



100th Day of School Special Edition Newsletter



From the Desk of Mrs. Shumny

I am so pleased to share the tremendous amount of academic progress, creativity and genuine hard work that has taken place at our school. We have made many updates to our technology and curriculum to enhance each student's learning experience.

Each teacher has created a short description of the highlights and the accomplishments of each class! It has been an exciting first hundred days at ACS!

Pre-Kindergarten - Ms. Cuff

Pre-K has had a very busy 100 days. They are working hard on learning all their letters, shapes, and numbers. We begin each day with our morning meeting, where we do the calendar and sing songs and have our lesson of the day. The favorite part of the day is centers. Whether it's housekeeping, where they can dress up or work at the tool bench, or the sand table where they can dig for treasures, or the Math center where they practice sorting and patterns and matching numbers. A favorite game is the McDonalds French Fry matching game. Using the magnifying glasses and magnets is a fun part of the Science center. At the Writing center they practice writing their letters and numbers and names. At Christmas time they used a candy cane to practice writing their letters in sprinkles! Our Library center is filled with tons of fun and interesting books. The big books are a favorite to read. At the block center they can build with all different blocks or build a race track. At Christmas time we practiced wrapping blocks with Christmas paper. The Art center has lots of fun materials to cut and glue to make creations with. The Literacy center is where they practice their letter sounds. They are starting to blend sounds together to make words. The class has been learning their prayers and are beginning to join in with singing and responses during Liturgy on Fridays. We are waiting for the nice weather to come back, so we can go outside and play our games. From playing tag, to London Bridges, to hoola hoops and parachute fun. We will be spending the rest of the year preparing for Kindergarten!

Kindergarten - Mrs. Derevenska

Kindergarten students of ACS are 100 days Smarter! Here is how kindergarteners spent their first 100 days at ACS:

Every day our Kindergarteners have been practicing good manners, treating each other with kindness and respect, making friendships, keeping hands to oneself, learning how to problem solve, taking turns, following directions, coping with their emotions and the best part is the self confidence and independence gained as they reach each new achievement. In addition, students continued working towards proficiency in sight word recognition, reading, writing, as well as addition and subtraction.

In language arts, we are currently working on Unit 4, "Let's go Exploring" of Reading Street Program. The kindergarteners have fully mastered already Units 1-3 "All Together Now", "Look at

Us”, “Changes all Around Us”. Together with mastering the 3 Units, we learned 50 sight words, a bunch of new amazing words, 18 new songs, and have read many new books and booklets. Kindergarteners are tested each week to make sure everyone stays on track.

Each unit of the Language Arts program helps boost confidence and motivation. From listening comprehension to phoneme segmentation fluency to nonsense word fluency, each individually provided the preliminary ground work towards building vocabulary and strengthening their comprehension skills. Thus, the fundamentals learned will pave the way for a lifetime of learning, meanwhile purposeful play and centers build enthusiasm and participation. For instance, inquiry based learning stimulates our child’s natural curiosity of the world around them. We begin every reading lesson with solid fundamentals like phonics, then letters and words. Kindergartens often read allowed in order to connect oral and written language skills.

Next, Religion is an important part of the curriculum here at ACS. The students read an ample amount of Bible stories that helped them understand God as the creator of life. Some topics that we mastered thus far, are church leaders, the rosary, mass, miracles of Jesus, as well as all of the saints days. Currently we are working on Stations of the Cross. The children are learning about how Jesus lived, suffered, and died for the redemption of all people. Through His death on the Cross, we collectively as a class are able to understand that He made it possible for us share God’s grace again.

In Mathematics we have learned sorting, geometry and patterns, positions, numbers 0-50 and operations, counting and cardinality, algebraic thinking, tables, graphs, and fractions, addition readiness, subtraction readiness, and now currently working on money. Kindergartens are able to collect and record data include graphing; compare length, weight, capacity, area, and temperature, identify days of week and months of the year to include calendar use. Finally, soon they will be able to master the basic monetary skills that enable them to count and differentiate between pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Furthermore, we are continuing to perfect addition and subtraction word problems as well as identifying 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional geometric shapes and attributes such as squares, triangles, circles, rectangles, and hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres presented in a variety of ways (e.g., with different sizes and orientations).

Lastly, the students had the most fun in Science. We have completed 8 weeks of Earth-Space Science: science safety, earth, water, weather, day and night, the sun. Currently we are focused on the ‘Life science’ unit. It is there where we discuss plants, mammals and humans, as well as other living organisms. The children are learning to understand how living things grow and what living organisms need that is essential for their survival. With the help of interactive learning via classroom projects, the kindergartens know the mechanisms behind ‘how plants take up water’, ‘air and how it takes up space’, the ‘human eyes and how we view the world’. In addition to the classroom activities the children were able to apply their learned knowledge combined with their 5 senses, at the Liberty Science Center trip.

In conclusion, the kindergarteners have been busy and active bees learning, exploring, and understanding the fundamentals of reading, writing, religion, mathematics, and science. Interactive learning is an important part of the curriculum; each activity helps each child understand the particular topic not by just listening and reading, but by engaging all of their senses. We have been having a great time growing and learning in the last 100 days.

I am proud, honored, as well as overjoyed at the progress made thus far, and look forward in continuing our process in becoming a year older and a year smarter.

First Grade - Miss Salamon

First graders are 100 days smarter and have been working hard!

Language Arts- First grade is an important year for children to become good readers, and to learn how to comprehend what they are reading. We have been following the Reading Street curriculum and have been working on the skills to become successful readers. The students are enjoying reading stories of all different genres, and have even been writing their own stories! They are using what they've learned about nouns, verbs, and adjectives to write creatively. First grade has started working in centers, and they love working together to help each other learn.

Math- First grade has been counting down until the 100th day since the very first day of school, using our class 100 chart. They are able to recognize number patterns and can count by 2's, 5's, and 10's. We have been working with two-digit numbers and place value. First graders are always practicing their basic addition and subtraction facts, and using strategies to solve word problems.

Religion- Reading Bible stories is a favorite thing to do during religion class. The students have been learning about the life of Jesus since he was born up until when he grew up and became a teacher to spread the Word of God. First grade has learned about the Ten Commandments, and the sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and Holy Communion. They are always learning how to please God, by showing respect to all people and making good choices.

Science and Social Studies- We have been using the Science Studies Weekly curriculum to learn about several science themes. So far we've learned about space, the water cycle, plants, animals, and many other topics. First grade loves to participate in science experiments, and we will start doing them more often. The most recent experiment they did was during Catholic Schools Week, when they worked with the middle school to make their own ice cream.

Social Studies, we have been learning a lot about communities and how places can change over time. The students know how to read a map by following directions and using a compass. First grade has learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and will be learning about many more famous people during Black History Month, and with President's Day coming up.

Second Grade - Mrs. Lawrence

Second graders have been busy and here is what we've done:

Religion – Second grade is a special year when students are preparing for First Holy Solemn Communion. We have finished 13 lessons in our book, memorized at least 40 questions and answers as provided by Sr. Yosaphata, and worked upon expanding our prayers. As the weeks have elapsed there have been special days or saints to learn about too.

Math – Every day in math is a busy day. So far this year we have covered a combined total of more than 300 pages from our 3 math books as well as a multitude of worksheets. The topics represented in these pages are addition and subtraction facts, double digit problems, word problems, place value (in detail) to the 1000s, skip counting (which lays the groundwork for multiplication), surveys, tally charts, graphs, conclusions, and regrouping. Knowing addition and subtraction math facts is a PRIORITY.

Language Arts – This area has sub-topics of reading, phonics, spelling, writing, and grammar. Our program is very comprehensive with at least 10 workbook pages plus 8 follow-up worksheets per story in addition to the online components which help to facilitate understanding of themes, vocabulary, and grammar. The skills are numerous such as author's purpose, story elements, literal and inferential comprehension, and more, plus different types of writing (personal narrative, letters,

informational). Our textbook provides a variety of genre such as realistic fiction, expository text, procedural text, drama, literary nonfiction, folk tale, fairy tale, fantasy, and more. Each marking period has also had a reading challenge in it, each with a specific purpose.

Science & Social Studies – Students love these areas of learning; wish we could do them all day long. In science I am following the Studies Weekly program which is a grade level magazine with basic concepts in simple presentation. I also fit in seasonal and topical subjects at the appropriate time. For example, since the Eagles won the Super Bowl, I thought it would be a good to learn about eagles! And the online baby eaglet videos have been precious.

In social studies, world geography, compass directions, and map work has been a strong focus as well as seasonal and topical subjects such as Veterans' Day, explorers, Thanksgiving, Presidents, Martin Luther King, Jr. with more famous people to come. Since the Olympics have started, I will use that opportunity for more geography and current events.

Third Grade - Mrs. Cooper

We are 100 days smarter! The students have been working hard over the past 100 days! Here are just a few of the things we have been working on.

In Math the students have learned place value, which is the foundation on which whole numbers operations is built. The students learned to use models related to 10s, 100s and 1000s and moved on to 4,5 and 6 digit numbers in a variety of contexts. In Addition we have learned the basic strategies of looking for tens, doubles, counting on and adding 3 digit numbers and finally regrouping. In subtraction we have learned to understand the various meanings of subtraction: to take away, find part of a whole set, compare, how many more are needed and all the strategies to solve these problems. From there we have moved on to the concept of multiplication as repeated addition of equal groups. The students have been working hard to memorize their multiplication facts and have seen how the automaticity helps us to solve math problems. Our unit on division is where we have learned sharing and separating into equal groups. We have explored the link between our knowledge of multiplication facts and division as well as the operations of addition and subtraction. Our current chapter is Statistics and Probability and we are currently learning about data using various ways to collect, organize, display and interpret it. Through the use of our Math program and hands on activities the students are engaged, and becoming reflective learners and confident problem solvers.

Our Reading program helps students to learn to read as well as love to read. It supports reading, writing and whole language development. The weekly and unit instruction is built around science and social studies concepts and allows for deeper knowledge through the use of literature, vocabulary, and writing. Our first unit explored the ideas of "Living and Learning" and the skills that help us make our way in the world. We learned the concepts of what we can learn by trying new things, trading with others, how to reach goals, how we can get what we need and what we need to know about spending and saving. Unit 2 "Smart Solutions" provided us with knowledge on ways to solve problems. Some topics included are, how structures of plants and animals help them solve problems, how you know a solution is a good one, when it is time to find a solution, what we can do to find a fair solution and how plants and animals have adapted to solve problems. As we come to a close on our third unit we have learned about "People and Nature". In this unit we discovered how people interact with nature, how we explain things in nature, what we can learn about nature from investigating it, how we can help animals in danger and how we can observe nature in different environments. In each of these units our Reading Strands cover phonics and word analysis as well as

text based comprehension skills. Our Writing strands teaches us about the different genres and our Language strand teaches us to expand our vocabulary and spelling skills.

In Science we have just finished exploring matter. Students are able to describe physical properties of matter using the senses (touch, smell, etc.). Students are able to demonstrate how a different substance can be made by combining two or more substances. Analyze forces, their forms, and their effects on motions. Students are able to define energy and differentiate between sources of renewable and non-renewable energy. As we begin our next unit on Earth Science we are learning about the solar system, landforms, rocks and minerals, and the weather.

In our Social Studies unit we will continue to learn about our communities and the fundamental concepts about government, citizenship, geography, economics, and history. The focus of instruction is on developing an understanding of core democratic values, the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, and how key people and events contributed to the development of the American heritage.

In our Religion studies we utilize the book “ Our Life with Jesus” . Through it and daily discussion we learned about God’s love for us, how he created the world, and the laws that God wants us to follow. We will continue to learn about his mercy and living our life with God. Through our religious studies and our other daily activities students will continue to learn and live the 6 pillars of character including Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

Fourth Grade- Miss Hucul

It’s hard to believe that 100 days of school have already gone by! It seems just like yesterday that school started. The fourth graders at Assumption Catholic School have been busy learning, building friendships, and having fun these last five month.

Fourth grade is now halfway through our language arts program, Reading Street. In Units 1, 2 and 3, we learned about the benefits of exploring new places and things, the value of teamwork, and patterns in nature. Can you believe we’ve learned 140 Amazing Words so far this year? Unit 4 is all about puzzles and mysteries. We are going to investigate through our reading and find out the real truth: Is there an explanation for everything? We love to work in centers to practice our spelling and comprehension skills. Our hard work is paying off! Fourth graders have really grown as readers and writers, and have matured into lifelong learners.

Now that we are experts in addition and subtraction, we are working to master our multiplication and division skills and use them to help us understand more difficult math. We can easily multiply by one and two digits, and divide by one digit. We have even started working on fractions! And guess what? We are really good at them! Miss Hucul says we will be ready for Algebra in the 8th grade before we even know it.

We love Studies Weekly! We’ve already completed a science unit in Physical Science. Now we are learning about our amazing planet Earth - oceans and waterways, soil, weather and climate, natural disasters, and the importance of protecting our planet. We can’t wait until we study our solar system in a few weeks!

After reading so many Old Testament stories, we will begin our study of Jesus and the New Testament in just a few days. We are beginning to understand and realize that God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. We may not know what it is yet, but we do know that we are destined for greatness. We really enjoyed our Advent Adventure, and look forward to our Lenten journey. We pray that this journey will bring each of us closer to God - to know, to love, and to serve Him.

Fifth Grade - Mrs. Billy

In math, we have talked about place value of whole numbers and decimals. We have reviewed adding, subtracting, and multiplying whole numbers. We have added and subtracted decimals. We have also learned about estimating before answering the problem to see if our answer makes sense. Most of our time, though has been spent discovering all about fractions! We have identified, added, subtracted, multiplied and divided fractions. Talk to your children about fractions when you are cooking! We are now starting our chapter on Geometry. Math is everywhere!!

In reading, we have been reading, reading, reading, and writing, writing, writing! We are $\frac{1}{2}$ way through our Reading Street Book. In Unit 1 we learned about meeting challenges, then we read stories about doing the right thing and now we are discovering all about inventors and artists. Hopefully we are inspiring future artists, inventors, and learners! We have been working on writing "how to" essays and narratives. We have learned about reading different genres and completed a biography and historical fiction reading log in the fall. Coming up, we can't wait to improve our writing skills and our vocabulary when we read. Look forward to reading logs in the spring about mysteries and adventures.

In religion, the 5th graders have learned about the church calendar and completed an exciting project with the 6th graders. We have learned about creation, Moses, Abraham, and Isaac. We have learned about St. Nicholas and the birth of Jesus. We have learned the prayers that we say every morning-- since we have so many new students in our class this year! We are currently learning about The Ten Commandments and then Lent!

Sixth Grade - Mr. Wythe

Grade 6 has been hard at work learning through the first 100 days of school! In Social Studies we have studied different Ancient Civilization. From the Babylonians in Mesopotamia, the Pyramids in Egypt, to the spread of Buddhism and Hinduism in India, the Great Wall of China, the Greek philosophers, and most recently the Roman Empire. Grade 6 has learned about the common problems faced by ancient countries. With each unit the Sixth graders have had at least one assignment where they're asked to travel back in time and imagine that they are contribute to that civilization. They have written everything from a postcard from Mesopotamia, to a travel brochure for ancient Rome.

In Language Arts, Sixth Grade continues to expand their vocabulary and reading skills. Each student does a weekly "Reading Sleuth" activity to practice critical thinking skills while reading. Students are expected to highlight passages that they want to draw conclusions based on, and then connect those passages to their own lives to develop stronger close reading skills. We have also begun doing centers work where students rotate through a series of activities that allow them to work at their own pace and receive help from other group members.

Seventh Grade - Mrs. Vattelana

What's happening in Grade 7...

The Seventh Grade has set their sights on obtaining as much information as possible. We tested our skills by enlarging scale drawings of fun sized candy wrappers which have been decorating our building and created original board games targeting students in grades K- 5...would you like to play with us? The students have been pushing forward in math to fine tune their foundation and explore new areas of study simultaneously. Language Arts has provided us the opportunity to experience both: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton. Together, we are discussing how the media, society, and personal experiences influence and shape our perceptions.

Eighth Grade - Mrs. Pickering

The Class of 2018 has completed their reading of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens with the seventh grade. They are now reading *A Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, which is based on the story of a young girl living during the Holocaust of WWII. They will be continuing to sharpen their writing skills through writing their own autobiography. In science classes from grades five through eight students will be studying everything from genetics to space. Fifth grade is looking forward to working with the seventh graders on a research project focused on inherited diseases. All of the sixth - eighth grade classes are looking forward to a return trip to Liberty Science Center. They went before Christmas and had a great time exploring the world of 3- D printers. They made a small disc and keychain for themselves. They also were able to try some of the many exhibits offered by the museum. Faith is interwoven into all of their classes and in living with this spirit the class has sponsored a souper bowl in which they have collected soup for a local soup kitchen. They enjoyed spending some time with Father Ivan to learn about how he prepares himself for Divine Liturgy. They continue to be the buddies to the kindergarten children working with them on their reading and math skills. This activity helps them to practice the virtue of patience. It also helps the little ones to know that they are part of a great big ACS family. The Class of 2018 is excited about taking their graduation pictures and can't wait to see what the rest of the year will bring.

General happening in the Middle School...

The Middle School classes have been teaming up throughout the first half of our school year to work cooperatively on a variety of projects to not only build our knowledge base, but to also foster positive peer to peer relationships with students of different ages. We have worked on topics ranging from: The origin of The Day of the Dead/ Halloween celebrations, researching a host of Christmas Traditions from our cultural representations of ACS families, an activity in scale drawings where students enlarged fun sized candy wrappers to enormous representations, a historical representation of a Living Wax Museum where students portrayed prominent scientists from history, and a Mardi Gras challenge where students had to create a float expressing a theme, provide entertainment for the lower grades and share the history behind the celebration. They will also take the time to make their Lenten commitments to make change in their lives.

Each class has had the opportunity to spend some time with our principal, Mrs. Shumny. She has had pizza lunches and cereal mornings with them. Students have also been playing board games at lunch.

Middle School: Students of the Month

September: 5- Dylan A. & Giovanna
6- Orlando
7- Joshua S. & Diana K.
8- Nicholas E. & Cinthia G.

October: 5- Emily F.
6- Caeleb C.
7- Jason V.
8- Marcus R.

November: 5- Derek V
6- Arshpreet
7- Aniyah S.
8- Anthony R.

December: On Christmas Break.
January: 5- Isaiah N.
6- Shayla C.
7- Nathaniel P.
8- Tanya A.

Ukrainian Language - Mrs. K

1,2,3 and the 100th day is here. Much has been studied, much has been learned, and an array of subjects has been offered and mastered by all! One of many requirements at ACS curriculum is learning a new language. In order to prepare our children to be the next generation of future entrepreneurs, doctors, scientists, engineers, or whichever path they choose, we must introduce them to an environment that encourages multilingual learning. Ukrainian is one of many subjects that are taught at ACS.

There are many approaches towards teaching the fundamentals of a new language. With a limitation on time, one must decipher what is important. Due to the schools history to the language and country of Ukraine, I have introduced the students to basic concepts as well as the cultural history about the country. I wanted to provide the students with concepts/ words/ and even sentences about everyday life situations. The alphabet has been introduced however since writing in Ukrainian is not a requirement, I focused mainly on daily phrases and words. Therefore, should any student find himself or herself stranded in the country of Ukraine or amongst people that only speak the Ukrainian language he/she is able to communicate and understand the basics of simple greetings, money and food. They are able to introduce themselves as well as relay what they need regarding basic necessities. Also, by teaching words and concepts used in everyday life situations, the students are able to apply what they learned in class, outside the school hours; such as hello, goodbye, how are you, and so forth.

First of all, because of the difference in ages between all of the classes, some of the younger ACS students did learn concepts at a slower pace, therefore, know fewer words. Nonetheless, the younger and older group both have memorized days of the week, numbers 1-10, seasons, and colors. With that, we expanded combining each of those subjects with feelings and status. The children are able to identify in Ukrainian the weather outside by mentioning the season and whether they feel hot, cold, or warm. The older students also, learned emotions such sad and happy.

Next, the students learned members in family and being able to identify correctly as someone as their sister, brother, grandma, grandpa, brother, or mother, father, or friend. They have mastered their names and ages and how to correctly express it in a full complete sentence.

Furthermore, learning basic needs and how to say them in Ukrainian were emphasized as very important. These included (in Ukrainian) how to say I need to go to the bathroom, ask for water (drink), and relay how much money they have and how to ask for it.

Evenmore, with each passing holiday and/or celebration from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and even Birthdays, the students are taught how to pronounce each one in Ukrainian meanwhile words such as thank you, please, and your welcome, are incorporated into each lesson, accordingly. For instance, during Thanksgiving we learned thank you, please and you're welcome in Ukrainian. Meanwhile, birthday wishes are now expressed only in Ukrainian.

Currently, the younger age groups are continuing to master states of feelings. The older students are working on the 'restaurant project'. We have learned certain staple foods from fish to meat to potatoes; vegetables and fruits; and variety of drinks from milk to water to coffee and tea.

Once the words are memorized in Ukrainian, we will have a restaurant day; fake food and some real food will be brought in and students will act out waiters and customers and each will try to communicate simple words gestures as well as tell what they would like to eat. Foods being a vital concept of daily life, the kids are able to continue practicing Ukrainian at home, at the store, and at restaurants.

Lastly, we learned a little about the culture and history of Ukraine. The children are able to identify the country's flag and say its colors in Ukrainian. Part of the cultural lesson also included the meaning behind each of the colors on the flag. Other, fun facts, included the traditional clothes and food, the capital, and what Ukraine is mostly famous for; mainly for grain and certain inventions such as the first gas lamp and the origin of longest musical instrument.

To conclude, the communication skills that each child learns early in life will be the foundation for his or her communication abilities for the future. Not to mention, the best way to develop and strengthen memory skills, is learning a new language. So even if the vocabulary may be forgotten, the process of learning a second or third language improves cognitive skills and overall brain function; and the benefits are much greater when it is introduced at a younger age.

Music - Miss Lawrence

We've had a exciting year in music class. In addition to singing fun songs, PK and K students have learned some songs that incorporate American Sign Language, like our favorite "Look at Me and Say Hello!" Our early Elementary students have been working on learning about note values and note names, and got to apply that knowledge when we played with the Boomwhackers. Our middle schoolers have been exploring different styles of music from movie music to impressionist music, and have learned to identify different characteristics in music like timbre, mood and tempo. Most recently, we took some time to review The Code for the National Anthem of the United States of America, a set of guidelines put forth in 1942 to ensure respectful performances of our nations anthem by musicians. The students were quite surprised to learn how strict the guidelines are, and how so many recent pop stars have violated at least one of the guidelines!