



At Saint Jerome School, these are some of the ways we lived our Mission this week....December 2, 2011

Academic excellence

As we wind down our **first term**, I would like to commend those of you who have consistently done your best and those of you who have pushed yourselves to do more than even you might have thought you could do. If what you did worked, keep it up. If you know things you could do differently, please do them and, if you need guidance to make a better plan, please speak to your teachers. Each of you can do well if you do what it takes!

I am very proud of the attentiveness and excellent questions asked during our visit Wednesday from **Colonel Graham**. I hope everyone in Grades 4-8 heard how many times Colonel Graham spoke of the importance of continuing your education! I was amazed at how many different stories he shared about the places he has served our country and the experiences he has had during his command. Colonel Graham promises to come back and do a lesson on cultures of the world which I know will be equally impressive. We extend our gratitude to him and look forward to his return!

Grade 8 did a unique lesson using “ambassadors” to help solve equations utilizing elements from the periodic table. Students identified themselves as ambassadors when they believed they understood the work well enough to help someone else. As more students understood, more ambassadors were created. It was an excellent exercise in team and knowledge building. I learned a few things myself! Nice job Grade 8!

I enjoyed my lesson in **Grade 3** this week watching Mrs. Kamberidis lead a human sentence exercise. The students were building a paragraph to define what a biography is and 5 students began the process. If they needed help, they chose another student to take their place in the line. After each added sentence, the class read from the SMART board for fluency and pacing and then to determine if they felt it was ready to move forward. Everyone was an important part of the lesson and seemed to enjoy “living” the writing experience!

Mr. Smith’s **Grade 6 Social Studies** was enjoying a group project lesson this week comparing geographic regions. Thanks for letting me peek and I’m looking forward to your presentations next week.



Faith at the center of what we do

Thank you all for your presence and participation at our **Thanksgiving Mass**. Having the chance to practice our new responses for the Mass, to spend time reflecting on our many blessings and to receive Jesus in the Eucharist made it a wonderful start to our celebration of Thanksgiving. A special thanks to the 8th graders who so willingly led the celebration in readings and prayer.

Grade 2 has done a great job preparing for our liturgy today. We know that our Advent will be extra special because of their efforts. I also invite all of you to take a visit to the chapel to enjoy the prayer service grade 2 has prepared for all of us to share. Make sure to notice the special decorations that go along with the prayers!

It has been so nice to see the many ways you are observing **Advent in your classrooms**. I enjoyed Grade 7's efforts to list 25 ways they can bring goodness into the world each day until Christmas (and, hopefully, beyond!). Miss Powers and Mrs. Plevock have put up a beautiful Advent wreath on the wall on the first floor. Look for the new prayer each week. Advent wreaths are in our classrooms and at the front door to remind all visitors of the reason for the season! We thank Father Blaney for blessing our school wreath on Monday and for offering our first prayer of the season.

A special thanks to the 7 members of our **basketball teams and Coach Hegarty** for representing Saint Jerome School at the opening Mass for the Catholic Basketball league at the Cathedral last Sunday. They had a chance to spend time there with Bishop Dooher and, story is, enjoyed a trip to Regina's Pizza afterwards!

We are currently praying for our beautiful friend, Charlotte Kelly, who is very sick, Mrs. Plevock's niece, Megan Delery, Mrs. Kukstis' brother-in-law, Edward, a school parent recently diagnosed and others on our prayer list. Please remember them daily.



Community through service

A reminder of the wonderful opportunity we have to celebrate the spirit of giving by donating a snuggly pair of **pajamas** to a child who does not have all that we are lucky enough to have. Please join the cause over the next few weeks.

Please remember to say thank you today to all the parents and students who will help out at the **Craft Workshop**. I know all the preparation will lead to a really fun time for those participating today. Enjoy!

Mrs. Susie Chu owns the Cathay Center and is a true friend of Saint Jerome School. Most recently she hosted our school's Meat Raffle. I hope all of you who attended last Saturday had some fun and maybe even won a nice prize. I know Joanna Dwyer and her family were big winners. Joanna took the time to write a very nice thank you note to Mrs. Chu thanking her for a fun night and her generosity towards our school! Today we have a **blood drive** at our school and we hope you recognize the gift that the donors will give. Thank you to our students and parents who are helping out serving the donors' needs.

A special shout-out for the great preparation that is going on for the school Christmas show. Grade 1 and their Christmas dishes are going to amaze you! The bar is set high for the rest of the classes!

We received lovely **thank you notes** from Mrs. Burke and the people at Angel's Voice Orphanage, the grateful folks at the Saint Vincent de Paul organization and the Lavin ladies' grandparents complimenting you on the wonderful job you all did on the Grandparents Celebration! How nice to know you are appreciated!

And my final shout-out goes to the team members of the Lego Lions and their parents who continue to work to be ready to compete tomorrow. I know you will represent yourselves and our school well at the competition. Good luck!

I hope you all celebrate the specialness of the season with your families this second weekend of Advent!

Mrs. Puleo