

RAIDER REPORT

He Is Here Come To Him

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Catholic Schools Week

On Monday STM celebrated the Community. All students got an Out-Of-Uniform Day. The Penny War also began! All proceeds went to Mercy School for Special Learning! The Cereal Box Challenge also began, all students brought in cereal boxes to pay for the Out-of-Uniform Day!

Tuesday was Student Appreciation Day! There was no homework, Grades 6-8 got extra recess, and K-5 got a fun bingo game with prizes. Students, faculty, and staff got to wear their favorite activities/sports team. Students were able to vote for the lunch they wanted and enjoyed free ice cream!

On Wednesday, the theme for the Out-of-Uniform Day was patriotic colors. The school celebrated with a special Mass. A speaker from New Bethany Ministries zoomed in with the middle school and gave a presentation about the different types of refugees and how their organization helps them. New Bethany Ministries is a non-profit organization that offers hope and support to people who experience poverty, hunger, and homelessness.



Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was a writer, poet, performer, and activist who rose to fame after the publication of her autobiography “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings.” She wrote the Broadway show “Cabaret for Freedom” with Godfrey Cambridge. Maya’s life wasn’t always so perfect. She grew up in Arkansas with her grandmother after her parents split. She was mute five years. Her early life left a devastating mark on her that shows in her work and with her pain, success followed.

According to usmint.gov, “The American Women Quarters Program is a four-year program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country.” Angelou’s coin had a portrait by Laura Gardin of George Washington on the heads side, and Maya Angelo on the tails side. The side depicts Maya Angelou with her arms up, with birds, and a rising sun inspired by her poetry.

Thursday was an Out-of-Uniform Day for Penny War participation. Grades K-4 dressed up as their future careers. Students also participated in a luminary walk. Students made little lanterns out of paper bags and tea lights and placed them along the hallways. Mission representatives also wrote prayers read during the walk. The lights were turned off all around the school, and it was beautiful!

Friday was Teacher Appreciation Day! The school ended up having a snow day and all the fun activities were moved to Monday. The students also had a surprise Out-of-Uniform Day because of the amazing amount of donations given to Mercy School for Special Learning! The winner of the Penny War was 5th Grade! The winner of the Cereal Box Challenge was homeroom 123, Ms. Coccia’s room!

PENNY WAR RESULTS									
FINAL COUNT 2/7/22									
Grade	PENNIES	DOLLARS	sub total		SILVER				
K	\$ 79.25	\$ 118.00	\$ 197.25	-	\$ 105.90	\$		91.35	
1	\$ 98.70	\$ 238.00	\$ 336.70	-	\$ 171.25	\$		165.45	
2	\$ 47.58	\$ 226.00	\$ 273.58	-	\$ 180.50	\$		93.08	
3	\$ 76.27	\$ 425.00	\$ 501.27	-	\$ 436.95	\$		64.32	
4	\$ 70.88	\$ 411.00	\$ 481.88	-	\$ 319.80	\$		162.08	
5	\$ 111.85	\$ 1,064.00	\$ 1,175.85	-	\$ 556.22	\$		619.63	
6	\$ 70.95	\$ 360.00	\$ 430.95	-	\$ 340.30	\$		90.65	
7	\$ 63.16	\$ 185.00	\$ 248.16	-	\$ 243.10	\$		5.06	
8	\$ 45.68	\$ 169.00	\$ 214.68	-	\$ 180.25	\$		34.43	
Total \$\$ Raised for Mercy School for Special Learning									
	\$ 664.32	\$ 3,196.00			\$ 2,534.27	\$		6,394.59	



Presidential Scrimmage

On February 16th Grade 4 had a Presidential Scrimmage. The school band performed “Hail to the Chief” and “God Bless America.” The event started with the 4th Grade singing a presidential song. During the event, contestants from each class answered questions about the presidents for their team. The contestants were Patrick, Emma, Campbell, Ruger, Hudson, and Samantha. The 4th Grade students also recited speeches from the past. First was Mrs. D’Angelo’s class reading the *Preamble*. Followed by Mrs. Campbell’s class reading the *Gettysburg Address*, and lastly, Mrs. McCarthy’s class read the *New Colossus*. The students then sang a state song and “America the Beautiful”. The winners of the presidential scrimmage was Mrs. D’Angelo’s class with 17 points, then Mrs. Campbell’s class with 12 points, and lastly, Mrs. McCarthy’s class with 6 points.



PJAS

Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is an organization that fosters junior and senior high school students' interest in science. In order to compete, students had to complete a scientific experiment and make slides to go along with it. Students got to present their projects in front of judges at Northampton Community College. Ryan F. and Mary R. earned perfect scores. Out of the 7th and 8th Graders, 44 received first place and 41 received second place. Our first place finishers are looking forward to competing at Penn State in May!



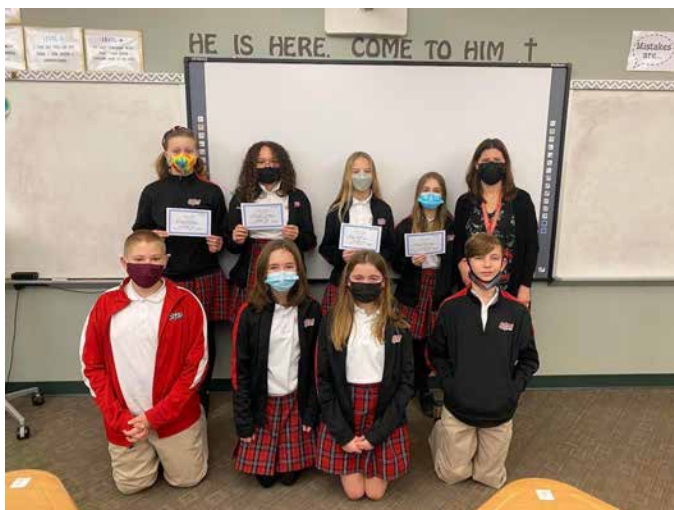
Perfect Scores

Author Visit

As part of our CSW 2022 celebration, a local author, Jordan Sonnenblick visited STM school. Mr. Sonnenblick told the story of how he came up with the idea for one of his best selling books *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, a book middle school read during library classes. Mr. Sonnenblick told the students about his teaching job and a very special student who changed his life and inspired him to become an author. He also talked about his other novels such as *Notes From Midnight Driver* and *Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip*. Lastly, Mr. Sonnenblick stressed the importance of personal connections and the impact you can make on someone's life.



6th Grade Mathletes



STM mathletes qualified and prepared for the annual 6th Grade Pennsylvania Math League school competition during AM WIN periods in January and February. Congratulations to Lucia (2nd place -tie), Lindsay (2nd place - tie), Raley (3rd place), Bernadette (1st place), Beatrice (2nd place - tie) Ethan, Tanner, Gianna, and Lillyn.

Harry Potter Art Project

The *Harry Potter* self portraits were made by 4th and 5th Grade students. The students first took a quiz to find out if they were in Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw or Slytherin. They then created a self-portrait of themselves as a student from their Hogwarts house. They spent many weeks learning how to weave their house scarf.



Teacher Feature: Mr. Roman

Mr. Roman's is the Dean of Students at STM is to work with the students and to make them the best version of themselves they can be. He also makes sure everyone stays safe, disciplined and become better individuals. He enjoys being able to understand more about the students and make their time here as enjoyable as possible. He is also the coach the STM boys basketball team Before coming to STM he was a manager in the IT department for PPL. Mr. Roman loves his job here at STM and he loves being able to help and work with studentsto make sure their experience at STM is one they will always remember!



Read Across America Day

Read Across America Day is normally celebrated on March 2 but since Ash Wednesday was on that day, STM celebrated it on March 1. It was an Out-of-Uniform Day with K-4 dressing as their favorite Dr Seuss character, Grades 5-6 dressing as their favorite book character, and 7-8 dressed in with a t-shirt or sweatshirt from the college and high school they plan on attending. Kindergarten and 1st Grade students got to try green eggs and ham, there was a teacher swap. Everyone had free reading time at the end of the day. It was a fun and enjoyable day!



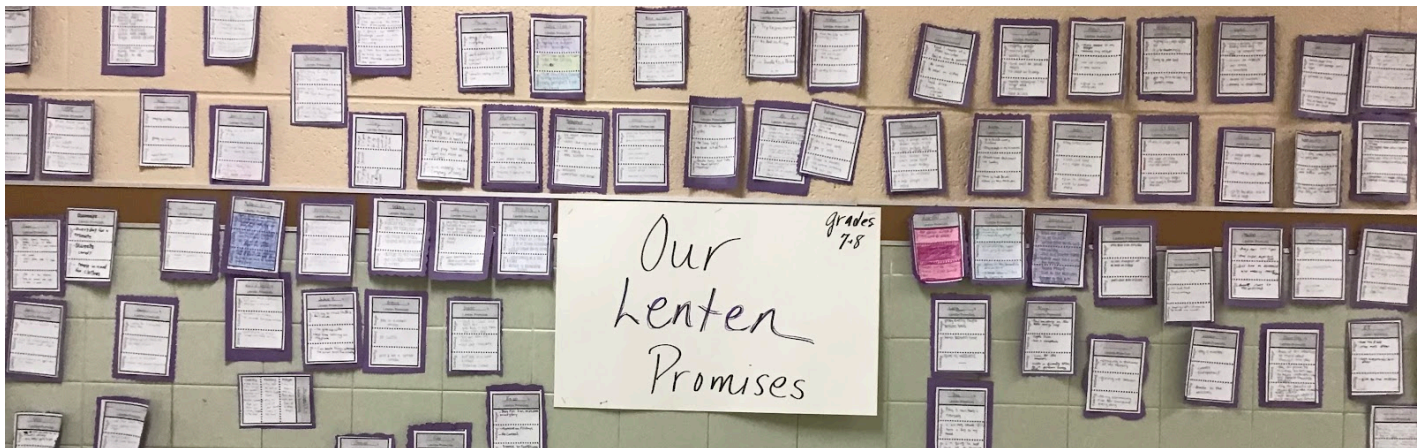
Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day (March 17) is the feast day of Saint Patrick patron saint of Ireland. In the late 4th century, Patrick was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken as a slave to Ireland. There he brought Christianity to the people. We celebrate the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and celebrate the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations may include parades, festivals, setting leprechaun traps, shamrocks and wearing green. Something you may do at home is set a trap for a leprechaun. Maybe this year you will catch him, who knows? HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!



Lenten Season

This year's Lenten theme was Gratitude. There are so many things we can be grateful for, including going to St. Thomas More School. We are focused on helping each other grow further in our gratitude toward others, even for small things. Our parents, friends, teachers, and even strangers all deserve our gratitude. Just a thank you can make someone's day. Every Friday, The St. Thomas students participate in stations of the cross. They either participate in church or through the Stations of The Cross inside the school. This went on for six weeks throughout lent.



Therapy Dog

The therapy dog reading program started Thursday, March 10th. Mrs. Tighe brought in her dog Bo to be a therapy dog for the 2, 3, and 4 graders to practice their reading skills. Mrs O'Hara also brought in her dog Chance for Kindergarten and 1st Grade This has been a great experience for the students to learn new social skills and to just have fun.



5th & 6th Grade Basketball

On Tuesday, March 8, both STM Girls and Boys basketball team won their championships! The girls won 24-13 and the boys won 31-30! They both worked so hard to get into the championship throughout the entire season! To celebrate, they all went to Menchie's on Sunday, March 13. The boys also gave the girls roses and the girls gave the boys Sour Patch Kids. The players on the girls team are Amelia J., Anna W., Alyssa H., Camryn H., Catherine S., Gabriella E., Reese W., Ella B., Calliana C., Josephine H., Reagan S., and Lauren S. The players on the boys basketball team are Chase B., Lucas H., Ethan S., Demetrius B., Tripp S., Canon R., Thomas S., Tanner K., and Nathan Y.



7th & 8th Grade Basketball

Our A league basketball teams did an amazing job out on the court, both making it to the finals. Our Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Team was coached by Mrs. Davidowich and Mrs. Hobbie. Our boys 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Team was coached by Mr. Roman, Mrs. Salovay, and Mr. Walter. The boys and girls basketball team were undefeated throughout the whole season up to the finals. Both teams made it to the semi finals where they played at St Joseph. The girls won their game against St. Ann's. The boys played Good Shepherd, winning their game as well. Both teams moved on to play at historic Rockne Hall at Allentown Central Catholic High School. Our Girls Basketball team played Good Shepherd and had an amazing win making them the Diocesan Champions. The boys also won against St. Mike's making them Diocesan Champions as well! Since the girls and boys both won they, later moved on to districts. The boys team they put up a good fight but sadly, they lost to St. Catherine's. The boys played great throughout the whole season and are going to keep that mindset for next season. The girls went on to beat Holy Family. This led them to states in Harrisburg! They had a send-off pep rally to wish them luck! The first team the girls played was St Anastasia, and sadly lost to them. However they weren't finished yet. The next team they played was a team from Scranton and excitingly, they won the game by three in overtime!! The last game they played was against a team from Harrisburg, and they sadly lost by three points. The girls basketball team played amazingly and we are so proud of all of them!

February & March



Spring Fling

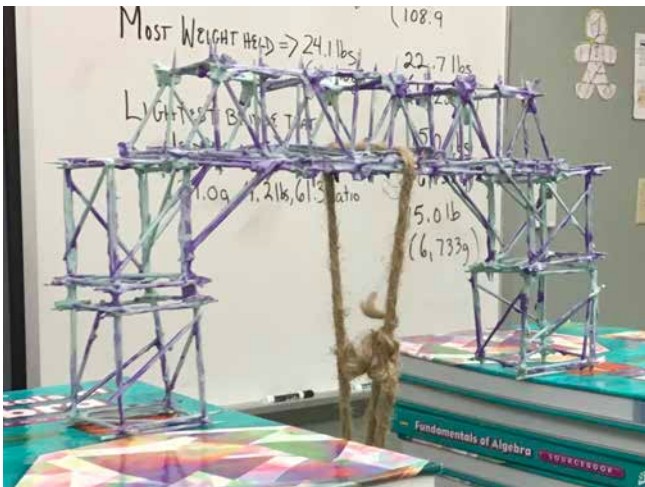
On March 25, was the Spring Fling for the 7th and 8th Graders. The students had so much fun! There was a DJ, a basket raffle, cornhole, dancing, food, photo booth, and more! A wide variety of songs were played! There was even a boys vs. girls dance off! This all happened thanks to Mrs. Boyle and all of the volunteers!



Bridge Contest

Dr. Huang's students participated in a Bridge Building Contest. There was an imaginary town/city that they built the bridges, for and Dr. Huang (the mayor) bid on which bridge he liked the best or wanted. The rules were they could only build their bridge out of toothpicks. It had to hold a minimum of two pounds and also had to be nine"long. Another requirement was that it was $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches off the ground. It was also supposed to be cost efficient. The winning bridge had the best ratio, by the weight of the bridge and the weight it could hold. Mary R. won with a very impressive ratio of 221.3 which was ultimately the factor that would make or literally break the bridge. Another contest competed for best aesthetic design. A number of students won that contest with most bridges featuring glitter.

Some Winners



Mary R. 7th Grade



Chase C. 7th Grade



Maya M. 6th Grade

Dr. Huang's Math Class

Dr. Huang's sixth grade Math class created polyhedrons for their geometry unit.



100 Days of School

First grade read *Let's go to the Moon*. After learning about the moon and astronauts, students used Nilla wafers and icing to show the different stages of the moon. They then got to eat them. On February 9, the school celebrated the 100th Day of School. First grade students had a blast making 100th day shirts to wear, building with 100 objects, exercising by doing 10 different exercises 10 times, eating 10 groups of 10 different snack items, and so much more!



2022 Winter Olympics

The Winter Olympics is a competition held every four years. The winter events include figure skating, curling, speed skating, bobsledding, ski jumping, biathlon, aerials, and more! This year, the Olympics were held in Beijing, China. Norway won the most medals followed closely by China and Germany. The USA placed 4th. In conclusion, despite the corona virus restrictions, there were many memorable moments.



Women Who Inspire Us

March is Women's History Month. For 72 year TIME Magazine named a Man of the Year, usually a president or man of high power. In 1999 the name was changed to Person of the Year but the choice of the year was still the same. For the 100 year project, TIME is choosing a Woman of the Year for the past 100 years to make up for the lack of representation over the years. Each 7th Grader chose a woman to write about and created their own magazine cover. They chose women such as Malala, Amelia Earhart, Serena Williams, and Princess Diana.



Book Review

Uprising; By Margret Haddix

Uprising, the current book that the 7th Grade is reading, is about a fire that took place in 1911, in a shirtwaist factory in New York called Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Bella, Jane, and Yetta, the girls the story follows, are three girls who found each other through a strike. The story sheds light on what life was like being an immigrant girl in New York, working in a factory to bring their families to America. Bella is straight off the boat from Italy, not knowing anyone except her distant cousin, Pietro. Jane was a wealthy girl who started realizing the importance of the strike and became involved in the cause. Yetta is involved in a union strike with her sister, Rahel, trying to achieve fair pay. This story will definitely hook you, based off of a true story, *Uprising* is a must read.



Movie Review

The Batman

The Batman is about Bruce Wayne, Batman, within his first couple years in Gotham. A new villain arises, and with very disturbing crimes called The Riddler. He has to defeat The Riddler, before his revenge has been made on Gotham. He has the help of a girl, who turns out she has some issues of her own. I really liked this movie, even though it was three hours long. I highly recommend this movie.



Recipe

Irish Potato Candy

Ingredients

- 4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound powdered sugar (4 cups)
- 7 ounces flaked, sweetened coconut (2 2/3 cups), preferably angel flake
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground cinnamon

Instructions

1. Place the cream cheese, butter, vanilla, and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. (Alternatively, use an electric hand mixer and large bowl.) Beat on medium speed until fluffy and smooth, about 3 minutes. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl and the beater with a rubber spatula.
2. Return the mixer to low speed and gradually add the powdered sugar. When all the powdered sugar is incorporated, increase the speed to medium and beat until smooth, about 1 minute. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides again. Add the coconut and beat on low speed until incorporated.
3. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil or parchment paper if desired, for easy cleanup. Scoop the coconut mixture out by level tablespoons onto the baking sheet, spacing them close together but not touching. Repeat until all the mixture is used up. Refrigerate for 30 minutes for the mixture to set.
4. Place the cinnamon in a small bowl. Using your hands, roll one of the pieces into a slightly oblong potato shape. Roll in the cinnamon to completely coat, then place back on the baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining pieces.



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