



You may not know this, but my mom was a 2nd grade teacher. It's no wonder why two of her daughters carried on the family trade. One particular year she had a child in her class whose parents were really struggling financially. In class, he had told my mom that he didn't think he'd be getting any toys for Christmas. After hearing more about the struggles his family was facing and learning what toy he really, really wanted, my mom went out to the toy store and picked it up. She brought the toy to the local fire station and relayed the entire story to the fire fighters. She asked that they deliver the toy, a shiny, new red fire truck, to the young boy on Christmas Eve and not tell him who the gift was from. The fire fighters were thrilled to perform this small favor and did deliver that fire truck on Christmas Eve to the delight of a seven year old boy.

My dad shared this story with my sisters and me shortly after my mom passed away a number of years ago. He wanted to make sure we knew how generous our mom was and how important Christmas was to her. I hope this story might inspire some of you to help out one person or family this year. We all struggle at times in our lives and it's the people we come in contact with each day that can really turn those rough days around.

Advent began on December 1st this year. During these four weeks leading up to the Christmas miracle of Jesus's birth, our students will be having daily prayer services and learning about this important time in our Catholic faith. We have set up our nativity scenes and are preparing for our Christmas Show which will be held on Wednesday, December 18th at 1:45p.m. in the church. Our band is also preparing for their concert which will be held on December 19th at 2:15p.m. in the school gym.

As you plan for the upcoming holidays, we hope attending a Christmas Mass is part of your family's tradition. The mass schedule for Christmas at St. Michael Parish is as follows:

December 24th- 4p.m., 6p.m., 10p.m. (St. Michael Church)

December 24th- 4:15p.m. (Merrimack College)

December 25th- 8a.m., 10a.m., Noon (St. Michael Church)

School will be closed for an extended Christmas vacation this year. School will be closed December 21-January 5. During this 2-week break, extended day care is closed and the building is in complete shut-down meaning no basketball, clubs etc. have access to the school. Over the Christmas break, I hope you have time to spend playing family games or watching your favorite movies. It's nice to not rush in the morning or to stay up a little later at night. I am reminded by my friends whose children are grown, to cherish these moments.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of St. Michael School, I wish you many blessings this Christmas season. Enjoy your time away from school and remind your children that "Jesus is the reason for the season!" Merry Christmas! We'll see you all in 2025!

Sue Gosselin



A Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the gift
of Your Son, Jesus,
whose birth into our world
we celebrate today.
Fill our hearts with the peace
that only He provides.
Let us share that peace with others
and help build Your kingdom
here on earth.
Amen.



Saint Michael School Mission Statement

Saint Michael School offers an exceptional Catholic education to our students, nurturing their desire to achieve academic excellence and encouraging spiritual, artistic, and athletic development in a caring, family environment. We motivate our students to become well-rounded, moral young men and women who are prepared to live a faithful life with intellectual rigor and spiritual awareness.



Important Dates and INFORMATION

Do Not Send Cash or Checks Into School

When paying for field trips, art projects, club, etc. for your child, all payments must be made through our Student Information Service Program, RenWeb/FACTS.

- December 18- School Nativity- 1:45pm
- December 23-January 3- School Closed- Christmas Vacation
- December 21-January 5- School closed for Christmas break (2 full weeks off)
- January 7- Ski Club begins
- January 13- MAP testing beings K-8
- January 17 and 20- School Closed

Food Allergy Policy

Saint Michael School strives to be a nut free school. Please do not send in items that contain peanut butter or tree nuts. Please direct any questions to the Health Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Notice

This notice is per the "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act." An asbestos management plan has been developed for St. Michael's School which has asbestos containing material present. These plans are available and accessible to the public by contacting Nick Ippolito at 978-686-4050 at the Parish Offices as well as at the LEA administration office.



Have An Idea or Suggestion?

We love to hear from you! If you would like to send us a comment or a suggestion, please email us at info@comcast.net.

Tuition Update

How Do Families Receive a Parishioner Tuition Rate?

As a reminder, to be considered an active parishioner (and receive a parishioner tuition rate for the 2025-2026 school year) families must make a minimum total offertory donation of **\$500** to our parish beginning **July 1, 2024 to April 1, 2025**. This can be done on a weekly basis when you attend Mass **BUT** it must be made in a trackable manner. You **NEED** to be a registered parishioner. If you wish to receive offertory envelopes from the parish, please email Dorothy_varga@saintmichael.com.

You may also make donations on the parish online giving website <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/298> Donations made at Easter and Christmas are for the benefit of the Clergy Trust and therefore do **NOT** count toward the annual \$500 donation to St. Michael Parish.

Christmas Love!

Our hearts are full of love, joy and pride! Two of our alumni from the Class of 2008 have teamed up to make some Christmas magic.

In 2020, Bianca Barcelos and her father, Joey, had a dream to share one of their beautiful family stories that had been passed down by Bianca's Papa. Sadly, Joey passed away unexpectedly after Christmas 2021. Bianca, even with a hole in her heart, moved forward on the project, a special Christmas book.

She enlisted her friend from St. Mike's, Courtney Wilson, to share her artistic talent to make the pages of the book come alive! And now we can all share in the story of "Where Santa Gets His Haircut?"

In the true spirit of paying it forward, they will be coming to read their story to our Kindergarten classes on December 19th. Plus donating a book to each child in kindergarten! When asked why she wanted to read to our kiddos, she said I love St. Mike's and remember how I looked forward to story time in Kindergarten. But, really, spreading this special story is all my dad and I ever wanted.

Limited books are available in the office for \$10 - get them before they are sold out!

Santa's Haircut

The True Tale

Have you ever wondered where
Santa gets his Haircut? *Find out here!*



2008 St. Michael School Graduates, author Bianca Barcelos, and illustrator, Courtney Wilson, would love to share this *true tale* with you and your family this Christmas Season.



St. Michel School
Special

\$10

(while supplies last)



venmo

Merry Christmas & Thank You!



Year-End-Giving with the SMS Annual Fund



New tax benefit of giving for Massachusetts residents:

As if supporting the SMS Annual Fund isn't reason enough to give, 2024 is the second year that the State Charitable Tax Deduction is in effect. This deduction applies to all MA taxpayers on their state returns, regardless of whether you itemize federally.

The 2024 Annual Fund focuses on our three greatest needs: technology, building upgrades and financial assistance.

Your tax-deductible donation, no matter the size, has a tremendous impact on the students, staff, families, and programs at St. Michael School. Please consider donating to our Annual Fund as a means of showing your support for the outstanding Catholic education that St. Michael School provides. The combination of past families meeting present families to support the school makes us academically and spiritually stronger than ever before.

Donate online today at SaintMichael.com/GIVE

**THE
Annual
Fund**



Thank
you

U Matter



Congratulations to our following U Matter winners!



Caleb helped a classmate finish a project.



Joren gave his basketball to another student who was sad at recess.



Cameron asked a teacher if she was okay after being hit with the soccer ball.



Malece invited someone to sit with her that was sitting alone.



Avery cleaned a water bottle spill for a friend.

Honorable Mention



Kindergarten

Aleksi

Grade 1

Holden

Michael

Grade 2

Bella

Grade 5

Emmett

Luke

Grade 6

Ryan

Rhys

Grade 8

Annabelle

U Matter



Congratulations to our following U Matter winners!

Pre-K



Shay always helps classmates clean up without being asked.



Christopher helped a teacher take down chairs.



Evie always smiles and greets teachers in the hallway.



Mia kindly held the door at church for an elderly person.



Erica helped another student with class notes.

U Matter



Congratulations to our following U Matter winners!



Olivia brought a friend in from recess who was hurt, stayed with him and then brought him back to class.



Jax picked up a bunch of coats and hats.



Aria picked up backpacks in the hallway without being asked.



Haven helped a classmate find the bathroom at church.



Drew stepped up to help his teacher all day long!



Jack stepped up to help his teacher all day long!

U Matter



Chloe helped hang up a sweater when a friend could not reach.



Tripp cleaned up a spill in the hallway that was someone else's.



Camden did a fantastic job giving tours on grandparents Day.

Honorable Mention

Grade 2

Junior

Grade 3

James

Raleigh

Grade 5

Jonathan

Luke

Grade 7

Stephen

Logan



NURSERY



PRE-K

Early Childhood

Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten

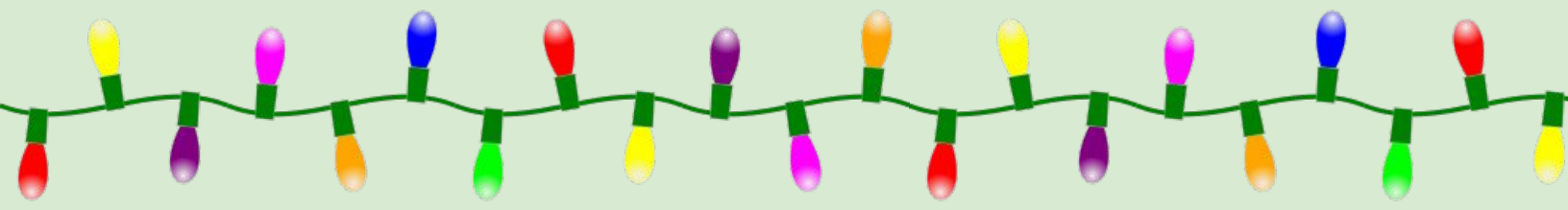


KINDERGARTEN

Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui

Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year!



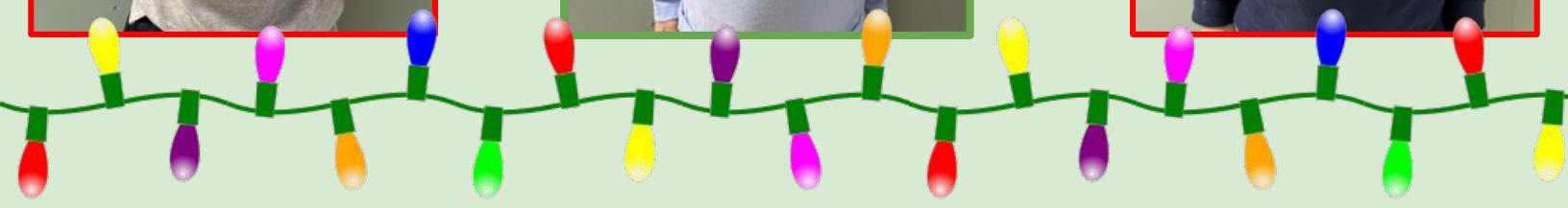


Nursery

Mrs. McGovern

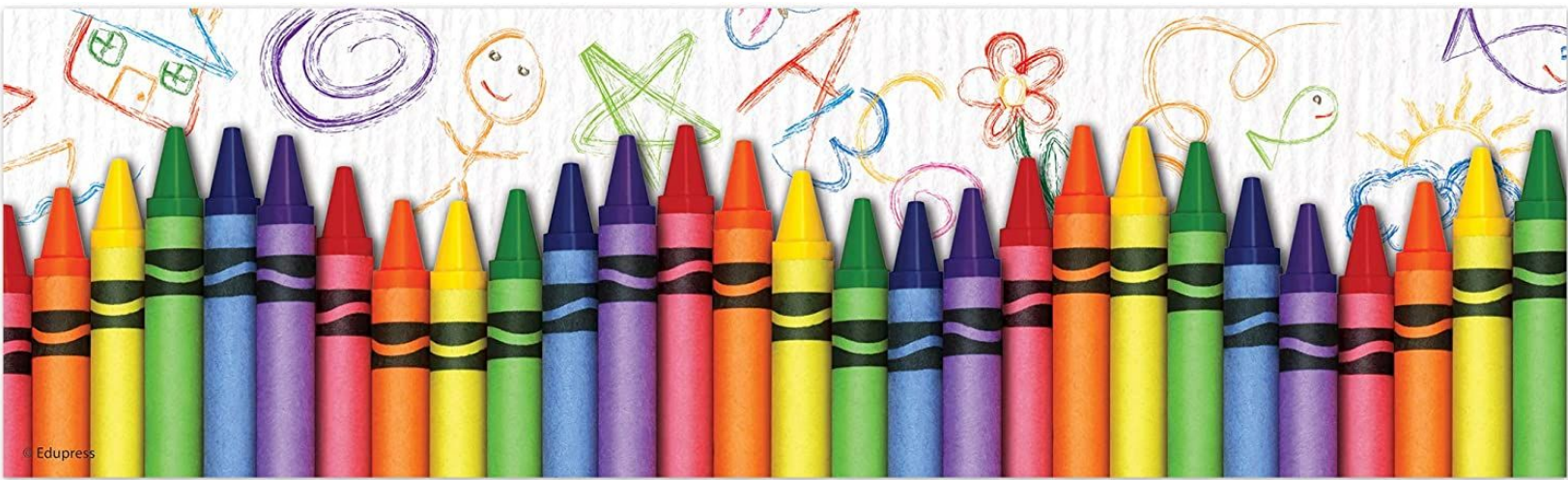


**Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year!**



PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

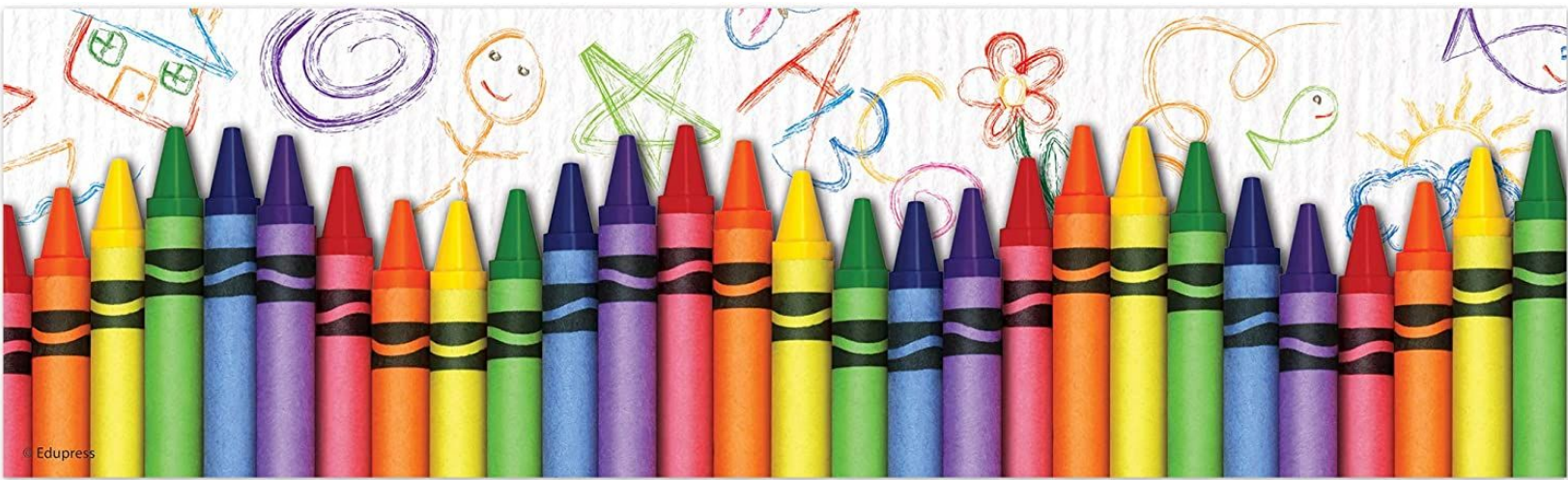
During the month of December we focused on Advent, the birth of Jesus, Christmas traditions and Gingerbread. At this point in the school year it is amazing to observe the acts of Kindness and friendships that have formed.



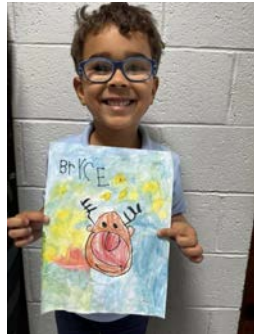
PRE-K Ms. K



We've been busy learning about harvesting healthy foods from the farm. Now that December is here, We are looking forward to learning about Advent, the Birth of Jesus, and creating Christmas surprises to get in the spirit of giving at this special time. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!



PRE-K Mrs. Cali



December is full of fun! We love learning about Advent and getting into the Christmas spirit with holiday songs, crafts and more!



Kindergarten!

Mrs. Sleight



As we begin this Advent season we remember our faith in Jesus. Christmas is a time for loving our family and friends and how blessed we are that they are in our lives and hearts.



Kindergarten!

Mrs. Polcari



Jesus, you came to be light in our darkness.
Jesus, you came to be peace in our conflicts.
Jesus, you came to be joy in our sadness,
And to bring your love in our fears.
Today we celebrate your birth.
Thank you for your saving grace.
Amen.

Kindergarten!

Mrs. Kasberg



The month of December we learned about Advent and the birth of Jesus!
We we wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE

Elementary School

Grades 1-4



THIRD GRADE



FOURTH GRADE

First Grade

1A- Mrs. Robidoux



It is a jolly time of year and our classroom is full of excitement! First grade is focusing on the reason for this Christmas season. We are filling our days with acts of kindness and sharing gifts of love. We are taking the time to pray, reflect and learn about Jesus' birthday as we celebrate together.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

First Grade

IB- MS. BEDARD



We continue to prepare for Jesus' Birthday!
We are working on being grateful and kind. May
you all have a Merry Christmas and a Very
Happy New Year!



Mrs. Caffrey

December is the last month of the year and has been busy and exciting. We began Advent by making Advent wreaths. We ended our Earth Science unit by making clay models of the Earth. We enjoyed learning about Fire Safety from the Fire Dept. We are excited to present the Nativity on December 18.



Mrs. Grant



Merry Christmas from Grade 2



3rd Grade

Mrs. Torpey and Ms. Grava

The third graders have been learning about Advent and Christmas. They each made their own Advent wreath and wrote what they would do to prepare for each week of Advent. Students also created a Nativity scene with stickers.



Students shopped for their family members at the PTO shopping event! They LOVED picking out special things for the people in their lives.

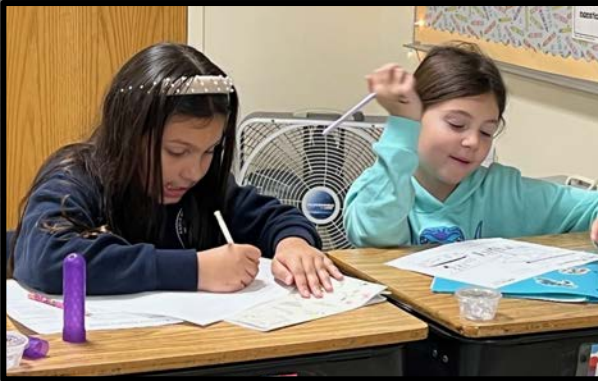
Congratulations to our grade 3 Spelling Bee winner Kat and runner up Hira!



3rd Grade

Mrs. Torpey and Ms. Grava

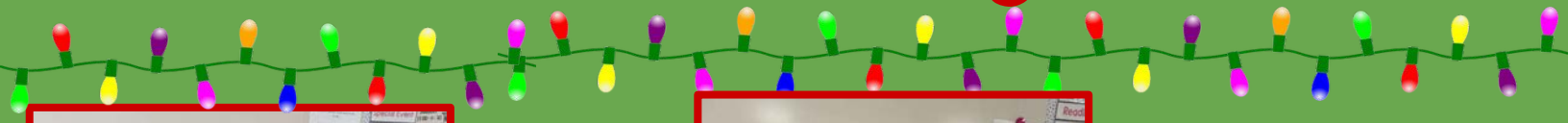
Did you know the mosquito is the most dangerous animal in the world? In science the students are learning about the life cycle of the mosquito. In the pictures below, they are working together to come up with a plan to help reduce the mosquito population.

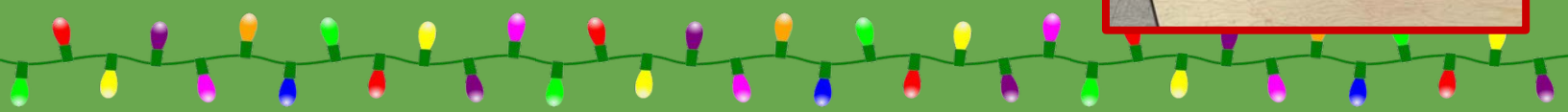
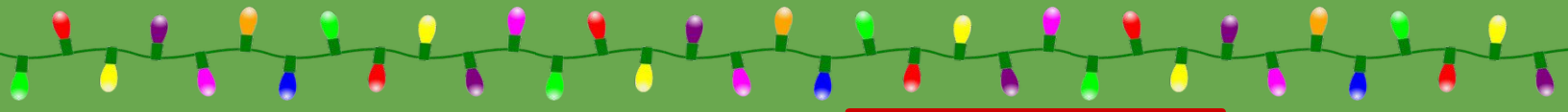


We finished up our unit on Colonial life before Thanksgiving. We had a Pilgrim from Plimoth Plantation come to teach us what life was about. Susanna Winslow was the wife of Master Winslow. She taught us all about how the Pilgrims learned how to read and write.



Grade 4 with Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sweeney







FIFTH GRADE



SIXTH GRADE

Upper School

Grades 5-8



SEVENTH GRADE



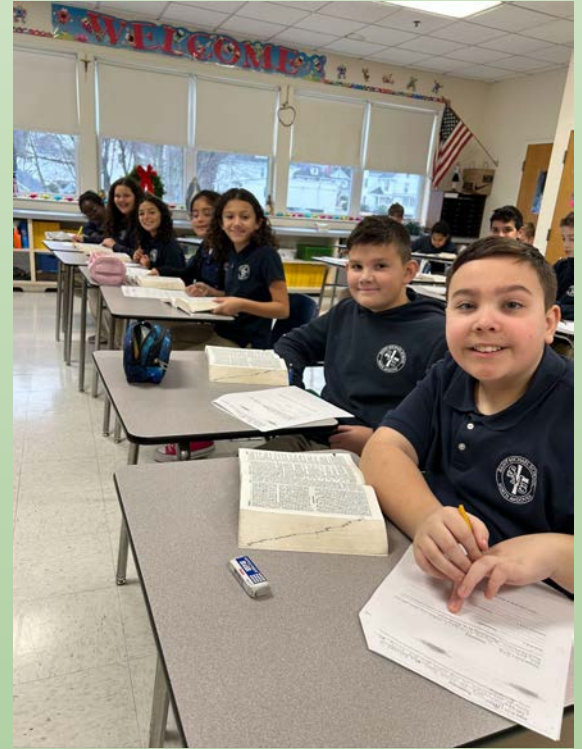
EIGHTH GRADE



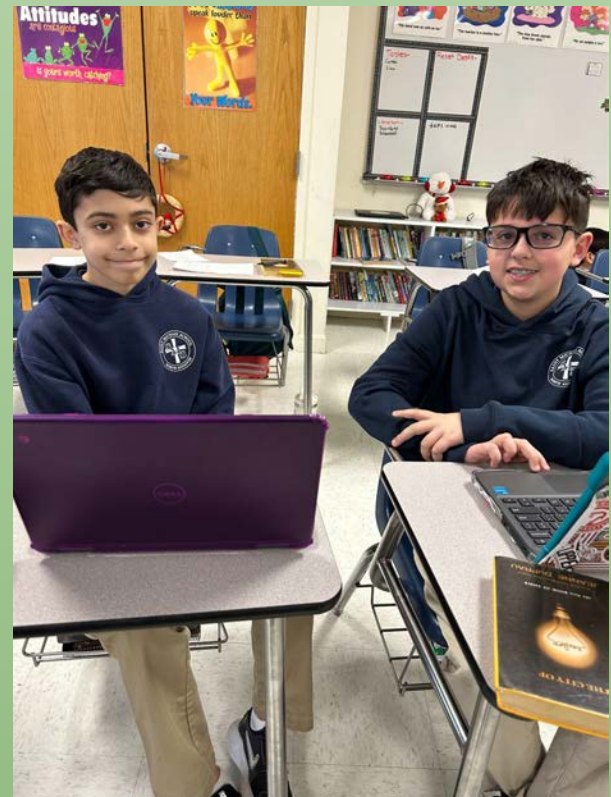
Mrs. Adam ELA



5th Grade -
Our students
are "Finding
Their Way
Around the
Bible".

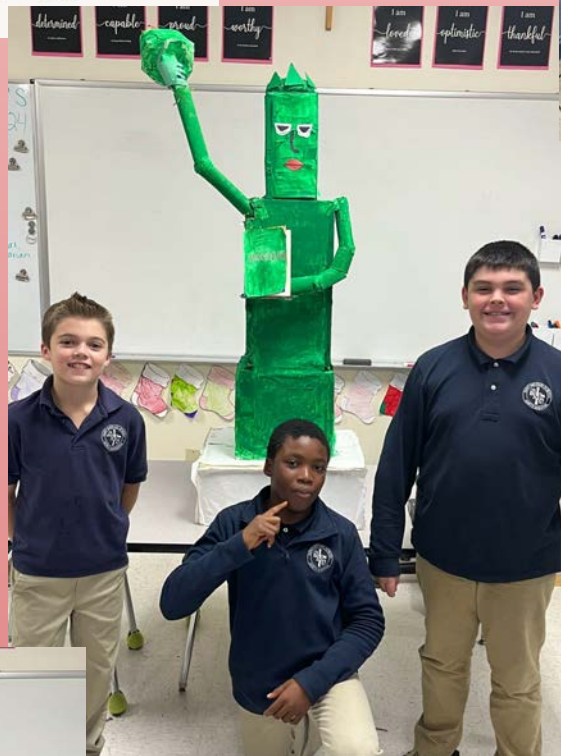


6th Grade -
The
students
are busy
studying for
*The City of
Ember* test.



Mrs. Clifford- Grades 5th/6th Social Studies

Grade 5 is learning about the 13 Colonies and how cash crops made them wealthy, strong, and started the idea of Independence.



Grade 6 is learning about Asia and its many cultures, religions and traditions.



Mrs. Berard 5th/6th Grade Science



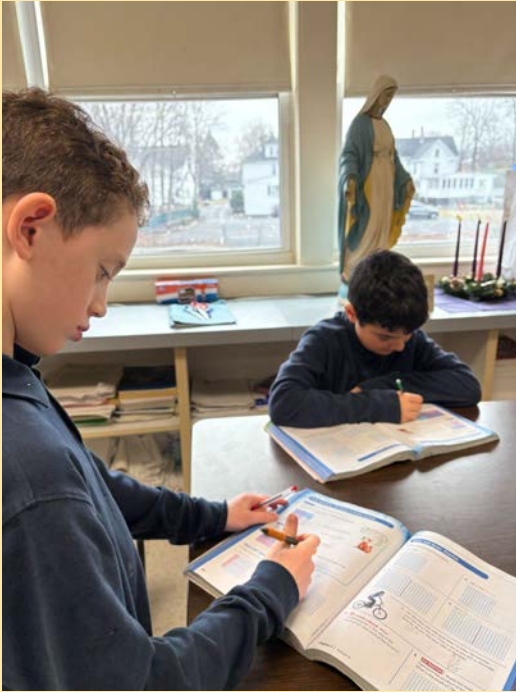
5th Grade made mini systems of Earth's 4 spheres. They will observe them over the next few weeks to see how they work together to support life

6th Grade finished the chapter on Plate tectonics with a Graham cracker and frosting lab where they explored three different plate boundaries.



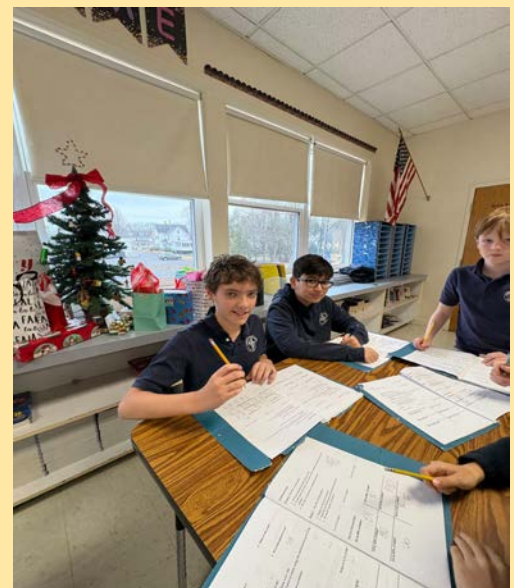
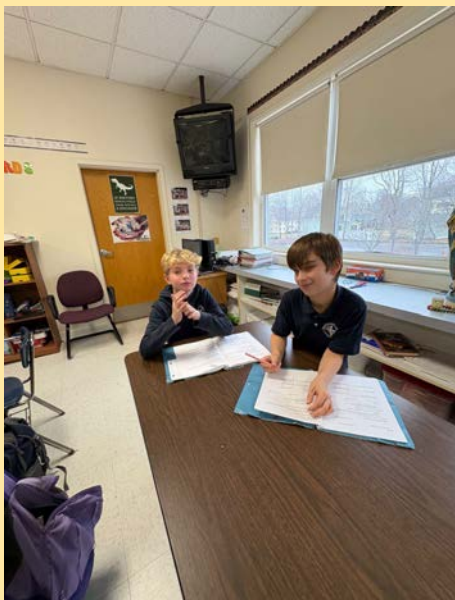
Grade 5/6 MATH

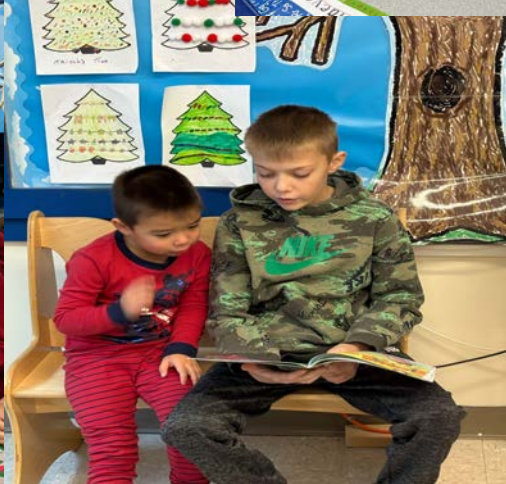
Ms Decoteau



Grade 5 students have been very busy learning more about multiplication. They especially like to challenge each other with problems.

Grade 6 students have become experts on using fractions, decimals and percents to solve problems. Grade 6 and PreK buddies read Christmas books and made holiday crafts.







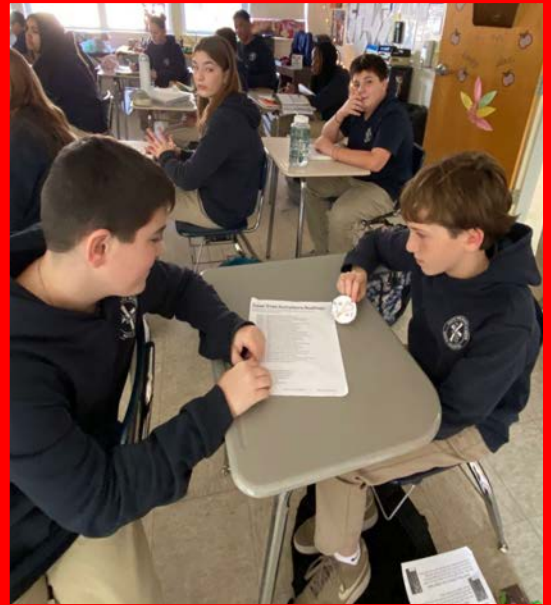
Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies

Grade 8 students used their detective skills to prove the existence of King Arthur. As facts were presented, the detectives held discussions to prove or disprove his existence. Once discussions were over, the students were then task with using their findings to



Mrs. Ordway - Grade 7B - Religion

Preparing for Advent and exploring the meaning of the Jesse Tree





Mr. A: Science 7/8

Grades seven and eight continue to learn about different subjects in science. Specifically, the Environment for grade seven and the Weather for grade eight. Those topics will end soon and the classes will be on to Botany (7) and Climate Changes (8). This should take both classes well into January.

The eighth graders have or are in the process of taking their private high school tests. I wish them the best of luck. I know they will do well and will be able to attend the school of their choice next year.

The 8A students have decorated the science lab for Christmas. The students have done an awesome job. I have put out the manger scene and Advent Wreath. Those are the true decorations and meanings of Christmas. I hope that every family has a **HAPPY and HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

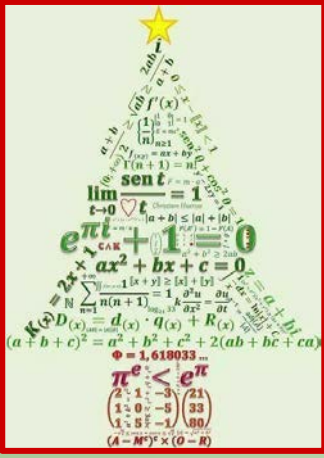
Mr. Annand



The students in 8A thank all of our families who have supported us through the years!



Mrs. Parker: 7/8 Math



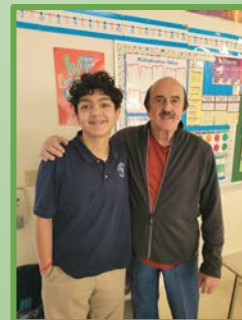
The seventh grade students are starting to work with inequalities. They will be able to write them, graph their solutions, and solve them. The students will probably see a lot of similarities to their work with equations.

The eighth grade students are going to be working systems of linear equations. They will use their graphing skills, substitution and elimination for this work.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Christmas season. Enjoy the time together and have a Happy New Year!



The students in 8B thank all of our families who have supported us through the years!





SCHOOL COUNSELOR



MUSIC



GYM

School Counseling and Specials



TECHNOLOGY



ART



STEM



SPANISH

Saint Michael PE

Tis the season to be **HAPPY, HEALTHY, and ACTIVE**. As we prepare for the long winter, the students at SMS have been busy playing Dodgeball, Grinch tag, and running to the **BEEP TEST!** We are so fortunate to have the backyard turf and basketball court so we can get outside all year round.

Our SMS basketball teams are off to a great start in the Merrimack Valley Catholic League. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who put in so much work to help our players out.

Have a great Christmas break,
Mr. D



"The Best way to spread Christmas Cheer is to sing loud for all to hear!"

-Elf

December Music

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing....

BRAVO! To the Nursery PreK-4 and Kindergarten students.

What a Christmas Spectacular Show!

Excellent... As Usual!

- ★ Grades K-4 are busy practicing for our “Nativity” Celebration.
- ★ Christmas Concert Choir will perform beautiful music selections. ... Oh, what fun!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!
Musically yours, Ms. Lavallee





STEM

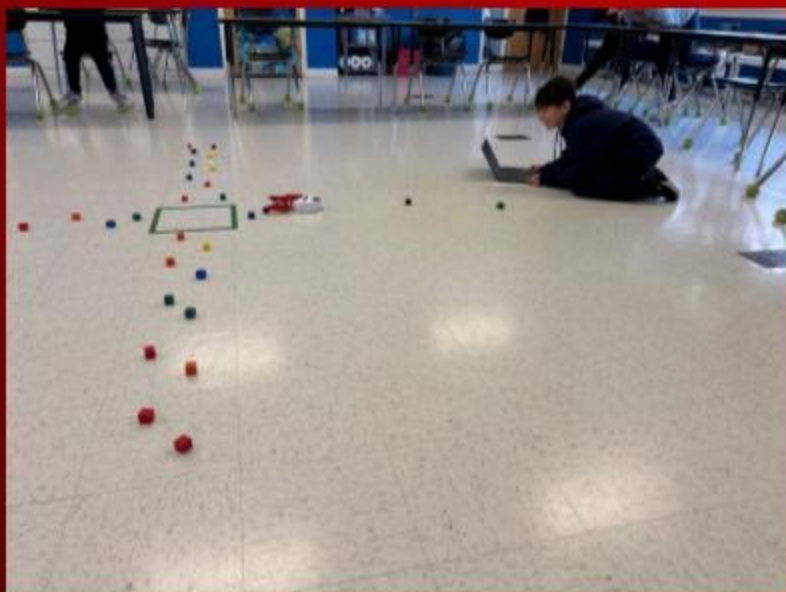
Coding & Robotics Grades 2 & 4

Grade 2 students needed to write a code that would have the robot draw a square and a rectangle.

**CODING
TEACHES...**
CREATIVITY
CRITICAL
THINKING
PROBLEM
SOLVING
MATH SKILLS
LOGICAL
THINKING
RESILIENCE



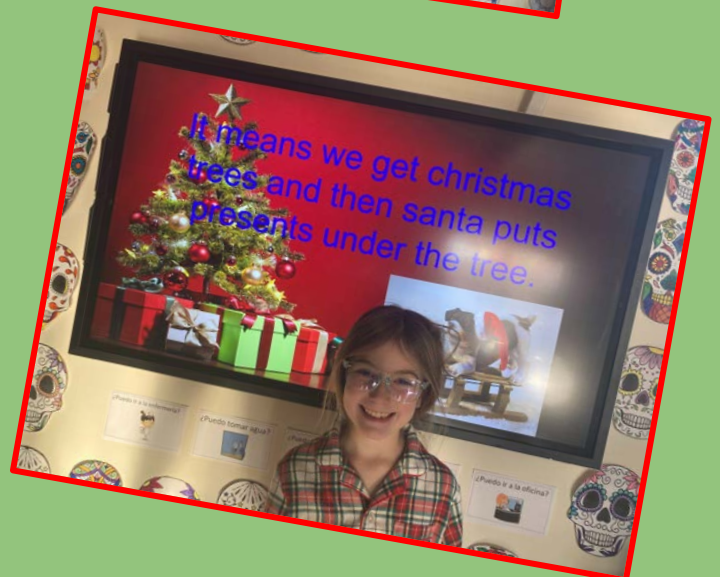
Grade 4 students needed to build an attachment that would allow the robot to push blocks into a square then they had to build their code to get the robot to move.



Technology

Grade 5 has been working hard practicing their typing skills while creating and sharing a presentation on Google Slides. They have spent the last few weeks researching and learning about an educational topic of choice.

Grade 4 has been working on a Google Slide presentation as well. They have created and shared their thoughts on "To me, the Christmas season means ...".



The students worked hard this month on describing a variety of emotions in Spanish! 6-8 just took their first Spanish quizzes on vocab and grammar!



Students here are playing an interactive “Quizlet Live” game to study!

Spanish Grades 5-8



In class we have been listening to some Christmas songs and are getting started on some Christmas Vocab!

Listening to music with lyrics on the board to hear and read the lyrics in Spanish!

ART CLASS

With Mrs. Donegan



December was especially busy in the art room. Nursery, Pre-K and Kindergarten all made artwork for the Christmas Spectacular, everything was beautiful and they did amazing! First and Second grade made evergreen tree branches and designed their own ornaments. Have a happy and healthy holiday break and I'll see you in the new year!



Christmas Spectacular Artwork



Counselor's Corner With Mrs. Rowley

The month of December was one for giving for the Student Council. The students worked hard during the Toy Drive and collected so many toys for local children to make Christmas extra special! Student Council members also assisted with Wreaths Across America by laying wreaths on our fallen veterans' graves.

