



# Knights' Pride



## Club Happenings

**Drama Club-** Students at the beginning of the month, in grades 4 through 8, were able to audition for the play, *Wizard of Oz: The Deleted Scene*. The hilarious and "punny" play is about the main character Dorothy being offered an alternate route to the Emerald City, instead of following the Yellow Brick Road. Since then, students who auditioned have been given their roles and are working hard to practice their lines and develop their characters. The play is scheduled for December 12th and 13th so mark your calendars. This is a performance you don't want to miss!!

**National Junior Honor Society:** Students in NJHS met and elected this year's officers, as follows:

- President: Greyson Baldaro**
- Vice-President: Dylan Polinski**
- Secretary: Otto Shaw**
- Treasurer: Lillian Maglich**
- Public Relations: Aly Bonnell**

Their first opportunity to be of service was by helping to sort clothes for the clothing drive recently held for the victims of Hurricane Dorian that hit the Bahamas. Members also voted to continue helping out at the Bread of Life Kitchen this year, as well as adding service with the Greek Orthodox Church once a month. In addition, they are planning on walking in the Faith Walk for Hunger in October, and will be conducting a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul in November.

**Student Council:** Members met and set up various committees to help plan events this year. Some of them are: Flapjack Committee, to plan activities with the 1st and 2nd graders; Dance Committee; Mirror in the Boys Bathroom Committee; and of course, our annual Fundraising Committee. Members meet once a month on Wednesday afternoon as a group, and once a month in committees.

## Important Dates

- October 17** – Worcester Art Museum – middle school students
- October 25** – School pictures - uniform
- October 26** – Halloween Party
- October 31** – Quarter 1 ends
- November 1** – All Saints Mass – 12:00 PM at St. Louis Church
- November 4** – FASA Meeting – MS Campus Hall at 6:00 PM
- November 5-7** – Scholastic Book Fair
- November 5** – Special Person's Day
- November 8** – Veteran's Day Celebration
- November 11** – No School – Veteran's Day
- November 14** – Early dismissal at 11:30 AM - Parent/Teacher conferences 12:00 – 3:00 PM and 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- November 18** – Picture retakes
- November 19** – Bemis Nursery Christmas Wreath Making event
- November 22** – Pep Rally and Basketball season begins
- November 25** – Thanksgiving Mass – 12:00 PM at St. Louis Church
- November 27-29** – No School – Thanksgiving holiday

## Classroom Happenings

**Preschool News Flash:** September brought many new and returning smiling faces into the Preschool classrooms. All students were welcomed with many fun activities as they learned the classroom routines. Pete the Cat, and a flock of Flamingos fill our windows, displaying our first Preschool activities. Next, we learned about Shapes and Colors. We even made our own new colors with paint and our shaving cream blending bags. Next, we learned about each other's favorite things during All About Me week. We counted how many siblings we have and pets too. We made self-portraits and measured how tall we were with string. During the last week of September, we began learning how to write the letter A, the sound of the letter A, and we made a list of words that begin with A including Apples! We learned how apples grow, how they taste, and we even learned a fun apple poem. We began to learn our first DWP skill of Listening. Specials started this month too. We love going to music, art, technology, library, and gym. September has been so much fun, and we can't wait to see what next month brings!

**Kindergarten Escapades:** Kindergarten is in full swing, as we just completed our first month of school. Everyone is settling in and becoming comfortable at school. It has been a busy few weeks learning classroom routines and building friendships with our classmates. We have been working hard learning the sounds of the alphabet. We are excited to be sounding out words and reading sentences.

**Grade 1 Happenings:** We've been super busy getting to know each other during the month of September. We continue to learn all of the first-grade routines. The kids are adjusting nicely. In math, we are beginning to add and subtract using a number line and counting on. We will begin learning the doubles facts in October. In Reading/Language Arts, we will finish Unit R next week. This is a review of Kindergarten skills mixed with introducing some new material. When we start Unit 1, we will begin weekly spelling tests. We ended September by celebrating Johnny Appleseed's Birthday. The kids had a fabulous time making applesauce, conducting an apple investigation and making several crafts. Thank you to all who sent in supplies or volunteered their time. We really appreciate it. It was an exciting day of learning.

**Grade 2 Shenanigans:** We blasted off to a fast start in second grade. One month has gone by and we've learned about arrays, bar diagrams, counting on/counting back, near doubles, and make a ten, which are strategies used in math. Reading was all about exploration. We have explored communities, space, and nature. We have examined long and short vowel words, beginning and ending blends, subjects and predicates and the writing process, (We wrote a realistic fiction story about sunflowers). Many types of scientist work in our world. One such scientist is the astronaut. We investigated what it was like to work in space. This led us to the solar system, which led us to the sun, which led us to earth. Through our probing, we discovered vocabulary words such as; orbit, rotate, galaxy, universe, planets, energy, gravity, and so on. We made sundials and discovered why we experience day and night. We learned that our faith welcomes everyone, and through the sacrament of baptism we become members of the church. We put our faith into practice and welcomed a new friend to our classroom. We showed him our school building and helped him with our routines. We included him in our games and sat with him during lunch. Now our new friend is

one of us and he's an awesome friend. There are more second grade shenanigans to come so stay tuned!

**Grade 3 News:** Third grade is off to a great start. Students enjoyed solving an "escape" room activity using clues and puzzles that were based on teamwork, school rules, and making the right choice. Only six students solved all the puzzles and were able to "escape". The others were a bit disappointed when they realized they had to stay in class. In Social Studies students have been working on continents and oceans lapbooks. In Reading the theme is 'what happens' when you work together. Multiplication has been our main focus in Math. In Religion we have been learning how the Holy Spirit is our guide. The scientific method and what tools scientists use have been the focus in Science. The Disappearing Marshmallow was a great experiment in which students were able to apply the scientific method. In the experiment, we observed marshmallows placed in vinegar, soda, cranberry juice, and water to see which would dissolve the marshmallow first. The class vote was a three-way tie; 5 for vinegar, 5 for soda, and 5 for water. Vinegar was the first to dissolve the marshmallow.

**Grade 4 News:** In fourth grade, we have been settling into our routine and making some new friends. We have three new friends in our classroom this year! In Math, we have been reviewing place value, estimating, adding and subtracting. We will be moving onto multiplication soon. In Reading, we have been discussing the author's purpose, literary elements, sequence of events and the genres of historical and realistic fiction. We are learning about sentences including subjects and predicates in Grammar and we are writing an opinion paper. During Science class, we are learning about what scientists do and how they conduct investigations. In Social Studies, we are learning about the different regions in the United States and we are practicing our map skills. In Religion, we have been studying about God's Creation and how we care for it and giving thanks for God's Gifts.

**Mrs. Berthiaume's Classroom:** September happenings in Mrs. Berthiaume's Classroom: **Grade 5** is adjusting quite well to life at the Middle School! They have been very busy learning about all the different types of nouns in the English language, reading the realistic fiction "Red Kayak" and exploring the question "What makes people act courageously?", and discussing God's wonderful creation in Religion class. **Grade 6** Religion class started the school year off reading about Abraham & Sarah and their roles as models of faith, and Abraham's role as a patriarch. In Religion, **Grades 7 & 8** have learned that the Magisterium is the teaching office of the Church, and that the Pope has the authority and responsibility to lead and guide the universal Church.

**Mrs. Heflin's Classroom:** Students moved up to get to Mrs. Heflin's classes this year - her classroom is now on the 2nd floor and is the new 7th grade homeroom. New whiteboards now mean 2 walls are whiteboard covered in addition to the whiteboard tables, so math students have plenty of room to do all their calculations with dry-erase markers. 8th Grade: Students are reviewing the many properties needed to understand equations, as well as how to add, subtract, multiply and divide both positive and negative integers and rational numbers. 7th Grade: Students are practicing working with positive and negative numbers in all kinds of operations. 6th Grade: Students are reviewing fractions and decimals to ensure they are proficient in adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them. 5th Grade: Students are focusing on place value, especially decimal places, and learning new strategies to complete mental math. 5th Grade Social Studies: Students recently

completed a chapter about the Five Regions of the USA, and how their climate and landforms are similar and different. Next, they will be learning about the early peoples of North America.

**Ms. Richard's Classroom: 6th Grade ELA** - The month of September began with students studying nouns and all that ties in with direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of a preposition. The 6th Grade class has even created a character, "Prepi the Mouse," to help them find and remember the prepositions when trying to find the object of a preposition in a sentence. Students have also enjoyed having Writer's Workshop days in which they are able to write reflection pieces while following a writing prompt and also applying the skills they are learning about in class to their work. One of their recent writing prompts asked students to describe what they might think about while looking up at the night sky stargazing. Students' responses covered everything from remembering their relatives, to thoughts about other planets, to even the thought of aliens. **6th Grade Reading**- Students began the month by presenting their summer reading projects, maps of Camp Green Lake, which they created. Camp Green Lake is one of the settings in the book *Holes*. By creating the maps, it allowed the students to visually see the settings described in the book and develop their map making skills, which tied both Social Studies and Reading curriculums together. Students are currently on Unit 2 in their Vocabulary work and will be using the words from the unit to write a Halloween story. **6th Grade Social Studies**- Students reviewed the 5 Themes of Geography and Map Essentials. While studying various maps, the 6th Grade spent time learning about the Quabbin Reservoir and how the area was once made up of four Massachusetts' towns. Students looked at how the historical map of those towns changed once the state, in the 1930s, began creating the reservoir and what it looks like today. The students have also reviewed what archeology, archeologists and artifacts are and have tied it to their summer reading book selection, *Holes*. In the book, the main character is sent to a camp in west Texas where he is forced to dig holes and ends up finding items which are examples of artifacts. Students took a look at and explained what each artifact was and how it ties into archeology. **7th ELA**- The 7th Graders began the school year by learning about the process that goes into an interview and the importance of how to write a worthy question. Students interviewed their classmates and used that information to write a biography, which they shared with the class. In addition to biographical writing, students began Chap. 1 Nouns. The 7th Graders have spent time practicing how to distinguish direct objects, indirect objects, subject complements, objects of a preposition, and appositives. Students are also memorizing the majority of the prepositions to help them know what they are in order to easily identify them in their writing. **7th/8th Grade (Jr. High) Social Studies**- The class began the year off by studying various types of sources and differentiating them between primary and secondary. Students spent time discussing 9/11 and the background information behind the attacks, in addition to looking at maps of where the attacks occurred. The class also read two primary sources, written by students at the time of the attacks, who were in N.Y. on that fateful day and described what they witnessed. The 7th and 8th Graders are currently learning the reasons why the Spanish, English, and French came and colonized the New World (current day North America) in the 1600s and how they interacted with the Native Americans who inhabited the continent.

**Mrs. Oakley's Classroom:** News from the West Side! Grade 5 Science is learning what it takes to think and act like a scientist. Their first lab involved clay and water, which usually don't mix. Grade 6 Science is discovering what makes up Earth and how rocks form, break down, and re-form. We watched a yummy video, but none of it was on Mrs. Oakley's diet. Junior High Science is entering the crazy world of the very small...atoms, protons, neutrons, electrons. Mass, volume, density, measuring, calculating...grateful for those calculators! They are also beginning their Science Fair adventure by choosing topics and refining their selections. Junior High Literature finished two stories

about the US and its involvement in Vietnam and World War II. These stories focused on the unforeseen consequences of conflict on ordinary citizens. Eleanor Roosevelt's biography and autobiography was the inspiration for personal essays that Junior High students are completing. Having reviewed Verbs, Grade 8 English is revisiting Verbals – *participial* adjectives and *phrases*, **gerunds**, and *infinitives*. To learn about these can inspire us to write more interesting and precise sentences. **Including gerunds in our sentences** will demonstrate creativity as well. Grade 8 is also working on essays based on a speech by Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

**Art Room & Makerspace:** The start of the school year has gone great in the Art room. At the elementary campus, the students have created artwork that tells all about them and they are starting to explore the world of color mixing focusing on the warm colors of autumn and the changing season. The middle school students are working on a variety of projects. The junior high artists are creating a Peace Poster to be submitted to the Lions Club International Peace Poster competition. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade is working on the color wheel-based project and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is exploring eliminated letters. All middle school students are keeping a sketchbook with assignments in them, so be sure to ask your children to see their work.

In Makerspace the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are working on the Haunted Hallway props SHHHHHH – I cannot say more on that! The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are being engineers designing and building a marble maze complete with blueprints.