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Rain Dampens SJS Float in Sylvania Fall Festival Parade

By Julia Ellis

For the first time in SJS history, St. Joseph was to participate in the Sylvania Fall Festival Parade in downtown Sylvania. Middle school students in the Fall Float elective class constructed a float with the theme "St. Joseph School sees Jesus in the face of every student." The elective was run by SJS art teacher, Mrs. Mary Kay Culver. With the help of Father Charles Ritter, a large cross was constructed and mounted on the float. The students in the elective class worked to create oversized crayons

and pencils out of foam pool noodles which covered the eight foot cross. Students also primed elementary school desks and chairs to add to the SJS theme.

The Fall Festival was scheduled for Sunday, October 16. Unfortunately, the parade was cancelled due to weather. The SJS float was on display for everyone to enjoy in the parking lot of the west campus on October 31 during the annual Halloween Parade!



Fall Float Elective: Final product!

RTI: Response to Intervention

By: Katelyn Jones

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a program of educational support for all students. RtI increases the level of intensity in instruction based on individual learning needs. St. Joseph School piloted the program in second grade during the Spring of 2012. RtI was adopted by the Elementary School in 2013.

Students meet for 30 minutes three times per week in their assigned groups. These groups are determined by AIMSweb assessments along with teachers' input. Students are tested three times per year which helps teachers determine the instruction level for each student.



Students work in RtI groups.

8th Grade Decisions

By Sofia Marquez

Each fall, Toledo area Catholic high schools host visitations for Catholic elementary schools. On September 28, SJS eighth graders visited Cardinal Stritch and Central Catholic.

Cardinal Stritch welcomed the eighth graders with bounce houses and hamster balls. The students from Stritch danced together in the pep rally as one large community.

Central Catholic offered SJS students tours of the building. The visitation concluded with a pep rally and dance team production.

On September 29, the SJS boys visited St. John's Jesuit High School and Saint Francis de Sales High School. The girls visited Notre Dame Academy and St. Ursula Academy. Each school welcomed students with tours and other exciting activities.

Eighth graders and their families will choose a high school soon. All students attending a Catholic high school next year must take the High School Placement Test on December 3.



Diocese
of Toledo



READ All About It!



By Aiden Positano

One of the many programs St. Joseph School supports is the reading program. Throughout the course of the school year, SJS offers many reading opportunities for its students. Each summer, students are challenged to read an age appropriate number of books. The reward for completing this challenge is a jeans day. During the school year, many classes visit the school library at least monthly. During this time, students enjoy books read by librarian, Mrs. Patty Unger. In November, the SJS Book Fair is held. This year the theme of the Book Fair is *Bookaneer*.

Each classroom has scheduled preview and shopping days. The culminating activity for the year is Right to Read Week. Students are encouraged to D.E.A.R. or Drop Everything and Read. Not only is reading promoted school-wide, but each grade level promotes reading in a different way. However, the goal is the same: creating lifelong readers. For example, in fourth grade, students are encouraged to read books by earning a popsicle stick for each completed book. The popsicle sticks are used to create a tower which serves as a visible sign of all of the ongoing reading in fourth grade.

In second grade, students are encouraged to find the right book for their level by providing a wide selection of books in the classroom. Second grade teachers try to instill a love of reading so that students read for pleasure, not because there is a reward.

Seventh graders participate in "Book Across the USA." Students are challenged to read 50 books throughout the course of the school year. Each teacher has a display in her classroom that provides a class visual for the number of books being read. Keep reading SJS!

New Youth Minister Gives Life to Youth Groups

By Estella Barry

New Youth Minister, Ms. Hilary Froelich, grew up in St. Joseph Parish. She has returned to work with the youth of St. Joe's as the youth minister.

The two youth groups have a similar focus which is to stay in the light of Christ and stay away from things that harm our relationship with Him. Each group, however, targets a different age. The middle school (grades 6 - 8) group meets Sundays after 10:30 a.m. Mass and the high school (grades 9 - 12) group

meets on Sundays after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Service opportunities are available each Saturday as the youth group meets and makes crafts for residents of area nursing homes.

On Sunday, September 11, a Kickoff Event was held in the backyard of the Youth House. A middle school ice cream social was followed by a family dinner for youth group members and their families. After the dinner, the high school youth group was invited to stay for a bonfire.

The first official meeting of the youth groups was held on Sunday September 18.

Teens, Talk, and Tacos was scheduled for Tuesday, November 8. Those interested in becoming involved in the parish youth groups may contact Ms. Hilary Froelich at 419-885-2181.



A Spook-tacular Tradition

By: Lizzie Axe

On October 31, the students of St. Joseph transformed into superheroes, ghosts, and goblins in the annual Halloween parade.

Parents lined the driveway of the west campus as students, K - 8, paraded to Rosary Care Center where the retired Franciscan Sisters reside.

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Carol Lindsley said, "Even though the parade is mostly fun for the students, many of the teachers, (myself included) enjoy the opportunity to dress in costume."

Following the parade, K - 5 students returned to their classrooms to continue the Halloween festivities. Each classroom had Halloween activities as well as tricks and treats to end the day. Middle school students returned to the east campus for a 6 - 8 Halloween Social. Students were able to play in the gym, socialize at tables or dance as a DJ played his top Halloween hits. Tricks and treats were available for middle school students too!



Costumes of all shapes and sizes bring Halloween spirit to SJS.

Welcome Back Saints Alive!

By: Caroline Fawcett

St. Joseph School has offered a program called *Saints Alive*. After a one year hiatus, it's back! *Saints Alive* is a program where a parent volunteer comes into a classroom and teaches the students about certain saints. The parent will talk about the process to become a saint and do a fun craft or presentation based on that saint.

This year the *Saints Alive* program is featuring Saint Teresa of Calcutta. The program will start after the first quarter.

For nine years, Mrs. Michelle Colella has been the PTO volunteer that chairs the *Saints Alive* program. She prayerfully chooses the saints featured each year! Mrs. Colella said, "We all are called to be saints; it's important to know them well,

so we can model our actions after theirs, pray, and ask for help whenever we need it!" *Saints Alive* is a great addition to our wonderful SJS education!



Technology Usage at SJS



By: Katie Holmes and Natalie Suwinski

Students today are so dependent on their phones, tablets, or any type of device, that they need them in order to obtain answers during and after school. It is more common for students to use an iPad, computer, or other device to look up definitions, solve math problems, or answer random questions about a wide variety of topics rather than use a dictionary, work problems out on paper, or go to the library to research.

Technology has been found to make life less complex. Yet it has altered a student's ability to study without interruption. When asked, students have reported that they often study and do homework while texting and/or using social media.

In addition, students reported symptoms that occurred due to their devices. These symptoms include disruption of sleep, aggressive response, addiction to a device, and poor encouragement of educational tasks.

When surveyed, over 50% of the students say their parents don't set a time limit for social media on the weekend or after school. They have also indicated that when they have free time, they would rather be on their phone than outside.

In conclusion, students need to limit the amount of time they use technology and make sure education is their first priority in order to have a successful future.

Preschool Fun!

By: Reina Zeitouni

The preschoolers at St. Joseph School have a busy year ahead! St. Joseph Preschool is designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5. Just recently it has been announced that the program now happily accepts 2 ½ year old, potty-trained children!

Their preschool curriculum includes hands-on activity centers, circle and story times, religious education and prayer, music, movement, science areas, snack and

outdoor play time.

Mrs. Nancy Okuley, the Preschool Director, plans many activities that have become traditions throughout the year. These include a field trip to Country Lane Tree Farms, a Thanksgiving luncheon, home visits from the preschool teachers, and the annual Preschool Art Show.

According to Mrs. Okuley, "The children get the opportunity to milk a cow, feed some goats, and hold bunnies

and baby chicks when we go to Tree Lanes Farm. This is a nice way to prepare the children for the spring, when we hatch baby chicks in our classroom!"

St. Joseph Preschool is definitely a great place to begin a Catholic education. There are caring teachers and many little ones who love to learn, sing, play, and grow every day.

Musical Opportunities

By Sam Koesters

The music ministry of St. Joseph Parish offers many musical opportunities for parish members. Director of Music and Choir for St. Joseph Parish, Mrs. Merrilee Jaskulski, works very hard to inspire the congregation to participate in Mass. The St. Nicholas Choir and Jubilate Choir are open to all students in grades 3 - 8. The Jubilate Choir is by audition only. Choir begins at the beginning of the school year. Students practice in the east

campus music room once a week.

"Mrs. J." has directed choirs since she was sixteen. Directing choirs was a great way to get to know members of her parish. In Virginia, the choir had as many as 45 students in it. Many members of the choir find singing as a way to praise and worship God. A side benefit to being a member of the parish choir is the friendships that are developed.



Outdoor Team Building Adventures

SJS Sixth Graders attend Camp Storer

By Emma Barry

This year 6th graders went to Camp Storer in Jackson, MI. Camp Storer is a YMCA camp that many 6th graders at Toledo area schools attend as a class. St. Joseph 6th graders always go to camp the first week in September. This year as in years past, students had an amazing experience!

When surveyed, some students

admitted to being nervous about going “but once I got to camp, I loved it!”

According to another 6th grader, “I liked the activities and all the girls in my cabin. My cabin leader was so nice.”

There are many outdoor activities 6th graders experience at camp including hiking, outdoor survival, pioneer living, gaga ball, square dancing and more. One

of the best outcomes of the field trip is class bonding!

One student summed it all up very well when he said “all of the team building activities were cool -- we got to climb the wall and it was a great feeling to make it to the top. I definitely wanted to stay longer.”



Run Like a Peewee!



By: Reagan Snyder

One of the only SJS sports available for kindergarten and first grade students is the St. Joseph Peewee Cross Country (XC) program. The XC season begins in August, and ends with the Championship Meet on the second Saturday of October.

The Peewees practice with the entire XC team at Pacesetter Park Monday through Thursday. Races are held on Saturdays. The Peewees run about one

mile at practice, but their race distance is ½ mile.

“My favorite thing about XC is that sometimes after practice my team goes to the playground” says Macy Kristoff. “I run because it is fun and I really like doing it with my friends.”

Peewee coach, Mrs. Shelene Morgan, says, “We encourage running at a young age so that kids will go outside, stay healthy, active, and think that running is fun. I think that cross country is a great activity to get

involved in and I like that it includes all ages. The little runners look up to the older runners.

I also think it is a good way for students to get involved in sports at the start of the school year and make new friends. We have tons of fun!”

At the end of the season, the runners have an awards banquet and everyone gets a trophy. This year, about 40 Peewees participated. Hopefully there will be even more in the years to come!



Chess Skills Teach More Than Game Strategies



By Owen Wilson

The Chess Club is an extracurricular activity offered to students in grades 1 - 8 for a small fee. Ryan Clayton is the coach of the Chess Club at SJS. He is also the highest ranked chess player in NW Ohio!

Coach Clayton says, “Chess has a funny way of tricking you into developing good life habits. Chess teaches students important life skills

such as patience, problem-solving, pattern recognition, and the ability to recognize personal weaknesses and fix them.”

The fall session of Chess Club meets for lessons on Thursdays after school on the west campus until November 17. Matches will be held on Wednesdays at 4:30 PM in November and December. Coach Ryan has been surprised by the

number of students involved.

“It’s fantastic how enthusiastic all the kids are, and I hope it continues for years to come.”

Without a doubt, students are enjoying Chess Club! The dates of the next session will be announced in the parish bulletin and in the Thursday Envelope shortly after Christmas Break. Go Jags!

SJS Welcomes New Teachers!

By Sophia Campbell

Mrs. Gina Schell, sixth grade science teacher, and Mrs. Robin Lutz, primary Spanish teacher, joined the faculty of St. Joseph School this year.

Mrs. Schell attended the University of Toledo and previously taught kindergarten, first, third, and fifth grade. “I feel so blessed to be a part of a wonderful school. The students at SJS middle school are the best!” In her free time, Mrs. Schell

loves to go on walks with her family, attend Friday night football games, read, and watch movies.

“The staff and students here have all been so welcoming,” says Schell. She already feels like she is part of the St. Joseph family. A fun fact about Mrs. Schell is that she used to play electric treble guitar in band in high school!

Mrs. Lutz also attended the

University of Toledo. She has three children and loves art. Currently on display at Toledo School for the Arts is a collaborative drawing of the *Mona Lisa* which she created. Mrs. Lutz believes that Spanish is a creative layer of English Language Arts. Her interest in Spanish began in 7th grade and continued as she took Spanish classes through college. “Spanish organized language within my brain.”



Sixth grade teacher,
Mrs. Gina Schell



Primary Spanish teacher,
Mrs. Robin Lutz