly be a mirror image. The 3rd graders just finished ITBS (The Iowa Test of Basic Skills) testing. They felt great about the test, and I'm very confident that they all did well! The 4th graders have the new state assessment, the MSP (Measure of Student Progress) Test quickly approaching; the window is May 12th – May 28th. They are geared up and ready for it! I know, they too, will do very well on it!

In math, we mastered geometry concepts and are now working on fractions, followed by probability. In science, we had a very fun unit on electricity and magnetism. Now, we'll finish the year with a study of "Our Earth" and then "Plants and Animals." In social studies, we have been having a lot of fun in our "West Region" unit. We have learned all about the pioneers, and even road the trail with the computer game, The Oregon Trail. We also had Book Club groups where students read various chapter books about life in the early west, including Bess's Log Cabin Quilt, Sarah, Plain and Tall, and Jimmy Spoon and the Pony Express. We have been studying our own state, and with a little help from Tom's uncle who is our governor's speech writer, we acquired a lot of information on our state capital. In addition, the students have been working on creating Washington State projects where they choose 4 locations in the state to learn about and then teach to their classmates. We just have a unit on "The Southwest" and we'll have learned about all 5 of our state regions this year! As a final summation to our study of the regions, the students have to show me that they've memorized the location of all 50 states!

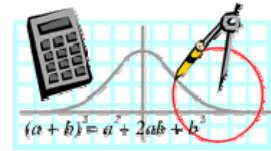
We're really looking forward to the month of May, which is the month we honor Mary. Our class will take part in a deep study of Mary and the Rosary, and have weekly Prayer Services at the Grotto in honor of Mary, where the students will take turns leading the Rosary. Hopefully our weather will be good for those days!

With only May and our short week of June, summer will be here before we know it! It has been quite the year! I'm so grateful to all my wonderful, supportive parents and to all those in the community that are so gracious to our school! Until next year!

God Bless—Kim Marquardt

## 5th & 6th Graders

The kids have prematurely begun counting down the day left in school, but it's crazy how fast it is approaching! In spelling news, our fifth graders are doing so well that they have advanced to a comprehensive vocabulary curriculum using English forms of Greek and Latin roots and prefixes along with Canspell word lists. We have started our last Literature Unit that will include a study of the life of Gandhi by reading "Gandhi, a Fighter Without a Sword." 6th graders are diving into their first real gander with algebra and are doing GREAT! Excitement is in the air with the upcoming Fair/Stock Show season. Good luck to all!



Ms. Bell

We have been busy looking at pond water under the microscopes – we are absolutely thrilled when something wiggles! As our water sources warm up, we are hoping to find more treasures in our creek as we study Life Science. We are hoping that our local vet, Liz, will come up with an icky parasite that we can observe under her high powered microscope! Who said that school wasn't fun!! In Social Studies we completed a unit on the Soviet Union – very interesting to look at the timeline of all the changes that area has made over the last 35 years. As the kids are reading and discussing ancient history (the 70's) I am remembering when these changes were happening....hmmmm. As we enter the month of May we will be studying Mother Mary along with much memorization of the required prayers for the 5/6 grade!



Happy Spring!  
Mrs. Becker

## 7th & 8th Graders

Greetings from the 7/8 class! Over the past month, World War II has been a recurring theme across the curriculum. In Social Studies we've learned much about the actual conflict itself, the pivotal figures involved, and the global implications that came about as a result of the efforts of America's 'Greatest Generation.' We also saw the war from the standpoint of a Japanese-American family in Jeanne Wakatsuki's classic novel, 'Farewell to Manzanar.' After reading the book, the class engaged in a blistering, one-hour Lincoln-Douglas style debate. One half of the room took the stance that the Wakatsuki family was actually better off in an American internment camp (Manzanar); the other side defended the point that the family had a better life after returning to mainstream California. This assessment proved to be one of the highlights of the semester so far; the students were so well-spoken and well-prepared with their arguments (and defenses) that the debate resulted in a draw. (Although none of the personalities in our room are ever going to concede that their side lost.)



All God's blessings this spring,  
Mr. Doumit

## Computer Technology

The easy-to-use, <http://www.wix.com/> is assisting the 5/6 graders as they begin their final project for the year in Technology. This long awaited project is building their own websites! The students have chosen a field of work that they are interested in and are creating individual websites based on that theme. The 2/4 graders are having a blast learning to use the school's interactive whiteboard. We will be focusing on technology as a research tool in the coming weeks.

Ms. Bell

## Spanish

Buenos dias! In Spanish class we have learned the names of many animals, just in time for the fair! We are also learning our first group of adjectives, colors, so we will be able to complete a special Spanish edition of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" (El Oso Pardo, El Oso Pardo). In culture, Paige Buehler was our guest speaker. She shared with us her experiences from living in Columbia for a year. She showed us slides, brought in a sample of plantain chips, and demonstrated a wide variety of typical items used by the people in Columbia.

Coming up on May 5 is a Mexican holiday, El Cinco de Mayo (May 5th). I encourage my students to eat Mexican food (maybe try something new like sopapillas or empanandas) and speak Spanish while you eat!



Adios,  
Senora J.

## PE News!

We really enjoyed our lovely weather this month, and took advantage. Both classes ran the mile and most students beat their times from the fall. Also this month, we finished up our Floor Hockey Unit. It's always a favorite with the kids! Next, we'll complete a dance unit, learning a few classics like, the Limbo, the Mexican Hat dance, the Chicken dance, the Twist and more! Following dance, we'll get into some spring sports, including baseball, softball, badminton, and Frisbee golf. PE is always a pleasure. We have quite the group of athletes at GASB. They are great sports and good competitors!



Happy Exercising,  
Mrs. Marquardt

## Art Appreciation

We completed a unit on "form" and made pinch and coil pots with our newly learned techniques. Over the last couple weeks grades 1-6 have been working hard on the Knights of Columbus poster contest entitled "What does 'God's Gift of Life' mean to you?" Our local entries will be judged and taken to the state convention in May. Good luck to all of our participants!

Lori Becker

## "Notes" from Music



This spring's program is called "Pirates—the Musical" by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson. It features lively tunes in varying styles and tells the story of a pirate band on its way to win a prize for the best pirate song. All students will be featured in the program with some great surprise performances!! The students are working very well and it promises to be a memorable performance. The date will be Tuesday morning, May 25th. Please watch the email for requests about costumes and announcement of the exact time. Also, I will be assisting any students who are interested in trying an instrument. I have a flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and baritone horn which students can "test" and see if they like playing. I also would like to know if there is any interest in beginning piano lessons among families in the school or parish, with the possibility of me coming down to teach during the summer. Please leave a message at the school if you are interested in the above.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Snider

## Character Award Winners March—Self-discipline



Congratulations to Emma Schultheis (5th/6th), Emily Schultheis (3rd/4th), Jackson Meyer (1st/2nd) and Levi Weber (7th/8th), for their continued hard work and dedication in the field of self-discipline.

## What is MSP testing?

In 2009 Washington State OSPI changed the WASL testing to two new tests to be taken by public school students from Grades 3 through High School. The new tests are called MSP (Measurements of Student Progress) and HSPE (High School Proficiency Exam). These tests are shorter to take but are just as rigorous and can be taken online. They will cover Science, Math and Reading and tests results will also be available to parents and teachers online. For more information visit [www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting](http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting).

## First Communion and Confirmation

The 2nd graders will be receiving their First Communion and Confirmation this year at St. Boniface Parish on May 27th at 7:00 pm. Please join us for this very special Mass and pray for the students who have been working all year in preparation for this very important time in their Catholic lives. A short reception will follow at the GASB gym. Cake and beverages will be served.



## 8th Grade Graduation

Mark your calendars for the 8th Grade Graduation coming up on Tuesday, June 8th. The celebration will start with Mass at 6:00 pm at St. Boniface Parish. A reception will follow at the Guardian Angel-St. Boniface gymnasium. Please join us in this special event when we say a sad good-bye to Colby Bishop, Jordan Druffel, Jake Straughan, Levi Weber, Jake Wolf and Heather Young and wish them luck on their adventures into high school!



## 7th & 8th Grade Retreat

The 7th and 8th graders are preparing for their annual retreat this year at Ross Point in Post Falls, ID. They plan on leaving the 6th of June and returning the next day. Thanks to the hard work of parents, students and the community at the Mardi Gras Festival in February, they were able to raise enough money for their adventure. Please keep the junior high students in your prayers during these days as they prepare for their spiritual retreat to learn more about God in their lives and that they receive a deeper understanding about the importance of prayer and their faith.

## Recruitment

As we build our enrollment numbers, we are thankful for St Mary's parish in Genesee and Sacred Heart parish in Pullman for allowing us to come and speak to the parishioners about Guardian Angel – St. Boniface School. Thank you to Pat Doumit, Donna Wolf, Niki Wolf and Lori Becker for taking an active role in delivering the good news about our school. We look forward to welcoming our new families in 2010/2011!

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