November Newsletter 2026

Amazingly, we are nearing Thanksgiving which means preparations are underway for the biggest event of the year...Our Thanksgiving Prayer Service. Each year, we invite the students' grandparents, special guests or great grown-ups, to come to visit the children in their classrooms and then to attend a beautiful prayer service in the church. A special invitation was emailed out to families to share with all the special people in your child's life. The day is jam-packed with activities, tours, entertainment and more. It's a wonderful opportunity to let our grandparents and special visitors experience what it's like to attend our school. We look forward to seeing their smiling faces and the faces of the parents who accompany them as well. For those who can only attend in spirit, we are happy to announce that the program will be live-streamed. See inside the newsletter for the link. As a reminder, this is a half day of school with no PM extended day care.

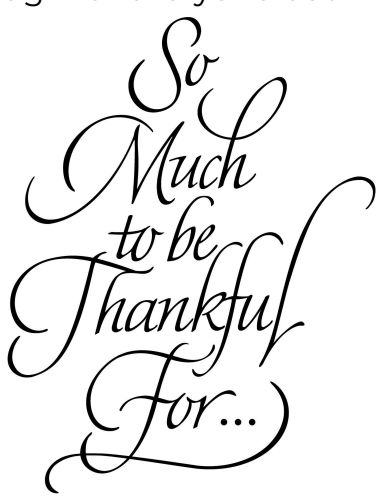
Parent-Teacher Conferences occurred earlier this month. We remind all families that you can always reach out with a question or concern. Email is the easiest way to get in touch with everyone. You can always monitor your child's grades using the online parent portal by adjusting your parent preferences to receive automated gradebook updates.

Advent begins on November 29th this year. During this time, we are preparing and waiting for Christmas. Our Student Council and NJHS may be running various service projects during these weeks leading up to Christmas. We realize that during the Christmas season, your family will be asked to make donations to numerous organizations. As we do not wish to overburden your family, we kindly ask that you decide if your family is able to help. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the recipients of our gifts.

As we approach this season of giving, please know we recognize that some of our own school families are struggling. We are here to help. If your family needs some help at Christmas, please let me know and I'll do my best to help in any way that I can. Times are tough for everyone but our school family always comes together in difficult times to help the ones we love. Please know that any help that is given is kept strictly confidential.

On behalf of the staff of the school, I wish you many blessings today and throughout the year!

Happy Thanksgiving,
Susan Gosselin



School News

Upcoming Calendar Dates

November 18- PTO Meeting 7 p.m.
November 24- Banking Day
November 25- Half day, Thanksgiving Prayer Service
November 29- Advent Begins
December 8- Immaculate Conception Mass, Banking Day
December 9- N-PK-K Christmas Spectacular
December 16- Christmas Nativity Show
December 22- Half day
December 23-January 3- Christmas break

If you are looking for Liturgy or event times please refer to the weekly Trumpet.

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.

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.

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 2027-2028 school year) families must make a minimum total offertory donation of **$500** to our parish beginning **July 1, 2026 to April 1, 2027.** 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 **donations@saintmichael.com.**

You may also make donations on the parish online giving **website:** https://www.osvhub.com/st-michael-north-andover/giving/funds?preview=%E2%80%8B (choose parish offering, no annual pledge). 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.

Focus on Faith

Thanksgiving Prayer Service
Celebrating our Grandparents
November 25, 2026
10:45 a.m.



Grandparents, Great Grown-Ups or Special Guests of your child can come to school at 9:30 a.m. to visit the classrooms.

Parents are welcome to escort the grandparents/special guests to school and the church but are kindly asked to allow the grandparents to be seated in the church!

We are pleased to offer a live-stream of the prayer service for those who are only able to attend in spirit:
https://youtube.com/live/5uL8ZocGZ-Y?feature=share



Saint Michael Parish
Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturdays at 4p.m.
Sundays at 8a.m., 10a.m. (Family Mass), Noon and 5p.m.

Advent Begins November 29th

Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, begins November 29th. Advent is a season of preparing and waiting for Christmas. During Advent, we celebrate themes like hope, peace, joy, and love. We talk about Advent wreaths and prayer services in school and encourage your family to attend weekend masses and to prepare as a family for Christmas.

PTO News



THANKS – FOR – GIVING RAFFLE

Our annual Thanks-for-Giving Raffle is underway! As one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, it helps support school improvements, enrich student experiences, and provide financial aid. Our goal is **$30,000,** and every ticket sold makes a difference!

Keep selling and sharing with friends and family! Need more tickets? Stop by the front desk or email PTO@saintmichael-na.com. Winners will be drawn on **November 25 (Grandparents' Day).** If we raise more than $30,000, the whole school will celebrate with a **Pajama, Movie & Popcorn Afternoon!**

Teacher Appreciation

YOUR FUNDRAISING DOLLARS AT WORK!

Our new Teacher Appreciation Committee has been busy finding ways to recognize our wonderful teachers and staff! We treated them to a spooky popcorn bar for Halloween, sponsored lunch during Parent/Teacher Conferences, and hosted a **"Souper Teachers" Luncheon**, featuring delicious soups provided by **Navo Foods**, owned by an SMS family!

These are just a few ways your fundraising support helps us show appreciation for the people who do so much for our students every day!





SUPPORTING OUR SMS FAMILIES💙

The PTO hosted a **Uniform Exchange during Parent/Teacher Conferences**, giving families an opportunity to pick up gently used uniforms or donate items they no longer need. With uniform order delays affecting many families this year, we're happy to help make things a little easier!

THANK YOU, FIVE SONS PIZZA! 🍕

A big thank-you to **Five Sons Pizza in North Andover** and all the SMS families who supported our recent restaurant fundraiser! Together, we raised **$360 for the PTO** while supporting a local business!

COMING UP - SAVE THE DATES!

November 18 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. – PTO Meeting at Joe Fish in North Andover

Join us for a change of scenery! Hear what's coming up, share your ideas, and learn how to get involved. All are welcome! Food and drinks available for individual purchase, but not required to attend.

December 8 - 10 | SMS Holiday Shop

Students will have the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts during the school day. We'll need parent volunteers to help with setup and shopping. Stay tuned for details and a signup!

School Counselor

Mrs. Rowley

The Student Council partnered with Bread and Roses and hosted a Thanksgiving Food and Supplies drive. Thank you for all who donated and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!









Student Council News



Nursery

Mrs. Cataldo





Turkey Q-tip painting





"Gobble gobble!"

Painting with acorn squash!



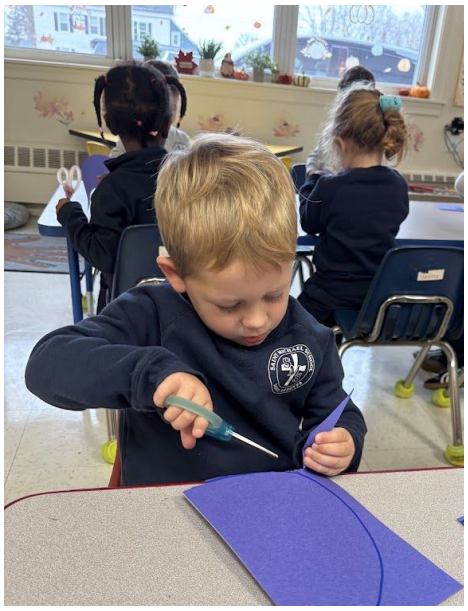


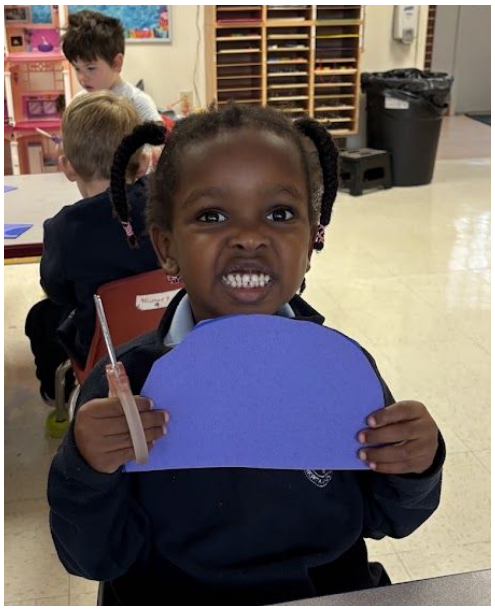
This season, we are learning to be thankful for all of God's blessings, His love, and the joy He brings to our hearts!



Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui







Our Nursery class has been busy strengthening our fine motor skills by practicing our scissor skills! As we celebrate the month of November, we are also taking time to remember all the things we are thankful for. We are especially thankful that God brought us together as a class and that we have become a special little school family.



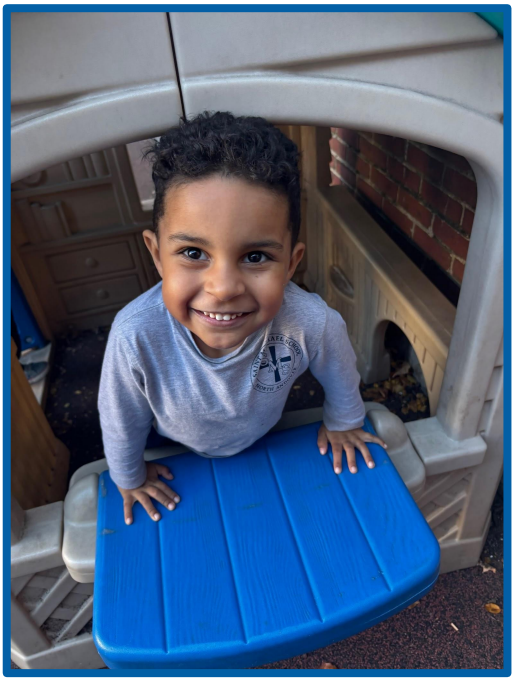




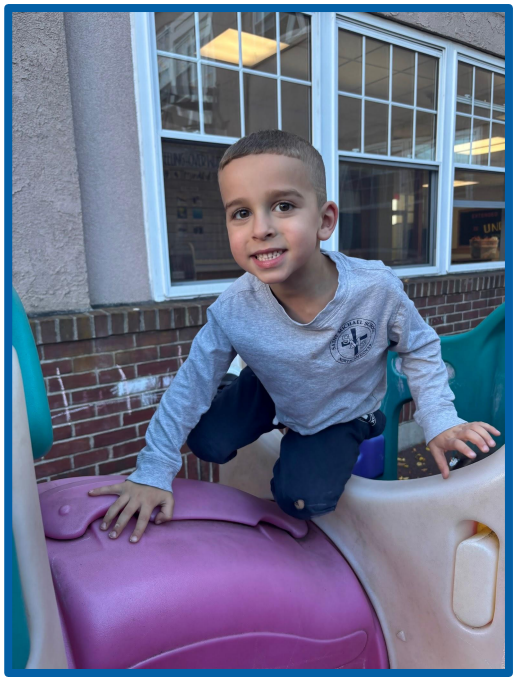
Pre-K

Mrs. Cali





Throughout the month of November, our Pre-K class has been reflecting on all the things we are thankful for. Above all, we are especially grateful for our SMS community and all of our wonderful friends!







Pre-K

Mrs. Reinhard



During the month of November, our Pre-K friends had fun learning all about farms and Thanksgiving! We explored farm animals, talked about being thankful, and enjoyed stories, crafts, and fun activities together. What a wonderful month of learning about the earth God has created.







Pre-K

Mrs. Surprenant





In November, we talked a lot about what being Thankful means. We shared what we are thankful for in our lives. We also got creative tracing shapes,and using stencils.The children worked very well together on this group activity! Also we read a fable called *Stone Soup* and each brought in a vegetable to add to our class soup!



Kindergarten

Mrs. Kasberg



H is for Horse! We have been working hard on our letter sounds.



Trying new things on the playground! Monkey Bars can be tricky!



Family Projects- Turkey in Disguise



Math games with friends!
Comparing number- Greater than & Less



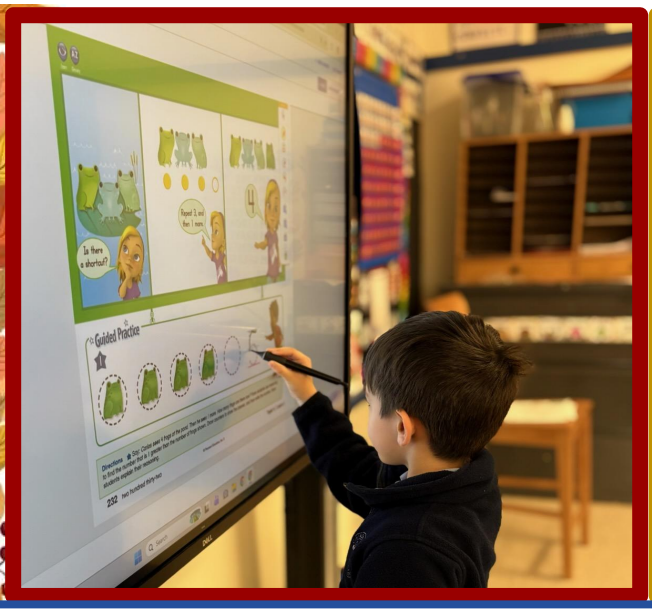
We have so much to be Thankful for! Friends, school., teachers, family, pets, siblings, and our health!

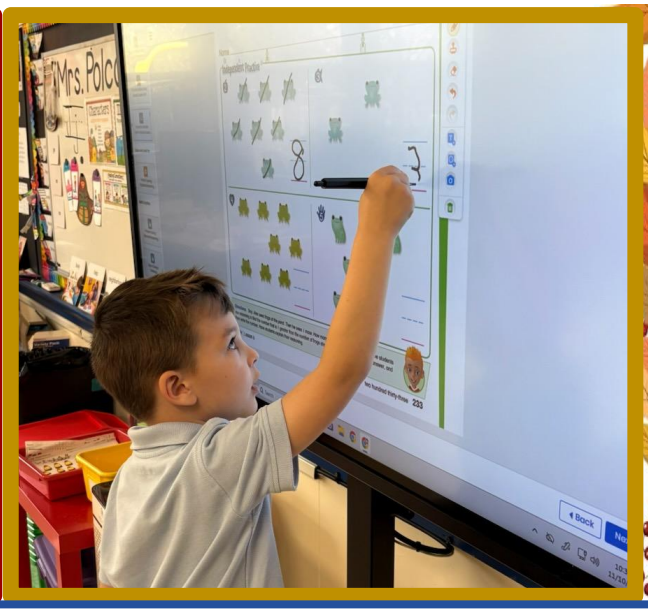


Practicing our sight words, by playing sight word candy land!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Polcari





In November, we are building our number sense by comparing numbers up to 10 and exploring the concepts of one greater and one less.





As Thanksgiving approaches, we are also taking time to reflect on our many blessings and what we are thankful for.
We thank God for our friends, our families,
Saint Michael School, and so much more!

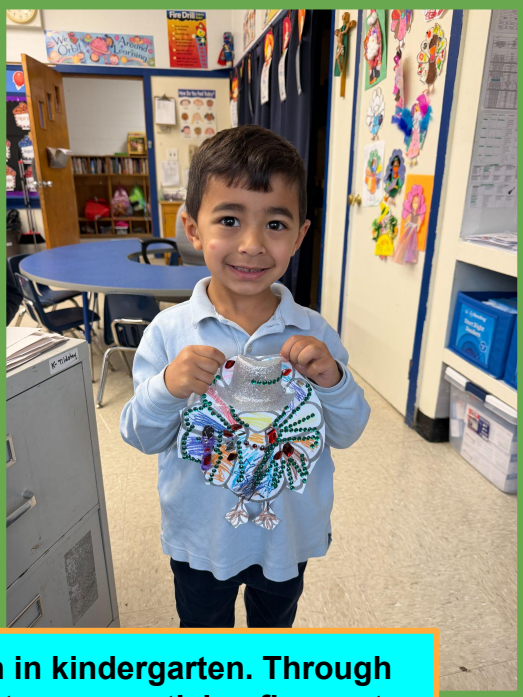
Additionally, students are practicing their table blessing so they will be ready to lead grace at their family Thanksgiving meals.

Kindergarten

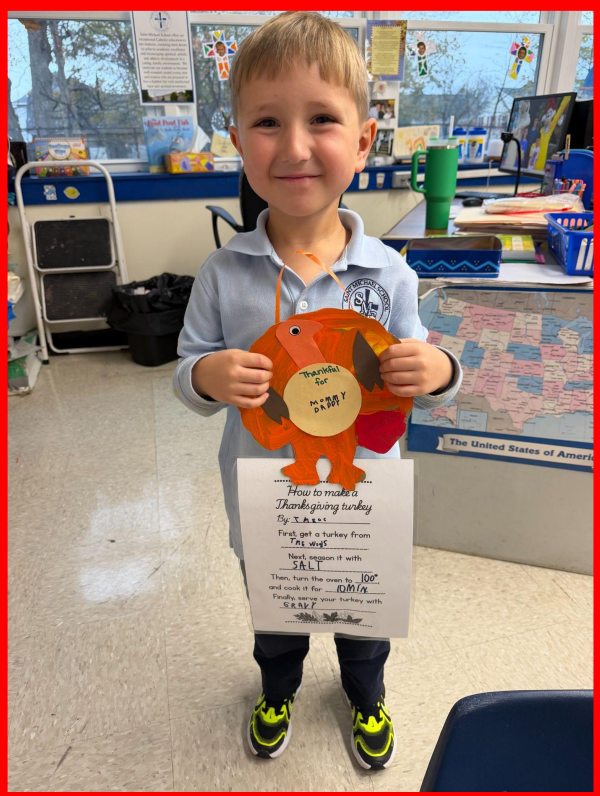
Mrs. Tildsley







November has been a wonderful month of discovery and faith in kindergarten. Through hands-on Thanksgiving crafts and festive activities, our students are practicing fine motor skills, creative expression, and early literacy skills. Most importantly, we are focusing on the spirit of gratitude and thanking God for all the blessings in our lives.



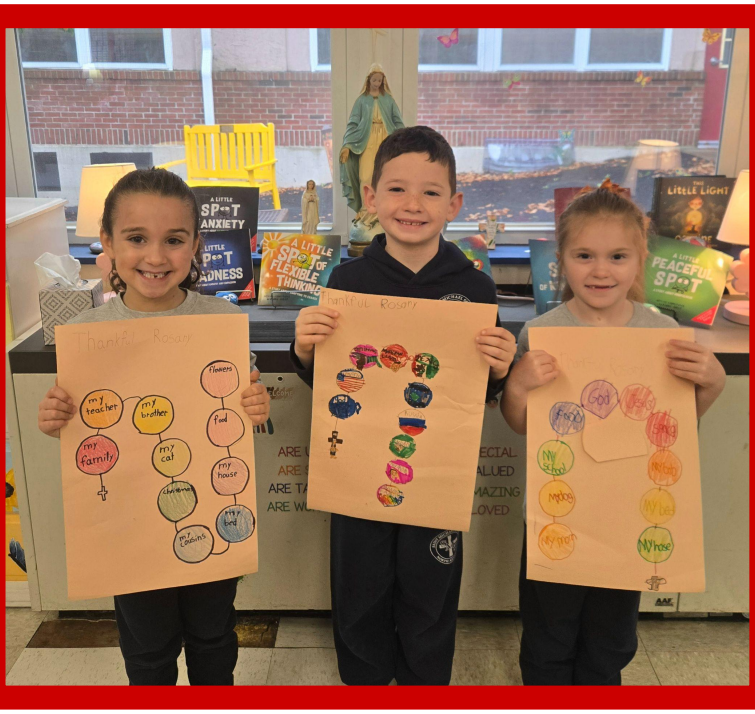


Grade 1

Ms. Bedard

We are enjoying our Rigby books as part of the HMH Reading Program! These books give students the opportunity to practice their reading skills, build fluency, strengthen comprehension, and grow their confidence as readers. As we read together and independently, we are becoming stronger, more confident readers every day!

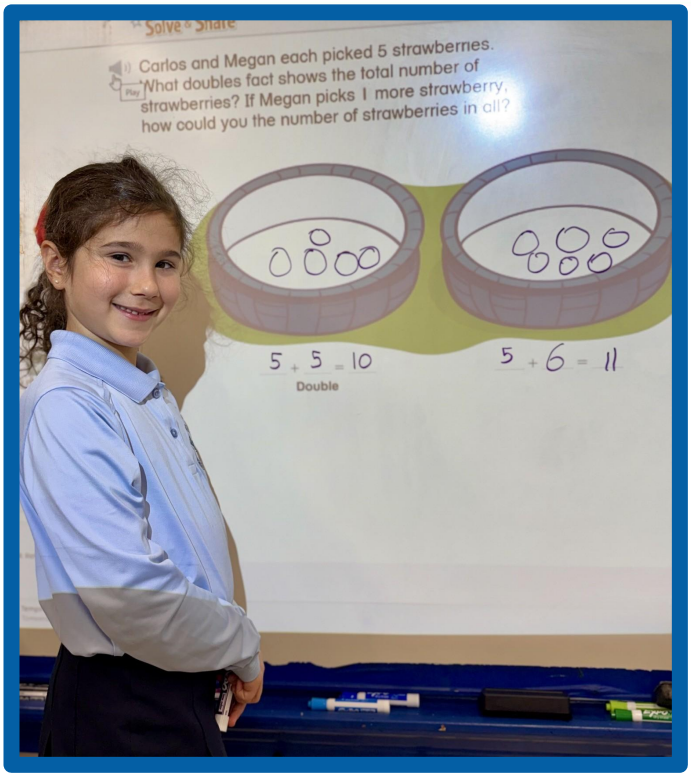




This month, we took time to reflect on all the blessings we have to be thankful for! The students created their own **"Thankful Rosaries,"** with each bead representing something special they are grateful for. It was a wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect, and remember the many gifts God has placed in our lives!

Grade 1

Mrs. Robidoux





Our first graders have been growing as problem solvers and cooperative learners. They are learning to work together, share ideas, and find solutions while supporting one another in math, reading, and more.

Our first graders have been learning all about animals! Exploring how different body parts and features help animals move, find food, stay safe, and survive in their environments.

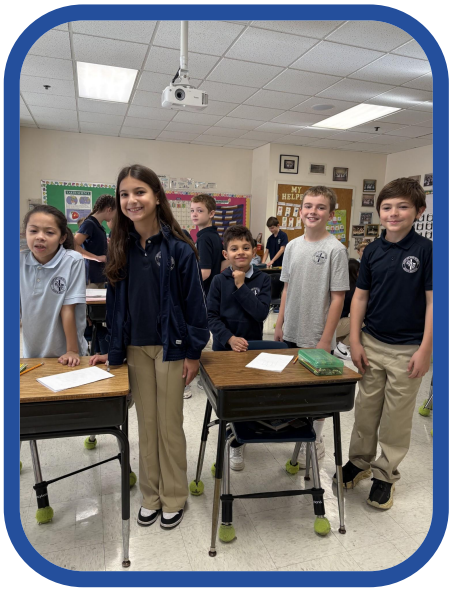




Grade 2

Mrs. Caffrey





Grade 2A met their 5th Grade Buddies for Religion class. They made turkeys and exchanged them with each other discussing what they are thankful for.



The children celebrated Halloween by doing a Stem project which included Math and Science.





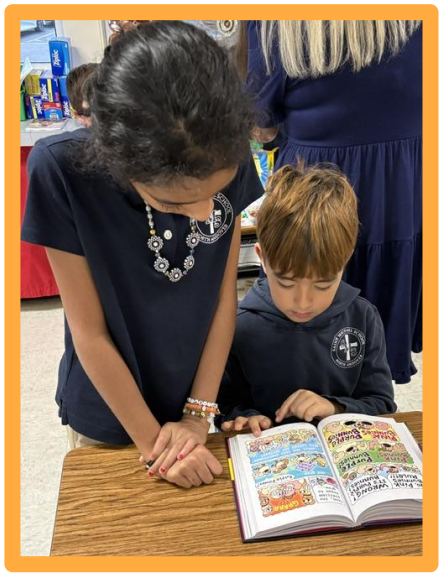
The children enjoyed making water color turkeys for the Thanksgiving season.

Grade 2

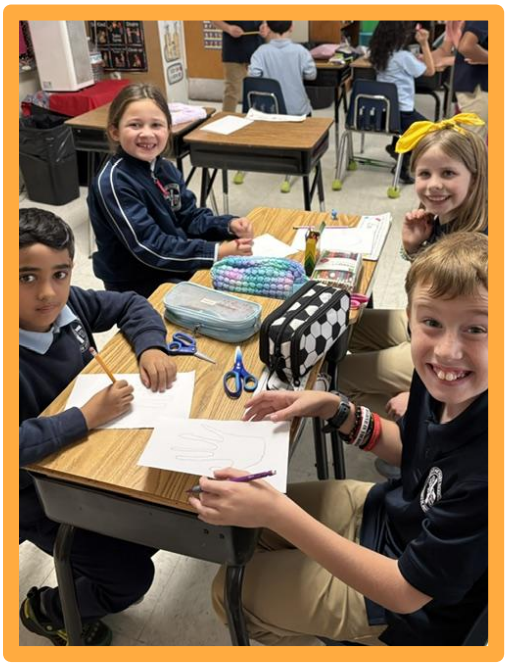
Mrs. Grant

Grade 2 had a wonderful time with their 5th grade reading buddies. Reading together is always a special time for us, and we also love the opportunity to spend time with our wonderful 2B classmates!











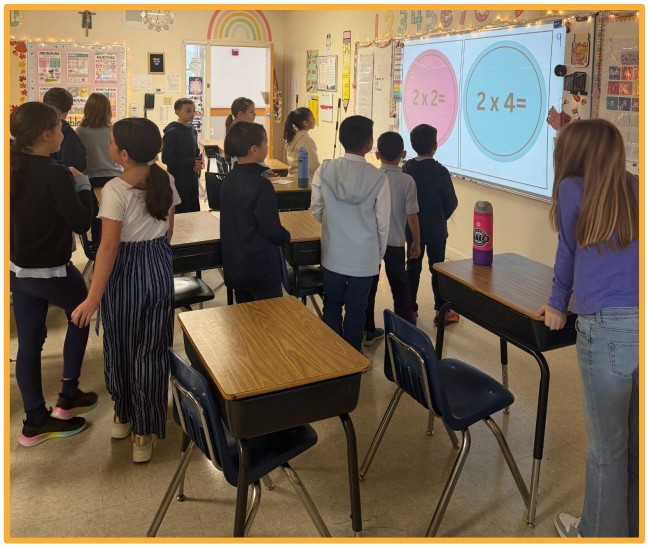


Grade 3

Mrs. DeFranzo

Our third graders have been working hard to learn and practice their multiplication facts! We have been using a variety of activities to help build fluency and confidence. One class favorite is a game called “Knock Out,” which gives students an exciting way to practice their facts while challenging themselves and cheering on their classmates. The more they practice, the stronger their multiplication skills become!





Our third graders did a wonderful job performing patriotic songs for our Veterans Day celebration! We are so proud of the time and effort they put into preparing for this special performance. Their songs were a beautiful way to honor and thank the brave men and women who have served our country. We are grateful for all of our veterans and the sacrifices they have made!



Grade 3

Mrs. Torpey

Students explored how pollen travels from flower to flower and learned about the important role pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, play in helping plants grow and reproduce. They had a blast buzzing around the classroom, just like busy bees, as they visited one another's flowers and spread pollen.





Ms. Megan stopped by our classroom to play a fun game of Halloween trivia with us! The students had a great time answering spooky questions.

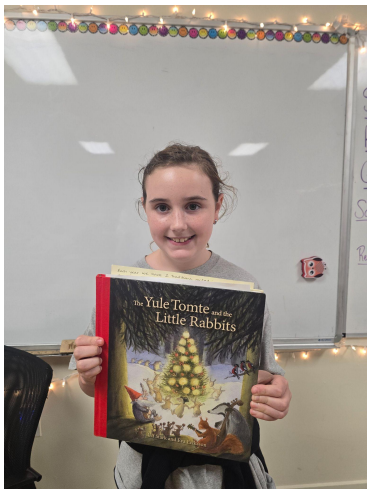


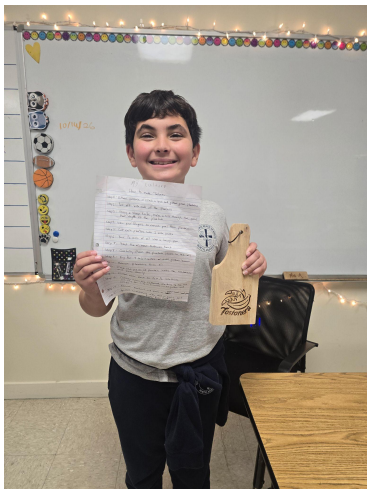
Grade 4

Mrs. Andrewchuk

In Social Studies, the children in grade 4 shared a Family Artifact with the class. It was wonderful to hear about all of the amazing cultures and traditions of the children.

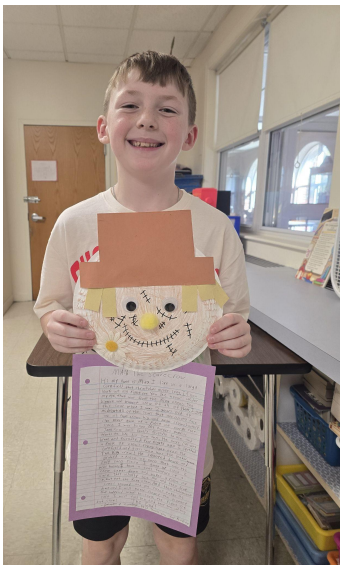


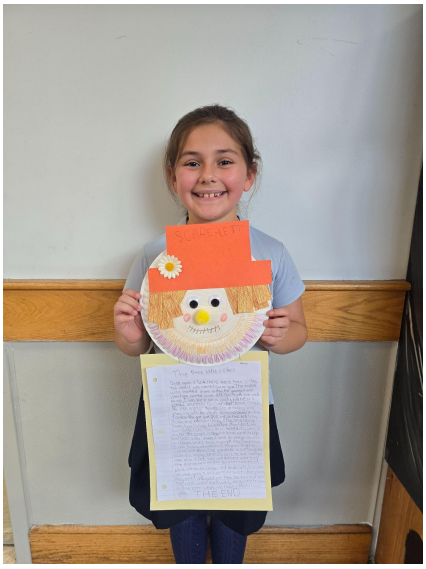


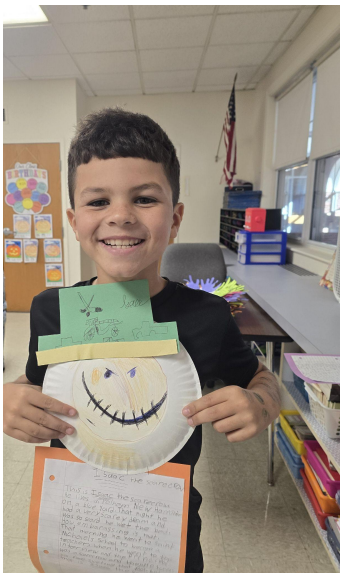


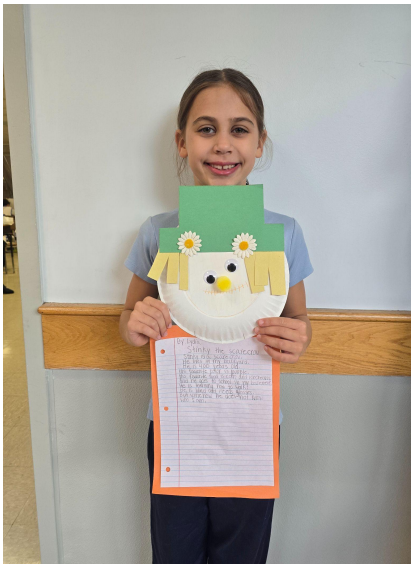


The children also completed a creative writing assignment where they created a scarecrow. They wrote all about their scarecrow using descriptive writing.







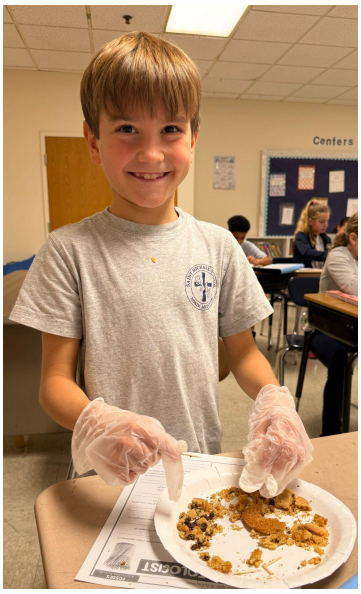


Grade 4

Mrs. Sweeney

This month 4th grade stepped into the shoes of a Paleontologist! Students learned how fossils form over millions of years and what they tell us about Earth's past. They explored the difference between body fossils (like bones and shells) and trace fossils (like footprints and burrows) while working on a cookie fossil project.









Fourth grade showed what thankfulness looks like! Our students worked hard to prepare a Veterans Day Tribute, and their voices carried a message of respect and appreciation. We are proud of them and thankful for every veteran who has served our country,



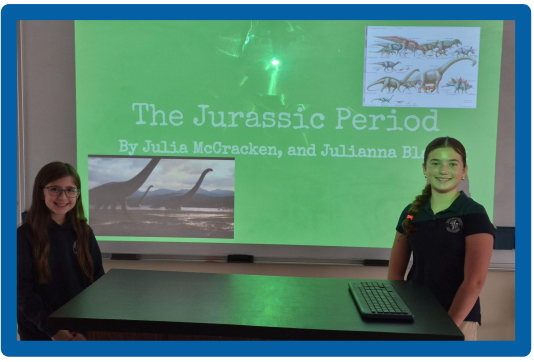




Grade 5-6

Mrs. Berard-Science

In 6B Religion, we have been following the Israelites from their escape from Egypt to the years in the desert. We have seen how they were taught the Ten Commandments and how they are learning to trust in and continue to follow God.

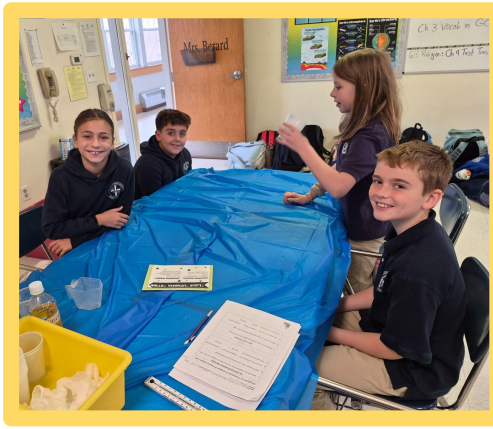






The 6th grade Science classes have been learning about the history of Earth. They all created a Google Slides project about a period of time in Earth 's history. They then presented them to the class.







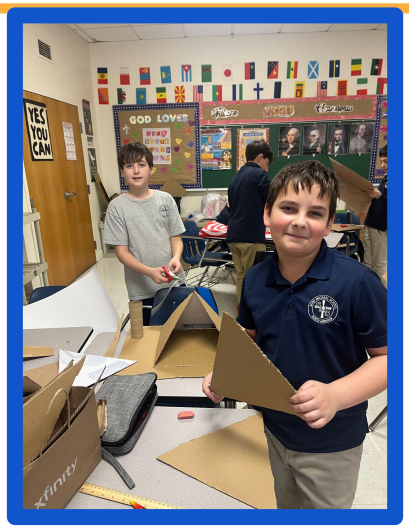
The 5th grade Science classes have been studying chemical and physical reactions. They got to further explore these concepts with a "Potions" lab where they saw both in action and got to make quite a mess!

Grade 5-6

Mrs. Clifford-Social Studies



In grade 6, we are learning about Ancient Egypt while creating Pyramids and tombs for our Pharaohs.



In grade 5, Religion we worked with our 2nd grade buddies. The kids helped their buddies create hand turkey crafts and got to know their buddies.





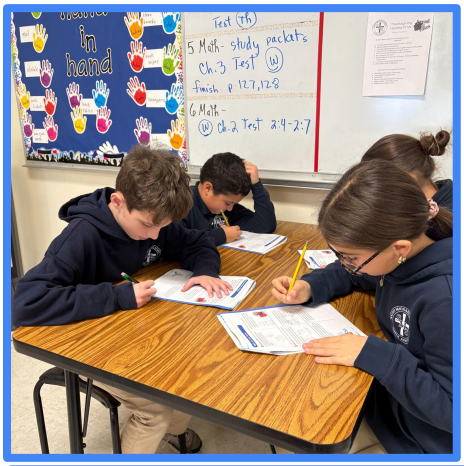
In grade 5 Social Studies, we are learning about European colonization in the Americas.



Grade 5-6

Ms. Decoteau-Math

Grade 5 is wrapping up working with decimals. They recently focused on multi-step word problems involving money. One math enrichment project asked them to plan a shopping spree and stay on a budget.



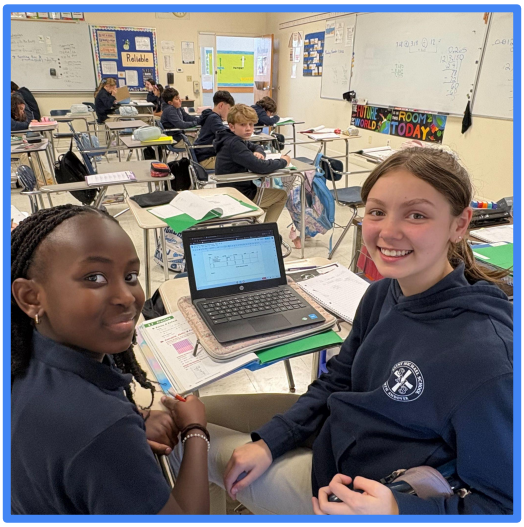




For Religion class, grade 6 prepared the readings and petitions for our recent school Mass. Students thoughtfully wrote the Prayers of the Faithful. All students participated in different ways.





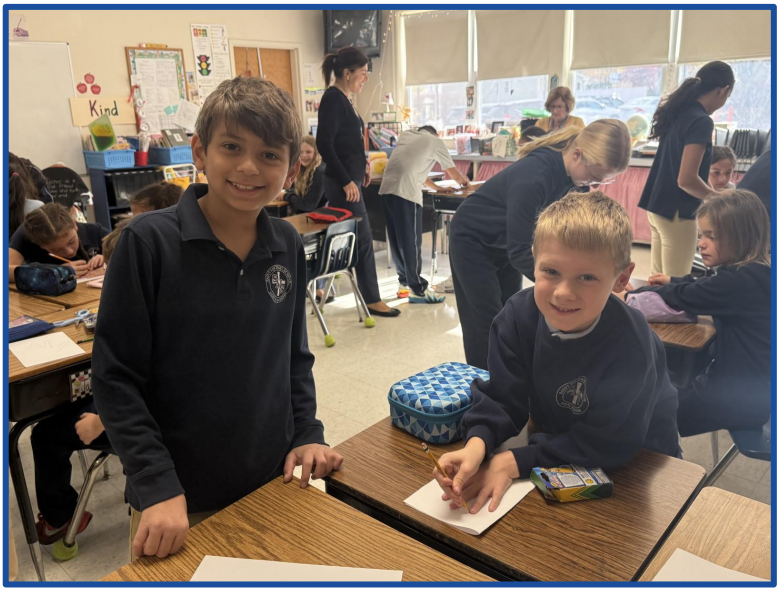


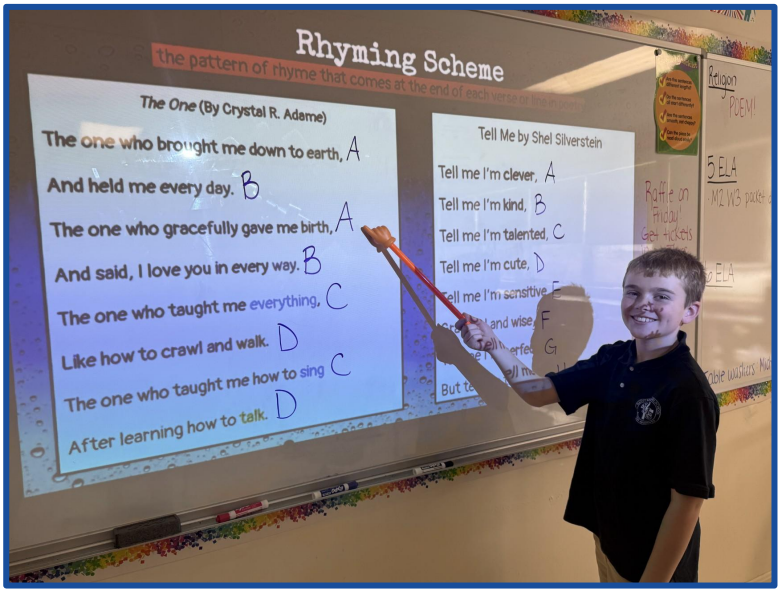
Grade 6 is wrapping up working to multiply and divide with decimals. Students are working on a project to plan and purchase a month's worth of fruit for a sports team. They calculated weekly spending, used price per pound values, and billing on a weekly and a monthly basis.

Grade 5-6

Mrs. McGovern-ELA

In Religion, we met our 2nd grade buddies and made hand turkeys while getting to know one another! →





← Grade 5 students have been learning about poetry by reading, analyzing, and identifying different poetic styles and rhyming schemes!

Grade 6 students are wrapping up Fish in a Tree with a final project focused on key themes, meaningful scenes, and important lessons from the story. →



Grade 7-8

Mr. Annand- Science

It is hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner and a New Year will be starting.

The weather this fall has been bizarre. It was in the seventies one week and rainy and cold the next. The eighth grade will be studying the weather this month. They might be able to give us an answer to these weather conditions. There may even be a future meteorologist in the class.

Grade seven continues to study Earth Science and will learn how to conserve and protect the environment and its resources.

It was nice to have the chance to talk to many of you at conferences. I hope all of our families have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.





The 8th graders had a great time helping out at Trick or Treat night. They are truly stepping into their roles as leaders in our school.









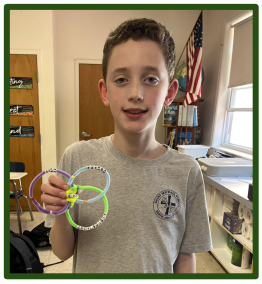
Grade 7-8

Mrs. Nagle- Social Studies



Religion

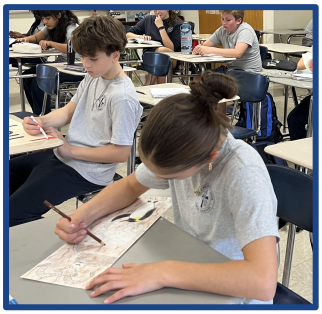
Students learned about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity and its importance in our Catholic faith. They then used beads and pipe cleaners to create a 3D model as a hands-on reminder of the Trinity and its role in their faith.

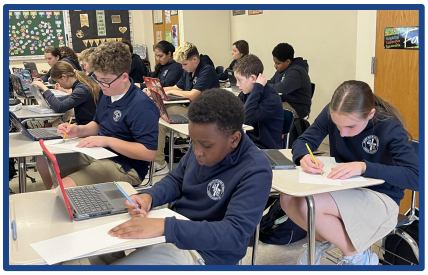


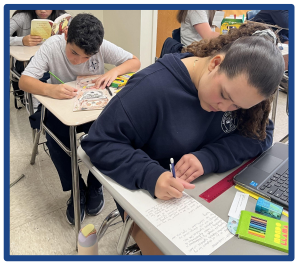
Social Studies

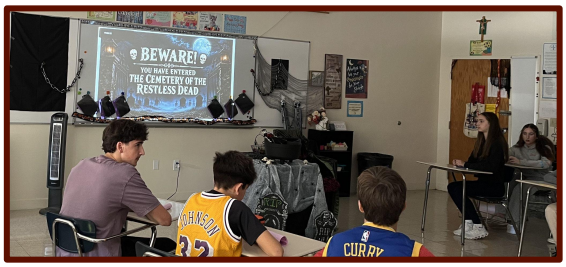
After learning about Native American cultures and customs, 7th grade students created totem poles using animals to represent family members. Students explained how each animal's characteristics connected to the person they represented. This creative project allowed students to apply their understanding of Native American heritage and symbolism.

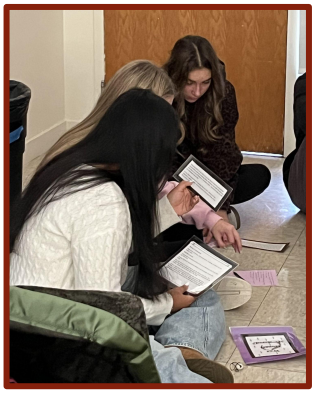




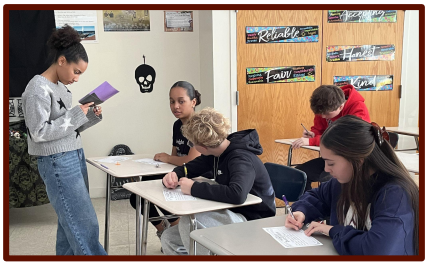












Social Studies

What really happened to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

Grade 8 students became history detectives as they explored the mystery surrounding Mozart's untimely death. The investigation began with a mysterious request for the students to write a requiem. From there, they listened to the story of Mozart's final days, investigated possible suspects, gathered evidence, debated theories, and used critical thinking to decide what they believed happened. Was Mozart's death the result of natural causes, or was he murdered? After weighing the evidence and forming their own conclusions, students completed a death certificate, officially documenting their theory of how Mozart died. The mystery remains... What do YOU think happened to Mozart?

Grade 7-8

Mrs. Ordway-ELA

Grade 7 students strengthened their grammar skills through engaging games, thoughtful discussions, and collaborative activities to help reinforce their understanding of key grammar concepts.



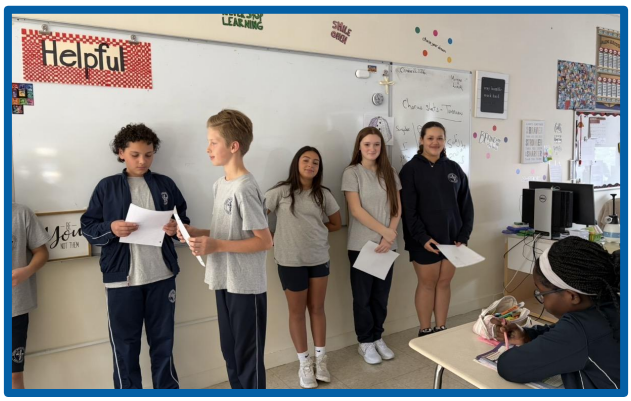


Grade 8 students explored the use of rhetorical appeals in literature, focusing on ethos, pathos, and logos. They identified examples of each and shared their observations to deepen their understanding of persuasive language.





During Religion, students explored the similarities and differences among the Gospel accounts. They enjoyed participating in trivia led by Miss Megan.





Grade 7-8

Mrs. Parker- Math

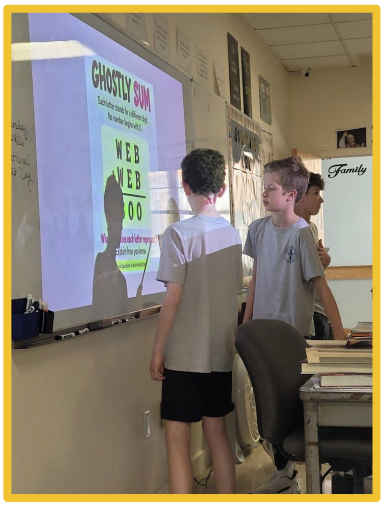
8 Religion

The 8th grade students have been studying the 10 Commandments and their deeper meanings. The students also delved more closely into the Beatitudes and have a better understanding of how to live lives aligned with the values of the Kingdom of God. The 8th graders also had a fantastic time on their retreat connecting as the class of 2027!









Grade 7

The students in grade 7 have been working on simplifying algebraic expressions through adding, subtracting, Distributive Property and factoring. All of this introductory work to Algebra concepts will come in very handy with our future lessons. The students enjoy getting to the board to share their ideas with each other.

Grade 8

The students in grade 8 have been working on identifying functions that are represented in different formats. They have also been finding domain and range of different types of functions. Ask them about their work! Explaining to someone else is a great way to check understanding!



STEM

Ms. Bryant

Roller Coasters

Our grade 8 students worked together to create a marble roller coaster using only paper and tape, experimenting with ramps, turns, and loops. They built and tested their coasters' height and angle of the ramps to keep the marble on track. Once completed, the roller coasters were shared with our kindergarten students, giving them an opportunity to play, explore, and learn about motion, gravity, and problem-solving through hands-on play.











STEM

Ms. Bryant













Physical Ed.

Mr. Diaz

Our Upper School Students have been preparing for some fitness exercises by playing capture the flag.

As we transition into the colder months students have started playing the fan favorite Floor Hockey. We are focused on developing eye coordination and teamwork.

Best of luck to all of our basketball teams. We have 110 players in Grades 4-8 that will play in the Merrimack Valley Catholic League.

Thank you for your continued support.

Let's go Archangels!

Mr. Diaz





"Today's practice is tomorrow's victory."

-Anonymous

Music

Ms. Lavallee

Celebrating our Veterans and preparing for the Christmas Season!

Our 3rd and 4th grade students delivered a wonderful and successful Veteran's Day Program, honoring and paying tribute to our special Veteran guests.

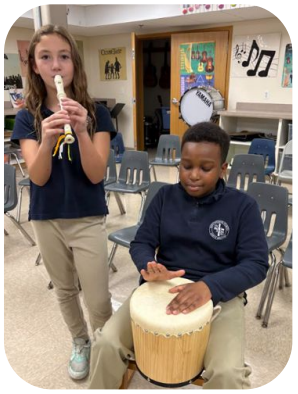
Our Nursery/Pre K/Kindergarten Students are busy preparing for their upcoming "Christmas Spectacular Show". They're getting ready to spread some Christmas cheer!

Our K-4 students are hard at work preparing for the Nativity presentation. The Christmas Season is almost here, and we can't wait to celebrate together!

Excellent… as usual!















Art

Mrs. Donegan







First Graders learned about fall and discussed how the leaves change colors. They learned about warm and cool colors as well. Students used tracers to draw leaves on special diffusing paper and used lines to add the veins in the leaves. Using liquid watercolor paint they painted their papers using warm colors (red, orange, and yellow) for the leaves and cool colors (green, blue, and purple) for the background. They came out so beautiful!







Technology

Mrs. Lesofsky

Our 4th graders engaged in a #WinAtSocial lesson on the importance of balancing screen time with personal goals and everyday activities. We discussed making thoughtful choices about technology use and remembering to make time for learning, hobbies, friendships, physical activity and family.





Our 7th graders recently participated in a #WinAtSocial lesson focusing on friendships and how they can change year to year. We talked about how friendships grow, shift, and sometimes change as we get older, and the importance of being kind, trustworthy and open to making new connections.

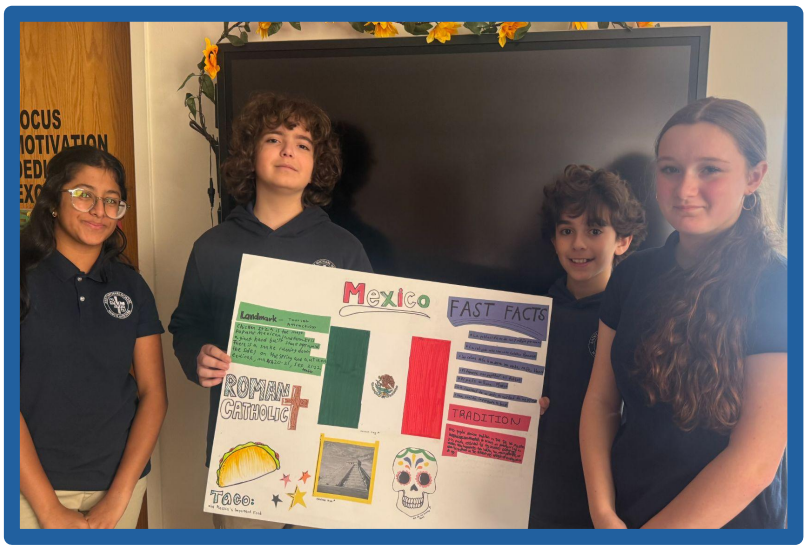






Spanish

Ms. Andrewchuk





Students in 6th and 7th grade recently completed their Spanish-speaking country posters! They presented their projects to the class, sharing their research while also practicing and strengthening their Spanish-speaking skills.





Spanish

Ms. Andrewchuk





Students across all grades decorated the classroom in celebration of Día de los Muertos, observed on November 1st and 2nd. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about Hispanic culture and traditions while bringing our classroom to life!

¡Les deseo a ustedes y a sus familias un feliz Día de Acción de Gracias!

(I wish you and your families a happy Thanksgiving!)