

# Newsletter February 2025



On a recent visit to school, a parent mentioned how very busy everyone seemed to be. They saw band practice in the music room, physical education classes in the gym, a PTO raffle sale going on, students taking MAP tests and more. What they didn't know is that is a normal day at St. Michael School. We are always bustling with activity every day. We run so many extracurricular clubs but are always open to offering more.

We just wrapped up Catholic Schools Week and what a tremendous week it was! We showed off our school spirit, learned about vocations, celebrated our nation and volunteers and more. I think the highlight for the students was the Faculty vs. Students Annual Volleyball Game that was played on Friday. I can't thank our spirited staff enough for volunteering to play against our amazing student players. Everyone had so much fun and were cheered on by the rest of the school. Many thanks to our CSW Committee of teachers and staff who planned out the week for our students. We are delighted each year to celebrate all that a Catholic education gives to a student!

I can't believe we have accomplished 100 days of school already!!! It's a short month with February vacation week so before we know it, March will be coming in like a lion or a lamb. I'm hoping for a quiet March and very few snow days! March brings with it Ash Wednesday Mass and the annual Book Fair. Keep your eyes posted on backpack flyers for more information on these activities as we approach March!

I hope the February vacation gives your family a chance to unwind a bit. I've always found it more restful than Christmas break as it provides a great opportunity to slow things down and play all the new games the kids received or to go sledding or skiing without too much hustle and bustle. Cozy up with a new book, head to the movies or museums, etc. Whatever you decide to do over the break, I hope it's restful and enjoyable.

I usually start getting asked the question, "When is the last day of school?" right around now. We have to wait to see what winter has in store for us. On Groundhog Day Punxsutawney Phil said it's going to be a longer winter this year. Once we get through March we can start looking towards the end of the year. For those itching for summer, take note of our Cedarland Days for grades 1-7. Grades 1-4 will attend on June 6<sup>th</sup> and grades 5-7 will attend on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy the February vacation!

*Sue Gosselin*

## *The Jubilee Prayer*

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
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.

- February 17-21- School Vacation
- February 24- Grade 5 Penance
- February 28- PTO dance
- March 3- Grade 4 Penance
- March 5- Ash Wednesday Mass  
1:45p.m.
- March 10- Grade 3 Penance
- March 11-13 - Book Fair

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# U Matter



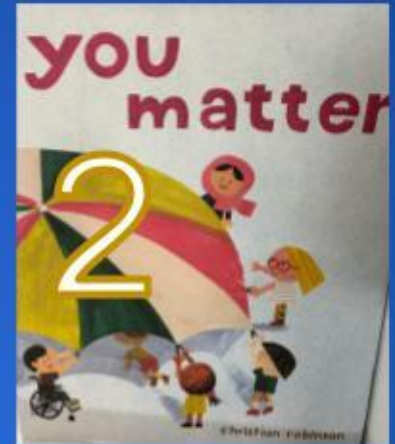
Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



Rocky made a student shadowing feel very welcome.



Bella offered to deliver mail to the classes.



Mckenzie offered to deliver mail to the classes.



Raleigh got help for another skier that wasn't from SMS.



Penny cleaned up the book area without being asked.

# U Matter



Erica offered to help around the classroom.



Purnima offered to help around the classroom.



Michael helped clean the Spanish room during recess.



Aiden taught a new 3rd grader how to put on their ski boots.

## Honorable Mention

**Grade 7**

Nick  
Hillary

**Grade 4**

Ella  
Gael  
Haven



# U Matter



Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



Mikey helped a classmate build the structure when he was having a hard time.



Kinley helped the team next to her in STEM when they were having a hard time finding the problem.



Rowan was responsible and completed all of her work that she missed when she was out.



Caroline helped a friend at dismissal.



Nathan helped his teacher clean up a mess left by others.

# U Matter



Stella helped another student with questions she didn't have written down.



Jacob cleaned tables without being asked.



Capri cleaned tables without being asked.

## Honorable Mention

**Grade 6**

**Javian**

**Maggie**

**Grade 5**

**Stella**

**Carmelo**

**Grade 4**

**Abby**

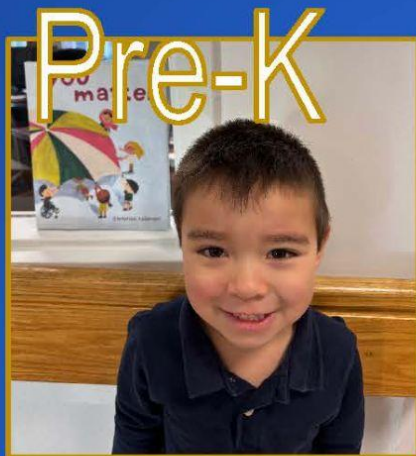
**Caroline**



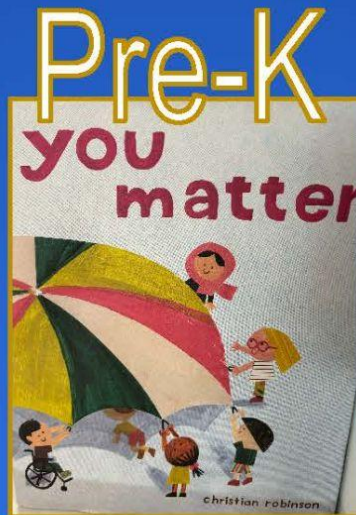
# U Matter



Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



Zachary worked well in a team!



Aelia helped a friend who was feeling sad.



Mason showed his younger sister support when she needed it.



Jake cleaned up after another student without being asked.



William stayed after class to clean up after students.



# U Matter



Nick found and returned a student's backpack to the office.



Matthew always helps teachers and staff early in the morning.



Thomas showed patience and kindness to his Kindergarten buddy.

## Honorable Mention

Grade Pre-K

Aaron

Abby

Munroe

Grade 5

Stella M

Stella S

Grade 7

William B

Grade 8

Ava



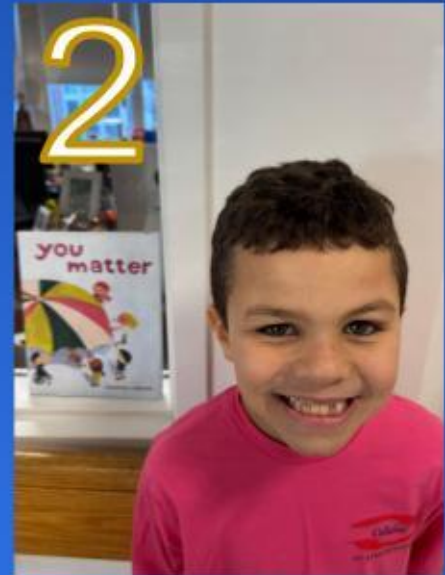
# U Matter



Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



Zachary put up chairs on desks without being asked.



Isaac picked up another student's backpack and lunchbox that fell on the floor.



Norah picked up trash and swept the floor after the dance.



Colten picked up everything off of the ground in the classroom at the end of the day.

# U Matter



Liam cleaned up a big spill for a friend without being asked.



Ryan helped a classmate who is on crutches move from class to class.

## Honorable Mention

Grade 4

Gabby

Grade 5

Emmett

Grade 6

Woody

Grade 7

Bella

Grade 8

Davin





**NURSERY**



**PRE-K**

# Early Childhood

## Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten



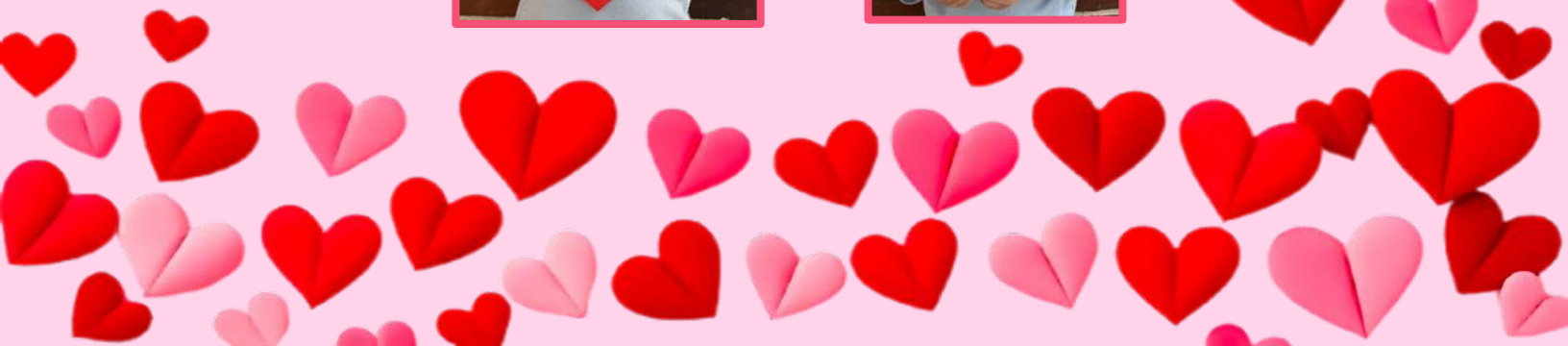
**KINDERGARTEN**

# Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui

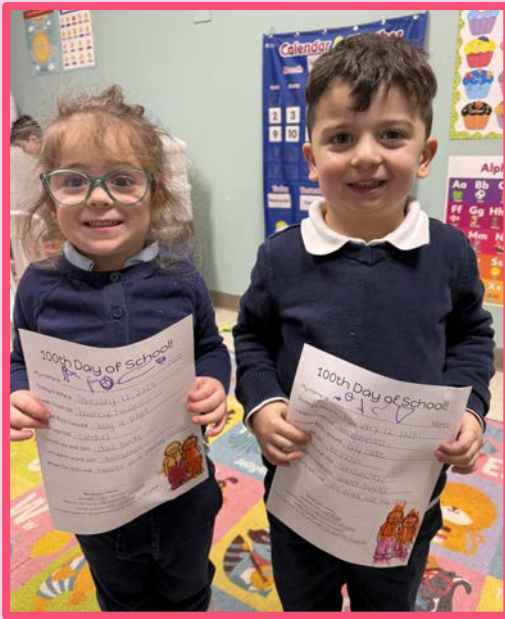


Happy February! We learned about the letters Q and R and celebrated Valentine's Day!



# Nursery

Mrs. McGovern



Happy February! This month we celebrated Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school! We also learned about the letters Q and R.

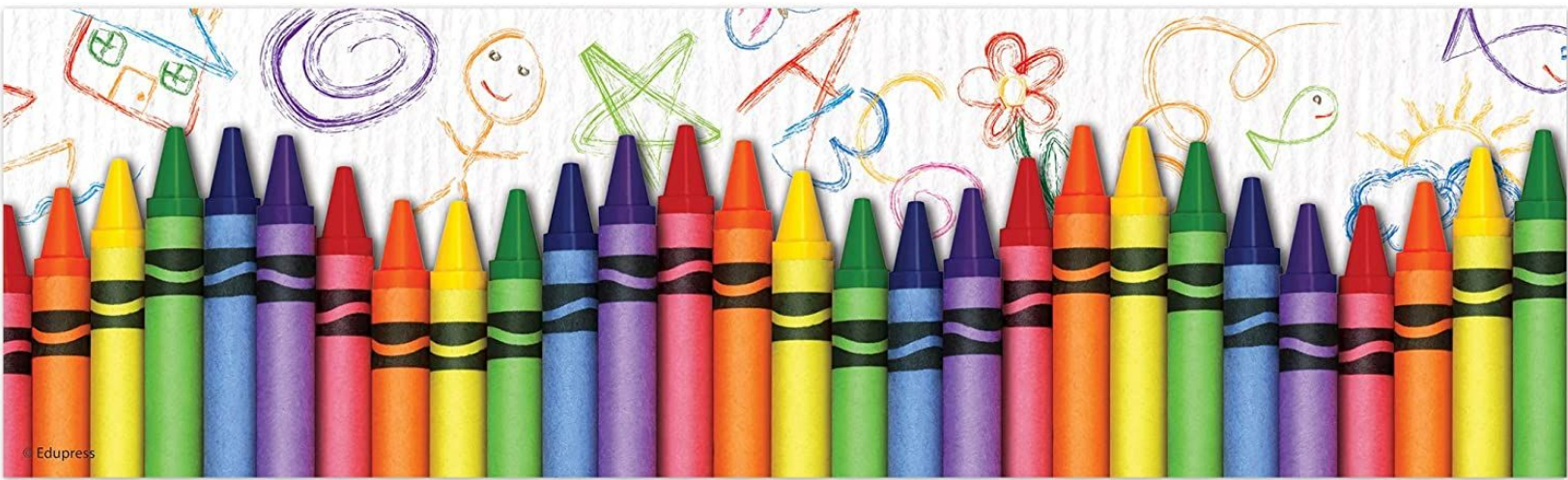


# PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

During the month of February we celebrated the 100th Day of School and Valentines.

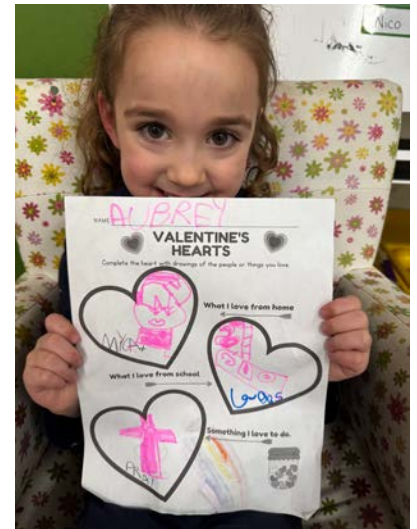
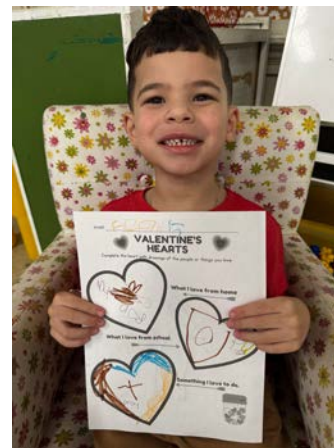
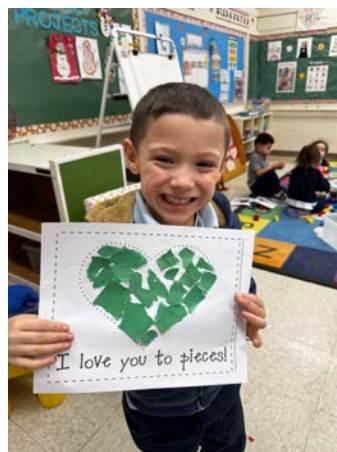
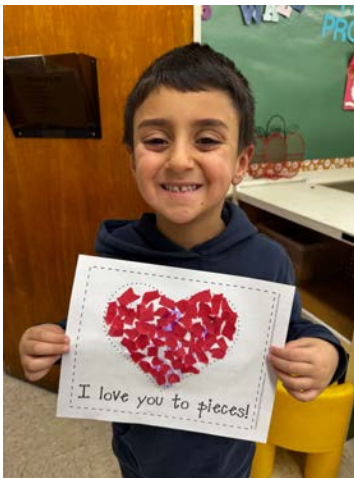
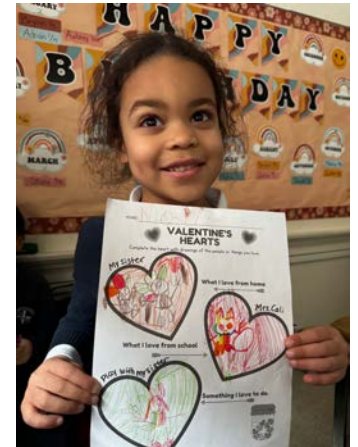


# PRE-K Ms. K





# PRE-K Mrs. Cali



Pre-K has been working hard on their shapes colors and more! We have been celebrating love and all things Valentine's Day!



# Kindergarten!

Mrs. Sleight



**Our 8th grade buddies visited us and shared bookmarks. We made special “pop” up cards for them. We are so fortunate to have such special friends in our lives!**

# Kindergarten!

Mrs. Polcari



So much to celebrate in February! Groundhog Day, Black History Month, President's Day, the 100th Day of School, and Valentine's Day! We have enjoyed reading about them all!

# Kindergarten!

## Mrs. Kasberg



February has been filled with so much fun! Reading with our 8th grade buddies, learning about the Presidents, celebrating the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day!



**FIRST GRADE**



**SECOND GRADE**

# Elementary School

## Grades 1-4



**THIRD GRADE**



**FOURTH GRADE**



# First Grade

## 1A- Mrs. Robidoux



This month we shared love. We celebrated Catholic Schools Week highlighting our nation, our community, our school, our parish and our students. We talked about all the people and things that bring us joy and love.

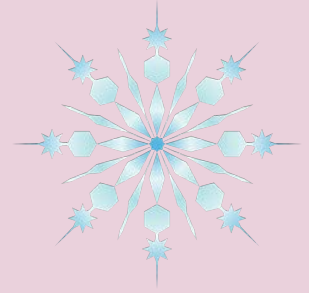
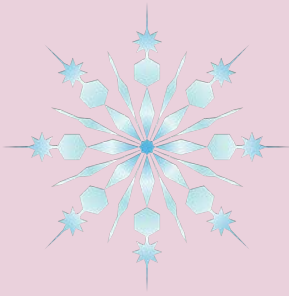


# First Grade

**IB- MS. BEDARD**



It has been a busy month filled with learning and love!



**Mrs. Caffrey**



February was a month of many celebrations and activities. We enjoyed Catholic Schools Week, Groundhog Day, Chinese New Year, the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day.



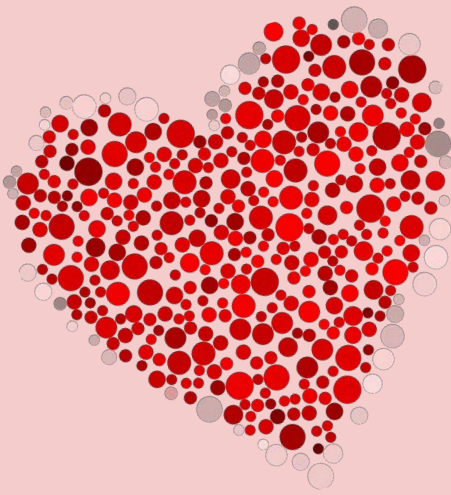




# Mrs. Grant

Grade 2B had a fun filled February working with tangrams, celebrating the 100th Day of School and learning about the Presidents.

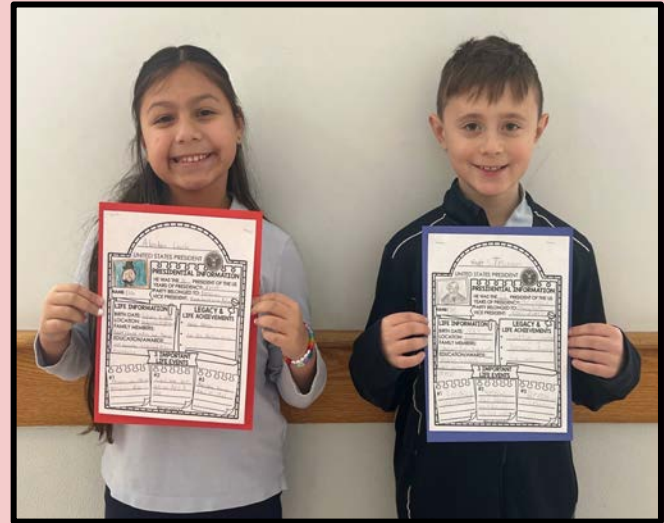
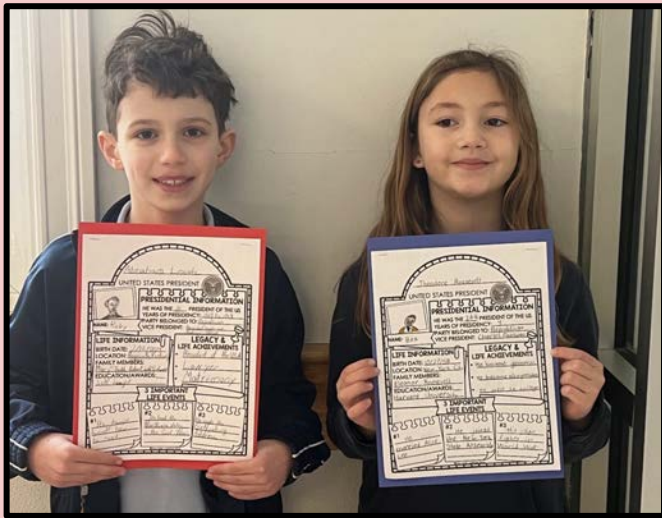




# 3rd Grade

Mrs. Torpey and Ms. Grava

Over the past month, the students have been learning lots about the government and American symbols. They've learned a great deal about Washington D.C. and read books about the Presidents of the United States.



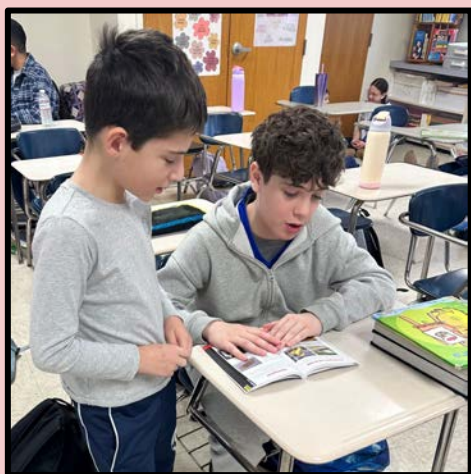
During Catholic Schools Week, the third graders paired up with the seventh graders to read. We are hoping to pair up again to complete a Lenten project in March.



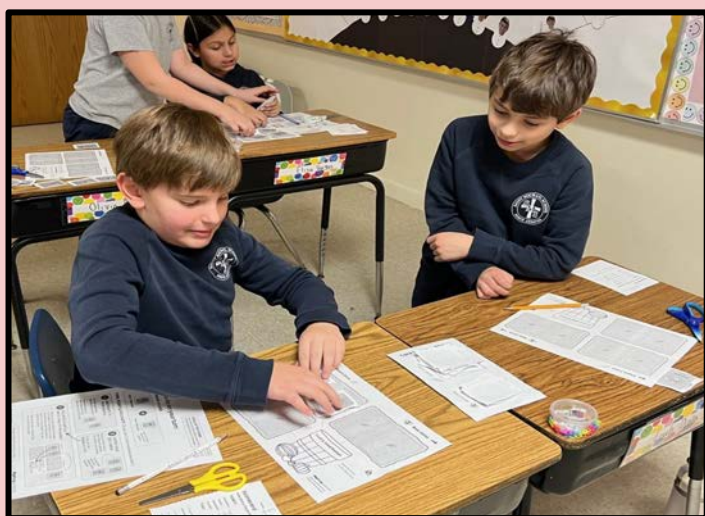


# 3rd Grade

Mrs. Torpey and Ms. Grava



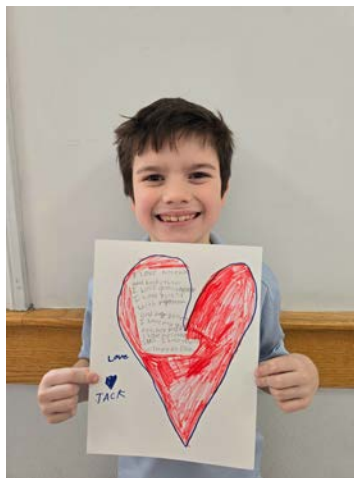
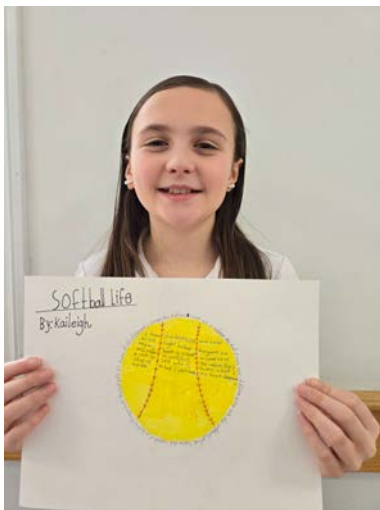
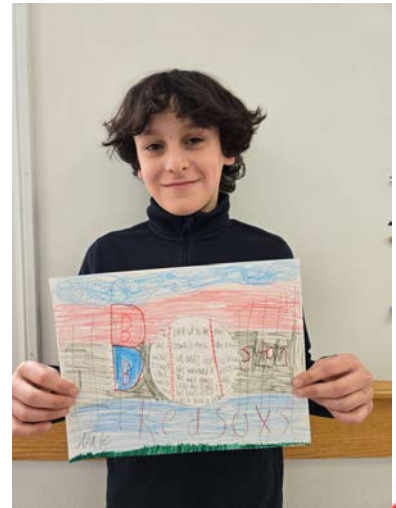
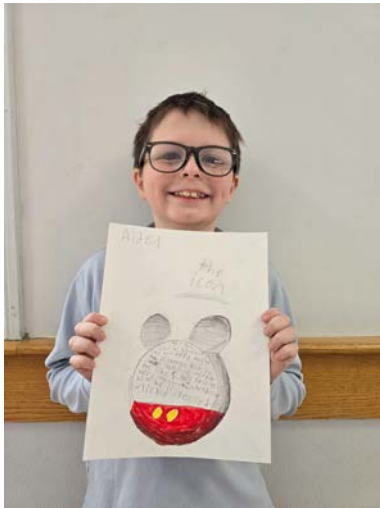
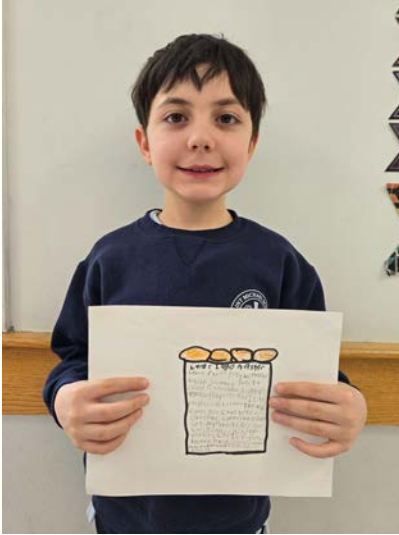
In science the students are learning about pollination and how only certain bees can pollinate certain flowers. Students played a game that helped them understand which bees pollinate which flowers.



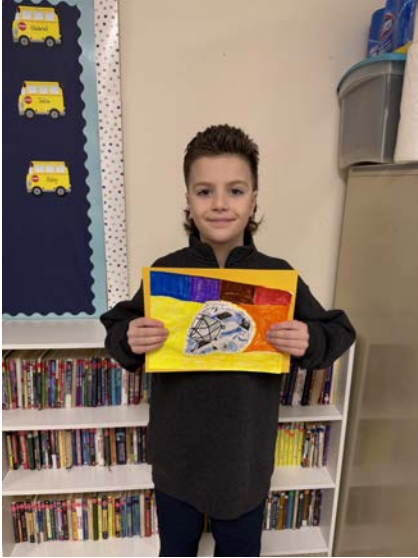
# Grade 4 with Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sweeney

The children in Grade 4 wrote poems about a hobby or pastime they love!

Then they wrote their poems using the shape of an item from that hobby or pastime!  
They were all so creative!



# Grade 4 Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sweeney





**FIFTH GRADE**



**SIXTH GRADE**

# Upper School

## Grades 5-8



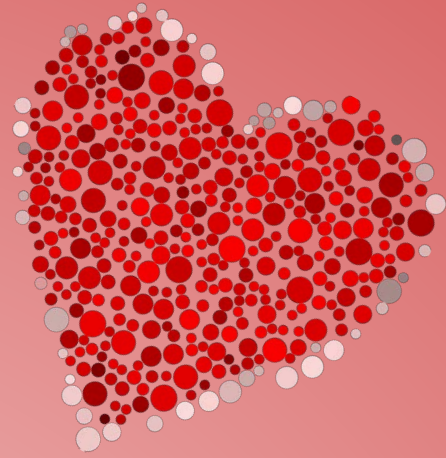
**SEVENTH GRADE**



**EIGHTH GRADE**



# Mrs. Adam ELA



**5th Grade -** Our essential question this month is, "How can caring for the Earth and its living things improve life now and in the future?" This has a lot of them thinking about creative ways to help our Earth.



**6th Grade -** *Old Yeller* is set in the 1860's which gives us a lot to discuss such as the ending of the Civil War, the plight of Native Americans, and the main theme which is a boy becoming a man.



# Mrs. Clifford 5&6 Social Studies

Grade 6 is studying Ancient Greece and creating their own versions of warrior shields. Will they become Spartan soldiers or Athenian soldiers?





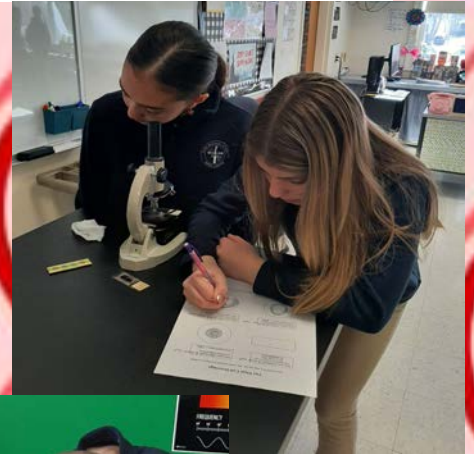
# Mrs. Berard 5th/6th Grade



**5th grade** Has been learning about human impact on Earth's systems so they got to experiment with alternative energy sources.

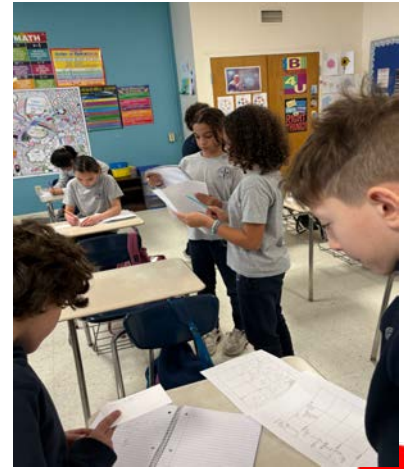
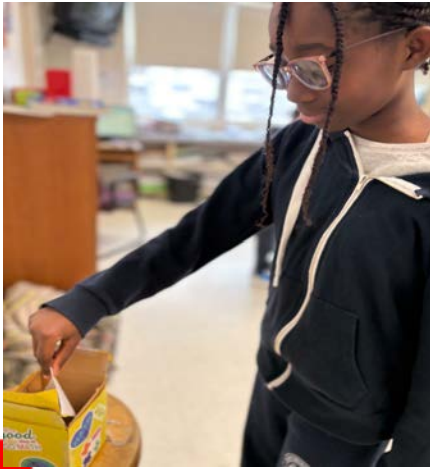


**6th grade** Learned all about cells and then had the opportunity to look at a variety of cells and other objects under the microscope.



# Grade 5 MATH

# Ms. Decoteau



**Grade 5 has completed so much work using division skills. As we celebrated the 100th day of school, we made a game of doing 100 problems!**



# Grade 6 MATH

# Ms Decoteau

Grade 6 students celebrated the 100th day of school by solving algebraic equations. Our 100 problem SNOWFLAKE game got very spirited!





# Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies Enrichment



Grade 7



Grade 7



Designing Totem Poles  
Having fun with pastels



Grade 8

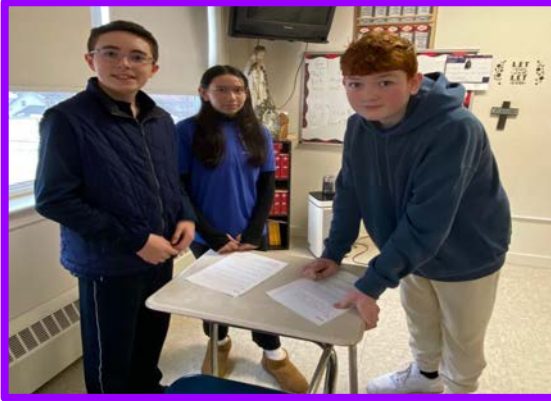


Learning to sew



# Mrs. Ordway - Grade 8 ELA

## Socratic discussions concerning the themes of King





# Mr. A: Science 7/8

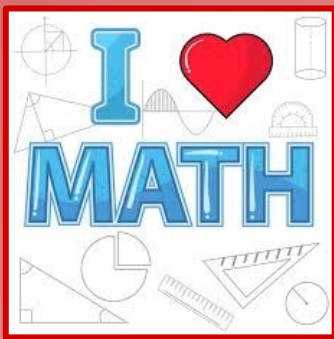
February vacation is upon us, and the school year continues to fly by. The eighth graders, for the most part, have heard from their high schools of choice. I am proud of all of them.

Science Fair packets have gone out to all the seventh and eighth grade students. The classes have been discussing their respective topics and how they are going to proceed. Their topic sheets are due after vacation and require a parent signature. The Science Fair has long been a tradition of excellence at Saint Michael School. I am sure this year's students will continue with the tradition.



The Class of 2025 had a great time at this year's Faculty/Student Volleyball games!





# Mrs. Parker: 7/8 Math

The students in grade 7 finished up their work with proportions which will be very helpful as they start their work with percentages. The students in grade 8 explored all of the different exponent rules and how to work with square and other roots. I want to encourage all the students to keep practicing their basic skills- it will help make them stronger math students! Have a relaxing and safe February break!



The Class of 2025 loves spending time with our Kindergarten Buddies!





**SCHOOL COUNSELOR**



**MUSIC**



**GYM**

# School Counseling and Specials



**TECHNOLOGY**



**ART**



**STEM**



**SPANISH**



# Saint Michael PE

Happy February! This winter has been a cold one for sure!

I would like to congratulate all of our basketball teams. They worked so hard this year. Thank you to all of the parents and volunteers that helped make our program such a success. A special shout out to the Grade 8 boys who lost in the championship game. Some of the boys have been playing basketball since kindergarten! I would also like to highlight our one championship that was won by our Grade 7 girls. Fantastic accomplishment ladies!

Some have been complaining about all this cold weather but our Ski Club members have been loving it! Thank you to [www.skibradford.com](http://www.skibradford.com) for hosting our 60+ skiers and riders these past few weeks.



**“A bad day on the slopes beats a good day at work.”**

-Unknown

# FEBRUARY MUSIC

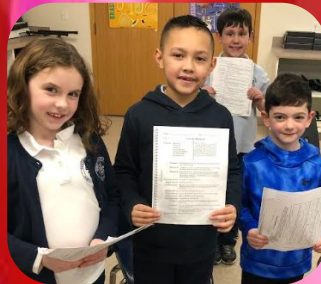
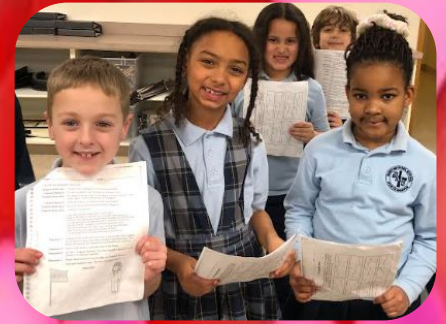


*“I am so lucky to be working in a field that you never grow tired of.”- John Williams*

- ★ **MUSIC and STEM together again! Percussion Engineer raffle winners and friends enjoyed building and learning about the African Djembe drum. Students played African rhythms-high tones/low tones. Thank you to our STEM Director Ms. Bryant for a creative and fun morning!**
- ★ **Nursery, Pre-K4, Kindergarten Students are singing, speaking, clapping to seasonal rhythms.**
- ★ **Grade1A/1B Students are working hard on “Play that Note Jeopardy”.**
- ★ **Grade2A/2B Students are learning about our National Anthem and working on a short skit to be presented.**
- ★ **Grade3&4 Students continue recorder learning. Lots of “Belts” have been issued.**



*Excellent... as usual!!  
Musically yours,  
Ms. Lavallee*



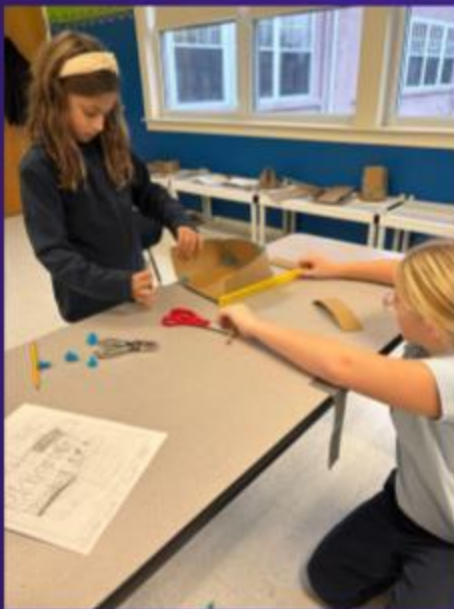
# STEM

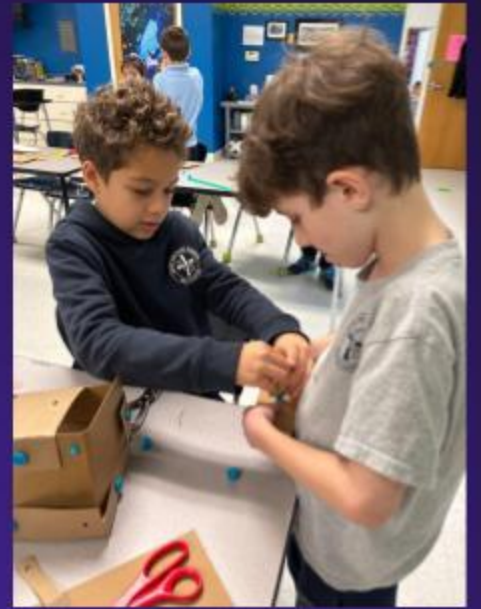
## Simple Machines

### Grade 3



Grade 3 students became mechanical engineers as they learned about two simple machines, the screw and the pulley. Each team designed and built an elevator using screws and cardboard then lifted it up using a pulley.







# Technology

The Upper School kids have been working hard in creating their own podcasts. We have podcasts featuring sport talks to the latest trends in music and fashion. We have researched various topics in small groups, and each member has added their own touch to create fun conversations. We are using slides to input the steps needed to perform a successful round table talk.



Fifth graders enjoyed a story about Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo. The best part of this activity was that second graders read to us.



# Spanish Grades 5-8



Students in grades 6 to 8 have been learning Valentine's Day vocab words. They have also been introduced to the flags of the 21 Spanish speaking countries!

# ART CLASS

*With Mrs. Donegan*



Fourth grade learned about the African American Artist Alma Thomas. Students looked at multiple pieces and discussed what they saw and how it made them feel. They picked a shape and then made brushstrokes in radiating lines around the shape filling the whole paper. They tried their best to stick to the original shape and used watercolor paint. The results came out beautiful.





# ART CLUB

*With Mrs. Donegan*



Some 7th and 8th grade students have spent the last couple of weeks in a before school art club. They looked at work done by the artist Jen Aranyi and created landscapes using Sharpies and watercolor paint. They also requested to use acrylic paints and mixed them with a special medium to do pour paintings on canvas. Everything is looking so beautiful and they should be so proud of what they have created!



# Counselor's Corner With Mrs. Rowley



During the month of February I continue to visit classrooms to support the students and teachers in that setting. The students have had a great start of Term 3 and showed a lot of school spirit while celebrating Catholic Schools Week. One of my favorite counseling activities that have continued into February are lunch bunch groups where we explore all different topics together and find commonalities with our classmates.