

SCHOOL NEWS

"Try not to become a man of success but a man of value."
Albert Einstein

Upcoming Events

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception School 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"
Special Parishioner Performance
(School Hall, 9:30 am)

Spelling Bee

(School Hall, 1:30 pm)

December 17

Rosary for End to School Violence
(2:15 pm)

December 18

Noon Dismissal/ Start of Christmas Break

January 4

School Resumes

January 8

Geography Bee
(Grades 5-8, 1:30 pm)

May God bless you and your family this Advent Season.



Celebrate the holiday season with SMPS Christmas Show for parishioners to be held Dec. 11

Celebrate the joys of the holiday season this year with SMPS students. Several school events are planned to kick-off the Christmas Holiday -- the most significant of which is a special performance for all St. Michael parishioners of the Christmas musical, "No Ordinary



SMPS Music Teacher Danielle Payne (left) practices a song with some cast members of "No Ordinary Night," this year's student Christmas musical. Pictured (from left) are 8th grader Cathleen Banks, fifth grader Jenna Jewell and 8th grader Karl Mueller.

Night." More than 30 SMPS students are part of the cast, directed by Music Teacher Danielle Payne and Seventh Grade Teacher Sean Decker, both theater veterans themselves. Parishioners are invited to this free performance on Friday, Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the School Hall. Additionally, there will be separate performances for SMPS students at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 9, as well as for school families at 7 p.m. on Dec. 9.

We also invite parents/parishioners to join us on Tuesday, Dec. 8 in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; the School Mass will begin at 8:30 a.m. The annual *Santa's Workshop* will also be held on Dec. 8-9 at the Angelus Center to give our students a chance to shop for friends and family. And, on Dec. 12 (9-10 am), Santa will make a special appearance at *Breakfast with Santa*, sponsored by the SMPS Student Council for our TK-2nd graders. Happy Holidays everyone!

SERVICEspotlight

4th grade collects clothes to help families in need

For the second year, the "Kids-4-Kids" winter clothing drive for Appalachian Outreach was a huge success! Started by Teacher Corinne Cecil as a 4th grade project, the effort expanded this year to a school-wide effort. Clothes for more than seven over-sized boxes were collected for families in rural WV.

Great job, everyone!



Pictured (l to r) are 4th graders Abbey Mulhern, Shelby Imer, Emily Mulhern, Jack Stryker, Mario Saludes, Daniel O'Leary, Morgan Petchar, and Maria Murphy.

SMPS SPECIAL EVENTS

Kindergartners share Thanksgiving Holiday with Sisters of St. Joseph



Kindergartner John Emmerth, dressed as a Native American, gets a special hug from Sr. Angelina Cavallaro at Mount St. Joseph. Also pictured is Sr. Eulalia Estep.

The day before Thanksgiving was a very busy one for TK and Kindergarten, says Kindergarten Teacher Edna Taylor. “The morning started with the children dressed as Pilgrims or Native Americans and processing into the church for our School Mass,” Taylor said. “Then, after Mass, our 33 Kindergartners traveled to Mt. Saint Joseph for our annual visit with the retired Sisters of St. Joseph.”

At Mt. Saint Joseph, SMPS students were joined by sixth graders from Corpus Christi Grade School for a holiday performance. Our students sang several Thanksgiving songs while the Corpus Christi students entertained the audience with several songs played with the handbells.

The sisters, many of whom are retired teachers, loved the performances and enjoyed seeing the children. Then Kindergartners presented each with turkey handprint artwork they had created. Upon returning to school, our TK and Kindergarten students came together again for a special performance of Thanksgiving Day songs for their families in the School Hall. “Turkey Dinner,” “Gobble, Gobble” and “Praise Him” were just a few of their musical hits. What a great way to start the holiday!

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Our 48 TK and K students sang their Thanksgiving songs for parents on Nov. 18.

WTRF-7 News personalities visit with 7-8 graders

Dougherty, Elias share career experiences and offer advice



Eighth graders Allison Walton-Mokros and Dalton Haas, Mustang Media Team members, welcomed WTRF-7 Meteorologist Ashley Dougherty (second from right) to SMPS, along with Science Teacher Kim Burge (far right).

WTRF-7 Meteorologist Ashley Dougherty was a guest speaker recently at SMPS, coordinated by science teacher Kim Burge to complement the 7th and 8th graders’ study of meteorology. Dougherty shared her experiences in broadcast journalism as well as answered students’ questions about weather. Later, WTRF-7 news reporter Dave Elias joined the discussion to provide insight into the world of reporting. Two 8th graders also shadowed at the WTRF studios the following week.

spelling BEE

Congratulations to the following SMPS students who were winners in their respective classrooms for this year’s Spelling Bee:

- 5K: Zach Beaver, Clayton McCabe (alternate: Sydney Bauer)**
- 5T: Chantal Num, Luke Fahey (alternate: Jessica Ghobrial)**
- 6-6: Steven Corder, David Coleman (alternate: Aiden Weisenborn)**
- 6-7: Lindsey Baker, Thomas Mosman (alternate: Sami LaBelle)**
- 7S: Aimee Schultz, John McLaughlin (alternate: Erin O’Leary)**
- 7K: Brady Bower, Holland Matlock (alternate: Elena Allen)**
- 8A: Gage Siebieda, Lauren Griffin (alternate: Ava Tennant)**
- 8S: Cathleen Banks, Kimber Boord (alternate: Marissa Tucker)**

Winners will next compete on Dec. 11 at 1:30 pm to determine an overall school winner who will represent SMPS at the regional competition.

Good luck everyone!

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For registration or class shadowing information, please contact Mrs. Marilyn Richardson, school principal.

Welcoming children of all faiths.