

# St. Francis de Sales Times

DECEMBER, 2023

Saint Francis de Sales School

ISSUE 002

## TWO NEUMANN SCHOLARS AT DE SALES

St. Francis de Sales School is thrilled to announce that two exceptional 8th graders, Kevin and Vera, have been awarded the prestigious Neumann Scholarship this year. This notable achievement grants them a well-deserved 4-year scholarship to attend the Archdiocesan high school of their choosing. The dedication and effort they have invested in their studies have truly paid off, and we feel fortunate to have such talented and committed students at our school.

Reflecting on their success, Kevin shared, "It's all about hard work, studying, and completing your assignments on time." We should all strive to incorporate these principles into our everyday learning. Vera emphasized the importance of working on First in Math, stating, "It is essential to work on First in Math, as you can get ahead of the material you see in class and start working on those more challenging levels." Let's all make a conscious effort to work a little harder on First in Math so that one day we too can become Neumann Scholars. Congratulations again to Kevin and Vera on this well-deserved accomplishment!



## TREE-mendous Art



The 36th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony brightened up our week as students, along with our amazing art teacher, Ms. Bell, came together to decorate the Tree of Life at Lankenau Medical Center. A big thank you goes out to everyone who joined in to make the event a success!

Over the past month in our art classes, students collaborated to craft unique ornaments that adorned the enchanting Tree of Life. The support from our dedicated teachers added to the festive spirit. Sister Mary, present at the tree lighting, exclaimed, "St. Francis de Sales unquestionably had the most beautiful tree!"



# SCHOOL VISITORS

At Saint Francis De Sales School, we are fortunate to have numerous donors and visitors who frequently come to appreciate our beautiful school. Our most recent visitor, Sister Margaret Rose, came to check out what the students were working on, and visited each of the classrooms at SFDS. All of the school warmly welcomed her.

During her visit, Sister Margaret Rose engaged the students by providing a brief explanation of various flags, a task the entire school did great on. We extend a heartfelt welcome to Sister Margaret Rose and welcome her back to our school at anytime.



# HOMEWORK CLUB TUTORS



A big shoutout to our amazing friends from St. Thomas of Villanova who show up every Tuesday to help us with our homework. Let me tell you, they are the real MVPs!

First things first, a huge thank you to these awesome tutors who give their time to make sure we understand our assignments and tackle those tricky math problems. Not only are the tutors helping with homework, but they are focusing on other skills as well. It's like having homework superheroes on standby! Imagine having your own

squad of homework helpers, that's exactly what these St. Thomas of Villanova volunteers are for us. If you are interested in joining homework club please contact Ms. Lauren Bradly or Mr. Bryan McDevitt.



# FIRST IN MATH LEADERBOARDS

TOP 10 STUDENTS

PLACE	NAME	HOMEROOM
1ST	Kdus Y.	ROOM 14
2ND	Amani L.	ROOM 4
3RD	Leo M.	ROOM 14
4TH	Iggy M.	ROOM 3
5TH	Kyndall H.	ROOM 5
6TH	Haja B.	ROOM 6
7TH	Yuri C.	ROOM 17
8TH	Maya B.	ROOM 4
9TH	Senay A.	ROOM 4
10TH	Zola A.	ROOM 11

TOP 10 HOMEROOMS

PLACE	HOMEROOM
1ST	ROOM 4
2ND	ROOM 14
3RD	ROOM 5
4TH	ROOM 11
5TH	ROOM 17
6TH	ROOM 12
7TH	ROOM 16
8TH	ROOM 7
9TH	ROOM 3
10TH	ROOM 15

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month's Teacher Spotlight features Mr. Cherry, recognized for creating a fun and educational classroom environment in 7th grade. Mr. Cherry teaches Math, Science, Social Studies, and Religion. With a decade at St. Francis De Sales School, Mr. Cherry's class currently holds 6th place in first in math. This month, his students are analyzing the Road to The American Revolutionary War.

In addition to his teaching role, Mr. Cherry serves as the school Athletic Director, overseeing the team's acquisition of these stylish new jerseys, as pictured on the right. Some interesting facts about Mr. Cherry include his passion for collecting sneakers and being a devoted Sixers fan. Mr. Cherry expressed his hope for the Sixers to make another deep run into the playoffs, adding, "Hopefully, Sister Jane's favorite, Joel Embiid, can secure another MVP."





# ST. JOES AND STEM



Students and teachers from SJU (St. Joseph's University) regularly visit St. Francis De Sales School to assist us in completing mini-projects. Collaborating with 7th and 8th graders, we've engaged in various projects alongside St. Joe's students. In one session, we explored the process of making liquid nitrogen ice cream, while another session St. Joe's students guiding us through an enlightening lesson on DNA. They also brought a cool telescope, we were all able to look through. We did some Astrophysics and learned about the stars.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) plays a pivotal role in broadening our knowledge across various

subjects. For 6th and 7th graders, there's an opportunity to secure a scholarship for a summer camp organized by St. Joe's students and Mrs. Flynn. This camp is situated on St. Joseph's campus, and many fortunate students from St. Francis De Sales School have had the chance to attend.

We can't wait for St. Joe's to come back and guide us through another lesson, and we thank Mrs. Flynn for making it all possible.





# HONORING OUR HEROS

This month at the Little School, our kindergarten students embarked on a special journey to express gratitude to our local heroes, the firefighters from Engine 68. The kindergarteners and 1st grade participated in a special fire safety class, bringing the essence of learning and appreciation together.

The highlight of this initiative was a visit from five firefighters, including Captain John, who generously took the time to educate our little ones about fire safety. The engaging session not only emphasized the importance of safety but also shed light on the invaluable work done by firefighters in our community.



In the spirit of giving back, the kindergarten classes organized a dollar dress-down fundraiser day. The funds collected were utilized to create a heartwarming gift basket, featuring a DoorDash gift card, snacks, and handwritten thank-you letters expressing the students' appreciation for the firefighters' dedication and bravery.

This service project not only provided our students with essential fire safety knowledge but also instilled in them a sense of gratitude and community spirit. As we thank our local firefighters for their selfless service, the Little School remains committed to fostering a culture of kindness, appreciation, and community engagement among our youngest learners.

# FOOD DRIVES AT DE SALES



At DeSales, our students are actively engaged in a compassionate initiative to support communities in need through our ongoing food drives. In our initial drive, the focus was on the PB&J Food Drive for Nutritional Development Services (NDS) at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

As the Thanksgiving season approached, the call for support continued. Grades were assigned specific food items, ranging from cereal and rice to canned soup and dry milk. The response from our students was overwhelming, resulting in over 500 cans for the Thanksgiving food drive. This collective effort enabled us to make a meaningful impact as we directed our donations to The Catholic Social Services of SouthWest Philadelphia.



# PHILLY SPORTS

The Sixers are buzzing following the James Harden trade to the Clippers! In a recent face off against the Pacers, Tyrese Maxey stole the spotlight by scoring an impressive 50 points. Maxey showcased his skills with deep step-back threes and a strong inside game, dedicating his performance to the injured star shooting guard, Kelly Oubre Jr. Adding to the spectacle, our reigning MVP Joel Embiid contributed 37 points in the same game.



Surprisingly, despite the anticipation surrounding James Harden's trade, the Sixers are holding their own with a current record of 15-7. It appears they may not have needed Harden as much as expected.



The Eagles currently have a 10-3 record. They are still a top team in the NFL, despite a few losses. You could make a strong case for them as Super Bowl contenders. We just have to believe! The Eagles also came out with a second edition of their Christmas album. All of the songs, and last years album are available on Spotify and Apple Music. As always GO BIRDS!

# SCHOOL SPORTS

Its basketball season and the games are starting. The teams are divided into JV (Junior Varsity) for 5th and 6th graders, while Varsity is specifically for 7th and 8th graders. Our team holds practices every Tuesday and Thursday, honing our skills and teamwork. Currently, our record stands at 1-2, showcasing the ups and downs that come with the game. Varsity star Kenell had 9 points against St. Francis Cabrini leading his team to the win. On the Junior Varsity side, their record is a commendable 2-1. This weekend the girls will have their first game. We hope they bring home the win, and we wish them the best of luck.

One notable aspect of our team is the evolution of our jerseys, becoming more intricate with each passing year. In particular, this year's design draws inspiration from the Philadelphia 76ers' 1997 jerseys, adding a touch of professional flair to our school spirit.







# LET IT SNOW!



This winter season promises an extended period of winter storms along the east coast, particularly in January, making it a potentially challenging two months.

However, December tells a different tale. Anticipate a mild average temperature of 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Although we may experience one or two snow days, the snowfall is expected to be minimal. Keep in mind that these predictions might evolve as December progresses.

Following a mild start to the winter season, January is poised to make up for it by providing us with a substantial 5 snow days, potentially featuring over 12 inches of snow. This could offer a welcome break and a chance to enjoy the winter wonderland.

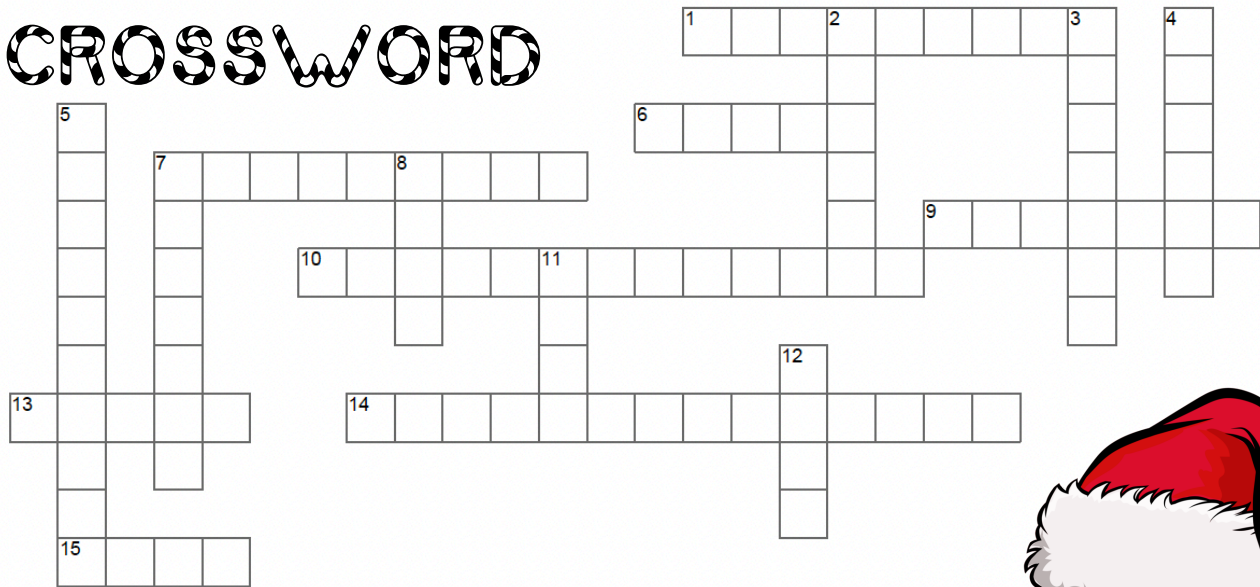


## 6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP



On November 14, 2023, the 6th-grade class visited the National Liberty Museum, renowned for its exhibits on freedom and the struggles of those who sought it. The museum featured art pieces and activities aimed at fostering an understanding of freedom. Students particularly enjoyed a hands-on exhibit exploring liberty in modern Philadelphia, prompting reflections on the design of accessible public spaces. The teachers, Ms. Gaines and Ms. Purdy, were happy to see the importance of youth involvement in community and local politics. The students were impressed by the museum's extensive collection and were surprised to find a crack-free model of the Liberty Bell, made by the same company and at the same time.

# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1. You can fill it with small toys, candy, fruit or coins.
6. A popular Christmas color.
7. A hard candy with stripes.
9. Santa Claus comes through it.
10. People have it in their home and like to decorate it.
13. Santa's helpers.
14. Used to count the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas.
15. It's cold and white.

## DOWN

2. Light made of wax.
3. It looks like a man made of snow.
4. In what season is Christmas Day?
5. He brings children their presents on Christmas day.
7. Homemade and cut into various shapes related to Christmas.
8. Sent by mail as an expression of goodwill at Christmastime.
11. Santa Claus is coming to...
12. On January 1st we say "Happy New ....."

## JOKES & RIDDLES

What do elves learn in kindergarten?

– *The Elf-abet*

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

– *Orna-Mints*

What do you call a disrespectful reindeer?

– *Rude-olph*

