

FAW News
February 13, 2024



Dear Families of Father Andrew White School,

There are so many wonderful things happening at our school! It brings us the greatest joy to see so many parents coming together to assist with Valentine day projects and parties, electives, service projects and athletic events! The front office has been a revolving door, and we welcome your partnership with our school!

There are several areas of focus in school these last few weeks: Black History Month, the 100th day of school, Valentine's Day, Lent and the joy of sending correspondence to others! I hope you enjoy hearing about some of these events!

PK students created suncatchers with a Valentine theme and tissue paper! The students used fine motor skills to place their tissue paper within their hearts, to cut along their heart shapes and to punch holes in their suncatchers! They also quickly learned how fun it was to blow on tissue paper and see it disperse! Luckily, they practiced using clean up skills, "like a bulldozer" to put all of the extra tissue away for a future project!

Kindergarten students have been busy receiving postcards from all around the United States and creating a map, tracking all of their cards! They are also participating in a "Helping Hands for Lent Mission" where they will be sacrificing and doing acts of kindness for others.

First graders wrote their thoughts on "If I was 100...!" The following are excerpts from their writings: *If I was 100 ...I would learn to play a guitar, I would not have teeth, I would have granny hair and I would have to take a nap!* The first graders will be writing a Lenten promise that they keep secret and work on all during Lent. The promises will be placed in a sealed envelope. The determination of these young students to keep their Lenten promises is admirable.

Second grade students spread kindness throughout the school! They wrote and illustrated beautiful thank you cards to volunteers, faculty members and those who assist our school.

Third graders are praying for a seminarian during Lent. They are excited to offer sacrifices and prayers to encourage our future priests. They received a visit from Mr. Lawson this week, who shared knowledge about cartography with their class. The students had some insightful questions and each received an FAA map! Visiting their class this week, I noticed that students could earn coupons for good behavior. One student cashed hers in so that she could bring a stuffed animal to school! Another was eating lunch with her teacher today! Third graders also have a "Class Fridge" area where students can bring in photos each month to share something special about themselves.

Fourth and fifth grade students created graphic organizers and essays about Black Americans which highlighted favorite quotes, character traits, biggest obstacles that they overcame and what the person was famous for. Thurgood Marshall, Booker T. Washington, Rosa Parks and St. Martin de Porres were featured. Shirley Chisolm, the first African American woman in Congress and to run for President was quoted as saying, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." The fifth graders created a Black History Month quilt, stating, "We are all woven together." What great lessons for our students!

There were also three students published in [The Catholic Standard](#) for their writings.

Sixth graders learned about the eighth commandment and the importance of honesty. They learned that the tongue has great power...for life and for destruction. They created bumper stickers to illustrate that Jesus is truth and the importance of following Him. During Morning Prayer this week, Mrs. Stewart highlighted that we all have the choice to follow God. May we continue to pray that our students (and each of us) choose to follow our Lord and to choose to use our words to uplift and encourage others.

Seventh graders created kindness rocks and distributed them to local businesses. They are spreading encouragement and kindness throughout our community. They also learned how to create scale drawings, using cartoon figures as their models!

Eighth graders spread kindness through sponsoring candy grams within the school. Many students created kind messages for others. They assist with safety patrol in the morning and afternoon and have created special bonds with our younger students. They will have a role in teaching our students about the lenten theme this year, "Walking with Jesus." Thank you to the eighth graders for being such great leaders for our school.

Science students created weather journals, art students are creating 12-step color wheels using only the primary colors, our chorus students are leading the school in song during Morning Prayer and Mass, and our STEM students are learning coding. In addition to the teachers, the students are consistently seen helping each other to learn this important skill.

Fr. David continues to instruct us in our faith as he did a demonstration of how ashes are created using the leftover blessed palms from last year. Three classes joined in watching this process.

Thank you to all who have re-enrolled! We have a 95% re-enrollment rate for our current families! This is the third year that we have a re-enrollment above 93%. What a great testament to the faculty and staff who work so hard to ensure that your students' education is academically and spiritually strong. Thank you to all of our team!

Counting our blessings at Father Andrew White School and wishing you a fruitful and faith filled Lent!

Sincerely,
Janet Szoeh
Principal

Kindergarten Postcard Project

