



Established 1897

SCHOOL NEWS

"Peace on earth will come to stay,
When we live Christmas
every day."
- Helen Steiner Rice

Events Calendar

Dec. 14 & 16
Junior High Exams

Friday, Dec. 17
Spelling Bee
(School Hall, 8:30 am)

Noon Dismissal
for Holiday Break
Bucketfiller Friday

Monday, Jan. 3
School Resumes

Monday, Jan. 3
First Drama Club Meeting
(School Hall, 3-4 pm)
Club sign-up/payment due Dec. 13

Friday, Jan. 7
Geography Bee
(School Hall, 1:30 pm)

Friday, Dec. 14
Noon Dismissal

Monday, Dec. 17
No School - Martin Luther
King Day

Sunday, Jan. 23
SMPS Early Childhood
Program Open House!
(Immediately following 9 am Mass)

Everything You Need to Know About SMPS...

Bookmark our school website:
stmikesparishschool.org

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

Get all Mustang Athletic Information:
leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs

Père Noël surprises TK with visit

"Christmas Around the World" explores international Christmas traditions, teaches students to appreciate all God's people

Transitional Kindergarten students are world travelers this month, flying on *Mustang Air's* "super-duper rocket air plane" to numerous countries in Europe. Each child has an airline ticket and boarding pass that is checked before departure and a passport that is stamped in each country.

The class first finds each country on a map in their "Christmas Around the World" Booklet and colors the country for the day with the colors from that country's flag. Then they discuss Christmas traditions in that country, do an art activity that corresponds, and enjoy a traditional treat that parent volunteers make for the class.

"We have gone to Italy where La Befana the kind Christmas Witch lives," said teacher Paula Foster. "She even came to class on her broom to visit and play a

"I don't know if the boys and girls in France get to tell Père Noël what they want, but I got to tell our Santa Claus in November what I wanted and then I got to tell Père Noël again in December!"

-- Nathan Litvak, TK student



Père Noël (France's Father Christmas) visited St. Michael Transitional Kindergarten students as part of the class's "Christmas Around the World" project. Above Taylor Broadwater tells Père Noël she is hoping Santa brings her a Nintendo DS or dolphin Pillow Pet for Christmas.

game with us! We also shared some Amaretti and a Panettone." Mrs. Paula added that the class also traveled to Ireland and learned Irish Christmas facts from Fr. McSweeney and ate some Scones and jam. Next they were off to Germany where they learned about the origin of gingerbread -- they also decorated gingerbread cookies and shared them with their 7th Grade Buddies!

On Dec. 6, the class visited France where they learned that Père Noël (Father Christmas) puts small gifts in children's shoes on St. Nicholas Day. Fortunately for them, it was St. Nicholas Day on their visit to France and they all found gold chocolate coins in their gym shoes, even Mrs. Paula and Mrs. Judy! Later, after lunch, Père Noël came to their classroom to ask if they had found the gifts he left for them! The children were very excited, each having a chance to tell Père Noël what he/she wanted for Christmas before he had to return to France. Then students shared crème puffs with their buddies and made shoes with treats in them to take home. Next on the TK travel itinerary: Sweden to celebrate St. Lucia Day, Great Britain to learn about "crackers," and Denmark to make Christmas Plates.

SERVICEspotlight

Ho-Ho-Ho! Breakfast with Santa event held

On Dec. 4, Santa Claus made a special visit to St. Michael's as the guest of honor at the annual Breakfast with Santa. Hosted by the SMPS Student Council, all St. Michael's TK-2nd graders were invited to the event.

Since Santa's elves were busy getting ready for Christmas Eve at the North Pole, our own student council members and other student volunteers pitched in to help Santa with all the young guests at the breakfast. The 15 students assisted with serving the donuts and milk and also read Christmas stories to the kids. As always, Santa took time to meet with each child to hear about his or her Christmas Wish List.

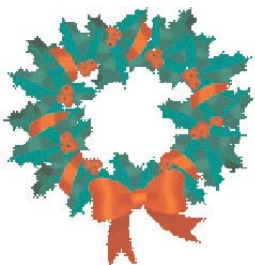
A special thanks to Miss Felton, Mrs. Railing, all the student volunteers who participated in the event, and, of course, to Santa for such a wonderful holiday event.



Above, Brothers J.D. (8S) and Ayden (KE) Griffith enjoy visiting with Santa at the Dec. 4 Breakfast with Santa event. At left, Santa Claus sneaks up on 8th grader Erin O'Leary while she reads to Bode Burge during story time.



SMPS can help with last-minute Holiday Gifts



If you still need a few holiday gift ideas for friends and loved ones, SMPS has some great suggestions...

- ◆ **SMPS Retailer Discount Card:** Good for one year, the Discount Card offers a variety of savings/discounts for favorite local restaurants and retailers. *Cost: \$10*
 - ◆ **2011 Enjoy Book:** Good for one year, the Enjoy Book offers discounts/savings coupons for area recreation, restaurants, cinemas, and much more! *Cost: \$40*
 - ◆ **SMPS Scrip Cards:** Gift cards are available for hundreds of national and local retailers through the SMPS Development Office. And remember, gift cards can be easily mailed to those on your out-of-town gift list. *Cost: Varies according to retailer (\$5, \$10, \$25, \$100 denominations often available).* Hurry...Last day to place a Christmas order is Monday, Dec. 13 at 9 am.
 - ◆ **New St. Michael Ornament:** Two St. Michael Church ceramic ornaments still available for sale. **Cost: \$12 ea**
- For information on these items, please call the school office at 304.242.3966.

WANTED: Dress-up Clothes

SMPS Creative Play Group, which hosts three- to five-year olds, seeks dress-up clothes for its "Make Believe Time." If you have any old clothes to donate (hats, sweaters, skirts, slip-on shoes or Halloween costumes) please send them to the school office c/o Debby Burkhardt.



Thank You LETTER

To our St. Mike's School and Parish Family:

You are angels on earth! It is difficult to express what we are feeling. So, this will have to suffice ... from the bottom of our hearts ... THANK YOU! God works in mysterious ways. You have made what could have been a totally devastating experience into a blessing for our family. We will never forget and always be grateful for your extreme generosity. It was beyond words.



A special thank you goes to the teachers, families and students in kindergarten and 1st grade for helping Skyler & Janessa get through this challenging time. You are remembered in our prayers of thanks.

God bless you for your unselfishness.
Have a Blessed Holiday Season,
Julie Blake & Family
Donna & John Clark

*St. Michael Parish School
Students and Staff
Wish All of You
a Very Blessed Christmas
and a Joyous New Year!*

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

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

Welcoming children of all faiths.