



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"It is Christmas in the heart  
that puts Christmas in the air."  
~ W.T.Ellis

## Events Calendar

**December 5**  
**Forensics Competition**  
(3:30 pm, St. Vincent's)



**December 8**  
**Mass of the Immaculate Conception**  
(8:45 am)



**December 9**  
**Last Day to Purchase SCRIP**  
(To Qualify for Appreciation Raffle)



**December 10**  
**CCHS Canned Food Drive**  
(SMPS students to volunteer & help)



**December 13-14**  
**Secret Santa Workshop**



**December 15**  
**Christmas Musical**  
(6:30 pm, School Hall)



**December 20**  
**Noon Dismissal**



**December 25**  
**Merry Christmas!**



**December 21-January 2**  
**Christmas Break**



**January 3**  
**School Resumes**

### Learn More about SMPS!

Bookmark our school website:  
[stmikesparishschool.org](http://stmikesparishschool.org)

Become a Fan of our Facebook Page:  
[facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS](http://facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

Get all Mustang Athletic Information:  
[leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs](http://leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs)

## Christmas Around the World

TK explores worldwide Christmas traditions during Advent

If you visit Mrs. Paula's Transitional Kindergarten class during Advent you may find her 16 students are off on an exciting adventure, taking a trip on "Mustang Air's" super-duper rocket air plane to explore numerous European countries and learn about their Christmas traditions.



Fr. Jeremiah McSweeney shares Irish legends, stories and Christmas traditions with TK students as part of their "Christmas Around the World" Advent project.

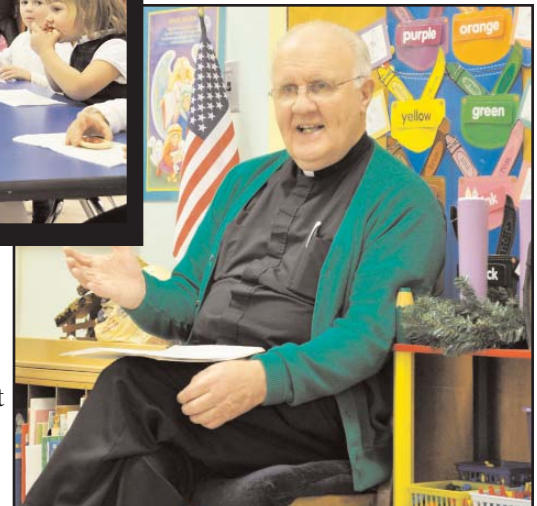
Twice a week, the students use their Christmas Around the World passport, receiving a stamp in each of the countries they visit. Then they find that country on a map in their "Christmas Around the World" folder and color the country in the colors of that country's flag. As part of their adventure, they also discuss the country's Christmas traditions, do an art activity or hear from a special speaker that represents the country, as well as enjoy a traditional treat made by parent volunteers.

Last week, the boys and girls traveled to Ireland as part of "I Week" and learned about Irish Christmas traditions and legends from Fr. Jeremiah McSweeney, St. Michael's pastor. They also enjoyed delicious Scones and jam



compliments of Mrs. Brandi Blum (Emma's mom).

There are more adventures to come for our 5-year-olds...we can't wait to hear all about them!



## STEWARDSHIP

### Thanksgiving Food Drive supports 18th St. Ctr

THANK YOU to all our SMPS families who supported our Thanksgiving Kindness Food Drive last week during the three days preceding the holiday break. It was a great success and helped to make the Thanksgiving Holiday a little brighter for so many who rely on the 18th Street Center for support.

We also recognize and thank our 8th graders who volunteered to load the food for transport and stock the shelves at the 18th Street Center.

On December 10, interested SMPS 8th graders will also have the opportunity to contribute to the annual CCHS Canned Food Drive that also benefits the 18th Street Center. Our students will be asked to sort and stock the canned food items collected that morning by CCHS students. The CCHS food drive is a major undertaking that involves all of Central's 265 students canvassing the neighborhoods of Wheeling and Warwood collecting food items. Please consider supporting this effort by placing a bag of food on your porch the morning of Saturday, Dec. 10.



*Coordinated by Mrs. Railing, SMPS 8th graders volunteered to stock the shelves at the 18th Street Center with food collected during our Thanksgiving Kindness Food Drive. From left are Ryan Dunlap, Wesley Kahle, Eric Hasenauer, Brandon Angalich, Luke Griffin, Aric Varlas, Collin Spangler, Sami LaBelle, Lindsey Baker, Halle Guzolik, Zoe Kahle, and Anna Koontz.*

## STUDENT INITIATIVES

### Fristick spearheads SMPS student fundraiser to help ill New Martinsville boy



*Principal Sis Richardson and Reva Fristick*

Eighth grader Reva Fristick has spearheaded a schoolwide fundraiser to raise money for the family of Zachary Taylor, a very ill 17-year-old suffering from a tumor on his left lung. Taylor, a resident of New Martinsville, has been given just days to live by his doctor. He is battling his fifth bout with cancer after being in remission for 14 years. Zachary has insisted that no tears be shed for him, or at least as few as possible. He says his philosophy is "FROG...Forever Rely On God."

Reva was moved by the young man's story. "If I was going through something like that," says Reva, "I would want someone to step up for me." So she approached Principal Sis Richardson with an idea to organize a \$1 candy cane fundraiser. Through Dec. 6, students can buy a candy cane or send one with a custom message to a friend. All the proceeds will be donated to Zachary and his family to help with medical and other expenses.

Reva is the daughter of Dave and Beth Fristick of Wheeling. She plans on attending Wheeling Central Catholic High School next year.

## TECHNOLOGY

### SMPS INTRODUCES SMARTPHONE APP!

The new SMPS smartphone app is now available providing St. Michael's information right at your fingertips! To download, use your smartphone's browser and key in our URL ([stmikesparishschool.org](http://stmikesparishschool.org)) and then click "Add to Homescreen." The SMPS logo icon will then appear on your phone.

### FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

Follow all the latest news from St. Michael Parish School by following us on twitter: @StMikesMustangs.



### SCRIP Customer Appreciation Raffle

Every \$100 purchase of scrip made between Nov. 1- Dec. 9 qualifies you for one entry in our raffle to win a \$500 Walmart/Sam's Club gift card!!

Four other winners will win restaurant gift cards! The lucky winner will be drawn on Dec. 12 -- **GOOD LUCK!!**

Thanks for your support of the SMPS SCRIP Program!



ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL  
1221 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304.242.3966  
[www.stmikesparishschool.org](http://www.stmikesparishschool.org)  
Editor: Alyson Hurley

For shadowing information, please contact Principal Marilyn Richardson.  
*Welcoming children of all faiths.*