



Educate.
Equip.
Encourage.

The Timber Times
December 14th, 2023

School News

Advent Church Service

We still have one more Advent service—next Wednesday after school! Please join us for worship followed by a pot luck meal.

Merch Update

All merchandise ordered is being processed and will be ready to take home by December 19th. Thank you to those of you who purchased something! If you missed the window—no worries! We will likely do another order this spring.

Mission Offering

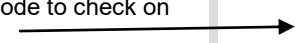
Our mission offerings are being collected for LWMS, specifically for a program used to help missionary children readjust to stateside living. We have a goal of \$250, with currently \$34.39 given. We have 4 chapel services left before second quarter ends—which comes out to about \$54/week. Please help us reach our goal!

Children's Christmas Service—THANK YOU!

We have so many people to thank for making this program possible—Jordan Roth and everyone at SFNAZ for allowing us to use the facilities; Kyler Layne who worked the sound equipment; Derrick Haxton for taping the service; Janelle Laete for perfecting and printing the bulletins; and Pastor West for leading the service.

An extra special thanks to the teachers for all the practicing and organization that led up to the service; and lastly a HUGE thank you to you parents and students!!! Without your dedication to practicing, this service would not have been successful. Thank you for your dedication to St. Matthew, and to our Savior.

The beautiful message of this service will be up on our YouTube page by tomorrow evening. Feel free to use [this link](#) or the QR code to check on the status. Thanks!



The Princess and the Gamer

Reagan Billiau—8th grader at St. Matthew—recently published her very own book, titled *The Princess and the Gamer!* Reagan has worked incredibly hard to make this dream a reality for her, and we are excited to share with you! If you are looking for a good read for your child, please check her book out here, and make sure to congratulate Reagan if you see her!



Junior Choir

We will go caroling and have our party tomorrow, Friday, December 15 @ 4pm. Your child can come to the 4th grade classroom after school so we can get organized and walk over to begin singing by 4. Parents are welcome to join us! We will sing for about 20 minutes and then return to the classroom to enjoy some treats until about 5 pm. Rehearsals will begin again after Christmas break. Thank you, merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Lost and Found

Is your child missing: gloves, hats, sweat-shirts, coats, spoons, sunglasses? If they are please check out our lost and found in the hallway between Miss Taasaas and Mrs. Most because we have all of that and MORE!

Piano & Violin Recital

Piano and violin students have their recital TONIGHT at 5:30PM. Please join us in supporting the kids who have been working so hard on their instruments.

Basketball

Are you able to help run the clock, run concessions or keep the book for home basketball games? Please speak to Miss Rosenbaum. The game schedule is almost finished, but Miss R. is still waiting on two schools to finalize game times. Thanks for your patience with game scheduling! Make sure to be looking at google calendar for the practice/game schedule. Let Miss Rosenbaum know if your child needs a ride 24 hours in advance.

No Basketball Tonight

Reminder that we do not have practice tonight for either team. Thanks!

Violin Teacher

The St. Matthew Music program is looking to hire a violin teacher. This is a very part time position: 3 hours per week during the school day. If you are interested, know someone who may be interested, or want additional information please reach out to Holly Roberg 509-991-7411.

DC Babysitting Event

This Saturday from 1-4PM is the babysitting event! Please support the DC kids by bringing your own children in for an afternoon of fun! Extended deadline—return forms and payment by tomorrow!



Classroom News

Preschool News

Mrs. Donna Driesbach (509.638.5361)

Woohoo!!! Our Christmas program last Sunday was phenomenal!! What a beautiful way the children were able to share the wonderful news of our Savior's birth to everyone there that day!! What a special program for all to hear!! Thank you, parents, for bringing your child for this amazing presentation of the Christmas Story.

What a fabulous week we had in preschool!! We still have our Christmas theme, but we did change a few of our centers. Our Art Center now has bingo dotters!! We have Christmas trees that the children can decorate with ornaments. In our Math Center, we have Christmas trees with ornaments already on them. The children need to count the number of ornaments and find the star with that number to put on the top!! Great number recognition for the preschoolers!

This week, the children had fun making ornaments to take home. We made a sparkly gem-filled angel, and some of the classes made a tissue paper candy cane. We sure had fun making these ornaments to put on our trees at home. Great memories!! Our easel painted Christmas trees are finished and are finally hanging up. They sure are amazing!! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the preschool!!

We also get to have fun celebrating the color Green!! Today and tomorrow, we all get to wear and/or bring something green to school!! Hide 'n' seek with green stars adds to the fun and excitement!!

We still have our Preschool Bookstore open. Please come and purchase a book for \$5!! Take this book home, wrap it and bring it back to school for a friend for our Christmas party. We will have a gift exchange as part of our party on the 18th and 20th.

This week we had a blast with our "30 Second Dance Party"!! Please ask your children about this!! We had SO much fun dancing in the classroom and getting the wiggles out!! Okay – so it ended up being about 2 or 3 minutes of a Dance Party, but we sure had fun!!!

We have two weeks off of school, starting the 21st. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 3. Our letter that week will be "Mm". Four year old classes, please bring something from home that begins with "Mm".

Our bible verse when we return in January is Luke 11:28 "Hear the Word of God."

Have a most blessed Christmas break, filled with love, laughter and beautiful family memories! Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year!!

Kindergarten News

Miss Rachel Taasaas (360.271.5201)

Christmas Program- Thank you for all of your work in helping your children practice their lines as well as driving them to and from practices. I hope you enjoyed the program! I would love for you to tell me what your favorite thing about the program was!

Lost and Found- Is your child missing: gloves, hats, sweatshirts, coats, spoons, sunglasses? If they are please check out our lost and found in the hallway by the classroom because we have all of that and MORE!

Christmas Party- Please remember to bring the Christmas party items that you signed up for.

Also, I told the kids they could wear pajamas for the Christmas party. This is optional.

Christmas Stocking Exchange- Stockings need to be brought to school on Monday, December 18.

Thank you- Shout out to Derrick Haxton for recording our Christmas program and for reading the newsletter!

Book it- Keep reading with your child over Christmas break. Calendars are due January 4. I will give you a new calendar when we get back from break so it doesn't get misplaced.

1st Grade News

Mrs. Kelly West (509.362.4916)

Hi First Grade Families!

Thank you for coming to our Christmas program and having your children sing. The kids did a great job!

It is nice to get back into our regular academic schedule after a rather busy time of practicing for the Christmas program.

We have less than a week of school until Christmas break! Hooray! Please check out the sign up sheet near our classroom door if you haven't signed up for anything for the party yet, which is Wednesday, December 20 starting at noon. Heidi Ferre is our party coordinator, and she has stockings for all the kids. So for the gift exchange please just buy 18 small things, such as fun pencils, erasers, little toys, etc.

Have a wonderful weekend! God bless!

2nd Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

Christlight/ Memory Work

- 12/19 - no memory work
- Please read the Bible stories from this week (The Unforgiving Servant; Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind; The Ten Lepers)
-

with your child during the weekend and sign the blue sheet in the orange folder.

Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day. Add the minutes to your child's book-it calendar.
- Continue to work through the extra math program.
- Spelling: We are going to take a break from spelling until after Christmas. Thanks for working hard on the words we have had so far. We will continue with vowel pairs after Christmas.

Extra Notes

- Make sure your child has enough warm clothes for recess/PE. Please send your child with a bag to put their snow gear in so it doesn't get their backpack wet.
- We have been working hard on parts of speech (adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs). It would be great for you to ask them about identifying and classifying words in sentences.
- Our Christmas party is coming up quickly. Please bring a wrapped gift for either a boy/girl before December 20. A half sheet was sent home on Tuesday reminding you of what you signed up to bring for the party. Thank you for volunteering to bring something.
- The kids sounded wonderful at the Christmas program on Sunday! They worked really hard on getting ready for it so thank you for coming to hear the message they had to share!
- We are running low on baby wipes. If you are able to donate some to our classroom, that would be greatly appreciated!
- December book-it calendars will be due no later than January 5. January calendars will be sent home next week in your child's orange folder.

3rd Grade News

Miss Avery Broyles (208.995.3465)

Memory Work a week ahead

- 12/19 - Matthew 22:39b, Galatians 5:13b, 5th Petition of the Lord's Prayer
- 12/20 - Ephesians 4:32 & The Fifth Commandment
- Due to a short week next week we will only have two days of memory work.
- It is really important that your child is looking at the memory work packet at home so they know their verse/verses and the day they are due.
- Please read the Bible stories from this week with your child (Jesus' Transfiguration & Jesus Encourages His Disciples)

Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day, and record it on the December calendar.
- Work on spelling words. They are in your child's Friday folder. Make sure your child is keeping their list in their accordion folder and bringing it back to school so they are able to practice. This week we are working on easily misspelled words.
- It is important that your child is taking their accordion folder home everyday because it has their spelling list.
- If your child is taking home something other than those things, then they didn't use their time wisely in class. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Extra Notes

- Water bottles need to be brought to school and filled up everyday.
- If anyone wants to volunteer for the running club Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30, there is a sign up on my door.
- We will be having a sock exchange at our Christmas party (December 20th) please spend no more than \$5 on some holiday socks, the names remain anonymous. Please wrap the socks before bringing them to the classroom. The kids can start bringing their wrapped socks in the week of the party (Mon, Tues, Wed). The students are also allowed to wear their pajamas for the party.
- As the weather starts getting colder, please send a coat with your child along with gloves and a hat.
- We will plan to go outside everyday for P.E., please have your child dress appropriately.
- Don't forget to have your child record minutes on their Bookit calendar, as it is part of your child's nightly homework.
- Thank you for all your hard work, helping your child memorize their Christmas recitations, and transporting them to and from the Christmas practices.
- There will be no spelling next week due to a short week.

Enjoy your Christmas break!

4th Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

Word of God -Jesus came to die for us was the theme of our lessons this week. Jesus is God's Son and our Savior who came to die for us and we want to treasure the salvation he won for us.

Math - Chapter 5 is all about division! We have learned about dividing one-digit divisors with 2 & 3 digit quotients with and without remainders.

Reading - Pa, Ma, and Laura hear a scream in the night! What was it? Find the answers in [Little House on the Prairie](#).

Writing - Stop by to check out our Holiday Cinquain Poetry hanging in the hallway.

Science - How do our body systems work together? This is our big question we want to answer as we learn about the human

body.

EXTRA NOTES:

Children Christmas Service - Thank you all for bringing your child to help celebrate our Savior's birth!

Christmas Gift Exchange - We have finished up our stockings and they are all hanging snug by our library! Items can be brought in anytime to be placed into the stocking by tomorrow, Friday, December 15.

Christmas Party - Our classroom Christmas party will be on Wednesday, December 20. Pizza will be provided for each child.

Snowy Weather & Recess - Please remember to send gloves/mittens, boots, and snow pants to school with your child if they want to play in the snow during recess. Your child may also bring a sled to use during recess. They need to sit on the sled and not to sled head first. Please make sure your child's name is on the sled, and it must go home on Thursday. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged sleds left overnight or over the weekend.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

5th-6th Grade News

Mr. Glenn Metzger (734.788.4637)

Thank you parents for all the work you did helping our students prepare to lead the Christmas Service. I thought our class did a very good job with their responsibilities, and no one seemed nervous or unprepared. That is a credit to how hard they worked, which I'm sure you had a big hand in. So thank you!

In class, we are wrapping up some units as we close in on our Christmas break. In Christ Light, we had an assessment yesterday about some of the miracles and parables that were part of Jesus' ministry. In Faith Foundations, we are just about done with our study of the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed. In math, both classes have had a test recently, and are working on operations with fractions. In Science, we are studying plate tectonics, climates, and volcanoes. In Social Studies, we are finishing our study of some primary sources regarding the rapid expansion of the Islamic caliphate. Finally, in English, we are starting the prewriting stage of our next big writing project, which will be completed toward the end of January.

Our classroom Christmas party next week is almost entirely planned by the students. They are coordinating with each other to bring snacks, drinks, games, and other activities. We exchanged "Snack Cards" yesterday as our version of a gift exchange this year. They include likes and dislikes of each student, as well as any allergies or restrictions. Thanks for helping your students with finding a snack/gift for a classmate.

7th-8th Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

A big thank you to all of you for your help in making our Christmas program a possibility. We wouldn't have been able to do it if it wasn't for your help in transporting your children to the practices. It felt like we were getting the teeniest glimpse of heaven in hearing all the children's beautiful voices praising our God who became flesh.

Here is the memory work for next week:

Monday 12/18: Acts 4:12, Luke 2:1-20

We will be taking a test on some of the development and creation of Washington territory next week Tuesday. As we get closer to our D.C. trip, we will be taking some detours to look at different topics that relate to what the kids will be seeing during their time on the trip. One of the topics that we will be covering is the Civil War.

We started to dig into our senses in science class. We will be spending the most time on our eyesight and hearing due to the complex nature of these body parts. We will be picking up this study after Christmas break.

Two notes were sent home this week, and your child also signed up to bring something to our Christmas party next Wednesday. Please read the notes. One of them was about our annual walk to Taco Bell on Monday the 18th. I need this form back before we walk over there on Monday. Another note was about our gift exchange. The signup was in regards to your children bringing food to the Christmas party. Please talk with your child about each of these things.

A reminder that next week is a short week. Our Christmas party will be on Wednesday the 20th. School will be buying pizza for this, so there is no need to pack a lunch if your children want pizza. I pray all of you have a blessed break worshipping the newborn Savior of the World.

Prepare to Meet Him

How's your lawn right now? For some of you, your grass has grown dormant and won't be green again for several months. For others, the heat of summer has cooled to allow grass to grow again, but when the hot desert sun returns, that grass will wither and die again.

Much of the world can picture what the prophet describes in these verses. The grass withers, and the flowers fall. Year after year, we see it happen. It marks the passing of time and reminds us that nothing lasts forever.

But that's not entirely true. The things of this world—the grass, the flowers, even the people—wither and die. But the word of our God endures forever. Of course, that can't be said of any human being. Our promises are broken. The things we say are forgotten. But not God's.

When God speaks, he never changes his mind. He never takes it back. The things he says are always true, always relevant, always reliable.

That means when he makes a demand in his law, it stands. But it also means that when he makes a promise, it stands. He promised to send his Son to defeat sin and death; he kept that promise when Jesus came as our Savior. When he promises to separate our sins from us as far as the east is from the west, he keeps that promise. When he promises to hear those who call on him in Jesus' name, he keeps that promise. When he promises never to leave us or forsake us, he keeps that promise. And when he promises that one day, Jesus will come again to take

us to heaven, he will keep that promise, too.

And so, with trusting hearts, we treasure his unfailing word. And with joyful hearts, we prepare to meet Jesus when he comes again.

Prayer:

King Jesus, I rejoice that your Word never fails. Trusting in your Word, help me prepare to meet you when you come. Amen.

Want more daily devotions?

I get them here!



“All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Isaiah 40:6-8