



Educate...
Empower...
Excel...

From the Desk of Principal Michelle Limb



As the days grow shorter and colder, I cannot help but think about the special times that lie ahead for us. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day are right

around the corner and that means time for family, friends and new beginnings. We have so much to be thankful for at St. Raphael School. First and foremost, we are thankful for our faith and the awesome responsibility to spread the Good News, sharing how Jesus is our friend and brother. We are grateful for the amazing school family and all of its members that make our school exceptional. Students and staff are appreciative of the many new programs that we are offering this year that bring learning to life like never before.

This school year we are introducing some new learning experiences for students. Every classroom received ten new iPads and grades 5-8 all have their own iPads this year through the C3 Ignite grant. Students in our primary grades are participating in a program called

ARF. ARF stands for Animals + Reading = Fun! Once a week, two trained dogs visit our students and they have the great opportunity to read to these furry friends. Our fourth graders are taking part in The Walking Classroom. This new program has students taking a mile walk two to three times a week while listening to a podcast primarily focused on the Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Arts.

It's an invigorating way to get a little exercise, promote healthy living, and learn all at the same time. So, be on the lookout while driving down the streets in Santa Barbara because you just might see the kids taking part in The Walking Classroom. The fifth graders are enjoying their bi-weekly adventures with the Wilderness Youth Project. They have visited the Gaviota Wind Caves, Haskell's Beach, the Santa Ynez River, and many more

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locations in Santa Barbara. They are learning through hands-on experiences in nature. After the first few weeks of the program, I asked one student what she learned. Without skipping a beat, she said, "Common sense!" Well, a little bit of that goes a long way!

We are thankful for all of the educational opportunities that St. Raphael School offers our students and grateful they are taking their learning to the next level. We're grateful for these programs, but more importantly, thankful for the time that we get to share our faith with those around us as we all strive to live out our baptismal promises to become saints!

May Our Blessed Mother bring us all closer to Her Son, Jesus!



The Walking Classroom



LEARNING A HEALTH LIFESTYLE

Our fourth graders are hitting the road a few times a week with The Walking Classroom. It is an award-winning program that promotes students to walk, listen, and learn! Students take a brisk mile walk while listening to a kid-friendly podcast. Each

podcast begins with a health literacy message and then it's on to the lesson of the day, usually centered on the Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Arts. There are many health benefits on walking, but there is also a great deal of research between exercise and cognitive

function. After their walks, students are happy, more focused, and highly engaged in the post-walk discussions. We are excited to offer The Walking Classroom to our students and are promoting a healthy lifestyle that will be a part of them forever!

After their walks, students are happy, more focused, and highly engaged...

"The Walking Classroom is the thing in the morning that wakes me up. I love walking in the morning because it puts me in a good mood for the day."
— Lily

"I really like The Walking Classroom because we get to listen to the podcast. Another reason why I like it is because we get to spend more time outside rather than sitting in the classroom."
— Melina

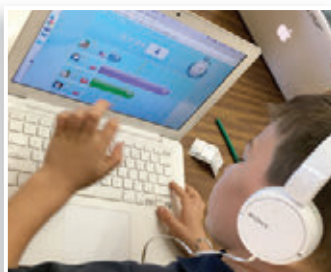
"I think that The Walking Classroom is great. You learn a lot. My favorite podcast was about your heart because I want to be a doctor when I grow up."
— Liam





Math-letes

At St. Raphael School, we are producing Math-letes! For the past four years, we have been using Mathletics, an online math program that supports math in a fun and interactive way! Through the use of this program, we have seen our math scores soar! Students from kindergarten through 8th grade use this program and love it. While walking through the classrooms, one can see students engaged in word problems, critical thinking, as well as competing with students



from all over the world in Live Mathletics practicing speed with math facts. Almost 90% of our students are at the benchmark for math. We are proud of our St. Raphael School Math-letes!

ANNUAL FUND 2016-2017 Campaign Update

Yes! We did it! It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that we would like to share with you that for the 4th straight year, we have achieved 100% participation and also reached [and exceeded] our financial goal! It is amazing! We can never adequately express our gratitude for so many of you who have so generously helped. We look forward to continuing our investments that benefit our technology and academic programs, as well as capital improvements, and increase our operating budget, which allows our students to excel and grow.

If you didn't have the chance yet to contribute to our Annual Campaign, you still have time! You can make your tax-deductible donation directly on our school website or just stop by at our school office with your generous donation.



We Are Forgiven ~

The Amazing Grace Received Through Confession

The Advent Season is fast approaching and our students will attend confession with Monsignor Jon and Father Lucio. Students are appreciative, and sometimes a little nervous, to have the opportunity for this special sacrament. We are teaching our students to treasure the sacrament of Reconciliation.

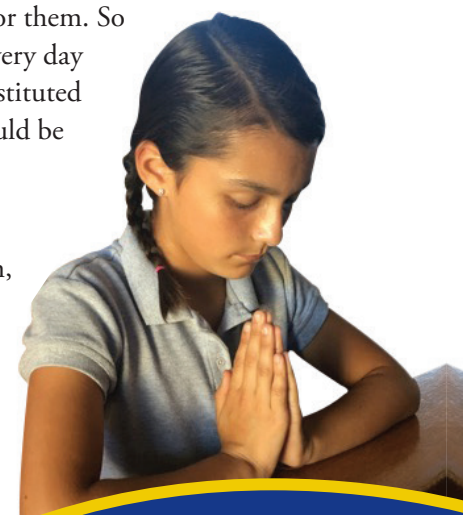


*"Every time we go
to confession,
God embraces us."*

—POPE FRANCIS

The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament in which the priest, as the agent of God, forgives sins committed after Baptism, when the sinner is heartily sorry for them, sincerely confesses them, and is willing to make satisfaction for them. So it is not surprising that on the very day He rose from the dead, Jesus instituted the sacrament by which sins could be forgiven.

Pope Francis reminds us that "Every time we go to confession, God embraces us." We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity for this important sacrament at St. Raphael School.



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A Profile of a St. Raphael School Graduate:

Upon graduation from St. Raphael School,
we will be . . .

Successful students who are

Technologically competent individuals receiving

Rigorous curriculum preparing us to be

Academic achievers,

People of faith and

Helpers in our community. We are

Aware individuals that

Excel as

Leaders!



*Wishing you a
wonderful Thanksgiving,
a beautiful Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*



St. Raphael School Upcoming Events:

November 21: Jeans for Jesus

November 24-25: Thanksgiving Vacation

December 5-8: Scholastic Book Fair

December 8: Feast of the

Immaculate Conception

School Mass at 10:00 am

December 12: Jeans for Jesus

**December 15: Christmas Program
at 6:00 pm**

**December 16: Christmas Vacation
Noon Dismissal**

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