

Second Graders Receive First Holy Communion

Jesus Day – April 29, 2012

The second graders from the day school and PSR classes experienced Jesus Day on Sunday, April 29. Jesus Day is a special retreat for second graders designed to bring them closer to Jesus before making their First Holy Communion. The children participated in fun, age-appropriate activities which included watching *Rainbow Fish* to learn how to be a friend, making a necklace, writing a letter to Jesus, creating artwork and participating in a bread breaking ceremony. Smiles were everywhere as the students enjoyed this prayerful and fun retreat.

First Holy Communion – May 5, 2012

It was a magnificent celebration for the second graders as they received Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist on Saturday, May 5. On a lovely, sunny day, the children entered the church in pairs looking angelic in their beautiful dresses and suits.



Father Walt Jenne was the main celebrant at the morning mass. He told a story of a young boy and woman and how they found Jesus in each other, showing that one can always see God in others. Father Pete Colletti was the main celebrant at the afternoon mass. He asked the children to describe their pets, and explained that just as we nourish our beloved pets, God nourishes us. At both masses, the St. Michael School Choir sang beautifully.



All of the students participated in these very special masses. The children read, rang bells, sang, and brought up canned food items to the altar for the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry. Everyone was made to feel that this was the day the Lord had made!

A big thank you to the teachers that prepared the children for this important day: Miss Lasecki, Miss Paolucci, Miss Scott, Mrs. Nemeth, and Mrs. Grande.

Please join us in congratulating our First Communicants!



The Messenger

A Newsletter for family and friends of St. Michael School

Spring 2012



Eighth Graders Confirmed with the Holy Spirit

The eighth graders of St. Michael School and PSR students of St. Michael Parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, May 11. Bishop Roger W. Gries, OSB, presided. The students prepared for more than a year to receive this third Sacrament of Christian initiation into the Catholic Church. Father Pete Colletti and Father Walt Jenne co-celebrated the Mass. Bishop Gries questioned the candidates and preached of the importance of loving God and loving your neighbor

as yourself. A reception followed the Liturgy in Rappe Hall.

Our newly confirmed are welcomed and loved by their school and Church communities. We pray that as young Catholic adults, they will continue to grow in the love of Christ and faithfully continue their spiritual journey. Always remember to trust in God's love and rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance in your daily living. God bless you.



May Crowning

On May 9, the St. Michael School family had a beautiful May Crowning prayer service in church. The second and eighth graders walked down the aisle carrying a blue or white carnation to present to Mary. They lead the students, staff, parents, and parishioners in the Rosary and many beautiful essays written about Mary by the eighth graders were read. The service was a perfect way to honor Mary, our Blessed Virgin Mother, during her special month.



A Look Ahead...

June

- 1 Pre-4 Last Day:
last day for hot lunch
- 4 Kdg. Extravaganza
Jr. Kdg. Last Day
- 5 Kdg. Picnic
Last day - 8th Grade -
dismissal 11:00 am
Graduation - 7:00 pm
Last School Mass
Installation of Student
Council Officers
- 6 Market Day Pick Up
- 7 Last Day of school Grs. 1-7
School Office closes at
11:30 am and will reopen on
June 11th 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- 21 School Office closes at
11:00 am for summer break

August

- 8 School Office opens
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Week of August 13 -
Meet the Teacher
More information to follow
- 22 Grs. 1-8 - first day of school
- 24 Kdg. first full day of school
Welcome Tea
- 27 Jr. Kdg. first day of school

September

- 4 Pre-3 first day of school
- 5 Pre-4 first day of school

St. Michael School Mission Statement

Achieve in Life
Believe in Christ
Care for Others



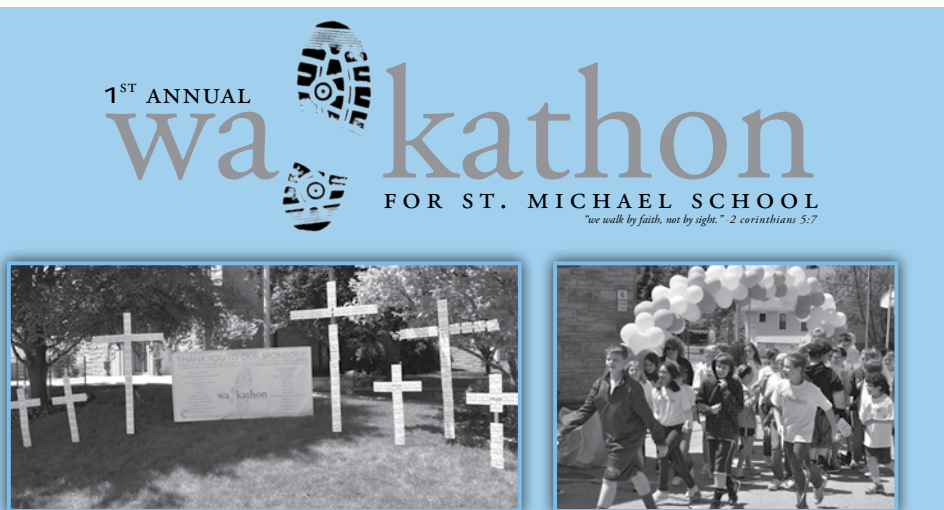
Miss Margaret Campisi,
Principal

Dear Friends of St. Michael School,

With only a few days of school left, I look over the past school year and realize how very blessed we are as a school and as a community. I have seen us come together in fun times and in times of struggles. With the help of our Lord, we have made it through another great school year. We hope you enjoy the final issue of the *Messenger* newsletter for this school year. It is just a snippet of what exciting, educational, and spiritual opportunities have been happening at St. Michael School. I hope you enjoy the "experience" of reading about us.

On behalf of St. Michael School students, faculty, staff, and administration, I would like to thank you for all of your support and prayers. We had a great year and look forward to the new school year. Have a safe, fun-filled summer! See you in August!

God's Peace and Blessings,
Mrs. Margaret Campisi
Principal



God is so good! We had a beautiful sunny day for our Walkathon on Thursday, May 10. If you were anywhere near the Parish & School grounds that afternoon, you heard the excited voices of our students laughing and singing as they walked three miles in one hour to fulfill our Walkathon commitment. The community support was overwhelming as folks honked their horns, cheered us on from their porches, and even displayed signs on their front lawns showing their support.

Thanks to the student body, our parents, our volunteers and the community, we did it! We were able to reach our financial goal with help from our PTU and will be installing air conditioning on the first floor of our school building! A special thank you to our Gold Angel Sponsors and to the parishioners of St. Michael and St. Basil Churches. You touched our hearts with your generosity. We could never have accomplished this without you!

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What's New @ the St. Basil Campus?

Preschool The beginning of April brought about the celebration of Easter. All the preschool children and their parents enjoyed the celebration during Holy Week. Having Jesus in our heads, our hearts and our whole bodies, helps to keep Jesus close to us in our daily lives. During the remainder of the month, the children were busy learning activities about the alphabet, shapes, their five senses, and the creation and preparation of the annual Mother's Day Celebration. The students enjoyed joining with Jr. Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1 for shared learning activities about Jesus and his teachings. They also welcomed parents to the Volunteer Mass and Social. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful volunteers at St. Michael School, St. Basil Campus. The month of May was so busy it seemed to come and go with one breath! The classes experienced a fantastic celebration with the preschool moms for Mother's Day and honored Mary, the Mother of God, with our annual May Crowning. The 4-year-old students enjoyed the walk through the MetroParks as they pretended to be little chickadees on The Chickadee Trail. The 4-year-old students also shared a special Father's Day Celebration along with Junior Kindergarten. The 4-year-olds were surprised and excited when they got the opportunity to shoot rockets into outer space that were designed by Mr. Niezgoda. Both the 3-and 4-year-old classes had their end of the year celebrations when both the morning and afternoon families came together to socialize for their last school function of the 2011-2012 school year.



Junior Kindergarten The students have blossomed into Kindergarten! Throughout the 2011-2012 school year, the students grew spiritually, cognitively, socially and emotionally. Together, they will celebrate their accomplishments and their appreciation of the gifts GOD gave them at the End of the Year Celebration on June 1. Though their journey as Jr. Kindergarten ended, our friendships and love for GOD will continue to grow.

Kindergarten During April, each Kindergarten class performed the play "The Glum Princess" to the delight of the parents in the audience. Grandparents' Day began with Mass and refreshments and ended with everyone touring and sharing their work throughout the building. A beautiful, spiritual May Crowning with many parents in attendance was observed on the first Friday in May. Parents have been very helpful with several activities: painting Zoo t-shirts; tracing, painting, and stuffing large pictures of the SuperKids; and the visit from the

Brecksville librarian who motivated the children to read during the summer by explaining the summer reading program. After working very hard during the second semester on their sight words, the children earned a "real ice cream" treat. The number of toppings was determined by the amount of words each child mastered. The Kindergarten year was capped off with our SuperKids End-of-the-Year Extravaganza. The children dressed up as a SuperKid, sang songs and recited poems. The room parents organized a wonderful end of the year picnic at Liberty Playground in Independence.

First grade Both first grade classes had the opportunity to go to East Asia in March through the "Flat Stanley" program. Each student made a "Flat" person to represent him or herself. They were actually taken on a 3-week trip that included Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Singapore. Their trip guide sent back pictures of their experiences via email. When their "Flat" person returned to the United States, each



child received their "Flat" person back along with individual snapshots including one with the Great Wall of China. They also received a pencil from Korea! Miss Amanda Scott, an education major from Baldwin-Wallace College, spent most of the fourth quarter with first grade class. The children loved having her in the classroom! Miss Scott got lots of practice teaching first graders. Also, students practiced their math facts daily and finished the year practicing double-digit addition and subtraction. In Science, students studied the earth and celebrated Earth Day by making pinwheels out of recycled paper. They had fun testing the pinwheels outside. They also made volcanoes in a cup. They tested their hypothesis to see what material could be used to make the largest bubble. In Language Arts, they loved playing Scrabble as a way to increase our vocabulary. They learned how to use graphic organizers in their creative writing. Also, they found time to practice oral reading. They celebrated the month of May with special devotions to Mary.

What's New

@ the Main Campus?

Second grade The second grade spent much of April preparing for First Holy Communion. Several of the parents helped the children create their very own First Communion Banner. We are very thankful for all the hard work that went into these beautiful banners. Part of Jesus Day, on April 29, was spent practicing for First Communion. The day was a spiritual celebration that included crafts, stories, a video, meditation and Bread Ceremony. The First Communicants were very excited to share this day with St. Michael's PSR students. All of this excitement culminated with the second graders receiving the Holy Eucharist on May 5. Both masses were beautiful. Many of the children participated in the readings, offertory, and playing the bells. All the children brought food for the poor to the altar during the offertory. It was truly a spiritual and joyful day. The second grade would also like to thank all of the St. Michael students who took the time to make cards for them. They truly enjoyed reading each and every one!

Third grade The third graders have been very busy these past few months. They recently completed memorization of their multiplication facts and celebrated at the end with ice-cream sundaes. It was a wonderful way to end their learning! Now they are working on memorizing division facts. They also wrapped up their units in Science and Social Studies. In Science, they finished work on the solar system and space. The students are currently working on a Power Point presentation on a planet. In Social Studies, they finished up their unit on Settlers of the West and Immigrants from around the world. The students completed a family history project detailing facts about their family's history and family members who immigrated to the United States. They also did a lot of writing. They took the Writing Proficiency Test in early April and put their writing skills to work in class with short stories, paragraphs, and poetry. In Religion, they were very busy learning more about Jesus and what it means to be a Catholic Christian. They talked about the parables of Jesus, the miracles He performed, and how the Kingdom of God grows through us by what we do. The students wrote about one of the miracles that Jesus performed and had an opportunity to put their typing skills to work in typing their stories as a paragraph.

Fourth grade The last two months of school have been very busy for the fourth graders. They have written and presented their own puppet plays based on the Ten Commandments. They were also doing several other presentations for their classmates and other classes in the school. April was poetry month so the fourth grade students memorized and recited poems for each other. They also presented their poems for the second, third, and fifth graders. The fourth grade's final field trip of the year was a visit to the Natural History Museum. The program was a basic review of Ohio History from about 12,000 years ago until the 1700's. After reviewing grammar all year, the fourth grade was excited to end with Biography Book Reports

and posters. Students were able to pick a person of their choice who has made a positive contribution to society. Their posters looked great hanging in the hallway. Their final Science unit was Weather and they learned about cold and warm fronts, barometric pressure, and clouds. They also made windsocks to show wind speed. They can't wait to test their weather knowledge by enjoying this summer's sunny weather!

Fifth grade Fifth graders have been busy the last quarter of the year. In Math, the students finished an extensive study of fractions and decimals. Both classes read *Number the Stars*. This historical fiction novel helped the children understand the effect of the German occupation on the people of Denmark. In Science, the children finished a unit on energy and moved into the study of rocks and the rock cycle. Both fifth grades benefited from a field trip to the Rocky River Nature Center in late April. They enjoyed seeing their year of learning "come alive" with the naturalists guiding them through a study of the river and nearby rocks, as well as food chains native to our area.

Sixth grade Mrs. Steffas' sixth grade class is reading the *Thief Lord* and exploring Italy through this novel. They are also working on a Career Research Project in English. Mrs. Turk's class is reading the book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. It's a wonderful book full of imagination, friendship, and the love a child has for his parents. They also worked on their Poetry Collection and Saint Summaries. Both sixth grade classes continued to explore the Old Testament in Religion class, learned about Africa & Asia in Social Studies, and building their vocabulary and spelling skills.

Seventh and Eighth grades Seventh grade Science students learned the steps of setting up a good lab report in preparation for next year's science fair. They also practiced with several reports in the course of their unit on energy as well as their final chemistry unit. Eighth grade Science students completed their genetics unit with a series of debates on bioethical questions. Their final unit was on motion and forces. The seventh and eighth graders did a speech unit in class. The seventh grade did a persuasive speech and the eighth grade did an informative speech. They did research and PowerPoint slides in computer class in conjunction with this assignment. The seventh grade completed the book, *Hatchet*, and the eighth grade selected from several books, one of which was *Chew on This*.

PTU News

Thanks to the efforts of our amazing St. Michael families, the PTU has had another great semester! In January, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with treats for the students and a fun-filled afternoon of bowling. We provided doughnuts after mass at St. Michael's, raised funds with amazing KidStuff Coupon books (raising over \$1200 for our Accelerated Reader Program upgrades), and supplied next year's Schoolkidz kits! May brings 8th

Grade Scholarships, Muffins for Mom and Donuts for Dad. We have sponsored field trips and helped with the air conditioning campaign. The list goes on, all made possible by the wonderful support of all our families and friends. May 9th was our General Meeting - what a success that was! We are already preparing for the 2012-2013 School Year and we look forward to all it will bring.

Extracurricular Activities News

Music The SMS Choir has been working hard and singing beautifully every Tuesday morning at the school Masses. They also did an awesome job on the National Day of Prayer.

Builders Club Mrs. Kehl, Physical Education teacher and Builders Club moderator, worked very hard with the organization on many accomplishments this year. Saint Michael students participated in "Jump Rope For Heart" and had a great time jumping rope and playing basketball during "Hoops for Heart". Students competed in jump rope contests, and basketball knockout contests. Parent volunteers helped twirl ropes, cheer on students and sent in healthy snacks. During the past month students have raised money for the American Heart Association. Students who raised \$35 or more enjoyed an ice cream social in April and students who raised \$5 or more received thank you gifts from the American Heart Association in May. Also, St. Michael School raised \$3,010 for the American Heart Association. The top three collectors this year were: Annmarie Canzoni in K-2 raised \$120,

Kate Luciano 4-109 raised \$180, and the TOP Collector Alex Byers 7-214 raised \$705.

The Builders Club, Jump Rope Club, Computer Club and Adam Sowers participated in a 5-minute DVD on how to be a HEART HERO. The eighth grade Builders Club members created a skit. The Jump Rope Club performed various jump rope routines. Adam Sowers and his mom shared and explained Adam's heart condition. Robert Artrip, Gregory Paparizos and Andrew Seifert from the Computer Club videotaped and edited the DVD. Special recognition goes to Gregory Paparizos who determined the final editing of the DVD. It was a great team effort from everyone involved.

The Builders Club sponsored a collection for the March of Dimes. During March, Mrs. Carter put baby bottles on the lunch tables and had students put their extra change in the bottles. A grand total of \$35 was collected. The Builders Club will match their gift and will be sending \$70 to the March of Dimes.

Rosetta Stone/Spanish Our Rosetta Stone fifth grade students had an awesome experience communicating in Spanish with school children in Mexico via Skype. St. Michael students asked questions in Spanish and received responses in English and the students in Mexico asked questions in English and our students responded in Spanish. Both school students loved the experience and were very successful in communicating with each other.



Good Luck and Best Wishes to the Class of 2012!

St. Michael School is proud to congratulate its graduating eighth graders as they move on to their chosen high schools this fall.
We will miss you and we wish you much success in high school and beyond!



Nicholas Anderle
Padua Franciscan H.S.
Honors Scholarship



Kailey Baca
Trinity H.S.



Elizabeth Meler
Magnificat H.S.
Marian Scholarship



Elena Paporizos
Independence H.S.



Christopher Rose
Trinity H.S.



Michael Boldt
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Nicholas Mitchell
St. Ignatius H.S.



Jonathan Paravano
Georgetown Preparatory School
North Bethesda, MD



Katherine Schoen
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Gianna DiGeronimo
Padua Franciscan H.S.
Honors Scholarship



Tina Eggers
Brecksville-Broadview Heights H.S.



Dennis Grencewicz
Gilmour Academy
Academic Leadership Scholarship



Michael Indriolo
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Marisa Jurczyk
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Nathan Kuharich
Brecksville-Broadview Heights H.S.



Lauren Andrzejewski
Beaumont H.S.



Rebecca Kula
Independence H.S.



Molly Onders
Walsh Jesuit H.S.
Campion Society Honors Program



Chloe Ochocki
Padua Franciscan H.S.
Placement Test & Honors Scholarship



Michael Piekarczyk
Trinity H.S.



Valerie Price
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Grace Zuchowski
Trinity H.S.



John Veres
Padua Franciscan H.S.



Marina Ward
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Riley Willkomm
St. Ignatius H.S.



Brock Yoho
St. Ignatius H.S.
Ignatian Scholar



Eleanor Stuczynski
Walsh Jesuit H.S.



Kalie Stanley
Padua Franciscan H.S.



Alyssa Spitznagel
Walsh Jesuit H.S.