



Light the World Service Highlights for Fall 2009

Kindergarten classes joined together to plant their beautiful garden of pansies outside the school entrance on October 9th. Each child planted one flower in the Kinder-Garden and afterwards Mr. Davey gave the blessing. The children also helped clean up around the school and church grounds. They were very excited to be keeping God's world beautiful!

First Grade hosted a very successful book drive Oct 14th -16th which resulted in the collection of over 2,100 children's books. The Catholic Parish Outreach, Raleigh Rescue Mission, Caring Place, Step-Up Ministries and the Literacy Council of Wake County are amongst the local outreach organizations that received the books. Some books were donated abroad to Sakina, Tanzania Africa. Sakina is a rural, developing community in Africa with high rates of HIV/AIDS and malaria. Low literacy issues in Sakina intensify the health challenges faced there, as well as the fact that education is prohibitively expensive to many. Strong partnerships have been created between Sakina and communities in NC, including St. Michael School.

Second Grade hosted a very successful Coat and Blanket drive Oct 21st – 23rd. Hundreds of coats and blankets were collected and donated to the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Third Grade prepared prayer and note cards for inclusion in the St. Michael Thanksgiving Basket project on November 4th. Additionally, the students walked to Bond Park Senior Center to provide musical entertainment for a holiday party. The Senior Center appreciated the Holiday Cheer.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades Perform at Local Nursing Home: As part of the New Light the World Arts outreach effort, 22 instrumentalists from the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades visited Chatham Commons Assisted Living and performed on November 22nd. Members of the art club provided stuffed paper bag turkeys that decorated the tables in the performance room. Eight 4th graders played their recorders and offered children's songs and ended with a lovely version of "God is so Good." Seven 3rd Grade xylophone players chimed through a lively bluegrass number, a round of "Chopsticks" and a piece that imitated church bells. Seven 5th grade guitar players showed off their new guitar skills with classical versions of a Spanish song, with "Rockin' Robin" and also Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." The guitars ended the program by leading the residents in a sing along of "Amazing Grace."

Following the program the students personally greeted each senior citizen in attendance. Mrs. Okamoto said her favorite part was watching the students interact with the residents who were very old and not always responsive in their extreme age. Still the students went around and brought smiles to their faces.

Fourth Grade service projects that help the American Cancer Society will be conducted during January and April.

Fifth Graders served fellow students as Safety Patrols. Duties include opening over 250 cars every morning and afternoon during carpool with a smile and a pleasant greeting for their fellow students and families. In addition to serving their fellow students, once a month they make about 60 lunches complete with sandwich, crackers, dessert, and prayer card all in a decorated bag to be distributed as part of St. Andrew's brown bag ministry program. Over 240 lunches were provided in Fall/Winter 2009 time period.

Sixth Grade has helped collect, sort and box 949 lbs. of food from the past three months of Share Sundays. The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle then picks up the food and delivers to local pantries. Additionally, about 20 students participated in the new Gleaning the Fields Program. They picked sweet potatoes for 3 hours on a Saturday morning at a Smithfield farm at an annual event called "Yam Jam." 84,010 lbs. of sweet potatoes were picked by hundreds of area volunteers organized by the Society of St. Andrew. The produce was then donated to local food pantries.

Seventh Grade hosted a Veteran's Day Celebration Breakfast for 35 veterans. These veterans were from the St. Michael parish and some were also school parents.

To prepare for the event, students made impressive invitations, eagle mosaic center pieces, and thank you cards for this event in Art Class. Students were also involved with planning for the event by choosing their role, preparing questions, making food or they earned chore money to help buy supplies.

On the morning of November 11th, the special program began with prayer and the National Anthem followed by breakfast made and served by the 7th graders. The students then took turns spending time asking the veterans questions and listening about their military experiences. Additionally, the students learned the proper way to fold the American flag.

One of the veterans spoke to the students about the different branches of military. He gave them a brief history of each branch including interesting dates and facts. As the morning wrapped up, it was clear that the veterans truly appreciated all that the students had done for them, and that the students learned a great deal.

Eighth Grade class went into the community on October 28th to the following locations:

Cary Rest Home: Eight students visited the rest home and enjoyed interacting and bringing joy to the elderly by playing bingo. They realized how such a simple act of kindness goes a long way. They lifted the spirits of those challenged with health issues and loneliness.

New Horizon Fellowship: Nine students were able to Light the World of other teenagers by their service time at new Horizon Fellowship Church. They assisted with the gift program by assembling gift tags that will be placed on the gifts. This gift program makes sure families in need receive gifts this season.

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle: Ten students went to the food shuttle and assisted in their Backpack Buddy program. The students were able to sort, weigh, and organize the food. Their Backpack Buddy program provides food to children that receive reduced cost lunches during the school week. Without these backpacks most children would not have any food for the weekend. These backpacks make sure these children have food for the weekend.

Raleigh Rescue Mission: Nine students went to the mission to paint a Christmas mural. The mission is a shelter that helps rebuild the lives of men, women and children in our community who are in need physically, emotionally and spiritually. By painting this mural that will be displayed at the mission they touched the lives of those most in need.

Stop Hunger Now: Seventeen students went to Stop Hunger Now (SHN) to assist in their food relief program. They worked in an assembly line packaging food that will be distributed to 70 countries worldwide. In 2009, SHN is slated to package 9.5 million meals through school feeding programs in hunger stricken regions.