



Happy New Year! I hope that the Christmas break was a time of relaxation with family and friends.

It always feels like the first four months of school are the most difficult. The children and teachers are getting to know each other, there are few days off and the seasons change so quickly resulting in the start of cold and flu season. Now that we have returned, I know the children are already looking forward to their next vacation (only four weeks away on Feb. 19-23). But between now and then, there's a lot of teaching and learning to be done.

January is a busy time at school. With the end of Term II and Catholic Schools Week (CSW), we will be bustling. Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally during the week of January 29-February 2. The theme for the week is Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community. Be on the lookout for an itinerary of events going on at school. There are some "special" days where we dress out of uniform so be prepared for that!

The school will be hosting Open House for perspective families during Catholic Schools Week. If you have any friends, relatives or neighbors looking to send their children to SMS, please encourage them to register to attend Open House on January 31st from 10-noon.

Our PTO is sponsoring many activities in the upcoming weeks including Boys' Night Out and the Ladies' Choice Dance. We hope everyone is able to participate in some manner in many of these fun events! There is also an upcoming PTO meeting on January 23rd that everyone is welcome to attend! Finally, during CSW, the PTO will be raffling off some Teacher Raffle items. Stay tuned to the PTO newsletter for more information.

Report Cards will be live in the parent portal on February 2nd. We don't meet for parent-teacher conferences this term but parents are always welcome to call or email the teachers with any concerns.

We kindly remind parents to send their children to school with SMS sweatshirts each day. In addition, please be sure your child wears outerwear each day so that we might be able to go out for recess when the temperatures allow. Please label all clothing items!!! Lost and Found is full!

We wish you all many blessings in 2024 and remind you that we are always here should your family need any assistance.



Sue Gosselin

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

As we begin a New Year may we pray for God's Blessings on all that we do as a school community. This past year was a very blessed one for Saint Michael's School and Parish community. We have much to be thankful for. We are always ready, though, to grow in all that we do so that we may share our faith, our knowledge, and our values with the children we are privileged to lead. May God bless us and strengthen us to continue to build up our school in the year ahead.

God Bless!

Fr. Deeley



IMPORTANT+

Upcoming Reminders

- January 23- PTO Meeting
- January 26- Term II ends
- Jan. 29-Feb. 2- Catholic Schools Week
- February 2- Report Cards
- February 14- Ash Wednesday Mass 1:45p.m.
- February 19-23 Vacation

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?

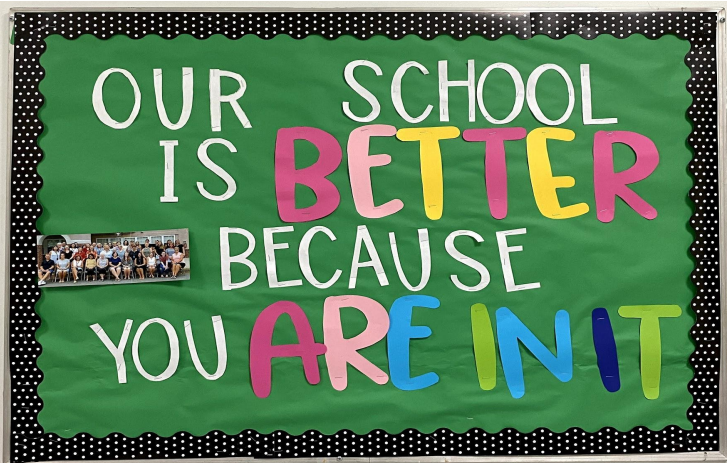
We love to hear from you! If you would like to send us a comment or a suggestion, please email us at info@comcast.net.

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.

We are proud to announce our Spring Musical will be Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.

Ariel: Lucy Barbagallo and Mackenzie Leal

Arista: Lilian Alison

Aquata: Brooke Gagnon

Adella: Addison Gonynor

Atina: Annabelle Groff

Allana: Madison Irving

Andrina: Makayla LaSpina

Flounder: Ella Asmar and Lily Weihrauch

Sebastian: John Calobrisi and Gabi Ongorio

Carlota: Lily Thomson

Grimsby: Ryan Tontz

Chef Louis: Ryan Hiro

Triton: Jacob Petrosillo

Prince Eric: Colin Dahil

Scuttle: Grace Murphy

Scuttle's Gulls: Sophia Casal, Alexa Forsyth and Destiny Macharia

Ursula: Alicia Desouza

Flotsam: Saisha Misra

Jetsam: Riya Vasanth

Pilot: Landon Hamlin

Stage Manager: Kate Manzi



UMatter Program



Our U_Matter 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.

in**T**egrity

g**E**nerosity

f**A**ith

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 U_Matter container. Each week the office staff will randomly pick students from the container and they'll select a prize from the U_Matter prize box.

September & October--- Faith

November & December--- Thankfulness

January & February--- Generosity

March & April---Integrity

May & June--- Courage



NURSERY



PRE-K

Early Childhood

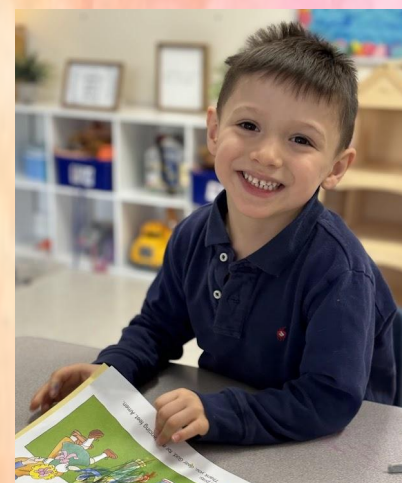
Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten

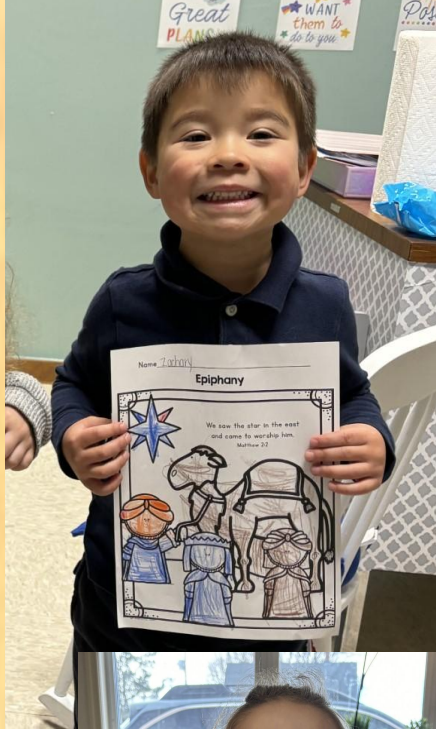
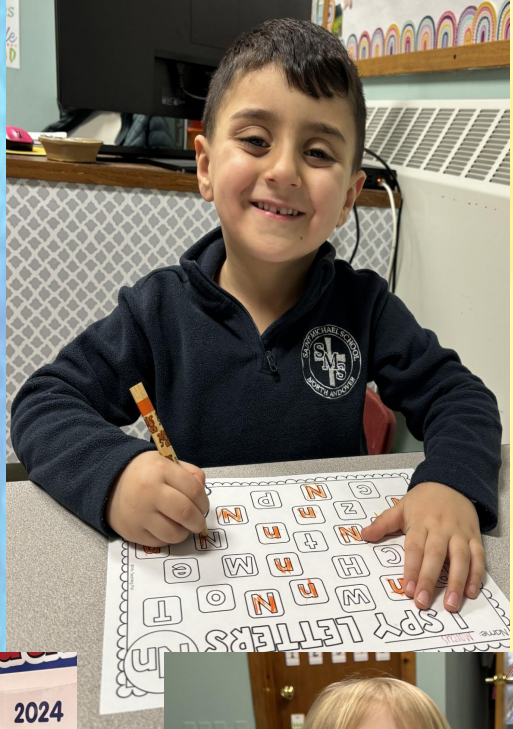


KINDERGARTEN



**Happy
New
Year! We
are
excited
to see
what
2024
brings!**





Wishing you a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come!

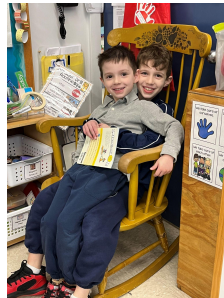


PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

During the month of January we learned about Winter animals, hibernation, and all things winter. Best of all we loved painting snow!



PRE-K Ms. K



What fun we've had making all our winter 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. We have started to learn about winter weather, what animals do in winter, and are gearing up for Catholic Schools Week!



PRE-K Mrs. Cali



This month we have started talking about snow and have jumped right back into learning our numbers and letters after break! It is "snow" much fun being in Pre-k!



Kindergarten!

Mrs. Sleight

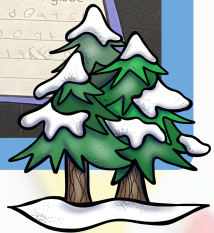
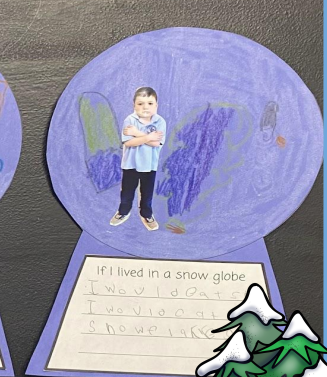
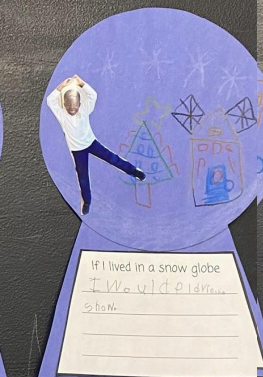
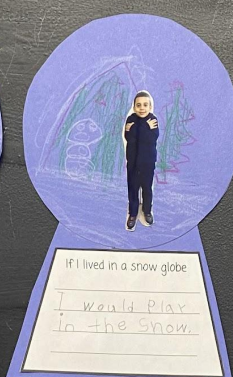
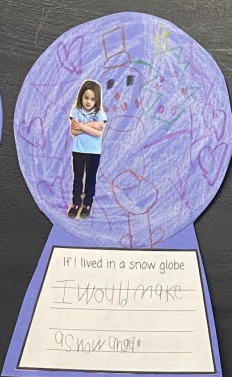
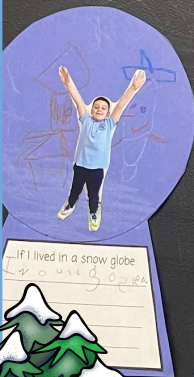
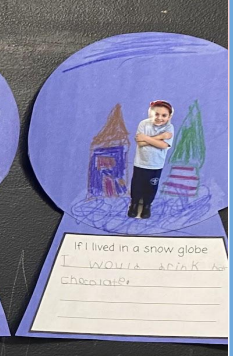
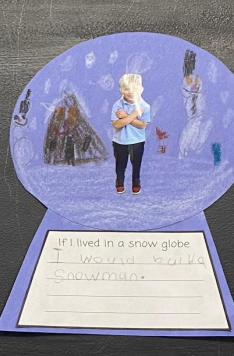
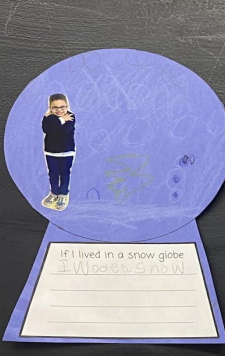
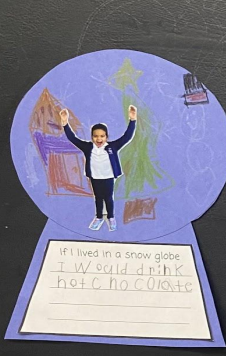
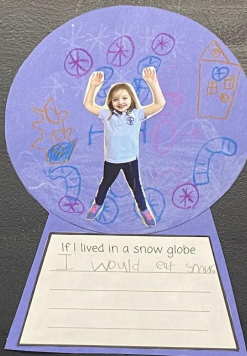
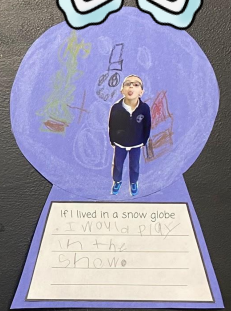
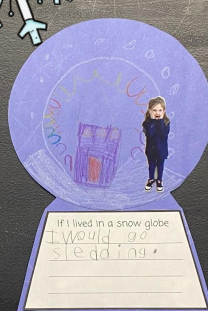
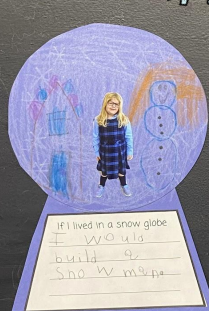
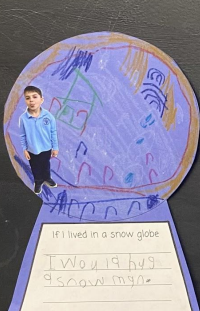
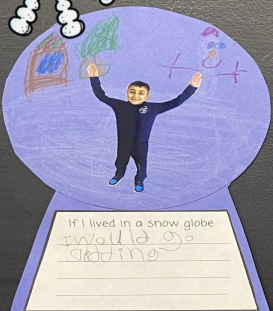
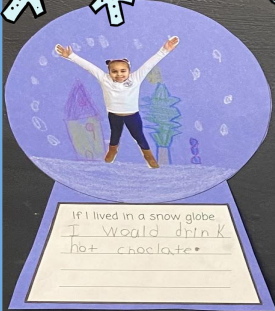
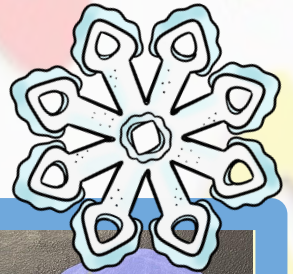
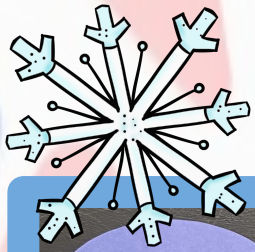


We made a "snowy" scene! Winter is here!!
Enjoy the snow and share your fun pictures!



Kindergarten!

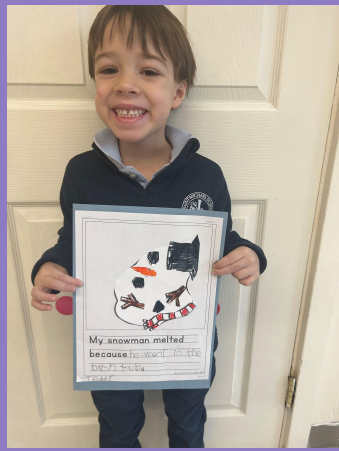
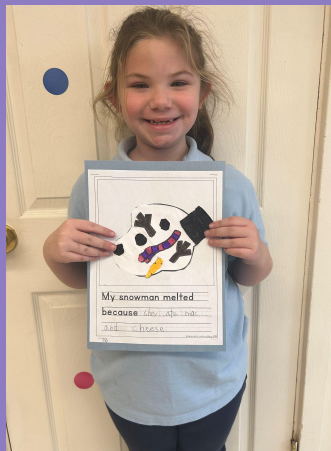
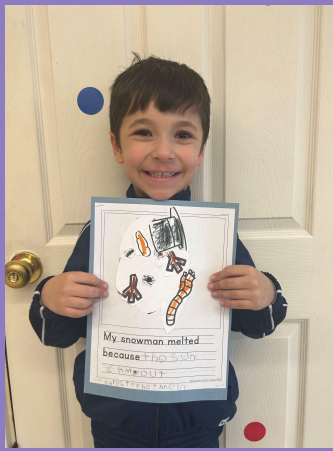
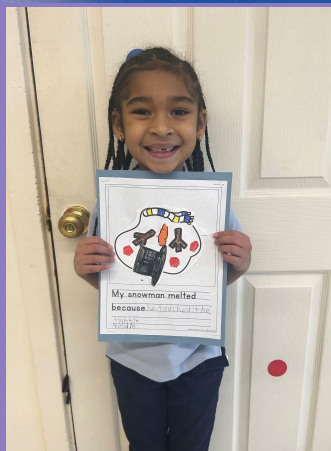
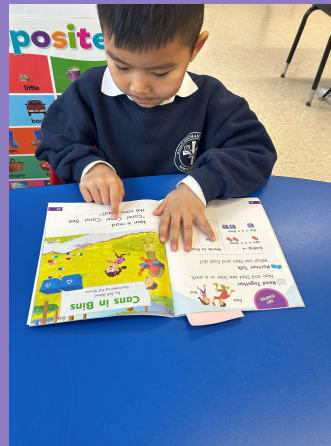
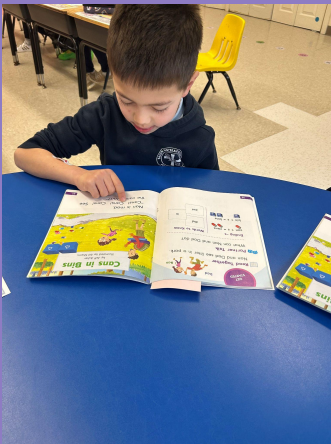
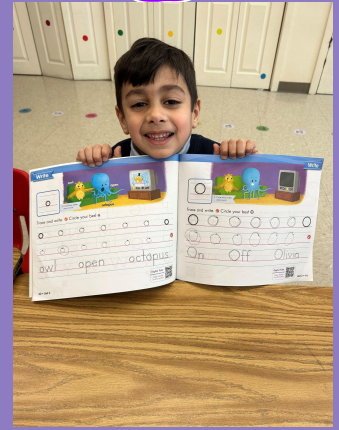
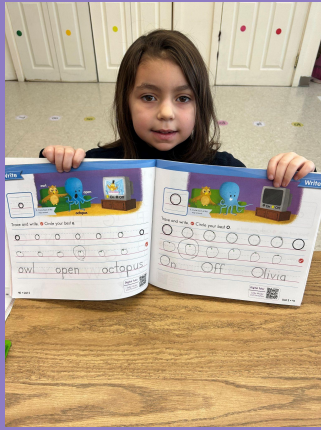
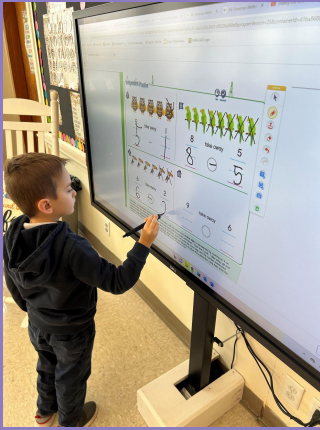
Mrs. Polcari



Brrrr!!! It's cold outside! Luckily, kindergarten is safe and warm inside a snowglobe!

Kindergarten!

Mrs. Kasberg



This month we have been busy learning subtraction, working on our letter formation, reading short stories with sight words, and being creative in our writing!



FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE

Elementary School

Grades 1-4



THIRD GRADE

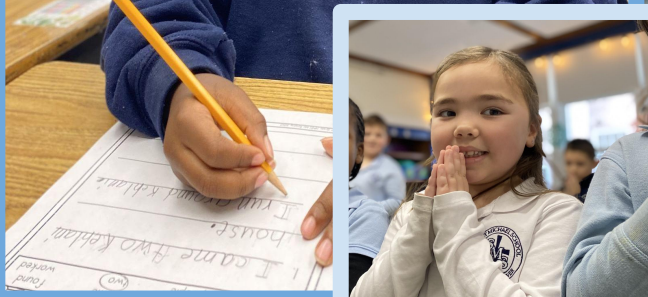
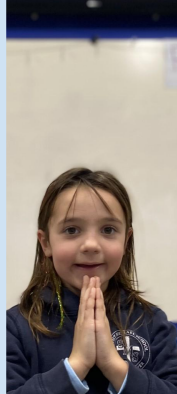
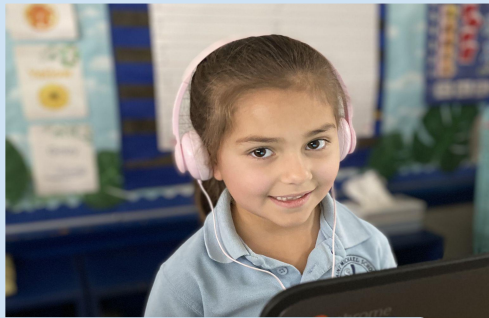


FOURTH GRADE

First Grade

1A- Mrs. Robidoux

BE GOOD & DO GOOD

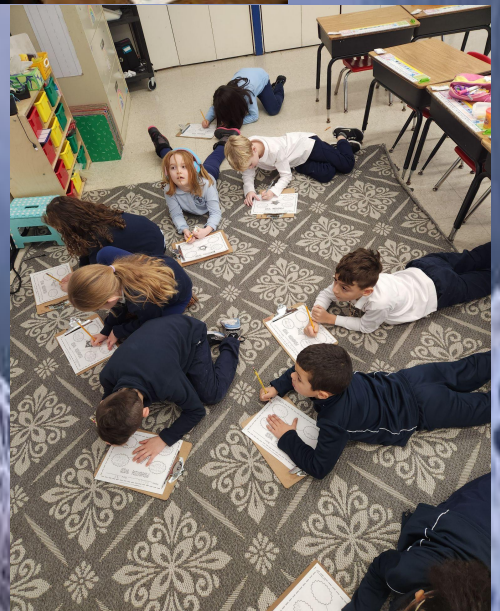


The new year brings new goals in first grade.
Each day we strive to read, write, pray, problem solve and play.
Our first graders work hard, celebrate progress and have faith.

First Grade

Happy New Year! We have worked really hard on our reading and handwriting! We are learning about all things Winter. We wrote our first report on penguins! We are becoming great writers!

IB- MS. BEDARD





Mrs. Caffrey 2A



January has been an amazing journey. The children made snowflake people and learned no two snowflakes are alike. The children worked on their map skills and watched a presentation on a volcano in Grade 4. They had so much fun reading with their 5B reading buddies and Ms. Bryant was a surprise Reader.





Mrs. Grant



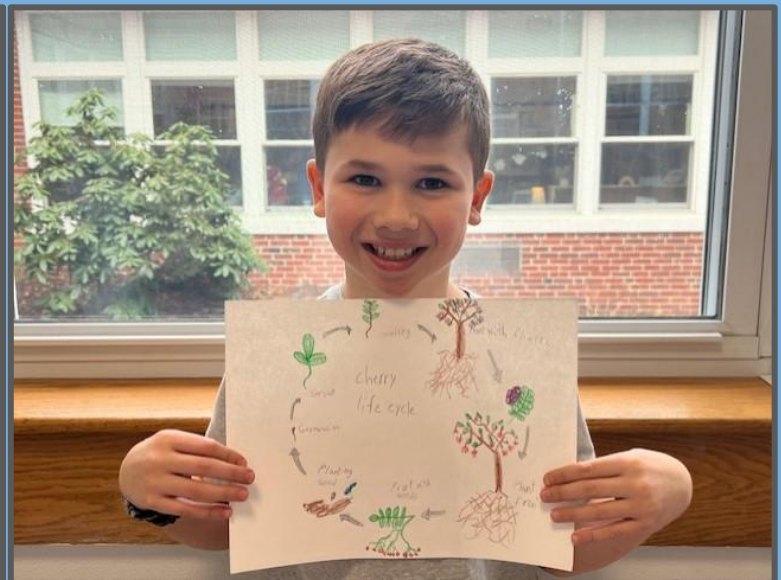
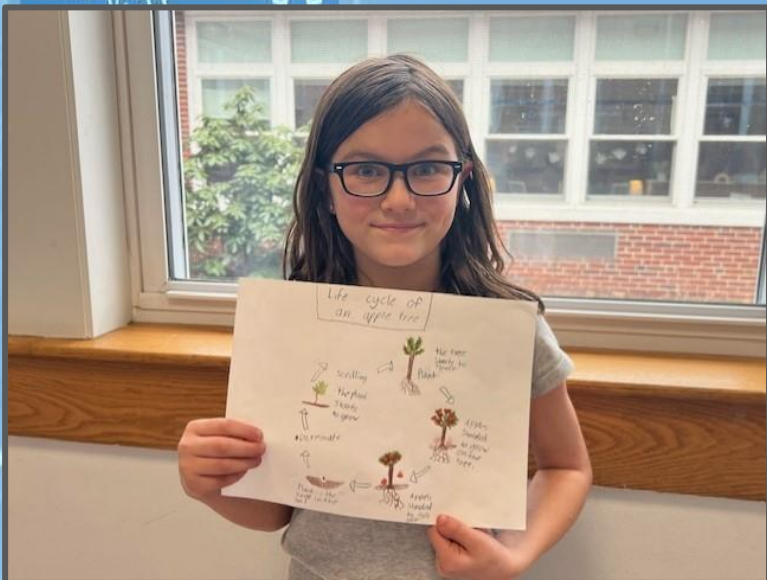
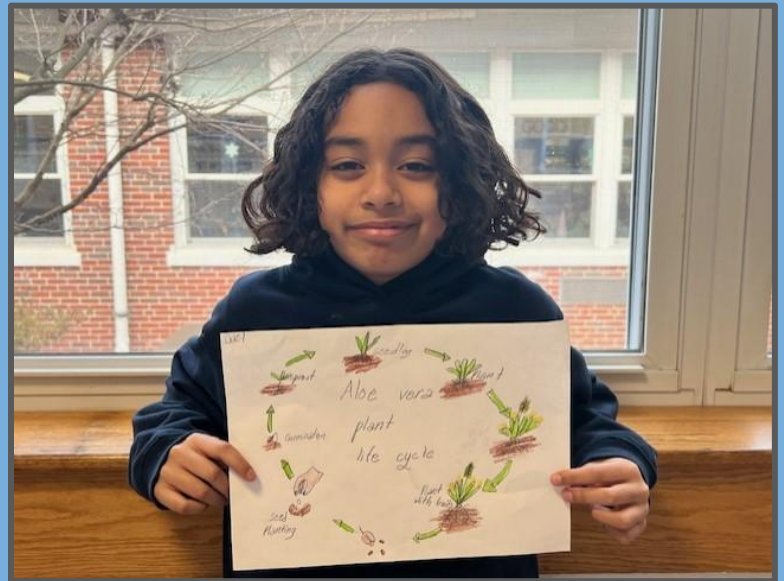
**2B enjoys
collaboration
with peers
and
teamwork!**



3rd Grade

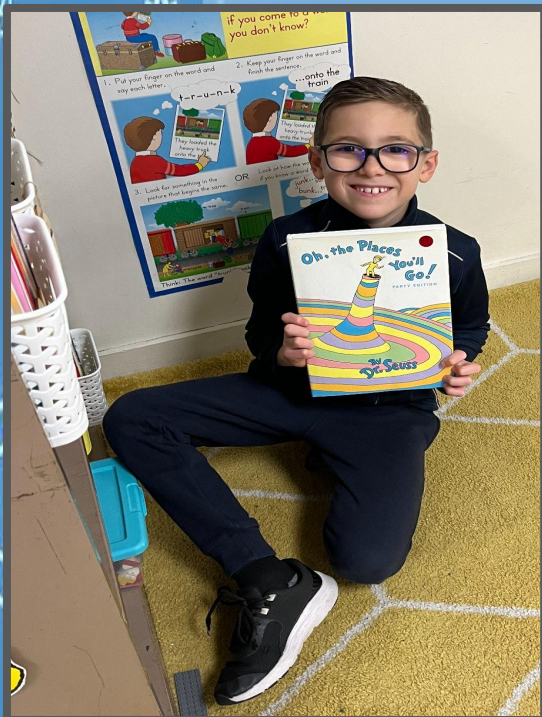
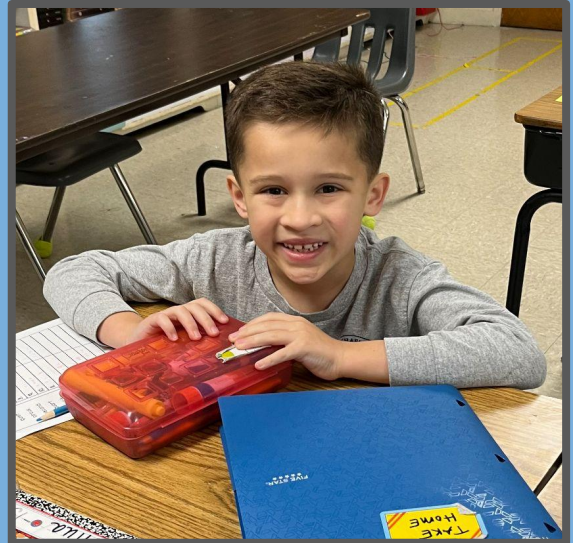
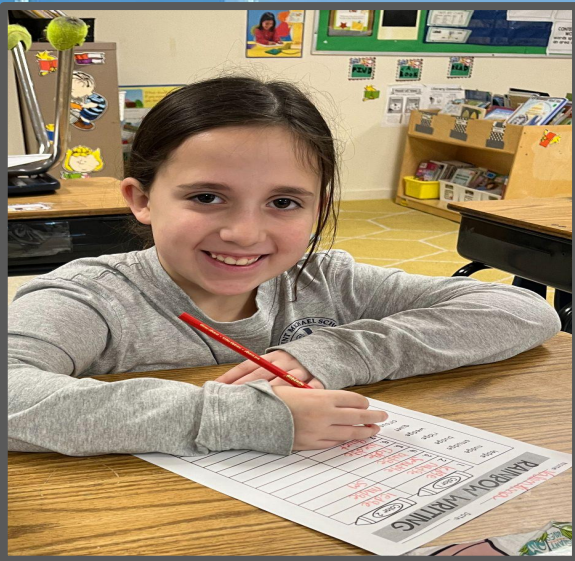
Mrs. Torpey

The third graders have been learning about plant life cycles. They have learned about flowering plants, conifers, and ferns. Each student created their own diagram of the life cycle of a plant.



3rd Grade Mrs. Puccia

The students have been working hard everyday! We have been reading books about the winter weather like "A Loud Winter's Nap" By Katy Hudson, "Snowflakes in Photographs" By W. A. Bentley and "How to Catch a Snowman" By Adam Wallace & Andy Elkerton.



Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sullivan

Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sullivan

The rumbling of volcanoes could be heard in Grade 4 this month. The students researched volcanoes from around the world. They created a Google slide presentation, as well as a model of their volcano. Then they presented to their classmates.





Volcano Fun!!





FIFTH GRADE



SIXTH GRADE

Upper School

Grades 5-8



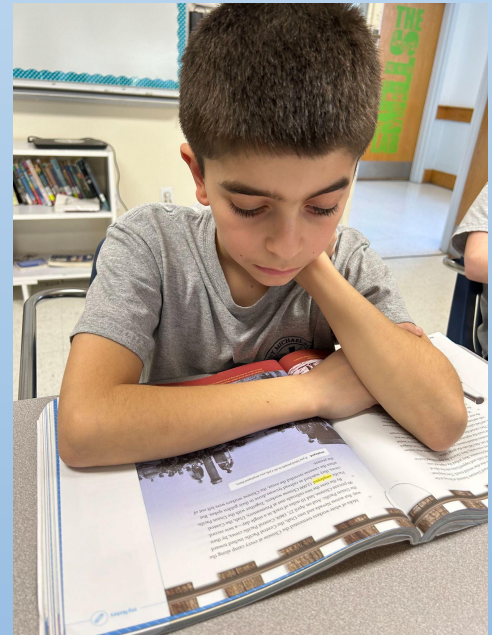
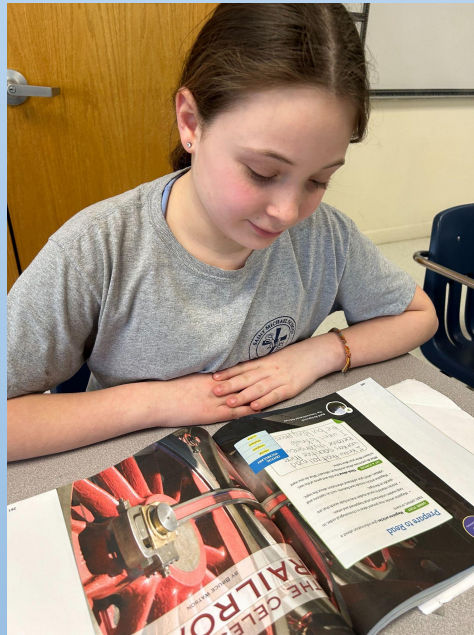
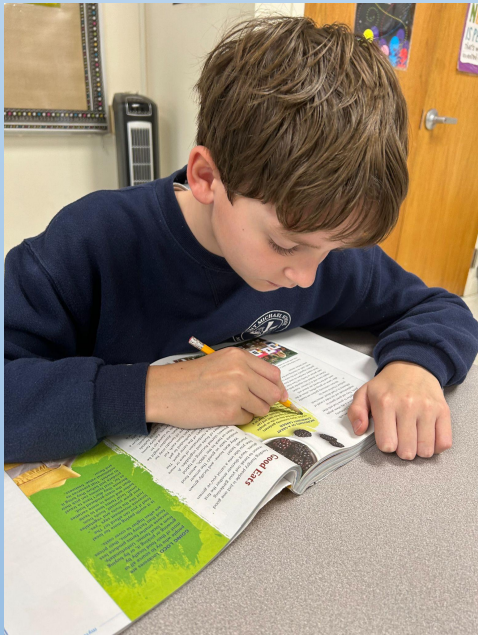
SEVENTH GRADE



EIGHTH GRADE



Mrs. Adam - 5th Grade ELA



Our unit this month is about Westward Expansion. They just finished reading a magazine article about the transcontinental railroad and watched a documentary about homesteading in the 1800's.

Reading
with our
2nd grade
buddies!





Mrs. Adam- 6th Grade ELA



The students just finished reading *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. They've been saying how much they liked this novel! They'll now write a compare/contrast essay about the two main characters.

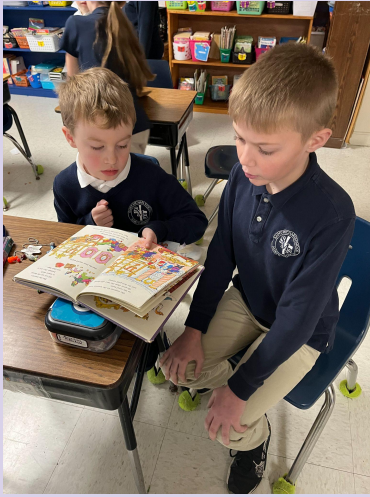
Grade 5B

Students enjoyed making forts and using flashlights in a drop everything and read morning!

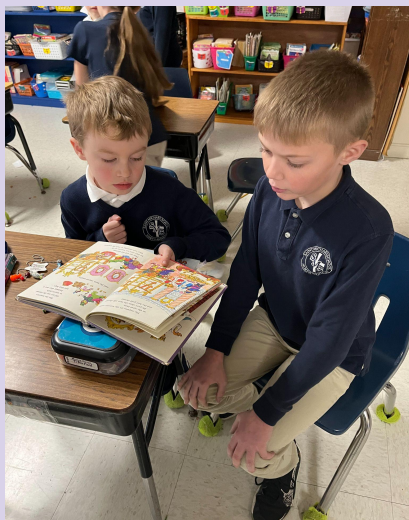


Grade 5B & 2A Book Buddies

Grade 2A read Fairy tales to their 5B Buddies.

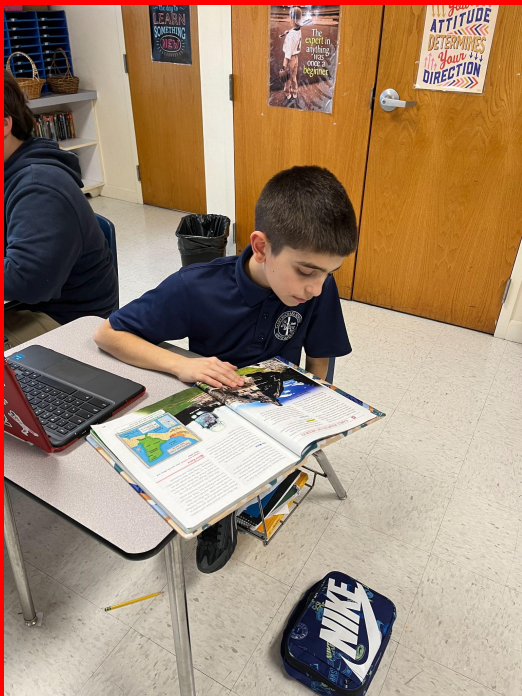


5B and 2A Book Buddies



Grade 5 Social Studies- Mrs. Clifford

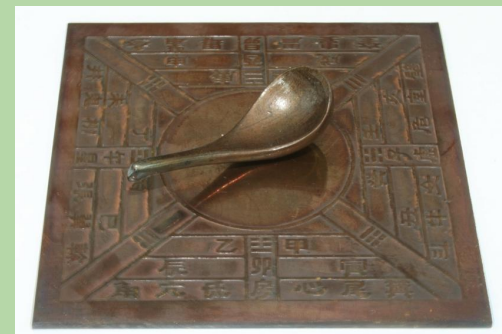
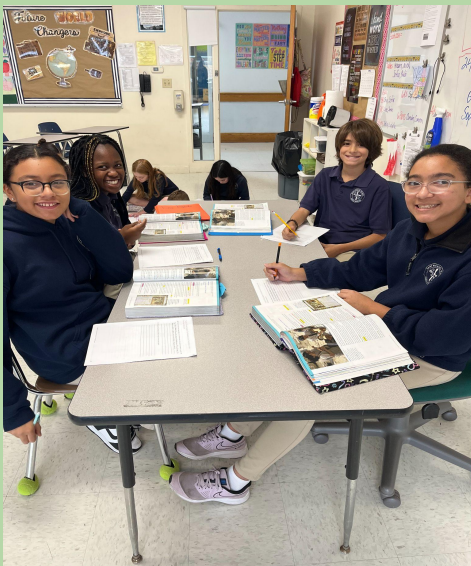
Grade 5 is learning about the French and Indian War and what led to the American Revolution.



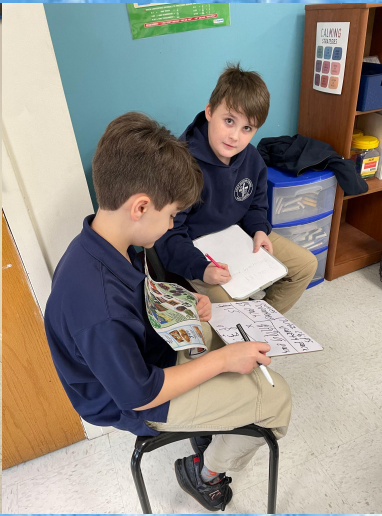
Grade 6 Social Studies- Mrs. Clifford



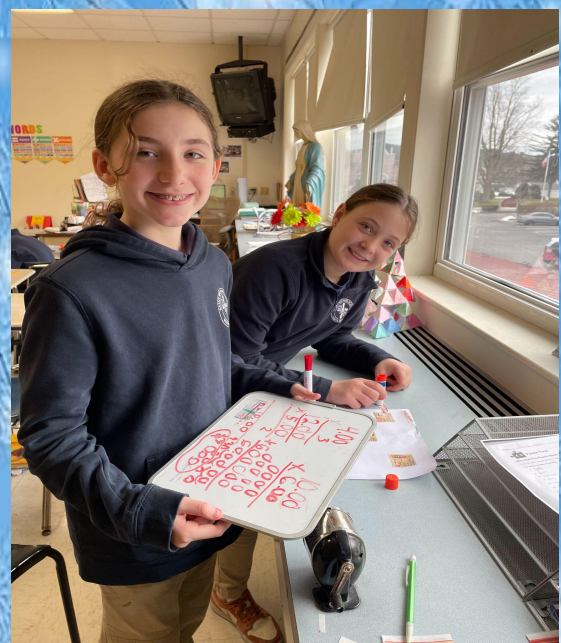
Students are learning about Ancient China and the many achievements and inventions that we all use today.



Grade 5 Math

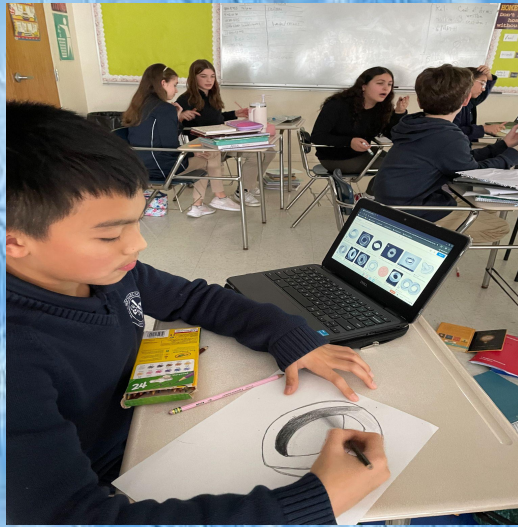


Math class was full of large and small purchases. Students used sales flyers and their multiplication with decimal skills to make their own problems to solve.

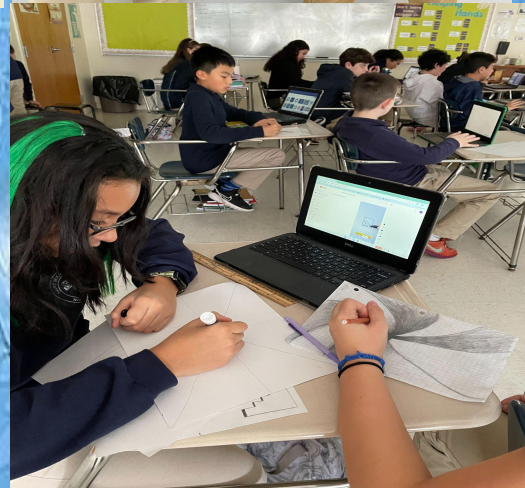
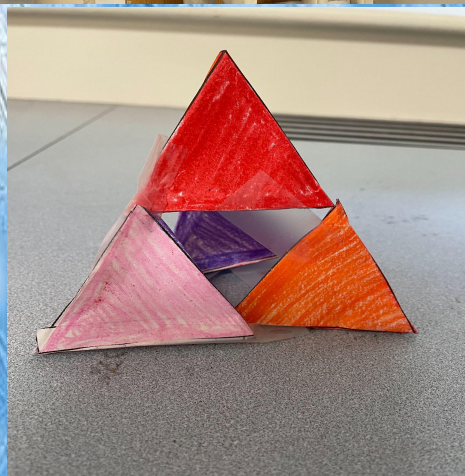
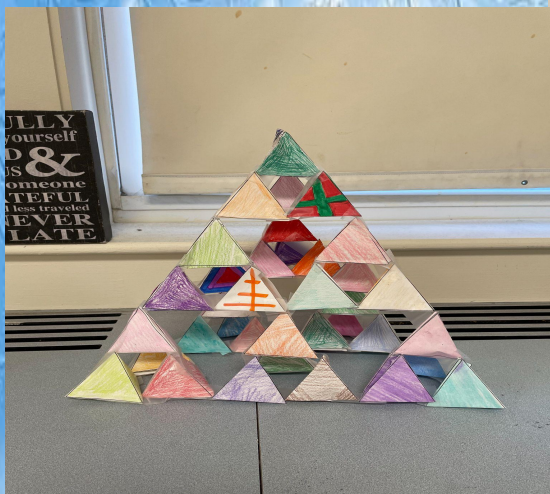


Grade 6 Enrichment

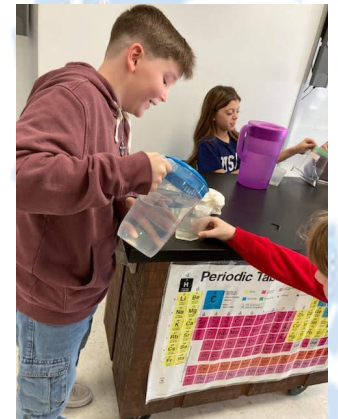
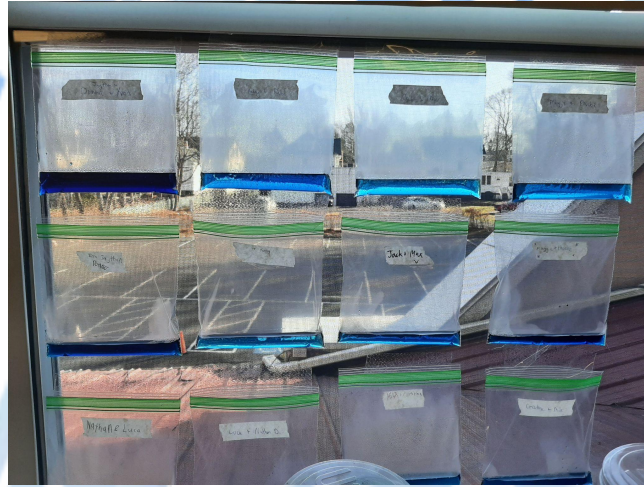
Fractals and Optical Illusions



Grade 6 explored shapes during enrichment time. Each student made a **fractal** and then the fractals were combined to make a huge fractal. They also used shapes to make 3D optical illusions. Their 2D creations made things look 3 dimensional.

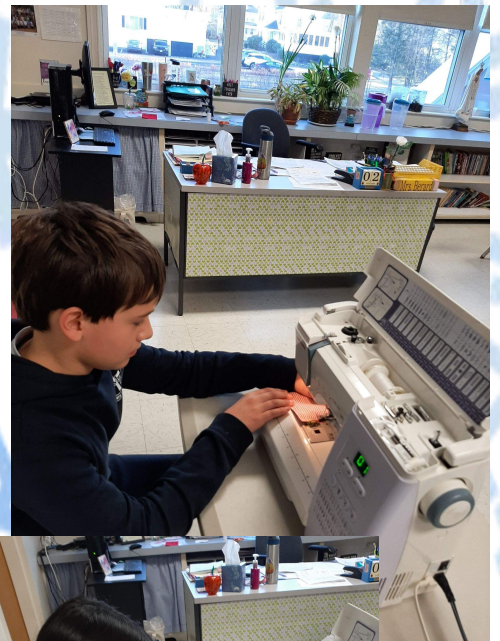
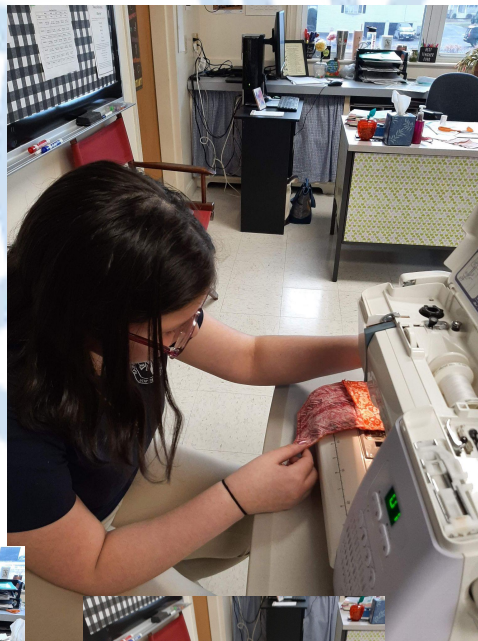
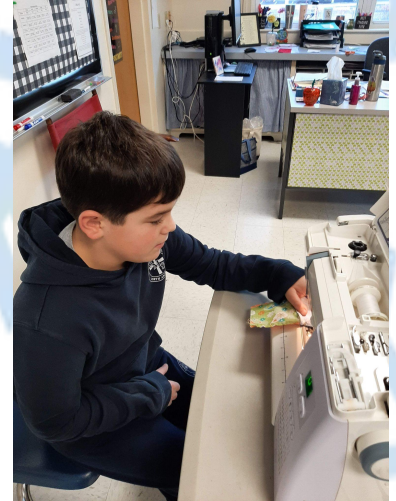


Grade 5 studied the water cycle using open and closed bags of water. They were very surprised to see how much water evaporated from the open bag during winter break.



Mrs. Berard 5th Grade Science

In 6th Grade enrichment the students learned all about quilting. They also sewed by hand and machine. The final product was a beautiful quilt!



Mrs. Berard 6th Grade Science

Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies Enrichment: 8 Green

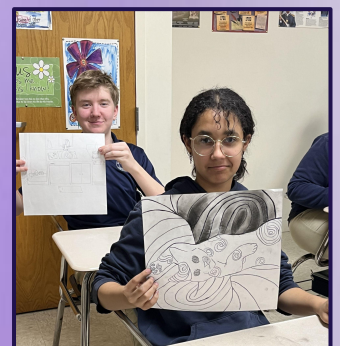
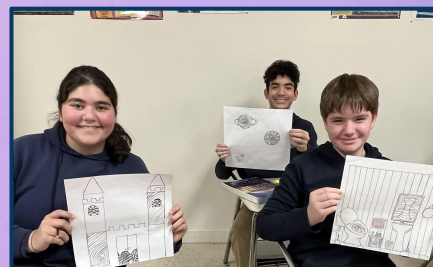
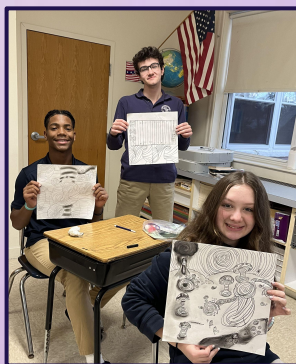
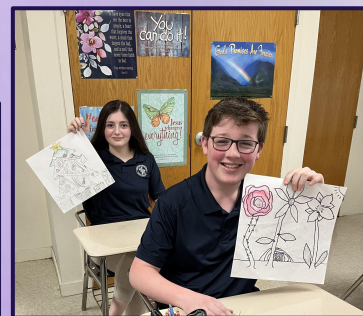
Making keychains using a form of Japanese braiding known as Kumihimo



*Creating and
drawing in
doodle books*

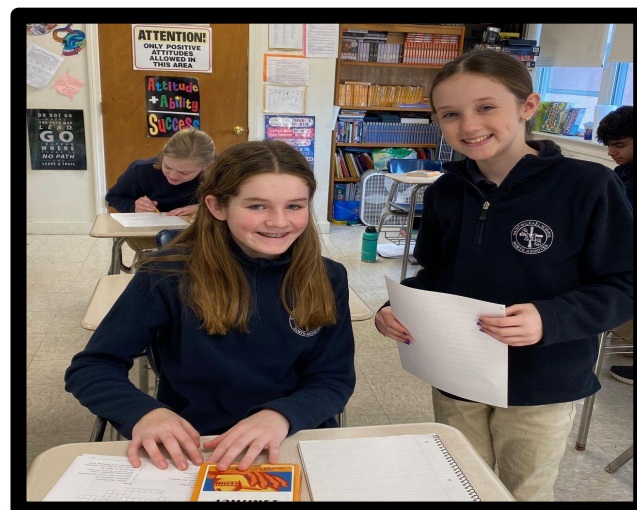
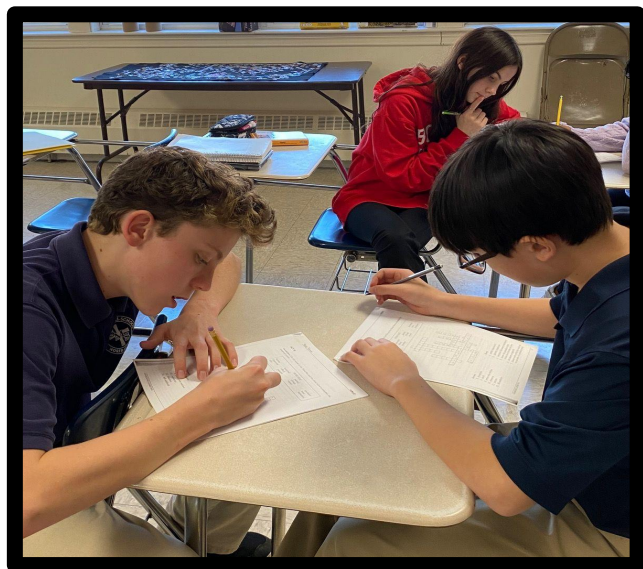


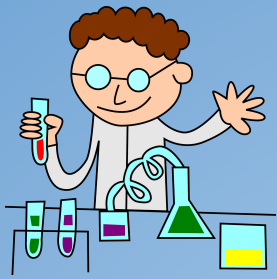
*Using pastels
to shade and
add
dimension to
amazing
drawings
using vortexes*



Mrs. Ordway Grade 7 ELA

Gr. 7 students are delving into Shakespeare by reading Hamlet and sharing themes and plot twists and turns!





Mr. A: Science 7/8

Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that 2024 is upon us. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy year. The students continue to do well in science. Their term two grades reflect their efforts.

The science clubs for both grade seven and eight will be starting soon. Grade seven will learn CPR along with doing some fun experiments.

Grade eight will be learning about DNA and how to extract it from fruit. They will be doing experiments that have to deal with food science.

This year the regional and state science fairs are back in person. They have been held virtually for the past few years. Both grades seven and eight will be participating in the science fair. There will be one held here at the school sometime in the early spring. The winners will advance to the regionals at UMass Lowell in late April.



The before school clubs are very popular with all ages. These 7th grade students enjoy sharpening their volleyball skills.



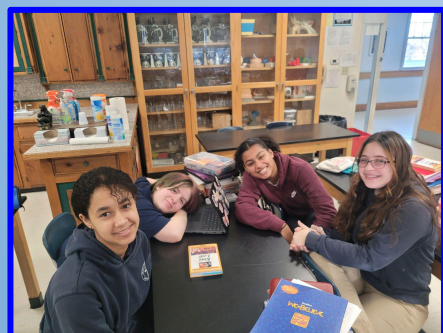
Mrs. Parker: Math 7/8

The students in grades 7 and 8 have started the new year by putting a solid effort into their work. One reminder for all classes is to continue practicing the basic skills related to the operations (especially with negative numbers). Practice will help them with the harder skills that are coming their way.

The 8th grade students are starting to work with systems of linear equations and on the different methods to find their solutions. The 7th grade students are working with ratios, rates and proportions. All of these skills will be applied in their upcoming unit on percentages.

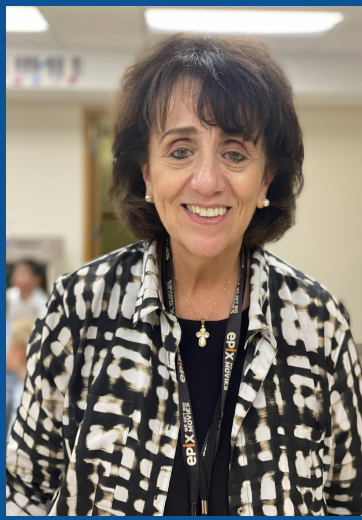


The Class of 2024 is all smiles as they start "their year"!





SCHOOL COUNSELOR



MUSIC



GYM

School Counseling and Specials



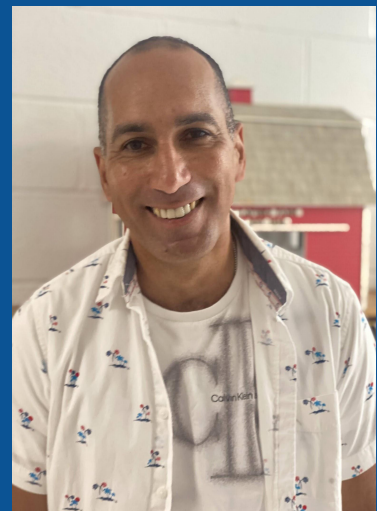
TECHNOLOGY



ART



STEM



SPANISH

Saint Michael PE NEWSLETTER

!GO ARCHANGELS!

Happy New Year! After a one week delay, the SMS Ski Program started with a great day at Ski Bradford. We are hoping for more cold weather and lots of snow!

The morning programs are once again full and the students are having a blast. Grade 7 has a great group of volleyball players who are working hard on their skills! The Grade 8 volleyball players are getting ready for the annual game against the staff during Catholic Schools Week. Good luck grade 8!



“Life is like skiing. Just like skiing, the goal is not to get to the bottom of the hill. It's to have a bunch of good runs before the sun sets.”

-Seth Godin



HAPPY NEW YEAR! MUSIC



Nursery/Pre-K4/Kindergarten Students begin the new year playing simple non-pitched instruments part of the Percussion music family, while learning to distinguish Beat vs. Rhythm.

Grade1&2 Students continue learning fundamentals of music using rhythm patterns on the Smartboard.

Grade3&4 Students continue study of the recorder. Students demonstrate progress and learn to solve recorder performance issues.

Saint Michael School is excited to announce the upper-middle school choir will perform a Spring concert!

“Excellent... As Usual!”

Musically yours, Ms. Lavallee



STEM

with Ms. Bryant

Roller Coasters

Grade 8 students designed and built roller coasters using only paper and scotch tape.





Then their buddies, in Kindergarten, came to STEM and used the roller coasters to learn about ramps!



Spanish

*Yo administro
Tu administras
El administra
Nosotros administramos
Ellos administran*

*Yo corro
Tu corres
El corre
Nosotros corremos
Ellos corren*

*Yo camino
Tu caminas
El camina
Nosotros caminamos
Ellos caminan*

**Conjugating Spanish verbs
can be fun, just ask an upper school student**

*Yo controlo
Tu controlas
El controla
Nosotros controlamos
Ellos controlan*

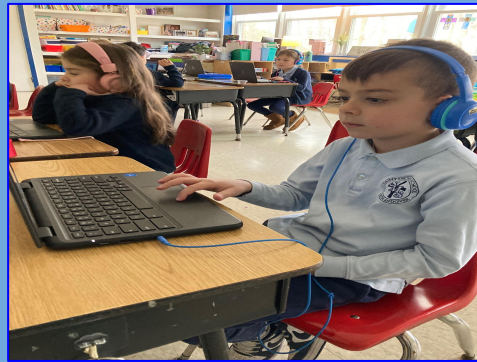
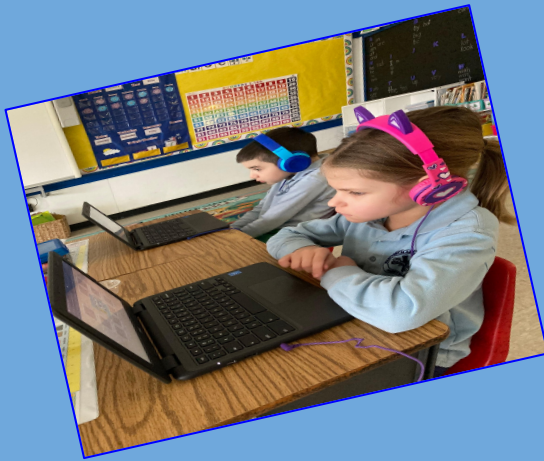
*Yo nado
Tu nadas
El nada
Nosotros nadamos
Ellos nadan*

*Yo estudio
Tu estudias
El estudias
Nosotros estudiamos
Ellos estudian*

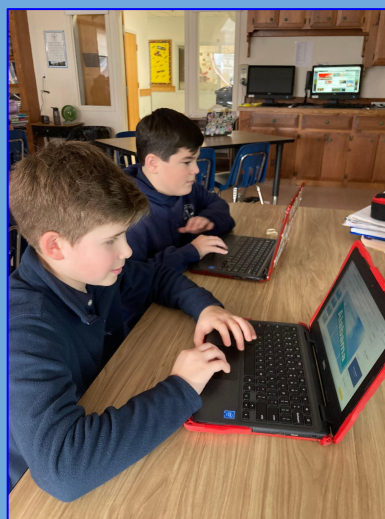
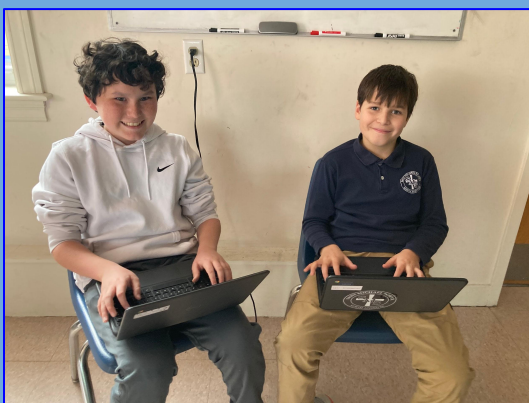
Technology

With Mrs. Lesofsky

The Kindergarten children learn about different animals around the world as they utilize educational websites. They develop their fine motor skills while navigating the Chromebook touchpad.



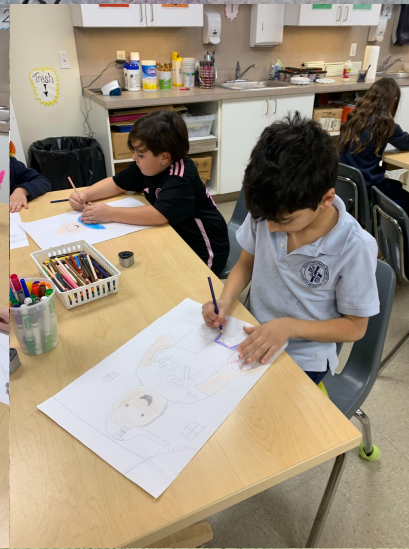
The students in Grade 5th & 6th learn about what different states in the United States are known for. They use various tools in Google slides to share what they find interesting. They are collaborating with classmates and will then present their knowledge amongst their peers on the Smartboard.



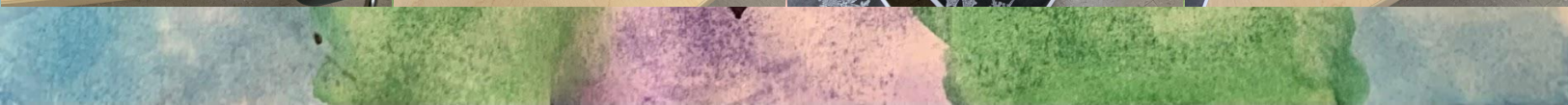
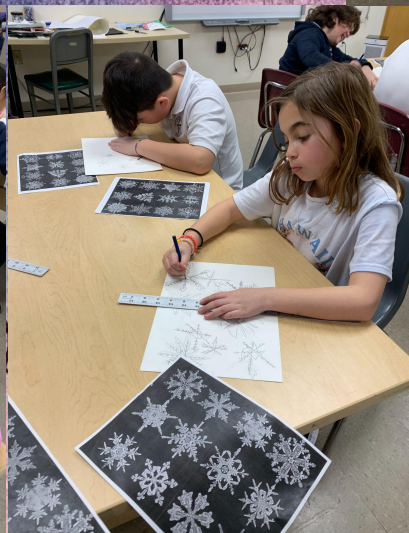


ART CLASS

With Mrs. Donegan



There are lots of fun things going on in the art room this year! Second grade students are creating their very own Lego self portrait. They learned about the Lego Artist Nathan Sawaya and are drawing themselves as Lego people. Fourth grade learned about the science of snowflakes and they are creating their very own snowflakes using lines, shapes and patterns.



Counselor's Corner with Mrs. Rowley

Saint Michael School, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Advocates for Children and Harvard Law School, have been taking big strides this year to become a Trauma Sensitive School environment for all of our community members. This community includes the students, their families and the staff. We understand that everyone comes to school each day with their own experiences, worries, and stories. And we want you to all know that we are here to support you all in any way we can.

Since the end of the last school year, and especially since this school year started, we, as a staff, have been working diligently to adopt the trauma sensitivity mindset and to weave it into the school day. We are now ready to invite the students and their families to come on this venture with us. Our goal is for us to understand that all students and each family have their unique experiences that are brought to the school day and can present as different behaviors.

As Christians we are here to support one another rather than chastise one another. Please keep an eye out for information on how you can support our goal of creating and maintaining a Trauma Sensitive School for the students, their families and our staff members.

