



▶ Faith and Moral Values



▶ High Academic Standards



▶ Visual and Performing Arts Program

○ Dec. to Jan. | ○ 2011-2012

St. Angela Merici *focus*

BUILDING THE FUTURE ONE CHILD AT A TIME...

Each day St. Angela's creates the perfect environment where our children are challenged to grow spiritually, physically and academically.

Message from the Principal

Sr. Lourdes Mercado-Almodóvar,
OBT

"Building the future one child at a time."

St. Angela Merici School

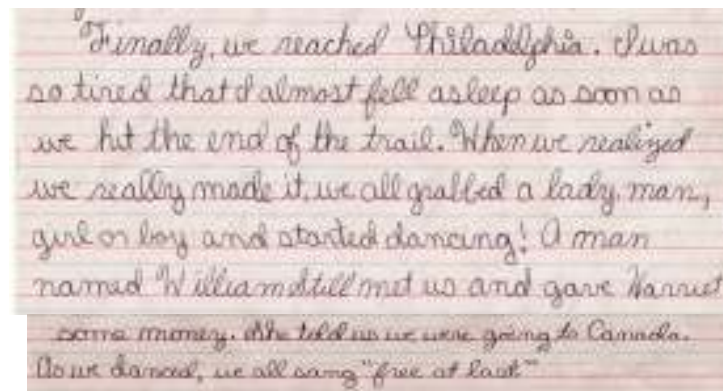
During the past few months many wonderful things have happened at our school. In November the children had the Publishing Celebration where they shared with parents and fellow students what they learned during the month about Historical Fiction. Some of the students dressed up as the characters from the stories they wrote. It was wonderful to see their excitement.

When learning is exciting and fun the students can make sense of what they are learning and apply it to all other areas of their lives.

In December we had our Christmas pageants. The teachers worked hard with the students and they did a wonderful job. For the two nights of the shows the parents, friends and visitors who came left inspired and uplifted. Children remind us of what Christmas is all about. Christmas is a time of rejoicing in God's immeasurable love for each and every one of us. *"For God so loved the world that He gave us his only Son."* (Jn. 3:16)

Many more wonderful programs are in store for us during this year. We ask you to be involved because you are a crucial part of your child's education. As always thank you for your support of our school. Please know that you are always in our prayers.

God bless you.



Excerpt from a historical fiction piece written by Jordan – a fourth grader.



Writing Units – Why are they important?

One of the reasons school exists is to teach people to think. Two of the primary skills which allow for organized coherent thought are reading and writing. Reading gives the students access to information and ideas. Writing provides general tools for manipulating and expressing ideas and information.

“Reading and writing are interdependent, mutually supportive skills, both of which are “basic” to an individual’s capacity to generate critical, developed independent thought.” (Tuby Fulwiler)

This year at St. Angela Merici School we have developed Writing Units which allow the students to study and learn different types of writing. This is extremely important since in order for students not only to know but to be able to express and communicate knowledge writing is needed. We are talking not only of writing as a means to show learning but as a tool for learning itself. In other words, writing should be used not only to test if a child has learned something but also to help the child wrestle with his/her own thoughts and process them in a manner that makes sense to him/her and that at the same time is logical, critical and intelligible.

Every month at the end of the writing unit we are having a *Publishing Celebration* to acknowledge the work the students have done in the month during their writing lessons. This is a celebration of teaching and learning.

This month parents are invited to come in and be part of our celebration. We encourage you to be part of this very important part of your child’s learning. The school and the home must work together to help our students understand the value of what they are doing. If writing matters both in school and at home the children will learn that writing “just matters.”

Excerpts of this section were taken from “Why We Teach Writing in the First Place” by Tuby Fulwiler – Department of Humanities, Michigan Technological University.



You can help. Support St. Angela Merici School every time you shop for groceries. Just clip the Box Tops’ coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send them in an envelope to St. Angela’s. Please address your envelope to Ms. Brady – Gonzalez. A big “Thank You” Ms. Brady-Gonzalez for coordinating this program. Each box top coupon is worth 10 cents for our school and this will add up.



Founded 1904

St. Angela Merici School

266 East 163rd Street
Bronx, N.Y. 10451

www.saintangelamerici.com

Thank you to our volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers who have helped us throughout the school year.

Thank you to all the parents who helped during The Halloween Party and made this a fun event for the children.

Also, thank you to the parents who helped during the Christmas Shows. Despite your busy holiday schedules you helped us to present enjoyable and meaningful Shows to the guests.

Please see the PGA Bulletin Board adjacent to Classroom 1-11 and applaud our volunteers for the above events.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

QUARTER EXAMS

WHEN: BEGIN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Children will be taking quarter exams beginning Wednesday, January 25. Please make sure the children study and prepare for these important exams.

REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION – PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE FOR GRADES PRE K AND K

WHEN: FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
PLACE: YOUR CHILD’S CLASS
TIME: 12:45 TO 3:30 PM AND 4:15 TO 6:00 PM

Because your involvement and communication with the school are so important, first quarter Report Cards are not sent home with the children. Parents must get the report cards from the teachers. They will be available to meet with you and talk to you about your child’s progress in school. Make sure you save the date!

PARENT/GUARDIAN ASSOCIATION MEETING

WHEN: WED., JANUARY 25
PLACE: FINANCIAL OFFICE (ROOM 12)
TIME: 6:00 PM

Be a part in a special way of your child’s life. Come and learn more about what is going on in the school. Learn something important and get involved. Please call Ms. McTague (ext. 102) to reserve your seat.

PUBLISHING CELEBRATION

WHEN: TUESDAY, JAN. 31
PLACE: YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM
TIME: 2:00 PM

At the end of our monthly writing unit we will be celebrating what we have learned. The children will show their writing and tell how they created letters. Come and join us!