



The Principal's Pen

By: Mr. Rob Costante

#SASModelsTheWay

On January 1 of each year, Americans view the change of the calendar year as an opportunity to improve themselves. Annually, some of the more common "New Year's Resolutions" include a commitment to exercise more, save more, eat more healthy, lose weight or even quit smoking. Well at St. Agnes, our "New Year's Resolutions" included the following: learn more, pray more, create more, and serve one another more. And after two months into the year 2020, we have honored our commitment to shape BEAR NATION into the best possible version of our school.

As January 2 arrived, our faculty members participated in a two day training workshop aimed at preparing our teachers with the required knowledge to implement the newly

installed Lab Learner Science curriculum. Then on January 6, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord with the time honored tradition of the blessing of the classrooms prayer service. Then on January 27 as Catholic Schools Week began, we held our first ever Art Showcase event as part of our mid-year H.S.A. Parent Meeting. This memorable event unveiled creative masterpieces from each and every student in our school. And finally, the last full day of CSW was used as an opportunity to welcome an extraordinary group of children from Maiden Choice School to BEAR NATION for a very special event. What I anticipate will become an annual event, the 4th grade led their young mentees from Maiden Choice in a variety of fun filled challenges. And at the end of their visit, each of our guests was presented with an

activity day "olympic" medal amid raucous and supportive cheers from our entire school community. The smiles on the faces of our Maiden Choice friends served as a wonderful reminder what an amazing blessing it is to be part of BEAR NATION. A place where our school community continues to thrive as it inspires our students to learn more, pray more, create more and to serve one another more.

We Are...St. Agnes!

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SPIRIT at St. Agnes

Celebrating Catholic Education

By: Sharde Robinson and Lanaii Stewart, 7th Grade

Catholic Schools Week: It's about celebrating Catholic education. At our school, each day had a theme and activities that don't happen on a normal day. We had no uniform days, free lunch, and no homework. We had a Trivia Game and Talent Show, and so much more.

Monday- Monday, January 27th was Parent Appreciation Day. If you drove into the car line in the morning, parents would get a goodie bag with yummy treats inside. Then, parents were invited to join their child's class for the morning. One parent said they wanted to visit because she wanted to see the difference between school now and school back when she was a student. After the HSA meeting on Monday night, there was an art show, and a tour of the lab.

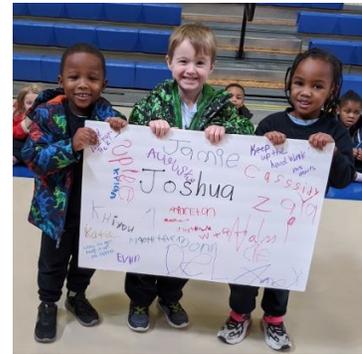


Tuesday- Tuesday, January 28th was Student Appreciation Day. Students were permitted to dress out of uniform for free. Teachers did not give homework and classes were shortened. The day ended with the annual 8th grade vs. faculty/staff basketball game, which the 8th grade won!

Wednesday- Wednesday January 29th was "We Are St. Agnes Wednesday." During Community Meeting, middle school teams competed against the teachers in a trivia challenge, something like *Jeopardy*. Towards the end of the day we had a talent show.

Thursday- Service Thursday was on Thursday, January 30th. There was a food collection drive for Catonsville Emergency. Also, there was a field day with students from Maiden Choice and our fourth graders. Miss Romano and the fourth grade planned

fun activities in the gym for our visitors. Then, the other grades joined for the medal ceremony and brought signed posters for each Maiden Choice student.



Friday- Friday January 31st was Teacher Appreciation Day & Open House. The teachers had a luncheon after school that was provided by the HSA. And during the school day, visitors could tour the building between 10-12, led by the Student Ambassadors. The highlight of the tour was the new science lab, where Mrs. White and her students were on hand providing demonstrations on some of the new equipment.

Bishop Madden Blesses Stromberg Science Lab

By: Mrs. Heather Shea



Catholic Schools' Week is an annual celebration of Catholic schools. Traditionally, the celebration of Mass officially opens

and closes the week long salute to what makes Catholic education great.

St. Agnes opened Catholic Schools' Week 2020 at the 9am Mass on January 26th, celebrated by Bishop Madden. In attendance were parishioners, students, faculty and staff, representatives from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and very special guests: The Stromberg Family.

This year's opening of Catholic Schools' Week was extra special because it also included the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication of the new Stromberg Science Lab.

"The Stromberg Science Lab was made possible by a generous donation in honor of Lawrence and Charlotte Stromberg,

parishioners of St. Agnes Church and parents of four St. Agnes alumni. The lab is state-of-the-art and will allow all students from PreK - 8th grade to have an interactive science experience every week! The LabLearner curriculum is designed to introduce STEAM concepts and build upon them as students progress through their elementary and middle school years. St. Agnes is fortunate to be one of only three schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore with the LabLearner Science program. We are fortunate to have alumni who care about St. Agnes and the future of our children." said Mrs. Katie Wilder, St. Agnes Advancement Director, who planned the event which honored the legacy of the Stromberg Family.

On display during the dedication was some of the state of the art equipment that the students will be working with while in the lab. During Catholic Schools' Week, there were several other opportunities for parents and guests to see the lab in action as students provided demonstrations of the new equipment and exciting learning opportunities that are to come!



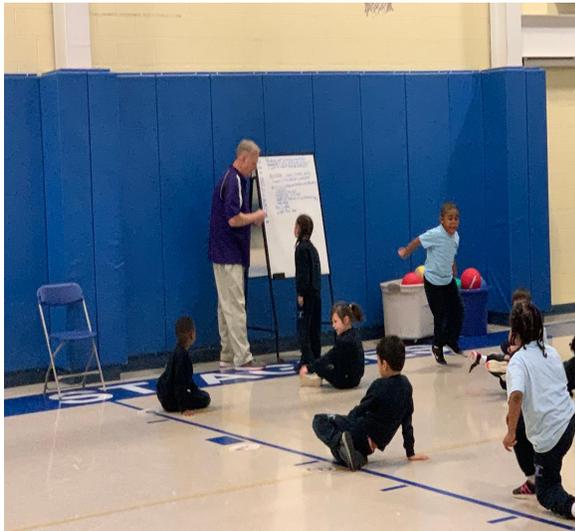
ACADEMICS at St. Agnes



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: Mr. Orsburn

By: Ryan Paradela and Dylan Payne, 7th Grade



Mr. O, or more widely known as Coach O, is the current Physical Education teacher of our school. This is his first year here at St. Agnes. We interviewed Mr. O. on January 30, 2020.

How many years of teaching experience do you have?

"26 years."

Why did you choose to teach at St. Agnes?

"I wanted to do something with a smaller group and with people committed to school."

Why did you choose to teach physical education?

"I was an athlete in college and I wanted to teach sports and games."

What do you like the most about your students?

"I could tell that they want to be here, and I like that it isn't only centered around education."

What do you like about St. Agnes?

"I like the teachers, the smaller class sizes, and especially the gym. Everyone is nice here."

We also asked Coach O about who would win the Superbowl. His response was this.

"I think that the Chiefs will win the Superbowl, because of Mahomes, and their quick wide receivers." *(As the Superbowl has already passed, we can see this prediction held up.)*



A New Edition To St. Agnes School!!

By: Tiyana Whittle, 7th Grade

The St. Agnes family has a new edition to the school. Our new science lab is ready for students! Mrs. White is so excited to have the students use the new science lab. All grades will have the opportunity to use the equipment in the lab.

Mrs. White, 4th-8th grade Science teacher shared that students will be doing lab activities that focus on different topics as students move throughout the year. Lab experiments are designed to coordinate with units outlined in the Lab Learner curriculum. Each lab experience will expose students to state of the art equipment and will encourage critical thinking skills.



Students in grades Pre-K to 8 will have access to the lab, one day a week, as part of their science instruction. In early February, classes started visiting the lab for an orientation period, to learn the purpose of the space as well as to review important safety procedures. By the end of the month, use of the science lab was in full swing and several classes have already completed their



first experiments. Science labs in schools are important because they help students discover important information on their own about scientific theories. Science labs incorporate

hands on experiences into student learning. St. Agnes is fortunate to be one of only a few schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to have a dedicated science lab.





SERVICE at St. Agnes

Discernment and Empowerment: January and February Leadership Themes

By: Dylan Payne and Ryan Paradela, 7th Grade

January Theme

dis·cern·ment

/dəˈsɜrnmənt/

noun

1. the ability to judge well.
2. (in Christian contexts) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding.

During January, our school took on the leadership theme of *Discernment*. Discernment is a quality a great leader should possess, helping those pass on good judgement to others. Throughout the month, our school started a collection drive for the pets of the Maryland S.P.C.A (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). During this drive, students were tasked with bringing in various types of pet foods and toys that are most in need by homeless pets waiting for their forever homes. We have all learned to use sound judgement for the month of January.

February Theme

em·pow·er·ment

/əmˈpouərmənt/

noun

1. authority or power given to someone to do something.

the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

During February, our school took on the leadership theme of *Empowerment*. Empowerment has multiple meanings, but all of them are great for a leader. The definition our school has chosen to fulfill was to make others stronger and more confident. To fit with this theme, our Pre-K and 5th grade students gave us some challenges. One of these challenges was the February Reading Challenge, where we were tasked with sharing God's gift of reading and knowledge. To do this, students were to read to someone that they know, at least 4 times. The second challenge, tasked each student to complete 200 Acts Of Kindness throughout our school and beyond. Students were provided with charts to track their reading progress and acts of kindness throughout the month.

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

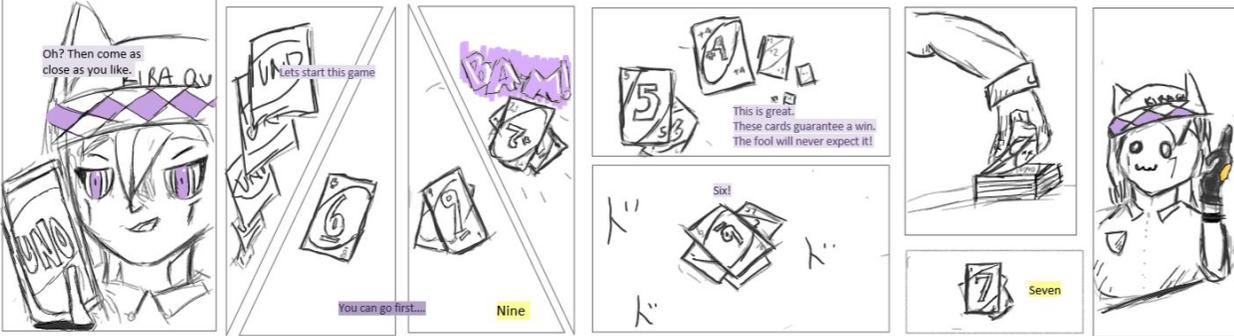
Oscar Wilde



Some *BEAR* Fun!

“Yes”

By: Ryan Paradela, 7th Grade



Don't forget to submit your questions to be featured in our regular Questions Column!

Easter Word Search

P S X Q K I N P X J B I D G J S Q Q W S E Z X J W
 Z D H Q N N Y S Z Y H G O Z P I P I O M J A B B X
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Spring break	Jelly Beans	Easter	Chocolate
Basket	Chicks	Sunday	Bunny
Jesus	Peeps	Happy	Candy
Eggs	Dye		

True or False

By: Amelia Caquelin

Read each statement and decide if it is true or false. Try your best and have fun!

1. Easter Eggs were originated in the Christian Community. **True or False**
2. Easter originally was created because a person in a bunny costume started handing out eggs to children. **True or False**
3. Easter is also called 'Pascha'. **True or False**
4. Americans spend \$0.4 billion on Easter candy. **True or False**
5. 30% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate. **True or False**

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