



# Saint Christopher School

**Newsletter March 14, 2019**

Dear Parents,

I spend part of the morning in Mrs. Barker's classroom as third grade took the practice test for IREAD. Since third grade is the first year for a "high stakes" test, there are a few students who generally are nervous about it. However, they've discovered that there are things on the test that they learned in kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade. This made me think of how important **CONSISTENCY** is for our children. I love that many of our students begin with us in PreK or kindergarten and then graduate as well-prepared sixth graders. Consistency is important in the routines that we do. We begin each morning praying together as a school. We end each day with prayer. Consistency is important for our students in how they start their day. PLEASE take a moment to read what the research says (see article below) regarding the long term effects on students who are consistently tardy. ***"Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school."*** I am certain that not one parent wants their child to fail. Yet, you are setting them up for failure when you don't get them to school on time.

Thank you to those who are consistent in getting their children to school on time. Thank you for the consistency of ensuring your child has a quiet homework space at home. Thank you for making sure your children have a consistent bed time... regardless of how many times they ask for "just 5 more minutes."

Thank you for helping your children succeed!

God bless you,

Karen King, Principal

### **Cardinal Ritter STEM Day**

Please see the attached information regarding a STEM day at Cardinal Ritter High School.

### **St. Christopher School Can Use Your Help to Improve**

**All students will improve in reading** is one of the goals of St. Christopher School. We have been focusing on text structure. Text structure is the way the text is organized by the author. One way an author may organize the text is in a descriptive format. This is when the author is using details to describe one part/piece of the topic at a time. The author would use words like: one kind, consists of, looks like, including, such as, etc. You can help your child identify this type of writing. Look in the

newspapers at a new event or restaurant opening in town. Look at travel books and the different parts of the city/country they are describing in each section. You can also look at reviews of various items. The children can see how all of the different parts of these items are described or explained. When the children can identify this type of writing, they will be able to read and comprehend the text better.

### **Please get your student to school on time, in the building by 7:55 a.m.**

Schools stress the need for students to get to school and class on time and with good reason. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on truancy, which is connected with tardiness, show that school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school success and student behavior.

#### **Problems with Tardiness**

The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours, because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class.

#### **Academics and Achievement**

Students who are frequently tardy have lower GPAs, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.

#### **Behavior Problems**

In the National Center for Education Statistics 2007 Indicators of School Crime and Safety, teachers surveyed reported that students who are frequently tardy have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected with school, leading to behavior problems and dropouts.

#### **Effect on Others**

When students are tardy, they negatively impact their teachers and other students. Teachers are often required to allow tardy students to make up work, which often requires them to restructure their lessons or re-teach missed material. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior problems and missed instruction.

### **Hello from the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade!**

It has been a busy winter for the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. On March 1 we joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders on a field trip to JA BizTown. JA BizTown allows students to see, touch, and live the experience of personal finance in a real-life setting of stores, shops, and financial institutions, by basically becoming "an adult for the day." The kids sure learned a lot and can't wait to go again next year!

We read several chapter books during the school year, and we recently finished *Holes*. This story is about a young boy who is falsely accused of a crime, and his punishment is to dig holes at a boys' camp. The kids really enjoyed the story, and there were many laugh-out-loud moments! After we finished the book, each student wrote a persuasive essay on whether or not he/she thought digging holes was an acceptable punishment for kids who break the law. The class overwhelmingly agreed that there are better punishments than digging holes!

In the coming months, we look forward to leading the school in a "Living Rosary" and to completing our social studies state reports. We are all anxious for warmer weather and bluer skies!

**Miss Anderson & class**

## **CYO Camp Rancho Framasa**

CYO Camp Rancho Framasa in Nashville, IN has residential summer camping opportunities for ages 7-19. Established in 1946, CYO Camp is an inclusive, residential camp offering 3 and 6 day session, as well as 3 Indianapolis CYO Day Camp sessions for children entering grades K-3. For more information and registration, please go to [www.campranchoframasa.org](http://www.campranchoframasa.org).

*Catholic Youth Organization*



*Camp Rancho Framasa*

## **Important Dates**

March 15 - 2nd grade to walk in the St. Patrick's Day Parade  
End of 3rd quarter  
Bingo Team 2

March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 18 - PreK and K to field trip to the Children's Museum  
IREAD test for 3rd grade begins

### **March 19 - 1:30 p.m. Dismissal, Aftercare available**

March 21 - 3rd quarter Honors Mass, 9:00 a.m. in Church, report cards go home

March 22 - Bingo Team 7

### **March 25-29 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL**

March 29 - Bingo Team 3

April 1 - Classes resume

April 4 - Spring Pictures taken - Students may be out of uniform  
PreK to the Art Museum

April 5 - Bingo Team 5

April 6 & 7 - Trash Bag sale after all masses

April 10 - Out of Uniform for \$1.00 - theme is career day

April 11 - Skating party at Hot Skates in Avon, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

April 12 - Bingo Team 6

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 18 - Pep Rally, 2:30 p.m. in the gym, students may be out of uniform wearing spirit wear or school colors

**April 19 - Good Friday, 1:30 p.m. dismissal, NO AFTERCARE, No Bingo**

April 21 - Easter Sunday

**April 22 - WE ARE IN SCHOOL, THIS IS A SNOW DAY MAKE UP**

April 23 - ILEARN Testing all week  
First Eucharist practice in church at 6:00 p.m.

April 24 - Progress Reports go home

April 27 - First Eucharist, in Church, 1:00 p.m.

April 29 - ILEARN Testing continues this week

### **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.