

# THE STM TIMES

"What I am is God's Gift, What I Become Is My Gift To God"

## Table Of Contents

Page 1: STM Walkathon Kickoff

Page 2: STM Walkathon; Dot Day, Applesauce Contest

Page 3: Sports News

Page 4: Church Renovation; Teacher Feature: Mrs. Pionegro; Spelling Bee

Page 5: 9/11 With Mrs. B, Mission Representatives

Page 6: Book Review; Music Review; Poetry Reading

Page 7: Fire Prevention Week; Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Page 8: Field Trips: Basilica, Ellis Island, Jacobsburg, & Crystal Cave

Page 9: Pumpkin Patch; Halloween Party; Halloween Parade

Page 10: Hispanic Heritage Month

Page 11: Recipe

Page 12: Credits



## STM Walkathon Kickoff

The STM Walkathon is an annual event held at St. Thomas More School. Its goal is to raise money for the school and church. This year, the Walkathon assembly was held on Friday, September 30, at 1:00pm. Everyone was decked out in "Safari" themed outfits from giraffes to zebras. First, Father Pendzick and his lovable dog, Dusty Rose, who was dressed as a lion, led prayer. Then, Mrs. Salovay announced all the prizes the students could win such as "principle for a day" and "one hour recess". One of the grand prizes was a new MacBook Air! Next, the games began: rock, paper, scissors, Simon says, musical chairs, and a hula hoop contest, which got the crowd fired up. For the grand finale, the Student Council hosted a trivia game with Principle Salovay on the stage. For every answer she said incorrectly, the students would dunk a bucket of slime on her head. The kickoff assembly energized the crowd for the upcoming walkathon.



## Dot Day

STM students got to express creativity and collaboration on Dot Day by participating in various activities throughout the day! 7th Grade participated in “Decimal (dot) Boxing” no physical contact! The decimal dot with the greatest common factor won. Spectators cheered them on by writing inequality statements showing the decimal number with the highest value! Kindergarten and 1st Grade created their own unique dots. 4th Graders worked together to construct geometric shapes using dot candy and toothpicks

## Applesauce Contest

The 1st and 2nd Grade held their annual contest making applesauce to conclude their lesson on Johnny Apple Seed. This years winner was Mrs. Tatum’s 2nd Grade class.



## STM Walkathon

This year’s annual STM Walkathon took place on Friday, September 14. The whole school came together in the gym to start as we always start, with a prayer. The students donated 70 dollars and participated in a raffle, three lap walk around the school, and Rita’s! Outside, Central Catholic’s band played instruments and twirled batons while cheerleaders encouraged people as they walked. A DJ got everyone moving, dancing, and singing. 1st Grade, 3rd Grade and 6th Grade won the grand prizes for each category (K-2, 3-5, 6-8). These classes had the highest participation of all the grades! Individual winners: Anna M. (Mr Roman For a Day), Brendan H. (One Hour Long Recess and Extra Gym Class), Anna C. (Pizza Karaoke Party), Brendan H. (Extra Gym Class), Lindsey D. (Dress Down for the Day), Sophia K. (Ice Cream Party for the Class), Ella G. (Lunch w/Teacher of Choice), and Andon T. (Macbook Air). All in all, it was a ton of fun but also a great opportunity raise money for the school.



# Sports

## Cross Country

The cross country season starts in late August with two or three practices a week. The season consists of about six or seven meets and is over by mid October. Meets are held at schools around the diocese and all teams participate. There are four different age groups for the races, and you run by gender. K-2 participants run 1/2 mile, grades 3-4 run 1 mile, grades 5-6 run 1 1/2 miles, and grades 7-8 run 2 miles. Practices take place at either the Rose Garden or Parkway in Allentown. The meets are super fun when everyone is cheering you on as you run by, especially at the finish. STM Cross Country is a great opportunity for kids of all ages to make friends and get great exercise.



## Volleyball

This year was a very successful year for our STM 5th and 6th grade and 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams. 5th and 6th grade had an undefeated season including winning the Diocesan Championship. The 7th and 8th grade lost only 2 games. All the girls had a great season learning teamwork skills while also having fun.



## Church Renovations

The church is undergoing a new renovation! Father Pendzick, our pastor for the past year and a half, has decided to move the tabernacle to the center of the church. As 2022 is the Year of The Real Presence, Father feels a need to make the Eucharist the center of the mass. Thus, it must be in the center of the altar. Designed by the St. Jude Liturgical Studio, approved by Bishop Schlert, there was a lot of planning that went into the project. The project should be completed in the next few weeks.

## Teacher Feature: Mrs. Pionegro

Mrs Pionegro is the music teacher we all know and love. She has been teaching here at STM for 40 years! Mrs. Pionegro loves to play the piano, but she also has many other things she loves to do. She loves to cook, her favorite color is blue, and enjoys spending time with her three daughters and grandchild. She plays the violin, clarinet, and many other instruments. She has always wanted to try the harp but has never gotten the chance to. Mrs. Pionegro doesn't have a favorite song to play on the piano, because they all are so much fun! She loves animals, especially dogs. Her favorite school subject is LA, because she loves to read and write! We learned so much about our beloved music teacher Mrs. Pionegro.



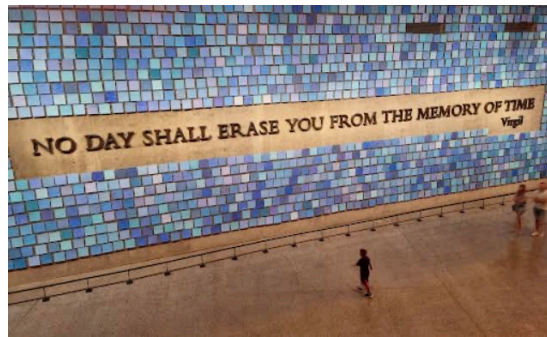
## Spelling Bee



Congratulations to our STM Middle School Spelling Bee Winners who first completed an in-school contest to place for Districts: Caliana-6th Grade; Chase-7th Grade; and John-8th Grade. They competed at the Annual District 2 CYO Spelling Bee on Sunday, October 16 - Chase won for 7th Grade, John earned a 2nd Place, and Cali came in 4th.

## 9/11 With Mrs. B

9/11 was a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center by the group Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda was a group of Islamic extremists. It was the largest and deadliest terrorist attack on American soil. It killed 3,000 people in the city of New York, collapsing the World Trade Center, better known as the Twin Towers. There were also two more attacks on the Pentagon, The White House, and Pennsylvania. Since that awful day in September, we celebrate the anniversary every year on the 11th to commemorate all the people whose lives were lost that day and their families. It is also a day to remember all the first responders who risked their lives and do so today. Mrs. B., a teacher here at St. Thomas More, was 6 when the event happened. She was about 15 minutes away from the twin towers, on a different island, and she could see the twin towers out her window. To her, 9/11 is about patriotism, fight, unity, and bravery. She feels the event really unified not only the people of New York, but the US as a whole. Since 9/11 the world has changed. It has changed in a literal sense, such as airport and monument security. But also, it changed the way Americans think about safety and prevention of attacks in the future.



## Mission Representatives

Congratulations to our 2022-2023 mission representatives! Alex, Jude, Anthony, Charlie, Eva, Johanna, Mya, Addison, Natalie, Macey, Gerald, Peter, Natalia, Jillian, Charlotte, Stella, Eboni, Joey, Chase, Angelo, Ava, Evelynnn and Nathalie have a special job. They are in charge of collecting mission money, praying for their class, and encouraging their peers to donate. St. Thomas More is a school that serves others less fortunate, and this is one way we do that. All mission money collected goes directly to children in need. Thank you to the mission reps for helping make the world a better place! God Bless.



## Book Review

### *Spy School Project X*

The 10th *Spy School* book, *Project X*, is the newest of the series, by Stuart Gibbs. In this book, the Spy School students face their biggest challenge yet: The internet. With a price on Ben's head and a new internet conspiracy, Erica, Ben, and Zoey race across the country to help clear Ben's name. Will they be able to keep Ben safe? Read this thrilling, fast paced book to find out.

## Movie Review

### *Hocus Pocus 2*

In *Hocus Pocus 2*, main characters Becca, and Izzy bring the Sanderson Sisters back into Salem 29 years after the first movie, set in 1993. Becca and Izzy need to find a way to stop Winifred, Sarah, and Mary Sanderson from wreaking havoc on modern day Salem. Along the way, Becca learns a surprising secret about herself. Watch the movie on Disney Plus to find out the exciting conclusion.



## Poetry Reading

The 6th Grade had an unforgettable lunch on Tuesday, October 25th. The first ever "Poetry Cafe" was held in the iLab, where the 6th graders got to read some pretty incredible poems they created, based on a quote of their choosing from Maya Angelou. While enjoying some hot chocolate and rice krispie treats, the 6th graders sat in true "Poetry Cafe" style, listening to their friends read and "snapping" for them when they were finished. Their teachers, parents and friends are all very proud of what amazing writers, public speakers and audience members they have become!"

Some people may say things  
That will make you frown  
Be the bigger person  
So that it won't get you down  
Let nothing dim your light

There are some bad people  
In the world today  
Don't let them scare you  
Today or any day  
Let nothing dim your light

Be your own person  
Nobody can change you  
People will be nice and mean  
But just be YOU  
Let nothing dim your light

You will wear what you wear  
You will do what you do  
You might get looks and faces  
But you do you  
Let nothing dim your light

Always be kind to everyone  
Even if they don't like you  
It will always get back to you

-Alexis C.

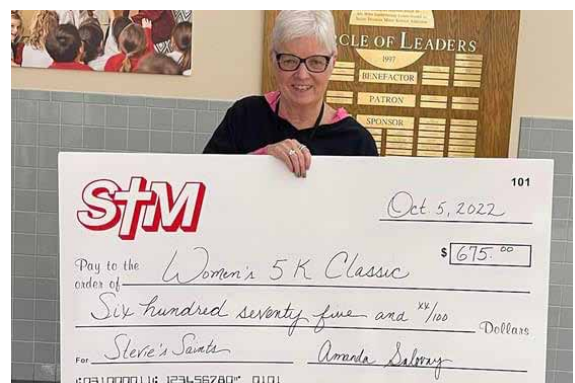
## Fire Prevention Week

The Western Salisbury Firefighters paid STM a visit on October 5th to grades K-4. Due to rainy weather the assembly was held in the Family Center. Students learned all about smoke detectors, what to do in case of a fire, “Stop, drop, and roll” and how to call 911. The fire fighters encourage everyone to have a smoke detector in every bedroom and hallway, test smoke detectors monthly, and have a designated meeting place. place outside of your home in case of a fire. They showed students how they put their fire suits on, and gave everyone high fives to show that firefighters are not scary, and are our friends.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On October 5, students wore pink in honor of those who have battled and are battling cancer. Especially our own Stevie Gaughn, who is celebrating 20 years cancer free this year. What an amazing accomplishment! Students had the option to donate a dollar to dress down, and that school proudly raised \$675! The faculty presented the check to Mrs. Gaughn to benefit the Women's 5K Classic. The cause definitely deserves it!



## Field Trips

### Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

This October, the 8th grade students at STM went to The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and joined the Allentown Diocese on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. The bus ride was about 3-4 hours and when they first got there they walked around the Great Upper Level and saw each room that was dedicated to a different saint and culture. One thing many of our 8th grade students loved was the beautiful mosaics and votive candles. Reverend Mark E. Moretti spoke to us about Blessed Carlo Acutis, a 15 year old boy, who passed away but made it his goal in life to share his faith with the world. Then they went and explored the Crypt Level and received the sacrament of Reconciliation if they wanted to. At 2:45pm everyone went back up and attended a Mass held by Bishop Schlert and other Diocesan priests. Overall, this trip helped to grow the 8th grade's faith and relationship with God.



### Ellis Island

Our 5th and 7th Grade students spent a beautiful day visiting the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Students explored the Statue of Liberty's Pedestal and some ventured to the rest of Lady Liberty totaling 354 steps. Another memorable experience was visiting Ellis Island. There they learned of the history about how immigrants sailed over to start a new life and had to go through a series of requirements. They also got to research their ancestors and learn more about their heritage. To travel back and forth from Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty, students boarded a ferry, which they highly enjoyed. Overall it was a great educational experience.

## Jacobsburg Education Environmental Center

On October 25, the 8th grade went on a field trip to Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, located near North Hampton County. Students and teachers explored things from critters to chemistry and physics. There were three stations in total. The first station was aquatic benthic invertebrates which is long for water animals that dwell on the bottom. Students got their hands dirty and collected wildlife like bugs to help calculate the health of the river. Their score averaged about 40-45 which exceeded the average of 20. The next station was working with physics; they measured the length, depth, width, volume, flow rate, and temperature to find how long it would take the river to fill a cubic meter in one second. Finally, they worked on different chemistry projects measuring the pH, turbidity, hardness, nitrates, iron, and dissolved oxygen to help focus on lab safety and water testing. This trip helped the 8th Grade to use their scientific knowledge in the real world.



## Crystal Cave

Our 4th Grade students visited historic Crystal Cave in Kutztown to learn about the geology of caves. Students descended 125 feet underground to view spectacular stalactites, stalagmites and dripstone formations. They also conducted a scavenger hunt as they hiked on a nature trail.

During the tour, the tour guide turned off the lights and brought out an oil lamp for the students to experience what it was like in the cave during the 1800's which was really interesting.

Panning for gold was another fun activity that the fourth graders got to participate in. After the tour was over, the students went to the gift shop where they bought dreamcatchers, geodes, rings and other cool things. Overall, the fourth graders had a fun and memorable time!



## Pumpkin Patch

Every year students K-4 enjoy the annual pumpkin patch. Little ones participated in fun games led by 5th grade helpers, who contributed to the event by setting up and leading the fun stations. Students took home pumpkins—and smiles. It was an amazing experience and a blast for the students, without even leaving the soccer field!



## Halloween Party

On October 28, 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!

## Halloween Parade

Grades K-2 participated in a Halloween parade around the school grounds, showing off their magnificent and unique costumes. Parents, teachers, and other classes were able to watch and cheer on the little ones.

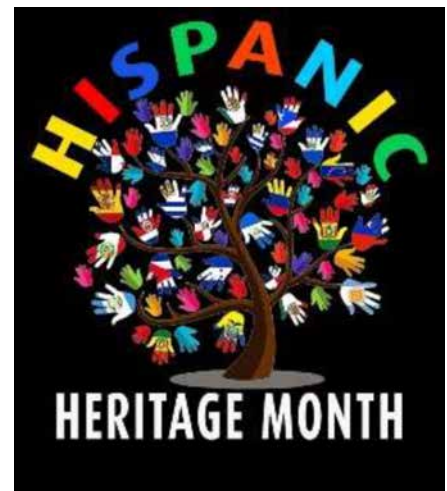


## Hispanic Heritage Month With Mrs. Figueroa



Each year during September and October, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. This month-long celebration recognizes the achievements and contributions of Hispanics who have inspired others to succeed. President Lyndon B. Johnson started this celebration in 1968, and it was only Hispanic Heritage Week. Still, two decades later, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan extended this celebration to a month-long celebration from September 15 through October 15. This celebration does not start and end within the same month because September 15 is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua in 1812. Also, Mexico honors its freedom from Spain on September 16, followed by Chile a few days later, on September 18, and Belize on September 21. During this month-long celebration, you can find festivals, concerts, movies, presentations, and shows that honor Hispanics for their achievements and contributions to America.

As many of you know, I am from Puerto Rico. As Puerto Ricans, we celebrate our Hispanic heritage even though Puerto Rico's independence from Spain was not during the same months Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated. Puerto Rico's independence from Spain was in November 1898. After that, Puerto Rico became a U. S. territory meaning that Puerto Ricans are born as U.S. citizens. I lived my whole life in Puerto Rico, and I just moved a few months ago to Pennsylvania due to my husband being in the U.S. Army. Here I found the opportunity to teach Spanish, my native language, and teach about the Hispanic culture. Many students are eager to learn Spanish and about my culture. Learning a new language can be complex and challenging at times, but it gives you many opportunities for the future. I hope I can continue inspiring many of you to learn about the Hispanic culture.



# Recipe

## *Apple Cookies*

### Ingredients

#### Cookie Dough

- 1 1/2 c. (180 g.) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. apple pie spice
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 6 tbsps. (3/4 stick) butter, softened
- 1/2 c. (100 g.) granulated sugar
- 1/2 c. (107 g.) packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 medium tart apple (about 8 oz.; such as Granny Smith), cored, peeled, and grated (about 1 c.)

#### Icing

- 3/4 c. powdered sugar
- 4 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- Pinch of apple pie spice

### Instructions

#### Cookie Dough

- Preheat oven to 350°. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper.
- In a medium bowl, whisk flour, apple pie spice, baking soda, and salt.
- In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and mix until incorporated, then mix in vanilla.
- Add dry ingredients to butter mixture and beat until well combined.
- Stir in apples until just combined.
- Cover and chill dough until cold (about 30 minutes).
- Scoop 2-tablespoon balls of dough (about 20 balls) and arrange 2" apart on prepared sheets.
- Bake until cookies are just set and light golden brown.
- Let cool completely

#### Icing

- In a small bowl, whisk powdered sugar and lemon juice. Add water, 1 teaspoon at a time, until icing is thick but pourable.
- Spoon icing over cooled cookies.
- Let stand until icing sets (about 15 minutes).



## Credits

**Moderator:** Mrs. B

**Writers/Editors:** Anna W., Clare D., Cece R.,  
Charlotte G., Emily T., Lindsay D., and Olivia D.

**Student Contributors:** Addison C. and Connor L.