

STM TIMES

God is Love, Love One Another

September Making a Difference Awards

1st Grade

- Jax Acklen
- Eva Ballen
- Nolan Wiegand
- Samantha Mesics

2nd Grade

- Laine Henry
- Hailey Hawkins
- Lauren Meitzler

3rd Grade

- Mary Psarros
- Charlotte Hood
- Jarrett Tyler
- Massimo Sankar

4th Grade

- Addison Dilg
- Clare Dilg
- Maggie Carolla
- Hope Spellacy

5th Grade

- Georgia Martino
- Charles Samer
- Daphne Schware

6th Grade

- Caden Deegan
- Bryn Lawler
- Todd Croslis

7th Grade

- Dainn Vassallo
- Celine Obeid

8th Grade

- John Fahrney
- Elena Pursell

~Shyanne Ly



Faculty members were slimed at the Walkathon Kick-Off Assembly.

Walkathon Kick-Off Assembly

On September 21, students in every grade at STM arrived to the gymnasium to see the Walkathon Kick-Off Assembly. The enthusiastic yelling and cheering of the students was silenced when an exciting video of a rocket launching into space was shown. This served as an awesome display of the 2018-2019 Walkathon theme: *Blasting Off Into a Brighter Future*. After the video, the school's principal, Mr. Peiffer, surprised the students by running into the gymnasium dressed in an astronaut costume! In addition, the Iron Pigs mascot, Feroous, unexpectedly entered the gym with him, with a very welcoming response from the audience. Then, third grade teacher Mrs. Smith, announced that faculty members would begin taping Mr. Schwartz, the Coordinator of Student Services, to the wall which is something

Delicious Peanut Butter Milkshakes

Ingredients:

- 2 Tablespoons of Peanut Butter
- 1 1/2 Cups of Milk
- 2 Drops of Vanilla Extract
- 1 Tablespoon of Vanilla Ice Cream
- 4 Ice Cubes

Instructions:

- 1.) Add milk, peanut butter, ice cream, and vanilla extract into a blender.
- 2.) Blend to a smooth consistency.
- 3.) Add ice cubes, blend for a couple more seconds and look for an icy texture.
- 4.) Finally, taste, serve, and enjoy!

(If serving at an event, Peanut Butter Milkshakes are best served icy cold.)

~Melania Sankar

the students had been waiting for. The crowd started chanting, "Tape him up! Tape him up!" While they were waiting for Mr. Schwartz to be revealed, a couple of students shared their ideas on raising money for the upcoming Walkathon. Mr. Peiffer and two eighth grade students also began sling-shotting prizes into the bleachers which is a common activity at Iron Pigs baseball games. After that, a fun and competitive round of Knockout took place between two teams, with teachers and students included in both of them, which aroused lots of excitement from the audience. Finally, Mr. Schwartz was revealed behind the curtains of the gymnasium stage and the students were highly amused by the sight of him taped against the wall and not even touching the ground! After that, Mr. Peiffer, Vice Principal Mrs. Salovay, and Junior High teacher Mr. Gibbons were called up to the stage so they could prepare to be slimed! This was another event that the students had been anticipating. After the faculty members took their seats, the students were told to cheer the loudest for the person they wanted to get slimed. Each of them got lots of support but in the end, they all were slimed and the crowd went wild! After that, a closing prayer was said, and everyone was dismissed from the gymnasium with a happy feeling to carry with them.

-Diana Grover and Kaia Bognet



Walkathon

According to students at STM, the 2018-2019 Walkathon seemed to be better than ever before! This year, the Walkathon had an addition of fun games which were run by Middle School math and math II teacher Mrs. Steckel, as well as junior high student volunteers. Participants used coins to play these games which was a way of raising money for the school. The students also had a longer walking distance, walking all the way around Relevant Church. During their walk, the Central Catholic Viking band performed for the students and teachers which was not only fun, but extremely entertaining! Another enjoyable part of the Walkathon was the fantastic, energizing music that was played throughout the event. The entire STM family had so much fun during the Walkathon, and they hope to have an even better experience next year!

-Ali Grace Robinson

All About Mr. Peiffer

Mr. Peiffer is the new principal at STM. When Mr. Peiffer was younger, he wanted to be a basketball player but wasn't tall enough for the job. After that, being a social studies teacher was his next choice. The reason why Mr. Peiffer chose this path is because of an experimental psychology class that he took which interested him. Not only did Mr. Peiffer end up getting a teaching degree, but he also specialized in secondary education social studies and educational leadership. He pursued this path at different colleges throughout his career including Penn State University, Moravian College, Lehigh University, and Kutztown University.

Mr. Peiffer has been working as a principal for twenty years (including this year). The previous school he worked at was Strayer Middle School in Quakertown. He loves working with the students at STM. What he hopes is for the students to feel comfortable, safe, and enjoy going to school. Besides the opportunity of being a principal, Mr. Peiffer likes to chat one-on-one with each individual student. So far, he is loving STM!

-Ali Grace Robinson and Alyssa Angoy

My Experience Receiving the Cross for School

It was an incredible experience to go to the SteelStacks and represent our school. The first thing I did when I arrived was go in front of the actual SteelStacks where all of the priests from the Diocese had Mass. After grabbing a bite to eat, I headed up to a big room and sat with Mr. Peiffer. The leaders of the Diocese introduced themselves and started calling up high school graduates who were successful to give them awards. They then started calling up kids from different schools to receive the blessed crosses for each school. When STM was called, Faith Spellacy, Mr. Peiffer, and I waited in a line until it was our turn.





Book Review: *A Night Divided*

The book *A Night Divided* is an amazing novel about a girl named Greta who was separated from half of her family. She lives with her mom and brother, but her other brother and father are on the other side of the Berlin Wall that was recently built due to the frequently occurring fights and warfare. Then Greta has the idea of digging an underground tunnel to the other side of the wall, hoping to reunite with the rest of her family. Read *A Night Divided* to find out what happens next! This book is excellent and one that I would 100% recommend.

-Alyssa Angoy

Movie Review: *Christopher Robin*

"In the heartwarming light action adventure *Christopher Robin*, a young boy who loved embarking on adventure in the Hundred Acre Wood with a band of spirited and lovable stuffed animals, has grown up and lost his way. Now it's up to his childhood friends to venture into our world and help Christopher Robin remember the loving and playful boy who is still inside." - ★★★★★

~Melania Sankar

We then received the cross, took pictures, and returned home.

When we went back to school, we took even more pictures outside near the St. Thomas More statue. Then Mr. Peiffer asked us where we wanted to put the cross. We decided that the colonnade would be a good spot. The cross can be seen on the wall by the bulletin board. It was an amazing experience that I won't forget.

-Diego Mihura

Fall Volleyball

On the STM fall volleyball varsity team, practice is key! The roster for the team consists of five seventh graders - Olivia East, Grace Fifield, Molly Maskiell, Alyssa Mullaney, Elizabeth Trump - and six eighth graders - Diana Grover, Kylie Heinze, Elizabeth McGorry, Lauren Nelson, Elena Pursell, and Isabelle Russo. The coaches who led them through the season are Coach Jess Reynolds and Coach Jenny Kozuch. These girls have worked so hard and put great efforts into their games to get them through to the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) tournament, which took place on September 21. The team put out a splendid performance that day, winning both of their games and therefore, coming out with a victory for the overall tournament. After that, they played in the District Finals and came in second place. Congratulations to the STM volleyball team for doing a great job of representing their school!

-Diana Grover



Spotted Lanternfly

October Making a Difference Awards

First Grade:

- 1-152 Makenna Yenkowski
- 1-154 Zachary Durand
- 1-145 Erika Lett
- 1-144 Natalia Stano

Second Grade:

- 2-149 Evan Langehennig
- 2-147 Dominic Pursell
- 2-146 Nina Rose Sadaphal

Third Grade:

- 3-121 Gabby East
- 3-127 Lindsay Doyle
- 3-123 Amelia Joyce
- 3-125 Greyson Schmidt

Fourth Grade:

- 4-128 Connor Lawler
- 4-126 Anne Niggel
- 4-124 Jean Bluske
- 4-122 Kevin Carbone

Fifth Grade:

- 5-225 Henry Samer
- 5-223 Ava Walsh
- 5-221 Ryan Friel

Recent data shows that spotted lanternflies are being located near and in Allentown. These insects are migrating through the U.S. and are considered invaders to our natural ecosystem. They come from South Asia and have the potential of impacting grape and logging industries. These bugs are unable to bite anyone because their mouths are built to drink sap from trees.

Lanternflies are types of planthoppers and appear brown on the outside of their wings; however, on the inside of their wings is a ruby red color. They are usually one to two inches long and are generally difficult to spot. The government is slowly getting ahold of the situation by encouraging people to kill these insects and report any that they see.



To learn more and to report any lanternflies that you spot, please visit badbug@pa.gov.

-Diana Grover

Would You Take a Trip to the Moon?

In September of 2018, SpaceX (the aerospace company owned by billionaire Elon Musk) announced its plans for a trip to the moon. This trip will be no ordinary trip. This will be the first flight to carry a “tourist” to outer space! At the announcement event, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk unveiled who this space tourist will be. He is the Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa. This will be the first lunar journey since 1972, so Maezawa’s ticket will definitely be expensive!

The aircraft, called the Big Falcon Rocket, won’t be ready till 2023. An official day on which the rocket will depart has not yet been announced. One thing is for sure, though - this flight will make history!

-Alex de Gale



Fifth Grade Field Trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

October Making a Difference Awards (Continued)

Sixth Grade:

6-227 Alexandra Keane

6-226 Aidan Joyce

6-228 Richard Walker

7th Grade: Sam Salari and

Isabelle Johnson

8th Grade: Seona Hanna and

Dominic Heiser

~Shyanne Ly

Fall Poem

Autumn breeze begins to
flow,

Leaves are changing fast and
slow,

Falling down, down below,

Roots now safe from the
freezing blow.

~Ali Grace Robinson

On October 4, the fifth grade took a field trip to Ellis Island and Liberty Island in New York City. Below, Jude Ruisch, Shaylene Ly, and Riley Landis give their review of this fun and educational trip.

“The field trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island was absolutely amazing and fantastic. We couldn’t wait to see the statue on the bus ride there. When we finally saw the statue, it was ginormous! Something that I discovered there was that there are cuts in the statue from when they took her apart in France. We also got to go inside of the statue, which was our favorite part. Ellis Island was also very fun. I liked listening to the audio recording and learning so much about the immigrants. Some features of Ellis Island are the Great Hall, the Immigration Station, the Stairs of Separation, and the Doors of Separation. A cool thing that I did there was I got to research my relatives who were immigrants. Riding the ferries was one of the most fun things. On the boat ride back to New Jersey, we had all the STM students in the front deck. There was a cafe that served delicious treats. All and all, it was a great field trip.”

~Shyanne Ly

Cross Country

This fall, the St. Thomas More cross country team was very successful thanks to the head coach, Mr. Kieran McDonnell, our assistant coaches, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Kristen Karwacki, Coach Bevin, Coach Jill, and Coach Madeline; the team members’ dedicated parents, and, of course, all of the STM runners. The team consisted of 64 participants placed into different groups, each of which had a different distance challenge:

Kindergarten, first, and second graders ran 0.5 miles.

Third and fourth graders ran 1 mile.

Fifth and sixth graders ran 1.5 miles.

Seventh and eighth graders ran 2 miles.

Under the tutelage of the coaches, who always began practice with a few moments of prayer, each runner honed their natural ability into skill. Vigorous

Cross Country (Continued)

outdoor practices that began in the sweltering August heat also allowed them to develop the capability to use those skills effectively during their competitive, CYO-sponsored races which were almost always were held on

Sunday afternoons.

There is a lot of time, sweat, and effort that goes into becoming an A-plus runner. If you want to be a good runner, you have to stick it out. Teamwork means you don't just show up now and then at practice while the rest of your team is working hard. Cross country team members are running not only with the mindset of beating their personal record but are also running with their entire team in mind. If each individual strives to do better, then the whole team improves. A determined cross country runner will remember the old saying, "Don't settle for good when your good can be better, don't settle for better when your better can be best."

The top runners who led the team to celebratory finishes were:

Kindergarten, first, and second graders: Kerrigan McDonnell, Colleen Piccini, Evan Langehennig, and Owen Fisher

Third and fourth graders: Tanner Karwacki and Adrianna Lutz

Fifth and sixth graders: Conor Fisher, Benjamin Pellizzoni, Ryan Friel, and Cole Woodward

Seventh and eighth graders: Griffin Hawkins, Brian Collins, Madison Woodward, and Leo Koons

Perhaps in a few years, some of the STM runners will be training for the Olympics!

The cross country team finished their season with a "Trick or Treat" Run, with candy surprises along the running trail and topped it off with PIZZA!

The STM team had a successful cross country season that was memorable but most of all, FUN!

People who are interested in becoming a runner for STM can join the school's running club by contacting Coach McDonnell at kerrickier@aol.com.

-Leo Koons

Fire Prevention Program

On October 11, firefighters visited the school to teach students in kindergarten through fourth grade about fire safety. The program was run by Chief Wells who was accompanied by volunteer fireman Jim Marsh, firefighter Braden Damitz, and other helpful members of the Western Salisbury Fire Department. Since it was raining outside, the program took place in the gymnasium and lasted for about an hour. The firefighters explained the safety precautions that should be taken to prevent a fire such as having a fire

Fire Prevention Program (Continued)

alarm somewhere in the house and making sure that it is functioning properly. After that, they talked about what to do and where to go in the event of fire. And let's not forget the common phrase, "Stop,

Drop, and Roll!” Next, the firemen put their protective suits on to show the kids what they would look like if they ever had to encounter each other during a fire. The firefighters then brought some amusement to the students by crawling through the crowd and giving them high-fives! At the end, there was some time for the kids to ask any questions that they were burning to ask (no pun intended). Overall, the Fire Prevention Program was a good learning experience for the students who now know the importance of having fire alarms nearby and how to act in the event of a fire.

-Sophia Steckel

Halloween Dance

The junior high students of STM were able to enjoy an electrifying, fun-filled evening on October 26, the night of the Halloween Dance! The dance took place in the family center of the school and was sponsored by junior high religion, literature, and English teacher Mrs. Loiacono. Other teachers present were Mrs. Hartman, junior high science teacher; Mrs. Lehman, junior high English and religion teacher; and Mrs. Steckel, middle school math and math II teacher. Students started arriving at 7:00 p.m. The DJ was already rocking and rolling, the decorations were already in place, and the snacks and beverages were



readily available. Neon green and purple balloons hung from the ceiling, which were shaped into spooky creatures by PLC secretary Miss Zona. The students arrived ready for action and were dressed for the occasion. Costumes varied from Care Bears all the way to Harley Quinn from the Batman movies! People laughed, talked, and danced while the latest hits boomed from the speakers. To add to the fun, the DJ announced about halfway through the dance, with an excited and approving response from the crowd, that there would a hula hoop contest!

Several students competed but there could only be one winner. After finalists Cat Crampton, Grace Fifield, and Sophia Steckel went against each other in the final round, Grace Fifield was crowned the hula hoop champion! Near the end of the dance, Mrs. Loiacono announced the names of the various seventh and eighth grade winners of the costume contest. Finally, to top it all off, the DJ chose the last song of the night to be “Don’t Stop Believin” by a group called Journey. After an enthusiastic and

Halloween Dance (Continued)

energetic response from everyone present (teachers



included), the students gathered their belongings and left the Family Center in good spirits. STM looks forward to Mrs. Loiacono's next junior high dance, and whatever surprises she and the school dance committee might have up their sleeves!

-Sophia Steckel

Poppies Art

Members of STM honored the men and women who defend and have defended our country's freedom. All STM students painted red poppies in art class, which became part of the Poppy Wall of Valor at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Savannah, Georgia. STM expresses its thanks to all our current veterans, and we remember those who have served in the past.

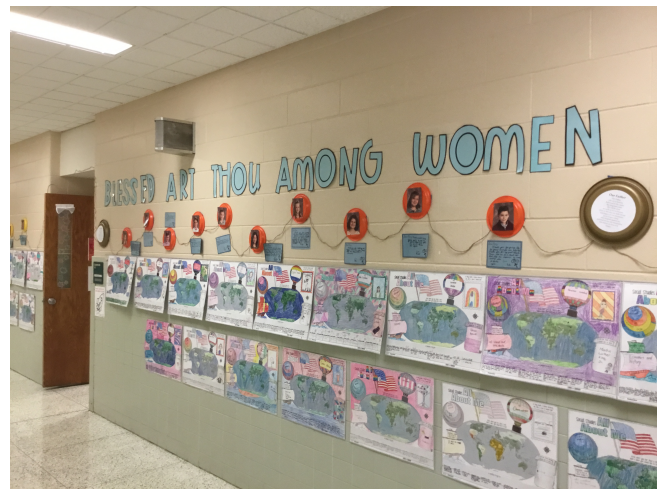
-Ali Grace Robinson



Third Grade Rosary

On October 18, one of the priests at STM, Father Harper, visited the third grade students. The third and fourth grade hallway was decorated with prayers of thanks to Mary from the students which were set up in the form of a rosary. Father Harper decided to take this opportunity to teach the third graders more about the rosary. He explained that praying a Hail Mary is almost like giving Mary a bouquet of roses, hence the name rosary. He also talked about how he gives some of his time to providing rosaries to others. Although these rosaries may be shiny, fragile, and beautiful, Father Harper almost always gives them away for free and only asks in return for those receiving the rosaries to remember to pray with them whenever possible.

-Jarrett Tyler and Tanner Karwacki



Student Council Elections

On November 2, STM took part in Student Council elections. This was the first time the school participated in this. There were many unique posters around the school

Student Council Elections (Continued)

Continued on Next Page



encouraging a vote for a certain candidate. Several candidates ran for a variety of different positions. These positions were President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Classroom Representatives. Candidates had to deliver a short speech in front of their peers in grades 5-8. The speeches were interesting and well-prepared. Every candidate put forth their best effort, giving their visions for the positions they were running for. After the assembly, students returned to their homerooms and voted for who they thought would best represent the school. A big round of applause to all the candidates who ran and congratulations to those who won!

-Alex de Gale



Credits

Article Writers: Alyssa Angoy, Alex DeGale, Diana Grover, Kaia, Shyanne Ly, Ali Grace Robinson, Melania Sankar, Sophia Steckel

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Thank you also to any faculty members or students who we have not mentioned but have contributed to this newspaper. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Bibliography

“Movie Review — Christopher Robin” is adopted from:

<http://time.com/5357651/christopher-robin-review/>

Picture of A Night Divided from “Book Review — A Night Divided” is adopted from:

<https://www.amazon.com/Night-Divided-Jennifer-Nielsen/dp/0545682428>

Picture of SpaceX from “Would You Take a Trip to the Moon?” is adopted from:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/17/science/spacex-moon-tourism-passenger.html>

