



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"October is not only a beautiful month but marks the precious yet fleeting overlap of hockey, baseball, basketball, and football". ~Jason Love

## Events Calendar

October 11-14  
R.E.A.P. for 6th Graders  
(Camp Russell, Oglebay)

October 12  
Guest Chef Chris Kefauver  
Visits SMPS

October 18  
Oglebay Institute's  
Hot Glass Roadshow Program  
(For all grades PreK-Grade 8)

October 18  
Breast Cancer Awareness  
\$1 Dress Down Day  
(Students to wear pink or white)

October 26  
Annual Pumpkin Drop

Oct. 28  
Noon Dismissal

October 28  
TK/Kindergarten  
Halloween Party  
Sponsored by Student Council  
(12:30-2 pm, School Hall)

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**Double Blessings  
Florida Vacation Get-Away  
Raffle Winner: Eric Michaels**

### Learn More 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)

## SMPS SPIRIT WEEK

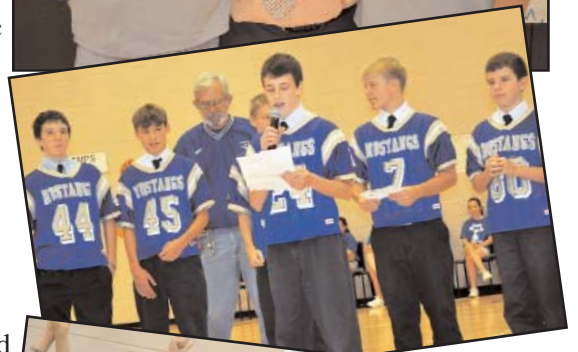
### Assistant Coaches Gruber, Ferda honored at Mustangs Pep Rally

Blue and gold were all the rage last week as SMPS celebrated Spirit Week. The week began with distribution of new Spirit bracelets to all students and staff members. Then it was time to create spirit banners that were on display at the Angelus Center for the Mustangs Pep Rally.

At the pep rally, SMPS athletic director/head football coach/vice principal Lee Gruber honored two of his assistant coaches -- brother Kim Gruber and Richard "Dick" Ferda -- for their many years of service to the Mustangs football program.

"Our 8th graders weren't even born yet when Kim Gruber started coaching here," Lee Gruber told the 365 students in attendance. "To put it in perspective, the 8th graders he coached his first year are now 38 years old." Gruber began coaching in 1987 while Ferda joined the staff in 1994. Students then offered a standing ovation to the gentlemen as they were presented with gift bags filled with SMPS gifts including custom Under Armour pullovers embroidered with their respective years of service to St. Michael's.

At the pep rally, students were also treated to cheers and routines performed by the cheerleading squads, and also participated in the "Victory" class cheer to win the coveted SMPS Spirit Sticks.



## STUDENT NEWS

### Buddy Program fosters lasting friendships



*Maddie Taylor and Brady Bauer work on a worksheet that reinforces Brady's hibernation science lesson.*

Spearheaded by junior high teacher Kim Burge, the SMPS "Buddy Program" was established last year between 7th grade and TK as a mentoring program. The effort was so successful Mrs. Burge opted to continue it this year with the same students who are now in 8th grade and Kindergarten.

"The Buddy Program promotes a strong bond between the younger and older students," Burge said. "We see them waving to each other in the hallways and know the younger students have developed a better comfort level being around the older kids."

The students meet monthly to do educational activities and to participate in special programs and field trips together.

### 2011-12 Choir, Band programs off to great start

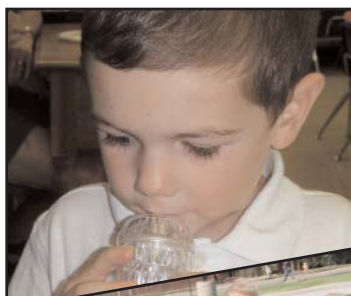


Our new Music/Band instructor Holly Cline is excited about this year's choir program and the start of her private and group instrument lessons. So far, 20 students have signed up to participate in band, playing such instruments as violin, trumpet, guitar, saxophone, trombone and percussion during weekly lessons.

The school choir is now comprised of 24 students in grades

4-8. They too meet weekly for practice. Mrs. Cline says both choir and band students will have the opportunity to perform at Mass, participate in field trip performances, and attend local fine arts workshops.

### TK students learn about the five senses



TK teacher Paula Foster and her aide Judy Gornik explored the five senses with their 16 students last week, giving them interesting ways to discover more about sight, smell, taste, sound and touch. "We took a walk and used our pretend binoculars for a nature scavenger hunt," Mrs. Paula said. "We also did some activities in class where we learned what it would be like to be blind or deaf."



For a finale, they used all their senses at a Popcorn Party, watching and hearing it pop, smelling it pop, feeling the popcorn, and, most importantly, tasting the popcorn!

## HEALTHY INITIATIVES



Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, St. Michael's now has a salad bar available expanding the hot lunch menu to include salad and soup and antipasta salad selections.

Introduced on Oct. 4, the salad bar gives students a very healthy option for lunch. Coupled with a hot roll and soup, the salad bar was a big hit among students and teachers.

The salad bar will be offered twice each month for the first several months so our hot lunch coordinators can gauge student interest in various vegetables and other salad bar offerings.

In another healthy initiative, SMPS will host guest Chef Christian Kefauver, culinary arts department chair at WV Northern Community College, on Oct. 12 to share healthy snack eating tips with our students. On that same day, students will also do veggie taste-test ranking four vegetables. Look for the results in the near future!

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

1221 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304.242.3966

[www.stmikesparishschool.org](http://www.stmikesparishschool.org)  
Editor: Alyson Hurley

For shadowing information, please contact  
Principal Marilyn Richardson.  
*Welcoming children of all faiths.*