

STM TIMES

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5th and 6th Grade Play:

In December, the talented Fifth and Sixth graders preformed a Christmas Play. The play was divided into different stories. One story was about the true meaning of Christmas, while another one was about teaching that being number one isn't the most important thing in life. There were two other sections, one was about being kind and accepting people for who they are. The other one was called The Way Christmas Was, teaching the students that Christmas just isn't about receiving gifts, but it is about Jesus and the birth of a new religion. Special thanks to Mrs. Pionegro who put this whole entire play together. Also special thanks to all of the cast members in the play for working hard after school to make the play a huge success!

Santa's Workshop

Santa's workshop was a magical time for both the kindergarten, pre-k and the eighth grade. Stations for the little ones included face painting, pin the tail on Rudolph, and even meeting Mr. and Mrs. Claus! For face painting, the kids could pick from nine different designs and the elves would paint the designs on the little kid's faces. For the station, pin the tail on Rudolph, it was just like the famous game pin the tail on the donkey, with a special Christmas twist! The most exciting part of the workshop was getting to meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and the little kids got to tell them what they wanted for Christmas. To end the fun on a high note, the nutcracker soldiers came and did a wonderful dance, they marched around the gym singing, and Mrs. Pionegro played on the piano while the choir led a lovely Christmas sing-a-long. Anyone who was a part of the workshop would say that it was a lovely time for everyone involved.



December Making a Difference Awards

1-145 Andrew Chyu
1-151 Aiden Reed
1-144 Zoe Gougoustamos

2-149 Erika Lett
2-147 Molly Eisenhard
2-146 Kaya Roth

3-121 Callie Nechetsky
3-125 Marie Collins
3-123 Ana Mushrush

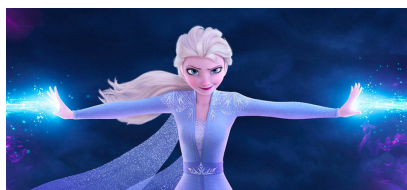
4-128 Tommy Spinosa
4-126 Catherine Sapienza
4-122 Lucianna Stano
4-124 Massimo Sankar

5-501 Gracie O'Reilly
5-223 Quinn Driscoll
5-224 Maeve McGee
5-221 Clara Reis

6-227 Rebecca Yenkowski
6-226 Katelin Bui
6-228 Alexander Nehlsen

7th grade- Kaitlyn Heffner

8th grade- Madi Seed



Santa's Workshop



Polar Express Day

3rd Grade Play



Coco Foundation

Frozen Movie Review

A new wave of Frozen hit the theaters on November 22. The new film excited many Frozen fans, and their expectations were met. The story begins with a past flashback of when Elsa and Anna's parents were still alive. Their father tells them a story of a magical forest with different spirits. Their lives move on. The problem starts when Elsa hears a voice. It seems to be calling her. Then disaster strikes, the spirits of the forest are angry. The adventure begins. Anna, Elsa, Sven, Kristof, and Olaf must travel into the magical forest and discover the reason for the angry spirits and the mysterious voice Elsa now can't stop hearing. Some of the new songs that appear in the movie are Into the Unknown, Some Things Never Change, When I am Older, and Lost in the Woods.

Catholic Schools Week

Giant Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe:

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 1/4 cups lightly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- vanilla ice cream, (optional)

Instructions:

1. Preheat to 350F
2. In a medium bowl, use a fork to stir flour
3. In a large bowl stir, using a mixer, beat butter with sugar until creamy, about 1 min. Beat in egg and vanilla
4. Gradually stir flour mixture into butter mixture, until just combined. Mix in chocolate chips.
5. SPRAY a 12-in. oven-safe frying pan with oil. Scrape dough into pan, pressing evenly to the edges.
6. BAKE until cookie is golden, about 35 min.
7. Remove to a heatproof surface and let stand for 15 min.
8. Cut into wedges and serve with vanilla ice cream, if desired.



Monday:

On Monday, January 27, 2020, students from all grades came to school, with food cans in hand. In exchange for bringing food cans, students received an out of uniform! Then, Kindergarten, Fourth, and Eighth Grade students all went down to the Family Center, sitting in groups with two Eighth, Fourth, and Kindergarteners at every table. Once everyone was settled, Jess Elliott, the executive director for Habitat for Humanity, talked about what it is to be a volunteer and how students can raise money for those who can't afford homes. Once Jess was done talking, teachers began to hand out two papers, pink and purple. One card was a thank you letter for the volunteers and the other for people who were built a new home. Once the group was finished, they would get up and go towards the people from Habitat for Humanity and create lunch bags for the volunteers and the homeless.

Tuesday:

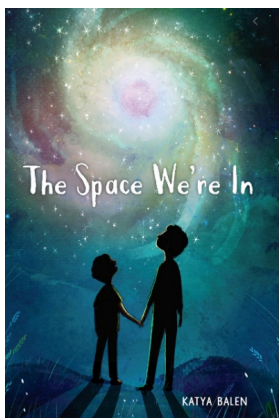
On Tuesday, January 28, St. Thomas celebrated Student Appreciation day. This day was for the students and the students only. On this day, students were allowed to have an out of uniform day for their favorite sport or team. The 5-8 grades got to witness yet another riveting Scholastic Scrimmage competition, and everyone got free ice cream with their lunches. In addition to all of that fun, each grade got together with their prayer partners and played board games and Mission Impossible in the gym. The day was a spectacular one to remember.

Wednesday:

On Wednesday, January 29th, St. Thomas More School celebrated their nation. At least one day during Catholic schools week is dedicated to honoring and appreciating U.S. veterans or active military. On this day, the school was able to have an out of uniform day, themed with the colors red, white, and blue, to honor the nation's flag. Each grade had the chance to write cards to any veteran or active military members, and thank them for what they did or are doing for the country. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade also had the opportunity to hear from one of STM's veteran alums, James Birkhead. He gave a speech on what it was like to be in the military and what a great experience he had at STM and how he became a member in the service.

Book Review

The Space We're In by Katya Balen is a book about a little boy and his younger brother. His brother has autism, and the book touches on many positive and negative aspects of having a relative or sibling with autism. The little boy at first, resents his younger brother, because he makes him feel like an outcast. After a tragedy hits, the brothers have to stick together, and learn how to live with each other's boundaries, or else they will fall apart. The book is phenomenal, and is also very educating on the topic of autism.



Also, on Wednesday, it was VIP day. Any kids from grades K-4 could invite their VIP's to have lunch with them. After lunch the kids and their VIPs went back to the classroom to play games and do fun activities, like Kahoot. This was such a great day for the younger kids. They were so happy to spend the day with someone they considered special.

Thursday:

On Thursday, the students celebrated vocations. The different vocations that were introduced were the single, married, and religious life. Sister Melita and Cynthia talked to grades K and 1st grade about their lives and how religion is a big part of it. They also shared interesting facts about how the apparel and housing has changed over the years. As for the older grades, Father John, Seminarian Aaron, Sister Paula, and Mike along with Karen Guman spoke. They talked about their life stories and how their vocation has really impacted their life. Mike Guman even brought in his old jerseys and souvenirs from playing with the Los Angeles Rams.

Friday:

Catholic Schools week drew to a close on Friday. The day started with a beautiful ceremony to honor our volunteers. Later, the student council from grades 6-8 served cake and drinks to the teachers. That afternoon, the grades watched different movies. 6-8 watched Jurassic Park, 5-3 watched The Secret Life Of Pets, 2-K watched Mary Poppins. The Penny war ended that day, and third grade won!



Teacher Interview with Sister Pat

1. How and Why did Trivia Tuesday start?

May years ago, I brought in a trivia book to a 4th grade class and they loved the questions so I had the idea of doing one each week as a contest for the entire school.

2. Why did you become a sister?

I felt that God was calling me to help bring others closer to him by trying to make a different in their lives. I enjoy working with children and making people laugh and helping them become closer to God by my actions.

3. When did you realize you wanted to become a sister? When exactly did God call you to become a sister?

I felt that God was calling me in my junior year of high school to be a sister but I really made up my mind in my senior year.

4. How do you come up with each morning prayer?

Sometimes students mention a problem they are having or I notice something that needs to be addressed or I ask teachers for ideas but most of there time God inspires me.

5. How is the life as a sister? What is a day like for a sister in general?

Well, I get up in the morning, we say prayers together and then I go to mass an come back and eat breakfast . . . and then I am off to school. After dinner, I watch the news and the game shows. Then I ay evening prayers and do school work and finally catch some Zzzzz's. On the weekend, I'll go walking or shopping or visiting.

6. Do the sisters go out and have fun together?

Yes, we do fun things together when we don't have anything that we have to do first.

7. What's your favorite color?

Burgandy (Maroon)

8. What your favorite food?

Seafood or cheeseburgers and ice cream

9. What's your favorite movie/tv show?

Movie- "Sleepless in Seattle", "A Dog's Purpose" and "Journey", and "Little Women"

TV- "NCIS", "LAPD Blue", "Wheel of Fortune", or "Star Trek" returns



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