

Newsletter February 2024



Looking out my office window, I see the bare ground. That's a rarity in February, but I'll take it. I've been thrilled with the weather this winter thus far. Yes, we've had some snow and I appreciate that for my children's sake. Traditionally, the month of February brings snow to New England so my best guess is that we'll see more snow soon and possibly some more snow days!

The month of February is the shortest in the calendar year so when you add a week-long winter vacation to it, it gets even shorter. Somehow, the amazing staff at school find creative ways to push through curriculum, prepare students, celebrate Valentine's Day, and much, more in three short weeks.

Catholic Schools Week was a wonderful week at St. Michael School. The kick-off CSW Mass was wonderful! So many students attended and helped us by proclaiming the readings, acting as altar servers/choir singers and more. My favorite part was when all the children were invited to the altar to sing the final song. The week culminated in a student versus staff volleyball game. We look forward to this game each year and it did not disappoint. The 8th grade team was fierce, and the staff fought a good battle. Fortunately, everyone had a great attitude and the game was more about participation and celebration than competition...but we all know who won!

I want to publicly thank our teachers and staff for their donations of raffle items for the PTO Teacher Raffles during Catholic Schools Week. They donated items or experiences for all of the different age groups in our school. Coming up soon is one of my favorite events that the PTO sponsors... the Book Fair (March 5-7). The children love selecting books to read and they feel proud purchasing them on their own. We are pleased to offer the summer reading books as well so you can order in advance.

The season of Lent began on February 14th as we celebrated Ash Wednesday. Our K-8 students all attended mass while our early childhood students were visited by a parish staff member to receive their ashes. Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. During these days, our students will focus on Lent during their religious classes and we'll encourage them to share with you what they've learned.

Our school is currently undergoing a Self Study for our 10-year Accreditation through The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). We will have two upcoming visits from NEASC. The first will be a Foundation Standard visit in the Spring of 2025. Following that visit, a team of 8 NEASC members will visit our school in the Fall of 2025 for a 3-day visit focusing on the remaining standards. This is our third round of accreditation, and it is vital to our school's success to always be looking at what we do and how we can improve. Part of that process will be to send surveys to our parents and students. We ask that you complete any surveys that are sent to help us better evaluate areas of improvement.

Term II report cards were issued earlier in the month. While we don't have official parent-teacher conferences at this time of the year, parents are always welcome to reach out to schedule a meeting with any concerns/questions.

Finally, we are out of school from Feb. 19-23 on school's winter break. I hope you use this special week to enjoy family time, go skiing/sledding, visit a local museum and more.

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

The month of February brings us to the beginning of the season of Lent. At our School and Parish this is a very important time for all of us. It is a time for us to grow spiritually through our traditions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I encourage your participation at the special opportunities offered here to grow closer to the Lord. I encourage you also to find ways to make the Lenten journey as a family. Opportunities for family prayer, sacrifice, or service to those in need can be powerful ways to form and build disciples of Christ.

God Bless!

Fr. Deeley



IMPORTANT+

Upcoming Reminders

- February 19-23 Vacation
- March 5-7 Book Fair
- March 8 1:45 p.m. Mass (3B hosts)
- March 15- No school (professional development)
- March 29- Good Friday (no school)

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?

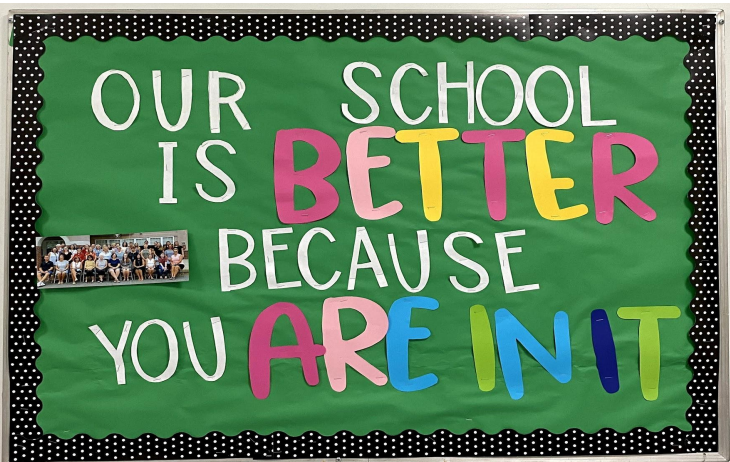
We love to hear from you! If you would like to send us a comment or a suggestion, please email us at info@comcast.net.

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.

Families Matter!



Who remembers Bianca Barcelos, SMS class of 2008? Well, she's all grown up now. She graduated SNHU in just 3 years with a BS in Business Management and she is finishing her Masters now. She worked in Walt Disney World in a leadership/management role for 5 years. We surely think her love for Disney started at St. Mike's helping with our spring theater productions! She lives in Manchester and works for SYSCO!

Who remembers her brother, CJ, SMS 2010? He just got married this past October to Meghan. They met at WPI while both studying engineering. He is now a senior software engineer at BAE.

CJ definitely had an engineer's mind in elementary school, always trying to build, create and make things better. He loved all things electronic and remembers fondly, Mr. Anderson, aka the science guy who visited our school monthly. He also has Top Secret security clearance. I'd tell you more, but that's all we could know ;)

We were all saddened to hear of their dad, Joey's passing in December 2021. Joey often visited SMS offering to help and telling jokes. He was the life of the party. His family continues to honor and remember his spirit. Joey is missed by his SMS family, too.

And let's not forget mom, Maria! She was the mom who was always there to help St. Mike's from chairing an event to sharing her time, we appreciated her generous spirit. Maria has taken her passion for "All things Disney" and is a Disney travel planner. With her organizational skills and kind heart, we know she will be successful. If you want to make some Disney memories, just email Maria at maria.barcelos@academytravel.com! Mention you're from St. Mike's, we know she will take extra good care of you!

Maria said, ***"There are lots of things to treasure about St. Michael School, but none more precious than the students and families we were lucky enough to meet on our journey."***

All of us at St. Mike's feel exactly the same way. We treasure our families, past and present! Umatter! Thanks for updating us!



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 **\$50,000** 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

Mr. James Connolly

Ms. Donna Joslin

Archangel Level

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

James and Rose Connolly

Fr. Kevin Deeley

Mr. and Mrs. Fred D'agata

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Neff

Mr. and Mrs. William Rogge

Sisters of Charity Level

(\$501 to \$999)

Mrs. Donna Andren & Mr. Tom DeRosa

Mrs. Beni Barrett

Kate Callahan Polanco and

Margaret Callahan Ritter

Mr. David Cwiekowski and

Mrs. Beni Barrett

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gangi

Mr. Hsien-Wen Hsu Hsu &

Mrs. Yu-Fen Chang

Shauna & Mark LaSpina

Mr. Wing Lui

Founders Level

(\$101 to \$500)

Ann Amico

Michael & Valerie Andren

Mr. & Mrs. Mario Benedetto

Ms. Jane Burleigh

Clara Cabrera

Mr. and Mrs. Basil Coughlan

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

Mr. & Mrs. David DeFillippo

Founders Level (continued)

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. Harrington

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

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lynch

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

Nicole Swiec

Judith Tarquinio

Mr. and Mrs. Warner

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wiseheart

Mr. William Forsyth and

Mrs. Ida Zarraga-Forsyth

Principal Level

(up to \$100)

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Andren

Mrs. Ruth Bamford

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beaudry

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

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson

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

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.!



A great big thank you to the Blanche Walsh Trust for their very generous Grant of \$10,000. This grant will be used to upgrade our security system!

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, Fr. Kevin Deeley, 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



Your Gift Makes A Difference!

UMatter Program



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.

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 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

SMS SUMMER FUN

For more details and to sign up go to Renweb!!



HAWAIIAN LUAU!

JULY 8-12



Around the World!

July 15-19



Christmas in July

July 22-26



Under the Big Top!

July 29- August 2



WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS

AUGUST 5-9



Movies!

August 12-16



Students Entering Kindergarten - 7th Grade

Join Mrs. Polcari, other SMS staff and alumni for a summer of fun!

First Come - First Served - Don't Miss Out

No refunds unless the program is cancelled

½ day- \$200/week

Full day- \$350/week

LET'S HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

Students Entering
Kindergarten - 7th Grade
Join Mrs. Polcari, other SMS staff and
alumni for a summer of

**Athletics, STEM, Arts & Crafts,
Music, Academics, and Free
Play right here at
Saint Michael School!**

Half Day (no lunch)- 8:00 am- 12:00 pm
Full Day (lunch from home)- 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

***First Come - First Served - Don't Miss Out
No refunds unless the program is cancelled***

***½ day- \$200/week
Full day- \$350/week***



NURSERY



PRE-K

Early Childhood

Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten



KINDERGARTEN



We can't believe it's already February! Nursery students are working on putting their jackets on independently and packing their backpacks!

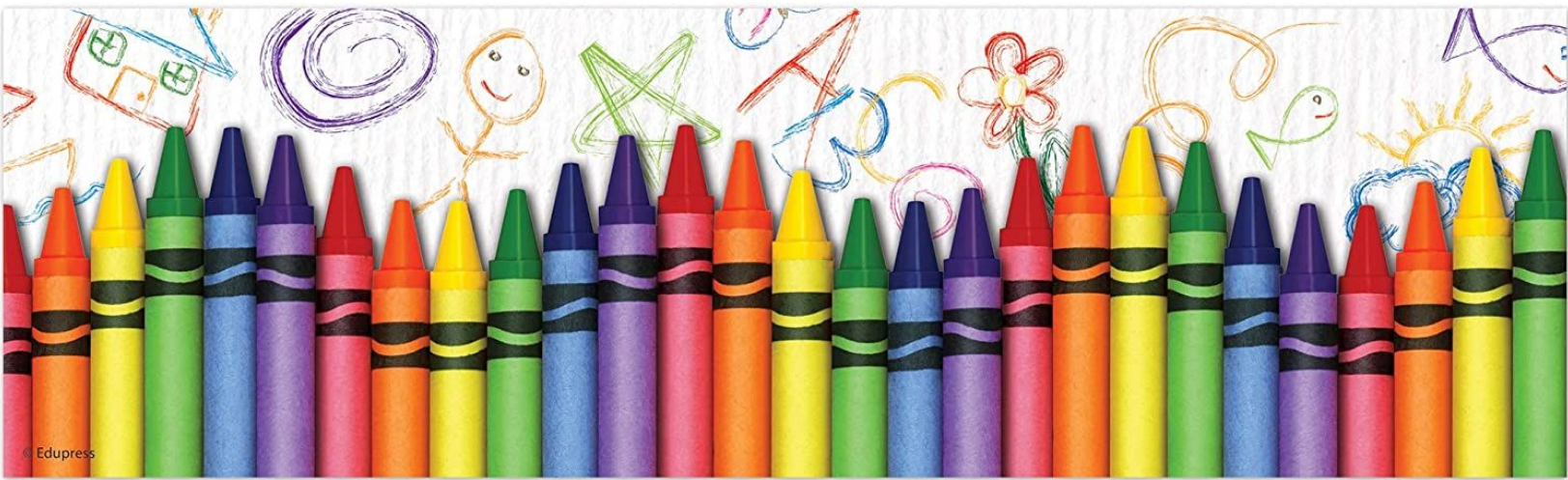


Roses are red
Violets are blue
Someone loves you
Here is a clue:
John 3:16

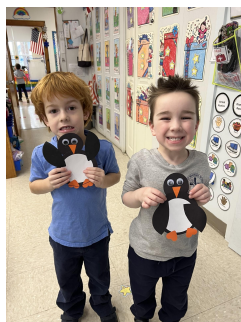


PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

During the month of February we celebrated our 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day. We also learned all about our five senses.



PRE-K Ms. K



What a winter wonderland it has been in Pre-K as we learned about arctic animals, painted snow, and celebrated Catholic Schools Week and Valentine's Day together. Next, we will learn about shapes, colors, and our five senses!!



PRE-K Mrs. Cali



We have been having a blast in Pre-K! We have celebrated Catholic Schools Week, the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day! We love our school and all the fun we have in it!



Kindergarten!

Mrs. Sleight



Kindergarten enjoyed celebrating Catholic Schools Week! We sang with the school, made cards for Veterans and Community Helpers. We also made skiing snowmen and 100 Day Monsters! So much fun!



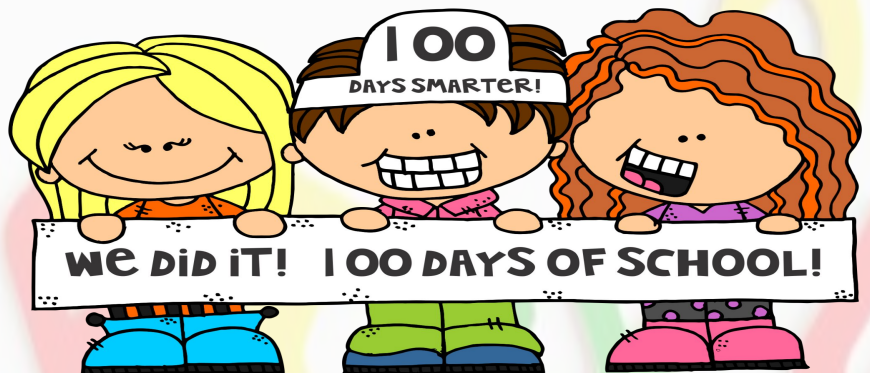
Kindergarten!



Mrs. Polcari

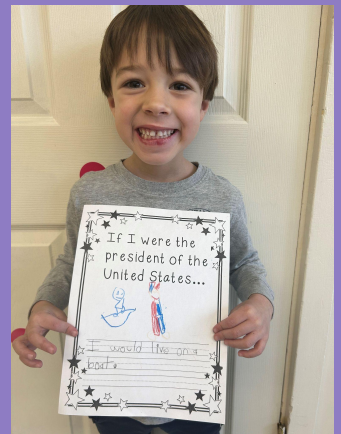
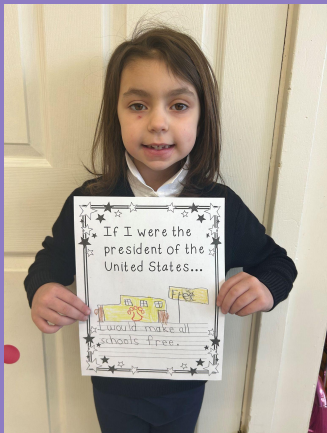


We celebrated 100 days of learning! Students also took the time to show appreciation for their classmates by making friendship bracelets for Valentine's Day!



Kindergarten!

Mrs. Kasberg



During the month of February we have been busy learning about the season of Lent. We have also been learning about American Symbols and different Presidents. We celebrated Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School!



FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE

Elementary School

Grades 1-4



THIRD GRADE



FOURTH GRADE

First Grade

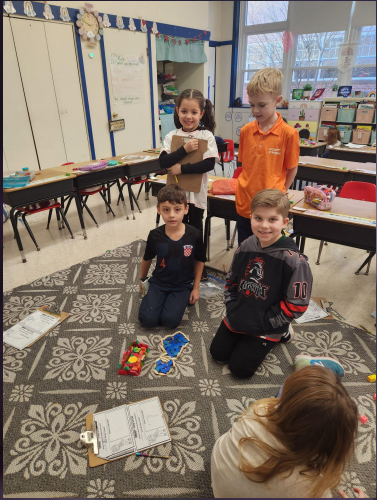
1A- Mrs. Robidoux



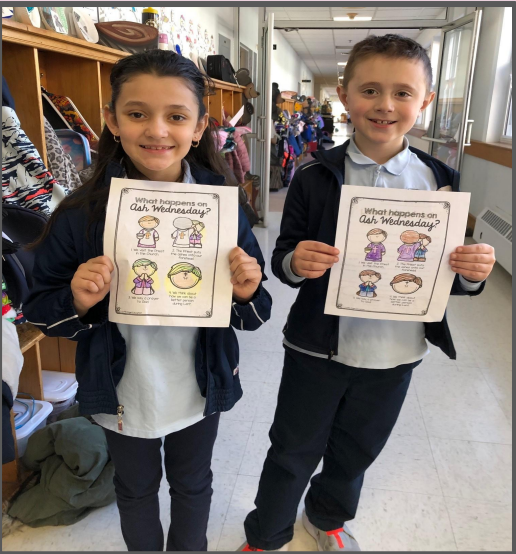
**Our first graders have been sharing their love this month!
We share our love for our school, love for our faith, love for our
friends and love of learning!**

First Grade

1B- MS. BEDARD



We are moving right along in Term 3. We will be learning all about Lent and Easter this month. We celebrated Valentine's Day and are beginning Science and Social Studies.



Mrs. Caffrey 2A



February has been a month of celebrations. We enjoyed Catholic Schools Week. The children did projects on habitats and the food chain. Our 100th day of school activity with our number shirts was a huge success. Valentine's Day was enjoyed by all. We will now start our Lenten Journey.



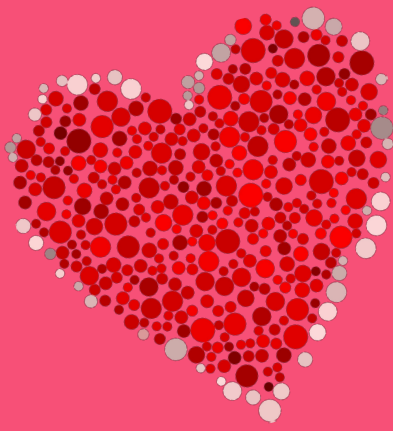


Mrs. Grant



When the temperature is cold we enjoy inside recess playing, reading and laughing with friends!





3rd Grade

Mrs. Torpey



The third graders have been very busy this past month. They learned how to write a friendly letter and address envelopes. Each student mailed their letter to a special friend or relative.

During Catholic Schools Week we read some Valentine's Day books with our 7th grade buddies! The third graders hope to do this again!



In science they have begun learning about matter and how an object's volume and mass affect whether it will sink or float.

3rd Grade

Mrs. Puccia



Our class of third graders have been hard at work this month. They learned all about how to write and send friendly letters. We sent letters to the Fire Department.

This month we celebrated Catholic Schools Week! We love our school!

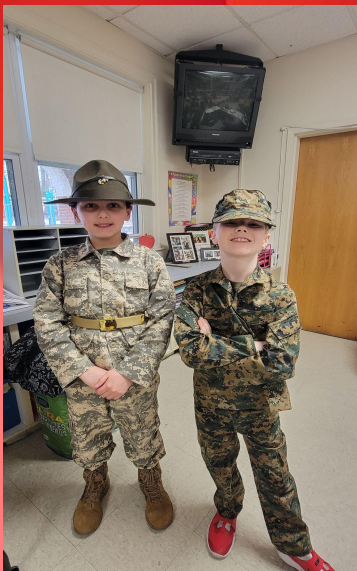


Grade 4

Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sullivan

The children in Grade 4 enjoyed celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

They also started to learn about fractions in Math, have traveled to the Southwest Region in Social Studies, and looked a little more closely at rocks and minerals in Science!



Grade 4 LOVES SMS!





FIFTH GRADE



SIXTH GRADE

Upper School

Grades 5-8



SEVENTH GRADE



EIGHTH GRADE



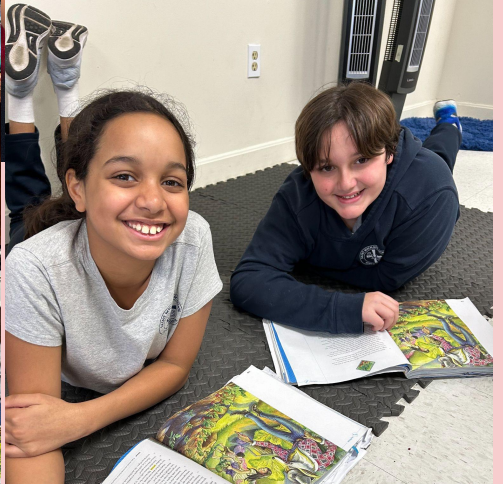
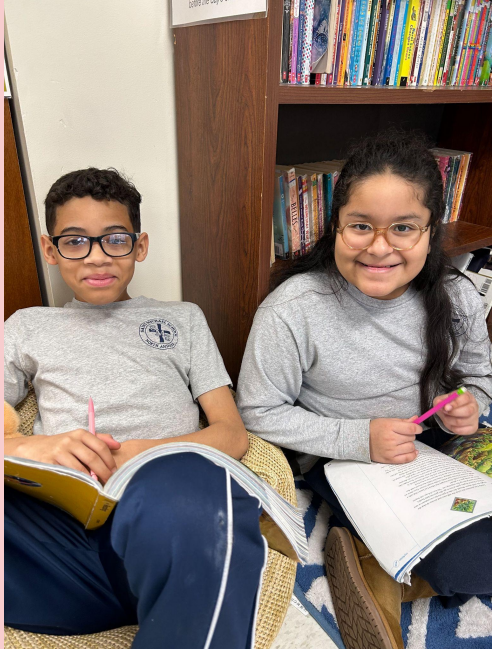
Mrs. Adam - 5th Grade ELA



We loved sharing
our Valentines
with each other!



Our new unit is "Art
is Everywhere". Our
next two stories will
be about Rita
Moreno and Louis
Armstrong.

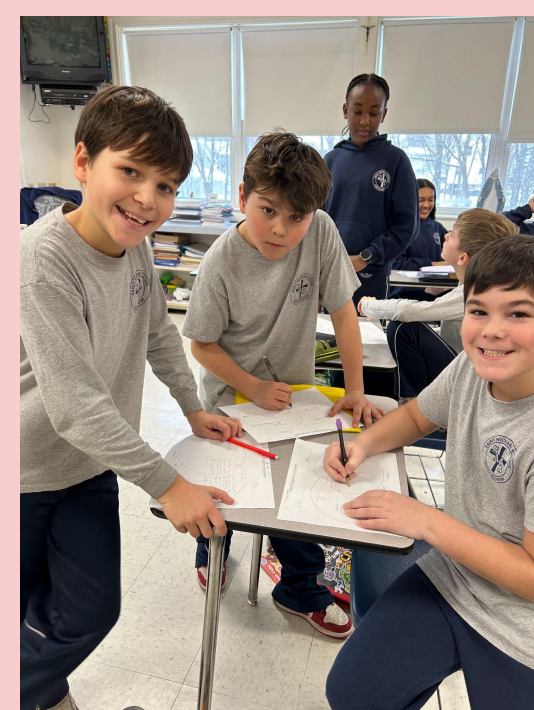
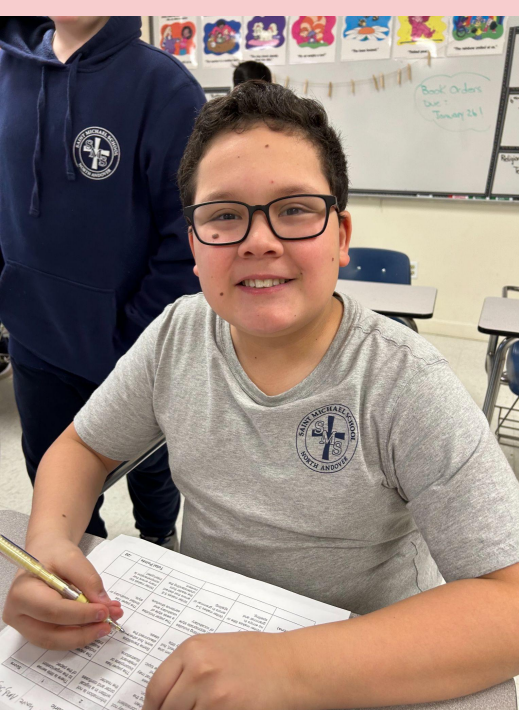
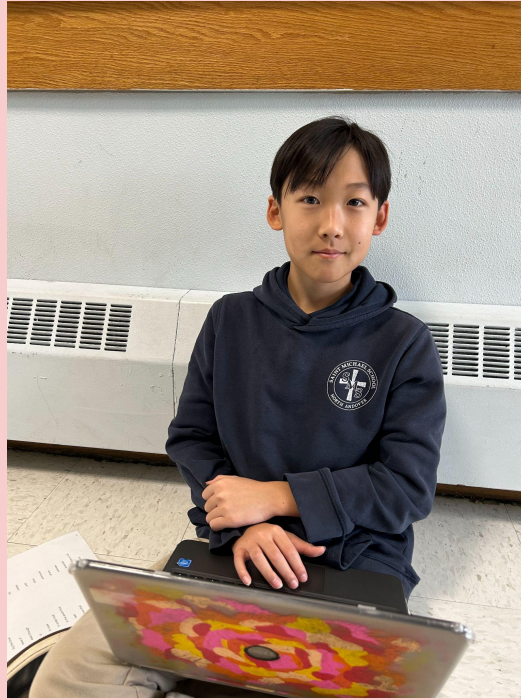


Listening to
many stories
during Cocoa
Cafe.





Mrs. Adam- 6th Grade ELA



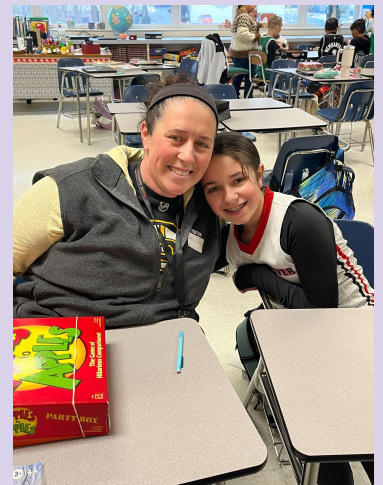
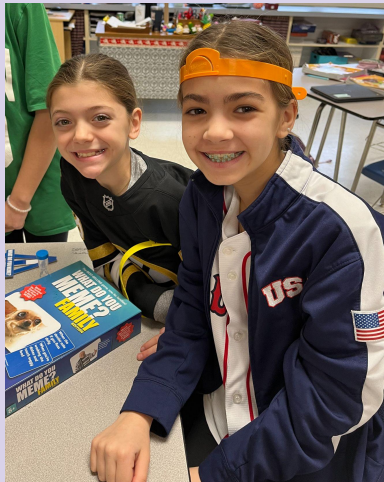
After reading *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau, the students followed the writing process of a compare / contrast essay starting with a Venn diagram and ending with editing their essay.

Grade 5B & 2A Game Buddies

Grade 2A visited 5B and played board games with their buddies.



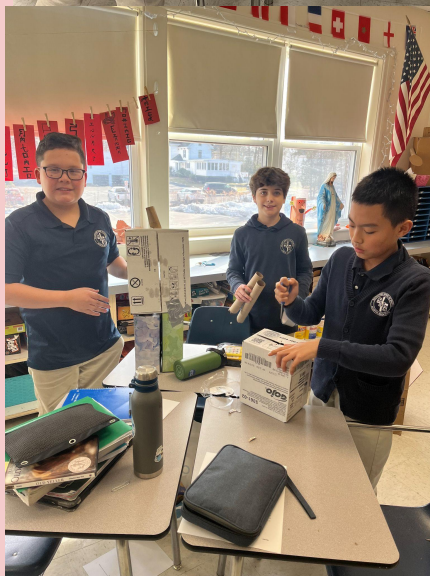
5B celebrated Catholic Schools Week playing games, and we celebrated our Student's Day!



Grade 6 Social Studies- Mrs. Clifford



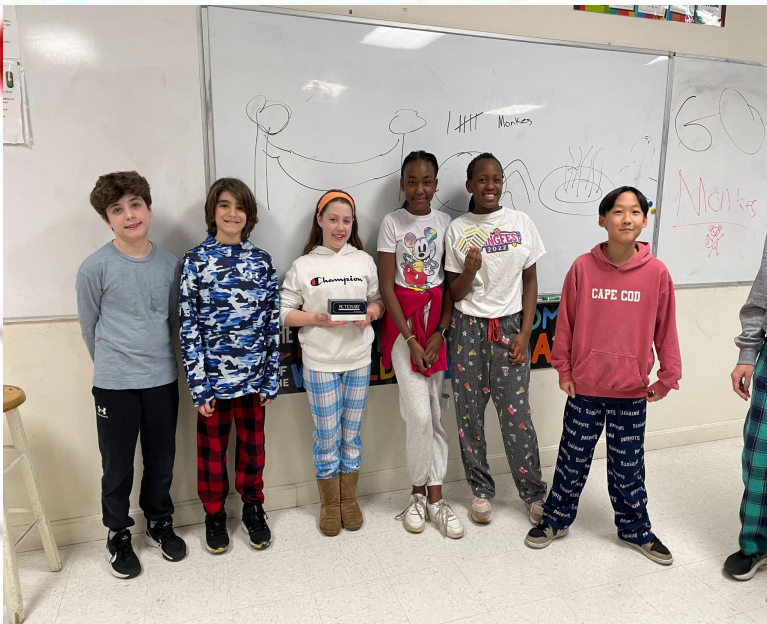
Students are building and creating replicas of the Chinese Terracotta Soldiers using recycled materials.



Grade 6

Grade 6 had a Pictionary Tournament during Catholic Schools Week. Of the 12 teams, it all came down to two groups. The prize was 'bragging rights!' Gabby, Erica, and Jayden came in first place. George, Gianna, and Max were runners up.

Fr. Hubbard invited us to a special prayer service. Palms from last Easter were burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday Mass. We have begun our journey through Lent.





Grade 6

During Catholic Schools Week, grade 6 made cards with our Pre-K buddies. We always share a few stories. We also spent some time with Fr. Hubbard. He shared with us so much about the symbols inside the church.



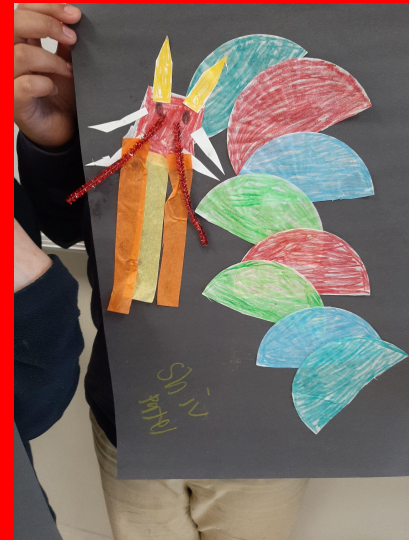
Grade 5 Completed a lab on alternative sources of energy. Each team had to show the others why theirs was a better alternative option.



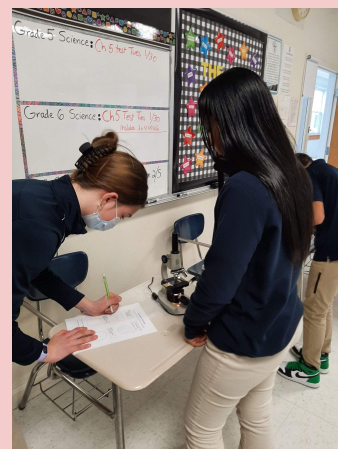
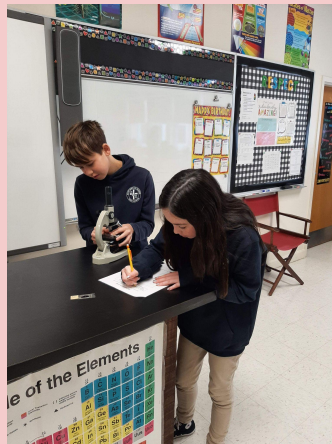
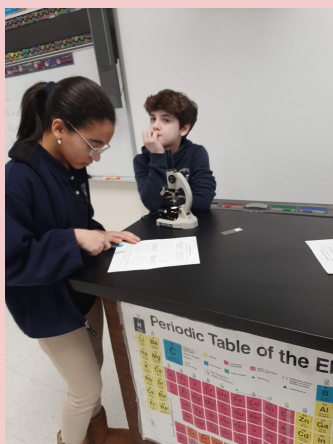
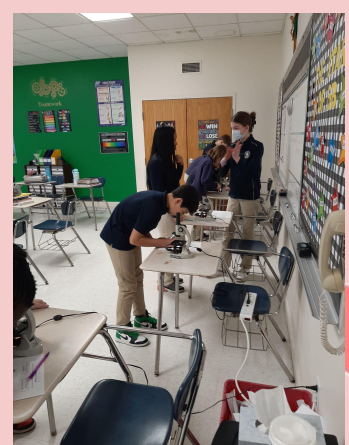
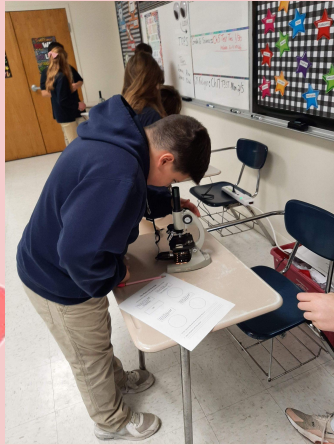
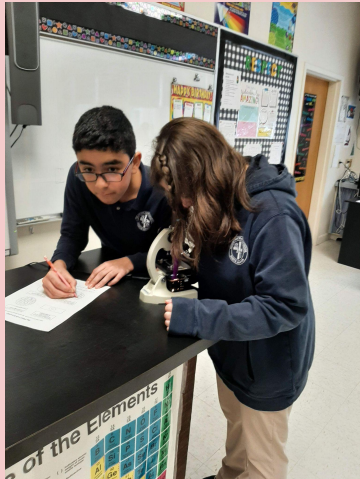
Mrs. Berard

5th Grade Science

**5TH GRADE ENRICHMENT LEARNED ALL ABOUT CHINESE NEW YEAR.
THEY MADE A LOT OF ART TO REPRESENT CULTURAL TRADITIONS.
IT IS THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON!
(FEBRUARY 10, 2024)**



In 6th Grade Science the students have been learning about animal and plant cells. They were able to use microscopes to look at the different types of cells.



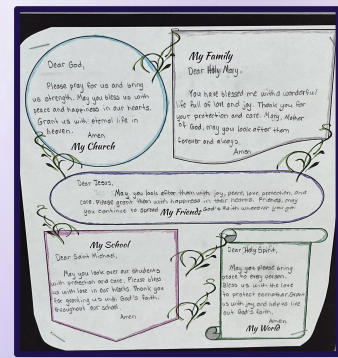
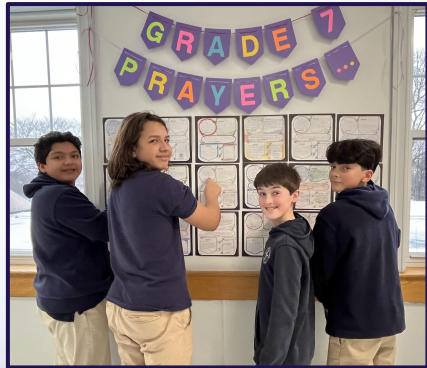
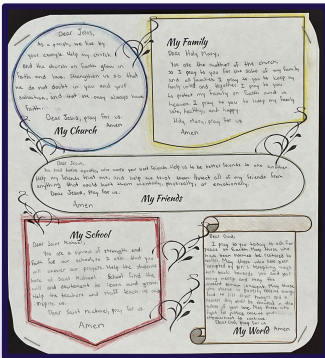
Mrs. Berard 6th Grade Science

Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies

Spotlighting 7A Religion



*Offering up prayers for
our church, school,
family, friends, and
community.*

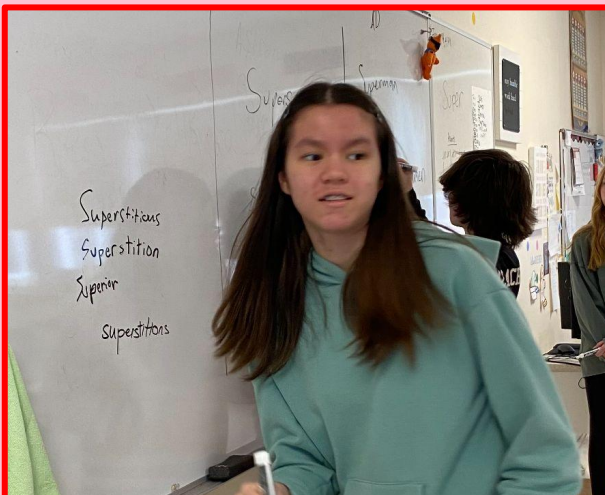


*Showing appreciation for the faculty and
staff by making origami heart cards.*



Mrs. Ordway Grade 8 Enrichment

Grade 8 expanded their vocabulary with some fun activities. They had an Affix Relay and also completed some Create-a-Word activities.

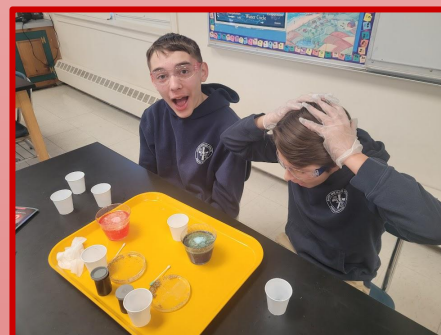
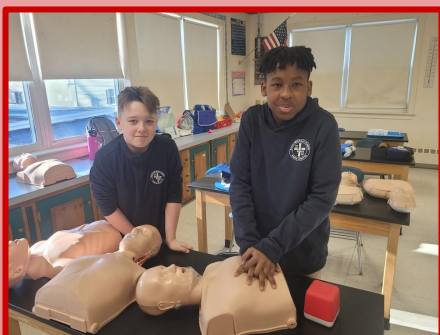




Mr. A: Science 7/8

The new term has started, and the year continues to pass very quickly. February vacation is upon us, and April is not far off. The upper school is entering a very active time of year. Both grades will be participating in the Science Fair. The students have all picked their topics and hopefully are beginning to think about their projects. The Science Fair is a very important tradition at St. Michael School. Many of the students have expressed a desire to enter their projects at the regional fair in late April.

Seventh Grade has started their Science Club. The club will run during the month of February. The students will learn Family and Friend's CPR along with performing multiple experiments. Eighth Grade Science Club will begin in March.



The 7th grade Science club has been having fun conducting experiments and learning CPR.

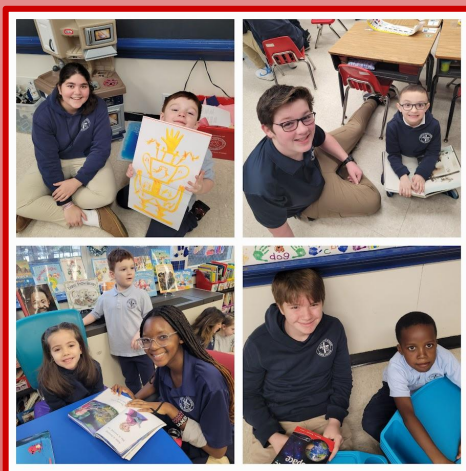




Mrs. Parker: 7/8 Math

The students in 7th grade have been doing a great job applying different math skills to various real world situations. Their work with ratios, rates and proportions is being used with their work on percentages. When you go shopping or out to dinner, you can ask them to help calculate discounts, tax and tip.

The students in 8th grade have also been tackling real world problems using systems of linear equations for their solutions. Soon we will be switching gears and looking at exponent properties.



The Class of 2024 always enjoys spending time with their Kindergarten buddies!



SCHOOL COUNSELOR



MUSIC



GYM

School Counseling and Specials



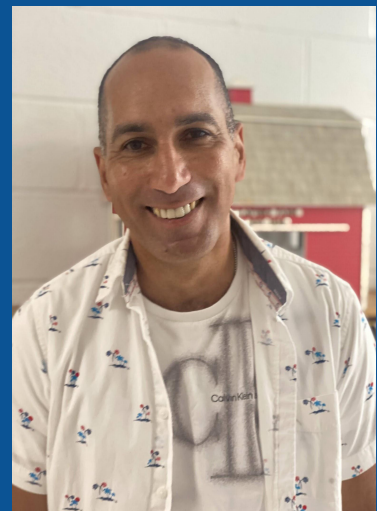
TECHNOLOGY



ART



STEM



SPANISH

Saint Michael PE

January was such a crazy month of weather. We are so grateful to have the turf in the back as we have been able to spend some time outside!

Congratulations to all our basketball teams who participated in the MVCBA. You made us proud with your teamwork and sportsmanship.

A massive thank you to all the families who joined the Ski Club this winter. We have had a ton of fun on the slopes.

All the best,

Mr. D



“One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.” -Bob Marley

Saint Michael PE



FEBRUARY MUSIC

- Nursery, Pre-K4, Kindergarten- Continue to explore music comparisons; ex. Tempo, dynamics, and style of music and recognizing music symbols.
- Grade1- Identifying rhythm patterns “ta,ti-ti”.
- Grade2- Enjoying rhythm partner movement activities, singing “round” games, and circle rhythm groups.
- Grade3&4- Continue recorder progress. Lots of “belts” were issued this month, students are very proud of their achievements!
- Music STEM engineers- Enjoyed building percussion instruments!

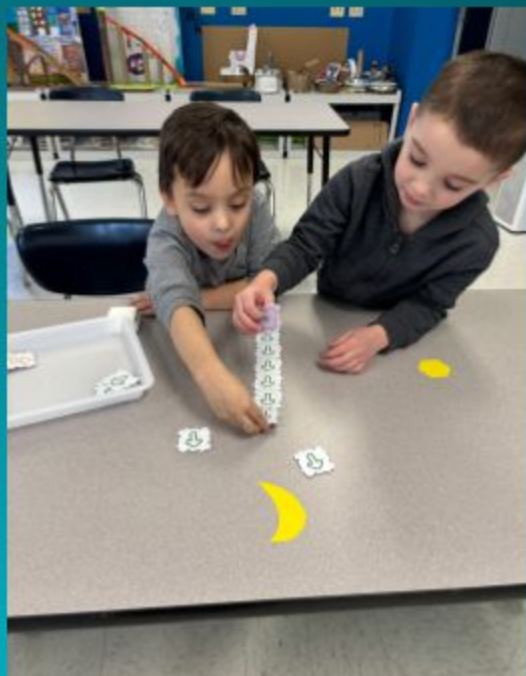
“Excellent... As Usual!”
Musically yours, Ms. Lavallee





Our pre-k students began coding with our KUBO robots. They needed to build a path for KUBO using directional tiles. When KUBO turned off the path they were quick to recognize that their codes needed to be changed!





Spanish

Clase de Español con el Señor Mercedes

Dear Parents,

As we begin term 3, I want to take a moment to share how much I have seen the students grow in their Spanish studies. I am very proud of them.

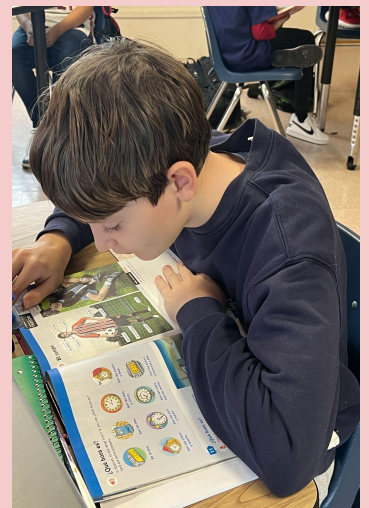
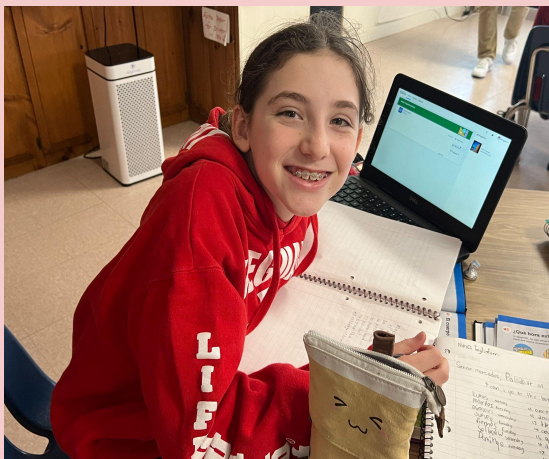
I also want to update you on some changes to help the students continue to progress and grow in their studies.

- All students now have both an online and hard copy of our Spanish textbook.
- Homework assignments are posted in the Google Classroom, on the Saavas website, as well as in their agendas. Grades are posted in Renweb.

Report card grading will remain the same based on conduct and effort. Being prepared for class, doing their assignments and respecting classroom rules will be reflected in their overall conduct grade.

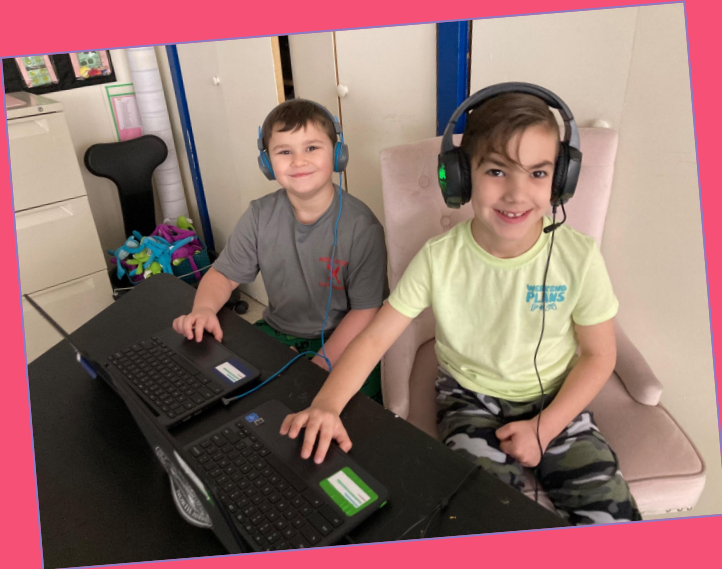
Thank you for all your support! Any questions, please reach out.

Here are some pictures of the students learning the Spanish terms for the parts of the body.

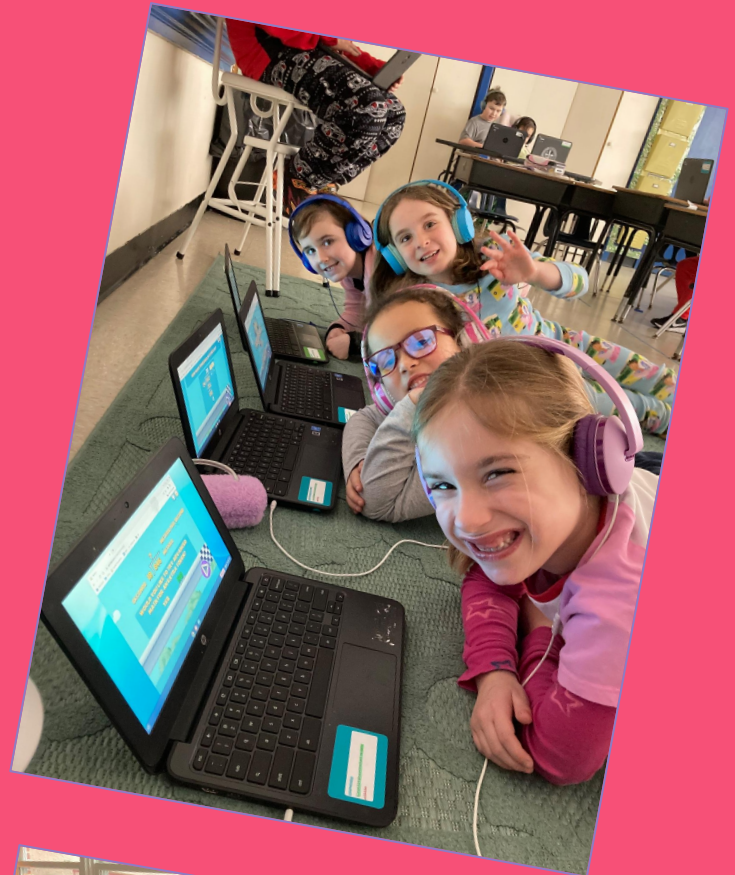


Technology

With Mrs. Lesofsky

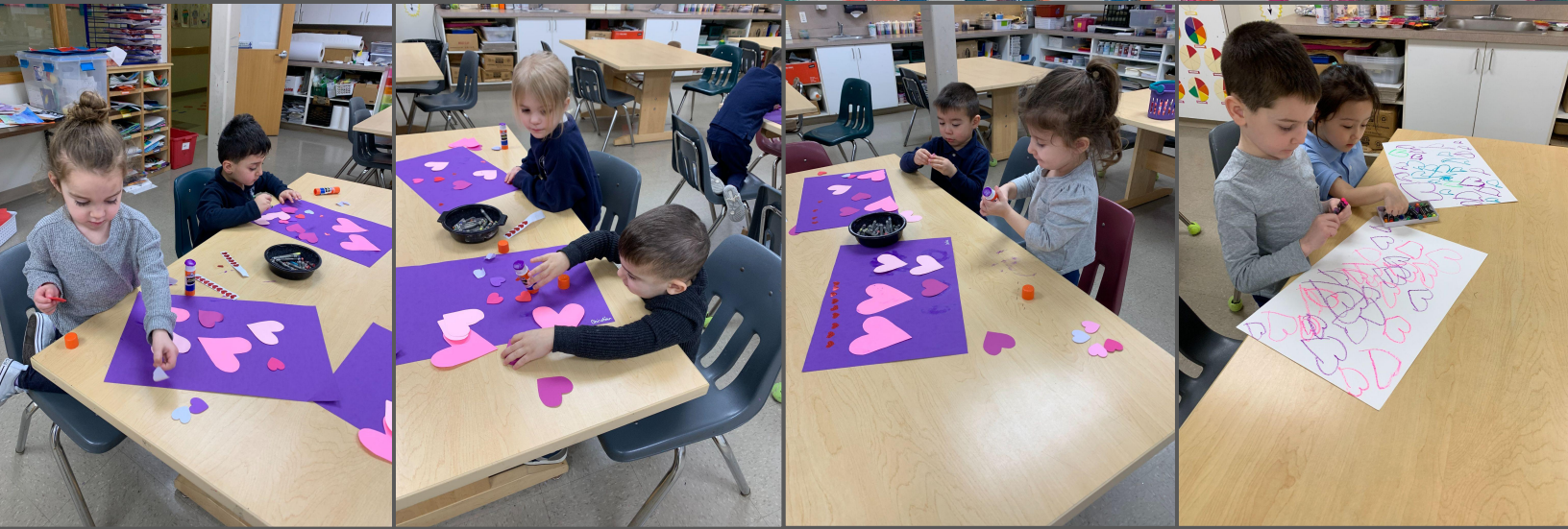


During Catholic Schools Week, Grade 1 enjoyed spending time with friends throughout the classroom, while practicing math and reading skills using technology.



ART CLASS

With Mrs. Donegan



February is all about hearts in the art room. We learned about different artists including, J Goldcrown, Jim Dine, and Chris Uphues. We used lots of different materials, including neon oil pastels,



Counselor's Corner with Mrs. Rowley



In February, School Counselors were acknowledged nationally. This week was a time for me to reflect on how grateful I am to be a part of the Saint Michael School family. I feel so lucky to spend time with each student and to have been able to serve the community in my capacity as the School Counselor. Thank you for all of your support and for your well wishes during National School Counseling Week, and always!

