



The Principal's Pen



By: Mr. Rob Costante

#SASModelsTheWay

Where has the time gone? If you are like me, you probably have asked yourself this very same question. The answer might be found in the revealing remarks as offered by Pope Francis (August 5, 2014): "Our life is made of time and time is God's gift, and it is therefore important to make use of it by performing good and fruitful actions." Well at St. Agnes, BEAR NATION accepts this message as a framework for living a faith filled life of value. As I reflect back on the past two months, I know well that time has been a treasure chest of good and fruitful actions. From our Veterans

Day Prayer Service and the "Wall of Gratitude" that was gifted to our military heroes and now resides at the Catonsville American Legion Hall; to our first ever 4th grade class service project as mentors for the special needs students at Maiden Choice School; to our middle school social at Get Air Trampoline Park; to our Grandparents Day Prayer Service and the creative performances offered by each class; to the Catholic High School Placement Test being administered at St. Agnes; to the daily prayers and lighting of our Advent wreath; to our yearly musical Christmas concert. The memories of these

experiences and events brought joyous smiles to all involved as we performed and offered good and fruitful actions for the greater glory of God.

We Are...St. Agnes!

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St. Agnes News

Spirit Week Kicks Off Enrollment Season

By: Sharde Robinson and Lanaii Stewart, 7th Grade

When asked why Spirit Week is so important at St. Agnes, Advancement Director, Mrs. Katie Wilder said, "It means that we kick off our enrollment season for families to come back next year and continue to be part of our community." Each day brought a different theme and there were lots of fun activities for students to enjoy throughout the week.

Monday was *Crazy Hat Day* and there were quite a few kids who wore wacky hats. Student Council chose a winner from each class for the craziest hat in each grade. Classes who met their Race for Education fundraising goal made crazy hats for their teachers to wear during the day. The hats were weird, funny, creative, and most importantly...crazy.



Tuesday was *Twin Day* and many students and staff members chose to wear matching outfits to school. There were even triplets that matched well. Most people were able to find a shirt and jeans that matched but shoes were really hard to match. Many of the teachers matched and came up with something really clever. Some "twins" and "triplets" even went all out to match hairstyles, too!

Wednesday was *Backward Day* and lots of people wore backward clothing. The best part about it was that we had a backwards class schedule. During first period



(at the end of the day), the eighth graders switched roles by spending some time teaching the students in grades K-4.

Thursday was *Thankful Thursday*, a day to remember those things that we are most grateful for. Each student wrote something they were thankful for on a sticky note, which was added to the wall outside the office. The notes were, formed into a cross. Student Ambassadors also made thank you



cards for the members of the school board and parish staff.

Friday was *Blue and White Day* and teachers, kids, and Mr. Costante were all dressed in blue and white. After a shortened class schedule, the afternoon was spent together in the Activity Center for the annual Faculty vs. 8th grade Volleyball Game. The day ended with the Pie-A-Teacher assembly. The students who raised the most money for the Race for Education were selected to throw a pie in the face at one of three staff members: Mr. O, Ms. Sitzman, and Mr. Costante.



Spaghetti Dinner Time!

By: Amelia Caquelin, Virginia Joyce, and Phoenix O'Neill, 7th Grade

The Spaghetti Dinner was held on November 2nd. This is a fun social event to help raise money and bring families and friends together for a delicious meal. In addition to the spaghetti, there were many activities including a cake wheel, basketball toss, raffles and many other mini games.

All of the dishes you would expect in a

traditional spaghetti meal were served: bread, salad, spaghetti (of course), and dessert. Eat in and take out options were available.

This was also an opportunity for the students in the middle school to become servers. The waiters were assigned up to four tables and would serve their customers and see if they need a cup filled up or more bread. Waiters were also responsible for

bringing salad and dessert to those sitting at their tables. If needed, a waiter will also bring a box to bring leftovers home.

In conclusion, the Spaghetti Dinner is a fun event for all. If you haven't gone this year, consider going next year.



Trimester 2 Brings New "Cub Club" Options for Middle School

By: Ryan Paradela and Dylan Payne, 7th Grade



As Trimester Two comes to a start, three new clubs have sprung up. With new clubs available, we asked the Teachers about their clubs.

Mrs. Peters - Disney Club

Q: Why did you choose to oversee this club?

A: "I had to pick something... and Disney is the Best."

Q: How much experience do you have in this topic?

A: "I have actually been to Disney 27 times."



Q: Do you enjoy this topic?

A: "Yes. I mean, of course!"

Q: What do you think about the people in your club?

A: "We are just learning about each other"

Mrs. Liberto - Pokeman Club

Q: Did you or why did you choose to oversee this club?

A: "To appeal the students interest."

Q: How much experience do you have in this topic?

A: "None." (With A Slight Laugh)

Q: Do you enjoy this topic?

A: "I appreciate others who enjoy the topic"

Q: What do you think of the club members?

A: "They seem to be delightful"

Senora Morris - Drawing Club

Q: Did you or why did you choose to oversee this club?

A: "I consider myself a teacher of art... and I love art"

Q: How much experience do you have in this topic?

A: "I have 40 years of experience"

Q: Do you enjoy this topic?

A: "Of Course!"

Q: What do you think about the people in your club?

A: "They are wonderful and Very Good"

Bonus Question: Which is better, Caprisun or Kool-Aid?

Mrs.Peters: Capri Sun

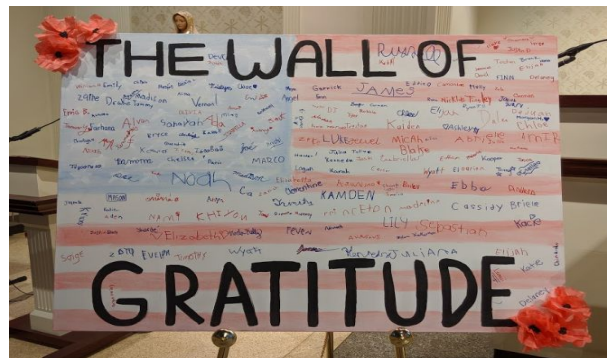
Mrs.Liberto: KoolAid

Mrs.Peters: Capri Sun

SPIRIT at St. Agnes

Honoring Our Veterans In Prayer

By: Mrs. Heather Shea



Celebrated every November 11th, Veterans Day is a day set aside to honor all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces and to thank them for their service and the sacrifices they've made to protect our freedoms.



The St. Agnes Community commemorated Veterans Day with a special prayer service led by the Student Council. During the

service, student leaders shared readings from the Bible, offered prayers not only for our Veterans but for all those currently serving in the military, as well as those service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Eighth grader and Student Council President, Finn Smith, sang a special song entitled "50,000 Names on the Wall" while students presented symbols of the items mentioned in the song and placed them on the altar. Also present on the altar during the prayer service was the Wall of Gratitude, signed by each student as a way of saying "thank you" to the

brave men and women who attended the service as honored guests. These veterans were also honored with pins and handmade thank you cards filled with prayers and messages of hope from the students.

Following the prayer service, several guests returned to the school and visited each

classroom, sharing their stories of how they joined the military, their experiences while serving, and answering student questions.



Celebrating Christmas at St. Agnes



St. Agnes celebrated the Christmas season with festive carols and music during the annual Christmas concert on December 13th. This special performance was presented by the school band, the Cherub choir, and school choir and led by Mrs. Williams and Mr. Baker.



ACADEMICS at St. Agnes



Each edition will feature an interview with a different teacher who has just joined our St. Agnes family to help everyone get to know them better.

Spotlight On: Senora Morris

By: Tiwana Whittle, 7th Grade

Senora Morris joined the St. Agnes family at the start of the 2019 school year as the new Spanish teacher. This year, Spanish is taught on the first floor next to Mr. Costante's office. Senora Morris teaches Spanish to K-8th grade and she loves teaching these students how to write and speak in Spanish, all while doing fun projects. She'll do anything to help her students to understand Spanish better.

Why did you come here to St. Agnes?

"I wanted to work in a Catholic school."

Do you enjoy doing your job?

"Yes, I love my job."

How many years have you been teaching?

"I have been working for 25 years."

Is it hard to keep being organized?

"When you have 10 different grade levels to teach, there is a lot to keep organized. That is part of the excitement of teaching!"

How has it been since you joined St. Agnes?

"I have enjoyed being part of the St. Agnes community."

In your spare time, what do you do?

"I enjoy painting, singing, and spending time with my family."

Do you see yourself remaining at St. Agnes?

"Yes. I love being part of the St. Agnes community."





SERVICE at St. Agnes

MODELing the Way and Helping Those In Need

By: Amelia Caquelin, 7th Grade and Mrs. Heather Shea



On Tuesday, November 5th, the second and sixth grade classes presented November's **MODEL the Way** theme of OPTIMISM to the school during Community Meeting. What is optimism?

Optimism is hopefulness and confidence about the future. Another definition or meaning for optimism is the successful outcome of something. Families were asked to to **MODEL** optimism by bringing in a new or gently used coat to be donated to the *Happy Helpers Homeless Shelter*, located in Halethorpe, so that others will be warm and dry this winter season. Thanks to the generosity of the school

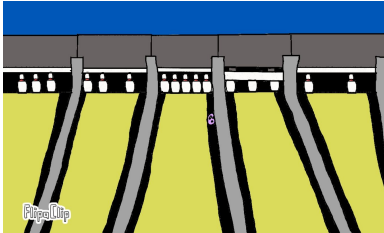
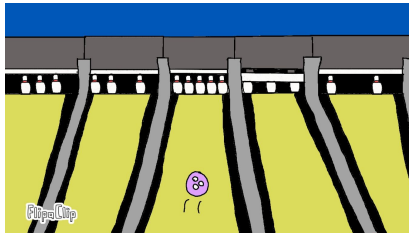
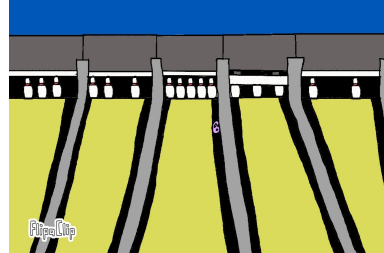
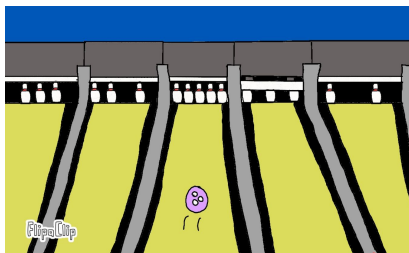
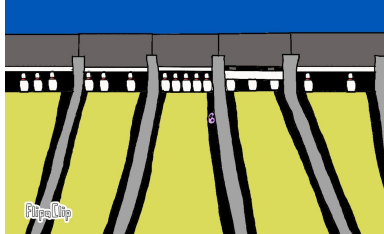
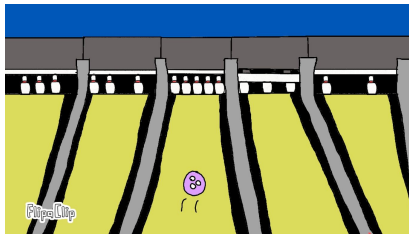
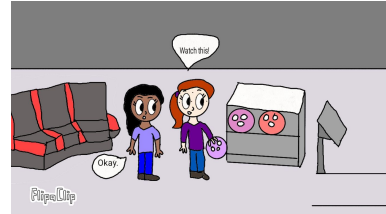
community, over 100 coats were able to be donated at the conclusion of the drive.

December marked the beginning of another annual school wide service project - *Shoebboxes for Seafarers*. Each class was assigned a particular item to bring in during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Included in the list were: toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks, deodorant, gloves, paperback books, writing supplies, snacks, gum, and candy. Student Council members donated their time to sort the items, place them in shoeboxes, wrapped them and wrote a card for each box. The Student Council filled 80 shoeboxes which have since been donated to the seamen and seamwomen who call into the Port of Baltimore. The gift boxes were distributed by the Apostleship of the Sea staff and given to those who were far from their loved ones during the holiday season.





Some *BEAR* Fun!



BEARtime Sun Staff:

Amelia Caquelin
Virginia Joyce
Phoenix O'Neill-Zeballos
Ryan Paradela
Dylan Payne
Sharde Robinson
Lanaii Stewart
Tiyana Whittle

Questions Column

Question: Which is better - Apple or Android phones?

Answer: To be honest, it is all up to personal preference and what type of phone you are looking for. Here are some pros and cons of both phones.

Android		iPhone	
PROS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very customizable• Split screen• Relatively inexpensive• Tons of apps to choose from• Google friendly	CONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of accessories• Weaker security system• Some apps can't run on Android	PROS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The display is attractive• Stronger security system• Easy to pair with other Apple devices• Allows you to take advantage of online services• Facetime	CONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• iPhones are expensive• Lack of variety in apps• No split screen or customizability in general

In conclusion, it doesn't matter what type of phone you have. Everyone has a phone that suits their needs. If you go around telling people how amazing you are cause you have a certain phone, then what's the point of having a phone. Use your phone as a device, not a fancy accessory to show off to your friends. At the end of the day, no one cares how expensive your phone is or what brand it is. If you have a phone and it works, then that's enough.

Question: Why do I get yelled at and bullied?

Answer: This a serious question and it can sometimes be hard to find someone's motivations when you're being bullied. Here are the reasons why people become bullies:

- If a person doesn't receive enough attention from others, they might pick on someone to feel "tough" or "popular". In reality, they end up just hurting others to make themselves look better.
- Someone who is frustrated, hurt, or angry will take everything out on you. Everyone has a bad day but if this is a constant cycle, then something needs to be done.
- Some people bully because they are also bullied. They might think that if they become a bully, then they'll stop being bullied.

Some people might say "ignore it". In reality, ignoring something doesn't make it go away. If I have vegetables on my plate and my mom says, "Eat them," and I just ignore the vegetables, the vegetables are not going to go away. They're still going to be there.

Here is my advice.

- If you feel safe enough, speak to your bully. I know this is hard and takes a lot of courage but you need to stand up for yourself. If you stand up for yourself and the bully just keeps on hurting you, it's time to get an adult involved (Note for Adults: if a kid comes to you and says they're being bullied. Please please don't take it lightly. If it got that bad, that a kid had to come to you and ask for help, the situation must be pretty serious).

- Don't isolate yourself. A great group of friends is needed in a time like this. If you isolate yourself then you are making yourself a target for more bullying.
- Don't see yourself as the problem. As I mentioned earlier, people bully other people

because they are insecure, seek attention or just find fun in it. Just remember nothing is wrong with you. They are the problem.

- Don't take your anger out on other people and become a bully yourself.

Have a question? Need Advice? We've got answers. Leave your anonymous questions in the box outside of Mrs. Shea's Classroom!

Holiday Word Search

T Y H J Q R D H L T I Y B J S Z P R X C
 M K T G J X M C C L L D I D O C W V Q W
 I E D I H S H E P H E A R D S V M O M S
 U Q C J V V H O T C O C O A U G O Q O D
 O H X G R M G T W R R D C N N T B L W W
 R K J F Q Y I P X M I S T L E T O E S O
 W U E B T C C L E P F R U D O L P H A U
 M E S O N Q A K P M A S Z L K Z O I N A
 D Q U H C A V N L F C M N R K Z O I T G
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 C F T E R A G X K Y U U I I W V L T H A
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 R E I X S H E P M L L A H J B Y A S M K
 A G I R T K A F L K U V N F S G Y N P Y
 T H P Q M I N X R E N U I E X V N R X N
 I C J M A M G I M O P X V L Z B K I P R
 O Q D J S H E C B E Y I N Z L I B R H W
 N D N L J S L Z H V E Z E G I R P R N A
 S I M C P H S Y Z W C T R E E T Z N J U
 B I K W O K F V M E U V S N Z V T Z E X

Decorations

Mistletoe

Hot cocoa

Jesus

Shepherds

Applepie

Santa

Christmas

Rudolph

Snowman

CandyCane

Angels

Tree