

Saint Augustine of Canterbury School

Special Edition
December/January
2014/2015



“Unto Us A Child Is Given”

*His names will be: Wonderful Counselor and
Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace*

Is: 9: 2-4

NJHS AND STUDENT COUNCIL SHARE CHRISTMAS JOY



The National Junior Honor Society and Student Council Members got together and planned a way to share Christmas Joy.

They got together with their moderators and decided to meet after school to make Christmas decorations for the Cranbury Rehabilitation Center/Nursing Facility.

Each group worked on a different project. Some designed beautiful snowflake sculptures, centerpieces and snow people.

In addition, they planned a toy drive to support the Religious Teachers Filippini project for 150 families in

need in Newark. The response was overwhelming.

Several of the members volunteer to tutor their younger classmates in the After School Program.

This year the faculty decided to forgo their annual tradition of Secret Santa gifts for each other and instead donated the money to a wonderful foundation, Hugs for Brady. Two of our students, Edward M. and Jake H. have been recipients of the generosity of the benefactors to the Foundation. Both children are doing remarkably well with the continued support of a caring community.

We also wanted this donation to be in honor of our Pastor, Father Bob Lynam, as he is going to be recognized as Humanitarian of the Year and we want to join him in supporting this worthy cause; to help find a cure for pediatric cancer as soon as possible. We are very proud of this honor you have bestowed upon Father Bob, as all of us know how much he cares about our children here at St. A's.

Thank you to Father Bob and the Foundation for helping the children who are suffering and need a cure.



TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Our traditional Christmas Celebration began with a Prayer Service followed by breakfast provided through the generosity of our parents. The breakfast was a nutritious one which included fresh fruit, yogurt, muffins and bagels. The surprise gifts of Christmas hats and Christmas favors were enjoyed by all.

A spontaneous Christmas Sing Off evolved. Each class, parents and faculty were eager and ready to take to the stage and sing at Jesus' school-wide Birthday Party. The singers and listeners were awesome and everyone brought a big smile to one another and left for Christmas Vacation happy and proud.

In first place was our faculty who added dance steps; second place were our parents who had motions to the song the "Twelve Days of Christmas while our students waited anxiously to see which grade would place first place. Needless to say the Eighth Grade took first place for originality while all the grades tied for second place earning a dress down day.



TECH TEAM CREATES CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS USING 3D



The St. A's Tech Team continued their pioneering journey into the world of STEM and 3D printing by creating unique Christmas ornaments using the school's MakerGear M2 3D printer. This marked the first time the 3D printer was used to render objects created entirely by students. First, they designed their ornament using an online snowflake generator and saved it as a flat image. Next, they imported their design into the 3D modeling program SketchUp and, after making any final adjustments to the design, used the program's Push/Pull tool to give thickness to the flat image and create a three dimensional model. Finally, they converted their model into a printable format which allowed the 3D printer to reproduce each ornament as a physical object made out of an ecofriendly plastic called PLA. The students were amazed that they could actually hold in their hands the ornaments that they had created on the computer.



Congratulations to the Tech Team for paving the way for other students to be able to use 3D printing to bring their school projects to life.

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**LET IT CODE!
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Congratulations to our 4th and 5th graders who participated in the Hour of Code by using the website Made With Code and the Blockly Programming Language to code, design, and animate their own snowflake.



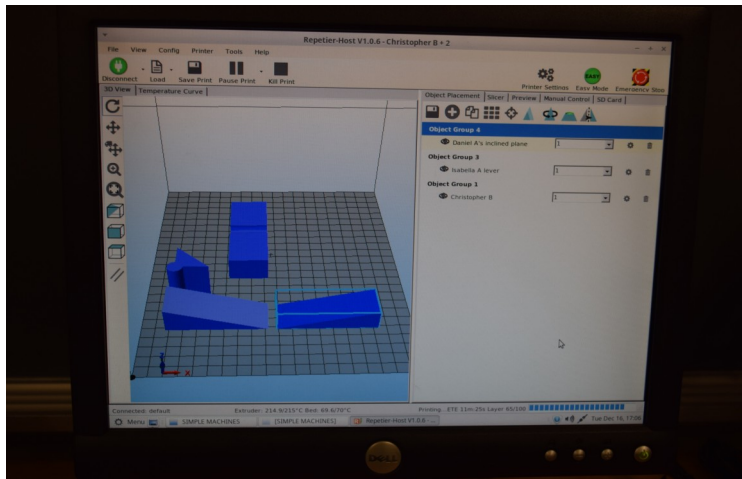
TEACHERS OF ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL JOIN THE HOUR OF CODE

As part of a Technology Workshop, the teachers participated in the Hour of Code by using Google's Made with Code initiative and programmed the lights on holiday trees to be lit in President's Park at the White House during the month of December.

They got to select the shape, size and color of the lights, and animate the different patterns using the Blockly programming language. The teachers all agreed that it really is fun to code and they hope to do more of it in the future.

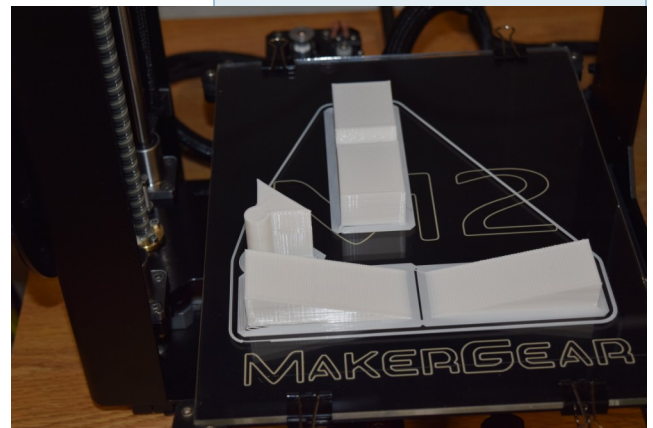
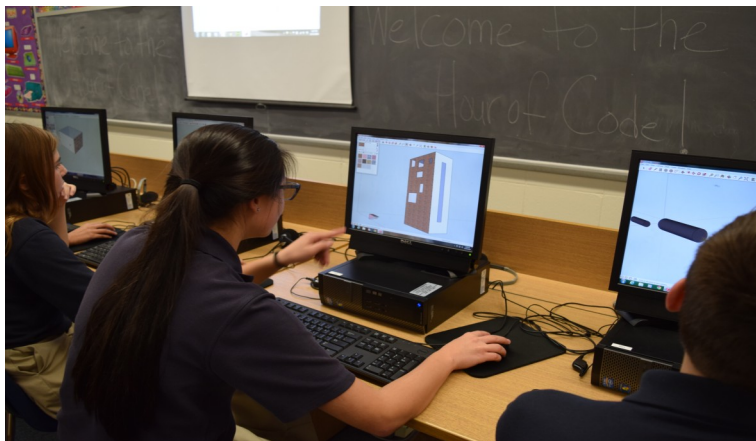


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFUSION



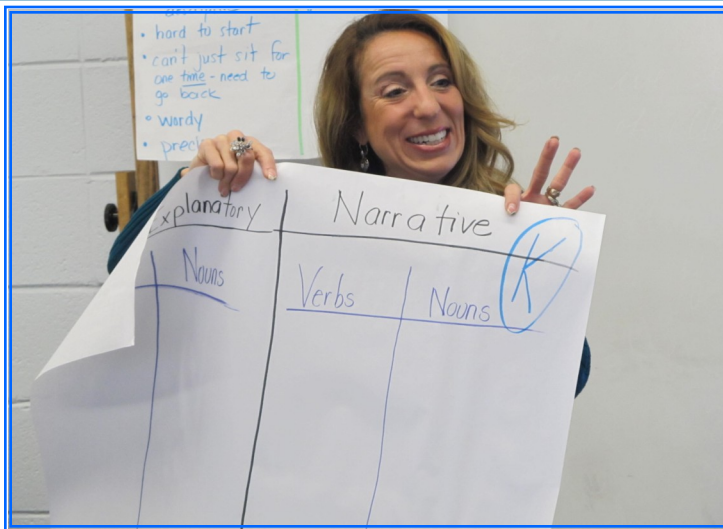
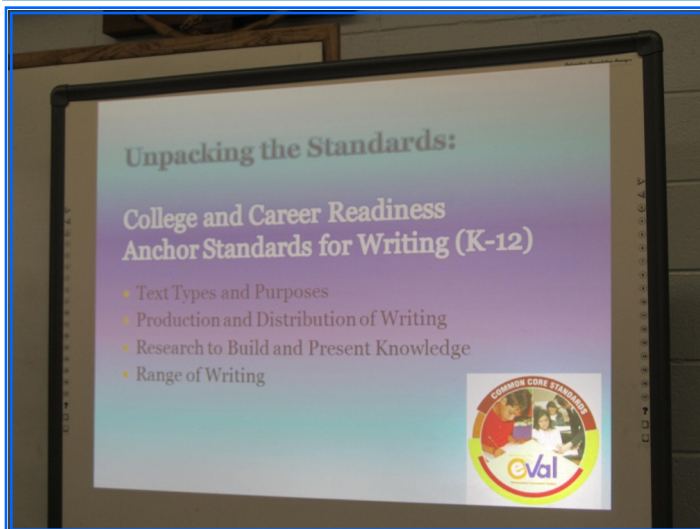
Did you know that without inclined planes, the Great Pyramids would not exist – and ..skateboards?

LEARNING AND CREATING SIMPLE MACHINES



The first object created on our 3 D Printer in June 2014 was the sign of our faith a cross. They were given as gifts to our eighth grade class and their parents.

WRITING, WRITING, WRITING IN EVERY SEASON IN EVERY SUBJECT



Professional Development in writing continued with our teachers participating in a writing workshop sponsored at our school presented by Mrs. Darlene Prott, from New Jersey Teacher to Teacher. The faculty and staff had a hands on workshop in writing strategies across the curriculum and how to assess student writing. One of our parents, this week, took the time to share how she noticed a magical change in her child's writing. The sentences were well connected and her child's writing skills demonstrated a real improvement and the best part is that he now likes writing. It is affirmation that professional development and the teacher's instruction are making a difference.

The teachers and students walked hand in hand adventuring into Google Classrooms in Grades 4-8. Grades Eight and Seven walked at a faster pace by writing collaboratively as their teachers did at the faculty meeting. Grades Four and Five now have electronic tablets to gain access to the cloud. Learning stations and small groups create an interactive classroom in which all students are learners. The students grew and developed during the fall months in a variety of ways. Knights of Accomplishments and Honor Roll candidates were honored at a special awards assembly. For a complete list visit our webpage. We are looking forward to a successful ending of the second quarter marking period.

CLUBS IN REVIEW AND LOOKING BEYOND TO A WORLD LANGUAGE

The Sports Program began with Mrs. Kathleen Lakarosky, working with Mr. E. Modzelewski. The season was launched with a school-wide spirit day. It began with prayer, the salute to the flag, God Bless America, and an introduction of each of the team members. All the teams are doing their best to play hard and to continue to learn skills to improve and build team spirit.

The Scouts helped others during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. They donated food, turkeys and hams to the Food Pantry. Christmas joy and cheer was shared with our Seniors and the surrounding nursing facilities.



The Reading and Math Clubs organized by the teachers continue to be a source of support to in class learning and foster self-confidence. Thank you teachers.

The Tech Team is highlighted in this newsletter.

The Robotics Team entered their first competition of the year. While they did not earn a place in the state finals they learned invaluable lessons and enjoyed the challenge.

The nine Odyssey of the Mind Teams continue to meet weekly, training and preparing for the regionals in March.

The Babysitting Club has mastered how to change a diaper, feed the baby, first aid skills and CPR skills as they apply to very young children.

The Youth Art Club is preparing to teach lessons at the Nursing Home and are helping our younger students to develop skills.