

Dedication to Success: Allan Trejos Awarded Full Ride Scholarship

St. Francis de Sales School proudly congratulates Allan Trejos on earning a full ride scholarship to Saint Joseph Prep School. We caught up with Allan to hear his thoughts on this remarkable achievement.

Question: How do you feel about receiving the scholarship?

Answer: I feel accomplished after getting the news about the scholarship. Coming from a school that introduced me to Saint Joseph's Preparatory, I was amazed at becoming part of one of the most prestigious schools in the state.

Question: Is it challenging to secure a scholarship?

Answer: At Saint Joes, there's a Saturday school program. If you're in it, you have a great chance of getting into The Prep. Persistence, attending regularly, and outperforming others increase your chances of earning a scholarship.

Question: How long have you been planning on going to The Prep?

Answer: I've been planning to attend since my first visit in 6th grade. I immediately decided to fully commit to the school, and it's been my goal ever since.



St. Francis de Sales School is immensely proud of Allan's dedication and achievements. We wish him continued success in his academic journey at Saint Joseph's Preparatory School. Congratulations, Allan!

St. Denis Keeping Us Warm

In an act of incredible generosity, St. Denis Parish has warmed the hearts of all our students with a donation of over 450 winter jackets. The gift has not only provided physical warmth but also spread kindness and gratitude throughout our school community.

As the chilly winter weather settled in, St. Denis Parish stepped up to ensure that our students were well prepared to face the cold. The donation of over 450 winter jackets has made a significant impact on the well-being of our school community.



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 | Yuri C. | ROOM 17 |
| 7TH | Aaron R. | ROOM 1 |
| 8TH | Haja B. | ROOM 6 |
| 9TH | Nagnouma S. | ROOM 5 |
| 10TH | Maya B. | ROOM 4 |

TOP 10 HOMEROOMS

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

Unwrapping Prizes: Student Wins Christmas Break Raffle



We recently conducted a raffle for individuals who collected 5000 stickers during the Christmas break, offering exciting prizes such as a bike, an electric razor scooter, a \$100 Amazon gift card, or a smartwatch. Congratulations to the students who received the 5000 stickers over the break: Yuri, Yoshua, Naod, Binti, and Kyndall.

We are thrilled to announce that Binti emerged as the lucky winner, and her chosen prize was the \$100 Amazon gift card. Congratulations to Binti a 6th grade student. We want to give a big thank you to everyone who participated in making this raffle a festive and rewarding event! Be on the look out for the next First in Math incentive, you could be the next big winner.



WHAT IS EVERYONE WORKING ON?

In Kindergarten, the focus is on Catholic School Week, with preparations underway for the upcoming Grandparents Day. This is an exciting and memorable occasion for the kids to share with their grandparents. The 100th day of school celebration is on the horizon, along with festivities for Chinese New Year, marking the Year of the Dragon symbolizing imperial power and authority. In essence, the kindergarteners are in for a month filled with enjoyable and educational activities



The 2nd grade classes are currently working on The Ten Commandments in religion. The students across the grade are working hard to learn right and wrong. In their math curriculum, the focus is on adding double digits, with the entire 2nd grade actively learning using math manipulatives.

Our 6th-grade class has been on a journey of exploration, checking out three exciting trips: The Liberty Bell, The Academy of Natural Sciences,

and a Pottery class. Sophia, a 6th grader, shared her thoughts on these experiences. "I had a blast at the Liberty Bell, and I really enjoyed it," Sophia said. At The Museum of Natural Science, the students were able to learn about fossils and seashells. Sophia also shared they learned about global warming, stating, "We learned that polar bears are going extinct." Beyond these trips, the 6th grade classes welcomed visitors for a hands on Pottery class right in their classroom. Sophia revealed, "I made a mushroom, but I haven't been able to paint it yet due to the drying process."



The 7th-grade classes actively participated in a project within their writing class. The project revolved around the process of securing employment, requiring students to navigate through the steps of filling out a job application for a retail store or restaurant of their choice, creating a resume, and eventually undergoing

a simulated job interview. The assignment was designed to provide valuable preparation for the students, offering insights into the practical aspects of applying for a job and going through the interview process.

In recognition of his feast day on Wednesday, January 24th, the 7th grade dove into a study of the life of St. Francis de Sales. Each student collaborated in groups to complete a project, deepening their understanding of this Saint in which our school is named after. Following the completion of their projects, students presented their findings in front of the entire class.





SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES HONOR STUDENTS



Distinguished Honors - 92 & Above in All Subject Areas

2nd & 3rd Grade

Genevieve
Milka
Alma
Civil
Aileen
Amaia
Naely
Carrie
Jidechukwu
Kruze
Chase

4th & 5th Grade

Senay
Joshua
Alayah
Laura
Sydney
Tiyler
Ivan
Kdus
Cylis
Ynez
Solyana
Saron

7th & 8th Grade

Anthony
Giselle
Nalah
Zahmiir
Jonalis
Clayton
Phanta
Yolenny
Sidona
Yoshua
Alyna
Carla
Jason
Kevin
Vera
Jason
Aniyah

Academic Honors - 88 & Above in All Subject Areas

2nd & 3rd Grade

Vera
Ryleigh
Maxime
Phanta
Valentine
Wongale
Damone
Maelys

4th, 5th, & 6th Grade

Maya
Ashley
Nagnouma
Ashton
Nabay
Eldana
Giovanni
Jeremy
Chace

7th & 8th Grade

Alanna
Arjummaa
Julie
Shaheid
Ruba
Jewel
Khloe
Yuri
Morgan

WHAT IS THE St. Francis de Sales Times?

The St. Francis de Sales Times is a newspaper created by the 7th-grade students in Mr. McDevitt and Mr. Cherry's class. Every month, the students kick off the process by examining the calendar and collaborating with Sister Mary to brainstorm compelling newspaper article ideas. The St. Francis de Sales Times covers a wide range of topics, including field trips, updates on First in Math, class projects, school visitors, a teacher spotlight, school and local sports, weather, student accomplishments, a monthly comic/crossword puzzle, and more.

Once the students have chosen their topics, they dive into drafting interview questions. Students can opt for creating an email or conducting an in-person interview. This stage is a valuable learning experience, where students develop communication skills, learn to write proper emails, and enhance their ability to conduct interviews.

After conducting the interviews, the students transition to the writing phase. They craft their rough drafts and submit them to Google Classroom for the editing team to review. Collaborating with the writers, the editing team works to fix any mistakes and polish the articles.

Moving on to the final draft, students fix any last mistakes in their articles before the publishing team assembles the newspaper. Then we add all of the wonderful photos from Ms. Bradley. Once the newspaper is compiled, numerous copies are printed, and the final editing process begins. It becomes a friendly competition to spot any missing commas or misspelled words.

Finally, the completed paper is sent to Sister Mary, and it's off to the printing press for distribution. The collaborative effort of the students, teachers, and editing team ensures that the St. Francis de Sales Times is a reflection of our school community, capturing the vibrant spirit of our 7th grader writers.

ROOM 7 - MR. MCDEVITT

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Rosmarli | Sadia |
| Makenzey | Diana |
| Annalena | Haziel |
| Ka'morah | Ryder |
| Nardos | Honor |
| Franyeli | Anthony |
| Mariyah | Vision |
| Julie | Arjummaa |
| Alanna | Luis |
| Smerlin | Melody |

ROOM 17 - MR. CHERRY

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Anastasia | Chardae |
| Zahmiir | Ruba |
| Yuri | Shahied |
| Nalah | Kenell |
| Tori | Victor |
| Carlos | Emmanuel |
| Khloe | Ayonna |
| Jewel | Allison |
| Zion | Nadir |
| Giselle | Trinity |
| | Jayden |

PHILLY SPORTS

The Eagles embarked on an exciting playoff journey this year, but unfortunately, they faced an unexpected exit in the first round. Despite their impressive regular-season record of 10-1, the team couldn't sustain their momentum and ultimately fell to the Buccaneers.

But let's shift our focus to the hardwood, where the 10, 9, 8, 76ers are capturing the spotlight! Led by last year's MVP and Sister Jane's favorite, Joel Embiid, the Sixers are making significant strides. In a memorable game against the Spurs, Embiid showcased his incredible skills by dropping an astonishing 70 points, joining an elite group of only nine players in NBA history to achieve this feat.



Sister Jane with Philadelphia 76er Joel Embiid.

SCHOOL SPORTS

The basketball season at St. Francis De Sales kicked off in early November, with both the junior varsity (JV) and varsity boys putting in the hard work during practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Under the guidance of Coach J'son for varsity and Coach Pop for JV, the boys' teams are honing their skills to make a mark on the court. Varsity boys practice from 3-5, while JV boys hit the court from 5-7, focusing on refining their game for the upcoming challenges. The St. Francis De Sales girls team is coached by Coach Frank.

As the teams gear up for the playoffs, anticipation is building, and players are eager to bring home the trophy. With games scheduled only on the weekends, both the JV and Varsity boys are preparing to bring their A-game to each matchup. As the playoffs approach, the entire school is rallying behind the basketball teams, hoping to see them bring home a well-deserved trophy.



CHRISTMAS HEROES



This Christmas season, the generosity of several individuals and organizations brightened the holidays for families in need. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following people and organizations who played a vital role in making this Christmas special for many families:

- LAOH 39
- St. Denis Parish & Father Kevin Gallagher
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Youth Ministry
- Margaret Bradley, Kathleen Bradley, Anne Reilly, Judy Leighton, Therese Lennon, Rachel Bradley, Meg Reilly, Kate Mitchell.

Thanks to the kindness and support of these individuals and groups, many families experienced the joy and warmth of the holiday season.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month, our Teacher Spotlight shines on Miss McSweeney. In our interview, she expressed her lifelong passion for teaching, a dream she has cherished since childhood. Witnessing students' faces light up with understanding brings her immense joy.

Currently teaching 5th grade in Room 5, Miss McSweeney has been an invaluable part of St. Francis de Sales School for three years. Beyond her classroom duties, she actively engages with the younger students, working at the Homework Club with 3rd and 4th graders.



COMICS AND MORE



JOKES AND RIDDLES

What did the paper clip say to the magnet?
I find you very attractive.

What did the octopus say to his valentine?
I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand,
hand, hand, hand.

Which one of Santa's reindeer can be seen on
Valentine's Day?
Cupid.

VALENTINES DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

2. Many people send one to someone on Valentines Day.
3. Expression often said on Valentines Day, "Be _____!"
6. $4+7+3=$
7. Shoots arrows at people.
9. Patron saint of love.

DOWN

1. A symbol/shape associated with love.
2. A popular sweet given to people on Valentines Day.
4. A color often associated with Valentines Day.
5. The month of the year valentines day is celebrated.
8. A flower often associated with Valentines Day.

