Newsletter December 2023



December is such a time of hustle and bustle, things to get done, shopping, baking, wrapping and more. It feels like there is no time to slow down and truly remember what these four weeks of Advent are all about. Advent is a time to quiet our hearts and minds, to pray and do good deeds and to remember what Christmas is all about. At school, we do our very best to instill this in our students each day. We are blessed to be a Catholic school which celebrates Christmas and all of the Catholic holidays. Our students can learn about Jesus as well as Santa and of course, the Elf of the Shelf! Over these weeks of preparation, we'll gather each day for Advent Prayer services and remind our students that Jesus is the reason for the season!

From Dec. 11th through Dec. 15th, the Student Council collected <u>new, unwrapped</u> toys in conjunction with the Lawrence Police Dept. These gifts will be donated to local children and will hopefully brighten their holiday. Thank you all for your generosity!

Two important events occur this month that you won't want to miss. The Nativity/Pageant is Dec. 20th at 1:45p.m. in the church. The Christmas band concert is Dec. 21st at 2:15p.m. in the gym. Both events will surely put you in the Christmas spirit!

As the really cold weather and potential snow approach, we want to remind you that St. Michael School almost always follows the decisions by the town of North Andover regarding school closures, delays and early dismissals. You will receive a text message (if you choose to accept texts from school in the parent portal) when we are informed of any decisions to close school. We ask that your child wear/bring a sweater/sweatshirt to school daily. Just like the heating costs in our homes, the heating bill at school is always increasing so putting on a sweater is always a good idea! Please be sure to write your child's name on the tag so it can easily be returned if lost.

When we return from the Christmas break, our Ski/Board Season will begin. Students in grades 3-8 who registered will have an opportunity to ski at Ski Bradford for six weeks.

Also coming up in January is a long, holiday weekend. On January 12th, school will be closed for our staff to begin working on our NEASC re-accreditation. We are up for our ten-year renewal of our school accreditation, so we must spend time reviewing our mission, curriculum and much, much more. We took this day in conjunction with January 15th since school would be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We hope the four-day holiday weekend allows you some fun, family time!

I wish you all the very best this Advent and Christmas Season. I hope Christmas vacation allows you to spend some quality time with your family, playing board games, playing in the snow (if it comes) and just enjoying each other's company!

Christmas Blessings,



Saint Michael School Mission Statement

Saint Michael School offers an exceptional Catholic education to our students, nurturing their desire to achieve academic excellence and encouraging spiritual, artistic, and athletic development in a caring, family environment. We motivate our students to become well-rounded, moral young men and women who are prepared to live a faithful life with intellectual rigor and spiritual awareness.

St. Michael Church

This is one of the most beautiful times of the year as all of us, young and old, are lifted up in the joy and hope of the Advent and Christmas seasons. In all the excitement it is easy to lose the real focus of this celebration, the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. As a family, I encourage all to find ways to keep the focus on Jesus through your activities and traditions. Jesus was born in simplicity. May we find ways to celebrate his birth in the same simplicity and joy.

God Bless!

Fr. Deeley





- December 20- Nativity Program
 1:45pm
- December 21- 2:15 Band Concert
- December 22- ½ Day Dismissal at 12:15pm
- December 25-January 1- Vacation
- January 2- School opens
- January 11- Mass 1:45p.m.
- January 12- School Closed for Professional Development
- January 15- School Closed for holiday



Do Not Send Cash or Checks Into School

When paying for field trips, art projects, club, etc. for your child, all payments must be made through our Student Information Service Program, RenWeb/FACTS.

Have An Idea or Suggestion?

We love to hear from you! If you would like to send us a comment or a suggestion, please email us at info@comcast.net.

Food Allergy Policy

Saint Michael School strives to be a nut free school. Please do not send in items that contain peanut butter or tree nuts. Please direct any questions to the Health Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Notice

This notice is per the "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act." An asbestos management plan has been developed for St. Michael's School which has asbestos containing material present. These plans are available and accessible to the public by contacting Nick Ippolito at 978-686-4050 at the Parish Offices as well as at the LEA administration office.

Tuition Update

How Do Families Receive a Parishioner Tuition Rate?

As a reminder, to be considered an active parishioner (and receive a parishioner tuition rate for the 2024-2025 school year) families must make a minimum total offertory donation of \$500 to our parish beginning July 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024. This can be done on a weekly basis when you attend Mass BUT it must be made in a trackable manner. You NEED to be a registered parishioner. If you wish to receive offertory envelopes from the parish, please email Dorothy_varga@saintmichael.com.

You may also make donations on the parish online giving **website** https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/298 Donations made at Easter and Christmas are for the benefit of the Clergy Trust and therefore do **NOT** count toward the annual \$500 donation to St. Michael Parish.

Thank You!

We wish to thank and recognize everyone who donated to our Annual Fund. We are excited to announce that we have received almost \$30,000 since October! Your generosity made that possible!

- In an ever-changing world, we would like to improve important aspects of our security and safety protocols, with priority to installing exterior cameras on the property.
- Update our ever-aging building. Our old building is over 70 years old and our "new" school is over 20 years old. We are looking to upgrade our bathrooms, playground and windows.
- As our integrated STEM program for Nursery through Grade 8 continues to grow, we want to ensure that we have a strong budget and plan to better prepare our students for the future.

Trinity Level

(over \$5,000)

Anonymous Donations

Ms. Donna Joslin

Archangel Level

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

James and Rose Connolly

Fr. Kevin Deeley

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Neff

Mr. and Mrs. William Rogge

Sisters of Charity Level

(\$501 to \$999)

Mrs. Donna Andren & Mr. Tom DeRosa Kate Callahan Polanco and Margaret Callahan Ritter Mr. David Cwiekowski and Mrs. Beni Barrett Shauna & Mark LaSpina

Founders Level

(\$101 to \$500)

Ann Amico

Michael & Valerie Andren

Mr. & Mrs. Mario Benedetto

Ms. Jane Burleigh

Clara Cabrera

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent D'Alessandro, Jr.



Founders Level (continued)

Mr. & Mrs. David DeFillippo Mr. and Mrs. Dichiappari Mr. and Mrs. Fadel Thomas & Kathleen Ferlito The Gesing Family Mrs. Christine Goddard-Brown and Mr. Shawn Brown Mr. and Mrs. Harringto Ms. Diane Haslam Mr. Hsien-Wen Hsu Hsu & Mrs. Yu-Fen Chang Mr. & Mrs. George Kazanjian Mr. and Mrs. Kim Mr. & Mrs. James Lafond Mr. and Mrs. Levis The Leyden Family Mr. Wing Lui Ms. Gina Malandra Susan Mansor Mr. and Mrs. Maroun Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McCarthy Mr. & Mrs. Robert McCumber Mr. Ulysses Rodriguez and Mrs. Dorys Mejia Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Meshotto

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mills
Debra Morin
The Newman Family
Kevin & Donna O'Brien
Mrs. Clare Ritchie
Judith Tarquinio
Mr. and Mrs. Warner
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wiseheart
Mr. William Forsyth and
Mrs. Ida Zarraga-Forsyth

Blue & White Level

(up to \$50)

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Andren
Mrs. Ruth Bamford
Anne Blain

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Caffrey Mrs. Ann Caramanica Mrs. Margherita Caron Mr. Gerard Casal & Mrs.

Stephanie Lallier-Casal
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Ciesielski

Ms. Margorie Dahill

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Diresta Mr. & Mrs. John Gallagher

Judith Garrett

Mrs. Carol Leary

Mr. and Mrs. Lough

Mrs. Kathleen O'Keefe

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Pawlik

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Penny

Mrs. Ella Riley

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Surette
Nicole Swiec

Mr. & Mrs. David Weihrauch

Mr. Edwin Young

Every effort was made to provide an accurate listing. Please accept our apology if we made a mistake and please reach out so it can be corrected.

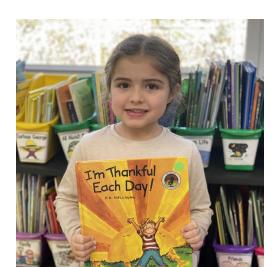


Many generous donations came in to recognize beloved family, friends, or loved ones, both living and deceased. Please remember to keep all our families in your daily prayers.

Allyson Brown, the Caramanica Children, Colin Dahill, Donna Donahue, Dr. & Mrs. Edward P. Moran, Michael Leary, In memory of Connor Ciesielski, Jack & Finn Pawlik, Josephine Garraitan, Kathy Callahan, Kingsley Charles, Owen & Cece Penny, Ryan Hiro, the Thurman Family and Tiernan & Keegan Paradis



Teaching Students for Tomorrow







"For me, SMS was more than just a solid academic foundation, it was a community of teachers, friends, and families that taught me the values of honesty, integrity, faith, and service to others. The values that SMS helped me develop whether in the classroom, on the basketball court, or in the school play are still prominent in my life today. I continue to live these values as I serve my country, and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to attend SMS. It truly built the foundation for where I am today."

—Philip Kirby, Class of 2017, Cadet United States Coast Guard Academy



Levels of Giving

Archangel

Level

Trinity Level \$5,000 + Above

Founders

Level

\$101 - \$500

\$1,000 -\$4,999 Principal Sisters of Charity Level \$501 - \$999

Principal Level \$21 - \$100 Blue & White Level Up to \$21





Your gift makes a difference!

Yes! I would like to make a difference by donating to the Saint Michael School Annual Fund.

1. Donate online at www.SaintMichael.com/AnnualFund, or;
2. Complete the form below, please make your check payable to Saint Michael School,
mail both to Saint Michael School Annual Fund, 80 Maple Avenue, North Andover, MA 01845

Donations to Saint Michael School are tax-deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3) for educational purposes. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

| Please Select Your Tax Deductible Giving Club Level | | My Relationship To Saint Michael School Is: | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ The Trinity Level: Over \$5,000 | ☐ The Founders Level: \$101 - \$500 | ☐ Parent | | Friend |
| ☐ The Archangel Level: \$1,000 - \$4,999 | ☐ The Principal Level: \$21 - \$100 | ☐ Grandparent | | Faculty / Staff |
| ☐ The Sisters of Charity Level: \$501 - \$99 | 9 The Blue and White Level: Up to \$21 | □ Alumni | | Other: |
| I have enclosed a gift made payable to "Sa | int Michael School" for the Annual Fund for \$ _ | | (| I wish my gift to remain anonymous |
| Yes, my or my spouse's employer will m | atch our gift! I will include and return the match | ning gift form with my donation. | Questions? Please | call Susan Rogge at 978-686-1862. |
| | | | | |
| I would like my gift to be made 📋 in hon | or or 🗖 in memory of: | | | |
| I would like my gift to be made in hor Please designate my gift to: | or or in memory of: | | | |
| Please designate my gift to: | oks for the Classroom | | | |
| Please designate my gift to: Wherever the need is greatest Book | | ☐ Capital Expenses ☐ Finan | ocial Aid | · |
| Please designate my gift to: ☐ Wherever the need is greatest ☐ Book First Name | oks for the Classroom | ☐ Capital Expenses ☐ Finan Suffix Email _ | icial Aid 🗖 Other | ?: Phone |
| Please designate my gift to: Wherever the need is greatest Book First Name Spouse's Name | oks for the Classroom | ☐ Capital Expenses ☐ Finan Suffix Email _ Suffix Email _ | icial Aid 🗖 Other | PhonePhone |

<u>UMatter Program</u>



Our UMatter pledge is recited each morning:

I pledge on this morning, as I begin this school day, to be thoughtful and kind in all I do and I say. To treat others with respect as I'd have them treat me. To be the kind person God wants me to be. To do one good deed and to all be a friend and to tell someone they matter before the day ends!

T.E.A.C.H.

inTegrity

gEnerosity

fAith

Courage

t**H**ankfulness

These 5 character traits will be focused on during the 10 months of school (one for every 2 months). Each time we see a student exhibiting or exemplifying a trait, we add their name to the UMatter container. Each week the office staff will randomly pick students from the container and they'll select a prize from the UMatter prize box.

September & October--- Faith

November & December--- Thankfulness

January & February--- Generosity

March & April---Integrity

May & June--- Courage







PRE-K

Early Childhood Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten



KINDERGARTEN



We cannot believe we have been in school already for FOUR months! We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year!













Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PRE-K. Mrs. Reinhard

The month of December was full of hands on centers focusing on Advent, the birth of Jesus, Christmas and Gingerbread. At this point in the year it is amazing to observe the teamwork and friendships

that have formed.































What fun we had learning about Advent, the Birth of Jesus, and completing a variety of Christmas creations!! We enjoyed making festive projects for the Sr. of Charity with our reading buddies! We also loved having guest readers in all month long as we counted down to Christmas As we welcome a new month, we will learn about winter weather, what animals do in winter, and gear up for Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month.

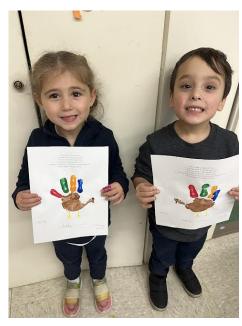


PRE-K. Mrs. Cali











We have had so much fun in the month of November learning about Thanksgiving and celebrating Grandparents' Day! For the Month of December we are so excited to be learning about Advent, how our families celebrate, and the birth of Jesus! We are excited for all of our holiday fun to come!



Kindergarten. Mrs. Sleight





December is a time for remembering how special this Advent season is for us as we prepare our hearts for Jesus. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Kindergarten! Mrs. Polcari





Advent is a time of waiting and preparation.

Our class is excited for the coming of

Jesus on December 25th.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Kindergarfen. Mrs. Kasbera



















This month we have been learning about Advent and waiting for the coming of Jesus! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE

Elementary School Grades 1-4



THIRD GRADE



FOURTH GRADE



IA- Mrs. Robidoux



This Christmas season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We honor Him by sharing our gifts of love, time and respect with each other.

Merry Christmas!



This Advent season we have been preparing for Jesus' birthday! We are working on filling the manger with acts of kindness. The children are working hard and learning so much!

1B- MS. BEDARD









Mrs. Caffrey 2A

The children began the month of December making their Advent Wreaths. They also decorated the hall with their beautiful Santas. The Grade 2 children will present the Nativity. We wish you all a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.















Mrs. Grant













Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!!



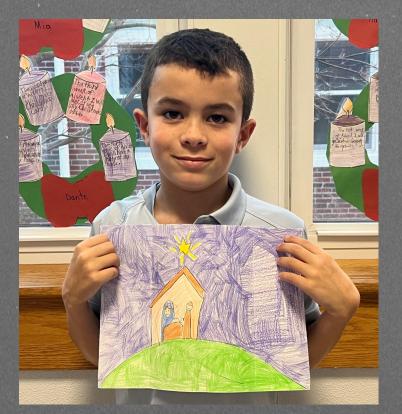


3rd Grade Mrs. Torpey

During this Advent season, the students have each created their own Advent wreath listing something they will do each week as they prepare for Christmas.



Students also drew beautiful Nativity pictures.





3rd Grade

Mrs. Puccia

During this Advent season, the third grade students were invited to host the Sunday Mass.

We have also read many different Christmas books: The Polar Express, Snowmen at Work, and Christmas in the Barn were a few of our favorites.











Grade 4 Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sullivan

Grade 4 loved celebrating their Grandparents!

























We love our book buddies! Getting to make crafts for Sr. Barbara and the Sisters of Charity together was a















FIFTH GRADE



SIXTH GRADE

Upper School Grades 5-8



SEVENTH GRADE



EIGHTH GRADE







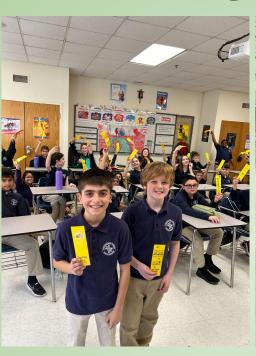






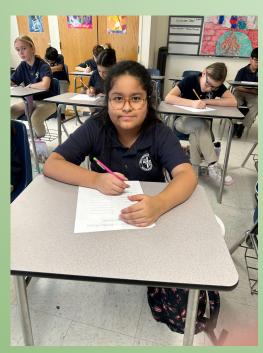
Mrs. Adam- 5th Grade ELA

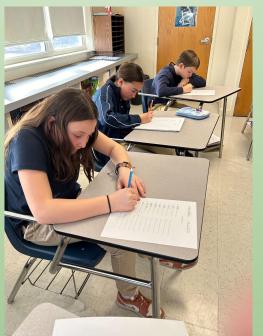
Our
spelling bee
winners: 1st
place Joey
Ata and
runner up
Colin
McKallagat!

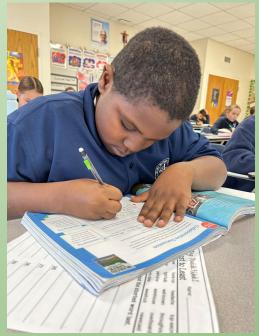




This month, the students learned about natural disasters and how to prepare for them.







Each week we learn 20 new words and take a quiz.







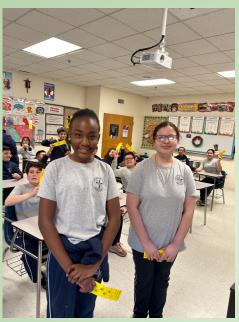






Mrs. Adam- 6th Grade ELA

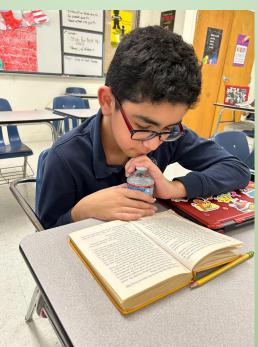
Our
spelling
bee
winners: 1st
place
Gabriella
Nattabi
and runner
up Suhani
Khurana!





Reading their essays with a "one foot voice" to find any errors.





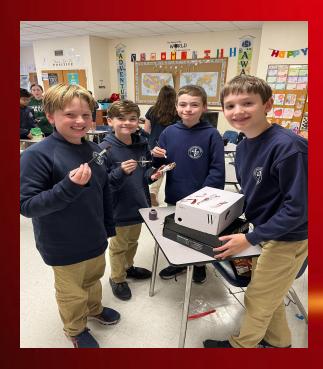


Reading *The City of Ember*. Will Lina and Doon save their city?!

Grade 5 Social Studies Students in 5A used their creativity and imaginations to create historical monuments.







Grade 5 wishes you all a very Merry Christmas!

Grade 6 Social Studies

Students worked in groups to rediscover Ancient India.

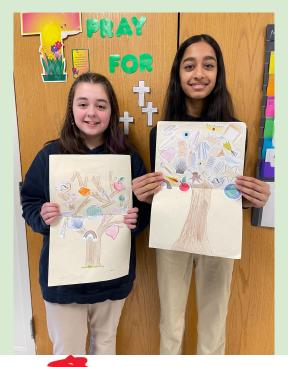


Merry Christmas!





Grade 6 has gotten into the holiday spirit. We decorated for Advent, made Christmas cards for nursing homes, the NAPD, and the NAFD. We also made little gifts for our Pre-K reading buddies.









Grade 5 created all of Earth's spheres in one container.













Mrs. Berard 5th Grade Science

6th grade learned about tectonic plates using graham crackers and frosting. A very tasty lab!















Mrs. Berard 6th Grade Science



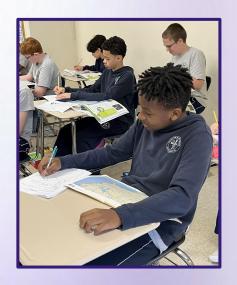
Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies

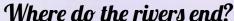
Grade 7 is exploring atlases to learn about many of the rivers in the United States.

Where do the rivers begin?

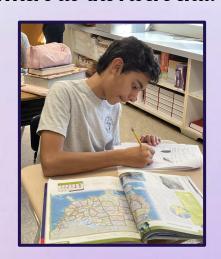














What states do the rivers flow through?









Mrs. Ordway Religion 7B

GR. 7 explored the meaning of the Jesse Tree and the events leading to our Savior's birth.















Mr. A: Science 7/8



December is here and the holidays are upon us. The students in grades seven and eight continue to do their best in science. Grade seven has finished the units on environmental science and will start learning about life science. Grade eight is continuing with earth science. They have learned how weather is forecasted and now are focusing on climates and climate change.

In February, science clubs will be starting for both grades. Grade seven will learn CPR and first aid. The class will do experiments, too. Grade eight will be doing a bunch of experiments dealing with food science in their science club. Each year the clubs seem to grow in popularity. I hope this year will be the same.

Wishing all of you a Happy and Safe Holiday Season,

Mr. A



The Class of 2024 did a great job leading our Grandparents' Day Celebration.













Mrs. Parker: Math 7/8



The magic and excitement of the holiday season is upon us. The students have been preparing for Christmas in the classrooms with Advent prayer and lots of holiday decorations. We hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

In math, the 8th grade students have been working with various forms of linear equations. They have seen that slope and the x-and y-intercepts have come in very handy for graphing linear equations and writing their equations.

The 7th grade students have been solving equations using the properties of equality. It has been good for them to see that all of the foundation work we did in the previous chapters is now being used in different ways.

























SCHOOL COUNSELOR



MUSIC



GYM

School Counseling and Specials



TECHNOLOGY



ART



STEM



SPANISH

Saint Wichael PE NEWSLETTER

!GO ARCHANGELS!

It's beginning to look alot like Christmas! Mr. A set a new record by playing Christmas music during morning floor hockey on November 30th!

During the last few weeks before break, all of the grades have been battling it out playing floor hockey. The action has been off the charts!

The SMS basketball teams are once again competing in the MVCBA league. Best of luck to all! Thank you to all the volunteers who make basketball possible, especially our super STEM teacher, Ms. Bryant, who has taken charge of the grade 4/5 girl's team!

Have a great vacation,

Mr. D







"How good can we expect to be if our best player is not our best teammate"
-Brad Stevens



Swith Ms. Bryant CODING & ROBOTICS IN GRADE 1

KUBO robots use directional tiles that help develop the critical thinking skills needed to code. It's eye colors help the children visually recognize if there is a problem with their code.







Root robots use block coding that connects through bluetooth technology. Students learn how to build specific codes to solve a given problem. This included having the robot draw the letter that starts with their name.







Finally students found out how helpful building the correct code can be as they helped Santa in his travels! Each team wrote a code to guide Santa's reindeer to a country and when they arrived, they learned what the children in that country call Santa!





























Merry Christmas from the Spanish class at SMS Check out some student Christmas wishes!

La navidad no se trata de regalos, se trata de estar con la familia, y celebrar la llegada de Jesús Cristo.

- Addi Gonynor, Grade 7

Hola Santa,

¿Como estas? La navidad está cerca. Por la navidad, yo quiero un libro sobre una aventura, yo no quiero un libro triste.

También yo quiero un gatito. Aunque mi madre dice que los gatos son mucho trabajo, yo quiero un gato para jugar.

En opinión, los gatos son los mejores. Yo quiero muchos dulces para la navidad.

También para la navidad, yo quiero un "princess doll". Gracias Santa.

Una niña pequeña Grade 7

¡¡¡De que se trata la Navidad!!!



Mucha gente piensa que la navidad se trata de regalos. Mucha gente piensa que la navidad se trata de nieve. Mucha gente piensa que la navidad se trata de disfrutar de una gran comida. Y tienen razón.

¡Pero se pierden la parte más importante!

La navidad se trata de estar con tus seres queridos. La navidad se trata de difundir la alegría navideña. La navidad se trata de celebrar el nacimiento de tú salvador.

Y por todas esas rezones, la navidad es mi época favorita del año.

- Por Emili Mise, Grade 7

Technology

with Mrs. Lesofsky MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The students in the upper grades are having lots of fun creating and sharing children's Christmas stories using Google Slides.









ART CLASS

With Mrs. Donegan





Students were very busy in the art room this December. Nursery and Pre-K made large Christmas trees and ornaments. Kindergarten read the book, *Gingerbread Baby*, by Jan Brett and created their own gingerbread babies and houses to go with them. First and Second grade created winter villages. Third, Fourth and Fifth grades all learned about stained glass windows and then used oil pastels to create their very own. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



ART CLASS

With Mrs. Donegan







Counselor's Corner with Mrs. Rowley

Our fifth grade boys started their recess group with the focus on expanding their friendships and finding commonalities with one another that they did not know about previously. On this day we played Jenga and some of the bricks asked questions that they were all able to answer. They had a lot of fun seeing who had the same answers as one another. We will continue to focus on inclusion and being a good friend and classmate.











