

JUNE 2018

VOLUME 2

THE EAGLE EYE

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

SPRING 2018

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CLASS TRIP

It has been several weeks since the long-awaited eighth grade class trip. Every member of the graduating Class of 2018 is still reflecting on, reliving, and treasuring the memories of this wonderful event. It seemed as though the day would never come, and here it is – a fond memory. Each and every student will tell you that it was a magical trip!

Months of preparation certainly paid off as fifty one graduates, along with one hundred adults, took New York City by storm. How privileged Mrs. Bushell and I felt to have been associated with this fine group of students and parents. Welcomed compliments from many strangers throughout the day reconfirmed for us that we were celebrating with some of the finest students around!

For some, SpongeBob Squarepants was the first Broadway show they had ever seen; for others, who had been to Broadway before, it will rank up there as one of the most entertaining.

As we exited the theater, the anticipation of their dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of New York was beginning to mount. For most, this was to be the highlight of their day; however, first, our graduates had an hour or so to walk around the city, shopping and/or just enjoying the energy of New York City.

The graduates and their parents truly traveled the streets like seasoned veterans. How blessed we were to have squeezed in a clear, rainless day! Comfortable temperatures made the day perfect for an evening cruise! Dining and dancing combined with the beauty of the New York skyline at night, left each student wishing it would never end!

Graduates, parents, Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Fr. McSweeney, Mrs. Fessman, Mrs. Bushell and I danced the night away! As if this weren't enough excitement for a day, the students seemed to be in awe as they stood on the outer deck of the boat as it cruised past the Statue of Liberty. So close were we, it seemed as though an outstretched hand could touch her. As the boat pulled into dock at the end of the evening, no one wanted to believe that the day was coming to a close. Mrs. Bushell and I breathed a sigh of relief as we were pleased to have pulled off another successful eighth grade class trip!

We eagerly awaited the following day off from school! As we reflect back on the events of the day, we cannot help but remember the camaraderie that was displayed by faculty, staff, students and parents. We truly are a parish family and with graduation fast approaching, it seems difficult to believe that all will be going their separate ways.

A trip like this does not happen without much advanced planning and cooperation from all involved. We would be remiss if we did not extend our heartfelt thanks to our class parents and parent chaperones who so graciously made themselves available to us for student supervision throughout the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Keeegan, Mr. and Mrs. Panzanaro, Mr. and Mrs. Rivera, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Calderin, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Humer, Mrs. Capshaw, and Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie - thank you, thank you, thank you.

An extra round of applause also goes to Mrs. Keegan for her incredible assistance with the parent bus.

Keeping those parents in line and assuring that they were where they were supposed to be when there were supposed to be there is never an easy task!

Know that Mrs. Bushell and I couldn't have done it without you. As we pulled into the circle outside of St. Augustine School at eleven forty five, we were bleary eyed and exhausted from the excitement!

Thank you eighth grade for a spectacular day. We know that you will hold on to these fond memories for years to come. Know what a pleasure it was for Mrs. Bushell and me to celebrate with you!!!!





FOND FAREWELL

This year's graduating class consists of many families who end the school year with not only a St. Augustine School graduate but also with heavy hearts. For so many, their days at St. Augustine School have come to an end. For some, this graduation is the last for a long line of family members! Several of our families have had children here throughout twenty years!! Know how very much your association with St. Augustine School will be missed.

Our sincere best wishes to: the Buzanski family, the Cajamarca family, the Calderin family, the Calvert family, the Capshaw family, the Dare family, the Dinelli family, the Finewood family, the Frawley family, the Genao family, the Guarneri family, the Hartnett family, the Keegan family, the Kielb family, the MacKenzie family, the Marengo family, the Marinaro family, the Marino family, the Patel family, the Pawlowicz family, the Renha family, the Sanguino family, the Shanahan family, the Stricker family, the Yost family, and the Zazzini family.

We send you on your way with love, good wishes, and the knowledge that once you are a member of our St. Augustine School family, you will always be a member of our St. Augustine family!



8th grade NYC trip

STEPPING STONES

For the past several months, the first graders in Mrs. Gembecki's class have not only become avid readers and writers they have also been sharpening their Science and Social Studies skills both in and out of the classroom.

On our recent field trip to the Stepping Stones Museum in Norwalk, Ct. both first grades were engaged in activities at four different stations that were related to the S.T.E.A.M. curriculum.

When they were asked to write about what they had learned that day the majority of students agreed that it is the importance of TEAMWORK.

Throughout the year, the first graders have become keen observers. They have used a magnifying glass to take a closer look at leaves, rocks, fossils, and their own fingerprints.



From our classroom window they have observed four different trees during the year: a maple, pine, dogwood, and a fire bush. As the seasons changed they drew the differences they noted in the four trees, and noted the geographic features and the wildlife in our own backyard!

ART CONTEST

Congratulations to the following students who were winners in the CYO Art Championship.

Zaara Jain who won first place in the Learners Division. Stefanie Weber who won second place in the Masters Division. Vivianne Chin who placed second in the Small Fry Division. Levi Lamando who placed third in the Small Fry Division.



FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to our second grade class as they celebrated their First Holy Communion on May 12th.

What a memorable day it was for them and their families!

After preparing all year long, they processed into church, hands folded, and smiles firmly in place.

God bless them all!

CYO SPORTS AWARD

It is with great pride that we share that St. Augustine CYO has received the 2018 Sportsmanship's award from the Archdiocese of New York!

The award celebrates CYO programs that giveback to others and create a strong spirit of community for the young people of the parish.

This honor recognizes the commitment of each of you has made to our kids, and we all have reason to celebrate!

Thank you for your involvement in CYO!

MONEY MATTERS

Junior High students in 7th and 8th grade have been learning how to build spreadsheets and chart their data to learn two important skills: Build a personal expense budget, and track stock market fluctuations for their favorite companies and commodities.

First things first. They put together a budget for managing personal expenses. Seems like light years away from the cares of a typical 12 year old, but its a skill that will help them plan for the future.

Using Google Docs Sheets or Microsoft Excel as they wish, they're also learning how to chart their budget data using pie charts or graphs to best "see" where it all shakes out. What might they be spending the greatest percentage of their money on? Their charts don't lie.

Next, they've been reinforcing new found spreadsheet skills by looking up data for their 5 chosen stocks in Yahoo Finance. There, they'll also learn a little bit about the Dow Jones Industrial Average and track the ups and downs of an oz of gold or a barrel of oil.

Over several weeks they compute the rate of change for their chosen stocks using a spreadsheet formula -- its a concept they're learning in Math class that comes to life in their spreadsheet.

Budgeting and Investing are a great way for students to connect to the world of finance, to understand a little bit about what every day news reporting on the ups and downs of the "market" really mean. It's a joy to explore the world of finance with them. (As 6th graders, my junior high classes learn these concepts by way of a "game" called My Mathematical Life, where budgets and stocks are first introduced.) Now if only their gains could be realized in dollars!



8th grade NYC trip

NURSE'S NOTES

Please remember to make arrangements to pick up your child's medication before the end of school. I cannot store medication here for the summer. Please remember to get new orders for any medication to be administered here. Forms can be found under "medical" on the SAS website. Bring the medication to the nurse's office when school begins. Make sure that the pharmacy label is on the medication. Students are not supposed to carry medication.

ALL students who are entering 6th grade and are 11 years or older must receive a Tdap vaccine before school begins. If they are turning 11 in 6th grade, they will need it at the time of their birthday.

ALL students entering 7th grade must have the meningococcal vaccine. Without it, they cannot start school.

Effective July 1, 2018, physicals are now required for all new students and students in Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7. Physicals must be dated after September 6th, 2017. I would appreciate a copy for other grades as well for your child's cumulative health record, even though it is not state mandated.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer! Remember to use sunscreen. Please call or email with any questions. Good luck to all the 8th graders in their future endeavors. Thank you.

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SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to this year's participants in our annual spelling bee, held on Friday, June 1, 2018, with representatives from Grades five through eight. Two student spelling winners from each homeroom were awarded the honor of representing their homeroom in a school wide spelling bee, following some very challenging homeroom bees!

In addition, the third place winner from each homeroom was awarded the title of alternate. Each student speller was given a rather challenging list of words to study from which the actual spelling bee words were taken.

How exciting it was to watch as the competition became more and more intense!! After approximately ten rounds, Ryan Shanahan, who was last year's second place winner, was the last speller standing! Such proof of what hard work, dedication, and determination can do for all.

1st Place – Ryan Shanahan – Grade 8-1

2nd Place – Olivia Pasquerella – Grade 8-1

3rd Place – Brian Griffin – Grade 7-1



8th grade NYC trip

MUSEUM VISIT

Every year, The National Junior Art Honors Society, NJAHS, goes on a field trip to learn about a different school of art and do a project on it. This year, we went to the Hudson River Museum to learn about the Hudson River School.

Now, this isn't an actual school, but rather an art movement. To be a Hudson River school piece, the painting must have a foreground, middle ground, background, a body of water, nature, a specific time of day, and sometimes, a form of life, such as an animal.

Oftentimes, it was made to show humans and nature coexisting, and occasionally blotted out things such as railroads and train tracks from the scene it was depicting.

Although these pieces of artwork were originally set around the Hudson River and Valley, it eventually grew to encompass more than just an area, although it stayed primality in that region.



As we toured through the museum, we saw a range of paintings. They were all different areas, depicting different scenes, times of day, and bodies of water. Some of them seemed quite different from each other, but when you looked closely at them, you would realize they all had the components necessary for the art piece to be part of the Hudson River School. In fact, once of the paintings depicted an area of Croton, not far from St Augustine!

When we finished our tour, we then went to work on the project we do at the end of every field trip. This time, we were painting a watercolor that would be a Hudson River School piece. It really tested our knowledge of what was required for a Hudson River School piece.



PENNY DEBATE

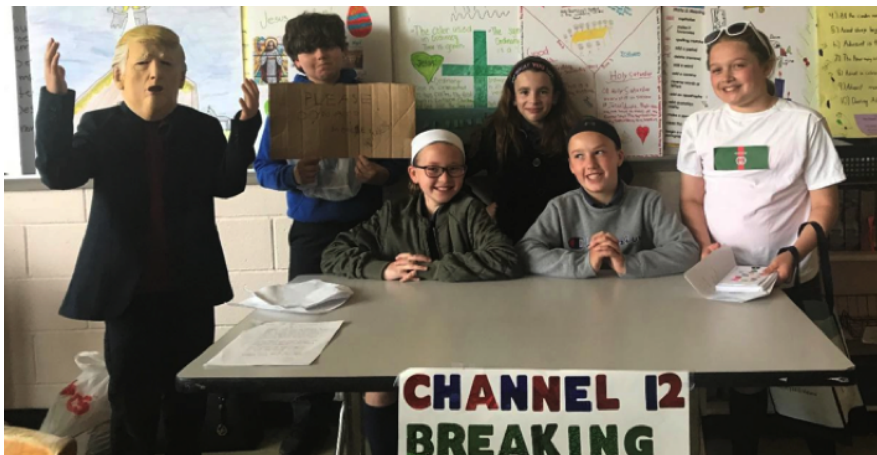
This year, the fifth graders have been reading, analyzing, and writing about various debates that impact our world. One article that they read centered on the debate of whether the penny should remain in circulation.

Over the course of two weeks, the fifth graders dug up facts from current event articles and resources on the internet.

They collaborated in building both sides of the argument. Then, they were asked to present a newscast, presenting both sides of the debate in an objective, yet creative manner.

Through this activity, students learned the importance of presenting facts objectively to their audiences. They also delved into close reading skills, as well as learned the value of teamwork and collaboration.

Not only did the fifth graders give it their all, but they had a blast, as well! Stay tuned for our next newscast!



SCIENCE PROJECTS

In April, duck eggs arrived in the pre-k 4 classroom. They were kept in an incubator and the students monitored the temperature and humidity. The eggs were turned by hand three times a day.

After a twenty eight day countdown, the eggs began to hatch and the students witnessed the miracle of new life. Ten ducklings were born, the students cared for them and watched them take their first swim.

Ten days later, they sang goodbye as the ducklings were returned to Harvest Moon Farm to live a happy life.

The students also enjoyed watching five caterpillars eat, grow, and spin cocoons. When five beautiful Painted Lady butterflies emerged, the metamorphosis was complete and we watched them fly away into the spring sky.

The students also planted marigold seeds and nurtured them as they blossomed just the time for Mother's Day.

It has been a busy spring in Pre-K 4.

Class of 2018

Grace Baumgartner
Kennedy Catholic

Alina Bonavita
Kennedy Catholic

Ryan Boyd
Kennedy Catholic

Alessandra Buzanski
Kennedy Catholic

James Cajamarca
Ossining High School

Preston Calderin
Iona Prep

Jaxon Calvert
Fordham Prep

Valentina Capshaw
St.Vincent Ferrer

Jack Dare
Fordham Prep

Michael Dinelli
Regis

Jackson Finewood
Fordham Prep

Megan Flaherty
Kennedy Catholic

Liam Frawley
Undecided

Grace Gallagher
Walter Panas HS

Isabella Genao
Marian Catholic HS

Sean Griffin
The Loyola School

James Guarnieri
Kennedy Catholic

Elizabeth Hartnett
Kennedy Catholic

Michael Henry
Stepinac

Ryan Humer
Iona Prep

Lindsay Keegan
Kennedy Catholic

Jade Marie Kielb
Kennedy Catholic

Gabriella Lawrence
Walter Panas HS

Gabriella Lopez-Pichardo
Kennedy Catholic

Riley MacKenzie
Dominican Academy

Alexander Marengo
Kennedy Catholic

Louis Marinaro
Kennedy Catholic

Luke Marino
Stepinac

Brandon Medina
Peekskill High School

Julia Mendlovsky
Ossining High School

Isabel Montes
Montfort Academy

Javier Munoz
Ossining High School

Ava Panzanaro
Kennedy Catholic
Best Hair

Olivia Pasquerella
The Loyola School

Divek Patel
Hackley

Julia Pawlowicz
Ursuline

Maeve Powers
Kennedy Catholic

Daniella Renha
Kennedy Catholic

Christian Rivera
Kennedy Catholic

Camila Rodriguez
Ossining High School

Mia Sanguino
Montfort Academy

Ryan Shanahan
Regis

John Steinmann
Kennedy Catholic

Bailey Stephan
Kennedy Catholic

Meghan Stricker
Marymount

Anthony Torricella
Regis

Carter Tresgallo
Fordham Prep

Adam Ulatowski
Stepinac

Catherine Yost
Dominican Academy

Adriana Zazzini
Walter Panas HS

Michael Zazzini
Walter Panas HS