

St. Francis de Sales Times

October, 2024

Saint Francis de Sales School

ISSUE 008

STEM WITH THE TGR FOUNDATION

This week, our students had an incredible experience with the TGR Foundation! On Monday, fifth graders dove into electrical circuitry, tackling challenges to light up bulbs. Tuesday's sixth graders learned about the forces of flight while building and launching rockets. On Wednesday, eighth graders returned to circuitry for more fun with light bulbs. Finally, on Thursday, seventh graders were introduced to Raspberry Pis, a micro-computer system, and enjoyed coding activities.

The TGR Foundation is also developing a Learning Lab at Cobbs Creek Golf Course, set to open in spring 2025, focusing on free STEAM programming for Philadelphia's youth. Our students are excited about the upcoming opportunities!

We encourage you to ask your child about their experiences and check out the TGR Foundation's website for updates. Thank you, TGR Foundation, for bringing such engaging activities to our school!



TUTORING IN HOMEWORK CLUB



We're thrilled to welcome back our St. Thomas of Villanova tutors for another year! This amazing group of volunteers dedicates their time to working with our students once a week after school, offering guidance with assignments, study skills, and encouragement that boosts our students' confidence. Their commitment truly makes a difference in the lives of our young learners.

We are incredibly grateful for the support they provide, and we also want to thank Sister Jane for making it all happen! Thank you, St. Thomas of Villanova tutors!

If you're interested in joining the Homework Club for tutoring sessions, please contact the main office or email Mr. McDevitt at bmcdevitt@desaleschool.net to sign up.

First in math®

Homeroom Rankings

Ms. Henry
3rd Grade
12,982

Ms. Frazier
1st Grade
12,930

Ms. Guild
3rd Grade
11,274

Ms. Moore
4th Grade
10,832

Mrs. Carrubba
1st Grade
10,260

Mr. McDevitt
7th Grade
10,165

Mr. Campbell
5th Grade
10,006

Ms. Henry
5th Grade
9,540

Ms. Gaines
8th Grade
8,412

Mrs. Murphy
2nd Grade
8,293

Mr. Cherry
7th Grade
7,477

WHAT'S UP AT DE SALES

1ST — GRADE

This month, first graders have been busy learning to write their names and letters. To make it more engaging, Mrs. Carrubba introduced a fun and hands-on activity. Each student received play dough to spell out their names, giving them a creative way to explore letters. The 1st graders loved using the play dough to practice, making learning both exciting and memorable!



2ND — GRADE

In Room 12, Ms. Moletsky and her class are diving into poetic devices and storytelling. We might just have some future Shakespeares in the 2nd grade! In math, they're working on place value, and it's exciting to see our 2nd graders getting smarter every day. We had the opportunity to sit down and interview second grader Jackson. He said, "Second grade is different from first grade because I get way more work, and I learn how to add two-digit numbers. My favorite thing about school is the nice teachers and how they treat me, and lunch because I get to eat delicious food—especially pizza and macaroni and cheese."



7TH — GRADE

The 7th-grade classes recently completed a hands-on math project that combined creativity with problem-solving. For the project, students were tasked with creating their own math problems, solving them, and showing their work to ensure accuracy. They then assembled a calendar for the month of November, with each day featuring a unique order of operations (PEMDAS) problem. The finished calendars were both visually impressive and mathematically challenging. Great job, 7th grade—your hard work and creativity truly shined!



8TH — GRADE

In October, the 8th-grade class took on the challenge of an Edgar Allan Poe contest. Each student selected and memorized a poem to recite in class. Known as the father of American Gothic literature, Poe's work brought an eerie excitement to their learning. On Halloween, the students dressed up as Edgar Allan Poe, adding to the fun Halloween atmosphere. Ms. Gaines mentioned that the students did a great job, and she was excited to see how into the costumes the students got.





STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Azriah is the star student of the month in Ms. Guild's 3rd-grade classroom. He excels both inside and outside of the classroom, demonstrating hard work, good behavior, and active participation. Azriah puts great effort into his studies to ensure he continues to achieve excellent grades. When he's not practicing his instrument, he enjoys watching *Superbook* or playing Roblox.

Azriah attributes his success to being a good listener and not being overly talkative, which has helped him earn this award. He is very happy and excited about receiving this recognition and hopes to continue his success in the future!



WEATHER

This October, Philadelphia experienced unusually high temperatures. On Halloween, the temperature reached a record-breaking 82°F, marking the only time on record that Halloween temperatures hit the 80s since record-keeping began over 150 years ago. In addition to the heat, the month saw minimal rainfall, putting the region in a drought. Residents are encouraged to conserve water, as it's uncertain when the area will receive the rain it needs.

Looking ahead to November, the de Sales weather team predicts the warm trend is expected to continue for now. Mornings may call for a jacket, but by afternoon, temperatures will likely be mild enough to go without.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

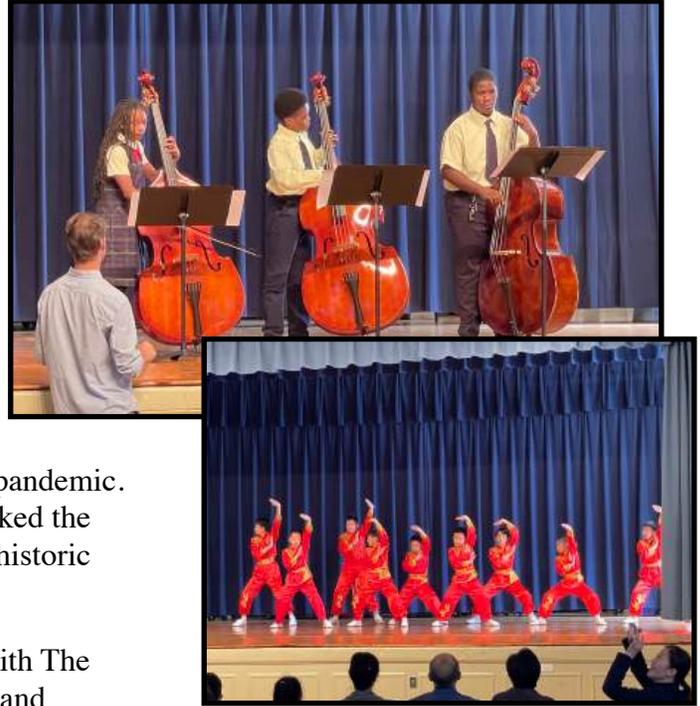
Parent-teacher conferences were a wonderful success! It was great seeing so many parents come in to meet with teachers and discuss their child's progress. Thank you to everyone who joined us to talk about grades, achievements, and goals for the year. For those who couldn't attend, teachers are reaching out by phone, and parents can always check the online portal for updates.

We appreciate everyone's dedication to making this a fantastic year for our students—thank you again for your support!



THE SUNSHINE SCHOOL

Saint Francis de Sales School had the honor of welcoming special guests from The Sunshine School and representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC, to West Philadelphia. This memorable visit allowed students from both schools to share lunch, exchange gifts, and enjoy performances that showcased each school's unique talents. Following lunch, students from The Sunshine School were treated to a tour of De Sales, exploring classrooms, meeting students, and experiencing the school community firsthand.



Saint Francis de Sales and The Sunshine School have shared a special digital partnership since 2020, connecting as pen pals through virtual lessons during the pandemic. While their relationship spans several years, this visit marked the first time students from both schools met face-to-face—a historic milestone in their collaboration.

De Sales is grateful for the friendship and collaboration with The Sunshine School and extends warm wishes to its students and faculty for a joyful and successful 2024-2025 school year.

GOLF OUTING SUCCESS

The recent Golf Outing at Union League Liberty Hill in Lafayette Hill offered a full day of activities, beginning with a morning of golf. Participants enjoyed the chance to play on a beautiful course, and a professional golfer was even available to play for guests in exchange for a donation.

Following the golfing, attendees gathered for an afternoon of auctions and a celebratory dinner. The event featured both a silent auction, where guests could browse items and place bids, and a live auction, led by a professional auctioneer who called out bids for various high-value items.

The day concluded with an awards ceremony honoring the Boyle family, recognized for their kindness and generosity. The outing was a fantastic blend of friendly competition, community spirit, and charitable support.



HALLOWEEN EVENTS

The Halloween Dance brought together friends and families for a fun-filled evening of costumes, music, and activities. As soon as you arrived, you could feel the excitement, with students showing off their creative costumes and dancing to lively tunes.

The event offered a variety of snacks and drinks, creating a festive atmosphere for all. Popular activities included the photo booths, where friends could capture memories in their costumes, and the dance battles that got everyone cheering for their classmates' best moves.

The Halloween Parade was a heartwarming tradition that featured the youngest students, from pre-K to kindergarten, parading around the school in costumes and carrying candy baskets. Their excitement was contagious, especially when they spotted older siblings in their classrooms.



Basketball Season Tips Off

Basketball season is starting up again at Saint Francis de Sales! Mr. Cherry, our athletic director, is overseeing sign-ups—students interested in joining should see him in his classroom to sign up.

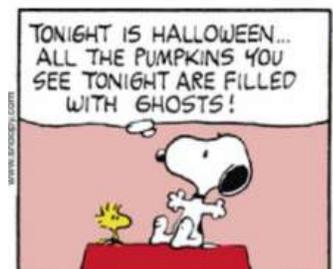
Teams are divided into two groups: Junior Varsity (JV), for 5th and 6th graders, and Varsity, for 7th and 8th graders. Both boys' and girls' teams are available, giving all students a chance to develop their skills and compete.

Practice schedules will be announced soon, so stay tuned. With games scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays, both JV and Varsity are preparing to bring their A-game each weekend. For a sneak peek, check out the first look at our new jerseys, shown on the right. As the season approaches, the Saint Francis de Sales community is cheering on our teams and wishing them the best of luck. Here's to a great season and the chance to bring home a trophy!

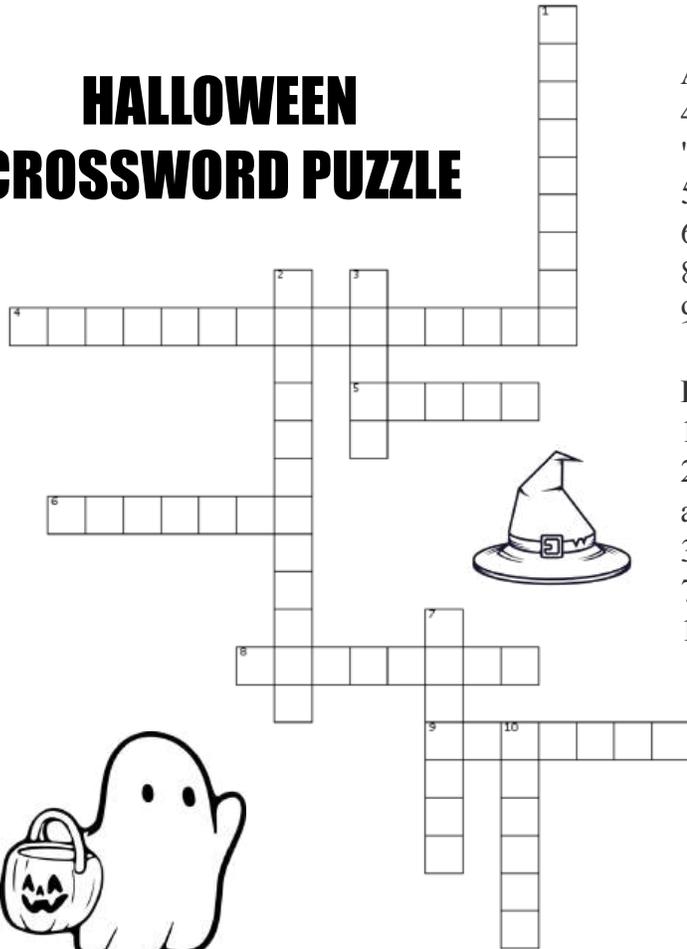




COMICS



HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

4. The iconic character known as the Pumpkin King from "The Nightmare Before Christmas."
5. A sweet food made with sugar.
6. You carve this for halloween.
8. A witch's pot for brewing potions.
9. Outfits worn to dress up during Halloween.

DOWN

1. The holiday celebrated on October 31st.
2. A Catholic holiday, celebrated on November 1st, the day after Halloween.
3. This monster flies a broom stick.
7. This monster can turn into a vampire bat.
10. An eight-legged bug.

Jokes and Riddles

What is the baby ghost's favorite game?

Peek-a-boo

What's a mummy's favorite type of music?

Wrap

I don't have eyes but once I could see. Once I had thoughts, but now I'm white and empty.

What am I?

A skull

I have a head and no body. My smile lights up at night. What am I?

Jack-o-lantern

Prayers and Intentions

-All of our Benefactors

-Joanne R..

-Michael M.

-Sean Casey

-Mary D.

-Marie R.



"Every morning, after we finish listing all the intentions, we lift them up to the Lord and pray the Our Father," said Sister Mary.

"The prayers of the St. Francis' children are very powerful." Sister Mary explained, "When the children pray together, their faith creates a strong sense of community and connection with God."