The holiday season is approaching quickly! Students have many exciting things they are working on. Many classes are creating ornaments for the Boorman House.

Music class has been so busy as we all have been practicing for the Christmas program which will be in the St. Patrick School gym on December 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Basketball is in full swing and our athletes are having a great time working as a team, and here is a peek into what is going on in our other classrooms:

Advent

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord’s birth on Christmas.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find to our faith.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepard’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”
**2nd Grade**

Second Graders will have a Jesse Tree in the classroom for Advent and will work on a Reverse Advent Calendar by building a food bank donation box with an item each day until Christmas.

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**3rd Grade**

Third grade made watercolor marker painted turkeys. As we are moving into Advent, there will have a Jesse Tree in their classroom and they are creating Advent chains with extra prayers for the day.

They are also finishing a Data Analysis unit in Math and the week of December 9-13, they will be completing a project for the unit collecting their own data to make tables and graphs. They are also working on their Literature Circles.

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**Pre-K and Kindergarten**

Pre-k students decorated a paper feather with their families and then made a Thanksgiving turkey, which is on display by the classroom. They also made a turkey using handprints from every member of their family.

Kindergarten was so lucky to have some wonderful teachers in while Mrs. Vinopal was on maternity leave. We are glad to have her back with us here at school again!

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**1st Grade**

First grade disguised turkeys. They had to disguise the turkey so it won’t get eaten on Thanksgiving, and then they had to write what they disguised their turkey as

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**4th Grade**

Fourth grade is making mangers for Baby Jesus that they will fill with good deeds throughout the Advent Season. They finished their Native American reports and dioramas and shared what they learned with grades K-3.
Our students are blossoming in their faith formation as well. On November 21st through the 24th we had a group of 17 adults and high school youth attend the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

It is held biennially and gathers more than 28,000 Catholic teens, parish youth ministry coordinators, bishops, pastors, parents, school campus ministers, adult chaperones, coaches, scout leaders, and diocesan leaders. NCYC is a three-day experience for young people to encounter Christ, experience church, and be empowered for discipleship.

Middle School News

Fifth grade has been working on writing about what Thanksgiving is like in each of their homes. Sixth grade is finishing an Egypt project by designing our own sarcophagus and headdress to represent each student, along with creating a saint in miniature.

Seventh grade is working on tie blankets from material Mr. Bellows’ mom bought for the students from Better Buys.

Eighth grade is very busy keeping up with academic demands while still finding time to build props and memorize our parts and solos for the Christmas play. We just finished making beautiful angel ornaments for the Boorman House.

Reminders

Make sure to check out our website at www.stpatricksmauston.com and our Facebook page by searching “St. Patrick School Mauston.” We are continually updating and posting useful information and events for the school. I hope everyone has a blessed holiday with their friends and family!
December

7/8: PCCW Cookie Sale

8: School Christmas Program 2:00 p.m.

15: KC’s Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

23: NO SCHOOL-Christmas Break Begins

24: Christmas Eve Children’s Mass 4:00 p.m.

25: Christmas

January

2: First Day Back to School

11: Wild Game Feed

17: No School, Teacher Work Day

19: KC’s Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

25: Brains and Brawns Tournament

26-31: Catholic Schools Week