

# Newsletter April 2024



The warmer weather is upon us and that means we are opening classroom windows, setting the heat back and everyone is thinking about April vacation and summer vacation! With April being so short due to the vacation, we'll be very busy in the next few weeks and months. The Science Fair, First Communion, Art/Band show, May Procession, field trips and so much more are all coming up! We ask that you pray for our second grade students who will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, with time going by so quickly and the addition of spring sports and activities, we encourage parents to be monitoring homework, quizzes, projects, etc. so their children remain on task and don't fall behind.

In late April and for the few weeks of May, students in K-8 will be participating in the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) standardized testing program of the Archdiocese of Boston. Keep an eye on backpacks and emails for information from your child's classroom teacher.

In early May, our school Drama Club will put on our annual school play. This year, the children have been rehearsing for *The Little Mermaid*! We love how hard the children have been working and they can't wait to show off their singing, acting and dancing! Keep an eye out in the Trumpet News for ticket sale information!

The last few weeks of school in May and June are very busy. Please be sure to make note of our "Spirit Days" for grades 1-4 (May 31) and grades 5-7 (June 3). The children will be going to Cedarland in Haverhill for the day to swim, play mini-golf and more! This event is entirely paid for by the PTO! Each time that you supported a PTO fundraiser this year, you helped pay for this day for our students which costs approximately \$25/student. In addition, the PTO will sponsor an in-school activity for our nursery, pre-k and kindergarten students to celebrate the end of the year. Please remember, if you would like to chaperone the Cedarland trip you must have completed a CORI this year and have taken the PGC workshop. Permission slips and lots more information will be sent out in May.

One of our biggest fundraisers of the year will begin at the very end of April. We are collaborating with Booster to have a FUN RUN on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff from Booster will be seen on the school campus beginning on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents will see them during drop off in the mornings and again at dismissal. The energy that the Booster program brings to SMS is contagious. While helping to raise funds for our school, they also teach important lessons and character traits. The Booster program actually partnered with Dude Perfect (Youtube trick-shot artists) this year so we're sure the kids are going to love the program! You can help support the program by registering your child and sharing posts to family and friends!

Happy Spring!

*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 you may be aware we have some transitions at St. Michael's Parish in June. Fr. Joe Hubbard has been appointed Pastor of St. Brigid Parish in Lexington as of June 1, 2024. Fr. Joe has been a great presence at our School in the four years that he has been assigned to St. Michael's. He has been a great support to our teachers and students and has taken the time to visit with them often. He will be missed. Please take a moment when you see Fr. Joe to thank him for his encouragement and presence to all at St. Michael's School. We all wish him well as he begins a new ministry as Pastor at St. Brigid's.

God Bless,  
Fr. Deeley



# IMPORTANT+

Upcoming Reminders

- April 23- Science Fair, 6p.m.
- 4/29-5/24 MAP Testing window
- April 30- Booster Kick Off
- May 3- Kindergarten field trip
- May 4- First Communion
- May 7- Grade 6 field trip
- May 8- FUN Run
- May 9- Ascension Thursday Mass 1:45pm.
- May 10- Grade 5 field trip
- May 10-11 School Play...The Little Mermaid
- May 14- PTO meeting
- May 15- Fine Arts Show 2p.m.
- May 16- NJHS Inductions
- May 17- May Procession 1:45pm.
- May 20- Band Concert
- May 21- Grade 7 field trip

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# 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

**C**ourage

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**



**Happy April! Nursery  
went to Church and  
Father Joe gave us a  
behind the scenes tour!**





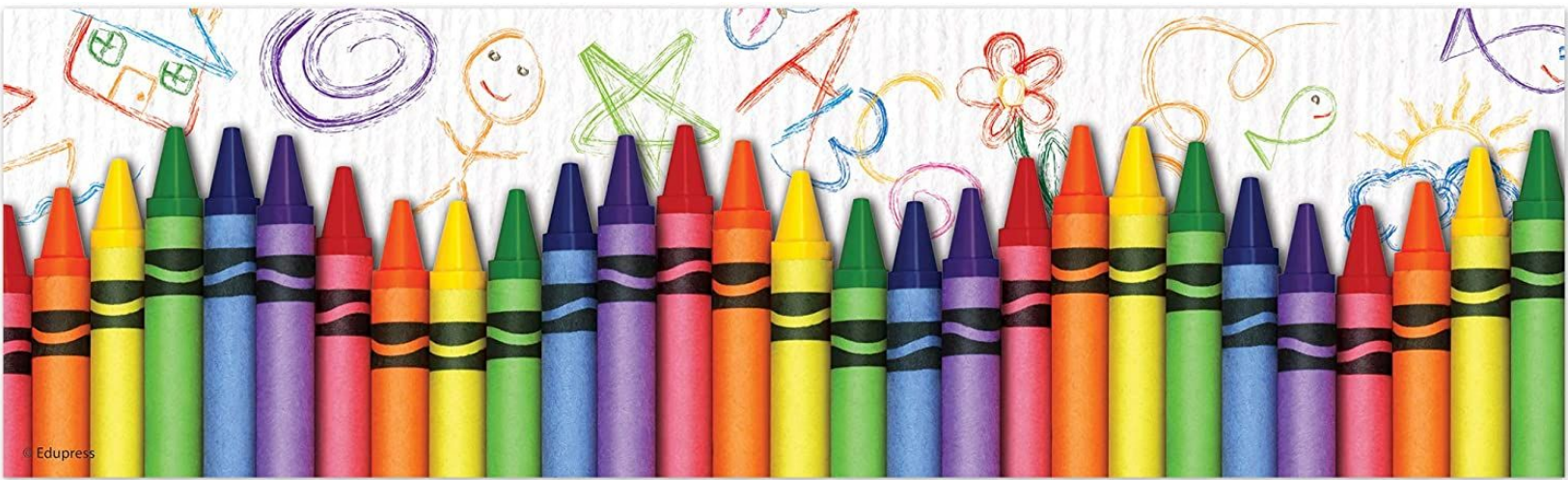


Spring is here!  
We have finished  
our letter of the  
week so we will  
start to focus on  
numbers,  
shapes, patterns  
and our names!



# PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

In April we welcomed Spring and learned all about planting, growing and life cycles.



# PRE-K Ms. K



We welcomed the new season, learned about many types of flowers, and celebrated Easter together. Next we will shift our focus to a unit on transportation thinking about how we get from one place to another. Then we will learn about insects and focus on the butterfly's metamorphosis.



# PRE-K Mrs. Cali



Spring is here and we are learning all about flowers and all the beautiful nature God created! We are starting to learn all about transportation as well and the children are having so much fun!



# Kindergarten!

Mrs. Sleight

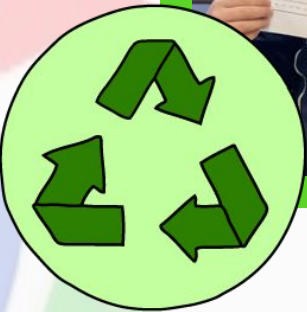


April showers are happening! We planted seeds in our "Greenhouses". Each day we will check to see if we see any sprouts coming up!

We also are reading about how plants grow and ways to take care of them. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and wonderful April vacation!

# Kindergarten!

Mrs. Polcari



With Earth Day coming up, Kindergarten has been learning how to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

# Kindergarten!

Mrs. Kasberg



In the month of April we have been learning about Earth Day! The boys and girls made promises of what they could do to keep our planet safe!





**FIRST GRADE**



**SECOND GRADE**

# Elementary School

## Grades 1-4



**THIRD GRADE**



**FOURTH GRADE**



# First Grade

1A- Mrs. Robidoux

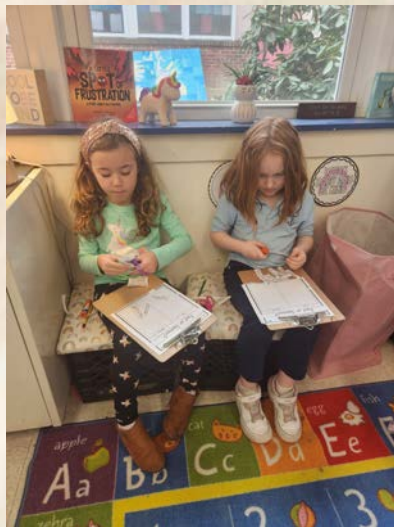


First graders filled the month with measuring and reading more than 100 books. We explored sound in Science. We learned more about families and neighborhoods in Social Studies. In Reading, we learned about the world around us changes. We celebrate the Easter season with joy and happy hearts. We learn about God's great love for us. We discuss signs of new life in spring. Our days have been filled with fun and fascinating activities.



# First Grade

1B- MS. BEDARD



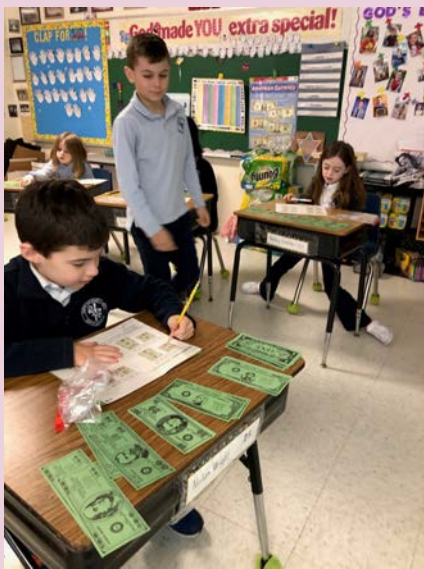
We have had a busy month! The children are becoming excellent writers. We are working on both opinion and informative pieces. We completed our science chapter on Sound and now we are moving on to light.



## Mrs. Caffrey 2A

The children wore crazy socks for Fox in Socks Day. We did fun activities using coins and play dollars to learn about money. The children welcomed Spring with light up spin toys. We also created beautiful thumbprint flower pictures. On April 8th we saw the eclipse and did an eclipse activity.

Happy Spring!





# Mrs. Grant

Grade 2B has been very busy in academics and working as a team





# 3rd Grade

Mrs. Torpey

The third grade had so much fun learning about the Sun, Earth and the Moon. The students participated in a shadow activity, where they traced their shadow throughout the day. This gave them an opportunity to observe the changes in their shadow, and they learned that Earth is always moving.

Students also completed a project to show how different parts of Earth face the sun over 24 hours. This causes daytime and nighttime.

We were VERY excited to watch the solar eclipse together, and created a foldable booklet explaining what a solar eclipse is.





# 3rd Grade

Miss Puccia 3B

Our class is learning  
about the Church!

We colored crosses for  
Easter and used different  
colors so they looked like  
stained glass windows.

Here is what we created!!



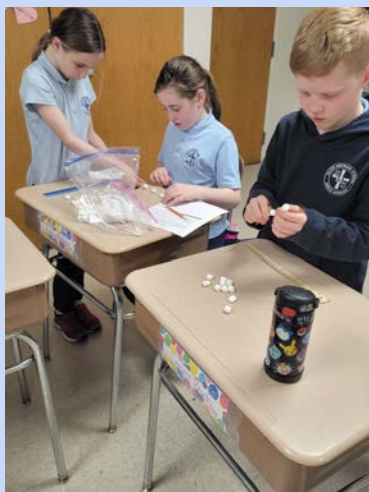
# Grade 4

## Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sullivan

The children in Grade 4 had an awesome time at the New England Aquarium.  
Thank you to all of our amazing chaperones!!



# The students enjoyed a recent STEM activity using marshmallows and toothpicks to explore the concepts of perimeter, area & volume.







**FIFTH GRADE**



**SIXTH GRADE**

# Upper School

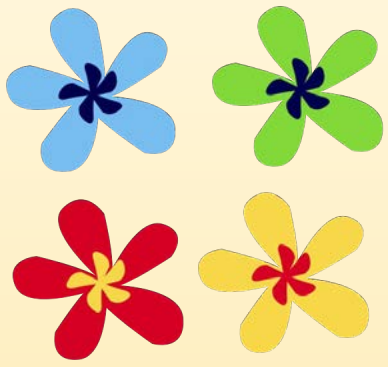
## Grades 5-8



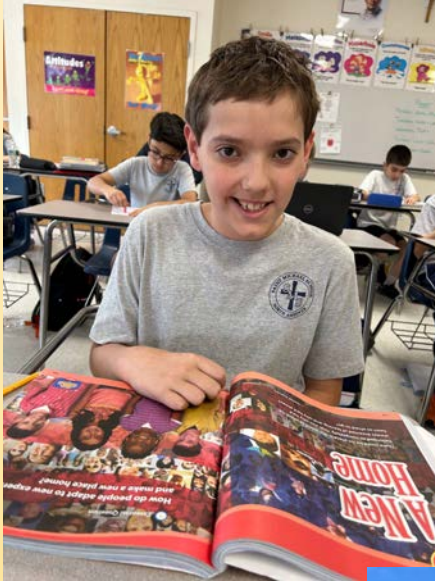
**SEVENTH GRADE**



**EIGHTH GRADE**



# Mrs. Adam ELA



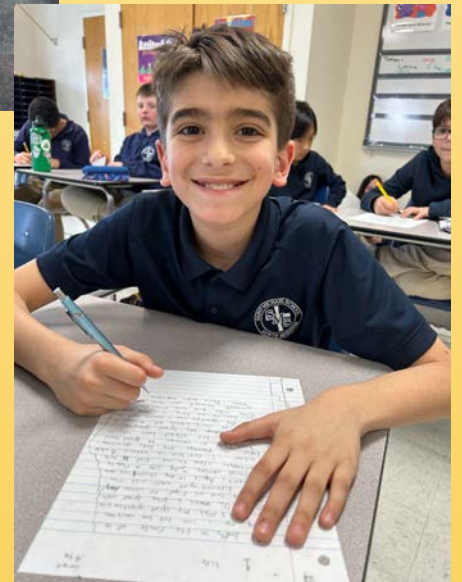
5th Grade - How do people adapt to new experiences and make a new place home? We'll find out in our next unit.



We were amazed watching the solar eclipse!

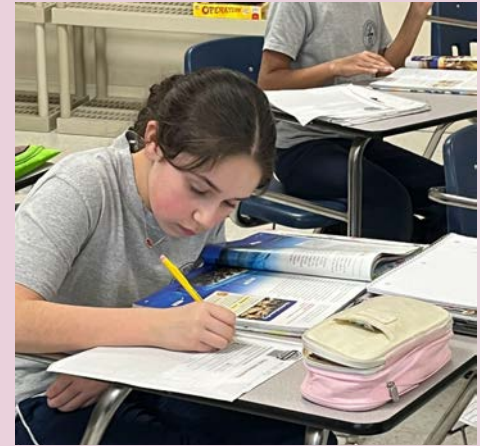


6th Grade - They learned how to write Slam/ Spoken Word/ Performance Poetry. Then, they became the authors of their own poems. I was so impressed with the depth of their topics. Great job!



# Grades 5&6 Social Studies- Mrs. Clifford

We are learning about the Civil War. Kids will be visiting the USS Constitution in May.



We enjoyed the Solar Eclipse!



Grade 6 created their own versions of the Roman Colosseum. So creative!

# Mrs. Berard 5th/6th Grade Science

Grade 5 has been learning about the solar system, and they created models of the planets. In Enrichment they learned about Monet and painted with plastic covered sunglasses to experience what it was like to paint without the full use of your eyes. Grade 6 has been studying Matter. They are exploring atoms, molecules and compounds.



# Grade 6 and Chrism Mass with Fr. Hubbard

Grade 6 would like to thank Fr. Hubbard for always stopping by our classes to speak about our faith. He has shared so much of his time and knowledge so that we may grow in love of God. We know more about the inner workings of the Church, the symbols of Lent and how ashes are prepared for Ash Wednesday. Most importantly, Fr. Hubbard invited us to be his guests at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. We toured the church, found the St. Michael stained glass window, Deeley Cross and the Pope's chair.

Fr. Hubbard is truly special!





# Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies

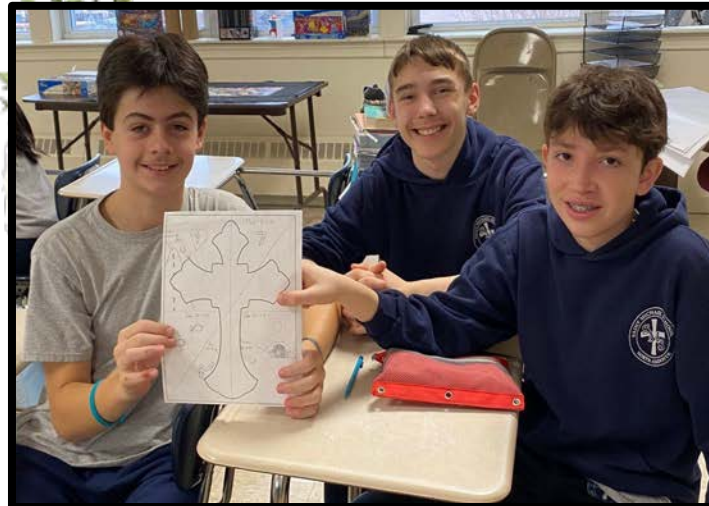


*Thanks to Discovery Education, the students in grade 7 took a virtual field trip to Washington, D.C. They visited the White House, the Capitol Building, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Museum, the Vietnam Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Arlington National Park, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Interesting facts were learned about all these wonderful places.*



# Mrs. Ordway - 7B Religion

The class read and illustrated the Gospel readings of the Easter Octave in preparation of the Easter season.





# Mr. A: Science 7/8

This year is going by way too fast. April vacation is upon us, and it will be May before we know it. I want to congratulate all the eighth graders for being accepted to their respective high schools. I am proud of all of them. I know that they will all be prepared and ready to go in the fall.

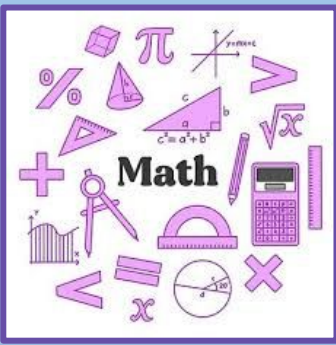
The eighth-grade science club is finished. The students were able to get outside for the last session. This was a good thing because they made elephant toothpaste along with Diet Coke and Mentos geysers. The overflow of the experiments was able to be cleaned up in the parking lot and not inside the science lab. The students enjoyed the food science part of the club especially sampling their experiments.

I know that both grades have presented their science fair projects to their classmates. All the students' hard work will be on display Tuesday night April 23rd between 6:00 and 7:00 PM. I hope that you are able to come and take in all the students' hard work.



The 8th Grade Science Club had a lot of fun making Elephant Toothpaste!





# Mrs. Parker: 7/8 Math

The 8th Grade students have been adding, subtracting, multiplying and factoring polynomials. All of this work will help them when we start focusing on quadratic functions.

The 7th Grade students have been working on statistics and using surveys to make estimates. We will soon start a geometry unit with a focus on angle measurements and a variety of shapes.

I can't believe that we are in the final term of the year. I know that the students will continue their hard work and end the year on a strong note!



Members of 8B looking fabulous in their eclipse glasses!

The 8th graders looked sharp on Cap and Gown picture day. Way to go Class of 2024!



**SCHOOL COUNSELOR**



**MUSIC**



**GYM**

# School Counseling and Specials



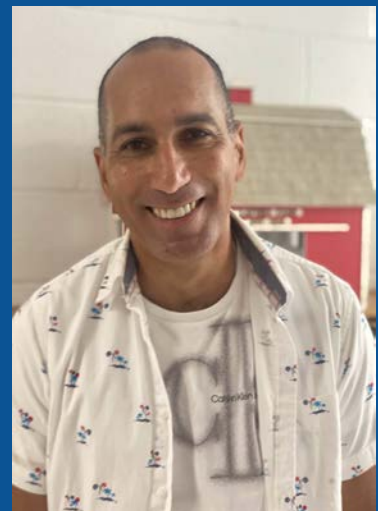
**TECHNOLOGY**



**ART**



**STEM**



**SPANISH**

# Saint Michael PE

**SPRING TIME!!!!!!**

As we welcome spring, we are getting ready for our new craze of playing PICKLE BALL! The students in Nursery to 8th grade have been practicing their forehands, backhands and footwork while competing against each other! We are even looking to have our staff play some games before school which will be a fun way to start the day! We have one of our 7th grade students to thank for getting us on board with one of the most popular activities in America!

**Trivia: What is it called if you lose a pickle ball match 11-0?**



**"If you wanted a soft serve, you should have gone for ice cream!" -Anonymous**

# APRIL MUSIC

**Nursery, Pre-K Students:** Singing traditional nursery rhymes and demonstrating with expression, the characters of the rhyme.

**Kindergarten Students:** Continue building a varied repertoire for their graduation ceremony.

**Grade 1 Students:** Prepare for their Memorial Day Program, learning, memorizing classic American Patriotic songs. Also, learning about the process of the performance.

**Grade 2 Students:** Performed a short skit on how our National Anthem was written. Their 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading buddies enjoyed the presentation.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2A & 2B!

**Grade 3&4 Students:** Continue recorder learning. Lots of “belts” issued!

**Music Enrichment Class:** Students continue practicing for their multi-cultural program. Students are showing an appreciation of diversity and having fun with a kind of curiosity, too. Exciting!



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

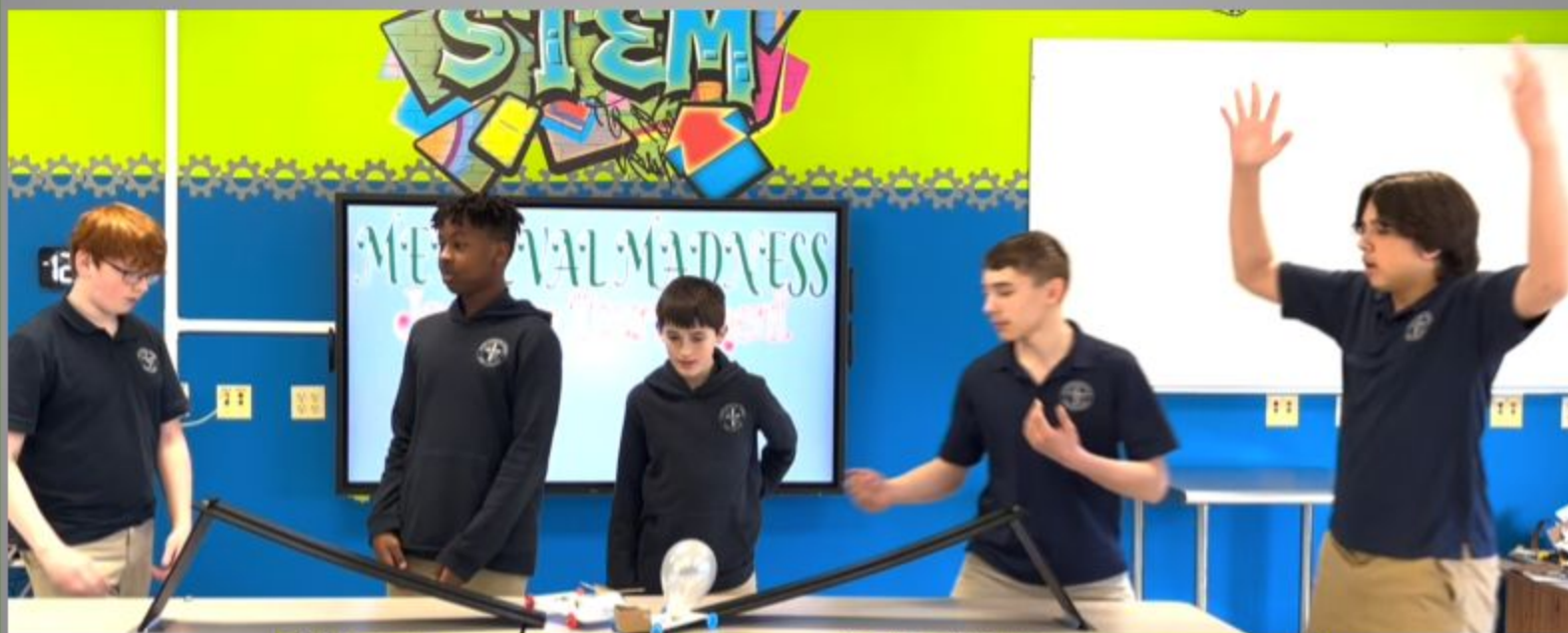


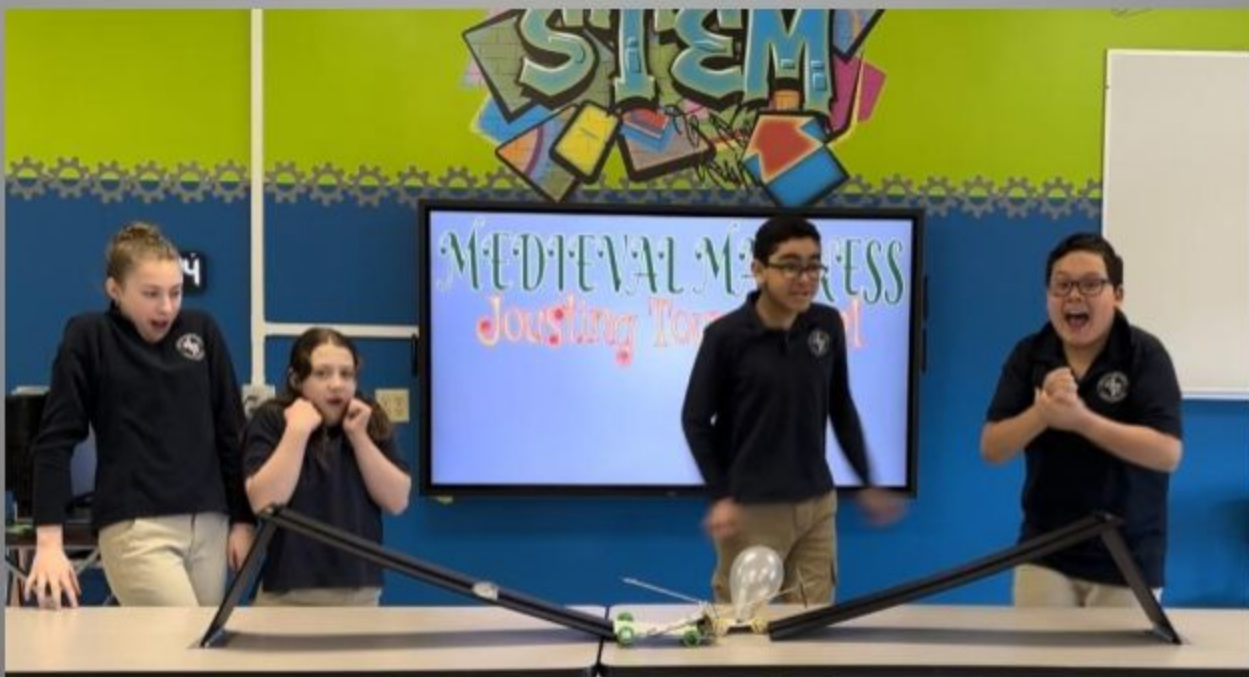
# STEM



## Medieval Madness Jousting Tournament

Students in grades 6 & 7 designed and built a jousting vehicle to compete in our Upper School Medieval Madness Tournament!. Which team's build would have the greatest momentum to pop the balloon on the opposing team's vehicle?







## The Finals

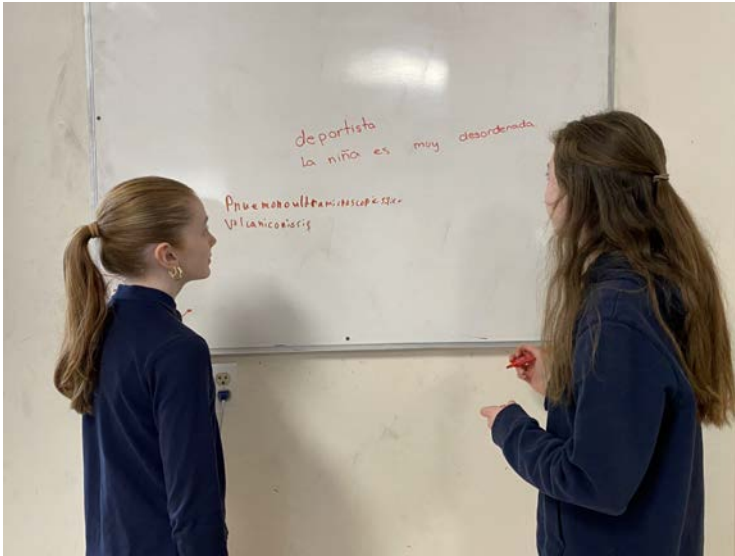


## CHAMPIONS 2024!



# Spanish

Clase de Español con el Señor Mercedes



6th grade students practicing the sounds in Spanish  
"Los estudiantes del grado 6 practicando los sonidos en Español"

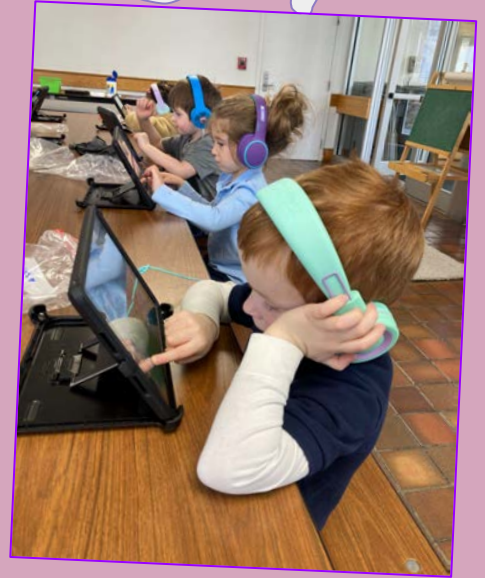


Practicing the sounds helps students become accustomed to writing in Spanish and will help with their Spanish pronunciation.



# Technology

*With Mrs. Lesofsky*



Our little friends here at SMS are doing a really nice job using touchscreen on the Ipads, and navigating applications to reinforce numbers, letters and words. Pre-K will be ready to use Chromebooks next year in Kindergarten!



# ART CLASS

*With Mrs. Donegan*



Third grade learned about perennial plants and flowers that bloom in spring. They created their own gardens using sharpies and then painted with watercolors. Fourth grade students learned about the Book of Kells and created their own Illuminated letter using an initial from their name. They had to choose either flora or fauna that matched their letter. Fifth grade students learned about the artist Jackson Pollock and his action painting. They created their own using brushes and acrylic paint.



# Counselor's Corner with Mrs. Rowley



During the Lenten Season the Student Council sponsored a shoe drive in partnership with the nonprofit organization Soles4Souls. This effort was in correspondence with the Parish's Lenten Message of "Run the Good Race". Our Saint Michael School Community donated over 600 pairs of shoes which prevented over 700 pounds of waste from entering landfills and creating over \$5000 of economic opportunity for families and communities around the world. Thank you to all who donated - together we are helping to break the cycle of poverty around the world!

