



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

850 Washington Street • Braintree, MA 02184
Phone: (781) 848-0842 • Fax: (781) 356-5309 • www.sfab.org



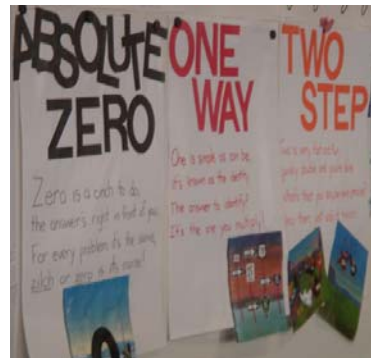
Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! If you think this greeting is premature, it's probably because you're thinking about the secular year. The liturgical year, however, begins at the start of Advent. Advent, which began on November 29th this year, marks the beginning of the church year. We usher in Advent, a season of penance and spiritual preparation, by lighting the first of four candles on the Advent wreath. These candles symbolize the hope, joy, peace, and love the Savior will bring us.



Not only does Advent mark a new year for the church, but it also marks a new beginning for third grade. We began multiplication and the students are taking pride in their multiplication achievements thus far.



To coincide with our Sadlier-Oxford multiplication unit students are; learning multiplication poetry from *The Best of Times* by Greg Tang to go along with each single digit factors, using manipulatives to discover new multiplication concepts, and are exploring multiplication through the use of technology; our classroom SMARTBoard and the student computers. There are many websites that aid students in not only developing an understanding for multiplication but also help students recite their math facts quickly. Your children will also be coming home with flashcards each night. Please make sure your child practices these facts every night to make these problems more automatic. We began timed multiplication quizzes to ensure that the students are studying and can quickly



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recite their facts. One especially helpful website to help foster automaticity is Oswego's "Are you a math magician?" <http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/mathsmulti.html> On this website, students must complete math facts within 1 minute.

You may have noticed the new addition to your child's T.E.A.M. Binder. In a page protector is a multiplication goal chart. When your child completes the timed multiplication quiz on the "math magician" website *while in school*, they will receive a sticker for that factor. The goal is to complete each factor by the end of January. The flashcards, as well as the website are great tools for accomplishing this goal.

Language Arts

We have been working on creating **paragraph summaries** to describe what happened in the story, **cause and effect**, and **sequence of events**. We use a hamburger organizer to make sure we have included each of the important elements of a paragraph. We are also working on the **writing process**: organizing ideas, rough drafts, editing, and final copies. Students have been encouraged to use proofreading marks to edit their work and make sure they touch upon each important **trait** of writing.

Science

We are currently studying life science surely prepared the students for our last language arts unit, *City Wildlife*. We will be concluding this unit and will move on to **Earth Science**. This will be an exciting unit as we will explore rocks and minerals, and different parts of the earth.

Social Studies





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In Social Studies we learned about the Wampanoags, the first settlers of Massachusetts. We were able to compare their way of living to both the Pilgrims and also our own way of living. In discussing the First Thanksgiving, students realized all that the Pilgrims were thankful for. 3rd grade realized that we had a whole lot to be thankful for also, including supportive families and caring friends. The students really enjoyed taking part in a Thanksaiving Reader's Theatre. "The Pilarims" and "Wampanoags" presented



interviews and worked on improving reading fluency. The highlight of our studies was certainly when we had the opportunity to experience the Wampanoag and Pilgrim way of life at Plimouth Plantation and the Mayflower in Plymouth, MA. Throughout December, we will continue to learn about Massachusetts and travel through time to the Revolutionary War.

Religion

The saint projects were wonderful! Everyone worked very hard and we were able to learn about many different Saints throughout the month of November. Along with Advent, we will also be learning about the different symbols of Christmas and their religious significance and we will focus on the upcoming Holy Day of Obligation, the Immaculate Conception.

Library

This month we will visit the library on 12/1 and 12/15.

With the team's cooperation and good listening, we will have a very exciting month!
I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Miss Giroux



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Some important dates:

December 3rd - 11:30 Dismissal

December 8th - Holy Day, School Liturgy at 8:45

December 11th - Santa's Workshop

December 16th- Christmas Concert, Noon Dismissal

December 22nd- Last day before Christmas Break(full day)

December 23rd- Christmas Vacation begins

January 4th- School Resumes

January 15th - School Liturgy at 8:45, Noon Dismissal

January 18th - Martin Luther King Day No School

February 1st-5th Catholic Schools Week/Open House

February 5th- Family Liturgy at 7pm



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