



The Principal's Vine

March 4, 2020

Saint Augustine of Canterbury School



TODAY'S

CATHOLIC Teacher

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Innovations in Catholic Education

WINNING SCHOOLS

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★ **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**
St. Joseph
West St. Paul, Minnesota

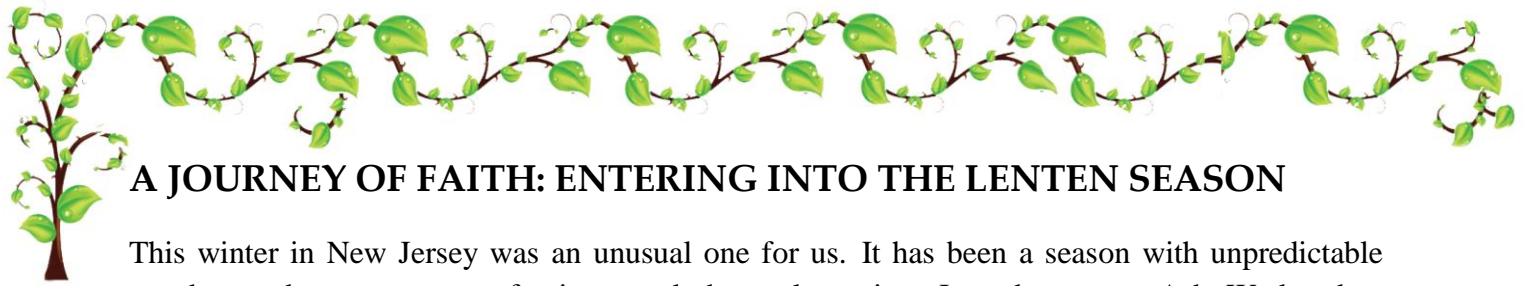
★ **TOTAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
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Clayton, New Jersey

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A JOURNEY OF FAITH: ENTERING INTO THE LENTEN SEASON

This winter in New Jersey was an unusual one for us. It has been a season with unpredictable weather and temperatures of winter and the early spring. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

Lent began with a prayer service in Church led by Father Bob, our Pastor. The students were



willing and ready to respond to Father Bob's questions about how God speaks to us. On Ash Wednesday we begin a season of doing special forms of charity and being especially generous; of being more conscientious about prayer; and of fasting. During Lent, our relationship with Jesus grows stronger as we prepare to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection of the Lord. Every year we participate in the Rice Bowl project, pray the

Stations of the Cross on Friday, and continue to participate in Mass. Every morning begins with a Lenten reflection followed by prayer on KTN (Knights Television Network) This Lent, the students requested to visit the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays and to spend 15 minutes in quiet prayer. The faculty will also be praying together once a week following in the footsteps of St. Lucy Filippini, whose favorite book was the crucifix.

Second Grade celebrated the second day of Lent with Potter, Ray Boswell. He integrated pottery and Religion to prepare for the Sacrament of the Eucharist with a hands-on prayer experience. The parents loved the morning and said, "I could listen to him all day. He was peaceful." The families made chalices. They will be blessed and given to the students at the First Eucharist Family Breakfast. Each chalice was made with love and their best efforts.





THIRD GRADE PARENT DAY

On February 19th our Third Grade families celebrated Parents Day by completing a Mystery Bag Engineering Design Challenge. In this design activity, they are given a bag of mystery materials (an assortment of recyclables and other random items) and then a challenge card stating a building challenge to do with those materials. They then use those “mystery” materials to complete the challenge. Congratulations to all our St. A's Engineers!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE “SOCKS OF LOVE” FOR THE HOMELESS

Our 6th Grade Religion Students participated in a service project called Socks of Love. Many thanks to Mrs. Swietek, Mrs. Douvas, Mrs. Okamura, and the 6th grade families for donating the socks and toiletries for this thoughtful project. The classes assembled 132 pairs of socks filled with toiletries and a prayer card, which were then delivered by Mrs. Swietek to Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick. Did you know that socks are the most requested item by homeless shelters throughout the United States and around the world?



Because homeless individuals often walk many miles each day, a clean pair of socks not only provides warmth and comfort, but it also helps to prevent numerous health problems that begin with unprotected feet.



KINDERGARTEN IS 100 DAYS SMARTER!

On February 12th, the 100th day of school, our Kindergarten Kids celebrated the fact that they are 100 Days Smarter! They completed many activities throughout the day that helped them to count to 100!!



MOTHER & SON NIGHT OF FUN!



Our moms and their sons enjoyed a fun game night together. Many thanks to Ms. Hulnik, our Gym Teacher, the HSA Members, Alumni, and Dads for making this an enjoyable evening for all! The moms and sons moved from station to station trying their skills. The moms looked like they were having as much fun as their sons. The moms were very good sports and played bowling, connect four, relays, checkers, building and many other enjoyable games. The gym was filled with laughter, joy, friendships and yes, competition between moms and sons. The evening ended with the announcement of the raffle winners and a special prayer for moms. Dads had a special time with their daughters this past weekend with a Father and Daughter Dance. The dads seemed to enjoy “standing by” watching their little and big girls enjoy one another on the dance floor.

8TH GRADE STUDENTS PRESENT HYDROPONICS PROJECT AT STATE HOUSE IN TRENTON

Our 8th grade Science students were selected as winners of a poster and video contest, sponsored by the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families. The contest challenged Catholic school students from around the state to create a STEM-based project centered on the theme, “Our Catholic Schools use STEM to solve a school, local community, or global problem.” They presented their recycled hydroponic system to a standing-room-only crowd at the State House in Trenton on Jan. 27, the second day of the nationally-recognized 46th annual Catholic Schools Week. Speaking to their peers and school officials from the five Roman Catholic Dioceses in the state, as well as interested parties and legislators, the students presented their recycled hydroponic system, which has already yielded a tomato. The goal of the project is to create a hydroponic vegetable garden to benefit the St. Augustine’s Food Pantry and the greater community in the future. Congratulations to Mr. Tackett, our Middle School Science Teacher, and our 8th grade students for an outstanding project and presentation.





Congratulations to all St. Augustine Odyssey Teams!

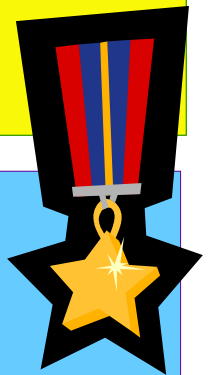


Seven Teams competed in
the Regional Tournament.
Three are headed to states



- 8th Grade team coached by Susan Tarbotten and Christa Woleski placed 1st on Problem 5 "Gibberish or Not Results" in Division II with perfect score in style.
- 8th Grade team coached by Mrs. Lyttle and Antoinette Tauk placed 2nd competing on Problem 3 "Classics...The Effective Detective Results" in Division II with a perfect score in style.
- 3,5,6th Grade team coached by Mr. & Mrs. Kumar placed 2nd on Problem 4 "Balsa Limbo Results" in Division II with a perfect score in style.
- 6th Grade coached by Mrs. Abbott placed 3rd on Problem 1 "Longshot Solution Results" in Division II.

- 7th Grade team coached by Mrs. Domingo scored 6th place on Problem 2 "Net Working Results." First time as a team. Congratulations!
- 4th Grade team coached by Mrs. Sparagna and Mrs. Modzelewski scored 5th Problem 3 "Classics...The Effective Detective Results" Congratulations!
- Primary team coached by Mr & Mrs. Lee had awesome comments on their performance: creative, perfect costumes; super, creative song, props and presentations were great! Thanks to the assistant parents. We look forward to the team competing in regions 2021. They will be in third grade! Congratulations!
- On April 4, the first and second place teams will compete at the NJ Odyssey of the Mind State Finals at Princeton High School. Go for it! Good Luck!





Innovations in Catholic Education

WINNING SCHOOLS

We set out to search for the schools with the best innovations in Catholic education, and 100 schools responded with descriptions of effective, creative programs and projects in four award categories for innovative projects in:

- Promoting Catholic identity
- Curriculum and instruction
- Technology integration
- Total community involvement, including fundraising



All schools who entered this year's contest deserve to be commended for their efforts, and our judging committee had a hard time narrowing down the selection to 12 finalists (visit todayct.us/Awards2020 for the full list!) and even more of one top winner in each category!



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St. Joseph's Catholic School in West

St. Paul, Minnesota, has incorporated Catechesis of the Good Shepherd into the religion curriculum. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd allows students to have a deep and profound encounter with the loving person of Jesus Christ and the mystery of the Mass and sacraments, and come to appreciate the seriousness and richness of the Catholic intellectual life. The students are evangelized and catechized simultaneously.



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Madonna High School in Weirton, West

Virginia, developed a roadmap for educational excellence which included Healthcare, Engineering, Legal, and Business career tracks. The career tracks are a combination of current courses offered, courses from a community college, AP courses, an internship and a series of MOOCs (massive open online courses). With limited funding, the school needed creative solutions that leveraged resources to provide students with a strong advantage and help them take their next step in life.



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Saint Augustine of Canterbury

Roman Catholic School in Kendall Park, New Jersey, has raised the bar for STREAM integration in the classroom by incorporating coding and robotics into curriculum areas where they normally wouldn't be expected to appear, such as reading, language arts, and social studies. This initiative builds upon the success of the school's participation in Code.org's annual Hour of Code campaign and includes the addition of programmable "micro-bots" to the classroom, exposing digital-native, tech-hungry students to these concepts and technologies across the learning spectrum.



TOTAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

St. Michael the Archangel Regional School in Clayton, New Jersey, began a Pen Pal Club to bring senior citizens and students together, creating a bond between the community and the school. The Pen Pal Club provides an opportunity for the students to put into service what they are learning at school. At the end of the school year, St. Michael hosts a Pen Pal celebration, complete with fun, friendship, refreshments, and entertainment; the students meet and honor their senior pen pals.

Congratulations to our award winners! They will receive a \$1,000 check from Today's Catholic Teacher and a trophy. All winners and finalists will receive a large indoor/outdoor banner and copies of the awards publication.