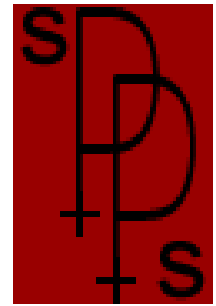


S.P.P.S. Newsletter



The Principal's Pen

Dear Parents:

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our First Annual Funderwear Challenge. While it was a wonderful night in that our boys won the basketball game and our school won the Funderwear trophy, the real winners are the families of Southern Illinois who will benefit from these donations.

Once again the families of Ss. Peter & Paul have responded to a call from those in need.

As we prepare for our Christmas break may I share a special blessing with you:

May the coming of Jesus bring you the light of His holiness and His blessing bring you freedom!

May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and

untiring in love all the days of your life.

You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us as man.

When he comes again in glory, may He reward you with endless life!

(Advent Blessing)

May Christ's love be with you and your family,

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

January 2010

S.P.P.S.
Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Full-page Calendar with Important Dates
- ✓ January Lunch Menu
- ✓ Classroom Action Shots
- ✓ Shining Stars

Inside this issue:

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S.P.P.S. Reaches Out



The 1st Annual Funderwear competition was a huge success! S.P.P.S. took home the Tightly Whitey Trophy and won the basketball game, but the big winner

of the night was Daystar—the organization in Cairo, IL. 4,694 pairs of underwear, socks, gloves, hats, and shirts will be given to families in need this winter. First grade and

Buchheit wear underwear on her head all day on Monday! A special thanks to Gibault for hosting this fun night, and to I.C.S. for providing worthy competition. We can be sure they will be pumped to take home the Tightly Whitey Trophy next year. A special thanks to all parishioners, parents, grandparents, and friends who bought t-shirts or donated items. You helped make the 1st Annual Funderwear a

5B tied for the classroom competition, but the entire school got the opportunity to see Mrs.



The Classroom Corner—Spotlight on 3rd Grade



Third Grade is an exciting and fast-paced year. Here are a few of the things we study and do throughout the school year.



Kelsey receiving "Boxcar Stew"

Books Read in Class

Boxcar Children

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Ramona Quimby, Age 8

Chocolate Fever

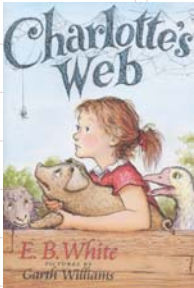
Mouse and the Motorcycle

Ralph S. Mouse

Molly's Pilgrim

Charlotte's Web

How to Eat Fried Worms



Projects

We do lots of fun projects this year! We make Pilgrims, Mazes, Leaf Collections, Covered Wagons, Pueblos, and have a fun Prairie Day in the Spring.



Kindergarten Buddies

We meet with our buddies once a month to read stories

Poems Memorized

- "Battle of the Leaves"
- "October, November" by John Updike
- "Stinky Boys"
- "Ribbon Snake"

Field Trips

Bird Sanctuary & The Lewis and Clark Heritage Site #1

Mission Projects

Collect and organize "Essentials for the Poor" and participate in *Scholastics' 100 Books* to benefit underprivileged school libraries

Science Topics

Volcanoes and Landforms, Matter, Force, Simple Machines, Plants, Animal Kingdoms, Habitats, Energy and Conservation, and Recycling

Social Studies Topics

Citizenship, Mesa Verde, Lewis & Clark, Jamestown, Pilgrims, Washington D.C.

Accelerated Reader

We just began A.R. this year, and are very excited



Mrs. Riebeling's Third Grade Class



Third Grader Brianna (center) with her Kindergarten Buddies Sarah (left) and Alyssa



Mrs. Castello's Third Grade Class

Classroom Corner

P.E. News

Preschoolers are learning the letter "J" in class therefore the whole PE class was spent jumping through agility ladders and jumping to find the letter J. The K -2nd grades have just completed learning about the different types of balls and the appropriate way to use them. There are balls we can throw, balls we kick, balls we hit with a racquet and some balls have multiple uses. The 3rd-4th grades have completed doing the Fitness Straw Run. Trying to beat their own personal record from early this fall. The 5th-8th grades did a week of team work playing Ultimate Frisbee. The week before Christmas was spent being a week of Physical Fun Christmas Relays!



Echoes in Our Heart Projects from the 8th graders



Student in Mrs. Huels' class with their Certificate of Adoption of Gilda the Loggerhead Sea Turtle



2A Adopts a Loggerhead Sea Turtle

As part of their animal unit in Science, 2A adopted a Loggerhead Turtle on November 24. The turtle they adopted is named Gilda. She was adopted through the Loggerhead Marine Life Center. Gilda suffered a propeller injury to both flippers along with injuries to her head and neck. The children in 2A are able to keep track of their turtle on line by viewing pictures and reading updates on her progress. After Christmas, each child will have a chance to take a stuffed animal Gilda home with them. They will write in a journal about Gilda's adventures in Waterloo, Illinois. To view a picture of Gilda, or read more about her you may visit her website at www.marinelife.org, and click on rehabilitation.

Laura's Library

The Higher Power of Lucky

By: Susan Patron

This story is about Lucky, a girl whose mother died from being electrocuted. She is determined to find her higher power which could help her to have a successful future. This is going to be hard to do when because her father doesn't want her to live with him and so she has to live with her father's first wife (Lucky's mom was his second wife). Every day Miles, a boy in Lucky's neighborhood, goes on his daily "cookie rounds". Lucky gives him a cookie and tells him a "real" (which is really made-up) story. Then suddenly, Miles goes missing!!!



What will happen to him? Read this book to find out. I recommend this to you because it is funny and touching. It really makes you feel like you are in Hard Pan, California (pop. 43). AR B.L.- 5.9 and AR points- 5.0

Artemis Fowl!

By: Eoin Colfer

This is a story about an eleven-year old boy. He is a criminal mastermind. His plan is to capture a fairy, but his plan gets interrupted. Holly Short is the only girl in the "LEPrecon" unit. What will they make of her?

In this exhilarating novel you get the taste of the fictional and realistic adventures of Artemis Fowl. This is a story about an unusual friendship. There are five more books in this action-packed series if you liked this one. This book is able to reach out and take you into the land of Artemis Fowl. AR B.L.- 5.0 and AR points- 9.0

THIS & THAT



B-I-N-G-O
Electronic
Bingo is now
available!

Come enjoy a night of fun at the Waterloo VFW.
You could win up to \$500 while supporting our school!



Prayer List

Please let us know if we can add someone to the list.

Mark Reinhold, Laura Holzweg, Kali Blechle, Tom Helfrich, Todd Papenberg, Janeen Rheinecker, David Buettner, Sgt. Martin Mertz—U.S. Army serving in Iraq

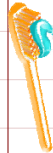
Volunteer Needed

Saints Peter and Paul is looking for a volunteer on Monday for the workroom and to help with recess duty. Please Fast Direct Julie Doerr or call the



3rd Annual Rube Goldberg Contest

The 7th & 8th grade students in the Gifted Education class are sponsoring the 3rd Annual Rube Goldberg Contest. Students in grades 5-8 are welcome to enter. The task this year is to build a "machine" that puts toothpaste on a toothbrush. No more than 4 students per team please. The contest will be on January 8th at 2 p.m. in the school gymnasium.



Coke Rewards

Save those bottle caps and boxes for SPPS! Coca-Cola's mycokerewards.com is an easy way to get points for our school. Find the codes off bottle caps and on boxes of coke products, go online and enter the code. It is really easy, and we can earn free things for school such as; P.E. supplies, playground equipment, craft supplies, construction paper, science kits, and educational games are just a few of things we have on our wish list. If you don't want to go online, just send them into school. We can enter them here.

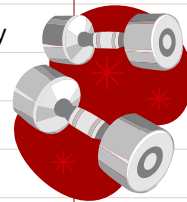


Essentials for the Poor

The third grade class will be collecting essentials for the needy again this year. New items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, and other toiletries will be collected on January 28th and sent to families in need.

Kids' Rummage Sale

Clean out the Clutter for Needy Children! Please don't forget to clean out the closets, play room, and toy boxes during the holiday, and save all the treasures for our 26th annual "Kids Rummage Sale" in January. All the money from this sale will again be given to organizations that help needy children who have no food, water, homes, families, shoes, etc. We need your donations to make it a success. Good items to bring in are: children's games and books, jewelry, candles, room decorations, Cds, craft or sports items, candy, and any clean and working toys. We are especially in need of new, or like-new, raffle items, and things which appeal to older students. Please send in the items as soon as possible, beginning Dec.18th. Bring them to the SPPS office, or to Mrs. Haberl's room. If you want to bring them during the holiday, please call



or Fast-Direct Mrs. Haberl to arrange a time. Thank you for whatever you can do to help SPPS reach out to others.

Speech Team

Congratulations to the following students who made the Intermediate Speech Team. Laura Kimlinger, Jenna Bivens, Gabby Schmitz, Abby Naumann, Kelsey Pfeil, Ashley Grohmann, Valerie Grant, Maddie Phelps, Tessa Buchheit, Abby Mueller, and Regan McCoy. The Intermediate Speech Meet will be February 13 at Millstadt.

Fitness Night

Jen Bradley, Gibault's P.E. teacher, will be holding a weekly cardio and weight training session. Come enjoy squats, lunges, ab workout and more! Class is held every Monday evening at 6 p.m. at Gibault. All you need is a 5 lb. dumbbells, energy, and a smile! The cost is \$5 per class.

"Stretch Out Stress"

Beginning January 5th and then every Tuesday at 3:30
Beth Lyons' Classroom

Bring a mat, and water, towel



SHINING STARS!



Saints Peter and Paul Falcon Cheerleaders and the Falcon Mascot



The 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Team coached by Jim Prader and Todd Papenberg



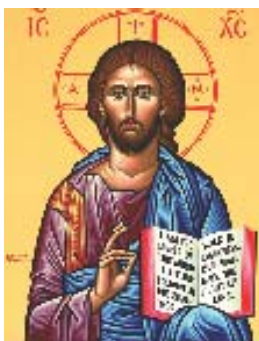
The 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Team
Not pictured—Ty



The SPPS Falcon shows off his moves! Thanks, Ryan and Sam



The Saints Peter and Paul Chorus performing at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in December



Seasons of Holiness

A Parent Newsletter from the National Catholic Educational Association

Vol. 2, no. 5

January

The Historical-Critical Approach to Reading the Bible

For many years, many people have assumed that Catholics do not read the Bible or that we are prohibited in reading it. That is not the case. The Pontifical Biblical Commission, which published *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*, led by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), on March 18, 1994, stated that: "the study of the Bible is the soul of theology and its study is never finished; each age must in its own way newly seek to understand the sacred books."

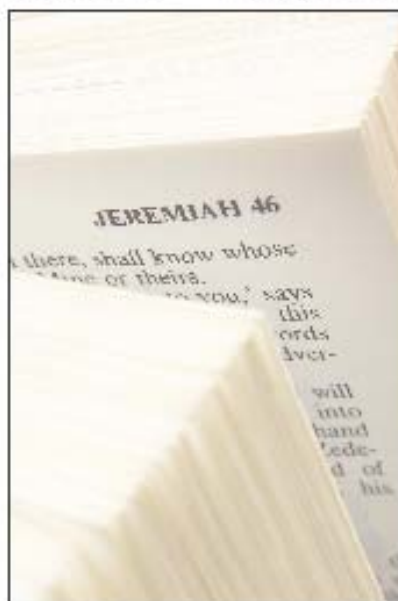
With that in mind, this month we will focus on the Bible and its interpretation. As one can easily surmise, the modern Bible is the product of translations and interpretations that span many centuries. The Bible is a collection of writings, which most often, especially in the case of the Old Testament, are not the creation of a single author, but its stories are either tied to the history of Israel or to that of the early church. Because it has its origin in Jewish culture,

we cannot fully understand it unless we have a better understanding of its meaning from that perspective. Hence, in an effort to reach this understanding, we

need to use a method such as the historical-critical approach when we study it.

By "historical" we are referring to the place and time in which the text was composed, since the different stages of the production of these biblical texts address various audiences or readers living in different places over a long period of time. By "critical," we do not mean to imply that we should be judgmental or to use a fault-finding approach, but rather, reading the text independently of religious norms or interpretive traditions in an order to be as objective as possible. Thus, allowing us to better understand the meaning of biblical texts, which often times are difficult to comprehend, and ultimately

help us to gain a better grasp of the content of divine revelation.



The Goal of the Historical-Critical Approach

According to the Pontifical Biblical Commission: "the goal of the historical-critical method is to determine the meaning of the words expressed by the biblical authors and editors. Along with other methods and approaches, the historical-critical method opens up to the modern reader a path to the meaning of the biblical text such as

we have it today." As a result, how a person interprets the texts in the Bible is the key issue. Does it make sense to take the text literally using our present day meanings for words? Or would it make more sense to look more closely into the words that were written, and then to look at the meaning of those words at the time they were written?

Be mindful that many of the original Greek and Hebrew words do not translate well into our present language, which can create confusion.

Who Wrote the Bible?

The Bible was written by many authors, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Inspiration means that God moved the human authors to write what they wrote, so the Bible is God's word to us. Scholars agree that what these authors wrote had further meaning of which they themselves were not aware. The authors were intelligent, free, creative, culture-bound human beings, and God respected and used that. God used their humanity and their culture to express divine wisdom in a particular human form. Accordingly, in order to understand what God intended to say, we must first understand what those individuals intended to say. For that is what God inspired.

Hence, we must consider the time period in which the words



were written; otherwise, we risk misinterpreting the true meaning of the writings. The Bible is very much a "living" document, and because the Holy Spirit is very much present when reading these

writings, it only adds additional meaning and importance of His words for each one of us at different times in our lives. However, that does not change the original purpose or meaning of the words.

Literalist vs. Historical-Critical Approach to Reading the Bible?

Recently, there has been much discussion about creationism vs. evolution. The creationists would argue unequivocally that the universe was created in seven days. In contrast, the historical-critical approach first asks, what is the point of the Genesis story of creation? What was the author intending to say? Is the purpose of this story to give a religion or a science lesson? Certainly, it is meant to give a religion lesson, where the seven day sequence was a way of making the point that God created the universe with wisdom, care, and order. Through scientific investigation we have learned that the universe has actually evolved over millions and millions of years. Through science we are simply coming to understand how God chose to create the world. Science helps us to grasp some bit of the order and wisdom that God built into the universe. But the fact that God created the universe remains as true as ever. Thus, there is no error in the teaching of Genesis based on a historical-critical approach.

Sadly, through the selective use, the Bible has been cited to condemn some moral issues that the Bible only mentions in passing. For instance, Christians are no longer advocating slavery, though the whole epistle to Philemon and many other passages support it. Hence, the question to reflect on is when does one decide to interpret words literally or figuratively?

If we use the literalist approach, it almost forces us to pick and choose as it applies the Bible. Not only does literalist interpretation create a major problem but the fact that many of the original Greek and Hebrew words do not translate well into our present language also creates confusion.

Cultural Bias

Through our writing, we unintentionally convey a cultural bias. The same is true for the writers in biblical times. For example, women were not allowed to hold positions of authority; thus, they are not referred to in this manner in the Bible. Do you think it had to do with God not allowing it or do you think that the Bible does not speak of it because of the authors had to abide by the laws of the day? For example, 1 Timothy 2:11-14 clearly forbids women speaking or teaching in church and says that they must be submissive. Does this belief hold true in our day? Are we not then being selective in our use of the Bible?

"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; She must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing - if they continue in faith, love, and holiness with propriety." (1 Timothy 2:11-14)

Does this mean that women who do not have children are not fulfilling their "role"? Are women only to be allowed to teach other women? If we were to read this text literally, we could conclude that we are being disobedient to God by allowing female teachers in the classrooms of our schools! I am confident that many would agree that those statements were written for those times. After all, during those days, women were considered property and were treated as such. Certainly, we no longer hold this belief and we certainly do not believe that the Bible is telling us to hold fast to this practice. Hence, this passage is merely recording what was customary in that day.

And though we no longer live in a society where slavery or the unequal treatment of women is endorsed, the Bible, as a living document, is applicable for us today, and always. Yet, we must be careful not to take things out of context without knowing their true meaning and intent as written. Take time to understand the words in their original historical context; evaluate the evidence and with an open and honest mind, draw your own conclusions.

FRIENDS OF SPPS NEWS

Papa Vito's Night a Success!



Thanks to all those who supported Papa Vito's Night on November 24th. From the volunteers who delivered food, to those working at the store, to those who placed an order—you were all a big part of the success of the evening! We made \$1100 for SPPS! The money earned that evening will be going back to SPPS in the form of educational materials.



Gerry Goepko, owner, and Jen Mechler, Friends President, at Papa Vito's

Smartboard activities for Spanish class, a book for Mr. Haberl's science curriculum, Chess Team materials, and P.E. equipment are a few of the things that were purchased with this money. A huge thank you to the Friends for organizing this fundraiser, and to all the workers who made the evening



Friends of S.P.P.S. Cookbooks for Sale

Please Fast Direct Julie or call 939-7217.

These are recipes compiled from parishioners, students, parents and grandparents a few years ago. There are a few left, and will benefit Friends of SPPS.

\$5 Each



The Next Meeting will be January 26th at 7 pm in the SPPS Cafeteria.

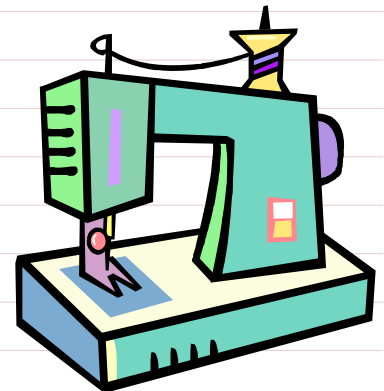
Attendees receive a No Uniform Pass for their Children!

Junior High Elective News



Survivor: Home Electives Class

Thanks to the generosity of one of our SPPS parents, a sewing machine was donated to the "Survivor: Home" elective class. Students learned how to sew by hand and on the machine. As a final project, all of the students in the class made pillows.

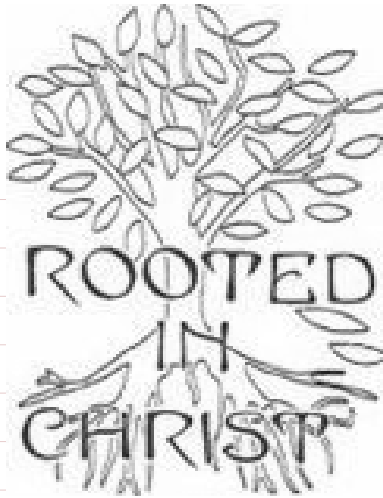


YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

*Youth Ministry
Calendar of Events*

December 20th

Las Posadas is an Advent custom of Mexico which dramatizes the grim reality that there was no room for the Holy Family in the Inn on the First Christmas. Join in celebrating this custom at 5:45 beginning in the gym. The procession will end in the church, followed by the Youth Mass.



Don't Forget!

Youth

Ministry Gathering at the Youth House on Mill Street on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

from

7:00 until 8:30 for Middle School Students

MARY & MARTHA NEWS

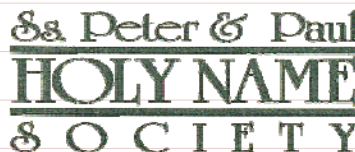
Thanks to all who shopped at the Vendor Fair and Cookie Walk and to those who donated cookies.



Next Mary & Martha Meeting will be on January 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the SPPS Cafeteria

HOLY NAME SOCIETY INFORMATION

The last meeting, held in November, had 29 men in attendance. Raffle Winners include: \$1,000 – Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Siebenberger, \$100 – Vern Kovarik, \$50 – Bryan Kennedy, and \$50 – June Valentine.



\$300 donation parish Youth Ministry, \$500 donation - Gold Sponsor – Gibault Oktoberfest, and a \$100 donation– Life Walk Trip (Youth Ministry), purchase of two Gibault calendars.

Next Meeting: December 23rd, in the school cafeteria at 8 p.m. The meeting is followed by refreshments and social time. Attendees also receive a No Uniform Pass for their children.

Recent donations of time, talent & treasure: \$250 donation to SPPS Education First Campaign,

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
January 30th
Euchre Tournament**

JANUARY 2010

SPPS LUNCH MENU

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
								1	NO SCHOOL
4	Hamburger/Bun French Fries Peas Peaches Milk or Juice	5	Cheese Pizza Green Beans Cookie Mixed Fruit Milk or Juice	6	K-2 Little Smokies 3-8 BBQ Ribs Potato Chips Corn Apple Slices Milk or Juice	7	Soft Tortilla/Taco Meat Cheese/Lettuce/Salsa Seasoned Noodles Carrots Cake Milk or Juice	8	Chili Grilled Cheese Sandwich Crackers Rice Krispie Treat Milk or Juice
1	Crispito Seasoned Noodles Green Beans Fruit Roll Up Milk or Juice	12	Cheese Omelet French Toast Stick Sausage Links Oranges Milk or Juice	13	Chicken Nuggets French Fries Baked Beans Pudding Milk or Juice	14	Sloppy Jo/Bun Tator Tots Corn Applesauce Milk or Juice	15	Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Salad Grapes Milk or Juice
1	NO SCHOOL	19	K-2 Pepperoni Pizza 6-8 Pepperoni Calzone Green Beans Cookie Apple Milk or Juice	20	Hamburger/Bun Hash Brown Patty Salad Jello Milk or Juice	21	Soft Tortilla/Taco Meat Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Seasoned Noodles Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk or Juice	22	Salisbury Steak Rice/Gravy Corn Chocolate Chip Bar Milk or Juice
2	Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers/Cheese Carrots/Dip Cookie Milk or Juice	26	Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Corn Apple Slices Milk or Juice	27	Sausage Patty Scrambled Eggs French Toast Stick Oranges Milk or Juice	28	Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Salad Fruit Snack Milk or Juice	29	Pork Roast/Gravy Mashed Potatoes Corn Cake Milk or Juice
5									S.P.P.S. Newsletter

ALTERNATE ENTREE (BY THE WEEK):

JANUARY 2010



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day No School	2
3	4 Classes Resume School Board—7 pm	5 Volleyball Meeting—7 p.m.	6	7 Scholar Bowl @ Valmeyer	8 Rube Goldberg Contest—2 p.m. in the gym	9 Boys' 8B Conference Tournament Begins
10 Fourth Grade Family Mass—10:30	11	12 Pastoral Council—7 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No School	19 Scholar Bowl @ Red Bud Mary & Martha—7 pm	20 Scholar Bowl vs. Millstadt	21	22	23
24 Resale Shop Open 8 am—noon	25 Chess Meet @ Freeburg Finance Council—7 pm	26 Scholar Bowl vs. Columbia Friends of SPPS—7 pm	27 Kids' Rummage Sale Scholar Bowl @ Freeburg Holy Name—8 pm	28 Essentials for the Poor Collection Volleyball @ Freeburg—4:15	29 Bishop Braxton visits SPPS	30 Holy Name Euchre Tournament at SPPS Gym
31	Catholic Schools' Week February 1st—5th "Dividends for Life" Faith, Knowledge, Discipline & Morals					

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE