

## MS. MOLETSKY'S CLASS ADOPTED A COW



The students in Room 12 embarked on a fun and educational adventure by adopting a cow through a program called Discovery Dairy. This program allows classrooms to adopt and name a cow while learning about its growth and the dairy industry. The students eagerly named their cow Milkshake, and she's quickly become a beloved part of their class.

Milkshake, a two-month-old Holstein, already weighs 140 pounds! Through regular email updates, Ms. Moletsky's class receives photos and progress reports whenever Milkshake grows or reaches new milestones. These updates help the students learn about the care, feeding, and growth of dairy cows.

The class plans to use Milkshake's journey as an opportunity to study

agriculture and how dairy products make their way from the farm to the table. The students are excited to watch her grow and learn more about life on a dairy farm.

First in  
math®

1st  
Mrs.  
Carrubba

2nd  
Ms.  
Henry

3rd  
Ms.  
Frazier

4th  
Ms.  
Moore

5th  
Mr.  
McDevitt

# WHAT IS YOUR CLASS DOING?

## The Kindergartners at

St. Francis de Sales had a fun and educational experience learning about voting—using ice cream! Their choices were Oreo Cookie or Chocolate Chip. While enjoying their delicious treats, the students listened to a read-aloud of *I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference* by Mark Shulman.

## The 3rd Grade

recently had an unforgettable adventure at the Philadelphia Zoo. According to the students, it was "the most fun ever." They were proud to report that everyone was well-behaved, and the day went exactly as planned.



Mrs. Guild, who accompanied the class, also had a fantastic time. She shared that her favorite part of the trip was the giraffe exhibit, while the majority of the class was captivated by the vibrant and fascinating poison dart frogs.

## The 5th grade

class recently welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Callahan! A student shared, “Ms. Callahan is very nice and fun! She also knows how to speak French!”

In religion class, the 5th graders are learning about the Eucharist and the Church’s teachings. One student expressed how exciting it is to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist and how it strengthens their knowledge of Jesus and the Church. In math, the class is tackling mixed numbers. Keep up the great work, 5th grade!



## The 6th grade

took a trip to the Franklin Institute. After an interview we heard the students enjoyed the illusions and the brain section the most. Although they couldn’t visit the heart exhibit, which is under renovation, they had fun with activities like liquid nitrogen demonstrations and gravity experiments. These activities tied into their science lessons, making the trip both enjoyable and educational. The students behaved well and would love to return, as the Franklin Institute connects to both history and science.



# ART CLUB WITH MS. BELL

Hey everyone! Today I got the chance to sit down with Ms. Bell to get the scoop on the Art Club. She gave me some awesome details about how the club works and the cool projects they're working on right now.

Art Club is an after-school program that meets Monday through Thursday, from dismissal until 5 PM, the same hours as Homework Club. If you're interested in joining, talk to Ms. Bell the next time you have art class.

Students in Art Club have the chance to work on exciting new projects. Recently, they finished creating decorations and a stunning gingerbread house for the school's Santa visit. They really transformed the auditorium into a winter wonderland!

I'm super excited to see what the Art Club creates next. Stay tuned, because their future projects are definitely going to be worth checking out!



# HAPPY FEAST DAY OF SAINT NICHOLAS

This special day, celebrated on December 6th, honors the kind and generous saint known for his love of children and acts of charity.

In preparation for the feast day, the first graders learned about the tradition of leaving their shoes out the night before. According to the legend, Saint Nicholas fills the shoes of good children with candy, small toys, or other surprises. This morning, the students were thrilled to find sweet treats waiting for them in their carefully placed shoes.



# MEET THE BASKETBALL COACHES

**Coach Frank** is the girls' Varsity coach. He has been involved with coaching at St. Francis DeSales School for 30 years, leading multiple teams to championships and hoping to guide them to another one this year. Coach Frank enjoys coaching because it allows him to prepare today's youth for tomorrow. He also values seeing students accomplish things they didn't think they could do. Both his son and daughter are de Sales graduates, and we are grateful to have him on our team.



**Coach Cantrell** We recently interviewed the girls JV coach about his coaching experience. He shared, "Coaching allows me to inspire others to reach their full potential, fostering a sense of community and growth." His connection to St. Francis de Sales stems from his grandson, Quazir Meyers, who is a student there. Remarkably, he began coaching at the age of 13 and has since accumulated over 50 years of experience, guiding young players to both understand and excel at the game. He proudly recalled winning his first championship while coaching a 9- to 13-year-old age group during his very first year. His passion for basketball and his drive to win continue to fuel his coaching career.

**Coach Phillips**, the boys' varsity basketball coach, shared that he has been coaching for many years and is excited to be back at the school where his sons once played basketball. His favorite thing to do? Win. Coach Phillips noted that the team is working hard and is hopeful about turning the season around in the coming games.



**Coach Pops** is the head coach for the boys' varsity

basketball team. He shared that working with the youth brings him great joy. A proud member of the St. Francis de Sales community, all three of his children have attended the school. His passion for coaching and his love for basketball are evident in his commitment to the team.



Alongside Coach Pops is **Coach Zah**, a former St. Francis de Sales student who now serves as the assistant coach. Coach Zah brings his own passion for basketball and a deep connection to the school. He also has a personal tie to the team, as his younger brother is currently in 6th grade and playing for St. Francis de Sales.

Together, both coaches are dedicated to fostering a strong basketball program and inspiring the players to achieve their best.

# — PHILLY SPORTS —

## — EAGLES — FLYING TO THE PLAYOFFS



The Philadelphia Eagles are heading into the playoffs with great momentum and high expectations. Securing the second seed, they are set to face the Green Bay Packers in what promises to be a thrilling matchup.

Adding to the excitement this season, Saquon Barkley delivered an MVP-worthy performance, rushing for over 2,000 yards. One of the most unforgettable moments was his spectacular play of the season: leaping over another player backward, leaving fans and analysts in awe.

As the Eagles prepare for their playoff run, the team and their supporters are filled with optimism and anticipation. The road to the championship is challenging, but the Eagles are ready to take flight!

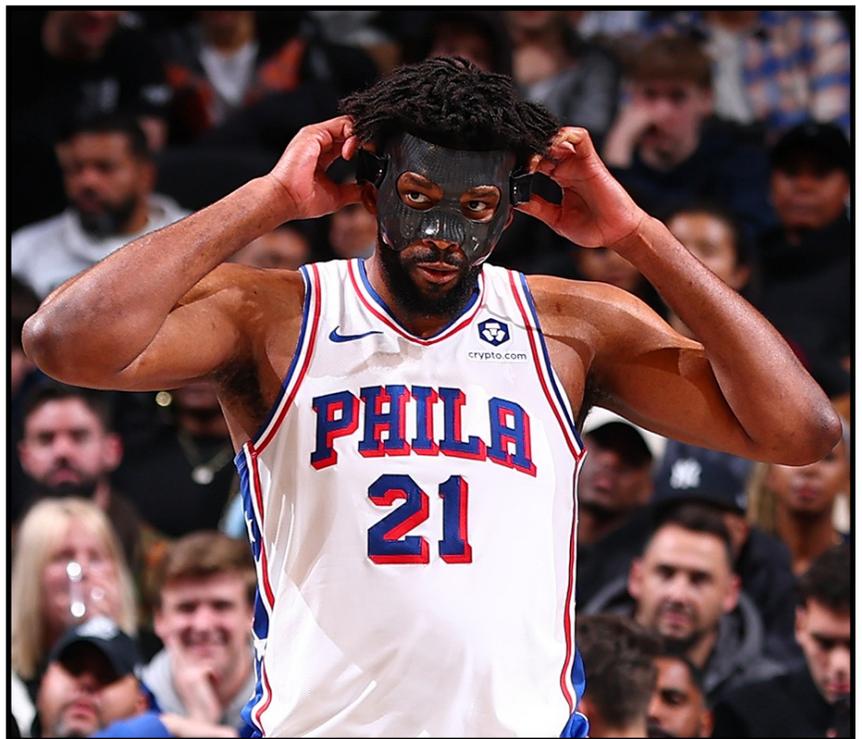
## — SIXERS — TIME TO START WINNING

The Philadelphia 76ers have encountered significant challenges this season due to a string of injuries. Star rookie Jared McCain and MVP Joel Embiid have both spent time sidelined, leaving the team to adapt and fight through adversity.

Despite these setbacks, the Sixers remain determined to keep their playoff hopes alive. With a tough schedule ahead, the team knows they must string together some crucial wins to stay in contention.

Coach and players alike emphasize the need for resilience and teamwork. “We’ve got to step up and play through it,” said a team spokesperson.

As the season unfolds, fans are eager to see how the 76ers respond under pressure.



# THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

Interviewing Sister Kathleen, we got some answers about the contributions of the Thanksgiving Prayer Service. Here are some of the questions we asked and the answers given to us:

## What do kids learn from this prayer service?

“Kids learn about the feast of Thanksgiving and how we can be thankful for all of the things given to us by God,” she said, adding that it is important to be grateful for everything we have.

## The overall message.

“The main idea was to be grateful, come together to worship God, and thank Him for His many blessings. It helps us realize that we shouldn’t take for granted what we already have, which was given to us by Him,” concluded Sister Kathleen with this beautiful message.

In addition to the Thanksgiving Prayer Service, our school held a Christmas Prayer Service that was equally meaningful. During the service, each grade went to the front of the church to sing. These songs were prayers in song form, beautifully combining music and faith to celebrate the birth of Christ.

# FATHER RYAN LEADS CHURCH TOURS

This past month, Father Ryan welcomed each class into the church for a special guided tour, offering students an engaging and educational experience. Students learned about the significance of the statues and artwork, which tell stories of faith and devotion.

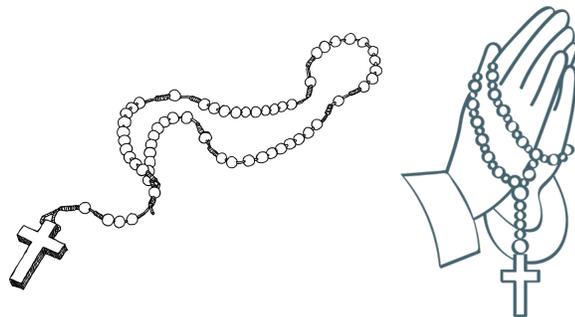
A highlight of the tour was the opportunity to step up to the altar, where Father Ryan explained the consecration of the host during Mass. Students asked questions about the tabernacle and the altar, deepening their understanding of Catholic traditions.

One student shared, “I never knew the meaning behind so many things in the church. Father Ryan made it all so interesting!” Thank you, Father Ryan, for inspiring our students!



## Prayers and Intentions

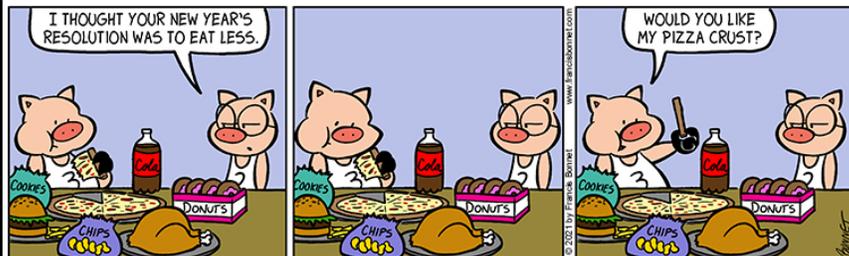
- All of our Benefactors
- Joanne R..      -Mr. Tim Coyne
- Michael M.      -Dan
- Sean Casey
- Mary D.
- Marie R.



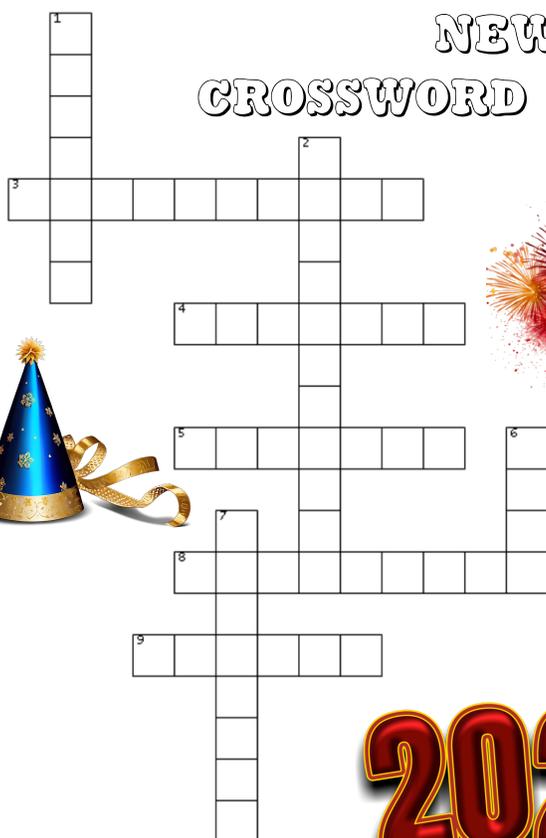
**“The prayers of the St. Francis’ children are very powerful.” – Sister Mary**



# COMICS



## NEW YEARS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



# 2025

### ACROSS

3. A goal set for the upcoming year.
4. A year is divided into four of these.
5. The first month of the year.
8. Explosive displays of light and sound.
9. There are 12 of these in a year.

### DOWN

1. The name of the famous New Year's Day parade in Philadelphia.
2. Famous location in New York for New Year's Eve.
6. A year typically has 365 of these.
7. The moment that marks the new year.

## JOKES AND RIDDLES

**What's a spider's New Year's resolution?**

To spend less time on the web

**What do you tell someone you didn't see on New Year's Eve?**

I haven't seen you for a year!

**Why is partying in Times Square overrated?**

Because they drop the ball every year.

**In what year did Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall in the same year?**

Every year!

**Last year, I was able to keep all of my New Year's resolutions...**

... tucked away in a journal on my bookshelf.