

DECEMBER

*Inspired by the motto
"Deeds not Words," St. Bernard's
Elementary School is a Catholic
community of faith, learning and
service joined in living Gospel values.
In partnership with our families,
we strive to develop both academic
excellence and compassion for others
in our students.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Pre-K Our youngest Bernardians have begun learning about Advent. Their good deeds help them prepare for Christmas and will help them light the way for Baby Jesus. Children continue to be busy learning. Counting all things from 1-10 and learning more letters. So much to do in Pre-K!



Kindergarten

Advent is a time of doing for others in preparation for the

gift of the Baby Jesus on Christmas Day. The children will take to our stage to remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas. They are working very hard to learn their parts for the Nativity Play. Mary, Joseph, the Angel Gabriel, a choir of angels, a donkey, a cow, shepherds and their flock of sheep, three Magi and their camels and a little drummer boy will take us back to Bethlehem.



Grade 1 First Graders have been learning about Advent and why we celebrate the four weeks leading us to

Christmas. Children created their own Advent calendar for the class and will be counting down the days until Jesus is born on December 25th.

Grade 2 Our young scientists are continuing to explore states of matter with their newest investigations focusing on the properties of solids. After sorting and grouping a variety of solids based on their properties, our students were given design challenges. Using what they learned, our young thinkers tried their hand at planning and building successful towers and bridges. We may have many future engineers in our midst!



Grade 3 Christmas will soon upon us! As Third Graders count down the time to

celebrate Jesus' birth at Bethlehem, they will be learning about the events surrounding Jesus' birth, the tradition of the Advent wreath and the significance of the crèche. To help each student share the true meaning of Christmas, each student made an Advent wreath to bring home to their families.

Grade 4 December will be a busy month with Christmas and winter activities. It's always an exciting time of the year! In Science, students will be finishing up *Energy* and moving onto *Waves & Information*. They will also be reading the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar and working in Literature Circle groups as they discuss this favorite novel.

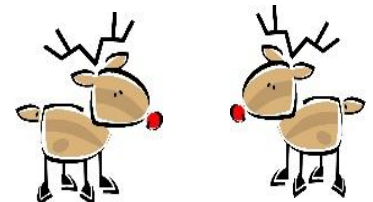


Grade 5 Its time for *Christmas Around the World* in Fifth Grade.

Students will research the many holiday traditions of the country of their choice and present their projects as part of their Christmas celebration. There will be lots of good things to eat, too!

Grade 6 Our Egyptologists took a journey to the Fitchburg Art Museum as they began their study of ancient Egypt. The FAM has an impressive permanent Egyptian exhibit that our students experienced with Mr. Langley (Social Studies) and Mrs. Testagrossa (Art). Students will continue their interdisciplinary work in Egyptian literature, history and art.

MERRY CHRISTMAS





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS CONTINUED



Grade 7 Seventh Grade students are excited to begin working with their Second Grade Book Buddies. Their first meeting involved the older students interviewing their buddies to discover their buddy's unique talents and interests. Seventh Graders introduced themselves to their buddies on their second visit. This is just the beginning of a yearlong friendship, which will support the learning of both older and younger Bernardians.



Grade 8
It's all about Algebra! Our mathematicians are going from solving equations

to solving inequalities and using graphs and symbolic notation to show solution sets. They learn the properties of inequality and use them to solve inequalities. Students then extend these techniques to solve conjunctions, disjunctions and absolute value inequalities.



Religion 4, 5 & 6
November has been busy! Grade 4 has been learning about role models and that how we teach others about Jesus when we act in loving ways towards them. Grade 5 has begun their deep dive into the seven sacraments beginning with Baptism and Confirmation. Grade 6 has been learning about feasts- Passover, the Last Supper, and Jesus' Miracle feeding 5,000 with the multiplication of loaves and fishes.

Art Students enjoyed all things November as older classes worked in watercolors and younger artists developed their skills around Thanksgiving themes of leaves, turkeys, and Indian corn. The Scholastic Book Fair poster contest was a tight competition and great fun, as always.



- Blue & Gold Club
November Winners**
- \$250.00 Mr. & Mrs. Crystiano DaSilva
 - \$100.00 Mr. & Mrs. Darren Brosseau
 - \$75.00 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McCormick
 - \$50.00 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Quin
 - \$25.00 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Nettelblatt

Coming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 6
Casual for A Cause
Red, White & Blue

Friday, Dec. 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy
10:30 AM

Tuesday, Dec. 12
Christmas Program
Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, and 3
1:30 PM & 6:00 PM
Bells of St. Bernard's at 1:30 PM

Friday, Dec. 15
Wreaths Across America
Veterans Cemetery, Winchendon, MA
Grade 5

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Advent Liturgy 10:30 AM

Thursday, Dec. 21
Kindergarten to Grade 8
Students may be out of uniform and wear their best Red and Green!

FULL DAY- REGULAR DISMISSAL

Friday, Dec. 22- Jan. 2
NO SCHOOL
Christmas Vacation

Sunday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Mass
Bells of St. Bernard's are playing.

Monday, Dec. 25
Christmas Day

Wednesday, Jan. 3
Welcome Back! School Opens!



~ BERNARDIAN LIFE AT STB ~

Hat and Mitten Tree

The tradition continues! Bernardians donate new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to help other children stay warm and cozy in the winter weather to come. All donations go to The *St. Joseph's Food Pantry* in Fitchburg and *Catholic Charities*.

Grandparents & Grandfriends Luncheon

This is one of the most beloved (and busiest!) days of our year. STB welcomed more than 300 special loved ones to share lunch with their favorite Bernardians on Nov. 9. We thank our Eighth Graders who acted as hosts and servers for our guests. It was a beautiful day in every way.

The Bells of St. Bernard's

Sixteen middle school students from Grades 6, 7, and 8 under the direction of Mrs. Debra Maloney have come together to form a music ministry at STB. Their gifts of time and talent add to the beauty of our celebration of the Liturgy here at school and at the parish. The Bells will play at St. Bernard's Parish at St. Camillus Church at 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th.