Dear Parents,

Several days ago, I sent you a request from our Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Gina Kuntz Fleming, asking you to complete our school survey for this year. If you have not already done this, please take a few minutes to provide this very valuable information, not only for our school, but for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis!

PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS -  [https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/124008/p586](https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/124008/p586)

If you are a St. Christopher parishioner, you’ve already heard this exciting news at Mass. I am excited to share with you that our parish has received approval to move forward with a capital campaign. Over the last several years, the Master Plan committee has worked with parishioners to identify campus priorities. There were listening sessions, focus groups, meetings, etc. A feasibility study was conducted with overwhelmingly positive results. In the upcoming months, you will learn more about how you can help with this awesome endeavor to help our community grow and be able to serve future generations.

If you are a Facebook user, you may have already seen our teaser video. The student council representatives will be conducting school tours on Facebook live next Wednesday, January 29. Be sure to direct your friends and family members with school-aged children to our page so they can get a glimpse of our wonderful school! [https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSt.ChristopherSchool/](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSt.ChristopherSchool/) If you haven’t already, be sure to “like” the page yourself!

Finally, please be sure to see the attachment for all of the fun activities for Catholic Schools Week next week! We have representatives from our parish Food Pantry (Mrs. Phyllis Farley) and from the Holy Family Shelter (Taylor Clark) speaking to our students about how their donations help so many others. Remember, students may bring in canned food items or a new/gently used book to earn an “out of uniform” slip that can be used next Monday (only).

God bless you,

[Signature]

Karen King, Principal
Registration

Thank you to those who have already registered your children for the 2020 - 2021 school year. It really only takes you a few minutes, and provides so much valuable information to me as I begin working on our school budget for next year.

Remember, we are having an early bird drawing. EIGHT winners will each receive $40.00 of Schoolbelles certificates! To be eligible, you must have completed the registration process by February 12.

If your family is moving and you know you child is not returning to St. Christopher, will you please let us know?

Registration Link:  [https://forms.gle/H8aUvZME6pweMebC8](https://forms.gle/H8aUvZME6pweMebC8)

Calendar

The calendar has been updated with several additions/changes. Please open the attachment to see these important dates! Dates that are highlighted in yellow are “windows” for testing. PLEASE do your very best to avoid dentist appointments, annual check-ups, etc. during these times. Students are expected to be present for a full school day during these testing times.

Because the state moved the testing window for IREAD later in the year, we have moved the Spring Concert to an earlier date in April. That is reflected in this updated calendar.

SMART Contest

Congratulations to the following students who will be competing in the West Deanery SMART Contest (Spelling, Math, ARt, Theology) this evening at Cardinal Ritter High School! We are proud of ALL of our students at St. Christopher and are looking forward to these students showing the rest of the West Deanery what they know/can do!

SpellBowl Team:
Serena Smith, Jackson Franco, Jayden Nograles, Abby Ngo, Derenik Asse, Lanny Nguyen, McHarris Hondonou, Maggie Hinshaw, Mary Grace Hawkins, Abigail Taybior

5th grade Math:
Abby Ngo, Kyle Merlie, Adyson Hilligoss, Abel Tadesse, Jayden Nograles, Maddie Collins

6th grade Math:
Nicole Arbut, Sienna Hileman, Geovanni Guevara, Tyson Worman, Lucas Jost, Bella Drake

Art:
Violet Hedge, Bennett Wagner, Kate Agueh, Lottie Kappel, Ana Maggard, Gabby Guerrero, Sienna Hileman

Theology: Orayo Urayo, Serena Smith, Reya Ortiz
First Grade News

Happy 100th day of school! It’s hard to believe that there are only 80 days of school left!

This class loves learning, which makes teaching so enjoyable! Our class has been busy learning new Phonics skills and how to regroup when adding two 2-digit numbers! The students masters adding without regrouping, so we are excited to move onto regrouping. Next week, the students will be “shopping” in Gillaspy’s Grocery! They will put their addition skills to the test!

In reading, the students are participating in their first book club! We are reading Junie B. First Grader at Last! The students look forward to reading every day.

For our writing unit this month, students had to share their opinion - “If Snow Could Taste Like Anything...” There were a lot of great responses! I was extremely impressed with the vivid adjectives that the students used to describe the yummy snow!

In Science, the class is learning about penguins and polar bears. They will be working on a blubber experiment next week!

For Social Studies, the class had a wonderful discussion about the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King, Jr. The students get so invested in Martin Luther King, Jr. and are amazed that he helped change the world!

In Religion, we are focusing on the WHY. Why do we come to a Catholic School? Why is learning about God an important part of our lives? Why is it important to share our faith with others? We are working on finding ways to show others that we appreciate the ability to learn and talk about God daily! As we gear up for Catholic Schools Week, find time to sit down as a family and discuss why you chose to send your child to St. Christopher School.

Miss Gillaspy

Number Sense

Number sense is an emerging construct that refers to a child’s fluidity and flexibility with numbers and what the numbers mean as well as an ability to perform mental mathematics and to look at the world and make comparisons.

There may be:

1. An awareness of the relationship between number and quantity
2. An understanding of number symbols, vocabulary and meaning
3. The ability to engage in systematic counting, including notions of cardinality and ordinality
4. An awareness of the magnitude and comparisons between different magnitudes
5. An understanding of different representations of number
6. Competence with simple mathematical operations
7. An awareness of number patterns including recognising missing numbers

How Can We Develop Number Sense?

Number sense can be developed over time by providing opportunities to explore and play with numbers; to visualise numbers in different contexts and to spot and predict the patterns and relationships between numbers.

A few websites that may help you develop number sense:

This set of activities may be more suited for middle grade (2nd, 3rd):

This set of activities may be more suited for pre-k, kindergarten, and maybe 1st grade:

This may be more suited for all grades under 5th grade:

Important Dates
January 24 - Bingo Team 6
January 26 - Catholic Schools Week begins - Open House 11:30 - 1:30, Open registration begins
January 31 - Bingo Team 7
February 1 & 2 - Trash bag sales after all masses
February 7 - Pep Rally, 2:30 p.m. in the gym, students may be out of uniform wearing spirit wear
   Bingo Team 1
February 11 - Out of Uniform for $1.00, theme is Favorite Book Character.
February 12 - Progress Reports go home
February 14 - No School - Winter Break, Bingo Team 2
February 17 - No School - Presidents' Day
February 21 - Bingo Team 3
February 22 - Our Annual Auction after 5:30 p.m. mass, in the cafeteria and the gym
February 26 - Ash Wednesday, all school mass at 9:00 a.m.
February 27 - 3rd grade field trip to the Rhythm Discovery Center in the afternoon
February 28 - Bingo Team 5
March 6 - Bingo Team 6
March 7 - Trash bag sale after 5:30 p.m. mass
March 8 - Trash bag sale after all masses, Daylight Savings time begins
**St. Christopher School Mission Statement**

St. Christopher School, established in 1949 as an educational ministry of St. Christopher parish, serves the West Deanery of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the surrounding community.

St. Christopher School strives to provide an exceptional education permeated with Catholic Christian values, promoting spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical and social growth for our students, preschool through sixth grade.

St. Christopher School seeks to be an extension of our students' homes, challenging them to achieve their potential and helping them to realize their great worth as children of God, capable of making significant contributions at home and throughout the world.