

LITTLE GIANTS BIG NEWS

Christmas Edition

Dear Parents,

December 10th 2023

On Friday, December 1, Father Mike held a period of Eucharistic Adoration with the whole school. It was absolutely beautiful. I was so proud of the students (the Kindergarteners to the 8th grade!) who were very respectful, quiet, and prayerful during this time of reflection. Father added Benediction to the end of Adoration. It was an extraordinary event. We will continue to expose the Eucharist for adoration in the months to come and offer more opportunities for the students to learn about their faith and grow their love for Jesus.

Our Vocations Crucifix was sent home in 5th/6th grade this week and our Family Rosary Kit was sent home in first grade. We encourage your families to spend time in prayer together. Your children learn so much from you! Be reverent and please help us take care of the kits as they travel through the classrooms. Praying you all grow in your love for Mary, Our Blessed Mother and in Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 12:

PTO Christmas Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Monday, December 18:

Christmas Concert at 6 PM (Gym)
Christmas Spirit Week Begins (runs through the 21st)

Christmas Spirit Week (December 18-21):

Monday: Christmas PJ Day
Tuesday: Christmas Sweater Day
Wednesday: White Christmas Day
Thursday: Grinch versus Santa (wear red or green)

Friday, December 22:

No School
Christmas Break Begins

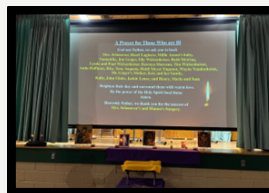
School Resumes:

January 8

Thank you for all you do to keep the mission of St. Patrick School going! At our 25th Annual Auction, we gathered to celebrate our community and invest in our youth. Because of your generosity we have surpassed our fundraising goal and together, we generated over \$114,000 in revenue! Praise God!! What a testament to the support that surrounds us and the legacy from the generations before us! Our sincere appreciation for all who helped with this very successful event. May God continue to bless the work of your hands.

Just a reminder, parents are welcome to attend our morning prayer service (I call it Morning Chapel). You don't have to come every day, even just showing up occasionally really means so much to your children. It is a nice time to see the kids in prayer and song worshipping Our LORD. We have switched up things a little during Advent, so you might hear your children singing some very old Christmas hymns, and even singing a little Latin! Students are invited to add straw to our manger to represent good deeds they've done each day (We're going to need a bigger manger to hold all that straw!!). We also light our Advent wreath every day.

Finally, every day we pray for those in our families and community who are sick, and for those who have passed away. If you have someone you would like us to add to our prayers, please send me an email with their names, and we will pray for them. If they get worse, or get better, send another email updating the situation. The students like to hear that their prayers are being answered!



I wish you and your families a prayerful and reflective Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. As we gather with family and friends, remember to pause, and simply take time to thank God for this time of year. "LOVE came down at Christmas" for you, and for all of us, and remains with us today.

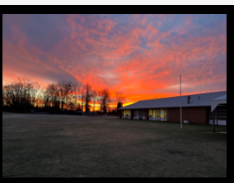
God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Carl Lenze

Carl Lenze, Principal

Saint Patrick Catholic School Mission Statement

That everyone in the Saint Patrick Catholic School community encounter Jesus, grow in Him, and witness to others through a Christ-centered academic environment.



CHRISTMAS EDITION



BEHOLD, THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN. BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL." - ISAIAH 7:14

SPS Auction Update

The St. Patrick School Auction Committee is sending a HUGE thank you for your amazing support! Our 25th Annual St. Patrick School Auction was amazing. The preliminary numbers coming in are looking to be over \$114,000 in revenue! The best year yet! Thanks to you, our auction is our largest annual fundraiser that helps to keep our school doors open, with affordable tuition, upgrades in technology, and give our hard working teachers competitive salaries. We couldn't have done it without the help of our incredible community, families, friends, and alumni. You are all rock stars!



Pictured Above: SPS Class Projects:

SPS School Committee

Here at St. Pat's, we are building an active School Committee who meets monthly with our Principal. We discuss many topics relative to all school business. We host community events such as the Fun Run, Hootenanny, Big Tips for Little Giants, St. Patty's Day Breakfast and Living Nativity. We also focus on recruitment and retention by organizing our annual Open House, New Family Picnic, and Back to School Night. The School Committee is composed of parents of our students who bring a variety of perspectives representing other school and parish committees and each of our classrooms. The overall goal of the School Committee is to support the school in many functions and represent the overall parent population at the school. You are encouraged to get to know who our School Committee members are and engage them with anything you might need, they have signed up to represent you and to be your voice as a collective school body.

The following is a list of our School Committee parents:

Nicole Jaskot, President

Andrew Konyha, Vice President

Karly Vey, Secretary

Members: Joel Grubb, Alison Illes, Jenna Heiden, Kurt Ryder, Gabby Williams, Sarah Blicharski & James Bishop

PTO Corner

CONNECTING, ENGAGING, AND EMPOWERING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

This past Monday, December 4th, the PTO hosted a delightful Secret Santa Shop, offering our little ones the chance to pick out special gifts for family and friends. The event was a heartwarming success, spreading joy and festive cheer.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 'Cookies and Cocoa with Santa and Mrs. Claus' event on Tuesday, the 12th. It's the perfect opportunity for our school community to come together and share in the holiday spirit.

Looking ahead, our dedicated PTO is in full swing, actively planning for the exciting celebrations during Catholic Schools Week. Stay tuned for more details on the wonderful activities in store for our St. Patrick Giants community!



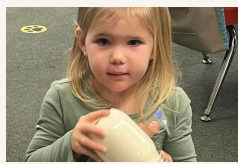
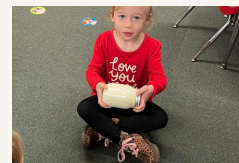
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11





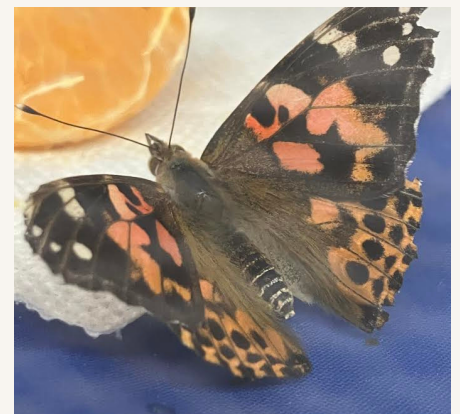
Preschool Adventures: Election Day Voting & Thanksgiving Butter-Making

Our littlest learners embarked on exciting adventures this month! They flexed their civic muscles by holding a playful Election Day vote, learning about the democratic process in their own adorable way. As Thanksgiving approached, the preschoolers dove into a hands-on activity, making butter on the last day of school before the holiday break. Their joy and curiosity shone through, creating lasting memories of learning and fun. Check out the delightful snapshots of our budding scholars in action!



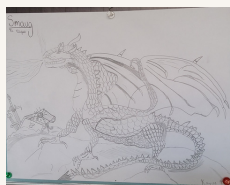
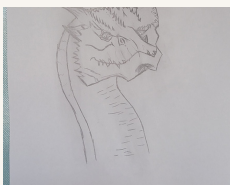
5/6 Grade: Exploring Life's Marvels: A Journey Through Science and Observation

In Science, we have been learning about the systems within and around various living things that allow them to get nutrition and respond to their environment. We have been growing wheat both in the dark and in direct sunlight to compare plant development based on this variable. We have been observing painted lady butterflies throughout their life cycle, from tiny caterpillars, to chrysalids, to colorful adults that we feed with orange slices. We also had live redworms composting for us in order to learn about decomposers. Praise God for His intelligent design, the gift of our sense to observe it, and the gift of our minds to understand it!



7th/8th Grade Talents Shine: Smaug's Tale Illustrated with Precision

Our talented 7th and 8th-grade students have just completed their exploration of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic, 'The Hobbit.' As a creative endeavor, they skillfully brought one of the main antagonists, the formidable dragon Smaug, to life through their artistic expressions. The intricate drawings of Smaug, deemed 'the greatest of the dragons of his day,' showcase the depth of artistic talent within our student body. Kudos to our budding artists for their captivating interpretations!



"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:20:



LITTLE GIANTS NEWS CREW

TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS

Contributed by: Isabelle Jones

There are many traditions that most may practice during the Christmas season. Personally, the fact that you can choose between an angel or star to put on top of your tree is a very difficult decision. The reason to put a star on top of your tree would be to resemble the star that led the Magi to Christ, but you might put an angel on your tree because you want the angel to resemble the angel that delivered a message to the shepherds the night of Jesus' birth. A tradition is something you do around the same time each year as it was done in past years to resemble something significant. When you put certain things on your tree (like an angel or a star) you should be thinking of the tradition behind it (not just how good it looks on your tree). Another tradition is putting up stockings which is a wonderful tradition to have because it has a magnificent Christian tradition behind it. This tradition started with a Saint named Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas started this tradition by putting money in poor people stockings to help them get out of debt or to help feed themselves.

These days he is known as Santa Claus, a magical man that comes and puts presents under Christmas trees so that the morning of Christmas is full of joy from children everywhere. This year if you haven't had the tradition of remembering the traditions of putting up an angel or star try to make a new tradition of doing this each year during Christmas time. Try to find the origin of your traditions this Christmas and see if it has any relation to a Christian tradition. Have a merry early Christmas and a happy new year from Saint Patrick's School!



Pictured above: PK4 Classroom Decorations

SPS Favorite Holiday Traditions

Camden Grubb, 5th Grade

"My favorite holiday tradition is driving out to Michigan International Speedway to the Nite Lites drive-thru. We all wear our Christmas pajamas and bring hot chocolate and snacks for the ride."

Patrick Morse, 2nd Grade

"My favorite Christmas tradition is decorating the tree and putting the star on top with daddy."

Avery West, 2nd Grade

"My favorite tradition is our Christmas Elf returning each year and playing games and tricks on us."

Elden Ryder, Kindergarten

"My favorite tradition is making Christmas cookies!"

Lena Ryder, Kindergarten

"My favorite tradition is opening up our Christmas presents."

Vivian Konyha, 1st Grade

"My favorite tradition is "Hope for God."

Wyatt Frasier, 6th Grade

"My favorite tradition is drinking hot cocoa in front of a woodstove fire."

Estelle Teets, 4th Grade

"My favorite tradition is playing silly games like white elephant and saran wrap ball and spending time with family."

Ashleigh Rose-Torzewski, 3rd Grade

"My favorite tradition is decorating cookies!"

Charlotte Blicharski, 2nd grade

"My favorite Christmas tradition is going to see Christmas lights, especially at the Zoo."

Luke West, 4th grade

"My favorite Christmas tradition is playing games at family Christmas parties."



"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:20



LITTLE GIANTS NEWS CREW

COURTSIDE INSIGHTS: A STUDENT'S CYO BASKETBALL UPDATE

Contributed by: Angie Illes

I am so proud and excited to say that we have four basketball teams this year! This is going to be the most amount of teams we have ever had. So far, the basketball season is off to a great start. Basketball is an amazing sport, and I am so excited that so many kids wanted to play. Basketball is a sport that has captured the hearts of many people all over the world. It is a game that requires teamwork, speed, and agility. Basketball teaches kids how to become excellent team players. This basketball season is going to be amazing with two girls' teams and two boys' teams. This year we have four 8th graders playing on the 7th/8th team. Those players are Abby Jones, Julie Pogarch, Szasha Rose, and Angie Illes. Good luck to them as they finish their final basketball season with St. Pats. I can't wait to see where this season brings all four of these teams!



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Lord,

As we embark on this season of Advent, a time of joyful anticipation, we come together as a community to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. May each day of this Advent season be a step closer to the miracle of Christmas.

In these moments of waiting, help us to reflect on the true meaning of the season - the gift of love, hope, and salvation that Jesus brings to our lives. May our hearts be open to the wonders of your grace and the light of your presence.

Guide us through this Advent journey, just as the wise men were led by the star to the newborn King. May our actions and words reflect the love and kindness that Jesus exemplified during his time on earth.

Lord, bless our school community, our families, and all those we encounter during this special time. May the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts with joy, peace, and gratitude.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gear up for Game Day! Join Us for December's Home Games and Support Our Giants on the Court

December 14, 2023 (Thursday) at St. Patrick:

Girls B2: St. Patrick vs MCES 4th at 5:30 PM

Boys B2: St. Patrick 5th vs Trinity 4th at 6:30 PM

December 16, 2023 (Saturday) at St. Patrick:

Boys B2: St. Patrick 4th vs Trinity 4th at 9:30 AM

Girls A: St. Patrick vs MCES 8th at 10:30 AM

Boys B2: St. Patrick 5th vs Trenton 5th 11:30 AM

December 21, 2023 (Thursday) at St. Patrick:

Girls B2: St. Patrick vs MCES 5th Gold at 5:30 PM

Girls A: St. Patrick vs St. Charles at 6:30 PM

The SCRIP CORNER

Don't forget about our December Buyer competition! The family that buys the most SCRIP from December 1st through 31st will get a \$50 gift card of their choice in the January order. Make sure you let your extended family and friends know about our competition - their orders will help your family be the big winner!

Even if our physical deadline for gift cards was December 8th, you can still participate by purchasing eGift cards throughout the month. Every contribution counts, and it's an easy way to support our school community. Let's make December a winning month for all!



Save your tabs for the Ronald McDonald House!
More details coming soon on this 2024 service project. Let's pull together to make a difference!



"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:20

