



ElementaryNews

God, Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for the priceless gifts you have given us: our talents, our hopes, and even what we offer to you came first from your generous hands. We think of the foods we will soon eat, and we are filled with excitement and joy, knowing that they all came from this earth which you have given to us for a home.

Amen



November, 2010

www.saintalbertschools.org

Make Note of Some Important Events

Hy-Vee Cash Back for Students: Thanksgiving time means lots of grocery buying. If you're buying groceries at Hy-Vee, make sure you're saving the receipts to send to school. St. Albert receives \$1.00 for every \$200.00 in receipts we submit.

The last day for students to wear shorts was Friday, Oct. 29. Until April 1, only uniform pants, skorts or jumpers are allowed.

The Elementary Book Fair will be held Nov. 8–12th. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Amy Carter at dresseltocarter@yahoo.com or Carol Versaci at versacic@saintalbertschools.org

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Albert Elementary, a school committed to Jesus Christ through the teaching of the Catholic Church is to foster spiritual, moral, physical, and intellectual growth by providing educational opportunities for all students.

NOVEMBER ELEMENTARY MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Hot Dog on Bun French Fries Peas Blueberries Cookie Milk	2 Ham & Cheese on bun Scalloped Potatoes Baked Beans Pineapple Milk	3 Chicken Noodle Soup French Bread Carrots & Dip Bananas Pudding Milk	4 McRib on Bun Potato Wedges Corn Fruit Salad Milk	5 11:30 DISMISSAL NO BREAKFAST OR LUNCH SERVED
8 Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad Applesauce Peas Milk	9 Sloppy Joe on Bun Nacho Chips Cheese Sauce Corn Jello Milk	10 Chili Shredded Cheese Crackers Peaches Cinnamon Rolls Milk	11 Burrito Macaroni & Cheese California Veggies Dried Fruit Mix Milk	12 Mandarin Orange Chicken Rice Stir Fry Veggies Pineapple Bread Milk
15 Pork Tenderloin Potato Wedges Peas Baked Apples Milk	16 Garlic Cheese Bread Dipping Sauce Green Beans Peaches Milk	17 Turkey Gravy Mashed Potatoes Sweet Potatoes Cranberries French Bread Milk	18 Quesadilla Lettuce Salad Pears Corn Milk	19 Deli Sandwich Veggie Soup Crackers Pasta Salad Dried Fruit Mix Milk
22 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Peas Applesauce Bread Milk	23 Hamburger on Bun Baked Beans Chips Pears Pumpkin Bars Milk	24 THANKSGIVING VACATION NO SCHOOL	25 THANKSGIVING VACATION NO SCHOOL	26 THANKSGIVING VACATION NO SCHOOL
29 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Crackers Carrots & Dip Applesauce Milk	30 Scrambled Eggs Tri-Potatoes Waffle Sticks Juice Coffeecake Milk			

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What's Going On In Our Classrooms

Fifth and sixth grade *MAGIC* small groups have been learning Latin. They are doing conjugations (adding endings to verbs) and declensions (writing nouns in all its forms).

The children in the 3 year old Pre-K classes enjoyed having a CB fireman visit the classroom. They celebrated the Halloween holiday by wearing costumes and parading to other classrooms.

In math the children in Pre-K worked on sorting by rule. In language arts they worked on letters Bb, Cc, Dd, and Ee. In science they did experiments and learned about Columbus Day in social studies. The children learned about how to be kind and that God always loves us in religion.

The kindergarteners worked on the letters Ff, Bb, and Hh. They dictated facts about Halloween animals and wrote class books. In religion they discussed St. Francis, Mary, baptism and made rosaries. In science they focused on autumn, fire safety, night and day, Halloween animals and pumpkin life cycles.

The 2nd graders have been learning about the leaders of the different levels of government. Mayor Tom Hanafan came and spoke to the whole grade about his responsibilities as mayor.

As a culminating activity to this unit, they are working on projects focusing on the responsibilities of mayor of Council Bluffs, governor of Iowa, and the President of the U.S.

In social studies the students in 3rd grade have been working on their map skills. They enjoyed the Star Lab that reinforced their learning about the stars and the planets. In math they are rounding numbers to the nearest thousand, hundred, and ten. The students are almost finished learning the Ten Commandments.

In religion, the 4th graders have finished their Beatitudes computer projects. They went to the zoo to do research on habitats. In social studies they are beginning to study the Northeast region. In math they are working on a pumpkin math unit which includes measurement, patterns, money, and a variety of other skills. The students are preparing for Invention Convention in science.

In writing the 5th graders are working on poetry. In religion they shared their Ten Commandment power point presentations and are looking up passages in the Bible. They are creating diary books in reading.

The 6th graders are focusing on how to pray the rosary and what the mysteries mean. In math they have been working on decimals, mental math and problem solving. They are discussing climate and vegetation in social studies. In reading they are working on cause and effect.

WISH LIST

**Mrs. Assmann is asking for AA batteries.

**Mrs. O'Neil is asking for clothes pins, napkins and brown lunch bags.

**Mrs. Johnson is asking for Clorox wipes.

**Mrs. Epperson is asking for lined 3x5 index cards.

**Mrs. Avalos is requesting quart sized canning jars and lined 3x5 index cards.

**Mrs. Spencer is asking for plug-in air fresheners, liquid hand soap.

A reminder about our Attendance Policy (see Parent/Student Handbook 2009-2010 on the SA web site)

Because of the impact on their academic success and the work ethic they are establishing, students are expected to be present when school is in session. Administrators reserve the right to determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

Upon the 8th day absent from school in a trimester, a contract with limited future absences allowed is initiated between the school, parent and student. A violation of the contract can result in withdrawal.

Library Information

Does your child have a report or project to complete? Through Iowa AEA Online K-12 students have free access at school and at home to magazine articles, newspapers, encyclopedias, videos, photos, clipart, and much more. This information is free from objectionable content and designed for the various ages and interests of students from kindergarten through high school. These databases are available at www.iowaaeaonline.org. To obtain the user ID and password necessary to use these databases, please contact Ms. Pauli, St. Albert teacher librarian, or your child's classroom teacher.

Plan to attend St. Albert High School Library's book fair at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at Mall of the Bluffs on Saturday, November 27. While you shop, you'll have the opportunity to view St. Albert students' artwork and listen to our band play Christmas carols at 11:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to do some shopping as a percentage of your purchase comes back to us to buy books for our high school library. Just tell the cashier that your purchase is to go toward our book fair. If you're too busy to go to the mall on Saturday, you can do your shopping online at BN.COM/bookfairs and enter our bookfair ID: 10321370 at checkout. Thank you for your support of this annual fund raiser.

Scrip News

The holidays are fast approaching. Why not give yourself the gift of lower tuition payments by participating in the Saint Albert Scrip Program?

Scrip Coordinator Natalie Burkey is asking all of our families to join the Scrip program and start putting your holiday shopping dollars to work for you and your school. Scrip for hundreds of local and national merchants can be used to start your holiday shopping or help with that Thanksgiving meal.

To sign up for Scrip, simply log on to www.shopwithscrip.com (use enrollment code 4B5652176934). The tuition savings begins when you place your first order!

Contact Natalie at 329-9000 with any questions.

Thank You's

Thank you to Kane Fideler for the items donated to 6th grade.

Thank you to all the parents for their Witches Brew donations to kindergarten. Thank you from Mrs. O'Neil to the following people for the donations and assistance: Mrs. Kilbride, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Darnell, Mrs. Helton, Mrs. Ravlin, Mrs. Monahan, Mrs. Vargas, and "Grandma".

Thank you from Mrs. Schmitz to Phoenix Ranney and Conner Leach for the classroom donations.

A big THANK YOU to all the grandparents, friends, relatives, etc. who attended our "Grandparents Day" in October.

Thanks from Mrs. Johnson to Lily Krohn, Alexis Narmi, Josie Schroeder, Myles Troutner, Jack Goltl, and Ayleth Jauregui for donating items to the classroom.

Mrs. Burgan would like to thank Tess and Colby for the classroom donations.

Mrs. McColloch would like to thank the students and their families that donated items to her classroom.

Thank you to Andy Kouri, Jacque Liston, Pat McColloch, and Jim Dubas for bringing treats and being guest readers in Mrs. Marshall's room.

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped with the fundraiser delivery and pick-up:

Mr. Ryan and his students, Mrs. Damgaard, Mrs. Spencer's 5th grade students, Kelly Krohn, Dennis Klein, Joni Klusman, Melissa Williams, Lori Powers, Rodney Tague, Denise Hoag

A big thank you goes to our fundraising chairperson, Kathleen Tague, for all her assistance with this major fundraiser. It looks like we will net \$12,740. Thank you to all who participated!

Thank you to Grace Garrigan, Lauren Pattermann, T.J. Anderson, San Rallis, Greg Fagan, Noah Ruckman, Michael Beckman, Abby Tague, Eric Matthai, and Jacob Rhedin for the items donated to Mrs. Epperson's room. Thanks to Kelly Brownfield for arranging for Mayor Tom Hannafan to speak to the 2nd graders.

Thanks to Colin Michael and Rebecca Roh for donating items to Mrs. Avalos' room.

Thank you to Aaron Russel and his family for the classroom donation.

Thank you from Mrs. Spencer to Greg Crawley, Noah Noecker, Emma Barnes, James Hoag for the items donated to her classroom.

November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>All Saints Day Mass Pre-K—6 8:45 a.m. in ele. gym</i>	2 <i>Elementary Conferences 4-9 p.m.</i>	3	4 <i>Elementary Conferences 4-9 p.m.</i>	5 <i>11:30 a.m. Dismissal Prof. Development</i>	6
7 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	8 <i>Ele. Book Fair This Week...</i>	9 <i>Picture Retakes Adoration in the ele. chapel 10:30-3:00 SA Papa John's Night</i>	10	11 <i>SA Feast Day Mass Pre-K-12 9:30 a.m. in HS Gym PSG Mtg. @ 6:30pm</i>	12	13
14	15 <i>Hearing Checks</i>	16 <i>Hearing Checks</i>	17	18	19 <i>Pre-K—6 Mass 8:45 a.m. in Ele. Gym</i>	20
21	22	23 <i>Adoration in the Ele. Chapel 10:30-3:00</i>	24 <i>No School</i>	25 <i>No School Thanksgiving</i>	26 <i>No School</i>	27
28	29	30				

Music News

The schedule of musical performances for this year is listed below:

Monday, Dec. 6	K-3	Christmas Program	H.S. Gym	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20	4-6	Christmas Program	H.S. Gym	7 p.m..
Friday, Mar. 11	2 nd	Grade Musical	Elementary Gym	1:15 & 2:15 p.m.
Friday, Apr. 1	1 st	Grade Musical	Elementary Gym	1:15 & 2:15 p.m.
Friday, Apr. 29	3 rd	Grade Musical	Elementary Gym	1:15 & 2:15 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	4-6	Spring Program	H.S. Gym	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 12	Kindergarten	Musical	Elementary Gym	1:15 & 2:15 p.m.

The Sixth Grade are working on a choir set of Christmas songs with presentation at the Christmas program on Monday, Dec. 20. They will also sing at Harmony Court at 1:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17 and for our younger elementary students at 2:20 p.m. that same day in our elementary gym.

The Fifth Grade will begin a choir set in January with presentation in March. Their first performance will be Tuesday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the Intermediate Music room. This show is for their families. They will also sing at 1:45 p.m. on March 1 at Harmony Court and in the elementary gym for all elementary students at 2:00 p.m. on March 2. Content of this show has not been selected.

The Fourth Grade will begin a choir set in March with presentation at the Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 3. They will also sing at Primrose Retirement on Friday, May 6, at 1:45 p.m. and in the elementary gym at 2:20 p.m. that same day. Content of this show has not been selected.

The Fourth Grade will attend the Omaha Symphony Concerts for Youth on Wednesday, Feb. 23. This trip is sponsored by the Parent Support Group and we thank them for providing this opportunity for our children.

World Mission Information:

The World Mission 2010 Taco Run is next week! Please join us on Saturday, November 6 at 9 AM for a 5 K run or a 1 mile walk. Sign up by Monday, November 1 to ensure receiving a long-sleeved t-shirt. For forms and more information, please see the SA website.

Get your SA Spirit Silly Bandz and support the Falcons and Saintes! Gold Falcons and green crosses are on sale now. They are \$.75 for one or better yet, 2 for \$1.00. Please show your support for all the SA teams - please send your order with your child Monday (November 1). Orders will be filled each day so that the students will have them in time for the meet/games.

Are you a scrapbook fan? Come get those photos organized!! Join us on Saturday, November 6 from 5 PM - midnight in the SA Cafeteria for food, photos and fun. See the SA website for more details on this fun Scrapbook night!

Dear Saint Albert Parents,


On April 30th, 2011, Saint Albert will host one of its favorite traditions: the Benefit Auction. In its 30 years of existence, the auction has served as the school's largest fundraiser. As always, it will include dinner, silent and oral auctions, and the opportunity to raise much-needed money for Saint Albert Catholic Schools.

The goals for the 2011 auction and raffle are \$175,000 and \$100,000 respectively. The theme of this year's auction is ***Kentucky Derby—Saint Albert Style*** and includes a raffle for \$25,000 cash! Both events will be held on April 30th, 2011, at the Mid-America Center.

The auction and raffle help Saint Albert keep its long-standing tradition of academic excellence. Saint Albert uses the fundraisers' proceeds for its general operating budget, which allows the school to offer many high quality programs for its students. The auction and raffle also help Saint Albert keep its tuition affordable for families throughout southwest Iowa.

Saint Albert asks you as a parent to please support the 2011 auction and raffle. Lend your support by purchasing raffle tickets, donating items to the auction, volunteering to sell raffle tickets at different events, and attending class collection parties if your child is in Pre-K - 6th grade! The success of these fundraisers directly impacts Saint Albert's academic programs, its tuition rates, its students, and its longevity. God bless you,

The Jan Hughes Family
2011 Auction Chair
Jan Hughes
Chris ('88) and Julie Hughes
Shari Hughes ('90)
Lori Hughes ('91)
Jamie Hughes ('93)
Kelly ('94) and Brad ('94) Krohn
Marty Hughes ('96)



Jim Rouse
President

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Denise Mulcahy, Director of Teaching and Learning

21st Century Skills

There is a lot of talk around the topic of 21st Century Skills in the education world today. We hear that employers are seeking new employees who not only have a mastery of the academic information but have also a mastery of skills such as communication, collaboration, and job completion. What are these 21st century skills and how are these being embedded into the curriculum in our Catholic schools so our students will be prepared in all ways for their world of work?

Along with Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies the area of 21st Century Skills is an area of implementation in the Iowa Core. This means that these skills are to be taught to all students so each student has been exposed to these skills as a part of their education. Within the area of the 21st Century Skills in the Iowa Core, there is specific focus on Financial Literacy, Employability Skills, Technology Literacy, Civic Literacy, and Health Literacy. Let's take a brief look at each of the sub-categories of the 21st Century Skills so you have an idea of what each area is about.

- **Financial Literacy:** Students will develop an understanding of money and its use, the concept of need vs. want, and the effect of the economy on spending.
 - **Employability Skills:** This area focuses on the skills of collaborating with others, being open to the ideas of others, and setting goals in order to complete work or projects.
 - **Technology Literacy:** Students are using multiple kinds of technology tools and also understanding the correct use for these tools.
 - **Civic Literacy:** Students will develop an understanding of the government and how it works, along with what it means to live in a democratic society.
- Health Literacy:** Through instruction in health literacy students will understand the concept of a healthy lifestyle and how actions can affect our health.

When we think about how much the jobs we currently hold have changed over the years and then couple that information with the knowledge that many of the jobs/careers our students will hold in the next 10-15 years have not even been invented, we see the importance of students having the capacity and knowledge to work and adapt to a changing environment because they possess the skills needed for success.

Many of the skills and topics that are outlined with these 21st Century Skills are already a part of the instruction our students receive; and in our Catholic schools this is a unique opportunity for us to once again help our students see that our faith is practiced in all we do – it is not just something we learn in Religion class each day. As we instruct our students in Financial Literacy we also talk with them about how we practice financial giving to the church and offer financial assistance to organizations like Catholic Charities. When we are guiding our students in small group work and discussing the importance of valuing and respecting another person's ideas, we are also instructing in the area of Employability skills. As we discuss the current events and issues our state, nation, and world are facing and the Catholic response to these issues we are instructing our students in Civic Literacy.

A part of the mission of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines is that our schools are places where students grow in faith and wisdom and emerge as responsible citizens dedicated to the practice of life-long discipleship. Through our daily work and our professional development opportunities our teachers and administrators will help students to make the connection between these 21st Century Skills and their faith so our mission is met and our students leave our schools as productive, Christian citizens in our society.