

St. Francis de Sales Times

November/December, 2025

Saint Francis de Sales School

ISSUE 012

STEM DAY WITH SJU



Students from Saint Joseph's University (SJU) surprised seventh graders by joining them in a STEM class and leading hands-on activities at different learning stations. The SJU students set up stations to teach the seventh graders about a variety of science topics.

At the first station, one of the Saint Joseph's students taught the class how to extract DNA from a strawberry using only a few simple materials. One seventh grader shared, "It was interesting because I had never seen anything like that before." At the second station, students learned how to make slime in many different colors. Another seventh grader said, "It was fun being able to make slime with my friends." At the final station, the SJU students demonstrated how to turn dry ice into bubbles. One student commented, "I didn't think it was even possible for that to happen."

This summer was also an exciting experience for some sixth and seventh graders who were awarded a scholarship to spend a day on the Saint Joseph's University campus. While there, they learned about multiple subjects and participated in special activities. One scholarship recipient said, "It was a great honor to be awarded this scholarship, and it was an even better experience visiting the campus."

We would like to thank all of the Saint Joseph's University students who took the time to teach us and hope they return to share more knowledge in the future. A special thank-you also goes to Mrs. Flynn for making these opportunities possible.

**First in
math**

1st
Mrs.
Carrubba

2nd
Ms.
Frazier

3rd
Ms.
Harner

4th
Ms.
DiFebbo

5th
Ms.
Moore

❄️🧊 WEATHER 🧊❄️

Philadelphia weather is unpredictable. One minute it is snowing, and the next minute it is raining. Many residents miss the days when the city would get heavy snowfalls. This winter, Philadelphia is expected to experience a few cold stretches, but they will likely not last very long. Overall, the season is expected to be drier, resulting in fewer major snowstorms. While skiers hope for plenty of snow, cities such as Philadelphia, Delaware, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. are expected to see less snowfall and more windy conditions. Meteorologists predict about 17 total days with snow on the ground this winter. This includes an estimated four days with light snowfall and about three larger storms with plowable snow in the Philadelphia area. Even without heavy snow, Philadelphia still has plenty of winter activities to enjoy.



Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest

— Date: November 28, 2025 – March 1, 2026 at the Delaware River Waterfront, Philadelphia —

Outdoor ice skating with fire pits, warming cabins, rides, games, food and festive winter atmosphere along the waterfront.

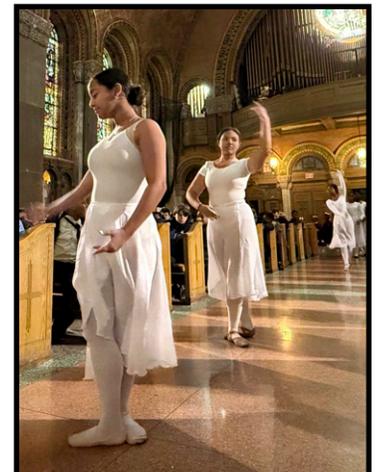
Founders Philly Freeze-Out (Manayunk Winter Festival) — Date: January 31, 2026 on Main Street in Manayunk, Philadelphia — A winter street festival with live ice carving, food vendors, market stalls, and seasonal activities for all ages.

Universal Theme Parks: The Exhibition at The Franklin Institute — Date: Opens February 14, 2026 at The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia — An immersive, interactive exhibit exploring the innovation, technology and creativity behind Universal theme parks with themed galleries and hands-on experiences.

CHRISTMAS AT DE SALES

On the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Francis de Sales School celebrated her miraculous appearance to St. Juan Diego in 1531 with a beautiful prayer service. Students received Miraculous Medals as we honored the love, hope, and unity she represents and prayed for her continued guidance in our community and throughout the world. We are grateful to our students, narrators, staff, and parent volunteers who helped make this meaningful celebration possible.

This Christmas season at de Sales has been truly special. Our students showcased their hidden talents and shared their gifts through performances and celebrations, reminding us how blessed we are. We are thankful for our supportive community and especially grateful to Ms. Henry, our performing arts teacher, for making it all possible.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

My name is Josiah, and this month I had the opportunity to interview the Student of the Month. In our interview, I learned the following:

When I asked Jeremy how it feels to be Student of the Month, he said it felt unexpected but that he was happy once he realized why he was pulled out of class randomly for the interview. Next, I asked him about his favorite subject. Jeremy explained that his favorite subject is math and that he is in the Math Matters program at de Sales. I then asked if he attends any after-school programs. He said, "Yes, I attend the St. Joe's program every Saturday." After that, I asked what advice he would give to the next person who becomes Student of the Month. He replied, "Put the most effort into everything and be good at everything you do." I also asked what inspired him to become Student of the Month. Jeremy explained that high schools care about whether students are responsible and listen, so being a good student gives him opportunities for scholarships based on his behavior, listening skills, and staying out of trouble. Finally, I asked what his favorite food is, and he said, "My favorite food is probably steak." At the end of the interview, I thanked Jeremy for taking the time to answer my questions. Congratulations to Jeremy Weng for being a great student this month, listening to all his teachers, and setting a positive example for younger students. I gave him a fist bump, said congratulations, and he thanked me before returning to class to continue being a great student.



BRINGING THE STAGE TO DE SALES

We recently had a visitor from the Walnut Street Theatre who came to speak to us about the theater and its history. There are many special things about the Walnut Street Theatre, including its strong educational outreach programs and the many actors from Philadelphia who perform there. We also learned that one of our alumni, Raven Burkhalter, who previously attended de Sales, currently works at the Walnut Street Theatre. As she grew older, she became very interested in acting, and it has now become her passion. The work culture at the theater encourages growth and learning.



The Walnut Street Theatre has been open for 217 years. Although it has been renovated several times, it still looks much the same as it did in the past. One unique and special fact about the theater is that it is the oldest theater in Philadelphia, making it feel like a historic landmark. Ms. Allison Mion took a few students to see a show at the Walnut Street Theatre, and they really enjoyed the experience. The Walnut Street Theatre has a rich history and offers many educational musicals. Over the next six weeks, 7th grade students will have the opportunity to work with a teacher from the Walnut Street Theatre. During this time, students will learn new acting skills and even perform in improv skits. This experience will allow students to build confidence, creativity, and teamwork.



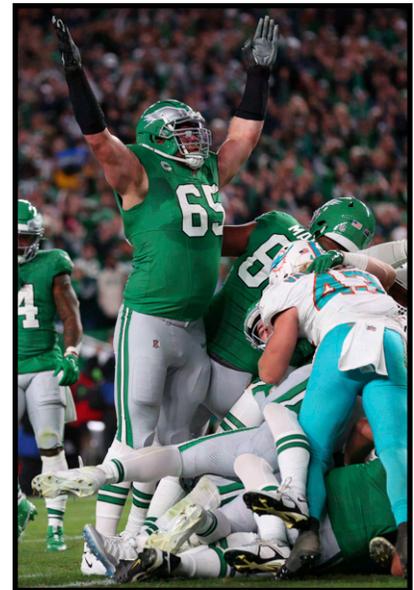
FLY EAGLES FLY



The Philadelphia Eagles have won the NFC East for the second year in a row. This marks the first time in 21 years that an NFC East team has repeated as division champions. The last team to accomplish this was the Eagles themselves from 2001 to 2004. Winning the division keeps the Eagles' Super Bowl hopes alive. After winning it all last year, fans would love nothing more than to see another championship parade down Broad Street. With the team looking very similar to last season, there is no reason to believe the Eagles cannot make another strong playoff run.

Mr. Cherry shared his confidence in the team, saying, *"I'm not afraid of any team. If the Eagles lose, it won't be because the other team was better, but because of mistakes like missed kicks or silly penalties."*

The Eagles have also been without offensive lineman Lane Johnson, who is expected to return for the playoffs. His presence is crucial, as the team's winning percentage increases significantly when he is on the field.



SAIGE'S WRESTLING CORNER

Dear John Cena,

I was really surprised when you lost to Gunther. Watching you tap out was one of the most heartbreaking moments for me as a wrestling fan. Growing up, you were my favorite wrestler, and you still are today. Your retirement was difficult for many fans because of how much you have meant to WWE and to people around the world. Beyond wrestling, you are also one of my favorite actors. Your movies inspire me and always bring me joy, especially when I'm feeling upset. It's clear that you work hard in everything you do, and your dedication truly shows both in and out of the ring.

Even though you lost that match, you will always be the greatest of all time to me. You inspired me to dream of becoming a WWE superstar one day and to never give up on my goals. I admire your work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where you have granted over 500 wishes. Your wrestling career from 2001 to 2025 is unforgettable. Being recognized by WWE as a record-setting 17-time world champion is an incredible achievement. No matter the outcome of one match, your legacy will always be remembered.

**SINCERELY,
A LIFELONG FAN - SAIGE**



HERE AT ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

The Kindergarteners read different versions of *The Gingerbread Man* (*The Gingerbread Man*, *The Gingerbread Boy*, *The Gingerbread Girl*, and *The Gingerbread Baby*) and compared and contrasted the characters and events in each story. Before Christmas break, they celebrated their Christmas party and even got to meet Santa Claus in person. After the break, they began preparing for Grandparents Day during Catholic Schools Week, enjoying fun activities with their grandparents. In math, the students are

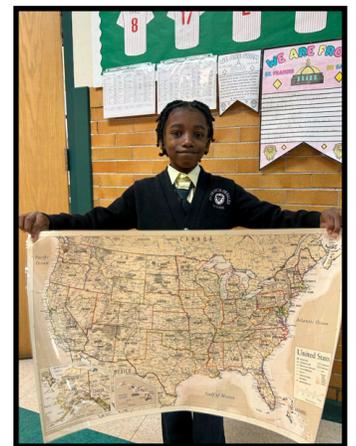


learning about money and the value of coins and bills, and they will soon start learning addition with sums up to 10. In art class, the children have been creating realistic nutcracker puppets and artwork of Inuit children bundled up for the cold winter weather.



Recently, **The Second Graders** have been working hard on persuasive essays and putting in a lot of effort to strengthen their writing skills. In math class, students are learning about bar graphs and circle graphs and how to read and understand data. In science, the class has been studying animals and learning how living things grow and change over time. One cool project the students just completed focused on different types of communities, including urban, suburban, and rural areas.

The students drew pictures of each community and even included themselves in their drawings. In other news, Atiya in Ms. Harner's class is not only stacking Tastykakes, but also stacking stickers!



The Third Graders have been working on a project where they created their own maps, which helped them learn how to identify directions. In

math, they are learning strategies to multiply more quickly and are preparing to take a quiz on multiplication. Ms. Guild shared that she enjoys teaching third grade because the students are old enough to work independently and are kind and caring toward one another.



and graph inequalities. On December 18, we had a pizza party and a baking competition to see who could make the best cookie. Seventh grade is also responsible for putting together the school newspaper, and I have really enjoyed conducting interviews and writing articles. I think Mr. Cherry and Mr. McDevitt do a great job making sure we have a good balance between fun and learning. We are encouraged to work hard while still being kids.

Seventh Grade has been going really well this year. We have been working hard on projects, helping at the church, and creating beautiful artwork. A lot of positive things have happened in our class. Recently, we made posters in social studies about the acts before the American Revolution, and in math we have been learning how to solve

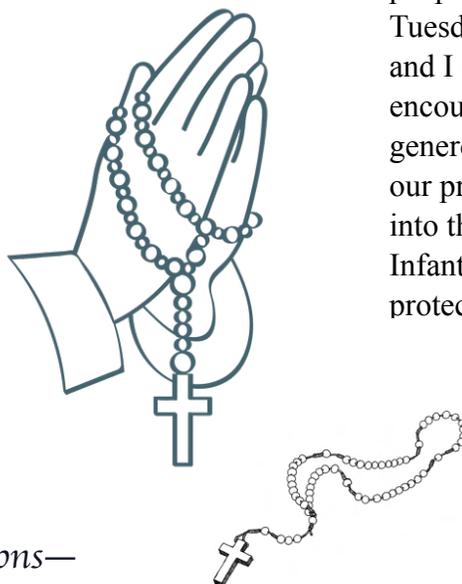
ART CLUB WITH MS. BELL



Ms. Bell's Art Club is an after-school program where students can stay to work on creative projects. So far, students have been creating winter-themed artwork, portraits, and abstract art. The club allows for more one-on-one time with students than regular class periods, giving them the opportunity to develop their skills more closely. Ms. Bell shared that her favorite part of Art Club is "getting better acquainted with students and building stronger connections with them." In addition, the club is planning several fun activities, including a Christmas party where students will help set up and take pictures with Santa. Ms. Bell also mentioned that there will be two to three future field trips to art museums, making Art Club an engaging and artistic place for students to attend after school. If you are interested in signing up for art club, let Ms. Bell know during your next art class.

Prayers and Intentions

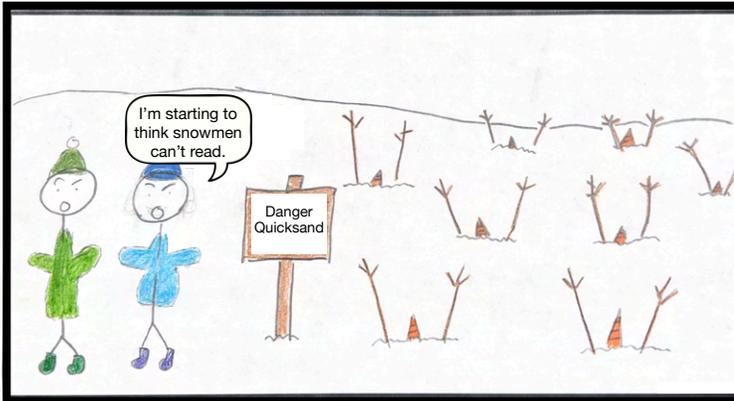
- All of our Benefactors
- Coach D's Brother
- Brian Morley
- Conor
- Mr. Duzinski
- Bernadette Keenan
- Steve
- Mr. Callaghan
- The People of Nigeria
- All of our special intentions—



Sister Mary shared that during this month, we can pray in gratitude for the people who donated to our school on Giving Tuesday. She said, "I think they're fabulous, and I ask God to bless them." Sister Mary encouraged everyone to remember the generosity of the donors and to keep them in our prayers. She also suggested that as we go into the New Year, we should pray to the Infant of Prague. The Infant of Prague is the protector of children.

**"The prayers of the St. Francis' children are very powerful."
— Sister Mary**

COMICS

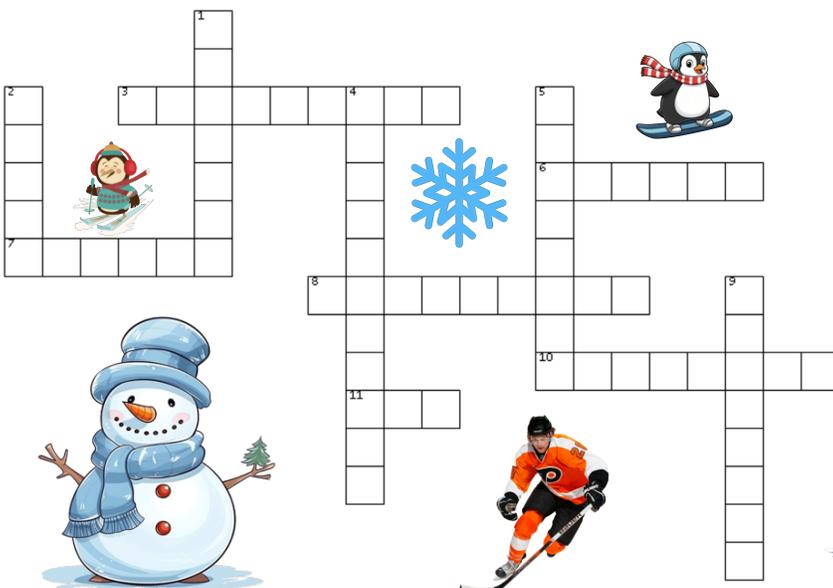
Joke: What do you call a group of Arctic hares hopping backward?
Answer: A receding hare line.

Joke: What's a snow monster's favorite food?
Answer: Ice cream.

Riddle: What bites but doesn't have teeth?
Answer: Frost.

Joke: Which one is faster: hot or cold?
Answer: Hot, because you can catch a cold.

WINTER CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

3. An animal that predicts how long winter will last on Groundhog Day
6. A hanging piece of frozen water
7. A Disney movie about sisters, snow, and ice
8. A tiny piece of frozen ice that falls from the sky
10. The first month of winter
11. Frozen water

DOWN

1. A figure made out of snow
2. Clothing worn around your neck in winter
4. When animals sleep through the winter
5. A very strong winter storm with lots of snow
9. The shortest winter month

