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The Timber Times  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## School News

### Thanksgiving Break

How can it possibly be Thanksgiving already??? Next week we only have school on Monday & Tuesday—please enjoy this extra time with family and friends.

### Worship Opportunity!

Does your home church celebrate Thanksgiving with a special church service? Why not join us here at St. Matthew glorifying God for all the wonderful blessings he has lavished on us?? The service begins at 9AM, and really is a great way to get your mind in the proper headspace before all the chaos of the day ensues. We hope to see you there!

### Junior Choir

See you at rehearsal on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please look for a note coming home on Monday with the information and date of when we sing at the Spokane Chiefs game, plus when we may be going caroling and having a small Christmas party!

### DC Craft Fair

The DC students are hosting a craft fair in the church on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. All the students are supplying their own crafts for this event! Please come check it out during the following times:

8:10-9:00AM  
11:20-12:30PM  
3:00-3:45PM

All proceeds help offset the costs of attending the trip to Washington DC this spring. Thank you!

### Mileage/Running Club

We are trying something new this year and continuing our summer running club throughout the school year and having Kindergarten through 8th grade participate each week. On Tuesdays during the noon/lunch recess from 12:30-12:50 (so long as there isn't snow) each child will either walk or run laps during recess. Thursdays during the noon/lunch recess will be an optional day for the children to participate to gain more miles, especially if they have a big goal for themselves. This information will be recorded and Mrs. Gaulke will award the rewards on Fridays/over the weekend so the children can see their progress of how many miles they have run/walked.

That being said, we are looking for volunteers to help scan the codes during this time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheet in your child's classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Mrs. Gaulke or Mrs. Most.

### Basketball

MEETING TODAY!! Go to Miss Rosenbaum's room after school for information about the upcoming basketball season. If you have to miss the meeting, please make sure to reach out to Miss Rosenbaum to get the forms and a uniform for your child. Practices begin November 28.

### DC Hot Lunch

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>—hot dogs! Please fill out the form no later than Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>! Thank you!

### DC Babysitting Night

Mark your calendars—December 16<sup>th</sup> the DC kids have agreed to watch your kiddos (4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger) for the afternoon 1-4PM! \$10/child. A flyer will be sent out in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout! This is a perfect time to get some last minute Christmas shopping done!

### Mr. Biebert's Call

Mr. Biebert has returned his call to WI and will continue to serve as principal here at St. Matthew. Thank you all for your wonderful encouragements over the last few weeks. Please continue to pray for the congregation in Janesville that they would find someone suitable to be their principal.

### Volunteers Needed

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> we have the opportunity to carol at the Viking Plass (a retirement living apartment across the road kitty corner from the school), make cards and play some games. We need some extra hands with card making and games. If you can help out, or have questions to ask before committing, please speak with either Miss Taasaas or Mrs. Most.

### Christmas Rehearsals — Naz Gym

Our Christmas program is taking place on December 10<sup>th</sup> over at the Nazarene gym. Before the service, our whole school will

Thanksgiving Break—Wednesday-Friday



be heading over there to have several rehearsals. Please look for a sheet from your child's teacher detailing when these rehearsals are taking place. It's extremely important to note these dates and be available for drop off or pick up depending on the time. If you have extra questions, please speak with your child's teacher!

### Christmas Practice over Break

Our Children's Christmas service is already on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, and I know the teachers are already feeling like it's crunch time. Please do them a favor and have your kids practice rehearsing songs and memory work a few minutes each day over Thanksgiving break so the

teachers don't have to start from scratch after the holiday! They will be eternally grateful!!

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## Classroom News

### Preschool News

Mrs. Donna Driesbach (509.638.5361)

We have kept our same theme, Thanksgiving, for yet another amazing week!!! But, we also have a FUN color day celebration today and tomorrow! Brown is our color of the month, so . . . you guessed it!!! Everyone gets to have fun wearing and/or bringing something brown to school. Brown is not a very popular color in a child's wardrobe, so the children are also able to bring something special to school that is brown. I can't wait to see what they bring!! And, guess what?? We get to play hide 'n' seek with brown triangles – even in the dark!! Color Days are so fantastic!! We love them!!

Even though our theme stayed the same, we did change up our centers a bit. Our Drama Center has two Indian teepees – the children can even bring books from the Reading Center into the teepees to read. Our Science Center has shadow-matching with some Thanksgiving things, and our Math Center has turkeys that the children can place the number of feathers on the turkey that matches the number on the turkey's tummy. The Center changes are always fun and exciting – for everyone!!

We had a great time making more crafts in preparation for our Thanksgiving Feast next week. Some of our classes made their turkey table decorations and some had their hands painted to look like turkeys. Some of the children made Indian necklaces, while others cut and decorated their Pilgrim collars. The 4-year old classes had a spectacular time making pumpkin bread – all of this for our Feast next week! What an amazing Thanksgiving Feast we are planning!! Parents, grandparents and siblings - you ALL are invited: Monday and Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. both days.

We have been working VERY hard each and every day on our Christmas program songs and recitations. Please keep working with your child(ren) at home, also. The work you do at home helps me SO much, and your child will only benefit from this beautiful support!! Thank you for working with me!! We make a great team!! We are doing well with our preschool recitations, now let's work on our Whisper song and Ring Out the Good News song. I have texted you the music and sent home the words/hand motions – I sure could use your help with these two songs!! Our Christmas program is just around the corner!! THANK YOU!!

Our letter of the week next week is "Jj". We will NOT be doing show 'n' tell next week due to our Feast and the short school week. But, please feel free to bring a "Jj" item and/or a show 'n' tell item that begins with "F, G, H, I or J" the following week! We will be reviewing those letters the week of Nov. 27 - Dec. 1.

Bible memory work for next week: "Nothing is too hard for God." Jeremiah 32:17

Have a beautiful weekend!! Stay safe and stay healthy!! God's blessings!!

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### Kindergarten News

Miss Rachel Taasaas (360.271.5201)

**Memory Work-** I handed out Christmas Program recitations at Parent/Teacher Conferences please keep working with your child on their recitations.

**Life skill-** Each quarter the students are introduced to a new life skill. This is usually something that is not already in our curriculum. This year, rather than doing 4 different life skills, we are focusing on sewing. First quarter the students used lacing cards to practice the basic skill of sewing. Last week for our second quarter activity the students sewed their own pouch. In December they will be making a felt reindeer candy cane holder. If you would like to donate full sized candy canes for the project please let me know. We need 32.

**Christmas Stocking Exchange-** Our class will be doing a stocking exchange on Wednesday, December 20 during our class Christmas party.

Boys will exchange with boys and girls will exchange with girls. Purchase items that you think would be appropriate.

Buy (or make) a stocking and fill it with 3 items. Only one of the items can be candy. Keep the cost of the stocking and the 3 items to \$15 or less. Please wrap each item individually.

The stocking needs to be brought to school on Monday, December 18 (no earlier) with a tag that says "From (your child's name)" We will draw names to see who gets what stocking, they do not know who they are exchanging with.

**Christmas Party sign up-** I will be posting wants/needs for our party on our classroom door after we get back from Thanksgiving break so please keep your eye out for that.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade News

Mrs. Kelly West (509.362.4916)

Hello First Grade Families!

This week in Christ Light (Bible history class) we have learned how Jesus showed his power over death by raising a twelve year old girl from the dead, as well as a young man.

This week's sound focus in Reading is words with the letter u, as well as learning some new sight words, such as where, does, are, and away.

In Math we are working through the subtraction chapter, learning how addition and subtraction facts relate to one another.

In Writing we are learning about common and proper nouns, and we are practicing our handwriting with question marks and exclamation points.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." Romans 15:13 (This is not memory work, just a comforting Bible passage. :) Enjoy your weekend!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

Miss Erika Rosenbaum (269.326.5437)

#### Christlight/ Memory Work

- 11/21 - Christmas recitations
- 11/28 - Christmas recitations
- 11/30 - John 8:47a
- Please read the Bible stories from this week (The Gentile Woman's Faith; Death of John the Baptist; Woman in Simon's House) 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 will not have spelling next week due to the Thanksgiving break. We will continue the week after with soft c and g sounds.

#### Extra Notes

- Our second quarter life skill will be learning how to set a table.
- Make sure your child has enough warm clothes for recess.
- Our Christmas party is coming up quickly. There will be a sign-up for items in our classroom the week after Thanksgiving. A note about our Christmas party will also go home that week as well.
- We have been working hard on the Christmas program materials in the classroom.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

Miss Avery Broyles (208.995.3465)

Memory Work a week ahead

- 11/21 - Proverbs 3:5a, Hebrews 11:1 & John 5:23b
- Since it is a short week your child will have 3 verses due on Tuesday
- 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 Teaches His Disciples about Love & Jesus Teaches His Disciples about Earthly Needs)

#### Homework

- Read 20 minutes a day, and record it on the November 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 words with /ûr/ sound. No spelling the following week (11/20) due to Thanksgiving Break.
- Please be practicing Christmas recitations with your child at home as it is part of your child's memory work.
- 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.
- 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. There will be a sign up on my door next week for anyone who would be willing to help with the party, bring food items, or help clean up. If anyone wants to help plan the activities for the party, please reach out. Thank you.
- As the weather starts getting colder, please send a coat with your child.
- 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.
- Make sure you have the Google calendar downloaded on your phone because that is where you will find upcoming events or information.

Have a great weekend!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Mrs. Michelle Most (832.212.9102)

**Word of God** - In our lessons this week we learn from Jesus how he wants us to live our lives. We are to show our love for God and for others in our thoughts, words, and actions. We are to trust in God to provide for our earthly needs as our heavenly Father wants us to seek and value spiritual needs first over the earthly needs that we trust he will provide both.

**Math** - We are working on multiplying two and three digit numbers by two digit numbers. We are doing okay, but making mistakes with our addition and multiplication facts or forgetting to add the numbers we are regrouping with. Please look at the math papers coming home today and go over any that you feel would be helpful. We are reviewing this in class also. I'd like the assessment for this to be either tomorrow (Friday) or next Monday.

**Reading** - You must have the Midas touch. That's my Achilles heel! Don't open Pandora's box! We have begun to study Greek Mythology to understand where allusions like these and many others came from and how Greek mythology is still around in our world today.

**Science** - What is the difference between weathering and erosion? We are learning about this and how to prevent erosion.

**Social Studies** - We are taking a look at being a pioneer on the Oregon Trail and all the hardships they faced. It was amazing that so many, around 400,000, endured the trip west on the trail! We even took some time to play the old school game of the Oregon trail. (If you are feeling nostalgic, you can give it a go on the [visitoregon.com](http://visitoregon.com) website.)

#### EXTRA NOTES:

**Christmas Gift Exchange** - I know it is early, but I wanted to get it out there and let you know asap, a note will be coming home after Thanksgiving with the information for our classroom stocking gift exchange.

**Christmas Party** - Our classroom Christmas party will be on Wednesday, December 20. Pizza will be provided for each child. I will put a signup sheet in the classroom after Thanksgiving.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving week in the Lord and if you are traveling, have safe travels!

### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Mr. Glenn Metzger (734.788.4637)

We have reached the point of our school year where we are beginning to practice for our Christmas Service. The students have already been working to memorize their recitations and songs, but we are now practicing speaking the recitations together in class. It has been fun to talk about annunciation and our accents (which many didn't know we have!)

In addition to taking 15-20 minutes out of class time, we will also be starting to practice with the rest of the school. There are ten dates scheduled to practice with the other classes, starting with the 15th and 16th this week. Each practice session is set to last 75-90 minutes total, and will alternate between taking place in the mornings and afternoons. I will adjust my schedule so that an equal number of science, social studies, english, and reading classes are skipped. Religion and math classes will never be skipped. We look forward to the opportunity to be part of leading our worship service for Christmas and using our talents to the best of our abilities in our recitations and songs.

In our normal classes, we are continuing to study the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the events of Jesus' ministry in religion classes. In math, the 6th grade students are studying how to write, graph, and evaluate inequalities, while the 5th grade is working with prime and composite numbers and their factors. In science, we are finishing our cell membrane experiments this week, with our rubbery eggs floating in anything from Diet Mountain Dew to chai tea to bathroom disinfectant. In social studies, we have begun our study of the people and events of ancient Arabia, including the beginning of Islam. In English, we are studying the characteristics and uses of pronouns. For reading class, I have included a message from Mrs. Schultz:

*"Hi parents! Has your child told you we have been reading the novel, Wonder? One of the themes of this novel is "the importance of being kind". We have been collecting ideas of how to show kindness in our everyday life. I would like to see how many of my students actually follow through with our ideas and show kindness over the next few weeks. If your child shows kindness, could you send a quick text to me? I will share it with the class to encourage even more participation. My phone number is 858-997-9276. If you have never texted me before, don't forget to include your name. Thanks for your help!!"*

(Back to Mr. Metzger's voice)

Finally, I want to say thank you to everyone who communicates when I send out emails. I don't expect a response every time, so it's okay if you don't respond. Please know that I appreciate your involvement and support in your children's education. I don't always do great with responding to kind words, but I see them and they mean a lot to me. Thanks for trusting me with your children.

### 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Mr. Jacob Biebert (715.402.0094)

This week began the huge task of preparing for our Christmas program. While each class has been working individually on this task, this week was the first time we started to practice together as the full school.

Here is the memory work for next week:

11/20: God's perfect plan had come to pass through for you and me(Christmas); 11/21: Narration 2(Christmas)

We have been looking at the settlement of the West and Washington territory specifically, which has led us to looking at the Oregon Trail, the trail that thousands of settlers took to head West. The students have been taking a virtual tour of many different stops along the Oregon trail via Google Earth. They have been viewing videos, reading articles, and viewing stops along the trail. Hopefully this has given the students a better understanding of what actually was encountered along the trail.

We are starting to wrap up the study of our nervous system. We conducted some experiments to see if people being left or right brained is really a thing. Overall we discovered that this is a myth, but that we may have tendencies to think or act a certain way, but really it depends on the task. We learned that really depending on the task, we activate the parts of our brain best suited for the task. The students also got to listen to great uncle Biebert share with them the story of how we go from a sensation to an action in regards to our neurons. The students modeled this with clay and drew cartoons of this pathway.

Next week is Thanksgiving week! I love Thanksgiving, so I am particularly excited. Please remember that we have a short week, Monday and Tuesday, and then break for Thanksgiving. I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving pigging out on various meats, cheeses, and pies. Kayla and I get the opportunity to head over to Redding, California to spend Thanksgiving with my younger brother who happens to be my closest family member in proximity to us. God Bless!

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## God's Calendar

Even if you're not big on scheduling your life or using a calendar, you probably still use a calendar for the big things in life.

What if you knew the biggest event of your life was coming, but you didn't know exactly when it would be? You never received a "Save the Date" for your child's wedding, or no one told you when to show up for a critical surgery that could save your life? It would be disconcerting at best.

In a way, that is our lives as we wait for the Last Day to come. God has told us that the biggest day of our life is coming, but we don't know when it will be. This has caused all kinds of people to become frustrated with God. Some have even tried to find hidden messages in the Bible to try and determine when that day will be.

But friends, let God's peace rest on your hearts because you know your sins are forgiven. Even though the Last Day will come like a thief in the night, the surprise will not upset you because you are children of the light! God has opened your eyes to see the truth that Jesus is

your Savior, and you are safe and will live with him forever in heaven!

### Prayer:

Lord, help me to give my "Amen" to your calendar, and patiently wait for your Son's appearing. Amen.

*Want more daily devotions?*

*[I get them here!](#)*



Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly . . . But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. . . For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-5,9,10**