

Parents Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

November 4th and November 5thParent/Teacher Conferences

Mrs. Feeney's Class- Wednesday, November 17- Thanksgiving Prayer Services in the Green Street Church at 6:30 PM and again on Thursday, November 18 at 8:15 AM. Friends and Family are welcome to attend.

Mrs. O'Connor's Class- Wednesday, February 9th- Thanksgiving Prayer Services in Green Street Church at 6:30 PM and again on Thursday, February 10 at 8:15 AM. Friends and Family are welcome to attend.

December 15- Christmas Program for Kindergarten through Third Grade in the Green Street Church at 1:00 in the afternoon and again at 7:00 PM.

St. Malachy Parish School

Kindergarten Curriculum Information

Religion

Call to Faith is the title of our Religion Series. This kindergarten program gradually introduces the children to the simple truths of faith at their level of experience and understanding. It helps them to see life and Religion as an integrated whole and initiates them into Catholic traditions. We enable the children to sense God's presence, to encounter Him and enter into communion with Him, through prayerful experiences. The kindergarten program prepares the children to participate in the liturgy in simple, small steps. It fosters the awakening of a Christian conscience and good decision making skills. The children will engage in activities that will make them aware of the needs and feelings of others. The kindergarten children will not be attending the weekly grade school Mass until second semester, at which point, they will attend with a fifth grade prayer buddy. Mrs. Feeney's class will lead the Thanksgiving Prayer Service and Mrs. O'Connor's class will lead the Valentine Prayer Service.

Reading Readiness

Here is an overview of the McMillan/McGraw Hill Reading Readiness Program:

- ☺ Read aloud fiction and nonfiction trade books as well as big books introduce the theme and build on prior knowledge. Contemporary and traditional tales develop comprehension skills, reading strategies; facilitate oral language development and vocabulary expansion.
- ☺ The unit themes are connected to social studies, science, math and fine arts.
- ☺ The phonics library supports phonics instruction, practices high-frequency words, and develops reading fluency.
- ☺ Leveled books meet a range of individual reading needs in small groups, beginning in October.
- ☺ Alphafriends are shaped like small letters to help with letter sound associations. We sing a song for each character.
- ☺ Practice books include letter identification, handwriting practice, letter-sound associations, comprehension and literature response, and informal assessments.

First we will be introducing all of the letters of the alphabet in alphabetical order, how to print the capital and small forms of the letters, listening to stories, singing songs, reviewing nursery rhymes, and learning routines.

Writer's Workshop

Our school has implemented a writing workshop at all grade levels. For the kindergarten children this goes together with learning to read as they apply sight words and sound/letter associations to their writing. All writing on the children's pieces will be their own. We believe it is important you know there are several stages to spelling and composition development.

Spelling Development.

Scribble Writing- As you may remember from their younger years, children begin to imitate adult writing by “scribble writing.” This looks like up and down squiggles, hopefully from left to right and top to bottom.

Inventive Spelling-This is the next stage and probably the stage your child is in currently. This stage also has several stages of growth within itself. First, they may begin with a string of letters in a row. They are moving from scribbles to the knowledge that letters are what make up words. During our kindergarten year, we will be striving for the children to begin using the phonics tools and sight words they are learning to move them into more book spelling. As they are doing this, you will see their growth in reading and writing. For example in the beginning of the year, they may write, “urmifvt” and tell us that says, “You are my favorite.” Later in the year that same sentence may look more like, “you are mi favit.” As you are reading your child’s writing this year, please don’t tell them that something is spelled wrong! Please ask them to read it to you or say, “Tell me what this says.” Then when you see a word in Inventive Spelling praise them for all the sounds they did hear or ask if they would like to see the word in Book Spelling.

Book Spelling-This is where they are spelling words conventionally as we would expect. Please keep in mind that they will not reach full Book Spelling for many years to come! (Think about how many times we, as adults, have had to use Spellcheck, the dictionary, or ask a friend!) ☺ However, during the course of this year, you will see words spelled more frequently in book spelling, so it’s important you know the term we will use in our classroom. We do encourage the children to correctly spell the high frequency sight words they have learned.

During Writer’s Workshop if they need help in spelling a word that we have not learned yet, we will use several strategies: giving it to them on a post it note for them to copy, referring them to their Dazzle Word papers kept in their Writing folder, encouraging them to use the Word Wall for sight words and words learned in class, and allowing them to confer with a partner. We will be sharing together our writing pieces in order to praise new learning and take a moment to learn from our peers. Our hope is that the children will understand that their writing has meaning to them and that conventions allow people to understand what they are writing. The writing pieces that the children work on in class will be kept in a “works in progress” folder or a “completed work” folder. The completed works will be sent home at the end of each grading quarter, and you should be able to see progress over the year.

Writing Content Development

Please see the more specific information that we gave to you in the spring. Most children start making books by composing picture books with only pictures. They tell us the words for the story. In kindergarten, we are looking for five parts of composition:

- The Big Idea-Does the story all stay on topic and/or flow as a story should?
- Meaning-Does the story hold its meaning as it is retold several time i.e. do they change it very much as they read it to different people, or remember what they had composed?
- Crafting-Has the child made intentional decisions about what type of craft they want to do to enhance their story?

- Genre-Can they tell the genre such as fiction or non-fiction they are writing and support it with evidence in their book?
- Conventions: Eventually, the children begin to form sentences beginning with capital letters and finishing with an end punctuation mark. Finger spaces show words.

Writer's Craft

Fiction

*These are examples of craft that your children may begin to notice in published books and then as teachers we will encourage them to try...The final list of craft will vary from year to year as we design our teaching to fit each group of children's needs, but this is fairly comprehensive.

1. ellipsis...= more to come or thinking time

2. **BIG AND BOLD WORDS=LOUD AND YELL**

3. opposites
4. small words= quiet voice
5. repeating sentences, repeating sentences, repeating sentences= important to the story
6. book series have same types of pictures, characters, settings
7. words follow a shape= draw your eye to them for importance in story
8. onomatopoeia-noisy words (clang, splash, swoosh, etc...)
9. use the same beginning and ending-pictures and words
10. rhyming words make a story predictable
11. speech bubbles instead of quotation marks
12. thinking bubbles over a drawing of a character
13. choose describing words carefully (windy= blustery)

Nonfiction Craft

1. **Bold letters**=emphasize important information
2. Questions for the reader to think about before the information will answer the questions in the book.
3. Diagrams show how things work-use numbers or arrows and labels by pictures
4. label pictures
5. number steps and boxes with pictures to show a sequence of events

Illustrator's Craft

1. Use shadows of pictures to draw the readers' eyes to what is not shadowed.
2. show part of a picture to make the reader think about what the rest of the picture would look like.
3. bubble picture-blow up a small part of a larger picture to emphasize it.
4. use lines to show someone talking or the wind.

Math

The Saxon Math program starts each day with the children participating in a beginning of the day math activity called “Meeting Time.” During this time, they practice skills related to the calendar, counting, patterning, number recognition, time, money, and estimation. Each month, “Meeting Time” changes slightly as the children acquire additional knowledge and skills. “The Lesson” occurs later in the day with new objectives or increments of Math concepts which are introduced through carefully selected group activities. The children use materials, engage in discussions and work together to help one another learn.

School Behavior

Please discuss our classroom and school rules with your children so that they know what is expected of him/her. These three classroom rules cover many behaviors.

1. Do what is right. (Do what the teacher tells you to do, be honest, participate in activities, clean up after yourself, use a quiet voice.)
2. Do your very best. (Ask the teacher for help when needed, listen carefully to directions, pay attention, work carefully and neatly.)
3. Be kind to others. (Touch others nicely, take turns, say kind words to others, listen to others, and be helpful.)

A stop light system will be used. Everyday, all children begin their day with a clothespin with their name on it on the green light. If children are not following the rules, they are reminded. If they continue to have difficulty following the rules, their clothespin will be moved to a yellow light. If a child intentionally hurts someone or does not change his/her behavior after a yellow light, his/her clothespin will be moved to a red light. He/she will be given a five-minute time out, and a referral will be sent home to be signed, to be returned the following day. Learning center time may also be withheld depending on the severity and frequency of the problem. If there are frequent episodes of yellow or red lights with your child, I will talk with you to share ideas about how to help your child to improve his/her behavior. At the end of each day, all the children will have an opportunity to look at their clothespin and place a sticker on their Reward Chart if their clothespin is still on the green light. When your child has filled their Reward Chart, your child may choose from a list of privileges. Your support at home makes the biggest difference! All teachers in the building, especially the Specials Teachers may use the stoplight system with the kindergartners, as good behavior is expected throughout our school building. We strive to watch for children who are following the rules and praise them for this behavior. Their natural reward is being able to fully participate in all activities and receive good conduct marks on their report cards. Most importantly, they will be happy and so will their parents and teachers!

At the end of the week, the first two weeks of school, all children will be receiving “Weekly Behavior Reports.” This is to inform you and to encourage each child to be accountable for his/her behavior. If your child receives a yellow light, please sign and return this report each week, to assure me that you have seen it. After the first two weeks of school, this report will only be sent home with children who have had yellow lights at the end of each week.

PROCEDURES THAT HELP OUR DAY RUN SMOOTHLY

Please be sure that both parents as well as child care providers are aware of these routines!

MORNING ARRIVAL-7:15 a.m. -7:45- tardy

The school opens at 7:15 a.m. The children wait in the gym until the rest of the school children go to their classrooms. Kindergartners will be in the gym with their teachers from 7:30 until 7:45. Attendance will be taken at 7:45. Then we will go to our classrooms across the parking lot together. **Children arriving after 7:45 a.m. need to report to the office through the front doors for a tardy pass. A staff member will then escort your child to the classroom after reporting to the school office.** Our outside kindergarten doors are kept locked for our security.

Car Riders-Children are dropped off at the North (football field side) gym door. Please see School Arrival in the Parent Handbook for specifics on the car traffic patterns around the school. There are staff members at that door to help the children to know where to go. Bus Riders- Children enter through the front doors of the school and walk through the lower hallway to the gym.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL-STAGGERED

The kindergarten children will be dismissed from the main school building.

2:30- St. Malachy buses- bus riders exit from the south gym door.

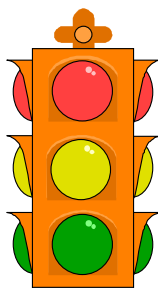
2:35- Brownsburg bus riders exit from the front school door.

2:40-Car Riders-are dismissed from the North gym door. You need to arrive **before** then because that is when the gate is closed to the back parking lot on the football field side. Please see School Dismissal procedures and traffic patterns in the parent handbook.

2:32-Southbound walkers and bikers

2:40-Northbound walkers leave and the Extended Day children report to the gym.

Brownsburg Bus buddies may arrive two minutes early for the first two weeks of school to meet their kindergartner at the front doors. If you need help finding a bus buddy for your child, please check with our office staff.



TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

If your child is going home with someone different or a way that is different than usual (ie. from bus rider to car rider), **send a written note in your child's folder.** Call the office if it is a last minute change by 2:00 for the so there will be time to get the message to the teachers. **Please do not use our voice mails or e-mails for this. This is for your child's safety.**



ABC's for KINDERGARTEN **PARENT INFORMATION**

ABSENCE PROCEDURES
CHILD OF THE WEEK
ORDERS FOR BOOK CLUBS
RECOGNITION AWARDS
SNACKS FOR BIRTHDAYS
SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS
And much more general information!

SAVE THIS PACKET SO THAT YOU CAN REFER TO IT DURING THE YEAR. IT WILL ANSWER MANY QUESTIONS! This information is also on our school website. THANK YOU!!!

ABSENCES

Parents must call the office by 8:30 a.m. to report an absence. Upon returning to school, students must present a written note specifically stating the reason for the absence. We will make up any essential work with your child, a little each day during learning center time. Anything sent home does not need to be returned. It is our school policy that students absent for family vacations will not be given work before the absence.

BE PUNCTUAL and BIRTHDAYS

It is a good habit to be punctual and it starts your child's day off right! Your child's birthday will be recognized by singing to him/her and have a special sticker and crown to wear. Summer birthdays will be recognized in May. Due to state guidelines, birthday treats and treat bags are not allowed. Our school policy is not to pass out party invitations. You will receive a school directory with the addresses and phone numbers of your child's classmates. Treat bags are also not permitted for holiday parties.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

The order of the names on the list is made by drawing names randomly. One day during the week your child will share their page from the Classroom Book. On Monday, Curious George materials will be sent home with the special child. During the week, the class will draw pictures of the special child and dictate something that they like about the special child and this will be bound into a booklet. On Friday, the special child will bring the Curious George materials, and we will read the story about what they did at your house during that week.

*If either or both parents would like to come in sometime during your child's special week to read your child's favorite story that would be great! You may read two short books, or one longer book- for about 10 minutes. You may come together or on separate days. **Please check with us about the time and date beforehand-usually 8:15 works well except on Mass days.** You are welcome to stay for a short time after you read. Younger children may only stay while you read the story. If you are unable to visit our classroom or do not feel comfortable reading to the class, just send in your child's book and we will be glad to read it to the class as time allows during the week.

DRESS your child in uniform. Please see your handbook for specifics-especially parameters for casual days. **Kindergartners do not have to wear belts and girls need to wear shorts under skirts.**

EXERCISE is an important part of learning and it truly wakes up your brain! We do exercises that cross the mid-line of the body to help the two sides to the brain to talk to each other better!

FORGOTTEN ITEMS-DO NOT GO BACK HOME TO PICK UP items such as book bags, library books, gym shoes, etc. Your child will save face with their classmates, even though they may be upset about it. The children need to learn responsibility by the natural consequences of their mistakes and there isn't anything that we can't live without.

If you bring those items in late, it is disruptive to our classroom. Your cooperation is appreciated! If a library book is forgotten, a new book may still be checked out, but please return the old book the next day to me. We will get it returned to the library.

GYM class will be once a week. **Please have your child wear athletic shoes that day so that we don't have to take class time to change shoes.** You will receive a schedule of our weekly classes soon.

HELP your child to be prepared for school the night before! This will help them learn the days of the week and remember whether they need to return a library book, wear gym shoes and it will help prevent scrambling before school.

INSIDE the school office is a Sign-In book. *All parents and other visitors are asked to sign in each time they enter the main school building only through the front doors and wear a security badge. The office will notify the kindergarten teachers when we have visitors to be admitted.*

JESUS is present in our classroom and the reason for our school. It is our hope that He is the main reason that your child is attending our school. The kindergarten children's hearts are very receptive to learning about God!

KINDERGARTEN names are written with a capital (upper case) letter at the beginning, but all other letters are small (lower case) ex- Jennifer O'Connor. Please encourage your child to print his/her name in this form.

LABEL all jackets, boots, backpacks, etc. with your child's name.

MONEY and checks should always be sent in an envelope labeled with your child's name and what purpose the money is for.

NOTES to us should be sent in your child's folder in the book bag. **Your child will open his/her backpack upon arriving in the classroom to check the folders daily** and it is expected for you to check it as well, for correspondence, projects, papers, and newsletters from me. Please empty the folder daily. The children learn responsibility by bringing the folder back and forth every day. **Please have your child choose one folder so that your child doesn't have to look through multiple folders for your notes.**

ORDERS FOR BOOK CLUBS

We place monthly orders from Seesaw Book club. These orders are optional. Seesaw is from Scholastic Books and they offer good literature selections and are reasonably priced. If you wish to order, we will send home instructions how to order online with the monthly selections. Watch the due dates on the order forms. Your ordered items will be sent to our classroom and we will place them in your child's backpack. The best part for our class is that we earn free books and materials through these orders.

PERMISSIONS SLIPS- the children will ride on the St. Malachy bus and will need a permission slip for each trip. PTO funds our trips! Some of the trips that we may attend are: Beasley's apple orchard in September, The Animal Den kennel in October, Day of the Dead celebration by walking to St. Malachy cemetery in early November, Sally's Ceramics in December, Comfort Dental office in March, Mexican grocery store in April, and a farm in May. Chaperones are limited to six parents per class per trip. You may indicate your interest in attending on the permission slip, a couple of weeks before the trip. You will be notified if you will be chaperoning for that trip after the due date. We will keep track of how many trips you have attended to give families at least one turn to chaperone during the school year. Please keep in mind that siblings are not allowed to attend field trips. Some visiting class speakers may be: police officer, firefighters, and a doctor

QUESTIONS from you are always welcome! Please save time and ask us rather than your friends. Email is the best way to get in touch with us. We do not have school phones in our classrooms, but our email is open all day. If you need to leave us a phone message, call 852-2242 extension 1 to leave it with our secretary.

RECOGNITION AWARDS-Top Notch Behavior Award- All kindergartners who have not had any red lights/referrals for a grading quarter

ST. MALACHY is our Patron Saint. St. Malachy was a bishop in Ireland. He was a wonderful Church leader until his death at 41 years. His feast day is on November 3.

TOYS should be left at home. We have so much power-packed learning going on that we don't want to spend time settling squabbles, looking for lost parts, or mending broken hearts over broken toys.

USUALLY a newsletter from us will come home on Friday through Homework Watcher email, and it will be posted on the school web site. This newsletter will explain what topics the children will be learning about and upcoming events. It will give you clues about what to ask your youngster to get him or her talking about what we have been doing at school.

VOLUNTEERS

Please fill out the PTO volunteer sheet if you wish to help in our school in any capacity. Our school needs copy room help, cafeteria volunteers, library volunteers, etc. P.T.O. needs many volunteers for their committees in order to provide support for our school. Room mothers and fathers help by coordinating helpers for our holiday cooking activities. Individual or small group recipes are made during each party. **It is our school policy that younger siblings are not allowed to attend field trips or parties so that your full attention can be on the kindergartners.**

WEB SITE for our school is www.saintmalachyschool.org. We will post our class newsletters on it and you may e-mail us through the link on it.

EXTENDED DAY is available for the afternoon class until 6:00 P.M. for additional fees. Please check in the office for more information. **Your child needs to be registered with the Extended Day program before attending for the first time.**

YOU are the most important teacher that your child has, especially about Religion. Your child will mirror your attitude toward school. Let your child know that what happens in school is a priority for you. **Please have your child get plenty of rest at night –bedtime by 8:00-and eat a healthy breakfast before attending school.** He/she will learn and get along with his/her classmates so much better!

ZIPPING one's own jacket and pants, and tying one's own shoes makes a child feel confident and independent, but it comes with practice and the coordination and development of small muscles. Also practice your address with town/city, phone number, and birth date with your child. Please help your child to learn these skills!

We appreciate your taking the time to read through all of this information, and we are looking forward to having a successful year together!

Mary Feeney

Jennifer O'Connor



St. Malachy Parish School
All Day Kindergarten Daily Agenda

Here is an idea of what your child's daily schedule will look like as an all day Kindergarten.

Arrival-by 7:45 am

Morning Meeting

Reading Readiness

Snack

Math

Recess

Religion

Lunch- 11:05

Quiet Time

Writer's Workshop

Learning Centers

Specials Classes

Dismissal- 2:25 to 2:40 pm