

# SCHOOL NEWS

"Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us."  
-- Thomas Paine

## Upcoming Events

**November 25**  
*Early Dismissal*

**November 26-27**  
*Thanksgiving Holiday*

**November 30**  
*Second Dose H1N1 Flu Clinic*  
SMPS/Linsly/Country Day Students  
(4:30-7:30 pm, Wheeling-Ohio Cty. Health Dept.)

**December 8**  
*Immaculate Conception Mass*  
8:30 am

**December 9**  
*"No Ordinary Night"*  
*Christmas Production*  
(School Hall, 9:30 am & 1:30 pm for students, 7 pm for school families )

**December 11**  
*"No Ordinary Night"*  
*Christmas Production*  
(School Hall, 9:30 am for parishioners)

*Spelling Bee*  
(School Hall, 1:30 pm)

**December 18**  
*Early Dismissal/*  
*Start of Christmas Break*

**January 4**  
*School Resumes*

May God bless you and your family this Thanksgiving Holiday.



## Annual Grandparents Day Celebration SMPS hosts over 175 visitors for Mass, reception

**W**e thank all the grandparents of our TK through 2nd graders who shared the morning with us on Nov. 4 in celebration of our Grandparents Day. Nearly 200 attended the school Mass and then visited their grandchild's classroom. The event concluded with a coffee, juice and cookie reception in the school hall.

We consider



Tyler Radaker, a first grader in Mrs. Parr's class, shows his grandmother Lin Snyder how to write her name on the SMART Board.



Steve Criniti traces his grandson Andrew's hand while Grandmother Kathy Criniti looks on.

Grandparents Day one of the most special events because it gives our youngest students the opportunity to share their projects and school accomplishments with their grandparents, as well as to show-off their classrooms, including their SMART Boards, desks, cubbies, and teachers!

Some of our visitors not only had grandchildren who are students at St. Michael's but also had great-grandchildren to visit. We are blessed to have such active, interested grandparents as part of our school community!

Thank you to all the teachers who participated in the event and to the SMPS Parent Association members who coordinated the reception.

## SERVICEspotlight

### Students stuff Christmas Stockings for U.S. troops

We thank students and their families for contributing to our Christmas Stocking stuffers project this month as part of "Operation Christmas Stockings" -- a special holiday project of the Boatsie's Boxes charity, which is aimed at brightening the holidays of more than 200,000 U.S. troops stationed abroad. Every SMPS classroom (preschool, TK-8) donated six Christmas Stockings to the effort, totaling 168 stockings. And, combining our stockings with those donated from other Ohio Valley organizations, Boatsie's Boxes was able to ship more than 10,000 stockings in just one day. We appreciate your support and generosity!



## VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

### Prayer Service honors Ft. Hood victims



*Army Staff Sgt. Ron Ward, a native of Glen Dale, was the guest speaker at this year's Veteran's Day Prayer Service. Sgt. Ward will be deployed for Afghanistan, his third tour, in January 2010.*

The St. Michael Parish School community paid their respects to the 13 victims of the Fort Hood shooting at its annual Veteran's Day Prayer Service held on Nov. 11. A moment of silence to honor each of the victims was held, as a bell was rung 13 times for each of the victims.

The featured speaker for this year's service was Army Staff Sergeant Ron Ward. Ward, a Glen Dale native and '89 graduate of Cameron High School, just returned from his second tour of duty in Iraq this past March and is expected to be re-deployed to Afghanistan in January 2010.

During his remarks, Ward became very emotional as he described returning home after his second tour of duty. He described how civilian passengers gave up their first class seats for he and his fellow

troops and how bystanders in the airport stood and applauded as they made their way to the baggage claim area after landing at the airport.

"I was so honored by the very warm welcome we received from everyone," he said. "You just can't imagine how good that made us all feel." He then recognized all the veterans seated in the audience and initiated a standing ovation for them.

SMPS students played key roles in the service. Those that participate in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts read excerpts that described each of the wars in our nation's history as other students brought carnations to the altar in remembrance of those who served in those wars.

Other emotional moments in the service came

when singers Rosie and Connie Pitts sang a moving version of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" followed by a 21-gun salute by the Honor Guard of American Legion Post #46 and the playing of "Taps" by Bugler Bob Lawrence.

The SMPS Veteran's Day Prayer Service was coordinated by Teachers Corinne Cecil, Tina Hilk and Warren Lenz.



*Eighth grader Kevin Hasenhauer describes the historical impact of WWII.*



*The Pitt sisters, Rosie and Connie, perform a moving rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."*



*The Honor Guard of American Legion Post #46 of Benwood offers a 21-gun salute to honor U.S. veterans.*

## AWESOME authors

Congratulations to the following SMPS students who were award winners in the Ohio County Public Library's "2nd Annual Awesome Author Fall Writing Contest":

**3rd Grade: Garrett Guzolik, Teddy Miesel, Sara Palmer and Madelyn Tiu**

**4th Grade: Shelby Imer, Clare Miller and Jack Stryker**

**5th Grade: Jessica Beiswenger, Jacob Coughlan, Anna Dean and Michael Nggemyer**

**6th Grade: Halle Guzolik and Teresa Pockl**

We also congratulate Teddy Miesel for winning *Overall Winner for Third Grade* for his story submission, "How My Toad Died."

All winners were formally recognized at an awards ceremony held at the Ohio County Library on Nov. 16.

We look forward to reading many more great literary works from our students in the future. Well done!!



St. Michael Parish School  
1221 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304.242.3966  
www.stmikesparish.org

For registration or class shadowing information, please contact Mrs. Marilyn Richardson, school principal.  
*Welcoming children of all faiths.*