



ARCHANGEL GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

KNIGHT'S NEWS

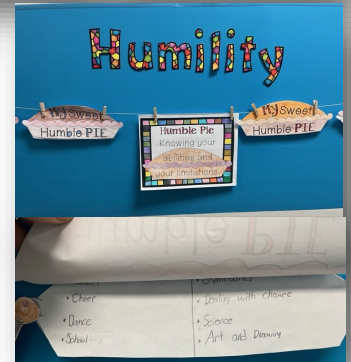
January 2023

NOURISHING SOULS

Prayer Partners—Our December Prayer Partner Day was a success! We watched A Charlie Brown Christmas, enjoyed snacks, made crafts, and our 4th graders even wrote letters to Santa with the Kindergartners for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We really love spending such quality time with our prayer partners!



Inspirational Characteristics- Every month AGS focuses on characteristics with a specific theme from which our students and faculty can be inspired. Our inspirational characteristic for December is humility. Humility is an attitude of spiritual modesty that comes from understanding our place in the larger order of things. It entails not taking our desires, successes, or failings too seriously. Teachers and parents have the great task of not only building children up to be proud of their hard work and accomplishments, but also to stay humble. If you were to walk through the middle school hallway, you would have seen some humble pies! Inside these pies, the 7th graders listed some things that they are good at, but also some things that they know they need to improve. They are challenged with knowing their abilities and their limitations. We look forward to the rest of the month's themes this year which include: Self-Discipline, Respect, Purity, Perseverance, and Loyalty. Ask your children how they are inspired by these characteristics both inside and outside of the classroom.



Pray and Play Group - The December event started by praying a decade of the Rosary and Mrs. Juratovic gifted a huge tray of Christmas cookies for our snack while they prayed. Then they played a pass the ball around prayer intention game and Mrs. Sedlack had set up a "Christmas Card" station with lots of art supplies, glitter and glue so students could make cards for anyone they wanted. As usual the block station was a big hit- and everyone had a blast! We love the Pray and Play Group.



St. Nicholas Day - Archangel Gabriel Catholic School celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 6th. St. Nicholas was born during the third century. His wealthy parents raised him to be a devout Christian and passed away while he was still young, but he continued to obey the words of Jesus to "sell what you own and give money to the poor."



Nicholas used his whole inheritance to help the sick, needy and suffering. On this day, we celebrated him as his tradition lives on. He once again visited our school and each child received a special treat. We are grateful for his gifts to them and to the many throughout his life.

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Volunteering and Fundraising - Parent and Student Volunteering and Fundraising keeps the school going, our community strong, opens up amazing opportunities for our children, and keeps tuition stable. To date, due to your amazing efforts, our fundraisers have brought in close to \$150,000 or 54% of our \$279,000 fundraising goal. We are prayerful that the upcoming fundraisers are successful and are grateful to the volunteers who are working on them. All fundraising and volunteer hours are tracked through our Goal Tracker website <https://www.agsgoaltracker.com>. You will also get a print out of your family totals in January to see your progress. Please log in frequently to see your progress. Thank you to those who are chairs for events. We have teams in place to help you promote and organize your event. Please reach out to the following for support:

- **Option C Messages** - please send messages to Mrs. O'Shea - schoolofficerobinson@archangelgabrielpgh.org
- **Goal Tracker** - Event chairperson log in for Goal Tracker - Sarah Smith sarahmarshallsmith@hotmail.com or Susan Kalich - skalich@archangelgabrielpgh.org
- **Website Posts** - Sarah Smith - sarahmarshallsmith@hotmail.com
- **Event Flyer Artwork** - Amy Carlowski - amy@amographics.com
- **AGS Event Bulletin Requests** - Susan Kalich skalich@archangelgabrielpgh.org
- **New Event Ideas** - Dr. Brad Swiger brad@srcespgh.org
- **Knight's News Newsletter** - Susan Kalich - skalich@archangelgabrielpgh.org

Advent Journey - Throughout the year our school participates in many service projects. This Christmas season, each of our classrooms have participated in a special project to support those in need. Some highlights include: our third graders brought in an item to donate each Friday in December, Our 6th graders designed a hot chocolate cup with a special message in it for veterans, the Pre 3 and Pre 4 classrooms collected \$300 that was used to purchase items such as cards, dice, pens, candy, notepads, crossword puzzles, popcorn, hot chocolate, oatmeal, lip balm and granola bars. These items were used to fill 34 stockings that will be sent to soldiers overseas and local veterans for Christmas. The PreK-3rd grade students collected diapers/wipes to donate to the Catholic Charities Parenting Program. Sarah from Catholic Charities visited and she was thrilled with the amount of diapers and wipes we collected! Our 4th graders wrote letters to Santa through the Macy's Make-A-Wish campaign and Macy's donated \$2 for each letter written. Our 5th grade spread some holiday cheer by writing cards to all Merakey AVS homes and campuses in Western PA. Our Kindergarten classroom learned about Random Acts of Kindness and left a treat on the cars of many in the parking lot during Mass. Just as Mass was letting out, some parishioners saw our little elves finishing up and were delighted. And the whole school collected Toys for those in need.



BUILDING MINDS

Congratulations to our December Students of the Month:

Pre K - Danijela Juratovic, Kindergarten - Aria Ballas, First Grade - Maria Knovich, Second Grade - Amelia Close, Third Grade - Theodore Hess, Fourth Grade - Loreline Pino, Fifth Grade - Brody Pilotta, Sixth Grade - Mia Alfенche, Seventh Grade - Anthony Pilotta, and Eighth Grade - Joran Jones.

Preschool Smell Test - The three year old students put their sense of smell to the test with some distinct and good holiday smells. The students used their noses to smell six strong scents that are associated with Christmas (gingerbread, orange, hot chocolate, pine, cinnamon and peppermint). As they smelled the objects they used a recording sheet and bingo marker to match their guesses. They discovered how smart their noses can be!



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Three Dimensional Shapes—Kindergarten is working on three dimensional shapes and have built cubes, rectangles, prisms, and even pyramids using marshmallows and toothpicks. They really had a lot of fun and understand shapes really well!

Blood Types - Eighth-grade science class did a little experiment the other day, some turned out positive and some negative! Thank you Dr. Urick for volunteering to help our Eighth Grade science class find out their blood types and teaching them a little more about blood too.

Christmas Concert Success - A big shout out to Mr. Tresky and all of those who helped to put our music concerts together on Monday, December 19th. Each grade sang two beautiful songs while parents were able to watch from the audience. In the evening, the band, chorus, and the violinists also performed! Watch the video taken from the events.

Watch the video here! <https://youtu.be/XFos7EKK-Zw>



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Catholic Schools Week - This year Catholic Schools Week is January 29th - February 4th. We are extremely excited to announce some of the fun things we have planned to celebrate at Archangel Gabriel Catholic School. We have talked to many parents, students, and teachers and have a lineup that is sure to make everyone wish they were AGS Knights. We are excited to offer you a sneak peek! Sunday, January 29: PPG Ice skating 9:00 am-10:45 am. Monday, January 30: Celebrating Community - Wear local gear: Steeler, OLSH, Canevin, Pirates..., bring in a box of cereal to donate to the Coraopolis Food Pantry, and Penny Wars begins. Tuesday, January 31: Celebrating Students - Mismatch/crazy day, Buddy Lunch, and prayer partner Name That Tune. Wednesday February 1: Celebrating our Nation: Dress in Red, White, and Blue, Heart Photo in the gym, Family Feud. Thursday, February 2: Celebrating Vocations - Dress in AGS spirit wear and colors, Mass, Penny Wars ends, and Pep Rally in gym. Friday, February 3: Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers/Fun Friday - Dress Down Day with field trips, K - 3 - Movie at Phoenix Theater, 4 -5 - Bowling at Paradise Bowl, 6 - 8 - Skiing and Tubing at Wisp. Saturday, February 4th: Celebrating Families - 9 am - 12 pm Open House and Open Registration for New Families, Mass at 5 pm. Look for more details coming soon.

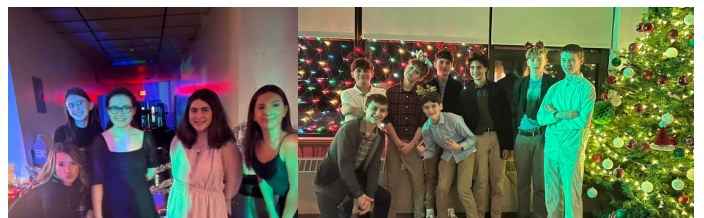


**Catholic Schools
Week 2023**
January 29-February 4

Forensics - Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the forensics tournament hosted by Archangel Gabriel Catholic School on Saturday, December 3. Many of our students placed throughout several categories. In Drama, Annabelle Watson received 2 firsts, Maddie Debbis received 1 First and 1 Second, Sophia Colosimo received 2 Seconds, and Rebekah Roun received 1 First and 1 Third place. In the category of Declamation, Jed Watson received 2 Second places. In Multiple Reading, the team of David DeFiandra, Danison Lee, Nolan Meyer, Isabel Stuckeman, and Jeremy Ye received 2 First places and the team of Karly Gill, Alexa Laepple, Heidi Surlow, Abby Williams and Emily Williams received 2 Second places. Also Congratulations to Danica Naumann and Lily Reilly who each had a perfect score for their 1st place ribbons? Thanks to Bethany Shaugis, Malley Woynar, Christian Gill and Alex Smith who volunteered as ambassadors at the meet.



School Dance - We held our 7th and 8th grade school dance on Saturday, December 10th. Everyone was dressed up and looked so nice. It was great to see the singing, dancing, and the middle school coming together to make great memories. Thank you volunteers and PTG for making this event look so great. We loved all of the decorations and fantastic atmosphere.



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BUILDING OUR AGS COMMUNITY

Breakfast with Santa - On Saturday, December 17th, over 150 guests came through our cafeteria doors to enjoy our annual Breakfast with Santa! This event was extremely special. Children wrote letters to Santa, played games, made crafts, visited Santa, and enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes, bacon, sausage, and eggs donated by Deluca's Diner. Thank you, Deluca's for your generosity and to all of the volunteers who made this day special.



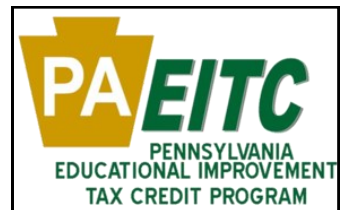
Dress Code - Please be reminded that all students are to follow our dress code guidelines. <https://archangelgabrielpgh.org/uniforms>. Please note that the only sweatshirts or outerwear to be worn during the school day are the navy hooded zip-up Archangel Gabriel sweatshirt, the Navy Hooded pullover Archangel Gabriel hooded sweatshirt, or the quarter zip Archangel Gabriel fleece. No hoodies may be worn for gym class, the gray gym uniform sweatshirt is the gym dress code. We have spoken to Pro 3 and they are able to get all uniform items in and there is nothing on back order. Please also take advantage of our uniform exchange. If you have any specific uniform questions, please contact Dr. Swiger.

Amazon Smile - Do you shop using Amazon.com? If so, Amazon wants to support Archangel Gabriel Catholic School with the purchases you make through their AmazonSmile program. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for Amazon to give back to a charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. You can use your current Amazon account to earn \$ for our school! You will find the same low prices, vast selections, Prime options, and convenient shopping experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization – Archangel Gabriel School!



To register your Amazon account with our school, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select "Archangel Gabriel Catholic School" as your organization of choice. Once selected, start shopping! Anytime you shop using Amazon, using your regular account or app, it will default to supporting AGS! Tell your friends and family! (*Note that this program has been updated by Amazon to be used on your regular Amazon account once Archangel Gabriel Catholic School is registered under your account through the Amazon Smile website.)

EITC/OSTC - Last year we had a very informative meeting in our cafeteria where CPA, Bill Richardson volunteered his time to speak to individuals and businesses who are interested in making a contribution towards our scholarship funds for families in need and in return receiving a significant tax credit with the State of Pennsylvania through the Educational Improvement and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (EITC and the OSTC) programs. Pennsylvania Businesses and Individuals meeting the requirements can apply for EITC or OSTC credits through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development's electronic single application system. That information is still relevant and helpful. Please visit our website at <https://archangelgabrielpgh.org/eitc> for additional information and to view the video from the event. If you are able to participate, please reach out to our advancement director at skalich@archangelgabrielpgh.org. This is an excellent way to allow more families to attend our school while receiving a tax credit of up to 90% for your donation. The funding of our Catholic Schools are one of the best ways that the Church brings young people into a relationship with Jesus while preparing them for life. Our schools provide spiritual formation that encourages virtue. Academic excellence leads to success in higher education. Please consider giving more families the opportunity to attend Archangel Gabriel Catholic School by participating. We provide many scholarships to families through this program. Without generous donors, many would not be able to come to AGS or other Catholic Schools.



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Open House for 2023-2024 School Year & Re-enrollment - This year we have our open house scheduled on Saturday, February 4th from 9 AM - 12 PM. This will be for prospective families to tour the school, ask questions and register their children for the 2023-2024 school year. Volunteers are needed for set up, giving tours, and helping to set up or greet parents. If you are able to volunteer for the event please reach out to Susan Kalich skalich@archangelgabrielpgh.org. (8th graders may earn volunteer hours by giving tours.)



Registration - We will begin the **Current Family** renewal process on January 23rd. Please look for information coming soon for this process. Note that the **New Family** registration will begin at our Open House and spots will be filled on a first come first served basis so we encourage all current families to secure spots as soon as possible. Please look for communication that will be coming out soon. In the meantime, please make sure your FACTS account is up to date.

REGISTRATION SAVE THE DATES:

Beginning January 23rd:

Grades K-7- A simple online renewal form will be made available to each of our families who currently have students in grades K-7 and are advancing to 1-8. An administrative fee (formerly registration fee) per family will be added to your FACTS account in the spring. The fee is estimated to be \$125 per family and the region will supply us with this amount as soon they can. If you are adding a new student (sibling), you will need to fill out a full enrollment application for your additional child. *(If for any reason your child is not able to attend AGS for the 2023-2024 school year, please notify the school office ASAP.)*

AGS Preschool/New Kindergarten Enrollment: - A full enrollment application will be made available on January 23rd for our current preschool families who are interested in attending Preschool or Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Each of our current families will have at least one full week preference before new AGS families are able to enroll. If you are adding a sibling from your family, you will be able to do so at that time. For all Preschool, Kindergarten and New students to AGS, a \$100 non-refundable tuition down payment fee will be required per family via check made out to "Archangel Gabriel Catholic School". This fee will be applied to your tuition for the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, an administrative fee (formerly registration fee) will be added to each families' FACTS accounts. The fee is estimated to be \$125 per family and the region will supply us with this amount as soon they can.

IMPORTANT 2022-2023 Registration dates:

January 2nd – Early registration for Kindergarten 2023-2024 with an AGS pack including math and reading learning center kits – *online application available on our website on January 2nd.*

January 23rd– Current Family renewal and "add a sibling" registration – *online form available on our website by January 23rd, information will also be emailed out via OptionC.*

January 30th – Two-year commitment application accepted for new families entering an AGS 4 year old preschool class for 2023-2024 school year plus committing to attend AGS Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. A \$500 scholarship will be applied to the 2024-2025 tuition for those accepted. *Online applications will be available soon. (First come, first served)*

February 4th – Open House 9 AM–12 PM – Open Application and New Family Registration – Printed applications only will be accepted this day for those who wish to apply to Pre 3 – Grade 8. Link for open house tour sign-ups will be available on our website soon.

February 6th – Beginning this day both physical and online applications will be accepted for new family enrollment for Pre 3 – Grade 8 students for the 2023-2024 school year.

We encourage all families to be advocates for our school by sharing your positive experiences with friends and families in the community. This will help us to keep our school strong and let new prospects learn about our school.

Please contact Susan Kalich skalich@archangelgabrielpgh.org for all registration questions.