

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL NEWS

FEBRUARY EDITION

Catholic Schools' Week

January 31 - February 6

Sunday, January 31, 2010

10-11:00am: (Change from in the past!!) All-Student Mass with families and parishioners in celebration of our Catholic school. We ask that students arrive in plenty of time prior to Mass and are dressed in their school uniform as many students will be participating. The Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented during Mass.

9-11:30am: A pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus will be held in the Assumption gym.

9-12:00 am: Assumption School will have an Open House for all current and prospective families. This is a great opportunity to see the school! Please invite any family that may have an interest in our school.

Monday, February 1, 2010

Team Spirit Day – dress up in your favorite team gear

Assumption students will work with John Jannenga, local artist.

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Clash Day – wear clothes that do not match

Assumption students will continue work with John Jannenga, local artist.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Crazy Sock Day – wear a crazy pair of socks – still a \$1 dress down day

10:30 am: Assumption students will participate in Literary Lounging.

11:25 am: Early dismissal – Parent Pick-up Day — The staff will be attending a special mass at Christ the King School for Catholic Schools' Week.

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Hat Day – wear a hat during the day (except during Mass, of course)

8:30 am: All-School Mass. All are invited to share in this prayerful time.

Assumption students will continue work with John Jannenga, local artist.

Friday, February 5, 2010

Dress Up Day – wear your fancy clothes

Assumption students will continue work with John Jannenga, local artist.

10:30 am: Dowling Catholic Student Ambassadors will visit and read to the Assumption First Grade students.

11:30 am: Parent-Student Luncheon in the gym. Contact Diane if you plan to dine with your child(ren) by February 3. The art work created by our students will be on display in the gym.

6:00 pm: Assumption School Family Fun Night (sponsored by the Assumption Board of Education) at Tiger Bowl in Madrid.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

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School Mass Times for the Month

Thursday, February 4

Thursday, February 11

Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday)

Tuesday, February 25



Please join us in this prayerful time. School Mass is at 8:30 am.

Specials Corner:

Gym:

As the February cold sets in lets remember to keep our hearts warm during heart month. We will be starting our Jump Rope for Heart campaign in February. I will hand out packets February 8th, and they will be due February 25th. Look for more information to come with the packets.



Library:

The creator of the lovable big red dog will be our author for February. Norman Bridwell always loved to draw. Even after many rejections from publishers he didn't give up his drawing. One editor encourage Bridwell to write a story to go with his illustrations, because there just weren't any stories that needed his style of drawings. This was the beginning of Clifford the Big Red Dog.



Technology:

Keyboarding will continue to be our focus this month. With missed days due to the weather, I feel we need to continue in this area. Right now we are using a website that allows each student to progress at their own rate. We will take a timed typing test at the middle and end of the month to show how they have progressed. Stop in during conferences to check out the programs we have been using and look at a sample of your child's work.



Music: The month starts with the students leading the music for the Catholic School Week mass. Music is a great way to praise God and minister to all the members of our church family. It is a special event when we have many children serving as song leaders. Every week during school mass we have a smaller group who lead us in music. This is a life long skill that we hope many will carry on throughout their adult lives.



Many of the projects started in January will continue into February. The 7th and 8th will complete their unit on various musicians and share their research with the class. We will then explore the musical career of Billy Joel and his hit "We Didn't Start the Fire". We will discuss the important events for each decade in that song. The students will then create new verses to expand the song to what has happened since the song was released.

First and Second grade students will be listening to the musical composition of "Peter and the Wolf." Recognition of various instruments and their correlating characters will be one goal of the unit. We will finish with an art project and watching the video of the story.

Pre-school and pre-kindergarten continue to enjoy many different aspects of music. We sing many songs; adding actions, instruments, and movement. Exploration of our voices both as a group and individuals is done during each class period. Marching, skipping, galloping to different beats is used to help with coordination and listening skills.

Kindergarten students will be working on reading and writing rhythm patterns. Simple notation help us learn the basics for further reading skills. Craft sticks help us write rhythms in an easy and fun way.



The winter season has taken a toll on our Kleenex supply. We are asking your help in replenishing our reserves. Please send a box to school with your child to help us keep germs from spreading.

I've Always Wanted to Know About...Differentiation in the Classroom

In the past and following months, you will be receiving information regarding differentiation in our diocesan schools. This teaching strategy is one the teachers have been learning about and utilizing in their classrooms. We would like you to take some time to learn about this teaching strategy and it's benefits for your child(ren).

There are four different areas to differentiate in the classroom: content, process, product, and learning environment. Today we will focus on one of those: Process.

Differentiating Process

- Allows students options for making sense of new idea
- Teachers must use flexible grouping based on readiness, interests, and learner profiles
- Strong classroom management and established routines are vital
- The teacher acts a facilitator and provides resources and guidance as needed to the students
- Some example of differentiating for process would be:
 - providing interest centers that encourage students to explore areas of the class topic of particular interest to them
 - offering tactile or hands-on supports for students who need them
 - varying the length of time a student may take to complete a task
 - allowing students to watch a video, use technology, read a book, play a game, etc. to learn a key concept



Information adapted from: Tomlinson, C.A. "Differentiation of Instruction in the Elementary Grades" *ERIC Digest*, 27 January 2009. <http://www.ericdigests.org/2001-2/elementary.html>

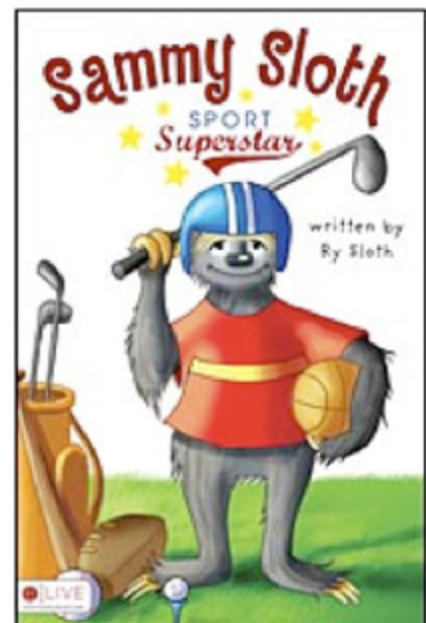
Please look for the next installment on Differentiating Products coming soon!

Local Author, Ry Sloth, to visit Assumption School on February 9

Growing up in Belmond, Iowa Ry Sloth had the opportunity to participate in all sports but excelled in football. Ry played cornerback for the Iowa State University football team and in 2000, helped lead the Cyclones to their best record and first bowl victory in school history. Known now as Coach Sloth, Ry has been an assistant coach for the Columbus Destroyers, Albany Conquest, and the Iowa Barnstormers, along with helping Iowa State. Ry has also had the opportunity to share the big screen with Matthew McConaughey in *We Are Marshall* and George Clooney in *Leatherheads*. Ry currently resides in Ames, Iowa.

Sammy Sloth is on a quest to become a sport superstar! Unfortunately, after trying out for the track, baseball, and swimming teams at school, Sammy still hasn't found his sport. Will he ever find the sport that best fits his slow and steady nature?

Author, Ry Sloth, introduces children to a youngster who, with the encouragement of his mother, is determined never to give up on his dream. Join Sammy Sloth on his journey to learn the importance of continued effort and hard work to succeed. Children and adults will find themselves cheering Sammy along on his quest to become *Sammy Sloth: Sport Superstar!*



Snow Make-Up Days

I know the winter weather has been a stress on you. Please know that your child's safety is at the forefront of any decision we make regarding the canceling of school. Since we have missed numerous days I am in the process of reviewing the rules that we must follow in regards to making up school days. When I have completed that work I will consider the options and if it is not clear which is the best I will ask for input. I will keep you informed as necessary.

Catholic Tuition Organization Application Deadline

Applications for CTO financial assistance have arrived. Once again applications can be made in hardcopy or online. To request a hardcopy, please contact Mr. Hartman.

For an online application, go to www.ctodsmdiocese.org under the tuition assistance link and use the school code: 450 and password: cto450.

For more information about the program, contact Mr. Hartman with questions.

All applications are confidential!

Deadline for application: April 2

Assumption Marketing

Parents are our most effective piece in the marketing machine for Assumption. Please continue to share the number of great things that go on in our school when the opportunity arises.

It is approaching the time of year when we put together our Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten lists. If you have a child, or know of someone else, who would be the right age for either program, please pass on their name so we can contact them for our roundup that we will have in February or March. We have information on our Early Childhood programs in the office and on our webpage.

We will be continuing the recruiting incentive (of waiving the book/material/technology fee) for every K-8 student you help recruit to our school. For more information, please contact Mr. Hartman.

Where Faith and Knowledge Meet

Bishop Pates visit

Bishop Pates' visit to Assumption School has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 29th. Please plan on attending School Mass, if at all possible on that day.



7th & 8th Graders Visit Dowling

Assumption 7th and 8th grade students will visit Dowling Catholic High School on Thursday, February 25. They will tour Dowling and have lunch before returning to Assumption.

Important Dates

- February 3** – \$1 Dress Down Day
 - Early Dismissal (11:25 am). Parent Pick-up.
 - No Pre-School or Pre-Kindergarten
- February 4** – Board of Education Meeting (7:00 pm) in the church conference room.
- February 6** – Chess Club (9-10:30 am) for 1st through 8th graders.
- February 7** – Confirmation Retreat in Panora.
- February 11** – All School Mass (8:30 am). All are invited to share in this time of prayer for our students.
- February 13** – Chess Club (9-10:30 am) for 1st through 8th graders.
- February 17** – Ash Wednesday Mass (8:30 am).
 - Parent Teacher Conferences (3-6:00 pm)
- February 18** – No School.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences (12-4:00 pm and 5-7:00 pm)
- February 19** – No School.
- February 20** – Chess Club (9-10:30 am) for 1st through 8th graders.
- February 24** – Free Dress Down Day.