

DECEMBER 2023

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The Eagle's Eye



"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given..."Isaiah 9:6-7

Our greatest challenge is to savor what has been given to us! St. Augustine School is blessed to be able to live and share this miracle each day. Christmas affords us a time for remembrance. It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a time that surrounds us with love, love of family, good friends, our St. Augustine community and most of all our students.

So, at this time I say thank you to our Savior for each and every one of you that have crossed the threshold of St. Augustine School.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

-Sister Mary Elizabeth

Lessons & Carols With Christmas Pageant



The Home and School Board would like to thank all the volunteers and parents who contributed to the fundraisers over the last few months. Especially all the help with the Book Fair, the Christmas Fair and the 2nd & 3rd Grade Christmas Pageant.

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Congratulations to the newly confirmed students!

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MEET THE HOME & SCHOOL BOARD

LISA DALEY, H&S PRESIDENT

Hi! I'm Lisa and I am SAS alumni (class of '96)! I now have a son in 2nd grade. Outside of being on the board and a Mom, I am a business owner (corporate events/technology) and I enjoy an active lifestyle, traveling, and having fun with friends. I have a soft spot for SAS so I'm passionate about helping it thrive for our kids and their kids to come!



Giving Tuesday Donations are still being accepted. If you happen to work for or know of a company or business who might like to match donations, please pursue this avenue of donation with your employer. Donations will go towards water bottle refill stations and maintenance repairs. [Click Here](#) to give

St. Augustine Spirit Wear Store Grab your SAS swag through the 1st Place Spiritwear website. Customizable options make great gifts for family members. These are NOT school uniform approved options. [Click Here](#) for SAS swag store.

St. Augustine Online Store We now have NEW Flannel pants available with drawstrings & pockets on our on-line store! (\$28)

Be sure to check our online store year-round for uniforms, supplies, SAS swag and to make donations! [Click Here](#) for online store.

Birthday Cart Open to all grades PreK – 8 for just \$25. Please be sure to submit your order form and payment one week prior to the requested date. You can find the form on the school website under “For Parents” then “The Birthday Cart”. You can also [Click Here](#).

Lunch Room Volunteers We are so grateful for the positive response to our call for lunch volunteers. For security reasons, you **MUST** sign up on Sign Up Genius, check in with the front office and fill out a name tag before entering the cafeteria. We need to have a record of all daily outside visitors. If you are interested, please visit the “Volunteer Sign Up” page on the school’s website under the “Resources” tab. You can also [Click Here](#).

SAVE THE DATES!



DECEMBER 21ST: CHRISTMAS SHOW GRADES 6,7,8

DECEMBER 22ND: CHRISTMAS SHOW GRADES PREK 3 & PREK 4

DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1ST: CHRISTMAS RECESS

JANUARY 2ND: SCHOOL REOPENS

JANUARY 29TH-FEBRUARY 2ND: CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK



SPOTLIGHT: CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club meets every Wednesday after school from 2:30pm-3:30pm with Mr. Gallagher.

We interviewed "Mr. G" to understand what the club is all about and the positive effects it has on its participants.

Q: Do you need to have an understanding of chess to play or are beginners welcomed? And what are the age requirements?

Mr. G: All are welcome to the St. Augustine School Chess Club, beginner and expert alike! The club is open to all students in Kindergarten through grade 8!

Q: Have you seen students benefit from learning the game in real life?

Mr. G: Yes! very much so. Learning the rules of the game is the easy part (I contend that the board game Monopoly has more rules) but improving as a player is not as easy.

Chess is a game that requires both macro and micro thinking, creativity, concentration, patience, dogged perseverance, but most of all practice. Unlike other games, luck is not a factor in chess; no dice rolls, or shuffling or dealing of cards, only pure, cold calculation is required which makes the game very demanding yet endlessly fascinating.

These lessons that chess teaches us often translate into real world skills that greatly benefit everyone, particularly children.

Q: Any funny stories or anecdotes from the club or about chess in general?

Mr. G: One story that sticks in my mind is about a student who graduated St. Augustine's a number of years ago. At that time, I used to host an end-of-the-year Saturday tournament for all the chess club members. (maybe I should start doing that again!) The first year that he played, he lost all of his games so he was feeling very discouraged. At the end of the tournament, he and his mother approached me and asked what he could do to improve so I suggested some books that he could read over the summer.

When school resumed in September I found out that he did indeed purchase the books that I told him about and he was winning like crazy! When it was time for the next end-of-the-year tournament, he got a perfect score by winning every one of his games and for the rest of his time at St. Augustine's he placed first and went undefeated at all future tournaments.



Are There Really More Possible Chess Games than Atoms in the Universe?
(Spoiler Alert: Yes!)
Click Here



Top 10 Benefits of Chess [click here](#)



CONFIRMATION

BY AIDEN ROSA

On November 4, 2023, my classmates and I had our Confirmation. This is a big day for religious students because it is the day that you become an adult in the Catholic faith. We did many things to prepare for the special day.

At the beginning of last year, we had to go to mass every Sunday and complete our service hours. On October 25, we had our Confirmation retreat. At the retreat, we did all kinds of things. We prayed, played games, went to church, and did many other activities. We had a lot of fun doing these things at our retreat. Then we had our Confirmation Enrollment Mass a couple of days after that. This Mass told our parents what we did at our Confirmation retreat and what the meaning of Confirmation truly is. Before our Confirmation, we had our practice. Our sponsor and one or two parents were at the church. We practiced how we would walk down the aisle and what to do when we got anointed.



Aiden Rosa

Finally, the BIG day – what we have prepared for basically for almost one year – had arrived! On November 4, 2023, we had our Confirmation. We got dressed in our fancy suits and dresses at home and then met at the church with our sponsors and family. Most people had their parents, siblings, or even grandparents there. Confirmation symbolizes us being adults in the Catholic faith and a new beginning as Catholics. At Baptism, our parents got to choose whether or not we get baptized or not, but for Confirmation, we got to choose whether we get anointed or not. Usually after Confirmation is over, people go out for a nice dinner with their family to celebrate; some might have a cake or cupcakes, eat really good food, and just have a good time all day.

Confirmation was really fun and exciting. It wasn't just about being anointed with a chrism; it was about becoming an adult in the Catholic faith, making a huge sacrament, and even having a new beginning in the faith. It is really important to people who are Catholic. It's really fun when you get to have your retreat because you play games and participate in activities; however, it is also fun when you get anointed on the day of Confirmation. This was an exciting moment and great day for us.

Congratulations to the newly confirmed students, which on Saturday, November 4, 2023, received the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Whalen reminded the 55 young men and women, that the gifts received of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe should be daily reminders in their busy world, to avoid distractions which may take them away from what's important and always put God first.

Congratulations again, and may these young adults help to inspire others!