

SFCA UPDATE

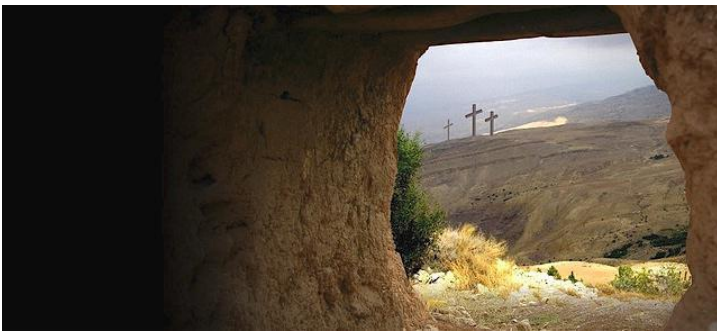
Volume 2.03

March 2016

“See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”
Song of Songs 2: 11-12

A note from Administrator Parks

Spring is well on its way! It is often marked as a time of rebirth, renewal, and regeneration. It is also linked to a time of break in the world of education. Our students have worked hard in their studies and are well deserving of a break before they begin their year-end journey. My prayer for them and for their families is relaxation and reflection over the holiday break. I wish you a blessed Easter Holiday!



2016-2017 School Year

Re-enrollment is well underway. I am encouraged by the number of families that have re-enrolled. To date, our Kindergarten class is half full! For those SFCA families that have not yet re-enrolled, please do so quickly!
Enrollment for new families will open on March 15, 2016.

Dates to Note:

March 2: Deputy Phil Program
March 3-5: NCSAA Girls Basketball Tournament (Ohio)
March 5: Falcon Friday
March 5: Pastor Appreciation Breakfast
March 8: PTF Meeting (Room 202) @ 6:00pm
March 10-12: Regional Band
March 15: Enrollment opens for new SFCA Families
March 18: Dr. Seuss Play (Elem)
March 18: Spring Pictures
March 18: End of 3rd Quarter
March 23: Report Cards Issued (3rd Quarter)
March 23: Elementary Spring Party
March 24: Snow Day
March 25-29: No School-Easter Break
March 30: Snow Day

Dates on the Horizon

April 2: Family Fun Fest – Indiana Mall
April 8: Elementary Speech Meet, Sarver, PA
April 9: Fine Arts Spaghetti Dinner
April 12: Regional Band
April 18: Spring Concert @ Summit Church
April 15: Snow Day
April 18: Snow Day
April 22: Mid Quarter progress reports grades 2-12
April 25-29: Grades 3-7 Standardized Testing
April 29: Math Olympics Grades 3-8, Butler, PA

PTF Events

March 4: Pie Sale Fundraiser – The Pie Shoppe
March 8: PTF Meeting

Calendar Note: The snow day scheduled for May 13th will now be a school day.

SFCA Athletics

Athletics

I am excited to say that we have a track and field coach for this season! We will be starting practice in the first or second week of March. As soon as I get more information from the new coach, I will let you know. If you have not yet signed up with Mrs. Duchon, please see her as soon as possible.

Dates to keep in mind:

April 23rd Robinson TWP Christian School Meet at Beaver Falls, PA

April 30th NCSAA Meet at Beaver Falls, PA

May 14th ACSI Meet at Bangor, PA

For Next Year

We are already thinking about athletics for next year. This year we were able to have Flag Football, Varsity girls' basketball, J. V. boy's basketball, elementary basketball, and Co-Ed track and field. We are hoping to add soccer and volleyball for next year. There will be forms that will be going out in the following week to determine the interest and student commitment in these sports for the next school year. Please keep an eye out for those forms.

Molli Duchon

Athletic Director duchonm@seedsoffaihtacademy.org

Volunteers Needed

SFCA needs volunteers to assist with the following tasks. The end of the year is quickly approaching and scholarship monies for next year are partially dependent on this year's service hours. Please make sure you are logging your volunteer hours in the office. If you can help, please call the school at 724-463-7719. These qualify for service hours.

- Clean windows in Graystone
- Lunch Duty Helper on Tuesdays, Wednesday or Fridays 11:45am – 1pm.
- Drive van to Elderton for tune-up – 2 hours
- April 2nd - Eight people for one hour shifts to work the table at the Indiana Mall for the Family Fun Fest
- Volunteers for the Fine Arts Spaghetti Dinner on April 9th



“The greatest among you will be your servant.” Matthew 23:11

Box Tops and Campbell's Labels

Please continue to collect Box Tops and Campbell's Labels. We are looking to expand this program. If you are willing to be part of bringing Box Tops/Campbell's Labels to your church or workplace so others can also help us earn funding for the school, please let Patty Hood, our Coordinator, know. She can be reached via email at: matkatmom@hotmail.com or phone: 724-464-8791



Dr. Seuss Week

Join the First Graders for a week of celebrating Dr. Seuss. March 14-18.

On Wednesday, March 16th, we are encouraging the students to be "wacky". Normal dress code rules apply but the students are permitted to wear two different socks (colors, or one short sock and one high sock), two different shoes (one that ties, one that doesn't) roll one sleeve up, roll a pant leg up, or wear clothes backwards, etc.

Friday, March 18th, Stage Right from Greensburg, PA will be coming at 12:45 to perform the play "Hunches of Bunches" for the entire Elementary School.

Senior Class

The seniors are currently planning for their Senior Class Trip and Graduation itself. There is one final fundraiser that they are planning, a Valley Dairy Fundraiser on **Sunday March 20, 2016 from 4-9pm**. You have the opportunity to go to either the Blairsville or Indiana locations. Flyers will be going home with students the week prior to the event. Thank you in advance for your patronage to help us with our trip.

Upcoming Art Event

Dear SFCA Family and Friends,

Saturday, April 9th is the SFCA Fine Arts Spaghetti Dinner. We are currently looking for donations: gift cards, cash, or checks to help pay for the dinner items. If you are interested in donating any of these items, please contact Jeniece Duchon, the SFCA art teacher, through email at duchon@seedsoffaithacademy.org. There will also be forms coming home with the students at a later date with more detailed information about the dinner, and other volunteer opportunities. We hope to see all of you on April 9th!

Thanks and God Bless,

Jeniece Duchon
Art/Computer/LLL Teacher

PTF Update

PTF Upcoming Events:

March 4th we will be hold our Pastor's appreciation breakfast in the gathering place downstairs at Graystone Church. We are in need of volunteers to serve, set up, and clean up afterwards. We are also looking for donations of muffins, apple and orange juice, milk and chocolate milk. Please contact Jennifer Clayton to volunteer - 724-422-4950.

February 24th – March 4th is our Pie Shoppe Fundraiser. Our goal is that each student sells 10 items. Orders are due Friday March 4th. Pick up is March 18th just in time for Easter! The grade that sells the most pies will receive a pizza party. Any questions, call Heather Albright - 724-840-8031.

Our next PTF meeting March 8th in room 202 upstairs at Graystone Church. We will be going over budget and calendar events for next year. Also, we will have nominations for next year's PTF committee head and board members.

Yearbook Photos needed

Email SFCA event photos to:

rudyk@seedsoffaithacademy.org

for consideration in the 2015-2016 Yearbook.

Teacher Feature

Physical Education by Molli Duchon

This has been a busy, but exciting year in P.E. The students have been working really hard and learning so much.

In K-2nd grades, we have been focusing on basic movements and setting up a foundation to increase their awareness of body movement and skills to be used later in life for both sports and lifelong fitness. To build their foundation, I have incorporated basic locomotor skills such as running, jumping, sliding, hopping, skipping, and galloping. This month I have included those locomotor skills into cooperative learning and teamwork activities. The students have been working together in games called leap frog and Monster's Inc. In leap frog, the students used poly spots to great a path for the "frogs" in their group to cross the imaginary pond. In Monster's Inc., the students perform different types of locomotor skills in search of a closet, or hula hoop, to hop into when the teacher blows the whistle. After each round, there are less and less closets to jump into, until there are only two left and all the students must fit altogether into those two closets. The kids really loved this game and laughed a lot as they tried to squeeze everyone into one or two hula hoops. The students also had a great time with their scooter activities. I introduced the scooters to them to promote scooter safety and spatial awareness. Two of the scooter activities I did with them were Scooter Scramble and the Marvin K. Mooney Scooter game. In Scooter Scramble, the students worked in teams to gather different colored balls and bean bags to collect in a single hula hoop. In the Marvin K. Mooney Scooter game, I incorporated reading into this activity by reading Marvin K. Mooney Will you please Go Now. The students then use the scooters to imitate some of the ways that Marvin K. traveled. The kids had so much fun.



"Kindergarten Scooter Fun"



"Kindergarten Scooter Fun"



"Kindergarten Scooter Fun"

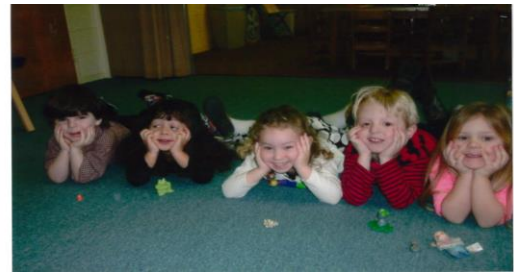
In 3rd-5th grade, we were able to travel to the YMCA for swim lessons for three weeks. Even though it was cold outside, the kids looked forward to going each and every week. I was able to teach the students three different strokes and introduce them to surface dives. We went over front crawl, elementary back stroke, and back stroke. They were all quick learners and were soon swimming like fish. On the final day, I was able to introduce them to surface diving and a kneeling dive from the pool's edge. I think that the students could have gone back every week for the remainder of the school year, they had so much fun.

The 6th and 7th graders have been working on Ultimate Frisbee. They found this to be challenging and fun all at the same time. It is a little harder to toss a Frisbee and make it go where they wanted it to go as opposed to throwing a ball to each other. By then end of the unit, they got the hang of it and were becoming a little competitive even. After this, the students started floor hockey and had a blast playing.

The 8th grade class as well as the juniors and seniors are all working on peer teaching. In 8th grade, Stone, Brady, and Ben taught the class whiffle ball. Molly, Emily, and Chase had a great time teaching their peers basic gymnastics. Their classmates thought this was challenging but fun. Maddie, Grace, and Megan taught the class pickle ball. In the junior and senior class, Morgan and Emily taught a cooperative game lesson. Karl and Dennis taught a strength building class. Taylor and Jasmine taught their class pickle ball, which is always a fun lesson. Nick and Cory taught a physical fitness/muscle endurance class. Each class had fun teaching their peers!



“Preschool 4 with members from Indiana Church of the Brethren”



“Preschool 3 – Teeny Tiny Day”

Classroom Updates

Preschool 3

On Thursday, February 25th, the preschool 3 students had Teeny Tiny Day, which coordinated with their Bible story about David and Goliath. Everyone brought something that was teeny tiny to share and they learned that even if you are small, you can still do **big** things with God’s help!

Preschool 4

On Friday, February 19th, the Preschool 4 students made chocolate peanut butter Easter Eggs with church members from the Indiana Church of the Brethren. The adults enjoyed it as much as the children! **The Church of the Brethren has chocolate peanut butter eggs for sale until March 6th.** All proceeds will go to missions and church outreach projects at their church.

Kindergarten

February was a fast month full of learning and fun activities! We started out our month by writing our own Groundhog Day predictions. Most of the students in kindergarten wanted six more weeks of winter! Then on February 8, 2016, we traveled to the Post Office to mail our Valentine’s cards. AJ gave us a great tour of the Post Office and showed the kids how their mail will get started on its journey. Later on in February, we learned about President Lincoln and President Washington. At the end of the month, we learned about dental health. With February being dental health month, we learned the importance of brushing our teeth and healthy foods that help keep our teeth strong. It is exciting to see the growth of these kids and how they have improved their reading skills and are able to stay focused and on task for a longer stretch of time. A big thank you goes out to all the kindergarten parents for your continued support of our class!

First Grade

First graders are doing a great job learning to become independent workers. In addition to our regular daily math lesson, students are working on individualized math packets (chapters). These packets include topics such as geometric solids, fractions, money values, symmetry, patterns, and telling time. Besides being able to work at their own pace, students enjoy these packets because there are lots of colorful *manipulatives*.

Last month, first graders memorized the Books of the New Testament for their Bible memory, and we are looking forward to some challenging *Sword Drills* to put this information to use.

In language arts, first graders are working towards writing a paragraph with four sentences giving special attention to observing punctuation and capitalization rules. Students already have learned to identify the naming words (nouns) and are now trying to include at least one describing word (adjectives) per sentence.

In science, they have been learning about the three forms of matter and characteristics that apply to each. Our next unit to tackle will be “Weather” and learning to identify specific clouds.

Because of President’s Day, we have taken time to feature two of our presidents and to discuss the current campaign as part of our Social Studies unit. We also learned about several of our national symbols (the Liberty Bell, Mt. Rushmore, and others).



“Kindergarten & 1st Grade at Indiana Post Office”

Second Grade

Second Grade Postcard Project

The second grade class has been communicating with all 50 states! That's right, 50 postcards have been mailed out, one for every state. We are participating in a national elementary postcard project. We mailed a postcard to a classroom in each state and they are sending a postcard back to us. The postcards tell us interesting state facts. Some even have beautiful photos on the front. Our class hung a huge map of the United States of America. Every time a card arrives we locate the state on our wall map, hang the card and place a string from the card to the location on the map. Then we discuss some fun new state facts and do a little math to figure out how many cards we still need. So far we've received 25 different state postcards! We're half way to having a complete postcard collection!

Third Grade

In science class, 3rd graders have been studying "sound." The students were very excited to do the "Musical Water Bottle," science lab. They made different vibrations, sounds, and high/low pitched "music," by blowing across their water bottles filled with different water levels. Our hypothesis was correct!!! Third graders found that the more water and less air in the bottle, the sound/pitch/"music," was much higher than the bottles with less water, and more air. Our science lab also occurred on the same day we celebrated Valentine's Day! Third graders did many activities throughout all academic classes that revolved around LOVE! We focused our day on the fact that we couldn't have or show love, without God, who gave us the ultimate gift of love... His Son, Jesus Christ.

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:1



"Musical Water Bottle," Science Lab



"2nd Grade Students"

Fourth/Fifth Grade

The students in Mrs. Wilson's 4th/5th grade classroom have been studying the first state governments which were established after the colonists declared their independence from Great Britain and their ideas about a constitutional government in Civics class. These students worked in small groups to research the three branches of government and then created a tri-fold display to be presented to the class. As a culminating activity about biomes, which we have been studying in science, these students researched and created a model of their chosen biome for presentation and display in our classroom. The study of biomes will lead us into our next unit in science about ecosystems. We have been working hard in 4th/5th grade, but we are now looking forward to warmer weather so that we may go outdoors and enjoy some fresh air during recess.

West Campus News

Mrs. Ruhl's Science Classes

In Biology, we are learning about the Creationism and how mankind is made in the image of God. We studied several verses so that we could discuss how God made the earth, and looked at the three main components of the Christian worldview.

In Life Science, we are studying plants. We talked about how each year, a tree grows a new ring. Some of the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane today are estimated to have been alive when Jesus prayed there!



In Biology 2, we just wrapped up our study of the human skeletal system! Students learned major muscles throughout the human body, as well as significant bones in the human body!

In Physical Science, the students are studying hydrocarbons and organic compounds. They used playdough and toothpicks to discover the structure of methane, ethane, and more!



The students also studied polymers. We all made our very own polymers from Elmer's Glue, Borax, and water

Mrs. Caldwell's Government Class

The six graders are studying geography. We have studied North America, Central and South America, and we are currently working our way through Europe. In addition to studying the continent's physical and political geography, each unit culminates in a project for the students. We are currently "backpacking" through Europe. Each student is researching five different European countries as part of their presentation which will be presented in a power point.

Mrs. Partida's Spanish & Bible Classes

Here's a peek at our Spanish and Bible classes: 8th grade Spanish: learning to describe themselves. 9th grade Spanish: learning to describe their family. 10th grade Spanish: learning about family celebrations and eating out. 11th and 12th grade Spanish: working on shopping and bartering. 8th grade Bible class: preparing a character study in which we not only look at the character's life but how we can learn from it. 9th and 10th grade Bible: focused on the prophets and their messages. 11th and 12th grade Christian living class has been discussing the fruit of the Spirit.

Mr. Gillenwater's Math Classes

Our sixth-graders are now busy with all things fractions, namely adding and subtracting them. Like, who doesn't like denominators...like, unlike ones, too, right? They also recently learned about benchmarks, and how to estimate sums and differences using those. We recently did an 'Activity Lab' where the students folded a circle in half four times and cut out given numbers of the resultant sections of those circles, allowing them to model fraction operations!

In Algebra 1, we are working with inequalities, which has been--more or less--a good experience. The students are learning what similarities and differences exist between equations and inequalities, what compound inequalities are, as well as what absolute value equations are. They were recently rewarded with an espresso drink (or pastry) of their choice from Cafe Amadeus for successfully completing the previous chapter! The (henceforth dubbed) Geometry Gentlemen' have been excelling in the material and continue to be mesmerized by the amazing triangle! We have shifted gears from exploring congruent triangles to mastering relationships within triangles. Soon they will be able to entertain family and friends with their astute knowledge of inverses, contrapositives, and indirect reasoning. :)

Mr. Johnson's Bible Classes

Our 6th/7th Bible class is continuing to learn from the lives of various Old Testament characters. Each of them has had a brief lesson on how to teach a lesson. They have chosen a character from the periods of the united and divided Kingdoms of Israel. They will work together in small groups or pairs to prepare and present their lessons soon. The students have taken turns to read and discuss daily devotions related to the challenges they will face. A special thanks goes out to Noah Whipple for his Psalm 23 presentation.

First Grade Service Projects

Students continue to "live out" their class motto: With God's help we can do Big Things!" For the current project -- Project Linus -- students are working on blankets, along with many volunteers from the other elementary students. These blankets will be given to young patients at Children's Hospital.

Adopt-A-Book-program for Children's Hospital: The first graders collected a grand total of 2,285 books!!!! Thank you to all who participated!!

SFCA Reminders

School Delays

A reminder, if SFCA does NOT close or delay, busing follows your home school district's closings or delay schedule. Students will be excused in these situations. Parents are welcome to transport their own children on days their district busing is delayed or not operating.

In the event SFCA delays or cancels a school day, please refer to the following outlets:

Radio

Renda Broadcasting Stations:
AM 1160 WCCS
AM1450 WDAD
FM 106.3 WLCY
FM 92.5 WQMU
FM 105.1 WMUG

School Cast

<http://www.iu28.org/schoolcast>

Television:

KDKA
WTAE
WTAJ
WJAC
WPXI

Rained Out:

Receive Text messages to your phone. (See info at right to sign up.)

RenWeb:

Receive an email regarding cancellation.

Facebook

Check regularly for updates!

Falcon Fridays

Students and staff are encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing SFCA T-Shirts and Polos on Falcon Friday, which is the first Friday of the month. Students may also wear jeans on this day IF they bring a \$1 donation. The March ministry that will benefit from the donation will be "**Indiana Church of the Brethren Veteran's Parsonage.**" Please, no torn or frayed jeans. Thank you!

Scrip

Scrip orders are due on Thursday mornings. Thank you for promptly turning your order in by noon!

Milk Cards

Milk Cards are \$6.00 for 20 milk cartons.

Tuition

Tuition payments are due the first of each month. A \$40 late fee is added if payment is not received by the 10th of the month. Please contact Megan Rudyk, SFCA Business Manager, at 724-463-7719 with questions.

Love Basket

2015-2016 SY Love Basket

SFCA students brought in 445 items.

Kindergarten won the contest!

Thank you for donating!!

Parent Help



RenWeb

RenWeb is a great tool to keep track of your student's grades. Haven't logged in yet or need help? Please call Sheila Reese at 724-463-7719.



Rained Out

Get the latest information on cancellations and school delays sent directly to your phone. To sign up send a text to 84483 with the message "SFCASCHOOL" You will receive a confirmation text stating you have successfully been added to the list.