

St. John's News

Issue No. 1

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After School's Special

By Dean Kightlinger

About 88 students have participated in St. John's two-year-old after school programs this year.

Mrs. Anger wrote a grant last year for two years to get the aftercare. Ms. Schutte said, "The reason that we did this is so that the children will do something different every day."

The classes and grades that can do the programs at aftercare are as follows:

- Martial Arts, all ages
- Abra – Kid – Abra Magic, kindergarten to fifth grade
- Sculpture Safari, kindergarten to third grade
- Story Teller (Blake Travis), pre kindergarten to eighth grade
- Dancing, kindergarten to eighth grade
- Cooking, second grade to eighth grade
- Amazing Balloons, kindergarten to fifth grade
- African Rhythms, fourth grade to eighth grade.

Ms. Schuette said, "You need to be registered at aftercare to do the programs and go to aftercare. It depends on a person's needs if they should go to aftercare."

Ms. Schuette said her favorite program is dancing because she likes watching children dance. Ms. Wideman said she likes all of them. Cassie Kightlinger said she also likes all of them. Jacob Kightlinger said he likes cooking.

Jacob Kightlinger said, "I do the activities. I play the games, I do puzzles and I have snack at aftercare."

Cassie Kightlinger said, "I do homework, I play games, I do most of the activities, I talk, I sit, I stand and I breathe at aftercare."

Ms. Schuette keeps attendance of the students, teaches, does the billing, keeps the programs in order, makes sure all of the students are safe, and makes sure they have what we need.

Ms. Wideman said, "I care for the children, get them to their classes, and make sure they are safe."

Cassie and Jacob Kightlinger both say they

go to aftercare because it is fun.

Ms. Wideman said, "I do aftercare because I get paid extra, and I get to learn things by watching the classes."

Ms. Schutte said, "I help in the aftercare programs and aftercare because I like kids."

Ms. Wideman and Ms. Schuette both think that most people like the programs.



Bad Weather Hurts Open House

By Nafisa Bangura

Saint John the Baptist Elementary School participated in the City Catholic Schools open house on January 25, 2009.

Student Council raised money for donuts for the newcomers and the alumnus. These donuts were given out after the 11am mass on that day.

This open house was for the newcomers and the alumnus to have a chance to participate in the activities, such as meeting the teachers and learning more about the school. They were to meet the teachers and other faculty members.

The ambassadors were a big help to the school. They came in and showed the visitors where everything was.

"Because of the bad weather, the open house was not successful," said Mrs. Anger. Because of the bad weather, not too many people had attended. Only about 30 people attended the open house.

Even with this low amount of people that came, "the open house was a great way to advertise Saint John the Baptist," said Mrs. Anger.

"Saint John the Baptist will definitely be having another open house next year," said Mrs. Anger.

Growing Closer to the Holy Spirit

By Jessica Harrelston

The eighth-grade class of St. John the Baptist was Confirmed on March 25, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Church. They were Confirmed because they want to grow closer to the Holy Spirit.

They prepared by doing service projects, going to the soup kitchen, making sandwiches for Larry Rice, helping out at school, doing reports on their saint, writing a letter to Bishop Hermann, doing activities with sponsors, and having Confirmation Classes at least once a week.

"I liked the soup kitchen the best," said Jessica Noonan.

Ms. Nelson says that the purpose of service projects is to be a good citizen and hopefully continue the behavior. Ms. Nelson also hopes that the eighth graders will grow closer to the Holy Spirit during this time.

"Let the Children Come to Me"

By Allison Cassaday

St. John's eighth grade spent the weekend at a Confirmation retreat called Luke 18 on January 9-11.

Eighth-grade classes from all different schools have these retreats in preparation for receiving the Holy Spirit through Confirmation.

"[The retreat] was for us to get away and become closer to God and each other," said eighth-grader Brian Zielinski.

The retreat took place at school during the day. Each night, groups of students would go to their sleep houses for the evening. Sleep houses were the homes of parishioners who volunteered to give the class a place to sleep. Many students said that this was their favorite part of the whole retreat.

During the hours spent at school, the eighth-grade played games involving teamwork, sang songs, danced, and had different personal talks about their faith.

The weekend was organized by Mr. and Mrs. Weingart and some high school and college students who lead the retreat, or disciples. The disciples ran many retreats like this all over St. Louis, but this was Mr. and Mrs. Weingart's first time doing this.

When asked if they would ever do this again, Mr. Weingart said, "Yeah...maybe in like six years! Now we know how much hard work it takes. We'd rather run a sleep house in the years to come."

The eighth-grade class really enjoyed the retreat. It served its purposed. "I learned more about the people in my class and felt closer to God," said Liz Berkley.

"Sandwiches for Larry"

By Ben Vo

Nine students from the eighth-grade made sandwiches for Larry Rice. The eighth-grade made sandwiches two times. The first time they made 213 sandwiches. The second time they made 221 sandwiches. They made the sandwiches on February 3, 2009.

The nine students and Ms. Nelson thought it was fun.

A student, Brendan Beerkircher, said, "I had a great time. I hope the other students enjoyed it, too."

The eighth grade had to do service hours in order to get confirmed.

Larry Rice appreciated the students making the sandwiches. It took about thirty minutes to make the sandwiches. The students paid for the sandwiches by holding two dress down days, the and selling candy grams.

Valentine's Day Candy Grams

By Curtis Woods

Maddie Beckenholdt and Ms. Nelson decided to sell candy grams during lunch February fourth to the tenth to raise money to buy sandwiches. The sandwiches were made by the eighth grade for the homeless as a service project for Confirmation.

Maddie and a different group of volunteers each day went to the lunch room and sold candy grams. On the twelfth, the eighth graders handed out the candy grams to the children. After all of this, they had raised \$187.35.

Maddie said, "No, I thought our profits would have been higher."

Ms. Nelson didn't even think they would have raised that much money.

BJC program **By Richie Wayne**

The BJC Program was for students in grades three to eight. Mrs. Anger started organizing the program with the BJC people in September because they wanted to work on preventing bullying in the school.

The eight grade read worksheets to see who was more wrong and who was more right. They talked about being afraid to do something, and talked about drugs that aren't prescribed by a doctor.

Ben Collins said, "I didn't like it because it was long and boring."

The sixth grade talked about different ways of speaking, and drew pictures of people.

Cathy Thu said, "I didn't like it because the activities weren't fun and it was boring. "I liked drawing the people most."

The Best Camp Ever **By Bret Ralo**

The eighth grade went to Camp Sherwood on a trip. Mrs. Anger and Ms. Nelson went on the trip with them. Mrs. Anger said "The eight grade had a wonderful time at camp".

The eight grade class was learning more about themselves during this trip. They learned more about leadership skills and how to work with one another. During this, the counselors were teaching the eighth grade that they need to grow up and stop acting like kids and that they need to grow up and be the leaders of the school they are at.

After talking to the eighth grade, they went to the Tango Tower.

Mrs. Anger said that the eighth grade had fun climbing the Tower.

"I took pictures of the eighth grade during the trip when they were climbing or doing other active things," she said.

A counselor named Greg thought of more ways to teach the eighth grade something new. He and the other counselors set up a game for the eighth grade on the last day they had at the camp.

They set up a game that requires someone to list for someone else what they needed to make

their mystery monsters. They had no clue what it was going to be but they had to try.

Spell Your Way Into Fun **By Dylan Chrum**

Andrew Nowak won the spelling bee during Catholic Schools Week. Andrew said, "I studied for five minutes and then got tested."

He studies by remembering the words and then getting tested by someone. He said he would do it again because it's fun.

Ms. Wideman was the person who set up the spelling bee with Mrs. Haze and Mrs. Theobald. Ms. Wideman said she would do it again because it is fun to say the words.

The two last people in the spelling bee were Michelle Humphrey and Andrew Nowak. Andrew won the spelling bee when Michelle Humphrey spelled a word wrong and Andrew spelled it right. Andrew won a trophy.

Reach for the Gold **By Elizabeth Berkley**

Did you ever want to see if you had the guts, and the energy to run the Olympics? Three people were put up to the challenge, Tyler Wagoner, Alison Cassaday, and Mrs. Reed. The Primary Olympics took place in the playground, on September 16.

There were a lot of countries in the Primary Olympics, Mrs. Reed said: Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, France, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Russia, Ukraine, U.S.A, and Vietnam.

"The eighth graders told us when to go to each event," said Tyler.

Alison said the eighth graders were in charge and also Mrs. Reed.

There are a lot of things to do in the Olympics. Tyler said that he had to run a lot, and Alison said that the eighth graders had to get the kids to the right event, and also cheer them on.

The Olympics is a tiring sport. "To me, I get tired, and it is really hard to do some of the stuff", said Tyler.

Alison said, "I have more respect for people who do this".

So do you still think you have the guts and energy to be in the Olympics?

Student Council

By Jessica Noonan

Student Council has been helping Saint John the Baptist School year-round by having fund-raisers to earn money for the school.

Some things Stuco has done include selling candy grams for Valentine's Day, selling Santa Claus hats for Christmas, and having a school trivia game for Catholic Schools Week.

The most recent fund-raiser was selling Mardi Gras beads for the annual Saint John the Baptist Mardi Gras parade.

The officers of Stuco are: Andy Burke, seventh grade, Cherri Nguyen, eighth grade, and Kelsie Green, seventh grade. They were elected because the student voted for them.

Stuco president Thao Nguyen, eighth grade, said, "Stuco won't be as good as this year next year."

Mrs. Anger said, "Stuco has provided leadership and good charity ideas."

The Block Parade

By Justin Fletcher

The students and teachers at St. John the Baptist went on a Mardi Gras Parade. They went east on Delor, south on Auxaldin, west on Walsh, and north on Newport on February 24, 2009.

Dylan Chrums thinks Mardi Gras is just a time to be with friends and family. Ms. Nelson thinks Mardi Gras is just for fun.

Some of the things they did on Mardi Gras was they had a parade at 1:45, followed by treats then they went to a prayer service and buried the Halleluiah.

Ms. Nelson thinks the purpose of Mardi Gras is to get rid of all the fats for Lent. They went all over just throwing beads to people for Mardi Gras, just trying to spread the Mardi Gras spirit.

Fifth-Grade Teacher Wins Grant

By Brian Zielinski

Miss Turney, the fifth-grade teacher, won a grant, and used it to take her class on seven trips. These field trips were at historic sites, Forest Park, and a maple syrup maker.

"We learned how maple syrup is made and how animals and other wildlife are important," said Ivy Beckenholdt.

"These field trips made learning less boring and a lot more fun," said Miss Turney. She also said, "The kids paid better attention, and made it easier to learn."

The fifth grade was able to see trees being tapped, and eagles, and to taste maple syrup. This was funded by the Christa McAuliffe grant.

"I felt excited, and I was interested to see what the exhibits would be like," said Miss Turney.

These field trips happened over the course of a few months. The kids also played Jeopardy and saw the Chain of Rocks Bridge.



Eagle Watching

By Casey Rapp

The fifth grade went on a bald eagle field trip, with their teacher, Miss Turney, to see the eagles in their natural habitats at The Chain of Rocks Bridge on January 16, 2009.

They watched the eagles through a telescope and from outside of the tent. On this field trip, "It was very cold, below freezing, and everyone had to dress warm," said Miss Turney.

Sean McCormick said, "the birds travel further into the States because all the northern rivers are frozen." He also said, "the most fun thing was when we played trivia."

Miss Turney and Sean both said they would like to go on this trip again. Miss Turney said she hoped that the students would appreciate natural resources more.

Sixth-grade's Best Field Trip

By Katie Moore

The sixth-grade class, Mrs.Theobald, Ms.Judge, and three lucky parents went to Busch Stadium on February 6, 2009. The kids were there for a program called CAP (Cardinals Academic Program).

There, they took three 90-minute classes. One was "Sandlot Science," a science experiment class, "Diamond Diversity," a social studies class, and last "That's a Winner," a character education class.

"This was a good program for the kids because they learned school-related things in a different context, and many of the students haven't seen the stadium before," Mrs.Theobald said about the field trip.

After all the classes were over; the class got to take a tour of the Busch Stadium. They saw the dugout, the press box, the World Series trophy, and a few other places.

"Leaving was the worst part of the field trip," Ms.Judge explained.

All the kids really seemed to like it. Jessica Guntli and Sarah Winterbauer, two of the sixth-graders who went to the field trip, said, "It was really fun and cool, and we got out of school."

A lot of the kids and the teachers said it was the best field trip ever.



Maple Syrup

By Jordan Champion

Mrs. Knight's fourth-grade class went to Rockwoods Reservation on Feb.17 to learn how to make maple syrup. The Missouri Department of Conservation offers the field trip to any fourth-grade class in the area.

The students learned how to tap trees for

their sap. The students got to tap trees for the sap also.

They saw a demonstration on how to cook the sap to turn it into maple syrup. The way to cook it is to heat the sap then boil it. They didn't get to make any themselves because the process takes a long time. The fourth-graders did get to taste the sap and syrup.

"The sap tasted like sugar water," said fourth-grader Gabby Ruggeri, "and the syrup tasted sweet."

"We were studying photosynthesis and trees in class," said Mrs. Knight.

The students got to hike through the woods. Mrs. Knight said it was a good experience because the students were outside.

Mrs. Knight said, "It gives the students an opportunity to learn about there natural environment."

Understanding St. Louis

By Will Shriver

Mrs. Boehne, Mrs. Theobald, Mrs. Laury, seventh grade and eight grade of St. John the Baptist went to the Forest Park History Museum.

They looked at exhibits and wrote answers to the questions which they were given. They went on Jan 15, 2009. They went to learn black and white issues in St. Louis. The way they saw both of the exhibits is that they split up among two groups one group went into one exhibit and the other a different exhibit.

They rode in two separate buses. They spent two hours there before returning back to school before lunch.

Mrs. Boehne said it was not what she thought it was going to be.

"I didn't think it was better than what I thought it was going to be," she said. "They didn't tell us about Elijah Lovejoy, and it was only a one man play. "

She did say, "I would go back for the program she did last year not this year, and I hope the students learned a lot about black and white issues in St. Louis."

The New Priest in Town

By Kyle Bottchen

"I love the spirit, the diversity, and all the people at this school," said Fr. Rich said, who joined St. John the Baptist over the summer.

Before St. John the Baptist, he came from a parish called St. David's in Arnold. He was asked by the bishop to come to St. John the Baptist to fill Fr. Rice's role.

He said a couple things about how he was influenced to become a priest, "My home parishioners there."

"My favorite part of Mass is the Eucharist because I get to see all the people there. "My first Mass I celebrated was on January 17, 1922.

Fr. Rich also has a couple of role models, and He said, "Fr. Mogelnicki, Jimdane, John Barnel, and Jim Marshall."

He also said that he liked going to sporting events and walk around the city when he is not doing his job.

"One of the best things about being a priest is filling peoples' needs and meeting new people," he said.

New Teacher Assistant

By Dakota Diderrich

There has been a new teacher's assistant at St. John's this year. Her name is Miss Brannan, and she helps Miss Hercules in the Learning Center.

"I am in my last semester of college, so I'm not a teacher yet," said Miss Brannan. Miss Brannan went to high school at St. John the Baptist and college at Fontbonne University.

This is also a first for Miss Hercules.

"She teaches class and helps out with other stuff. She is good at teaching, so I can sit back and observe," said Miss Hercules.

Miss Brannan likes working with children. She thinks they're fun. "I also have four brothers and sisters," said Miss Brannan.

For fun, Miss Brannan likes to go to the movies, hang out with family and friends, and play the piano. She lives in Affton.

A New Teacher to Sing the ABC's

By Madeline Beckenholdt

Ms. Sue Nickrent is a new preschool teacher at St. John the Baptist this year in the primary building. She was a teacher aid at St. Pius for 12 years. Mrs. Anger needed someone to replace Ms. Pat Dibble for the four-year-olds.

Ms. Sue's favorite part of being a teacher is, "I love seeing someone doing something they never could before."

Mrs. Anger thinks, "She is very organized, creative, keeps kids on task, and provides a structured program for the kids. She was also highly recommended by the teachers and principal at St. Pius."

Her favorite food is chocolate. She loves kids, went to beauty school, and is from St. Louis. What she likes best about teaching at St. John's is the family atmosphere.

Mrs. Anger believes Ms. Sue is a great addition to the team at St. John the Baptist.

Mrs. Werner Teaches At SJB

By Peter Weingart

Mrs. Werner is one of the newest members of the St. John the Baptist Elementary School faculty. She started her first day of school on August 21, 2008, and was excited to meet some new people.

Over the summer she likes to cook, walk, read and travel with friends and family. After Ms. Elm retired, the school needed someone new to teach the learning center.

Mrs. Werner had been a librarian and taught at St. Gabriel's for three years. She's taught almost every other grade but likes the class she teaches now. She said, "I wanted to be a teacher because I thought I would be good at it and enjoy it".

The students also enjoy being taught by her. Two students, Kahlil Crowel and Eligah King, said this, "We like her because she gives us suckers and we can play and make puppets."

They also said, "We like her because she's beautiful and pretty and lets us read books."

Right now her class is studying the planets, and they hope to make a model of them.

To students struggling in school she said, "keep trying don't get discouraged, and to be your own advocate."

Janitor for Christ

By Michael Reese

Mr. O, St. John's new janitor, has been a janitor for 13 years. He is a very spiritual person and says "God lead me," to St. Johns.

His old parish downsized, and that put his job at jeopardy. Then this position opened up.

He works eight hours a day, more if needed, and gets "one break in the morning and a lunch period," The school supplies the tools and they order in the cleaning supplies.

He says, "I feel God chose me to be a janitor," and spoke to him. When he was at his old church, he saw a janitor job opening in a pamphlet and his wife said, "There goes your dream job."

That happened two other times in a two- to three-month distance. Each time, he felt like God was calling him.

Since he works at the Archdiocese, he is not part of a union because the custodian part of the Archdiocese isn't union. His first job was at a supermarket as a bagger at age sixteen, but he has worked in vending (candy, soda machines, etc.) most of his life.

He loves it here at St. John the Baptist. He says, "Father Rich and Mrs. Anger are great to work for. The teachers are wonderful, and the students are terrific."

The nastiest thing he's ever done in his career is clean up a sixth grader's vomit at his old school "It was the biggest thing I've ever seen," he says laughing.

The hardest thing he's ever done here is shovel snow.

He got the name "Mr. O" from a seventh grader named Samantha. His real last name is Odenthal, but when she asked, "Do you care if we call you Mr. O?" He couldn't say no.

The principle, Mrs. Anger, met him at a self-study team (a school evaluation) and Father Rich knew him from St. David's.

Mrs. Anger likes that, "He gets here at 4:00 in the morning he's a hard worker, likes kids, and very conscious about his job."

She also says he puts a little bible quote fill-in on the seventh-grade board and is a good witness to his faith and example for his student.

Mr. O says, "Thank you to everyone for keeping their rooms as clean as they do." He appreciates it.

Mrs. Reed's New Assistant

By Brendan Beerkircher

Sr. Nancy is at St. John the Baptist, this year, and is helping Mrs. Reed out. She helps Mrs. Reed in teaching some of the first graders.

She felt the calling to be a nun at the age of fourteen. She belongs to the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She likes being a nun and praying. She has been a nun for forty-five years.

Her hobbies include hiking, bird-watching, and reading good books.

"I like working at St. John the Baptist because I like bonding with everybody," Sr. Nancy said.

She went to grade school St. Joseph in Cobden, IL. She went to high school at Notre Dame in St. Louis. She went to college at Notre Dame in St. Louis. She got her master's degree at The University Of Missouri.



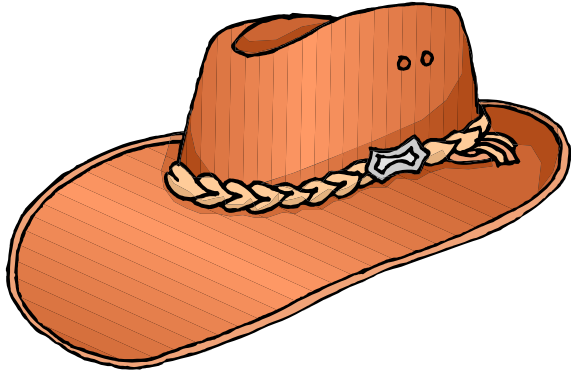
2x7=Sprinkles

By Ethan Stephens

The third grade had an ice cream party in the primary building. They earned the party because they were learning the multiplication tables and they passed the test.

There were 11 tests and for each one they passed they got something added to their sundae. This not the first time that they have had this party. They said that the party was a big success.

Miss Whitley said, "I think all the kids had fun. That's what it looked like." Do not worry their will be a party next year!



Crazy Fun Hats

By Michelle Humphrey

Hat Day was held on February 4, 2009, for Accelerated Reading for students kindergarten through third grade who met their goals. It was held at the primary building at St. John's.

The kindergarten through third graders read A.R. so they could read and like to read and take tests. The teachers put up stickers or an ice cream scoop for each test or book read. The teachers decided together on what activity they would do for each goal set.

Mary Becker, a first grader, was happy that she could wear her pink pig hat has wings that flap when you pull a string.

The hats could be worn inside, at lunch, and at special classes.

Laura Marks, a second grader, said that a third grader named Anthony wore a hat that was black on one side and white on the other. Kiereyon Davis wore a hat with a shark on it.

The classes read together. Laura Marks enjoyed hat day because she got to see some crazy hats. Most of the kids would take their tests together or older kids take tests on the an A.R. computer. Most classes read together or little or older kids separate.

Mrs. Reed said, "The little kids did not have a set goal for A.R."

St. John's Elects Nemo

By Kelsey Klein

The kids of St. John the Baptist had their own

election on October 20, 2008.

Mrs. Boehne, the seventh-grade teacher, organized everything. Mrs. Boehne said she did this so the kids would see what voting is like. She also did this for FUN.

Students were voting on a movie rather than voting for president. The winner was "Finding Nemo."

"Who doesn't like a good old Disney movie?" Mrs. Boehne said.

Students could pick either people or paws to vote for. Then they picked the movie they wanted to win, and then turned in the ballot.

Dameon Willis, a third grader, said he loved that "Finding Nemo" was picked. He said the election was fun and he wants to do this again.

The movie was delayed on inauguration but was rescheduled for January 27, 2009

"I loved the popcorn," Dameon said.

St. John's Pursues Trivia

By Sandi Bui

Everyone at St. John the Baptist, participated in trivia during Catholic Schools Week at school.

One of the teachers, Ms. Judge, who made up most of the questions said, "It was a fun activity for the whole school."

She also said she made up most of the questions with Ms. Hercules. She was very happy with trivia and enjoyed it "very much".

Alex Magee was on the winning team. "It was very satisfying," he said. Winners were able to get dress down passes as their prize.

Younger students, like Joe Kirkpatrick, a first grader, thought the category "Obama Barrack" was hard. Another first grader, Tyler Tunell, thought "Name That Tune" was difficult.

Others, like Thao Nguyen, an eight grader, thought the animal category, "was easy to answer. They weren't really hard, except maybe a little."

Jason Duong, one of Joe's and Tyler's classmates, said, "It was fun. I hope we have it again."

The BIG Move

By **Thao Nguyen**

Parents of the students at St. John the Baptist are helping with the moving and cleaning of SJB high school.

How long will it take to clean the high school? "About four months," Mrs. Anger said.

They decided to move because it was more convenient with the gym and cafeteria. Mrs. Anger and Mrs. Wenker think the kids of St. John will like the move.

Mrs. Anger said she decided to move to the high school, "after the building report came in."

When they heard about this news, Mrs. Wenker was happy and Mrs. Anger knew it would be a lot of work.

"It's shows that we are growing," Mrs. Anger said.

Her favorite song was "Sing We Now of Christmas." She liked seeing the kids sing and dance. She thought the skinny Santa was the funniest. Mrs. Zona's favorite part was the sing alongs.

The most frustrating part was getting the tarp down. She was helped by a few girls help who helped her put up the decorations. All the decorations came from last years program.



The Christmas Program

By **Ben Collins**

The students at St. Johns the Baptist performed a Christmas program on Dec. 17 in the gym.

Mrs. Laury's favorite song was "Gloria." She liked seeing the kids play more instruments. She found her songs on the radio and on CDs. The hardest part was figuring what song to do for each class. The most frustrating part was getting the kids to be quite.

The idea for the program came from listening to different songs. It took three months to put the program together.

She was helped by all the students and teachers, especially Mrs. Zona, who helped with the decorations.