



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"It is always better to fail in doing something than to excel in doing nothing."

## Events Calendar

**Monday, Feb. 21**  
**No School**  
*(Presidents' Day)*



**Friday, Feb. 25**  
**\$1 Dress Down**  
**for Miracle League**



**Friday, Feb. 25**  
**Mardi Gras Celebration**  
*(7-11 pm, Generations Restaurant)*



**Thursday, March 3**  
**Regional Science Fair &**  
**Social Studies Fair Awards**  
**Ceremony**  
*(1 pm, Wheeling Central HS)*



**Wednesday, March 9**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
*(8:30 am, School Mass)*



**Saturday, March 12**  
**2nd Annual Irish Evening**  
*(5:30-7 pm, Angelus Center)*



**Sunday, March 13**  
**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
*(Turn your clocks one hour ahead)*



**Friday, March 18**  
**SMPS Shadow Day**  
*(Grades 1-6)*

## Everything You Need to Know 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](https://www.facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

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

## 2011 Science Fair Finalists Announced

**G**erms...Who Wants 'Em? That's just one of the 65 project titles presented at this year's Science Fair. Other project titles included "Dog Therapy + Elderly People = Healthy Hearts," "Rubik's Solution," and "Optical Illusions." We congratulate our 6th and 8th graders for their hard work



7-8th Grade Science Teacher Kim Burge (center) poses with four of the 12 SMPS Science Fair finalists from 6th and 8th grades. From left are Brady Bower, Lexie Kosanovic, Anna Dean, and Chance Bonacci.

over the last several months preparing for the Feb. 7 Science Fair. The scoring was tight, but ultimately the judges awarded six students from both grades with superior ratings, giving them the opportunity to compete at the Diocesan Regional Competition at Central Catholic High School on March 3: (6th Grade) Emil Capito, Lexie Kosanovic, Anna Dean, Hannah Dieffenbaugher, Jacob Coughlan, and Trey Mueller; and (8th Grade) Brady Bower, Billy Teufel, Savannah Austen, Erin O'Leary, Chance Bonacci and Peter Hartzell.

SMPS Science Teacher Kim Burge says the science fair really helps prepare students for high school and college. "There are many great skills the students gain by participating in science fair," Burge said. "One is long-range planning. The students are given the packets in late October and have periodic due dates through February. The students also learn how to write a research paper and bibliography, as well as, how to use Excel software to create graphs from experiment results. The whole scientific process can be adapted to any 'real life' situation which is highly beneficial." Burge added that each student is also



Robert Strong, director of Wheeling's Smart Center in Centre Market, shares project presentation tips with our 12 Science Fair finalists.

required to present his/her project to classmates and the fair judges.

A special thanks goes to science fair judge Robert Strong, director of Wheeling's SMART Center in Centre Market, who shared presentation tips with our finalists to help them better prepare for the regional competition.

**GOOD LUCK** to all our finalists!

## STUDENT NEWS

### Elks Lodge gives dictionaries to 3rd Graders



Wheeling Elks Lodge No. 28 represented by Marty Haynes (back left) and Ray Johnson (back right) present Mrs. Dudzik's third grade students with their own dictionary, bookmark and pencils. Pictured are (from left) students Jett Thomas, Christopher Romanek, Beth Anthony and Maddie Tiu.

own personal dictionary. The gentlemen also distributed bookmarks and pencils on behalf of the Elks' Drug Awareness Committee to students. "We support Ohio and Marshall County's parochial, private and public schools," said Pat Duffy, former Elks Lodge president. "Locally, we're providing dictionaries to every parochial third grade class this year...we're just happy to be able to do it."

Mrs. Dudzik said her 27 students were excited to receive the gifts. "We thank the Elks Lodge for all they do for St. Michael's and the educational community as a whole," she said. "We are so fortunate to have their support."

Three representatives from Wheeling Elks Lodge No. 28 recently visited Mrs. Dudzik's third graders to present them with a special gift. Marty Haynes, Ray Johnson and Pat Duffy were all on hand to present each student with a brand new dictionary. The project, they said, is part of a worldwide effort by the Elks organization to provide every third grade child with his



Carmen Alexander looks through the new dictionary he received from the Wheeling Elks Lodge.

### Join us for Mardi Gras on Feb. 25!

Our annual Mardi Gras celebration is fast-approaching! Please join us for all the fun on Friday, Feb. 25 from 7-11 pm at Generations. This year, the planning committee has expanded the event to include a Jambalaya Cook-Off contest for local cooking enthusiasts and chefs -- so be sure to taste the dishes (from 7-8



Eighth graders work on Mardi Gras masks that will be displayed at the Feb. 25 event. From left are Zach Fahey, Aimee Schultz, Peter Hartzell, and John McLaughlin.

pm) and cast your vote for your favorite. Everyone will enjoy the festive decorations at the event, especially the Mardi Gras masks created by our 7th and 8th graders! You'll also be able to dance the night away to the tunes of "DJ Shag" after the announcement of our Chinese Auction Raffle and live auction winners. Tickets for Mardi Gras are \$15 per person (in advance or at the door), which includes hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and soda. For more information on the event or purchasing raffle tickets, please contact Stacie Palmer at (304) 242-1707.

## CONGRATS CHARLIZE!

Congratulations to second grader **Charlize George** for being named the second grade winner in the River Sweep Poster Contest! Charlize's poster was among 2,000 posters entered into the contest from the six-state area. She will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond this spring. The contest was sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission. Great job!!

### Double Blessings for St. Michael Parish!

A blessing has come to St. Michael Church and School in the form of a matching gift opportunity. A generous donor has offered to match all contributions made to our new Double Blessings campaign up to \$500,000. We have until Dec. 31, 2011 to reach our goal of \$500,000. All proceeds raised will go toward parish debt reduction. Our students, parish staff and parish organizations are fully committed to this effort. We hope you consider making a tax-deductible gift to our Double Blessings campaign.

#### Mark Your Calendar!

SMPS "Book Fair Carnival"  
April 4-7 ♦ Angelus Center

Grandparents Luncheon  
April 3 (12-2 pm) ♦ Angelus Center

St. Michael Parish School  
1221 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304.242.3966  
[www.stmikesparishschool.org](http://www.stmikesparishschool.org)

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

*Welcoming children of all faiths.*