



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,

In a world of rapidly emerging **technology and scientific discovery**, how are you cultivating your child as a science learner? The twenty-first century calls for lifelong learners who are able to **think creatively to solve problems**. How can you help your child think in a scientific way?

Here are a few ideas for encouraging wonder and problem solving ability in your child:

- Encourage questions from your child, but don't be quick to give the answers. Instead, help your child **think critically and learn ways to find out**- either in a book, by going out in the yard and discovering, and looking the answer up together using technology.
- The best answer to use is often, **"Let's try and find out."**
- It is important for your child to be aware of things. You can encourage this awareness by being **curious** and aware of yourself and sharing experiences with your child.
- Ask **"why" and "how"** questions as you wonder with your child at the beauty of God's creation.
- Finally, **listen appreciatively** to your child's observations and discoveries and know that you are cultivating a science learner!

Building and encouraging a sense of wonder and problem solving attitude with your child will serve as a real asset throughout his or her life. You will be surprised at how much everyone in the family can learn and how much fun you will have together along the way!

Math

The following is a link to the Sadlier-Oxford Website. There are many online components to this math program. The student center link has a variety of resources such as virtual manipulatives, daily problems for practice, math minutes, practice activities, enrichment, and alternative teaching models.

http://www.sadlieroxford.com/math/student_2006.cfm?sp=student&year=2006&grade=3

Although we are moving on to other math concepts, we will still continue to practice our math facts to increase automaticity. Please be sure your child continues to study their facts. Automaticity is very important because this builds a strong foundation for math throughout the upcoming years. I can see that the students are taking pride in their math progress and enjoy practicing their speed using the Math Magician program.



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Language Arts

As we concluded our unit on imagination, it was apparent that the students let their own imaginations soar when creating their fractured fairy tales. As we move on to our next unit, **Money**, we have many exciting activities that will incorporate other subjects as well as our community service as a third grade team. Coming up is our first SFA Book Swap, put on by both third grade classes. The book swap is a way for students to share books that were once loved with others, with the reward of receiving someone else's cherished books. Children will receive one "Book Buck" for each book they bring in. However, children cannot receive more than five "Book Bucks." Children should feel free to bring in as many books as they can; any books over the limit of five will be considered **donations** to local charities and the school. Since the entire school will be participating in this activity, please consider donating all genres of books at any level. This project is exciting as the students learn firsthand the concept of bartering and trading. They are very excited to play a role in organizing books into the appropriate genre, and working at the book swap to help other students choose someone else's cherished books.

Religion

As we begin Lent, third grade is focusing on our responsibility to grow and change for Jesus. Students are actively thinking about ways they can turn away from sin and be more faithful to the Gospel.

Some important dates:

Friday March 12th - No School (Teacher Professional Day at Regis College)

Friday March 19th - School Liturgy at 8:45, Noon Dismissal

March 20th - SFA 50th Anniversary Gala

March 22nd-26th-Standardized Testing Week

April 1st-Holy Thursday, Noon Dismissal

April 2nd-Good Friday, No School

April 5th-Bishop's Day Off, No School



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Many of the children are missing supplies that they need to do their daily work. Please make sure your child has pencils, glue sticks, and coloring utensils. We could also use some classroom supplies such as tissues, Clorox Wipes, and baby wipes. Thank you for all that you are doing.



Thank you!
Miss Giroux