

# STM TIMES

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

## Exciting Events

- Meet the Teacher Night
- Johnny Appleseed Day
- Pumpkin Patch
- Halloween Parade
- Halloween Dance
- The Spooky History of Halloween

## Field Trips

- 5th Grade in New York
- 7th Grade's Trip To the Padre Pio Shrine

## Reviews and Recipes

- No Brainer by Jeff Kinney
- Barbie
- Fall Thumbprint Cookies

## Special Features

- Meet The Teacher: Mr. Swider!
- What Do Student Think About...?: Halloween or Christmas?

## Walkathon

On Friday, September 29 , the Walkathon Kick-off Assembly was held in the gym. First, Father Maas led students in a prayer. Next, Mrs. Salovay announced the winner of the 8th grade Walkathon T-Shirt Contest, which was Massimo Sankar. She also announced some fun prizes such as a Buzz Space Odyssey Adventure, a popcorn party for your class, free ice cream for the year, a Chick-fil-A party, face painting for your class, and a cooking class with Chef Mary Nolan. Then, the fun began! Students played many fun games such as a Toy Story relay race, pin the star on Woody, Toy Story trivia, and musical hula hoops! It was so much fun!

On October 13th, they day finally arrived and STM celebrated its annual Walkathon! The goal was to raise money for the school. First, the students gathered in the gym and Father Pendzick led us in prayer. Then, everyone headed outside and began to walk. Grade 3-8 walked 2 long laps around the church, school, and preschool. Luckily everyone wore their walking shoes! Outside, Central Catholic students played instruments and twirled batons. A DJ got everyone moving, dancing, and singing. Fun was had by all!



# The Spooky History of Halloween

October 2023

Halloween wasn't always about seeing how much candy you can get while trick-or-treating, it used to be about religious practices and rituals. It was originally called All Hallows Eve, but was later changed to Halloween. Originally, October 31 was thought to be the day when the connection to the spirit realm was the weakest. To frighten the spirits, Celts would dress in animal hides, but in current times, kids dress in costumes of their favorite animals and people and ask for candy. To summarize, Halloween is an interesting, historical, holiday filled with spooky fun!



## Halloween Dance

On October 20, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students had a Halloween party. They participated in all different types of games and activities such as volleyball, corn hole, and so much more. There was also a food area that had many cupcakes, candy, chips, which were graciously donated by the middle school families, and a photo booth! Everyone had a great and spooky time!



## Pumpkin Patch

It was a day of fall fun at the STM pumpkin patch on October 20th. Kindergarten, first, third and fourth grade students participated in festive games and picked pumpkins in the field. Mrs. Robinson coordinated the activities and the 5th grade assisted Mrs. Robinson during the day to make sure everyone had a great experience. In the end, it was a fun day for all our little students!



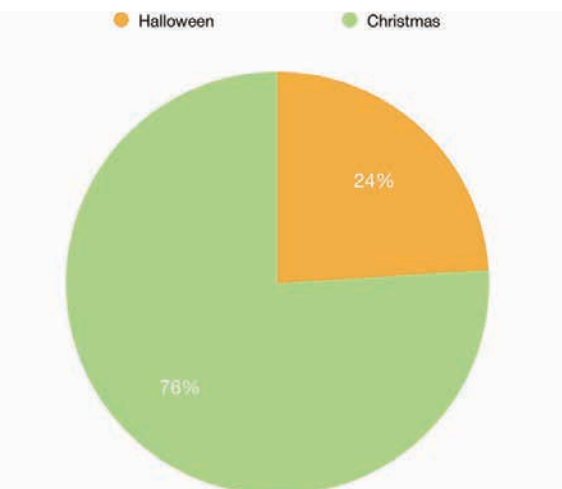
# Halloween Parade

On October 27th, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students participated in the halloween parade! They dress paraded through the parking lot for the 3-8th grade students.



# What Do Students Think About...?

What is better, Halloween or Christmas? Well, according to kindergartners, Halloween is better. But First Grade would argue Christmas is better. Second Grade and Third Grade think Christmas is better, and Fourth and Fifth graders have to agree. In middle school, Christmas wins overall. And the overall winner is..... Christmas! Which holiday do you prefer, Halloween or Christmas?



# Fire Safety Presentation by Salisbury Firefighters

Firefighter's from Western Salisbury Fire Department came to Saint Thomas More to teach the Kindergarten through 4th graders about fire prevention and safety. The presentation started with Chief Wells, a fireman for 26 years, and his fellow volunteer firefighters giving a brief history of fire safety. Afterwards, the chief taught everyone about the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Then he demonstrated how to stop, drop, and roll! Then they geared up in their firefighting suits and walked around, giving the kids high-fives. The firefighters then took the presentation outside to use the fire hose. They sprayed water using their 1.2 million dollar equipment around the school parking lot. The firefighters gave the kids "homework" to check if they have a smoke detector in their bedroom, and to review their family meetup place in the event of a fire. Everyone was given a coloring book and a pamphlet. It was a great presentation that taught a great deal about fire safety.



# Meet the Teacher Night

On September 5, 2023, STM held their annual Meet the Teacher night! It was an informational open house format, with teachers in their classrooms available to answer questions. It was a great opportunity for parents to get to know the teachers and staff their children interact with every day.

## 5th Grade's Fun Trip to New York City

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On October 5th, the 5th grade made their annual trip to New York City! First, they took a bus for almost two hours. Then their city adventure began! After the bus, the students boarded a ferry to Ellis Island. 5th grade learned about the rich history of the island and had the opportunity to put themselves in the immigrants shoes. 5th grade then could look up their ancestor's names in the historical records. Students were amazed by the many cultural displays and first hand accounts found in the museum. Next, they took another ferry to the Statue of Liberty. They could go up to the top, but most stayed at the pedestal. It was so fun! Then they enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat. Then they had free reign to explore the statue. Soon after, it was time to go. It was a great trip, and students learned a lot!



## Padre Pio Field Trip

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7th Graders traveled to the National Centre for Padre Pio. They learned about the miracle and mystery of Padre Pio, visited the current exhibit "The Eucharistic Miracles," and enjoyed time outside in God's beautiful creation! Next, students went to a room with many easels in it, and they got to see all the different miracles that happened all around the world! Then, they got to look around the gift shop and the Padre Pio museum, where they learned more about Padre Pio, and got the chance to bless their crucifixes. Lastly, the 7th grade went to the main church area, where we got to pray a decade of the rosary. Students got to bless crucifixes again, this time, with an actual glove that belonged to Padre Pio! Overall, the Padre Pio trip was amazing!



# Student Council Officers of 2023

The middle grade students have voted, this year's student officers are:

**Treasurer-** Camryn Harp

**President-** Massimo Sankar

**Secretary-** Mary Psarros

**Vice President-** Mackenzie Yeager



# Mission Representatives 2023

Every year, student homerooms elect one of their classmates to be a mission representative. Mission Reps are in charge of encouraging their peers to donate, collecting and counting the money, and praying for their homeroom. Congratulations to all of 2023-2024 mission representatives! You are all going to do an amazing job!

## 2023-24 MISSION REPS

1-121/Lawler----- Rocco Ott.  
1-123/Lett----- Joey Wukitsch  
1-125/Tompkins-----Hanna Zambelli  
2-122/Tatum-----Grace Albanese  
2-126/Coccia-----Clara Guman  
2-128/Boyle----- Colin Weigand.  
3-124/Piccini-----Eva Karam  
3-127/Smith-----Giovanni Raimo  
4-137/Liberman-----Harper Higgins  
4-139/Chaya----- Carly Durand  
5-226/Caliendo-----Luke Borkowski

5-227/Zegalia-----Sarah Garrett  
5-228/Swider-----Elinor Wallace  
6-223/Young-----Jack Kloiber  
6-224/Swider-----Maya Maalouf  
6-225/Davidowicz----- Andrew Rutt  
7-232/Arnold-----Charlotte Hummel  
7-234/Stewart-----Lorelei Campbell.  
7-237/Kulischenko-----Nicolo Ramunni  
8-242/Steckel-----Lucia DeFrancisco.  
8-244/Ulicny-----Camryn Harp  
8-247/Melnick-----Ansleigh Richardson



# The 8th Grade Learns Some Algebra!

The 8th Grade class participated in an engineering program presented by Engineers Teaching Algebra. Students worked with traffic signal simulations and used great problem solving skills! They learned that a wrong answer is better than no answer and that an eraser is the most important tool they can have!

# 4th Grade Goes to the DaVinci Science Center

The fourth graders attended the Da Vinci Science Center on Wednesday 11/8. They experienced the wonders of electricity with their Shock Factor Science Show. They also learned how to identify different types of electricity and their uses in the real world with illuminating experiments. They made shocking discoveries using a Van de Graaff generator, plasma ball, and more to observe what electricity looks like and how it can travel!



# Veterans Day Assembly

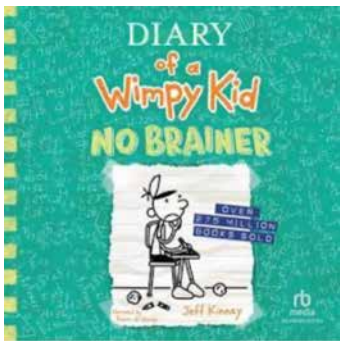
On November 9th, 2023, STM held an assembly to recognize all of the Veterans in our parish who served in any of the 7 branches of the military. The assembly was held in the gymnasium and all students and staff attended, as well as some veterans, who were friends and family of some of our students. Father Pendzick started the assembly off with a prayer. Afterwards, Mrs. Salovay recognized all of the veterans who attended the assembly, presenting them with a carnation to thank them for their service. Next, a veteran shared their story with the school, and talked about the military a little bit more in depth. He then had a couple students come down, and the students participated in a military activity. This consisted of making sure everyone got to the other side safely while crossing a wooden plank, made to represent a bridge. Finally, the poetry contest winners for each grade read their poems, as well as the overall winner, Kayden C. Overall, it was an informative and fun assembly, in which the students learned to respect the military and all of their sacrifices for our country.



# No Brainer

By: Jeff Kinney

In *No Brainer*, book 18 of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book series. In the book, it's up to Greg to save his crumbling school before it's closed for good. Greg really isn't too broken up about it. But when Greg realizes this means he's going to be sent to a different school than his best friend, Rowley Jefferson, he has a change of heart. Can Greg and his classmates save their school before it's closed for good? Or is this the start of a whole new chapter for Greg?



# Barbie

Directed: by Greta Gerwig



The awaited *Barbie* movie came out this summer on July 21. In the movie, perfect, stereotypical Barbie had found herself changing in more ways than one. She had flat feet, cellulite, and even more! Weird Barbie, another Barbie in this universe, had told her she had to find who was playing with her in the real world. She and Ken had traveled to the real world right away! Little did they know, Ken had found that men “ruled the world” in the real world. He quickly went back to Barbie Land and changed everything! What happened next? Watch the *Barbie* Movie to find out!

# Johnny Appleseed Day

The 1st and 2nd Grade held their annual applesauce contest! Students taste tested different colors of apples and graphed their favorites. They also watched movies and read books about the famous orchardist. Students even got to make special Johnny Appleseed hats! It was a fun day filled with lots of apple knowledge!

This year's winners were:  
1st Place: Mrs. Lawler's class  
2nd Place: Mrs. Boyle's class  
3rd Place: Mrs. Lett's class



## Viking Visit to STM 8th Graders

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Thank you to the Allentown Central Catholic Vikings and Vikettes who visited with our middle school students! Our students got to hear all about the wonderful opportunities that ACCHS has to offer during their Vikings on the Road program. We are grateful for the Viking Spirit boxes filled with lots of goodies and swag!



## 8th Grade Students Learn to Synergize!

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8th Graders practiced Habits 6 & 7: Synergize - Together is Better & Sharpen the Saw - Balance Feels Best!



## 6th Grade District Spelling Bee Champion

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Congratulations to Jack Kloiber, who won first place at the District 2 CYO Six Grade Spelling Bee!



## Teacher Feature: Mr. Swider

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Mr. Swider, one of the newest teachers here at STM, is 5th grade social studies teacher. His favorite color is green, and he says he plans his outfits accordingly. He has a dog named Axel, who is a mixed breed. His favorite book is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. He says the reason he became a teacher is because both his father and his grandfather were teachers, and he wanted to follow in their footsteps. His favorite part of being a teacher is watching his students learn and grow throughout the year.





# Turkey Time!

1st Graders recited poems and sang a thankful song to the school!



# STM'S Fourth Annual Turkey Trot

The 4th annual Turkey Trot was held on November 17th, 2023 on the STM soccer field. It consisted of an 8 minute run around the fields, with students in grades K-4 completing as many laps as possible. The 5th graders also helped set up, take down, and run the Turkey Trot. The students also competed in activities such as a bean bag toss and a relay race. They ended it off by each student decorating a feather in order to make a beautiful turkey display, which was showcased in the colonnade, showing the great work that the students did. Overall, the Turkey Trot is a fun event and everyone who participated had a blast!



September, October, November

# STM School Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanks to the generosity of two donors — Radio Talk Show Host, Mr. Bobby Gunther Walsh and Mr. George Roman — STM School was able to honor Monsignor Murphy by continuing to treat everyone to a traditional Thanksgiving turkey meal with all the fixings! We were blessed to have both Father Maas and Monsignor Shoenhauer to help serve the food with our volunteers, plus Lisa and Julie from our kitchen staff. It was a great day enjoyed by everyone!



# Thanksgiving's Delicious History!

Every year, Thanksgiving commemorates the meal between the Wampanoag Native Americans and the separatists, or pilgrims. The holiday remembers the strong, but short alliance between the two groups. The separatists had struggled to survive their first winter in Massachusetts, so the Native Americans decided to help the starving pilgrims. Centuries later, Thanksgiving wasn't celebrated as a national holiday, but presidents Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt made Thanksgiving a yearly holiday, taking place on the fourth Thursday of November. Thanksgiving is a holiday we celebrate with friends, family, and delicious food!

# Fall Sports

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# Fall Pumpkin Bread

## Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled-off
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1½ sticks (¾ cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 (15-oz) can 100% pure pumpkin (I use Libby's)

## Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 325°F and set an oven rack in the middle position. Generously grease two 8 x 4-inch loaf pans with butter and dust with flour (alternatively, use a baking spray with flour in it, such as Pam with Flour or Baker's Joy).
- In a medium bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder, cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Whisk until well combined; set aside.
- In a large bowl of an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugar on medium speed until just blended. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Continue beating until very light and fluffy, a few minutes. Beat in the pumpkin. The mixture might look grainy and curdled at this point -- that's okay.
- Add the flour mixture and mix on low speed until combined.
- Turn the batter into the prepared pans, dividing evenly, and bake for 65 – 75 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean. Let the loaves cool in the pans for about 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
- Fresh out of the oven, the loaves have a deliciously crisp crust. If they last beyond a day, you can toast individual slices to get the same fresh-baked effect.

Recipe from: <https://www.onceuponachef.com/recipes/spiced-pumpkin-bread.html>



## Credits

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