

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

Eagle's Eye

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Receive the Joy!

Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Principal

Even if we do remember what happened in Bethlehem, we have probably not absorbed the full meaning of Christmas.

I have recently had a minor "light bulb moment" as St Augustine School prepares for the Christmas season (Confessions, Lessons and Carols, Craft Fair, Christmas Concert preparation, Class parties not to mention visits from St. Nicholas, Santa, sharing gifts with others and School Class Masses).

My "light bulb moment" - - what do all these happenings have to do with Christmas? What do they tell us about the world? It tells us that God so loved the world that He sent His only son. It tells us that God and the world, everything and everybody in it are united in love. This is why we repeat the celebrations year after year. Repetition helps us to remember to live more deeply the true spirit of Christmas.

Even if we remember what happened in Bethlehem, we have not fully absorbed what really happened, that God not only came and embraced us over two thousand years ago, but the same loving God is still embracing us day after day. It is in the Liturgy of the Mass that God shares Himself with us in the Eucharist. For all of us who are Catholic, let God work in our hearts and minds by attending Christmas liturgy as a family at St Augustine Church. If you are not of the Catholic faith, you and your family are very welcome to join us! There is a special Mass for children at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

May each of us receive the joy and peace of Christmas! These are gifts given to us from God who is the source of all communion that our hearts long for.

A NOTE FROM HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD

DEAR ST. AUGUSTINE FAMILIES,

AS THIS YEAR'S HOME & SCHOOL BOARD, WE WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEVER-ENDING SUPPORT! ALL OF OUR FUNDRAISERS, FROM OUR ANNUAL WALKATHON TO THE RETURN OF THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR, HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO HAVE ST. AUGUSTINE FAMILIES BACK IN THE SCHOOL AND VOLUNTEERING IN THE LUNCHROOM, ART ROOM, LIBRARY AND OF COURSE BEING SO HELPFUL AT ALL OF OUR FUNDRAISERS. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT, WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND LOOK FORWARD TO ALL THAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEW YEAR!

THANK YOU!

HOME & SCHOOL BOARD

Dates to Remember

JANUARY 3RD: SCHOOL REOPENS

JANUARY 9-13: MAP TESTING WEEK 1; GRADES 6-8

JANUARY 16TH: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY - NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 17-20: MAP TESTING WEEK 2; GRADES 3-5

JANUARY 23: MAP TESTING WEEK 3; GRADES K-2

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 3: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

FEBRUARY 8: REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED: GRADES PRE-K-5

FEBRUARY 9: REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED: GRADES 6-8

FEBRUARY 10: NOON DISMISSAL, NO AFTERCARE, PRE-K FULL DAY

FEBRUARY 20: PRESIDENTS DAY - NO SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 22: ASH WEDNESDAY

FOR MORE UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS PLEASE REFER TO THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

Safety Reminder

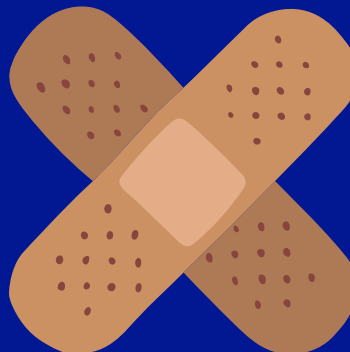
In an effort to make our school as secure as possible, all parents, family, friends, and general visitors **MUST** come into the school through the front door. Please use the door buzzer, and wait for someone in the main office to open the door. If there is someone coming in behind you, please do not hold the door opened for them because they will also need to buzz in. Once you are in the building, go first to the main office to sign in and get a visitor badge to wear while in the building. All other school building doors are restricted. We need your respect and cooperation in order to make St. Augustine School a safe and secure place for your children to spend their days. Thank you.



A Note from Nurse Hirsch

Merry Christmas to all families!

Wishing you all a restful and healthy break! If as the holiday vacation comes to a close, and your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home to limit spreading Christmas germs as we spread Christmas cheer!



8th Grade Confirmation

We congratulate Saint Augustine School's eight grade students
on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on
Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Most Reverend Gerardo Colacicco reminded the young men and
women that they are to use their newly received
Gifts of the Holy Spirit to "shine brightly and be the light"
for themselves and others.

We are certain they will do exactly that.



6th and 7th Grade Halloween Projects

Haunted Houses By Ava Muraca Grade 7

In 7th grade ELA class, we were assigned to write haunted house stories in honor of Halloween. This allowed students to be creative in their writing and have fun at the same time. All the stories were on the same topic, but as we presented our work to the class, it was clear they were all very different. Each student's piece demonstrated their own unique way of writing. Along with our stories, we got to paint wooden haunted houses. Some people painted spiderwebs, ghosts, and pumpkins on theirs. This Halloween activity gave the opportunity for students to both improve their writing skills, and also enjoy a fun activity.



Halloween Luminaries by Cristina Rial 6th Grade

This year my class did a fun Halloween craft. We made Halloween luminaries by decorating a jar with tissue paper using Mod Podge and putting a fake candle in it. We were able to sit in groups with our friends and listen to Halloween music while we did it. After they dried overnight, we each took pictures with our Halloween luminaries. Then, we took them home to display in our house. This was a perfect decoration for my room. The following week we learned how to write a step by step essay about them. The writings came out really good. The Halloween luminaries and writing the step by step essay was a very fun and easy Halloween project. I hope to do something like this again for another holiday.



Top 10 Tips for Starting Middle School - from the desk of a 6th grader

Sixth Grade is challenging, and it is a world of difference from Mrs. Porpora's cozy 5th Grade Classroom. Now that I have a quarter of Sixth Grade behind me, I decided to put together a list of tips for future junior high students.

Tip One: Love yourself and others.

Don't worry too much about your appearance because God made you.
He makes no mistakes and never will!!!

Tip Two: Step outside your comfort zone.

Try new things - you might find something that suits you like a new club, such as a drama club, where you put on plays for the school.

Tip Three: Do not fall behind on your work, especially homework because homework keeps coming! I have gotten piles of homework because I gave up and did not value my free time.

Tip Four: When taking Spanish class for the first time, try not to get too frustrated and do not rush the process.
You will eventually catch on if you pay attention.
Just try you will not get it right away and that is a fact.

Tip Five: Organization is everything! You will get a lot of different books and papers, and you will need to know where these things are at any given time. Trust me on this one. I probably had the messiest locker ever to exist to the point where there was no end in sight, and I was late for class.

Tip Six: Always try your best!

Sometimes, this means getting an A+ on your assignments; other times, it means barely getting a C. Junior High isn't about knowing everything; it is about learning to become a good student.

Tip Seven: Gossip - just don't do it.

When you gossip half the things the people say will not be true and it could really hurt someone to the point where they "snap" and cry. Rumors about you and other people start this way.

Tip Eight: Make new friends.

People change, and it's nice to learn more about one another. You never know what you have in common with the person next to you if you are not willing to strike up a conversation. It is OK if they do not like what you like and have no idea what you're talking about; you can still keep the conversation going because they will catch on and maybe learn something new.

Tip Nine: Embarrassment is part of growing up.

Learn to laugh at yourself when you make a mistake, and in the wise words of Taylor Swift, just "shake it off!"

Tip Ten: Ask for help if you need it,
and always be willing to lend a helping hand to a friend in need.

Teamwork makes the dream work in Junior High!

By Mia Theiss - 6th Grade

The Co-Founding Coaches of the 7th Grade Boys CYO Basketball Team

By: Tristan Lynch & Alex Schiller

Last season was a rough one for the CYO 6th Grade Boys Basketball team, to say the least. Out of twelve games, we only won one. However, the game we won was the last game of the season, which is why we came into this season with great confidence. Unlike last year, the team started to work better together, and of course, we gained skill. This was the result of our outstanding coaches, the head coach, Coach Ron, and the assistant coaches, Coach Mike, and new to this season, Coach Matt. Although Coach Ron can get a tad bit passionate about the game, he always pushes us to our full potential and asks for three things from us: focus, attitude, and effort. By him doing this, a standard is set for how the team should act during a practice, which is carried over into the games. From the random exclamations of victory to his motivational, yet serious, speeches, Coach Ron brings so much life and energy to our team.



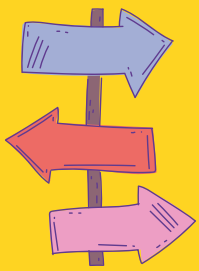
Back row: Coach Ron, Vincent Ragaini
Front Row: Alex Fabian, Alex Schiller,
Joseph Henry, Gianni Bordonaro,
Andrew Lombardi
Missing: Declan Toth-Jamieson, Tristan
Lynch, Coach Matt Toth

SWISH

By: Alex Fabian

“Alone we can do so little; Together, we can do so much” Hellen Keller. This quote portrayed how the 7th grade boys basketball team played their first game. On Saturday December 2nd the gold team played against the school Holy Family. The full gold team is: Gianni Bordonaro, Alex Fabian, Joseph Henry, Andrew Lombardi Tristan Lynch, Vincent Ragani, Alex Schiller, Declan Toth-Jamison and our coach is Ron Fisher and assistant coach Matt Toth-Jamison. They won that game with a score of 42-17. The MVP of that match had been Vincent Ragani jersey number 40, for scoring 13 points.





MIXING IT UP: A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO JUNIOR HIGH

BY: CELESTE MIGNONE

6TH GRADE

When you think about what you want to be when you grow up, do you ever think, “Teacher!” It must be a huge challenge to be responsible for the education of students. I asked Mrs. Kavy about teaching junior high. She said, “I would say that I’m lucky...I love being with so many personalities but not being stuck with the same class.” I agree that it must be nice to have change throughout the day to keep things fresh and interesting.

Speaking of keeping things interesting, how do teachers find educational videos that will keep students engaged? I asked Mrs. Jarl this exact question, and she said, “As a teacher of Social Studies, finding material that will help make history come alive and feel more relevant to my students is one of my top priorities as a teacher. Oftentimes, historical events and people of the past can feel very far and distant to kids, so it’s super important I find audio and video clips and activities that they enjoy and helps deliver the information to them in a way that is memorable and fun. That being said, it is also important that I find videos that are factual and appropriate for my students.”

So where do these videos come from? Mrs. Jarl continued on to say, “I have a few ‘favorite’ websites or online sources that consistently produce clips that are free from bias, which is especially important in Social Studies. Youtube, for example, is full of ‘content creators’ who aren’t actually historians and only want to teach history from their point of view, which does not promote healthy learning in any classroom, so I try to stay away from those.”

Mrs. Jarl is very hands-on with what she shows students. “I have a rule that I never show a clip that I haven’t already watched myself!”

While videos are a great tool, teaching always comes down to...well, the teacher! I asked Mrs. Jarl about her teaching style and said, “As far as finding ways to teach lessons in a way that is fun and interesting, I try to think about activities that will help history come alive. Song parodies, silly rhymes, cartoons, and other appropriate pop cultural connections are usually good ways to do this. I also try to ‘turn over’ my lessons and not do the exact same things every year -just to keep it fresh. Involving other disciplines and subjects is also helpful - hands-on projects, artistic projects, and assignments that help you apply your knowledge to real-life, current events are things I try to incorporate every year.”

No one teacher can do it alone. Mrs. Jarl informed me that she is “constantly talking to my fellow teachers to get inspiration for new lessons or new ideas for my classroom, as teaching junior high is really a ‘team sport’.” To everyone in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade: Do you remember when Mrs. Jarl showed us the video of Mesopotamia? That was the best!

Overall, the junior high teachers (and all the other teachers in St. Augustine School) are amazing people, who do alot to make learning enjoyable.

4th Grade Field Trip

By Christopher Papadakis

Ms.Solari and Mrs. Haines' fourth grade classes went to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum on November 3rd, 2022. We were on Pequot land in Connecticut.

When we got there one of the kind workers greeted us. There were also chaperones that led us through every sight.

The fourth grade learned all about Northeastern Native American tribes. For example, we saw a dugout canoe and their wigwams, we also saw their gardens.

The museum gave us radios to gather information to our cars. It read us stories and tales of the Native Americans. We also got to see some documentaries about the Native Americans. There were many interesting sights to see and a lot of facts to learn.

This field trip was one of the most exciting field trips ever. My favorite part of the museum was the Native Americans village. Due to Covid this was our first field trip since the first grade. The fourth grade is looking forward to our next field trip in the spring.



2nd Grade Prayers of Thanksgiving

During the Thanksgiving season, it often takes a child to remind us what is important. When the second grade was asked what they were thankful to God for, some of their responses made me smile and remember it is not always the most expensive or extravagant experiences that make the biggest impression.

Enjoy some words of advice from our seven and eight year olds:

Dear God, thank you for my family because they
love being together - Melissa Paese
make me happy when I am sad- Juliet Barros
try their best to keep me safe - Joseph Pereira.
(my) sister helps me with my homework. - Gabriel Severo

Dear God, thank you for my pets because.....
I can throw balls to my puppy - Erika Deleg
I feed my fish every night - Skyar Mastroianni
my dogs and cats keep me company - Jacob Ellefsen
I can cuddle with my dog. - Marissa Martinelli
I can feed my chipmunk Nutly by hand. - Timothy
Rosensteel

Dear God, thank you for my school because without it, I
wouldn't be smart - Evelyn Shafer

Dear God, thank you for my family's faces because they
smile a lot - George Bratt

Let us remember to count all the simple blessings that are
around us.

Enjoy the holidays,

Barbara DelPreto and Grade 2



Thanks
giving



Photos from the Christmas Show



Stella's Toy Drive

Dear St. Augustine School Community,

We are excited to provide you with an update on Stella's Toy Drive.

So far, we have raised \$11,300 and delivered 420 toys to Maria Fareri Hospital. We are so grateful for the amazing support of St Augustine and their incredible families for helping to make this year such a huge success.

This past Saturday Stella, Conor Novotony and Keelin Wisnewksi (and families) delivered the toys to the hospital. We were so delighted to be greeted at the door by a group of hospital volunteers to help unload the toys. The volunteers were all former St. Augustine students (Vinny Fabrizi, Ryan Oreilly, Danny Hua, John Balancii, Paul Madori).

It really was so special to see the good your current and former students are doing throughout the community. The craft fair was also a big success! Stella, Thomas Rick, Keelin Wisnewski, Conor Novotony and Dylan Palm worked for hours to craft 200 hundred ornaments raising over \$1000 from sales at the craft fair.

I included a few photos from Saturdays toy delivery. The first photo are the SAS alumni volunteers and the others are Stella, Conor and Keelin.

Thank you! We are so grateful to be a part of the SAS family.

-The Fosgate Family



How to submit for the next issue...

Is there a special honor, award, achievement, occasion or event that your child received or participated in, that you would like to share with the St. Augustine School Community? The next addition of the Eagle's Eye will be published in the spring.

Information can be submitted to Ms. Solari
(jsolari@staugustinschool.org) or Ms. Lyon
(dlyon@staugustineschool.org) via email.

Thank you in advance!

