

THE PRINCIPAL'S POST WINTER EDITION

January 2016

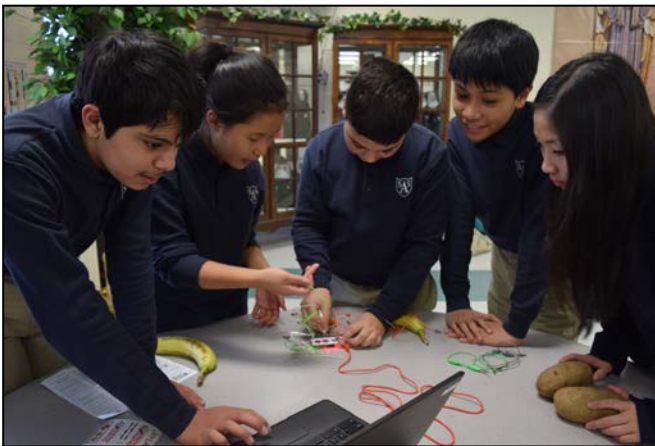
"Together We Are A Vine of Strengths Rooted in Christ"

St. Augustine of Canterbury School

Stepping Up With S.T.E.M and S.T.E.A.M

We are proud to say our TECH TEAM JOINS THE MAKER MOVEMENT!

The St. Augustine of Canterbury Tech team ended the year and began the new year by taking part in the Maker Movement. In December, the members of the Middle School designed an original Christmas ornament using the 3D CAD design program Tinkercad. After they perfected their designs, they sent them to our 3D printer just in time to hang them on our Christmas tree in the school cafeteria. To start off the new year, in preparation for their major project of the school year, the students got a hands-on introduction to the world of the Maker Movement. They were given the LITTLEBITS invention toolbox filled with electronic building blocks and the Makey Makey kit that uses everyday objects like bananas and potatoes and turns them into touchpads used with the Internet. Within a short time, the Team members were able to design and build two working vehicles; complete with lights, a fan, a doorbell, and turned bananas and potatoes into piano keys, drums, and controllers for a game of Tetris.



Our Tech Team has exactly what it takes to excel in the 21st Century and beyond!

Students and Parents Tour The Fifth Grade Curriculum On Parent Day



Students in Grade 5 joined their parents for a tour of four curriculum areas as part of their Parent Day celebration. Fifth Grade teachers Mrs. Falk and Mrs. O'Connor set up activity stations for Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Math with groups of students and parents rotating through all four stations. For Science, students used Chromebooks to log into Discovery Education and make a board on a topic they had learned in Science. They included videos, diagrams, pictures, sound clips, passages and more on their boards. For Social Studies, students used task cards to review the thirteen colonies. Some of the students were able to move on to a harder level of task cards! For Language Arts, students made their own silly stories with Mad Libs, which they shared with each other and their parents! For Math, students were assigned a Carmen Sandiego game on Think Central. Together with their parents, they tried to discover who stole the tea kettle while practicing decimals. Thanks to the students, parents, teachers, and staff who made Parent Day a great success!

Faculty and Students Learning to Share Knowledge and Skills

Teachers Join In The "Hour Of Code" During Their Monthly Tech Workshop

For the December Faculty Technology Workshop, the St. A's faculty were invited to participate in the third annual Hour of Code celebration during Computer Science Week. They received the same challenge as the 3rd to 8th grade students; to complete the Minecraft coding program in one hour. The challenge was accepted and the faculty worked very hard to accomplish their goal; but in the end the two challenge winners were Mrs. O'Donnell in Pre-K 4 and Mr. Modzelewski in the Middle School. All who participated truly enjoyed the spirit of competition and seeing how their students are using computational thinking to complete these coding challenges.



A shout-out for Ms. Fama who learned coding with her class. She is our Super Computer Star Student. Congratulations!



Lego Robotics Team Performs Well In Regional Tournament

The St. A's "Robo Knights" LEGO Robotics team did a great job at their last regional event, but fell just short of moving on to the state competition. Out of the 28 teams competing, only a maximum of 6 teams can move on from this regional to states. The team tied for sixth place in the robot game part of the competition with a score of 351 points. They also scored very well in the other three presentation areas that the teams get judged on. The robotics team worked very hard on the project, the robot and overall as a team. We are all proud of their work and accomplishments this season.

Art Meets Anatomy In Seventh Grade Science Project

Students in Ms. Segally's seventh grade Science class created life-size diagrams of the human circulatory system as part of their study of the life sciences. They were required to include representations of the heart with its four chambers, the aorta, veins, and arteries. Working in groups, they used textbook illustrations for reference but drew their circulatory systems entirely by hand. Their work will be displayed proudly in the Middle School Wing hallway.

Warming Hearts and Minds Through Knowledge and Creativity

Kindergarten Is Sliding Into Reading

It might be cold and freezing outside but inside our building the classrooms are warm and ignited with learning! In our elementary wing, our Kindergarteners are sliding into winter with Reading. They love to cuddle up with a book in small groups and read to their Bear Cousin. The Kindergarteners are continuing to write and illustrate in their journals.



Kindergarten classes began Fun Fridays this month. This is the time set aside on Fridays for special activities. This first Fun Friday kicked off with the theme of snowpersons which included games. The day ended with thoughts of warm Hawaii and concluded with a luau.

Fourth Grade Writes Cool Religious Slogans To Remind Us of God's Love

Fourth Grade is getting really cool writing religious slogans about God and learning to see Him in everything and everywhere. Here is a sample of one: "God is like Frosted Flakes. He is really GGGrrrrreat! Look for more reminders of God's Love for us on our class web page. Also several slogans will be highlighted on the newly designed "Creative Writing Corner" webpage on our school's website. Congratulations fourth grade on your creativity and how you can find God in all things.



Seventh and Eighth Graders Becoming Poets

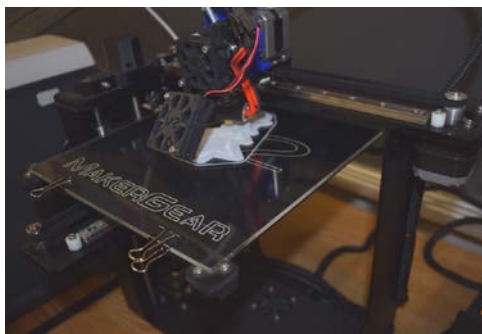
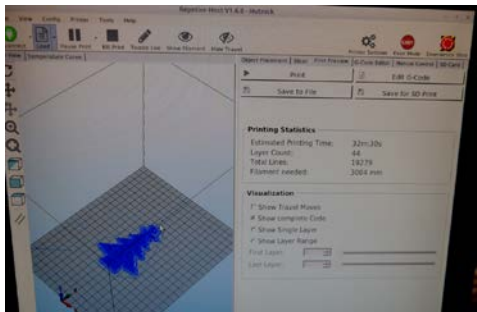
Grades 7 & 8 are studying poetry. The students are learning different poetry genres, interpretation of poetry and how to analyze it. They just completed learning all the elements of poetry and created their first published piece. Each student was asked to bring in a newspaper or magazine article. Next they read the articles and extracted key words related to the topic and created a poem. They then blocked out the other words in the article by either drawing a picture or simply and creatively covering over the words not used in the poem. Redacted Poetry writing was challenging but achieved successfully.



With differentiated instruction at its best, **some** students slid into Snow Poetry. They created an alternate verse of winter related poetry from a renowned poet. While Ms. Stout was teaching the strategies of writing poetry, the art teacher, Mrs. Minsavage was teaching the different techniques of drawing and/or creating snowflakes using scraps of white torn paper and white pencils on black paper. The students did a magnificent job in both writing and creating.

Creativity, Communication, Collaboration and Critical Thinking are the tools in the Loving to Learn Classroom.

" LEARNING TO LOVE AND LOVING TO LEARN" The Spirit of Christmas Joy Lingers Into the Wintery Days of January



Middle School Students Used the 3D Printer to Create Ornaments to Decorate the Cafeteria Christmas Tree

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.

Service Projects Created by Student Council Bring Joy to Many Moderators: Ms. Sharon Stout and Mrs. Quinones



Donations for Ronald McDonald House



Grade Six Art Projects Brought Christmas Joy to those confined to their homes.