



# the MESSENGER

## Mark Your Calendars:

### ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT AND REGISTRATION

St. Michael School will hold Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m., in the St. Basil Parish Education Center, 8700 Brecksville Road. This opportunity is for parents interested in Catholic elementary education for their children. It will include a history of the school, the preschool and kindergarten philosophy, an overview of the curriculum and information on screening procedures.

*New Student Registration Week* begins January 21, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the main campus. Students transferring from other schools may register at the main campus. Preschool, Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration is at the St. Basil campus.

An Open House will be held on Sunday, February 2 from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at St. Michael School, located at 6906 Chestnut Road in Independence. Families are also invited to the St. Basil Education Center from 12:30 pm - 1:30 p.m. to view the Preschool, Jr. Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade campus.

## St. Michael School

### PARTICIPATES IN WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

St. Michael School participated in the International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, September 25. More than 150 students, parents, staff, and even a few dogs, walked from the Kiwanis Pavilion at Elmwood Park in Independence to St. Michael School's main campus on Chestnut Road. Pre-school through first grade students at the St. Basil Campus also participated in exercises and fun events on October 22. "This event is an energizing event, reminding parents and children alike of the simple joy of walking to school," said St. Michael School Principal Mrs. Margaret Campisi.



# Calendar

## January

- 6 Classes Resume
- 10 End of 2nd quarter
- 13 Re-Registration and Sibling Registration
- 15 Market Day Pick-Up 6-7 PM
- 16 Information Night 6:30-8:30 at St. Basil
- 17 No School - Teacher Diocesan In-Service
- 20 No School-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 New Family Registration Week
- 23 Conferences Pre. 4 (Evening)
- 24 Conferences Pre. 4, Jr. Kdg, Kdg. (No school for these grades)
- 26 Catholic Schools Week

## February

- 2 Open House -Both Campuses
- 3 Optional Conference Wk.
- 12 Market Day Pick-Up 6-7 PM Registration fee goes up
- 14 Midterms
- 17 No School - President's Day
- 18 Jump Rope for Heart Week
- 20 Pre. 3 conferences- No school for Pre. 3 only
- 24 Class Picture K-8, Pre 4, Jr. Kdg.
- 25 Class Picture Pre 3
- 28 Kdg. Screening, (no school for Kdg.)

## March

- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 7 No School-Teacher Diocesan Inservice Day
- 10 Cats & Iowas 10th -28th
- 12 Market Day Pick-Up 6-7 PM
- 17 No School - Teacher Inservice
- 21 End of 3rd Quarter
- 29 NIGHT AT THE RACES

## April

- 8 St. Michael Volunteer Mass
- 9 Market Day Pick-Up 6-7 PM Parent Meeting Gr. 5, Operation Keepsake 6:30pm
- 10 Writing Proficiency (Grs. 3, 5, 7)
- 11 St. Basil Volunteer Mass
- 18 No School - Good Friday, Easter break begins
- 20 Easter
- 28 Classes Resume Operation Keepsake Gr. 5- April 28-30

*Dear Friends of St. Michael School,*

It's hard to believe that we are already in the month of January and our school year is moving so quickly. We are excited to present this Messenger newsletter to all of our school families, parishioners, and those families looking for the right school for their child.

There are so many wonderful programs and opportunities that St. Michael School offers to students. You will find we have the perfect blend of curriculum and faith-based activities, with a multitude of clubs, programs, sports, arts, and music. Our goal is to provide the most well-rounded educational experience you can find for your child.

A special thank you to all our friends and supporters of our school as we strive to teach our students that God is so important in their lives.

On behalf of Fr. Pete, Fr. Walt, and the St. Michael School teachers and staff, I would like to extend to you much happiness and good health in the New Year. We can't wait to see you at our Open Houses in a few weeks.

God's Peace and Blessings,

*Mrs. Margaret Campisi*  
*Principal*



## St. Michael's 4th Annual **NIGHT AT THE RACES**

*save the date*  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2013**

**DINNER | RACES | 50/50 RAFFLE | SILENT AUCTION | BASKET RAFFLES**

**AN INCREDIBLE EVENT TO HELP SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!**

## ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The fall season was busy for the members of the St. Michael Athletic Association. Nearly 200 families participated in football, volleyball, and cheerleading. Our teams were comprised of children from St. Michael, St. Basil, St. Columbkille, St. Benedict, Assumption, and John Paul II Academy, to name a few. Not only do we have great kids learning the true meaning behind CYO, we have dedicated parents who devote endless hours to coaching as well.

Todd Dockrill has joined the St. Michael Athletic Association (SMAA) as Pastoral Administrator to promote the ideals of CYO. We have already seen the program benefit from Todd's insights and experience, and his constant emphasis on keeping to the tenants of CYO: to give each participant an opportunity to grow in character, ability and community while honoring oneself, as well as one's family, teammates, officials and church.

Special thanks to our coordinators for the fall sports: Karen Lynch (Volleyball), Joe Canzano (Football) and Fran Teller (Cheerleading). Each one of them gave additional time to ensure that their respective programs were a success, and the results of the season for all three programs are a clear indication of how hard they worked to make it all possible.

### **Volleyball highlights include:**

Coach Merker's 8th Grade team finished the season on a high note taking first place in the St. Albert (8B) Tournament. The girls had a great season, placing second in the Intermediate Division III Red league with an 8-2 record.

Coach Paul Molnar's 8th grade team was 16 - 2 in their division. They won both the St. Bart's and the St. Albert's Tournaments over some good Division 1 teams. "Although we fell short in a very tough match in the city semi-final, the girls showed themselves to be a great team and brought pride to the uniform."

Coach Patti Kornowski's 7th grade volleyball team came in second place in the regular season. They went to the semi-final for the city playoffs winning the St. Albert's tournament and coming in second in the Patriots tournament.

### **Football highlights include:**

Coach Vitron and Coach Foliano's 5th grade teams finished the season with a record of 4-4.

The boys' 6th grade football team won the CYO Sportsmanship award out of 104 entries. It was a credit to Kevin Clymer's coaching philosophy.

Coach Canzano's 7th grade football team went 9-0 overall and concluded the season in front of hundreds of family and friends when they defeated a very tough St. Francis of Assisi team 23-22 to win the CYO 7th Grade City Championship. The team was comprised of boys from St. Benedict, St. Columbkille, and St. Michael. From the very beginning, the boys played together like they have been friends on the same team for years.

Coach Jon Oebker's 8th Grade team finished with a 4 - 2 conference record and advanced to the quarter-finals of the CYO playoffs.

*"The players and coaches all wish to extend a sincere 'thank you' to all who support the St. Michael football program over the past five years. The numerous high school coaches who would come to our practices and games consistently commented on how the St. Michael Football program is becoming one of the best in the area. From the new uniforms, to the high number of kids participating, it is clear that the St. Michael football program definitely has a bright future."*

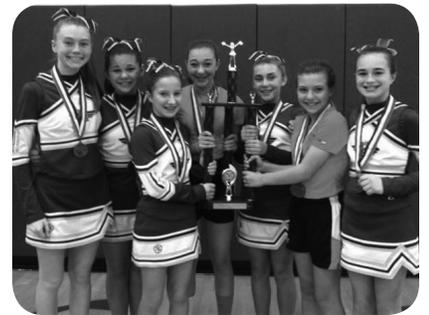
- Coach Jon Oebker

### **Cheerleading highlights include:**

Coach Fran Teller's cheerleaders had an amazing performance at the CYO Cheer Championship. Both the Cadet and Intermediate squads performed with confidence, outstanding technique, synchronicity, and fabulous smiles!

- Cadet Division - 5th and 6th grade girls won 1st place (competing against 9 other teams).
- Intermediate Division - 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls won 2nd (competing against 10 other teams)
- Claire Teller & Gianna Salvatore won 2nd in the Pairs Competition (competing against 7 other pairs).

Our coaches are dedicated and proud to work with the SMAA and the children in our program. We are truly blessed to have the support of so many at St. Michael and the participating parishes. The lessons learned will live on far longer than the memory of scores and titles. It is the principles, the character, the bonding and the friendships, learned in a community dominated by a tradition of commitment to Christ that is the hallmark of our program and that will continue to strengthen our future.



# St. Basil Campus

## what's new

### **Preschool**

The children have made new friends and welcomed Jesus into their hearts daily through song, sign language and prayer. Decorating the walls of the classroom with seasonal art has helped to encourage each child's self-esteem to flourish. A sense of community has been shared in the classroom through family photo artwork which has enabled each child to show respect and appreciation for others. In preschool, we realize that we all belong to God's family and happy faces on the children as they enter the classroom makes each day in preschool a gift from God. Learning is taught through hands on experiences, finger plays, poems, rhyme, repetition, and prayer. When sharing during free choice we abide by our one and only rule, "I promise to never hurt anybody, on the inside or the outside."

### **Jr. Kindergarten**

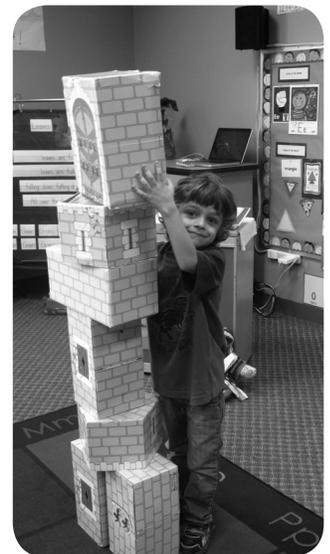
Our young 5's have been very busy in Jr. Kindergarten learning the rules and routines and along the way have made wonderful new friendships. In Religion, we have learned about the story of Creation, Noah's Ark, praying the rosary and how God made each one of us special. Fall has also been a fun season to learn about apples, pumpkins, fire safety, feelings, Halloween and the First Thanksgiving. In addition to all the activities in the classroom, the Jr. Kindergarten enjoyed a beautiful October day at Mapleside Farms in Brunswick, Ohio. We had an exciting visit from a Brecksville firefighter to help us learn about fire safety and we enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving feast with our families.

### **Kindergarten**

The kindergarten children have been using the Superkid Language Arts program to blend sounds into words, and even reading a few books. In Math, the children have learned and compared numbers up to ten. They have also begun simple addition and subtraction problems using numbers up to 10. The children have been going to church on Friday with the first graders a few times a month. It is wonderful to belong to God's family, and we have been learning all about His love for us. During the month of November, we focused on what the children are thankful for. The children learned all about the friendship between the Pilgrims and Native Americans. We ended this unit with our traditional Thanksgiving Feast, which included applesauce and butter made by the children in school.

### **First Grade**

The school year got off to a great start in the First Grade. In Religion, we talked about Baptism and for the month of October, we gathered each Thursday to recite a decade of the rosary. Our SuperKids reading program is going super well. We have incorporated more technology into the classrooms with the use of iPads. We will also begin using the Accelerated Reader Program in the second quarter.



# Main Campus

## what's new

### **Second Grade**

Second grade has been spending time studying the Ten Commandments. Our Religion classes are preparing us for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is on Saturday, January 25. In Math, the second-graders are continuing to practice addition and subtraction facts. We are using our classroom iPads to reinforce both Math and Language Arts skills. In November, we began writing our letters in cursive. During Health classes, we studied how our bones and muscles work. We learned to keep them healthy by eating good food and getting lots of exercise. The second-graders had fun learning about maps and globes, continents, oceans, and landforms in our Social Studies classes.

### **Third Grade**

What has 84 legs, 420 fingers, and 42 heads? Why it's those smart third-graders at SMS! We've been putting our heads together to share our opinions on whether we enjoyed reading *James and the Giant Peach* or seeing the play at the Magical Theatre. One thing we all agree upon is that the author Roald Dahl has a wonderful imagination. We have also been working diligently on reviewing addition and subtraction facts and are now adding multiplication facts to the mix. Division isn't too far off in the future either. From being scientists who have learned to form a hypothesis to authors who have written some very clever paragraphs and poems, all 42 heads in third grade have hard working brains inside.

### **Fourth Grade**

Fourth grade has been busy learning about various patterns in Math. They learned about repeating, growing, and number patterns. It was great when some of the students noticed our Spirit Banners formed a pattern. The annual Social Studies project, The Longhouse, was successful. They used the Computer Lab to research their paragraphs and then actually constructed the Longhouses. The students also used the Computer Lab to research their animals for their Science animal projects. They were excited for this project after their fun field trip to the Cleveland Zoo.

### **Fifth Grade**

Fifth grade completed their study of life sciences and have moved into a unit on Nutrition where they are learning about food choices and how they fit in to the recommended dietary plan set up in the Food Pyramid and My Plate given to us by the USDA. The children are enjoying monthly

visits from Fr. Kevin Shemuga. Fr. Kevin visits the classroom once a month to enrich our studies of the seven sacraments. The fifth-graders enjoyed a field trip to the Lake County History Center in the fall, learning lessons in a one-room schoolhouse, making candles, and experiencing life in a log cabin made for an interesting day. In Math, the boys and girls have begun an extensive study of number theory and fractions.



## ***Sixth Grade***

Running through the raindrops, the sixth grade class completed another ecologically, fun-filled week at the CVEEC. Along with daily long hikes in the conservation, the children scooped and identified pond life, measured turbidity, phosphates, and oxygen in sample water from the river, and built eco-friendly sustainable environments that represented conservation practices and reusable materials. Upon their return from the CVEEC, the sixth-graders presented their sustainable environments to the fifth grade classes who will be participating in the CVEEC program next school year.



## ***Seventh Grade***

As the air cools outside, seventh-graders can look back on all they have learned this first quarter with pride. In English, they have written both personal narratives and informational speeches. Students may well consider themselves budding detectives as they try to win *The Westing Game* in Reading. In Science, they are putting together the clues to solve “Enviromysteries” and determine environment health hazards. In History, they walked like Egyptians and even mummies. In Math, just in time for Halloween, they have found a sweet result comes from understanding the concepts of mean, median, and mode.



## ***Eighth Grade***

Eighth-graders danced, praised God, reflected, forgave and bonded as a class at the “Got Prayer” retreat lovingly and energetically put on by Trinity High School. In Mathematics, they are searching for the unknown. It’s called Algebra, where they solve for the unknown variables in equations and inequalities. In History, they are in the middle of studying the Revolutionary War, where the students are beginning to understand where the rights they enjoy today came from, and how they continue to impact us today. In Reading, they had a lesson on the Jim Crow Laws which was designed to provide them an understanding of the time and setting as they prepare for the plunge into the American class, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. In Science, students have begun preliminary work and research on their Science Fair projects. They are studying motion and forces.



## ***Colors for a Cause***

With a flair for fashion accessories, the seventh and eighth grades are bringing a splash of color to their St. Michael School uniform for a good cause. October began an organized effort on the part of the seventh grade to raise awareness and funds for causes of importance in our school community. During this first Colors for a Cause month, students were encouraged to ‘think pink’ to show support for breast cancer research and treatment. Spearheaded by seventh graders Jack Yontek and Sam Abood, Colors for a Cause will focus on varying charities and occur on Tuesdays within selected months throughout the year.



## Updates on ..... EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### ***Student Council***

The St. Michael Student Council has started the 2013/2014 school year with a new service project. The Project is called Maggie's Place. Maggie's Place is a shelter for homeless expectant mothers. They hope to collect money to send to this caring and helping organization. They also invited U.S. veterans to join St. Michael School at the school Mass on November 12. It is their hope to continue to serve God's people in many ways this school year.

### ***Chess Club***

The Chess Club has been an organization at St. Michael School for more than two years. They have welcomed new members to the club this year and have enjoyed seeing some familiar faces from past years. Members come to enjoy a game or two of chess with fellow classmates or other students. The club meets the third Tuesday of every month.

### ***K-Kids***

The 2013-2014 K-Kids at the Main Campus of St. Michael School has 30 members. They include second, third, and fourth graders. October has been busy with making cards for veterans. They also participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. In November, they met to count the money collected for UNICEF. November also found them creating Thanksgiving placemats for area senior centers.

The First grade K-Kids at the St. Basil campus have completed writing and coloring cards for Veteran's Day. These cards are sent to the Veteran's Hospital in Cleveland to show appreciation to our military men and women.

### ***Science Club***

Thirty 3rd-5th graders joined our first Science Club session, learning to use metric measurements, while measuring themselves to determine whether they were "squares" or not. In their second session, they will take part in the "Metric Olympics" to practice more with centimeters, but also with milliliters and grams.

### ***Power of the Pen***

Seventh and eighth graders have taken up their pen and paper in order to craft stories and find a place on the Power of the Pen team. From the 20 plus creative writers who are currently in the running, six will be selected from each grade to begin writing against teams from other schools throughout Ohio. Coached by Mrs. Vaughn and Mrs. Steffas, the team will be traveling to their first level of competition in January. This year's authors hope to follow in the longstanding successful tradition of St. Michael School.



## Updates on ..... COMPUTERS, SPANISH, ART & LIBRARY

### **Computers**

Students are off to a great start in computer class. We are working on our keyboarding skills. A combination of online typing practice websites and software are helping to introduce and improve students' abilities. We are also working closely with our librarian, Ms. Dickerson, to improve research using the Internet. Our new iPads are a big hit with the students. There is a cart with 30 on each floor at main campus, and a cart with 30 at the Basil campus.



### **Spanish**

Preschoolers are currently learning phrases about typical daily activities, such as washing hands, eating, bathing, and other hygienic actions, using upbeat music and hands-on projects.

The Young 5's class is reading a Spanish adaptation of *Goodnight Moon*, aimed at introducing them to reading in Spanish through a story they are already familiar with in English. Students will eventually learn colors, numbers, food, and home objects through the story, by connecting English ideas with Spanish words through context analysis.

The Kindergarten class recently focused on learning how to pray in Spanish, as well as learning classroom objects. Through Spanish prayer, the students are learning other vocabulary – such as body parts and possessions – in the context of Catholic prayer!

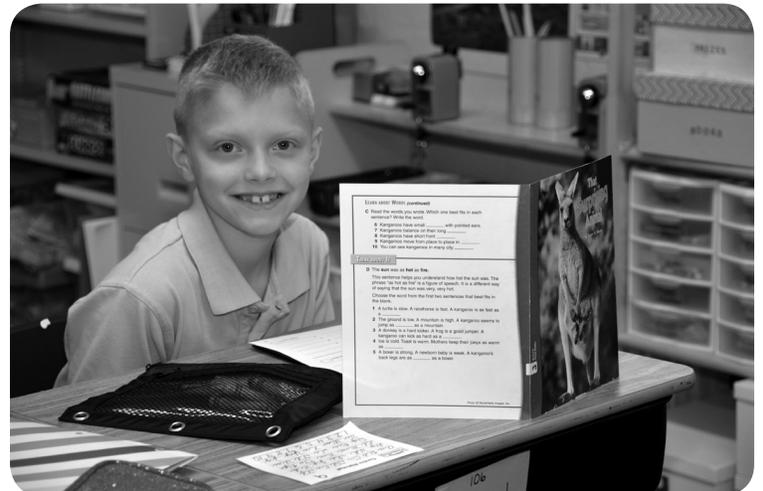
The First Grade class has been working on learning the months, the calendar and weather patterns in Spanish, and we recently completed a project where students had to apply what they learned in the creation of “weather books,” which will be displayed on the walls of the classroom.

### **Art**

Art is quite colorful this time of year, primary students are busy drawing and painting pumpkins and trees. Grade five experienced printmaking with real apples. Grade seven spent time learning about the religious significance of Illuminated Letters and then created their own modern version. Eighth-graders are having fun painting the windows for the Fall Festival.

### **Library**

Students returned from summer break to find a newly decorated and designed library and media center, complete with a reading area and new books on display. This year the Junior High students are enjoying regular library sessions as well as learning fundamentals of information literacy, research, and study skills. Younger classes listen to a book each week and use their library time for Accelerated Reader testing. Everyone has fun watching for Ralph S. Mouse, the library's little mascot, to poke his head out during their library times. Ms. Dickerson is chair of the Scholastic Book Fair this year, which besides bringing books into the children's hands, also brings money into the library for new materials and books. Both campuses met a big red friend during their fairs.



## MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & BAND

### ***Music***

It has been a great year in music so far. There are 14 members of the School Choir and they have been leading the students in song at the Tuesday morning liturgies. The Christmas Concert was on December 17 and the theme this year was “The History of Christmas Carols.” Beginning preparations are being made for the Spring Concert and the students have chosen Disney songs as the theme. We have been busy and having lots of fun singing and playing instruments in class.

### ***Physical Education***

Students in kindergarten through second grade have been moving to music, learning how to jump rope, playing games with bean bags, and using scooters. Our second grade rode their scooters in Scooterville and received scooter licenses.

Students in third to fifth grade are enjoying games like spud, newcomb, number kickball and scooter pinball. They are practicing their jump rope skills and working on their fitness skills.

Students in grades sixth through eighth grade have played more traditional games like volleyball, kickball and flag football. The eighth graders have been working on their fitness skills to prepare themselves for the Presidential Fitness Test.



### ***Band***

St. Michael Band students have been busy since the beginning of the year. From learning how to play their instruments to public performances, there have been many activities to keep everyone busy.

The Beginning Band has 17 dedicated students. They have been focusing on practicing 101 minutes a week so they get to choose a prize from the prize box.

The Advanced Band has 42 students. We have a nicely balanced group with 12 flutes, 6 clarinets, 8 saxophones, 7 trumpets, 2 trombones and 7 percussionists. There are 9 eighth graders. Pieces this band prepared for the Christmas Concert include, “Selections from the Nutcracker Suite,” “Feliz Navidad” and “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.”

The Jazz Band has 23 students, many of them new to the group this year. This band was a portion of the entertainment at the Parish Festival in the fall. The Jazz Band will have additional performances at the Open House on Sunday, February 2, as well as one or two Fish Frys during Lent.

Stevie Matas and Gregory Kondas, both in the 7th grade, participated in the St. Ignatius Wildcat for a Day program during football season. They spent the afternoon rehearsing with the band, had dinner and played in the stands with the Marching Band at a football game.

In May, we will have our 3rd Alumni Spring Band Concert. Every two years we invite past St. Michael Band Alumni to perform with the Advanced and the Jazz Band. The oldest returning alum graduated from St. Michael in 2001!

All of the bands will perform at the Spring Band Concert scheduled for Thursday, May 15.



## St. Michael School

### PTU UPDATE

The St. Michael School PTU has had an incredible start to the 2013-14 school year. Pumpkifest, PTU's largest fundraiser of the year, was a huge success once again. Thanks to all of the families who donated their time and efforts into helping decorating, baking, running games and cleaning up. Watching the kids enjoy the talent show like they were at a rock concert is always the biggest thrill. We had face painting, a photo booth, St. Michael's own-pumpkin carver, games, haunted maze, hay ride and great food. The creepy café and cake walk were supplied with beautifully decorated goodies.

The PTU had their first general meeting of the year on November 5 at St. Basil's Family Life Center. After the business aspect of the meeting was concluded, we were joined by guest speaker Jennifer Rodriguez. She gave parents the tools to turn children's feeling of isolation into empowerment. This program won the National Teacher Award for Innovations in Catholic Education in 2013.



The PTU annual Breakfast in Bethlehem was celebrated on December 8 at St. Michael's School Rappe Hall. While relaxing and joyous sounds of Christmas music were being played, Rappe Hall was transformed into a Christmas wonderland. A live nativity scene with children from St. Michael School along with a bake sale were among the highlights. A pancake breakfast bar was served along with specialty coffees donated by Starbucks in Independence.

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## St. Michael School Drama Club Presents . . .



**February 20-21, 2014**  
**Independence Middle School**  
**7:00 pm**

Director – Mrs. Bonnie LoConti  
Choreographer – Mrs. Judith Lasecki  
Music Director – Gregory Paporizos

To purchase tickets, please call 216/524-6405.

With a classic fairy tale setting, loads of exciting and hilarious roles played by 70 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, a variety of entertaining musical numbers and a plot full of mystery and adventure, this show has it all! It begins in the Misty Forest, where a girl is sleeping all alone. But when she wakes, nothing looks familiar to her. She can't remember anything — not where she's from, how she got here or even her own name! She embarks on a journey to discover her identity and meets several fairy-tale characters along the way — Hansel and Gretel, Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Cinderella and Rapunzel, to name a few. Some are helpful, some are dangerous and some are just plain weird, but all have information to help our young girl eventually realize her true identity as a princess. As with any good fairy tale, there's also a prince! He's desperate to find the princess, but he's always one step behind and inadvertently rescues and wins the hearts of all the wrong princesses! A rocking musical score adds even more fun to new takes on the stories everyone loves.



## **DONATES 200 BOOKS TO CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**

The St. Basil Campus of St. Michael School was asked by the Christ Child Society for a special donation for an upcoming Christmas event. They were in need of 100 books to give to the children of the Holy Name's Head Start program attending the Warm and Fuzzy Christmas party on December 4.

Under the guidance of first grade teacher, Mrs. Sue DiGeronimo, along with all the other teachers, staff, and school families, 200 books were collected and given to Annette Gorris, Director of Provisionals of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland on November 8.

According to one student, "it is so nice to help other kids." Mrs. DiGeronimo said, "What better way to share the love of Jesus than to help others, especially during the holiday season. I'm not at all surprised that our families doubled the goal we had set."



# INFO NIGHT & OPEN HOUSE

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL | INDEPENDENCE



## PRESCHOOL, JR. K, and KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT / OPEN HOUSE

### Preschool, Jr. K, and Kindergarten Information Night

Thursday, January 16, 2014 • 6:30 pm

St. Basil Campus

8700 Brecksville Road • Brecksville

### Open House

Sunday, February 2, 2014

*Main Campus*

Grades 2-8

6906 Chestnut Road • Independence

11am - 12:30 pm

*St. Basil Campus*

Preschool - Grade 1

8700 Brecksville Road • Brecksville

12:30pm - 1:30 pm

Visit us at our NEW website:

[www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com](http://www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com)

LIKE us on FACEBOOK

216/524-6405

- Preschool (3 & 4 year old program)
- Jr. Kindergarten (young 5's)
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Before and After Care Program
- Christ-Centered Environment:
  - Daily Religion Classes & Weekly Mass
- Strong Academic Curriculum
- Fine Arts & Music Programs
- Computer Education (Preschool-8)
- Foreign Language (Preschool-8)
  - New - Spanish in Preschool!
- Smiles Program that connects our first graders with our seniors and other community members
- Extensive Extracurricular Activities, such as Student Council, Bowling Club, Chess Club, Jump Rope Club, Future Teachers Club, Yearbook Club, Joy Club, Science Club, Computer/Video Club, School Choir, Power of the Pen, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis K-Kids Club, Kiwanis Builders Club, Drama Club, Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Jazz Band, WSMS Morning Announcement Crew
- Athletic Opportunities
- Among the Highest Overall Iowa Test Scores in the Diocese