

# Newsletter March 2025



I have been truly enjoying these past few days as the snow is melting and the backyard turf area is starting to show! Even Mount St. Michael in the front yard is shrinking a little bit each day! We have been pretty lucky this year with one snow day so far and a couple of delayed openings. While delays may be frustrating for working parents, we truly appreciate being here now instead of on extremely hot temperature days in June!

March is a long month with no holidays but we do have a half day on March 21st for professional development for staff and teachers. Our staff continue to work on our NEASC Accreditation Self Study. Our Foundation visit will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> and then our big visit will be held in early November. Having this half day allows the staff time during work hours to complete writing our answers to different standards of accreditation and gathering necessary materials.

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday and will continue as the weeks lead us to Holy Week and Easter. Students will be praying, fasting and doing good deeds during these forty days. If you didn't pick up a Daily Reflection book at the church on Ash Wednesday, try to pick one up at a weekend mass. Each day offers a short reflection to inspire you each day of Lent this year.

The PTO held a very successful Book Fair last week. One thing we love about the Book Fair is the focus on students purchasing books at their own reading levels. There were different genres for all students as well as an opportunity to purchase summer reading books. This month the PTO will also host the annual Boys' Night Out and they're preparing for this year's Archangel Run in May!

It's hard to believe but Term III is almost over. Report Cards will be going out in early April. Looking ahead into April we have April vacation beginning with Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. School will be closed April 18-27. Spring will be busy with the Science Fair, Band Concert, May Procession, first communion, field trips, Peter Pan production and much, much more. We encourage families to pay close attention to our calendar on your parent portal. We also highlight dates each week in the Trumpet News.

Information regarding tuition for 2025-26 will be coming out soon. We are excited that we have a robust enrollment for next year. We do have a couple of seats available in specific grades so if you know someone hoping to attend next year, please encourage them to call us as soon as possible.

Once we wrap up March we can firm up our end of school dates including Kindergarten Graduation, Step Up Day and last day of school information. We are also working on the 2025-26 school year calendar already and anticipate a return to school date of August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Let's all hope the March goes out like a lamb and that April brings to us the first signs of an early spring!

Sincerely,

*Sue Gosselin*

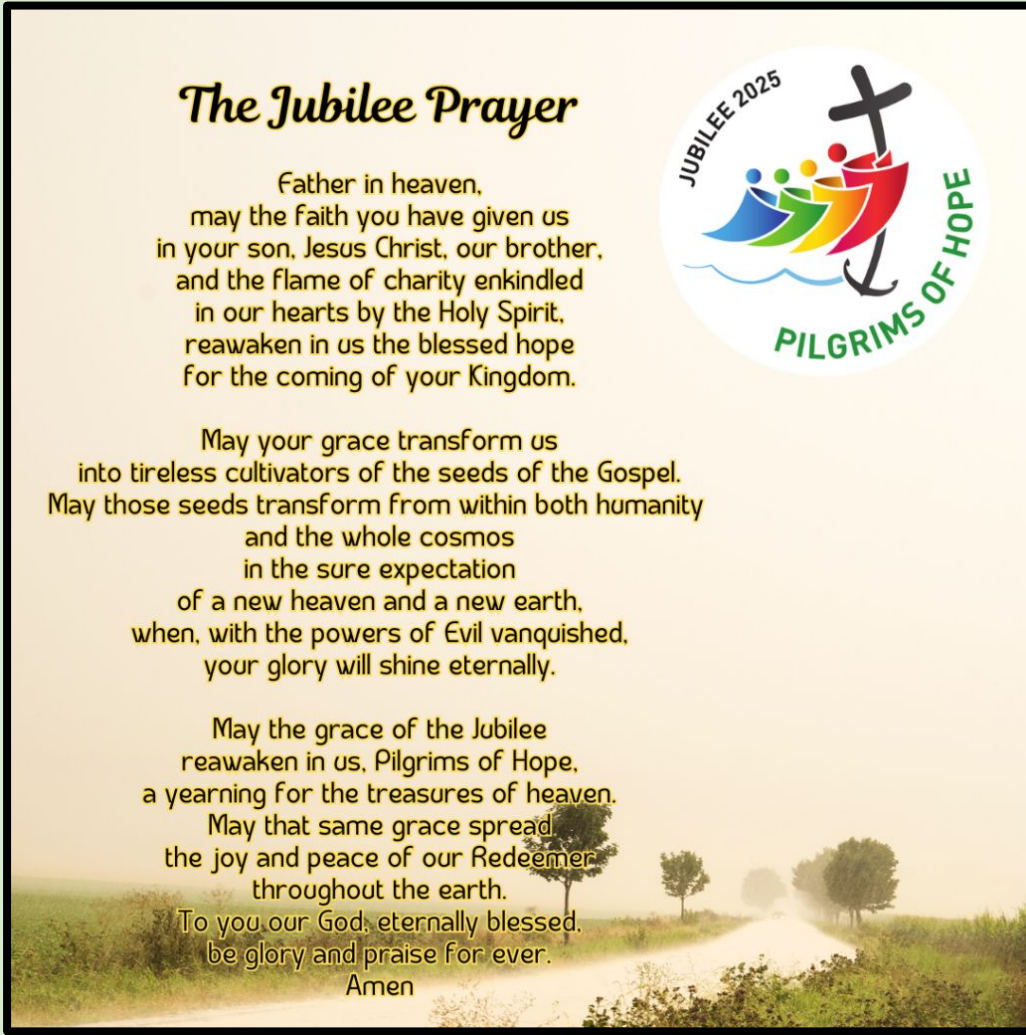
Saint Michael School · 80 Maple Avenue · North Andover, MA 01845 Tel (978) 686-1862 ·  
www.SaintMichael.com · info@saintmichael.com

## *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.

- March 21- Half Day 12:15 Dismissal
- March 28 Term III ends
- April 4- Reports Cards for Grades 1-8
- April 7- Mass 1:45
- April 18- School Closed- Good Friday
- April 20- Easter
- April 21-25 Vacation

## 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 [donations@saintmichael.com](mailto:donations@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.

# SMS SUMMER FUN



## *Under the Sea!*

*June 23-27*

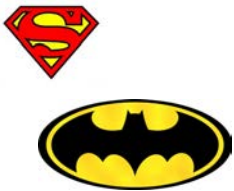
## Celebrate our Nation!

June 30-July 3



## LET'S GO CAMPING!

JULY 7-11



## **SUPERHEROS**

JULY 14-18



## *Ahoy Matey!*

*July 21-25*



## **SPORTSTASTIC!**

JULY 28-AUGUST 1



Students Entering Kindergarten - 7th Grade  
Join Mrs. Polcari, other SMS staff and alumni for a summer of fun!

*For more details and to sign up go to Renweb!!*

**First Come - First Served - Don't Miss Out**

**No refunds unless the program is cancelled**

½ day- \$225/week

Full day- \$375/week

# U Matter



Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



Brynn is always following the rules and setting a great example for her classmates.



Jackson always cleans up at extended care in the mornings.



Ani always cleans up at extended care in the mornings.



Madelina cleaned up a spill in the Grade 1 hallway.

# U Matter



Jack always cleans the front tables at the end of the day in his classroom without being asked.



Caroline always holds the door for others in the morning rush.

# U Matter



Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



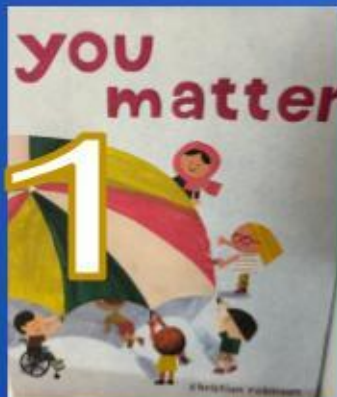
Julia always reminds the class of prayer and says them loud and proud.



James is a great friend to everyone.



Julian is a great friend at recess.



Michael showed great kindness to a friend.



Antonio held the door for another student



Julia cleans up in the cafeteria.

# U Matter



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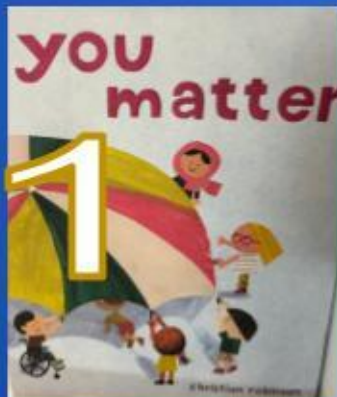
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James is a great friend to everyone.



Julian is a great friend at recess.



Michael showed great kindness to a friend.



Antonio held the door for another student



Julia cleans up in the cafeteria.



# U Matter



Anthony helped a fifth grader with a spill in the hallway.



Cash helped teach a friend the math concept when he needed help.



Cam helped a teacher with a tech issue.



Joey helped cheer up a student who was sad.



Julie did an amazing job welcoming a shadow student for the day.



Luke swept the classroom floor after snack without being asked.

# Honorable Mention



**Kindergarten**

**Madelina**

**Nolan**

**Grade 1**

**Cece**

**Grade 2**

**Julia**

**Grade 4**

**Hailey**

**Grade 5**

**Everly**

**Sebastian**

**Grade 7**

**George**

# U Matter



Congratulations to our U Matter winners!



Abby stopped playing to check on a classmate that got hurt.



Aurora cleaned a mess that was not hers.



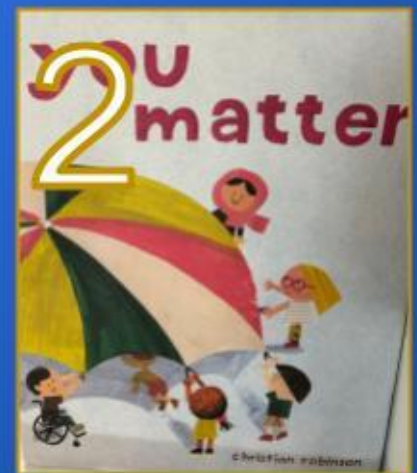
Emma found book fair money for a friend when she was upset that she misplaced it.



Brooke shared her supplies with a friend when she didn't have some.



Austin reminded students to clear the hallway in the bus line for a teacher.



Leon shared a poem with a Nursery student.

# U Matter



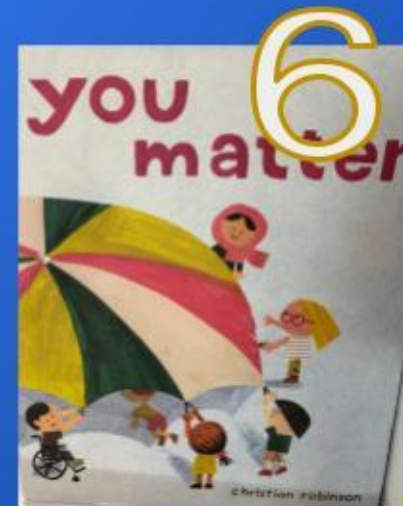
Sofia cleaned the lunch tables without being asked.



Max was an outstanding helper with his Grade 2 buddy. He helped him when he was worrying about his field trip.



Paris jumped right up to help clean at the end of the day.



Rhys helped out 4 times without being asked.

# Honorable Mention



**Nursery**

**Addy**

**Grade 1**

**Harper**

**Michael**

**Grade 3**

**Olivia**

**Grade 5**

**Charlie**

**Dominic**

**Emmett**

**Michaela**

**Will**

**Grade 6**

**Nina**



**NURSERY**



**PRE-K**

# Early Childhood

## Nursery, Pre-K, & Kindergarten



**KINDERGARTEN**

# Nursery

Mrs. Siddiqui

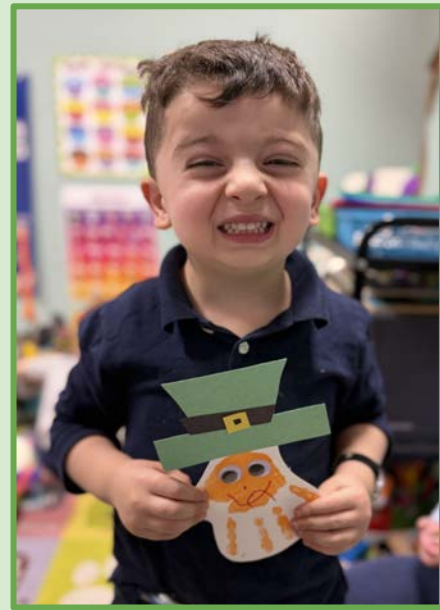


We're counting our blessings in Nursery!  
We're lucky to have family, pets, and each other!



# Nursery

Mrs. McGovern



Lord, during this season of Lent,  
help us grow closer to You  
through love and kindness. St.  
Patrick, guide us in faith and  
courage. Amen.





# PRE-K Mrs. Reinhard

During the month of March we celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday! We learned about St. Patrick's Day.



# PRE-K Ms. K



We've loved our unit about the five senses and have been excited to learn about different types of weather in March! We are also excited to welcome Spring and celebrate St. Patrick's Day together!



# PRE-K Mrs. Cali

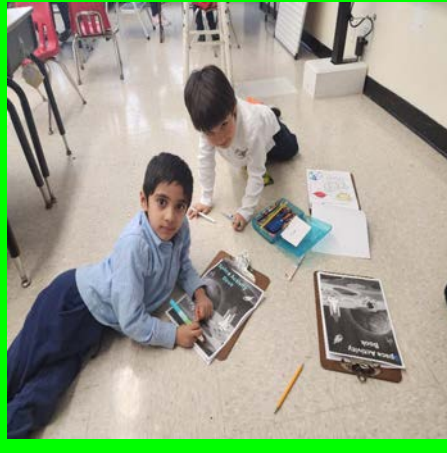


March has been full of Saint Patrick's Day fun! We also enjoyed talking about our shapes and celebrating Read Across America Week!



# Kindergarten!

Mrs. Sleight



Our kindergarteners have been learning about Lent leading to Easter. We have read stories and are working on a "stained glass" cross.



# Kindergarten!

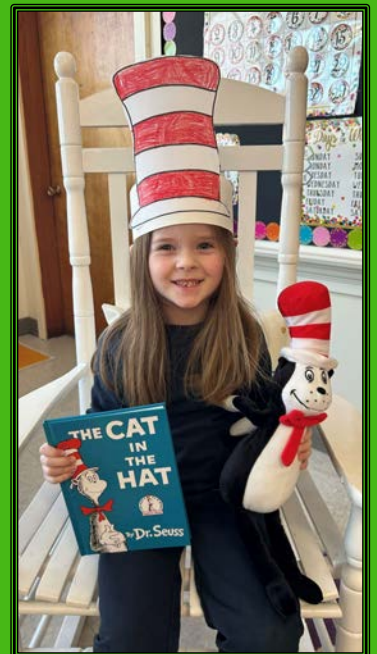
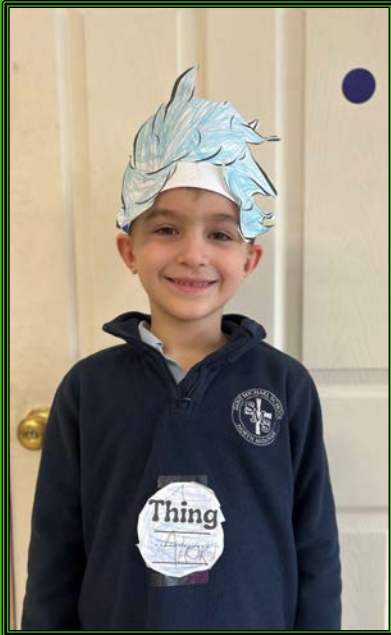
Mrs. Polcari



Students in Kindergarten are preparing for Easter by learning about Lent, including Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. During Lent we are praying, fasting and giving.

# Kindergarten!

## Mrs. Kasberg



We have been busy preparing for Easter by learning about the season of Lent! March brings Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America Week! We are also excited about the warmer weather to come and celebrating St. Patrick's Day!



**FIRST GRADE**



**SECOND GRADE**

# Elementary School

## Grades 1-4



**THIRD GRADE**



**FOURTH GRADE**



# First Grade

1A- Mrs. Robidoux



March brings us lots of luck and lots of love.

This month we are celebrating Reading Across America with hundreds of good books. We are learning about the seven sacraments. We are practicing regrouping. We are trying to catch leprechauns. Most of all we are sharing our love and how lucky we are with each other.





# First Grade

IB- MS. BEDARD



I am so lucky to have the most amazing students. We have worked on learning about animals and writing our own stories!



Mrs. Caffrey

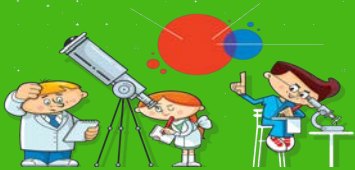
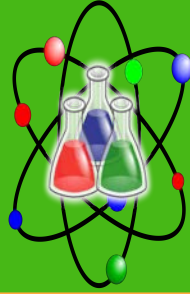
The children enjoyed a field trip to the Museum of Science. We saw exhibits and even visited the Gift shop.





# Mrs. Grant

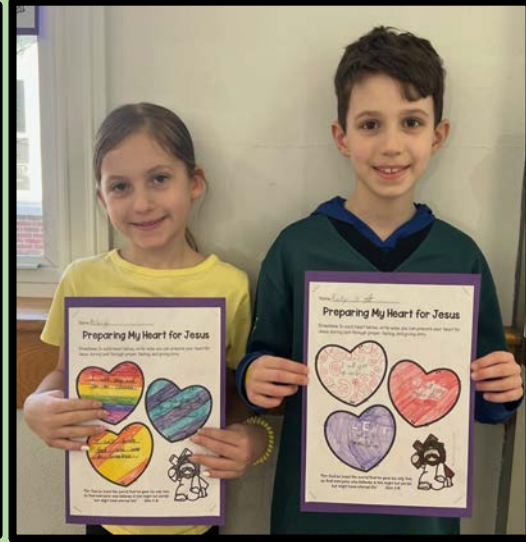
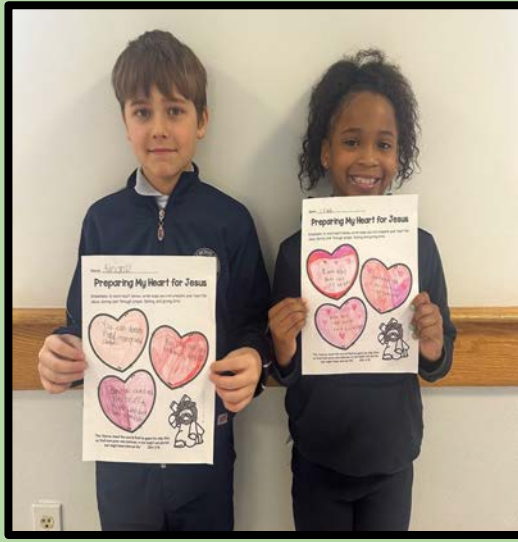
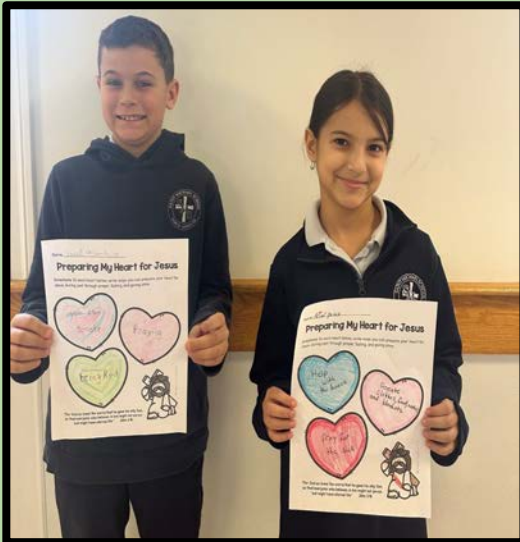
Grade 2 had a fantastic trip to the Museum of Science.



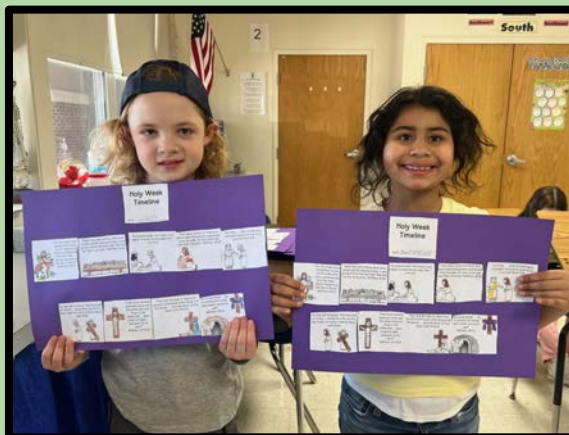


# 3rd Grade

*Mrs. Torpey and Ms. Grava*



The third graders have been learning about the Lenten season. We have discussed how we grow in faith by giving alms and by going to Reconciliation. We have also been learning about the events of Holy Week.

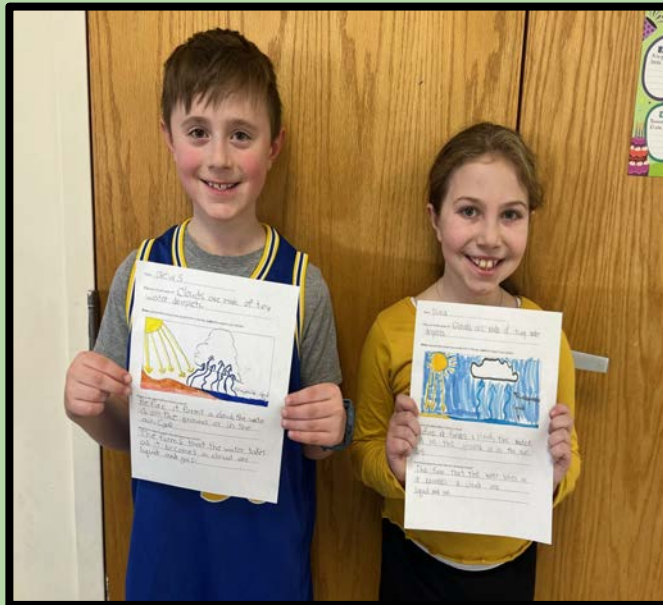




# 3rd Grade

*Mrs. Torpey and Ms. Grava*

In science, the students are beginning to learn about weather. We did a fun activity to see how clouds form, and then we talked about the water cycle. The students drew and labeled an example.



Students learned about Saint Patrick and how he taught others about God using a shamrock. Then they wrote things on a shamrock that they feel lucky to have in their life.

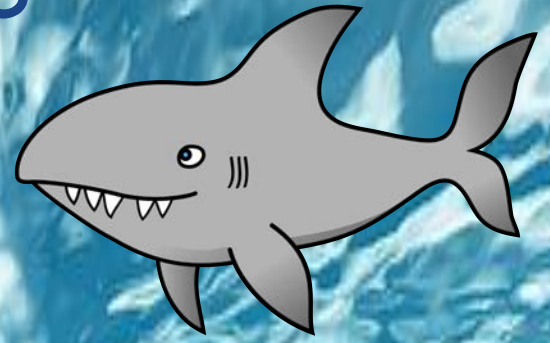


# Grade 4 with Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sweeney



Grade 4 students have become entrepreneurs! They collaborated on a Shark Tank project where they needed to design a product or service that uses energy from a wind turbine to make it run. The SMS Sharks were very impressed with all of their hard work and creativity!

# Grade 4 with Mrs. Andrewchuk & Mrs. Sweeney





**FIFTH GRADE**



**SIXTH GRADE**

# Upper School

## Grades 5-8



**SEVENTH GRADE**

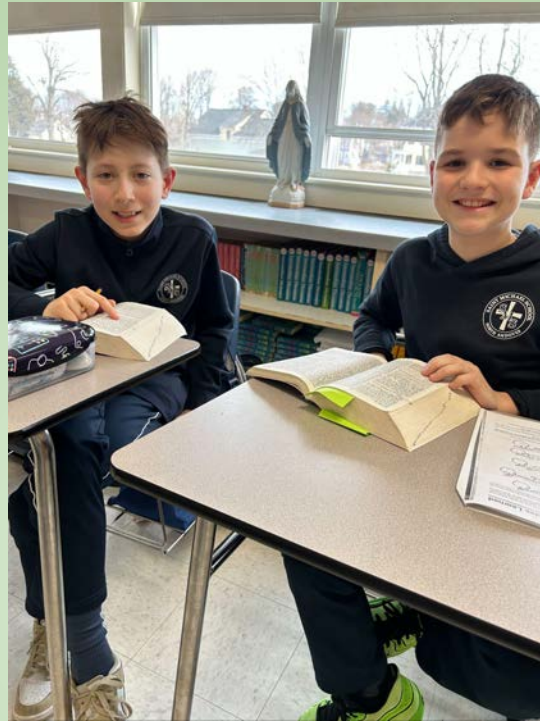


**EIGHTH GRADE**



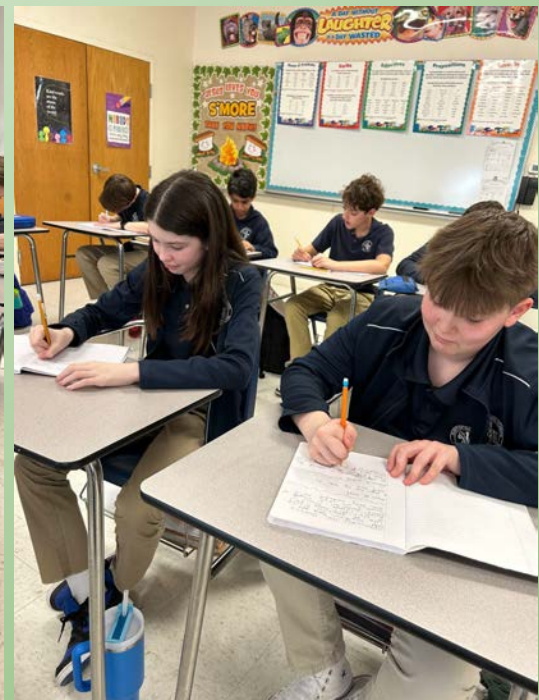


# Mrs. Adam ELA



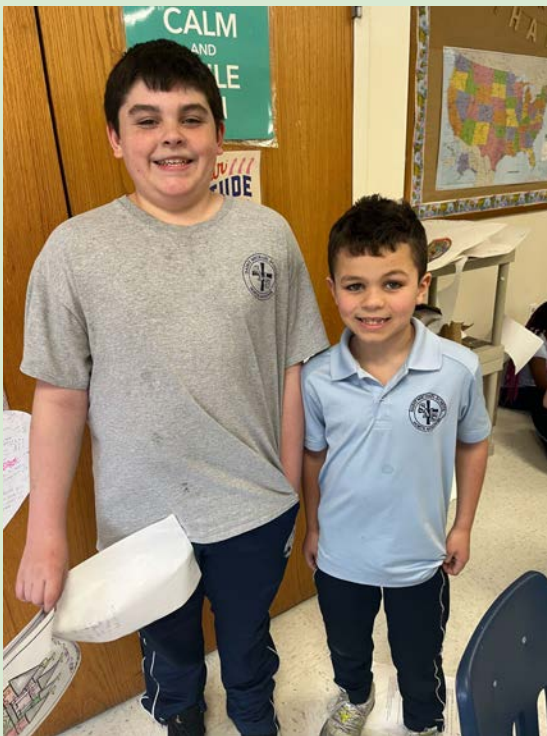
**5th Grade** - The class is working on Lent packets. They find the answers by adventuring their way through the Bible.

**6th Grade** - The class just finished reading *Old Yeller*. We're now ready to write an essay about how the main character Travis went from being a boy to becoming a man.

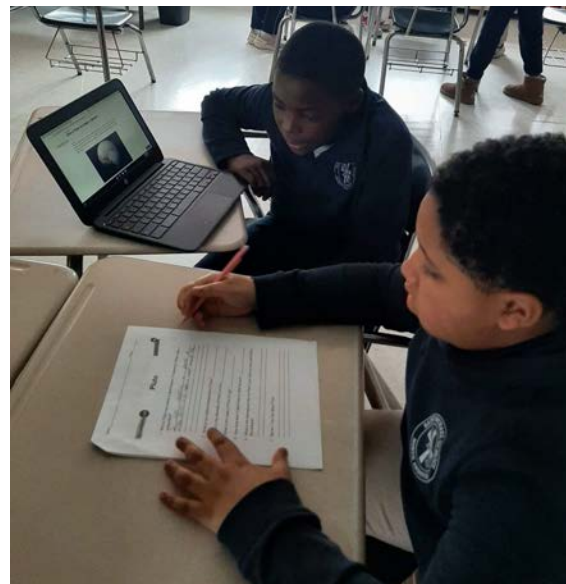


# Mrs. Clifford 5&6 Social Studies

Grade 5B visited with  
their 2nd grade buddies!



# Mrs. Berard 5th/6th Grade



**5th grade** Has begun learning about the Solar System. The lab focused on distance of the planets from the Sun, why Pluto is a dwarf planet, impact of space objects on Earth, and how distance and brightness are related when it comes to stars.

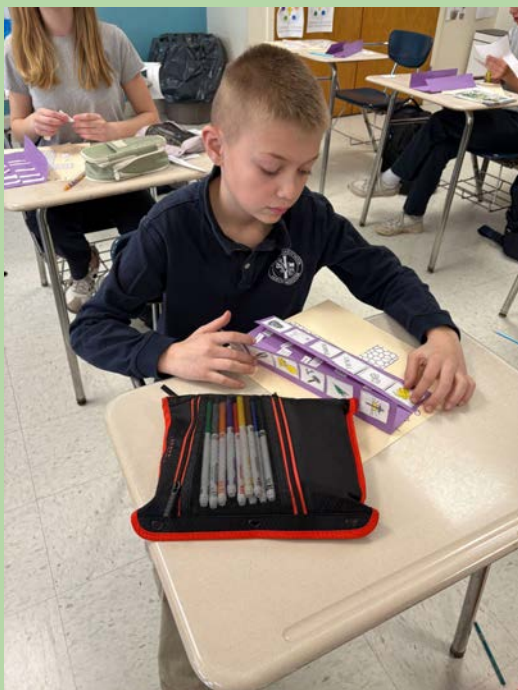
**6th grade** Learned all about the human body including homeostasis, how the body systems are organized and interact, the skin, and the skeletal and muscular systems.

# Grade 6A

It's always fun to visit with our Pre-K reading buddies.

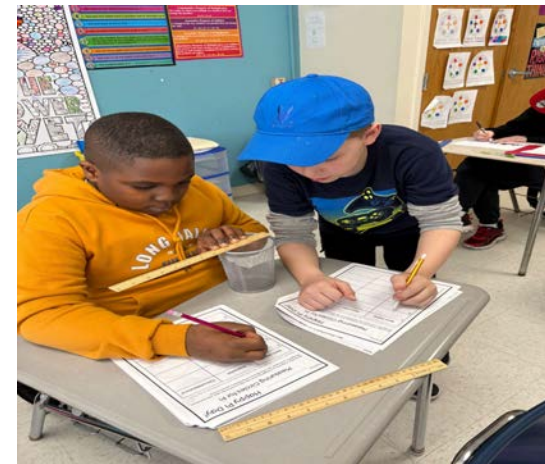


Grade 6 students have been immersed in deepening their faith during Lent. They've made symbols charts, Stations of the Cross booklets, and learned about the 12 Apostles.





# Grade 5 & 6 MATH



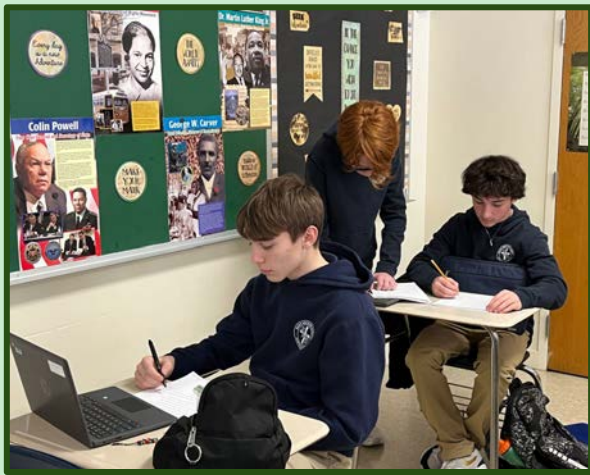
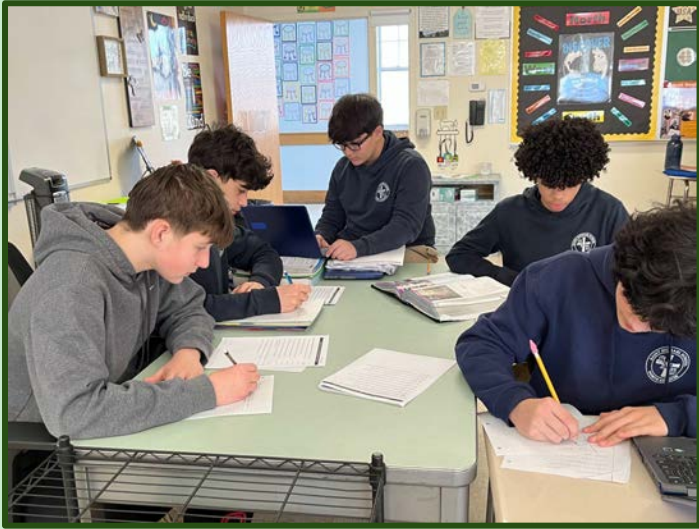
Students took some time to celebrate Pi Day and learn much about the relationship between the circumference and the diameter of a circle. We measured the circumference of lots of circles and made Cityscapes using Pi. Some students played a dice game using the numbers of Pi, measured circles, and solved puzzles.





# Mrs. Nagle: 7/8 Social Studies

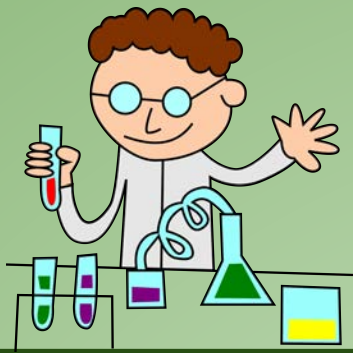
*Grade 8 students working together to explore the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. They discovered new fads and learned the jive talk of the 1920's. They also learning about the stock market, the economy, and what people went through during the depression.*



# Mrs. Ordway - Grade 7 ELA

After studying our parts of speech, the class created and flew paper airplanes. They composed a 100-word descriptive paragraph about the flight, highlighting prepositions!





# Mr. A: Science 7/8

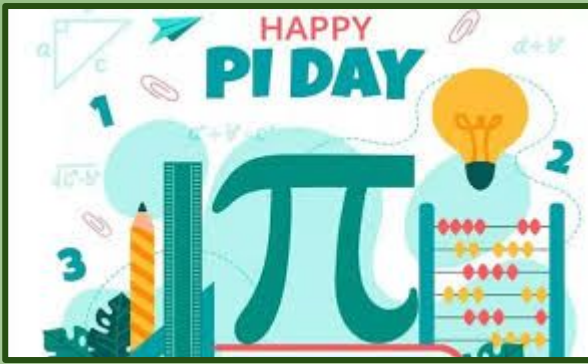
The students are working hard on their respective science fair projects. The projects are due at the end of the month. The students will present their projects in front of their class starting on March 31, 2025. On Thursday April 3, 2025, the projects will be on display in the gym from 6:00-7:00 PM for all to see and ask questions. I look forward to this event every year.

Congratulations to all of the eighth-grade students that were accepted to so many wonderful Catholic and private schools. I am proud of you all.



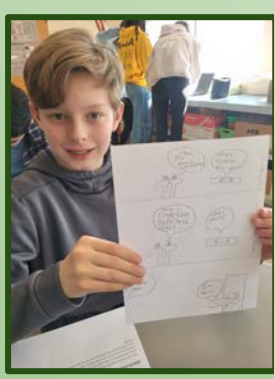
The students in 8th grade used the microscopes to view a wide range of prepared slides to get a glimpse of the simple yet complicated makeup of our world.





# Mrs. Parker: 7/8 Math

March 14 is known as Pi Day. Pi is a special number that represents the relationship between a circle's circumference and its diameter. It is approximated to be 3.14 so we celebrate on 3/14. To celebrate Pi Day, the students in grade 7 wrote "Pi-kus" - a special type of poetry following a 3-1-4 pattern and got to listen to a story about the origins of the value for pi. The students in grade 8 made pi bracelets with different color beads representing each of the digits of pi. I look forward to Pi Day every year!



Students in grade 7 wrote "pi-kus" or created pi themed comic strips. Students in grade 8 made Pi Day bracelets.



**SCHOOL COUNSELOR**



**MUSIC**



**GYM**

# School Counseling and Specials



**TECHNOLOGY**



**ART**



**STEM**



**SPANISH**

# Saint Michael PE

Spring is here and it's time to get outside for some fresh air. It really seemed that we woke up one morning and winter was gone, and spring was in the air. One week the Pre-K were in snowsuits playing on the playground and a week later the snow was gone!

We want to thank Immaculate Conception in Newburyport for inviting our basketball teams to their "March Madness" tournament. They run a great program, and it is a fantastic way to finish up our basketball season.

As always, the gym is a busy place especially when it is time for the school play. Our new round of before school activities are getting the students some good exercise and ready for the school day!



"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

Mark Twain

# MARCH MUSIC



*“All music should have no other end and aim for the glory of GOD and the refreshment of the soul.”*

*-Johann Sebastian Bach*

- ❖ Nursery Students are working on Nursery Rhymes.
- ❖ PreK-4/Kindergaten learning Irish/Spring songs.
- ❖ Grade1 Students continue seasonal rhythm stick play alongs.
- ❖ Grade2 Students will begin exploring music through movement/partner circle activities.
- ❖ Grade3&4 Students prepare for a Recorder Recital in April. Students will showcase basic knowledge of the recorder.



*Excellent... as usual!!*

*Musically yours,*

*Ms. Lavalley*



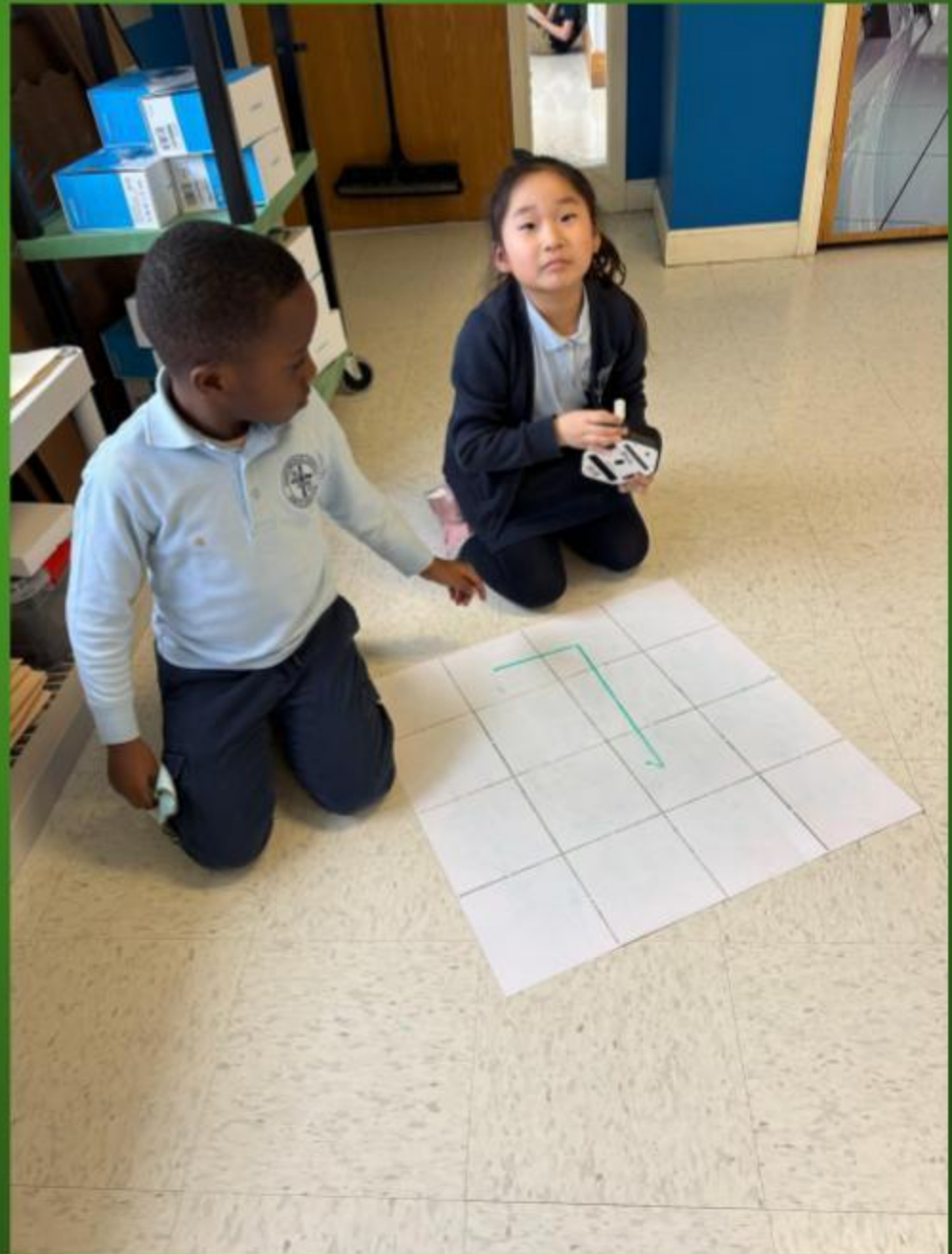
# STEM

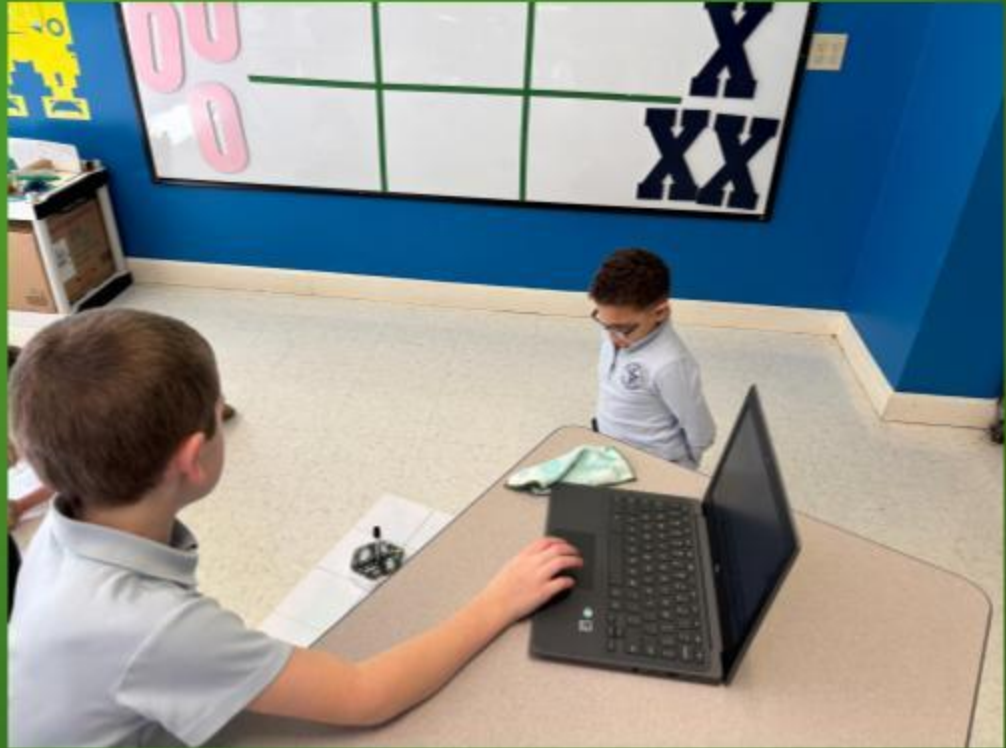
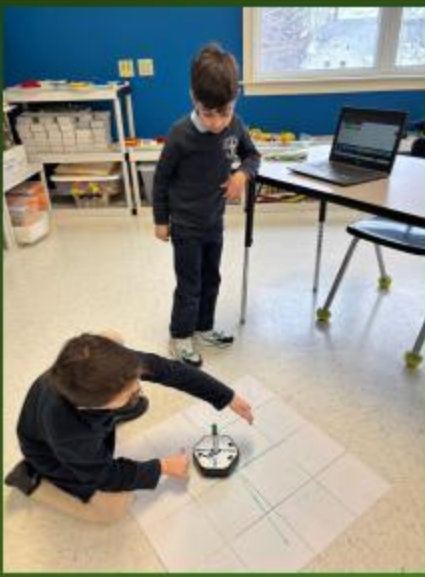
## Grade 1 Coding



Grade 1 students were introduced to coding and robotics. Each team used their critical thinking skills to build a code on the chromebook and then connect the robot through bluetooth. Coding the robots to draw an L and a T was challenging but each team accomplished the task!







# Technology

*Grade Two are professionals at using their Chromebooks!  
They use them to reinforce vocabulary, reading and math, and look forward to our time together each Monday.*







# Spanish Grades 5-8

Grade 5 is learning about emotions! It is amazing how much their vocabulary has expanded!

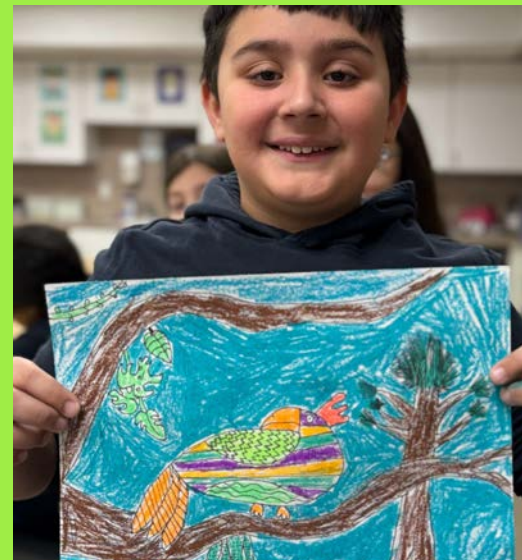
Students in grades 6 and 7 have been learning food vocabulary along with new grammar rules!

Grade 8 also learned food vocab and worked on reading with a short story.



# ART CLASS

*With Mrs. Donegan*



Third grade students learned about Toucans. They looked at pictures and then created their own Design and Pattern Toucans. After they did their drawings in pencil they outlined everything with Sharpie, then colored with neon oil pastels. The perfect project to welcome Spring!

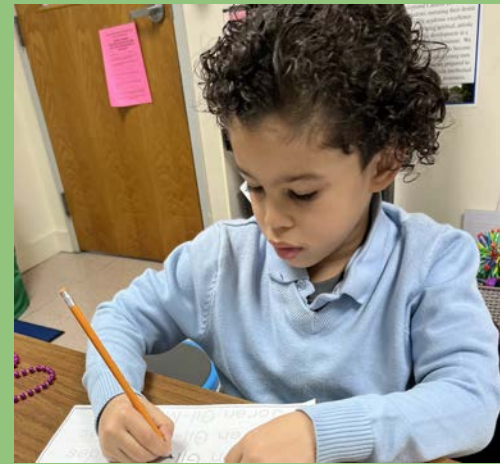




First grade did guided drawings of a Cactus in a decorative pot. They made their own patterns using shapes and lines. They used Sharpies to outline all their pencil marks and then colored with Mr. Sketch markers. Their work is both colorful and beautiful!



# Counselor's Corner With Mrs. Rowley



The counseling office is a place for students to do many things throughout the school day. Students utilize this space to problem solve, finish school work, eat lunch in smaller groups, play a game, check in with me, grab a snack, take a test, take a mindful minute...the list goes on!