

# THE STM TIMES

“What I am is God’s Gift, What I Become Is My Gift To God”

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## Veterans Day Assembly

Veterans Day is the day of the year we take to remember all of the veterans and fallen soldiers who fought for America. Mayor Tuerk of Allentown came to recognize veterans by name. Over 20 veterans came to the prayer service. Major Colistra did a presentation on the importance of service with the Travis Manion Foundation. Their motto is, “If not me than who...” A Philly pretzel fundraiser was held at lunch where students could get a Philly pretzel for a dollar. There was also a red, white and blue out of uniform day for a donation of a dollar. All proceeds went to the Travis Manion Foundation and STM raised over \$600. Student council gave veterans carnations as a thank you. Afterwards, a prayer service was held in the gym.



## Turkey Trot

This year STM held its 3rd annual Turkey Trot on November 18. First, Mrs. Brintany Morse from Barre 3 led an engaging warm up. Then the students ran for eight minutes, completing as many laps as they could. They also participated in fun games such as Stuff the Turkey and a Turkey Waddle Relay Race. Lastly, students decorated festive turkeys that were displayed outside their classrooms. It was a day filled with gratitude and the Thanksgiving spirit.



# Thanksgiving

Do you like turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy? Spending time with family? If yes, then Thanksgiving is your holiday! The first thanksgiving was celebrated with the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Native Americans, creating a treaty between the two groups. In the next couple centuries, “Thanksgivings” celebrated good harvests and the end of droughts. On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday. Thanksgiving is a day to be grateful for all the blessings we have, and to spend time with family.

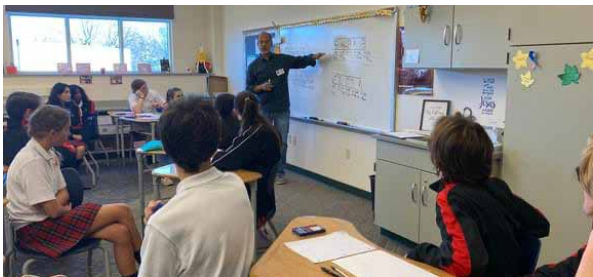
## Ecumenical Food Drive

The STM 8th Grade Student Council conducted an extremely successful Food Drive from November 7-18, to benefit Catholic Charities Ecumenical Kitchen. The students collected, sorted and packed the donations in preparation for delivering everything to the Kitchen. The entire St Thomas More School community participated in the Food Drive which was planned and conducted by the Student Council to help our neighbors in need. At today’s Thanksgiving Mass, one student from each grade presented an item of food to represent the donations made by the whole school. It is amazing what we can do when we all work together!



## Teacher Feature: Ms. Kulischenko

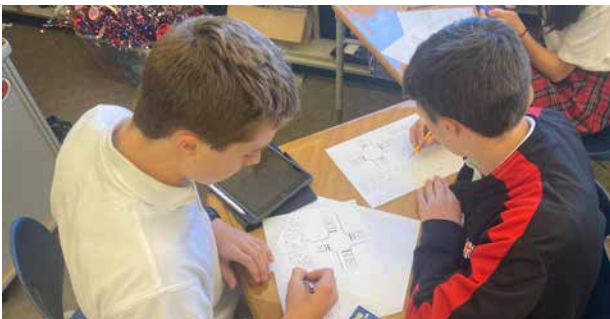
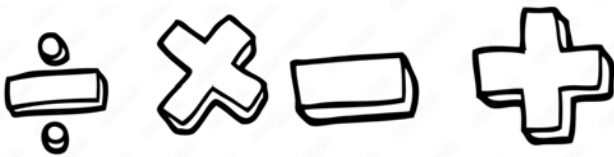
Ms. Kulischenko has been teaching for over 30 years. She has been the 7th and 8th grade religion teacher for the past two years. After teaching math, she decided to switch to religion because she believes it is the most important subject, especially at a catholic school. She loves to teach, but some of her hobbies out of school are spending time with family and reading. Her favorite types of books include mysteries and thrillers. She has two cats, which are her favorite animals, named Ben and Jerry. Overall, Ms. K is a fabulous teacher who has done fabulous things for our school! We are blessed to have her here at STM.



## National STEM Day

For National STEM Day, Mr. Love came to our school to teach 8th Graders about the importance of math in our day to day life. He used traffic lights to convey this. First, students estimated how much time they should give each phase of the light sequence, with a ninety second time limit, for the most efficient way for cars to pass through an intersection as a group. Then he helped them find a formula to make this process easier using the formula he uses for his work.

Working in pairs, they used a worksheet and applied the formula to a different type of intersection. The class competed against each other to find the quickest solution. At the end of the class, they were given an optional worksheet to complete, however no one managed to figure it out in time before Mr. Love had to leave. All in all, this experience taught us how important math really is.





## Barnes and Noble Fundraiser

On December 4, our STM family joined together at the Barnes and Noble fundraiser to read fun books and socialize with our peers outside of school. There was face painting, the STM band played a short concert, and the Girl Scouts sang Christmas Carols as well. This event raised close to \$1,000 to help support the STM library fund for new books and resources the students can enjoy! Overall, it was an amazing turnout and everyone enjoyed the event.



## Christmas Tree Lighting



On December 4th, the parish celebrated its second annual Christmas tree lighting. The tree, generously donated by a parishioner, was lit around 6 o'clock outside the church. Hot chocolate and candy canes were served by students. After the tree was lit by Father Pendzick, the crowd, including all STM's Clergy, began to carol. It was a beautiful night filled with the Christmas spirit and hope for Christ's coming. Father Pendzick said it was a huge success and he hopes it will continue and grow every year.

## Santa's Workshop

This year's Santa's Workshop was a huge success for the preschool, kindergarteners, and 8th Graders. Our 8th Grade spent weeks preparing for the big day. The 8th Grade dressed up as elves and soldiers. The workshop also had Santa and Mrs Claus. The elves had many different activities and games including a fishing pond, visit with Santa, pin the nose on the reindeer, coloring, dancing, basketball, an obstacle course, musical carpets, corn hole, and a raffle to see who can guess how many snowballs are in the jar. Both preschool and kindergarten had a blast. They left the workshop with many prizes and drawings to take home to their parents. Our soldiers practiced for weeks to perform a dance for the kids. Afterwards, they got to march around the gym like a soldier. The culminating event to this year's 2022 Santa's Workshop they had a Christmas sing along, singing many classics like "Frosty the Snowman," and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." Even Santa would be proud of the holiday cheer.



## *Forever Christmas*

On December 13, the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders took part in this year's second annual middle school Christmas play, titled *Forever Christmas*. The first act of the play included well-known Christmas songs such as: "All I want for Christmas is You," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and more. The second act was about the birth of Jesus, and the many people who came to visit him. Students sang songs including "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger," and "Breath of Heaven." It was a great success; a huge thanks to Mrs. Buccigrossi and Mrs. Fink for making it very special!



## **3rd Grade Christmas Play**

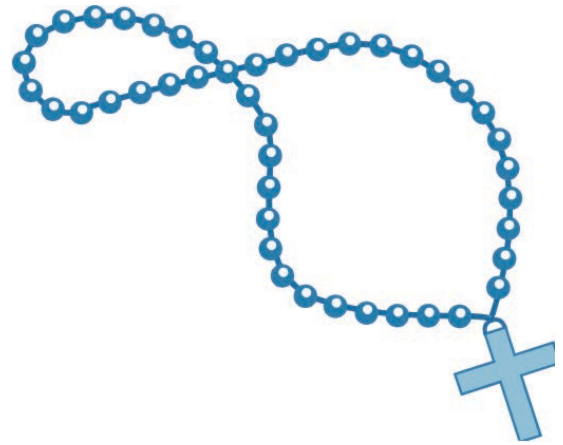
The Third Grade Christmas play took place on December 22, in the family center. The play started off with the "12 Days of Christmas at School." The next scene was the crossword puzzle. The crossword puzzle was about a little boy and his family trying to figure out how many reindeer have pulled Santa's sleigh. Were there eight, nine or maybe even ten? The last scene was the nativity scene where Jesus was born. Then everyone including the First Grade joined in for one last song, "The Santa Claus Rock." All the Third graders did an amazing job and STM is very proud of all the performers.





## Rosary

Do you ever wish your family could experience the amazing power of prayer? Do you want them to participate in something meaningful for the STM Church and School Community? Well, here's your chance! The church community is now gathering once a month to pray the rosary for the many prayer intentions of our parish's family, friends, and communities. Students K-8th Grade, along with parents and siblings, are invited to attend these prayerful events! The dates are: February 10, March 3, and May 6. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Blackledge at [jennifer.h.blackledge@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.h.blackledge@gmail.com).



## First Trimester Honors

### 6th grade:

Andrew B, Caliana C, Colleen P, Sean R, Lorelei C, Alexis C, Landon C, Laire H, Charlotte H, McKayla O, Duncan T, Michael B, Piper C, Grace F, Gabriella G, Cole H, Jillian H., Paige M, Matthew N, Emily S, and Reese W.

### 7th grade:

Beatrice R, Emily L, Lindsay D, Reagan F, Tanner K

### 8th grade:

Angelo B, Jacob P, Katie C, Mary D, Matthew R, Thomas M.

Congratulations on making First Honors this trimester! Keep up the great work!



## Nice on Ice

STM students do lots of unique activities when they are not in school. I know classmates who take dance, practice the flute, and even work on their own companies. There is also a small group of us who play ice hockey for the Lehigh Valley Phantoms Youth Organization. I'm on the same 10U team as my sister Kate (Grade 2). Sean R. (Grade 6) and Luca C. (Grade 5) play on different 12U teams. And Luca's younger brother, Nico (Kindergarten), is in the 8U Developmental Program. A couple of times a week, our families drive to Steel Ice Center in Bethlehem for practices and games. It is a lot of work, but it is so much fun skating fast and scoring goal! If you are interested in playing, there is a "Try Hockey For Free" event on February 25 at Steel Ice Center. Or if you just want to watch hockey, you could attend "St. Thomas More Night" at the PPL Center on March 19 to see the AHL Lehigh Valley Phantoms. We hope to see you around the rink!

-Natalie D.



## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Chase B. who won the Diocesan Spelling Bee for 7th Grade and John C. who placed 3rd for 8th Grade! The event was held on Sunday, November 6 at SS Peter and Paul in Lehighton. Great job!





## Book Review

### *Ban This Book*

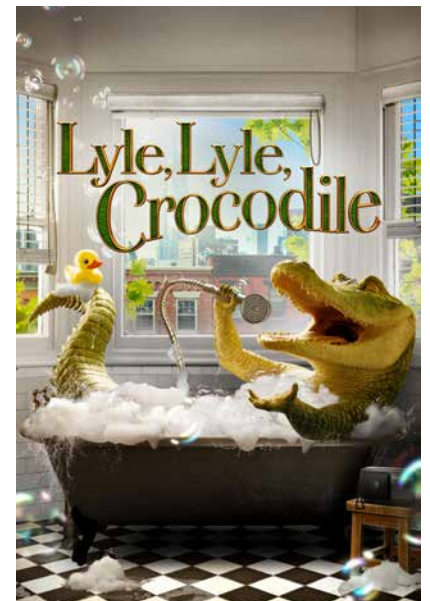
What would you do if your favorite book was banned? This is exactly what Fourth Grader Amy Anne had to go through in the novel *Ban this Book* by Alan Gratz. On a normal school day she suddenly found out that her favorite book *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* had been banned from her school library because a parent thought it wasn't appropriate for students to read. Soon more and more books began to become banned, so Amy Anne decided to create a secret library in her locker with all the banned books, so any student could borrow and read them. Throughout the story she managed to gain fearlessness and courage to finally speak up at a school board meeting to unban the books. This novel encourages students to fight for censorship and to not be afraid to speak up and share their opinions because everyone can make a change.



## Movie Review

### *Lyle Lyle Crocodile*

In the movie *Lyle Lyle Crocodile*, Lyle might seem like a normal crocodile, but he has a big heart, can understand humans, and most importantly, he can sing! Lyle lived in an attic in a townhouse building with his poor owner, but when Lyle gets stage fright, his owner is forced to move out and work for more money. Years later, a family moves in and doesn't know he's living there, until he is found in the attic singing and dancing. The family is completely shocked! What will happen to Lyle? Watch the rest of this exciting movie to find out.

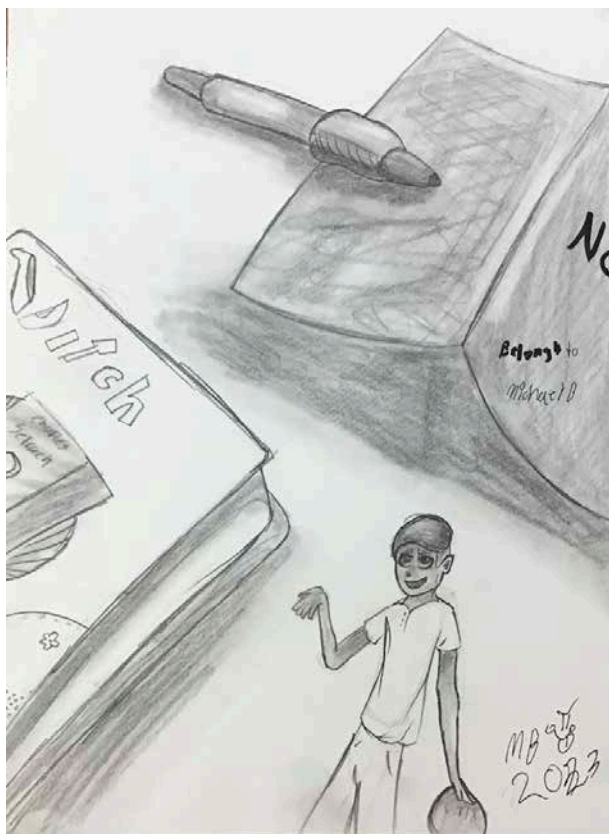


## International Creativity Month

International Creativity Month is celebrated every January. In honor of this month, the STM students depicted what STM means to them through beautiful art. The winner was Micheal B in 6th Grade and honorable mention was Nina R. in 6th Grade. Congrats!

### Winner

*Micheal B.*



### Honorable Mention

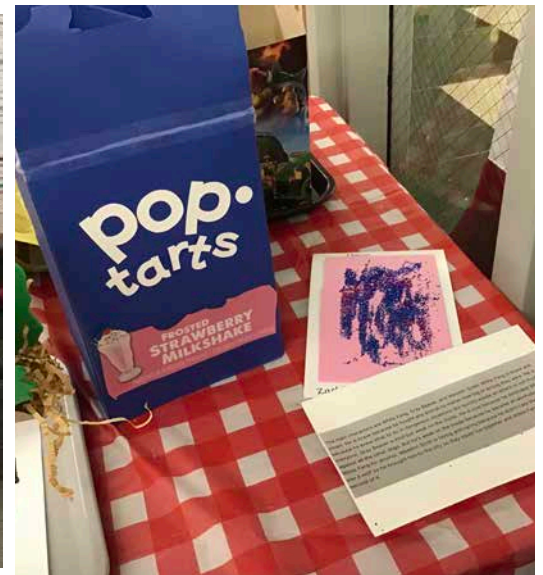
*Nina R.*





## Book Report: Book Buffet

This year's 5th Grade students were able to make some scrumptious book reports by incorporating their books and representing the five story elements as food. These elements included introduction, setting, characters, plot/summary, and an opinion piece about the book. Students got creative by making foods such as pop tarts, pizza, sushi, Willy Wonka chocolate bars, burgers, cookies, cakes, pies, desserts, and even McDonald's Happy Meals.





# Retro Recipe

## *Cinnamon Apple Baked Pancake*

### Ingredients

#### Pancake

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt

#### Filling

- 2 tbs. butter or margarine
  - 2 tsp. cornstarch
  - 1 tbs. cold water
  - 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
  - 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
  - 2 medium cooking apples, cored and sliced 1/2-inch
- Makes 6 servings

### Instructions

#### Pancake

- Heat oven to 400°.
- In 12 x 8-inch pan melt 1/4 cup butter in oven (5-6 minutes).
- In smaller bowl combine all remaining pancake ingredients.
- Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until well mixed.
- Pour batter into hot pan.
- Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until puffed, set in center and golden brown.

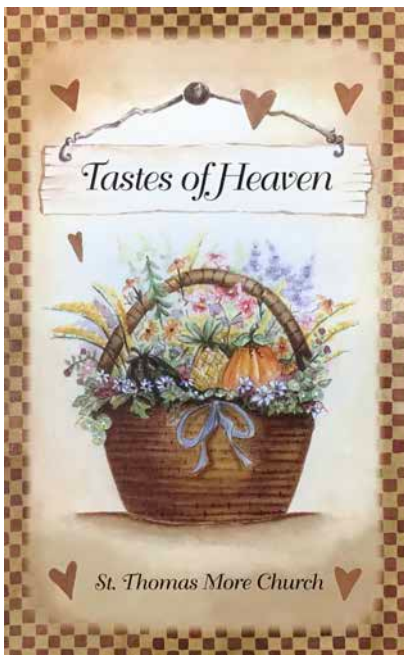
#### Filling

- In 10-inch skillet, melt 2 tablespoons butter
- In small bowl stir together cornstarch and water
- Stir brown sugar, cinnamon, and cornstarch mixture into butter
- Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until sugar dissolves and mixture bubbles and thickens (2-3 minutes).
- Stir in apples
- Continue cooking, stirring constantly, until apples are evenly coated and crisply tender (10-12 minutes).
- Spoon filling over hot pancake; serve immediately

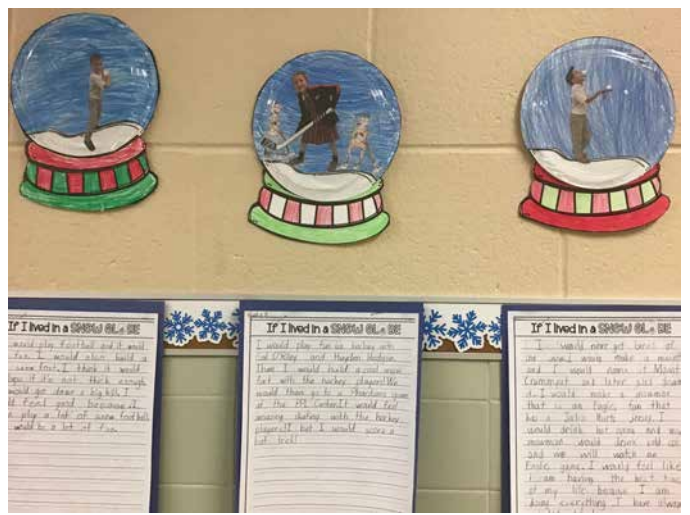
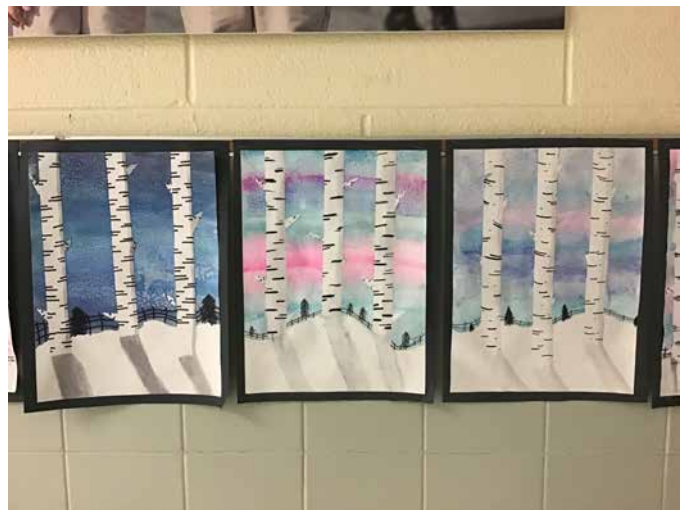
*Recipe By: Monica Thompson*

#### *Tastes of Heaven*

This book is a sharing of all the favorite STM Parish Families from 2004.



# STM Artwork



## Credits

**Moderator:** Mrs. B

**Student Contributors:** Natalie D.

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