

SCHOOL NEWS

"Fall seven times,
stand up eight."
Japanese proverb

Upcoming Events

April 27

Talent Show
(9:30 am, 1 pm, and 6:30 pm,
School Hall)

April 29

"Aesop's Fables"
St. Michael Players Drama Club
(6 pm, School Hall)

April 30

Final Day to purchase gift cards
for SCRIP Customer
Appreciation Contest

May 1

First Holy Communion
(Noon, Church)

May 5-6

8th Grade Trip
to Washington, D.C.

May 18

5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation
(11 am, Angelus Ctr.)

May 25

Kindergarten Graduation
(9 am, School Hall)

May 26

8th Grade Graduation
(7 pm, Church)

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St. Michael Parish School"

8th graders run, walk in honor of Andy Railing at CCWVa 5K Race SMPS Team presented with Inspiration Award

Braving a 45-degree, windy Saturday morning, a group of SMPS 8th graders, led by Teacher Sarah Felton, participated in the Race For Hope sponsored by the Catholic Charities of WV (CCWVa) to pay tribute to Andy Railing, husband of their teacher, Ann Railing. Andy suffered a stroke in mid-February and, with Ann at his side, has been in Morgantown recovering ever since.

"We pray for Andy and the Railing family every day," Felton said. "If she weren't in Morgantown, we know Ann would be here running this race, so we decided to run and walk on her behalf and in honor of Andy."

This was the first 5K race experience for most of the students, but you wouldn't know it from their exceptional results. In fact, Isaac Estep finished 1st place overall in his age group (14 and under) and 10th overall among 190 participants.

In recognition of their Christ-like support of the Railing family, CCWVa also awarded the 8th grade team with their Inspiration Award during the post-race awards presentations. *Congratulations!*



Students run/walk the Race for Hope sponsored by the Catholic Charities of WV to honor Andy Railing, husband of SMPS teacher Ann Railing. In front is Brooke Kaminski and Dalton Haas. Back (from l) is Isaac Estep, Alli Bauer, Tiffany Wildern, Teacher Sarah Felton, Kimber Boord, and Cathleen Banks.



Above, Cathleen Banks, Brooke Kaminski and Kimber Boord head to the finish line. At left, SMPS students receive the "Inspiration Award," from Executive Director Mary Louise Lisowski, SC, ACSW.

April guest speakers share knowledge on effects of bullying, Internet safety with SMPS students



Dr. Patricia Bailey

“What You Do and What You Say Have a Big Impact on People for the Rest of Their Lives”

Patricia Bailey, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and counselor based in Wheeling, spoke to 3rd-6th graders about the types of bullying and what to do if they, or a friend, become a victim to bullying. Dr. Bailey said there are many forms of bullying: verbal abuse (insulting someone or making fun of them), excluding someone from the group, threatening someone, pushing/shoving, taking another’s property or destroying someone’s property, and e-mailing/texting mean or threatening messages to someone (which is becoming more prevalent among children).

“I have adults I treat in my office who, to this day, break down in tears over how they were bullied in grade school,” Bailey said. “Believe me, the sticks and stones saying is completely wrong -- words *do* last a lifetime.” Dr. Bailey encouraged students to tell a trusted adult if they become a victim. “When you are bullied day in and day out, it takes a toll on you,” she said. “But you need to get help and report it so it will stop. And if you see someone being bullied, stand up for that person -- the victim will remember how you helped them for the rest of their lives.”

“Know Who You’re Talking to Online”

Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer Terry Huffman told 5th-8th graders that 56 percent of children between the ages of 10-17 freely post their personal information (name/address/photo) online. And, he said, another 43 percent admit to talking to people they don’t know while online or on social networking sites. According to Huffman, those two actions can lead to dangerous consequences for both girls and boys. Then Huffman asked 25 students seated in the audience to stand up and said, “One-fifth of children under the age of 18 -- equivalent to the number of kids standing among you today -- will become victims of a sexual predator.”

Victim Witness Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney Chris Frizzell discussed how child predators “groom” their victims, by posing as a teenager and establishing a casual online friendship; then over several months, the predator gets the victim to trust him/her and ultimately coaxes the child into meeting him/her. “I’ve worked with many victims, who are kids just like you, who have been duped by a sexual predator,” Frizzell said. “I can’t stress enough how important it is to know who you’re talking to.”

The speakers also addressed cyber-bullying and “sexting” with students, stating that WV state law prohibits texting or e-mailing threatening or sexually explicit messages to someone. “Internet safety begins and ends with mutual respect -- respect for yourself and those you’re communicating with,” Huffman said.



Terry Huffman and Chris Frizzell

Jump Rope FOR HEART

The American Heart Association’s “Jump Rope for Heart” event was recently held at SMPS for grades K-6. A total of \$1,367 was raised -- the second best total in school history.

Top money-raisers were first graders Joey Carter and Cole Bonacci. We congratulate both boys, as well as all of this year’s participants.



Kindergartner Danielle Agcaoili participates in the Annual Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser to raise money for the American Heart Association. The annual school event is coordinated by Physical Education Teacher Carol Pierce.

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