

A Journey of faith through the Lenten season

This winter in New Jersey was an unusual one for us. Unlike the unpredictable weather and temperatures of the winter and the early spring, Saint Augustine School was right on course “headed” towards the finish line of the school year. Prepared and ready faculty and staff, students, parents, pastor and principal confidently, energetically and enthusiastically made progress despite snow days and delayed openings.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14, Valentine’s Day. The most beautiful Love Story in History, Jesus gave His life that we may have life, began with a prayer service in Church. Our younger students learned and prayed with Principal, Sister Mary Louise Shulas, MPF and Sister Barbara O’Kane, Out Reach Ministry, in their classrooms.



Middle School students and teachers gathered to pray the Rosary during lunch time on the First Day of Lent. That practice is continued every Monday. The students are transforming our gathering area into a sacred prayer space. They are being introduced into many different ways to pray and grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus.



Coloring Station:
A mandala is traditionally a spiritual and ritual symbol in Indian religions, representing the universe. Mandala means “sacred circle” in Sanskrit. Circles appear in nature (flowers, snowflakes, sun, moon, etc.)

Journaling Station:
Choose a topic from the list and write about it. If you feel stuck in your writing, rewrite the phrase, “Holy Spirit you are welcome here” until your thinking gets back on track.

Legos Station:
Using legos, create a symbol of your stress behind transitioning into high school. If time permits, deconstruct and create what God might be giving to you in response to your prayer.

Meditation Station:
Using your headphones, do the meditation brought up on the ipad in voicethread. Put the ipads down and allow yourself to just focus on the words of the meditations- this will take place for 2 rounds of each station. Sit straight up in your chair with your feet flat on the floor.

Scripture Station:
Using the provided Bibles, turn to the Gospels, book of Sirach or Epistles and find a passage or story that speaks to you. Read the context of that story and then sit quietly just allowing yourself to think about it. Feel free



On Sunday, March 11, Edge students made nearly 64 Easter Baskets. The students from the school donated: new books, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons and pencils, sidewalk chalk, small toys, jump ropes, cars, candy, baskets and monetary gifts. Thanks to Emma Friedlander, Graduate of the Class of 2014, for organizing the project for the Parish Out Reach and the many hands of students and parents who helped.



Grade Eight students are writing their personal reflections about the Stations of the Cross and illustrating them. The Stations will be prayed with the school community during Holy Week. *We are very proud of our eighth grade students for sharing their faith and artistic talents.*



Both school and parish girls in Grade 6-8 were invited to visit with the Sisters at the Convent. The afternoon included time for homework, sharing with the Sisters, Lectio Divina and supper. Following time together the Sisters and students participated in the Lenten Eucharistic Hour of Prayer with the parishioners

in the Church. Each group that visited were only disappointed that they could not spend the night. Spring will include a day at Villa Walsh, the Religious Teachers Filippini Motherhouse.

Suggestions for Lenten practices and resources are included on our school's home page on our website. www.staugustinenj.org



During Science class, 6th Grade was challenged with the task of engineering their own fidget spinner. Before the students gathered materials to create their spinners they had to devise a plan with their team. Each group wrote a plan that included a detailed picture of their design. The students were then presented with the task of engineering a fidget spinner out of household items that is capable of spinning at least two consecutive times. Students worked collaboratively and problem solved throughout the process to successfully build their spinners to use in Math class for the next part of the challenge.

In Math class, teams used stopwatches to test how long their spinners could spin. The results were organized in a data table and students rounded to the indicated place value. They calculated the mean, median, mode and range. Possible outliers were identified and students discussed how outliers could affect their calculations. Teams worked together to make modifications to their spinners when needed.



HUMPTY DUMPTY SAT ON THE WALL WITHOUT A FALL

The Pre-K-3 class is learning the Nursery Rhymes. What better way in this 21st Century than to be able to have STEM Project related to a nursery rhyme. The students built a wall for Humpty Dumpty to sit on. Each student was given an egg representing Humpty Dumpty and blocks to build a wall. The challenge was not to let Humpty Dumpty fall. The youngsters had lots of fun and did their best to keep Humpty safely sitting on the wall.





Grade 8 STREAM Project Becoming God's Hands - Bridge Building

The 8th graders are currently immersed in a multi-curricular STREAM project where they have all taken on the role of engineers. They are blending science and math with the art of architecture and laws of engineering to build suspension bridges out of popsicle sticks. It might seem odd, but all of this work is being done in a Social Studies class. Social Studies



encompasses all the areas and aspects of learning, but most importantly, integrates the human purpose behind all the great accomplishments of civilization. In our Social Studies curriculum, the eighth graders learned about the rise of big cities during the new industrial age of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the connection of many unconnected areas through bridge building. We

discussed the positive effects that urbanization had on society, but also highlighted the many negative effects that showed us the human casualties involved in that era.

As Catholics, no matter what subject we study, we strive to incorporate the social teachings of the Catholic Church in whatever we do. We strive to highlight the importance of the life and dignity of every person. We also must recognize that the basic rights of workers must be respected and that the "economy must serve the people, not the other way around." During this historical time period, there was a large wave of immigration to the United States and many of these new immigrants were of the Catholic faith. They struggled to find jobs and housing and were constantly discriminated against. Many of these immigrants worked through horrible conditions and labored constantly to build the bridges and cities that we know today, while trying to support their families and serve God. As a result of this study, the students were able to identify the hardships of religious minorities and increase their empathy for the men, women and children who labored so hard for this country.

When the students are done carefully engineering and building their bridges, they will all test them for weight capacity. The students will start testing their bridges at ten pound increments up to fifty pounds. They will then increase the weight at increments of five pounds. They will discover which suspension bridge design works best and who was able to calculate the appropriate weight distribution. The most important



realization of this project however, is not in the mechanics of the building nor the art in the architecture. It is the fact that we are a people of faith and with that faith comes great responsibility. As a Catholic community, we are literal and figurative bridge builders. We are here to fulfill God's mission by breaking down the barriers that separate us and work to unite all mankind, no matter what structure we need to build to accomplish it.

INTRODUCING: DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Pre-K Illustrates Their Version of Dr. Seuss



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First Grade illustrated the cover of Green Eggs and Ham in Italian.

Mrs. Bernasky, World Language Teacher, read the Italian Version of Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss.



"Reading Across America." Reese Elementary School in Houston, Texas shares Dr. Seuss Books with our Grade 3 who dramatized the stories pictured below.



MAKER SPACE ROOM A ROOM ENJOYED BY ALL – A FAVORITE SPACE



MAKING TIME FOR SACRED SPACE

NATIONAL WALK OUT DAY

Praying Together

Students in Grades Pre-K-2 prayed the Rosary for peace and an end to violence in their classrooms

Grade 8 participated in the Teen Out Reach. All the Catholic Schools in attendance prayed the prayer prepared by the Worship Office of the Diocese of Metuchen.



Lord God your own Son Jesus was rejected and suffered violent acts. His mother Mary, saw him die on the cross and wept. And so when we are afraid and do not understand, We have a friend in Jesus and in our mother, Mary.

Today, as we remember those who suffer, We ask that you give us peace and that you give peace to all those who suffer because of the violence of others and grant those who do violent things, your mercy. We turn to you for protection and know that you love us. Kindly, keep our guardian anqels close to us always.