

STM TIMES

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2019-2020 Walkathon



The eighth grade class as they pose for their last walkathon picture.

Walkathon Assembly

On Friday, September 20, Saint Thomas More School held the kickoff assembly for their most important fundraiser, the Walkathon. The theme this year was "50 Years of Superheroes!" STM School celebrates its 50 anniversary this year and during those 50 years STM has been filled with all types of "superheroes," or people who have made a positive difference with faith and kindness. When entering the loud gym, the excitement was bubbling over. The assembly began, as all things do at STM, with a prayer. Following the prayer was a very entertaining video that featured our very own STM administrators in their alter egos, well-known superheroes. As soon as the video ended the STM students got to see their favorite heroes in person. We watched a video by Kid President about how to be the best a Superhero in life and another video featuring our very own STM students. After some games, giveaways and lots of fun, a force of evil, portrayed by our very own Mr. Mozingo,

September Making a Difference Awards

K- Arialeena Urias

1- 145- Declan Bubnis

1- 151- Ryan Arnold

1-144- William Zambelli

2-149- Emma Anderson

2-147- Blake Ho

2-146- Natalia Stano

3-121- Cole Heigl

3-125- Olivia

Lieberman.

3-123- Dominic Pursell

4-128- Lauren Scialla

4-126- Charlotte Hood

4-124- Gabby East.

4-122- Brendan Horn

5-501- EJ Hoeing

5-223- Clare Dilg

5-224- Georgia Hoffman

5-221- Kevin Carbone

6-227- Riley Landis

6-226- Chloe Posavek

6-228- Henry Samer

7th Grade- Bryn Lawler

8th Grade- Aidan Friel

had stolen the prizes and had captured Superman (Sister Pat), Wonder Woman (Mrs. Salovay), and Captain America (Mr. Peiffer). Luckily, the Incredible Hulk (Mr. Roman) put the villain in jail, freed the trapped trio, and restored peace and order to the assembly! All in all, the Walkathon Kickoff Assembly was a very energetic, fun, and lively event that kickstarted the Walkathon and made everyone more excited for this great event!

Walkathon

On October 18 the Walkathon went into action. The whole school gathered in the gym for the beginning part of the assembly. Afterwards to stretch bodies and get hyped, everyone got to do some yoga with Mrs. Morse, the owner of barre3. Then the 8th grade, with Mr. Peiffer, led the school along the route. The route consisted of walking around the new Preschool and main school. After walking, the students came to a stop in the grass. There were: games, pumpkin voting, and music. Some of the games were parkour, a ping-pong game, hula-hoops, and the tin foil chopstick game. There were many beautifully decorated pumpkins too! Many of them were designed as Superheroes. The DJ played many popular songs that everyone danced to. All in all, the Walkathon was very fun and successful!



October Making a Difference Awards

- K- 054-Alicen
 K- 068-Donna V.
 K- 168-Julia
 K- 167-Donna
- 1-145- Kiana Menconi Drost
 1- 151- Claire Liberman
 1- 144- Piero Guarino
- 2-149- Autumn Diehl
 2-147- LJ Johnson
 2-146 Jackson Lewulis
- 3-121-Kerrigan McDonnell.
 3-125- Cali Colistra
 3-123- Laine Henry
- 4-128- Chase Butynskyi
 4-126- Olivia Payne.
 4-124- Noah Kachurak
 4-122- Joey Hobbie.
- 5-501- Ethan Deegan
 5-223- Mia Muir
 5-224- Lauren Rutt
 5-221- Aveline Bubnis
- 6-227- Daniel Weaver.
 6-226- Chloe Posavek
 6-228- Liam Farrell
- 7th Grade- Caden Deegan
- 8th Grade- Shyanne Ly

STM FIELDTRIPS

MoMATH MUSEUM

On Tuesday, October 15, the 7th graders visited the MoMath Museum in New York City. They had two workshops and lots of time to explore the museum. The two workshops were on Cryptology (the science of decoding) and Probability. In the Cryptology Workshop, the class learned how to decode and code using a Caesar Cipher. This cipher uses the alphabet and something called number shift. If someone set the cipher to a shift of 13, A becomes M. The thirteenth letter in the alphabet is M which makes sense why the shift is M. In the Probability Workshop, the class learned how to determine the probability of dice and how likely or unlikely it is to roll a number. In the museum itself, there were several popular attractions. For example, there were chairs that spun like tops, 15 Tic-Tac-Toes, and a large magnetic tessellation wall. When asked about the trip they said it was very fun and educational.



Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

On October 3, 2019 5th grade had an amazing experience . They had the privilege to go to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Once the fifth graders arrived in New Jersey, they were able to roam around and go out on their own to explore The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. One of the memorable experiences was them going on the ferry. They also had the opportunity to research their ancestors and learn more about their heritage. When students got back to their classes, they created a

Book Review

The featured book is *Gone* by Micheal Grant. This horror novel is about people at and over the age of 15 disappearing in the city of Perdido Beach. Along with this random disappearance, there is a barrier surrounding the whole city so that nobody can leave. There is no way to leave, the food is running out fast, and the kids are in a panic. What will the kids of Perdido Beach do? Find out by reading the book *Gone*.

RATING: 9/10

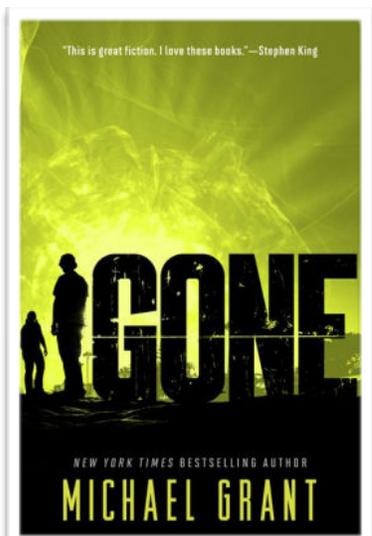
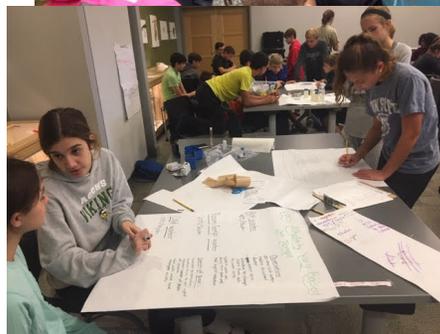
scrapbook of their experience. According to many teachers and students, the trip was not only educational but enjoyable too.

Jacobsburg Environmental Educational Center

On October 29, the 8th Graders spent the day at Jacobsburg Environmental Center.

When they first arrived it was rainy and cloudy, but the 8th graders didn't let that interfere with their learning and

experiments. Using an inquiry-based model, students conducted biology, chemistry, and physics experiments in an outdoor lab setting. The students were able to actually go outside and explore the Bushkill Creek. Some tested the sensitivity of microorganisms living in the creek while others tested the flow rate of the creek. At the end of the day the 8th graders came together with their groups and presented their findings to their peers. It was a fun, educational, and WET day!



STM Class News

8th Grade Class News:

This fall 8th Graders got the opportunity to write their own prayers. These prayers were read in the morning during announcements. All of the students got to write their own prayer with one other student which turned out to be a great success. These prayers written by the 8th grade were very relatable and helpful to many students in their everyday lives. Also, not only did the students write the prayer, but they also were able to write the action plan. This made students aware of how their classmates would like to be treated and helped them to be more understanding of what their peers expect from them. Overall, this was a great opportunity for the 8th graders to take on a leadership role and guide their peers and students younger than themselves to spread kindness throughout the school.

7th and 8th Grade Class News:

On Friday, November 8, our Junior High had the unique opportunity to listen to former refugees Yeni Arguello (Cuban) refugee, and STM alumni Cuong Tran (Vietnamese). They spoke about their experiences fleeing their countries in order to have a better life in the United States. Other guest speakers included Reverend Maria Tjelveit, Pastor at The Episcopalian Church of the Mediator in Allentown and Mrs. Jamie Koch, whose three grown children are STM alumni. These ladies volunteer their time at The Allentown Refugee Center. Both Reverend Maria and Mrs. Koch spoke about how they help refugees get acclimated to life in the United States. As part of the Year of Giving, STM plans to raise money for Habitat for Humanity to help build a house for a local refugee family.



RECIPE FOR PUMPKIN

SPICE COOKIES:

- 2 Sticks of Butter, Softened
- • 2/3 Cup of Brown Sugar
- • 1/3 Cup of White Sugar
- • 1 Large egg
- • 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- • 1 cup of canned pumpkin
- • 2 Cups All purpose flour
- • 2 Teaspoons Ground Cinnamon
- • 1 teaspoon baking soda
- • 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- • 1/4 teaspoon of baking powder

PREPARATION:

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES
2. IN A LARGE BOWL MASH BUTTER AND SUGAR. ADD EGG AND VANILLA. THEN ADD CANNED PUMPKIN, AND MIX ALL OF THE INGREDIENTS TOGETHER.
3. IN A SEPARATE BOWL MIX TOGETHER FLOUR, CINNAMON, BAKING SODA, SALT, AND BAKING POWDER.
4. POUR THE WET INGREDIENTS INTO THE BOWL WITH THE DRY INGREDIENTS.
5. FOR TWO MINUTES BEFORE EATING LET THE COOKIES SIT.

All About Fall

What is Fall?

Fall is between two seasons, summer and winter. On September 23, fall begins. A fancy name for fall is Autumn. Autumn or Fall is when the temperature from summer decreases. The leaves fall because the trees aren't given enough nutrients to help support them. Before the leaves fall off though, they change color. This allows the trees to survive in winter and later grow new leaves in the spring. This season is so important because it means that summer is changing and so is the warm weather. Without the name Autumn, people wouldn't know what to call the temperature changing from 90 degrees to cool 50s.

Halloween Parade Grade K-2

On October 31, students from Grades K-8 dressed in their costumes for school. Not only just the students, but so did teachers coming to school as Disney princesses, foods, superheroes, and wizards!

Also, at 1:00 PM, Grades K-2 went down to the gymnasium for the Halloween Parade! The children marched around the gymnasium being led by their teachers while holding signs that represented their class. However, students didn't march without an audience, parents came too! After walking 9-10 laps around the gymnasium, students marched back to their homerooms to have a spectacular party!

RECIPE FOR PUMPKIN SPICE COOKIES FROSTING

6. MIX THE WET AND DRY INGREDIENTS TOGETHER.
7. ROLL SMALL BALLS OF DOUGH INTO HAND AND THEN PLACE THE BALLS ABOUT TWO INCHES APART ON A COOKIE TRAY.

8. BAKE EACH TRAY FOR 8-10 MINUTES. TAKE OUT OF OVEN AND COOL

PREPARATION (FOR FROSTING):

1. BLEND ALL OF DRY INGREDIENTS TOGETHER.
2. WHEN COOKIES FINALLY COOL, FROST THE COOKIE WITH THE BLENDED FROSTING
3. ENJOY!



Halloween Party Grades K-2

At 2:00 PM on Halloween, the party started. From grades K-6, everyone partied! Four to five parents chaperoned each party, by playing awesome games like Pumpkin Bowling, Speed Mummy, Witch Hat Ring Toss, and many other creative games!

The object of Pumpkin Bowling is to roll a pumpkin into a stack of toilet paper. In order to win Speed Mummy, three to four students are put into a group. One student stands as still as a statue, while the other students wrap them with toilet paper from head to toe! However, they must complete this in the shortest amount of time.

Knights of Columbus Halloween Party

On October 18, the Knights of Columbus held a Halloween Party for students in K-3. This party was amazing, with lots of fun activities to do. There was trick-or-treating, where the kids went down to the 3rd and 4th Grade wing in the school and found kids from older grades handing out candy. As the families walked through the colonnade, they were greeted by Girl Scouts of all ages who were holding a bake sale. When families walked through the gym, there were many fun activities for the children to participate in! There was face painting, making ghost lollipops, and so much more!

Turkey Trot

The St. Thomas more first annual Turkey Trot was an incredibly successful event. Our school goal was to use our bodies in positive motion. The students have been working hard at understanding the Cardiovascular System and building their endurance. The trot kicked off with positive motivation and stretching supplied by Mrs. Brittany Morse from barre3. Soon after, the energized students took the track! The smiles as they rounded every corner and gathered their feathers,, were electric. This seasonal event was a True Turkey Track Test and baseline example of what they can achieve when they have a goal in mind. The students' enthusiasm was contagious throughout the whole Trot! We look forward to measuring their growth in the Spring at The Bunny Hop!



Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast

The kindergarten students enjoyed wearing Native American clothing (dyed and fringed old t shirts), home made necklaces and Indian headbands or pilgrim hats during their Friendship Feasts on Monday, November 25. The students brought in fruit and trail mix items and helped make fruit salads and trail mix to eat at the feast. A favorite part was eating the trail mix in waffle bowls!



Second Grade Coding Project

For the past few days, second graders have participated in a coding project based on the book *Balloons Over Broadway*. After reading the story in library, students designed and created their own balloons in stem class. After students finished creating their balloons, they coded robots to follow a parade route. The students had a blast while learning various math concepts such as perimeter, degrees, sequencing and meters.



Sports

Girls Varsity Volleyball

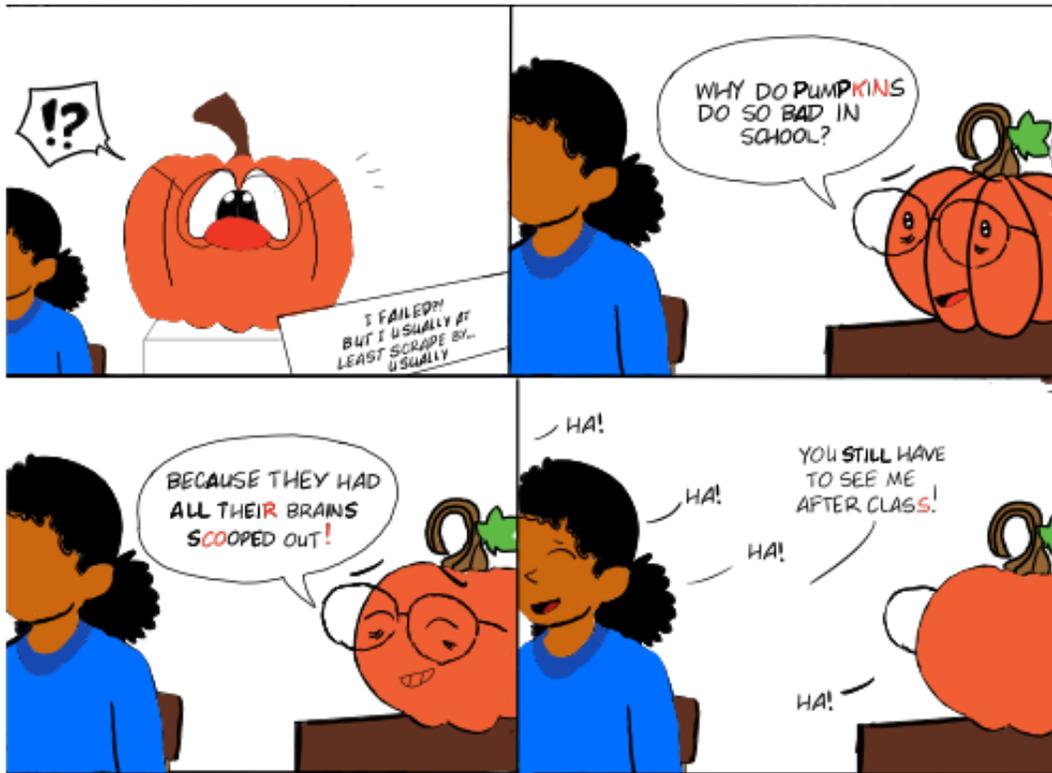
This year the STM varsity girls volleyball team had a great year. The team consisted of eighth graders Grace Fifield, Molly Maskiell, Elizabeth Trump, Catie McGee, Natalie Tucker, and Alyssa Mullaney, and seventh graders Sarah Furey, Annelise Quinn, Milly Wolf, and Emma Wells. In the diocesan tournament the girls beat St. Ann's Emmaus and then moved onto the championship game. The girls finished out their season as diocesan champions beating St. Ann's Bethlehem in 3 sets to clutch the victory. This year the bond on the team was like one of a family. The girls were super close and loved playing with each other during the season. If anyone is thinking about playing volleyball next year they highly recommend it!



Cross Country

This year, one of our eighth graders, Brian Colins, started training with the Central Catholic cross country team. He was motivated because his sister is a member of the team and he saw her practice and he was inspired. During the summer, Brian woke up at seven a.m. six days a week for early morning runs. The practices were more demanding than the St. Thomas More practices because of the longer distances and faster paces. By the end of the summer, he was already a significantly faster runner. His work payed off in the fall, he won five out of the six races and won the district championship for the St. Thomas team. His future goal is to make varsity freshman year at Central Catholic and win states his senior year.





Hidden Message: Halloween Rocks!

Teacher Interview With Miss Coccia

1. Why did you want to become a teacher?

"I wanted to become a teacher because I love working with and helping children to do their very best."

2. What is your favorite part about teaching?

"When a student finally has the "aha" moment, when they are struggling."

3. Why did you choose to teach 2nd Grade?

"It is a really important year for sacraments and my faith is very important to me so I enjoy being a part of the kids' faith journey, too."

4. What are some of your favorite hobbies?

"Shopping at Target, watching "The Office", and spending time with my nephews."

5. What's your favorite part about STM so far?

"Everything! Everybody was so welcoming, and it really makes me think about my elementary school and how it has that Christ-like focus that is so important."

6. Why did you choose STM?

"It felt like home,; felt like I was here my whole life."

Miss Coccia; Second Grade Teacher



Credits

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