



Food drive off and running

The Student Council is holding a food drive for St. Peter St. Vincent dePaul through Nov. 16.

The food drive provides food for families in need. Students from each grade can donate these items:

Preschool, pork and beans; kindergarten, canned tuna; 1st Grade, canned veggies; 2nd Grade, canned chicken; 3rd Grade, canned fruit; 4th Grade, mac and cheese; 5th Grade, pasta sauce; 6th Grade, instant potatoes; 7th Grade, jelly or jam; 8th Grade, canned yams.

The grade that has the most amount of points at the end of the food drive wins a prize.

— Rita Yammine

Pennies update

Mr. Pierce's fourth-grade class leads the Pennies from Heaven collection, with \$541 as of Nov. 13.

Correction

Nicholas Gorday wrote the story on the new gymnasium in last week's edition. His byline was accidentally omitted.

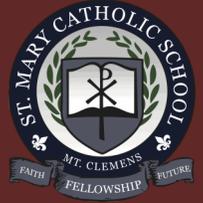
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THANKSGIVING 2018

The Messenger

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ST. MARY MT. CLEMENS



Patrick McInerney, Emma Dobrzycki, Kristyn Eubanks and Landon Nilson learned to build a forest shelter at camp.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Sixth-graders get into the great outdoors

BY ALEXIS BYKS

You may have noticed that sixth-graders were not at school Oct. 15-17. That's because they went to the YMCA Storer Camp.

The inaugural camp was for three days, but it may be longer next year.

Sixth-graders from four different schools attended the

camp, where they slept in huge cabins along with a parent. We ate amazing meals, played a lot of fun games and learned about nature.

The campground has a lake for swimming, but during the fall, it is too cold. Campers are expected to be outside even in less-than-ideal weather.

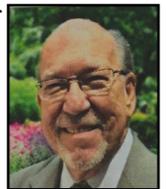
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SMS mourns its longtime choir director

BY AVA ESQUIVEL

Most of us knew Mr. John Dickson, and some of us knew him really well. For instance, some of the people in choir.

Katelyn Catana was one of his very close choir students, "I almost cried when I heard he passed. I was right on the edge of tears," **DICKSON** she stated. We all know that Mr. Dickson meant a lot to us, but everybody can agree that he's in a better place now.



And he wouldn't want us to be sad. He would want us to be happy.

Maybe some remember in choir practice when he told us how he began playing the piano when he was only seven years old.

How passionate about it he must have been to still be

(Continued on page 5)

Grandfather's memories of war linger

BY KATELYN CATANA

On Sunday, America observed Veterans Day, a holiday in which we celebrate those who serve in war. We have been celebrating Veterans' Day since Nov. 11, 1919.

My grandpa, James Joseph Ritchey, served during the Vietnam War in 1968 and '69. Now 70 years old, he was 20 when he first set foot in Vi-



RITCHEY

etnam and turned 21 when he was there.

I asked him if he was scared of war. "Well, not at first," he said, "but once bullets started flying, I was scared for sure."

Asked whether he celebrated Veterans Day after seeing battle, he said,

(Continued on page 2)



Fifth-graders are a-profilin' 'Courage'

BY NICHOLAS GORDAY

The 5th grade has a new conduct game.

Our 5th grade has recently been doing a spooky story for our writing grade, not to mention it is a great way to get in the Halloween Spirit. 5th grade has started to read a novel called Red Badge of

5TH GRADE NEWS

Courage for our reading grade, it seemed that that was the #1 choice for when we voted for reading another book after we finished reading Sign of The Beaver. Social Studies has been a blast.

We are learning about the forms of government and

have recently made a foldable based on the governments Democracy, Monarchy, and Dictatorship. Now... science is bizarre. We are learning about all kinds of energy. Everybody seems to hate it, but not as much as math.

Math is all about division, division, and more division.

Sixth grade gets writing

As the school year is in full swing, the subjects are getting harder but also more interesting. In math, we are learning about basic conversions of percents, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers. They're all related, so it's not too hard.

In science, we are learning about Earth's layers and the major systems of Earth. In language arts, we're learning about how to go through the writing process, which includes brainstorming, drafting, editing, and publishing.

In social studies, we are learning about Mesopotamia and the rise of its city-states.

In religion, we are learning about how Christianity was not accepted in the first three centuries, and in the fourth century is became accepted and flourished across the Roman Empire.

Even though these are tough subjects, they are fun and really interest the 6th grade of St. Mary.

— Rita Yammine

Camp

(Continued from page 1)

They can buy things there, but purchases must be ordered in advance. Some 'trinkets' include a stuffed mouse, hacky sacks, a drawstring bag, and sweatshirt.

"I love my 6th Grade Camp hoodie," Caden Siler said.

"I feel the drawstring bag really helps put the trip together," said Rita Yammine.

This trip is going to be a tradition here at St. Mary for a long time. Everybody in the lower grades can look forward to camping fun in sixth grade!

Veteran

(Continued from page 1)

"No, because people did not like the war at the time, so when I came back (to the United States), people spat at me, shouted, yelled and it was a hard time for me and others coming back too."

He has seen Veterans Day parades on TV but does not mark the holiday.

"My memories are to painful to think of even now but every year I do get thank-yous for serving from Katelyn, Avrie, Jaiden, my wife, my daughters, my friends and my son-in-law."

Teacher Feature: Mrs. Clara

BY JAMES ANDARY

Mrs. Clara has been the art teacher at St. Mary for 20 years. It all started when her daughters were here. Their art teacher left and



Mrs. Clara was offered the job. The Clinton Township resident went to St. Gertrude elementary, Regina High School,

and for college she went to Wayne State University.

She always had a passion for art and believes God called her to share its with her students.

She is very patient, positive, and artistic, as you can see when you look at any of

her drawings or paintings. When she was in grade school she was very shy and quiet, but that did not stop her from becoming a great artist as she grew up.

Her biggest challenge while teaching, she said, is creating a lesson that the students will like.

She was an exchange student when she was 13 years old and lived in Mexico City for three months. She thinks that experience sparked her love for travel.

Her favorite teacher was Sister Xavier, who inspired her to pursue a career in art!

When she isn't teaching, she loves to spend time with her family, especially her three grandsons, Luke, Logan, and Elijah!

Tadpoles have class hopping with excitement

BY ADAM HODGES

In fourth grade, we have just about finished our rosary projects and we have just started a report on a saint. For the rosary we were allowed to use anything we wanted to make the rosary, someone even did one made out of candy!

Mr. Pierce's class has got-

ten off to an amazing start in the Pennies from Heaven coin drive, with \$541 as of Nov. 13. That is more than double the class with the second-highest amount.

Tadpole Time! We just got tadpoles in our classroom! Currently, their unofficial names are Laffy and Taffy, but they probably will be officially named Laffy and Taf-

fy because most of the class likes it and so does the teacher.

In case you haven't heard, Mrs. Sulek is now a mom! Wilson Robert Sulek was born Nov. 2. They have had a sub for two weeks! They have been waiting for so long for the little bundle to arrive and it's finally here! So thank God for the newborn baby!



'The Legendary Donut' — a delicious tale

BY ABIGAIL FARAH

Author's note: National Donut Day is held in November and June as a way to celebrate the warm, fresh, soft, and delicious pastries we all adore. Did you know that it started out just to be a fundraiser for Chicago's Salvation Army?

Once upon a pretty crazy time, there was a donut. It was perfectly made and was said to be the best donut you've ever had.

The king knew that he just HAD to eat it! So the king snuck into the secret that the donut was held in and was about to eat it when he stepped on a laser. The alarm went off and the princess came in.

She was so shocked she almost fainted. The king was arrested and the princess took over. The prince was jealous and wanted to eat the donut. So he snuck into the secret room and was about to eat the donut when he stepped on the same laser that the king did. The alarm went off and the princess was so not surprised at all she didn't even gasp.

The princess sent the prince to prison and went to sleep. While she slept, her six year old son had a sudden craving for a donut. He heard some guards talk about the Legendary donut and decided to check it out for himself.

He got to the secret room. He was going to eat the donut when he saw a laser. He



stepped over it and went up to the donut. It had a vanilla base with pink frosting. The little boy went away because he hated the color pink.

The princess was nearby and saw her son leave the room. She decided to go in. Once she got to the donut, she looked over at it and sighed. Her family had all tried to eat this.

She wanted to destroy it, but she wanted to eat it more. She had a bite but quickly spit it out. It was old and moldy. The princess threw it out and carefully stepped over the lasers but bumped one with her finger. The guards came in, shocked by their princesses wicked deed. She tried to explain, but when she looked into the garbage the donut was gone.

The princess went to prison and the room remained quiet. All that was left was that quiet room, where behind the door was a little boy with pink frosting on his lips.

SMS staff has many new faces

BY DASH HEATH

Whether it's new teachers, staff, activities, or even additions to the lunch menu, there are always changes to our school each year.

That's definitely the case with the faculty in 2018-19.

Both of the 5th grade teachers — Ms. Venditto and Mrs. Sorgeloos — are new, after Mrs. Zanotti retired and Mr. Kowalski became assistant principal.

Other new teachers this year are: Mrs. Frawley, afternoon kindergarten; Ms. Azar first grade; Ms. Beffa, second; and Ms. Perzanowski, third.

We also have a long-term substitute to Mrs. Sulek while she is on maternity leave.

In addition, Mr. Lou has taken over as the maintenance head at St. Mary.

Redheads are more sensitive, but not in the way you might think

BY DASH HEATH

Red hair is, by far, the rarest natural hair color in humans.

Those lucky enough to have this uncommon trait had a chance to celebrate it on National Love Your Red Hair Day earlier this month.

"Red hair is what makes me me," said one St. Mary student, who asked to remain anonymous. "I never really

notice my hair being different."

Red hair is technically a mutation. Being redheaded actually affects some other things about you.

One is that anesthetics (numbing drugs taken to prevent pain during medical operations) seem to have less effect, making redheads need more anesthetics than other people.

The gene that controls red

hair also affects temperature sensitivity, and makes redheads feel cold more. It can also control how much you feel pain. It is thought that it is not quite a matter of more or less pain, but instead redheads might feel a different kind of pain.

Now you know about some of the effects of having red hair besides, well, having red hair. It is, in fact, difficult to have red hair.



Red hair occurs naturally in just 1-2 percent of humans — just like second-grader Brianna Braman.



Thanksgiving so much more than food

BY ANGIE ITCHON

Every year in the United States, Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday of November. Many families feast and watch the football game.

But Thanksgiving is celebrated in many different ways. The Pilgrims started the very first Thanksgiving with a fast. Many other countries celebrate Thanksgiving, too. Canada, Grenada, Liberia, China, America, Germany, Norfolk Island, and the Netherlands celebrate Thanksgiving.

Canadians celebrate this holiday by eating turkey, turkey stuffing and pumpkin pie. They also drink apple cider. In Germany, Thanksgiving is called *Erntedank*. They celebrate by having church services, dancing to music, and eating food.

The first Thanksgiving was held in the fall of 1621, in Plymouth, Mass. The Pilgrims had arrived in the Mayflower and held Thanksgiving as celebration for a good harvest. It lasted three days long.

It likely included fowl, deer, cranberries, mussels,

What are you most thankful for?

The staff of the Messenger was asked, "Besides your family, what are you most thankful for?"

Abby Farah: My 'Bob' comics.

Angie Itchon: For food.

Anthony Bommarito: My dog Chapo. The reason I like him is because he is very playful!

Ava Esquivel: For what my family provides for me. Like, for example, my home, my laptop, and even my own room.

Dash Heath: Sufficient

food, water, and shelter.

Erica Johnson: For God creating the Earth and all the people I love on it. Also I am thankful for being a child of God my Holy Father.

Gavin Gaynor: My fluffy little dog Basil.

Katelyn Munger: My puppy Finn and my grandpa, who fought in the Vietnam War.

Rita Yammine: For my opportunity to grow as a child of God.

lobsters, grapes, plums, corn, and herbs for the feast. About 50 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag Indians attended the celebration.

Today, Americans eat 46 million turkeys for Thanksgiving. About 88 percent of Americans have turkey for Thanksgiving, with Californians the largest consumers. Neil Armstrong and Buzz

Aldrin's first meal in space was roasted turkey.

About 50 million pumpkin pies are eaten on Thanksgiving. In 2012, 768 million pounds of cranberries were produced for Thanksgiving.

In all, the average person eats enough at Thanksgiving to gain 1.3 pounds.

But Thanksgiving is not just about food.

SHORT STORY

Got Good Bones

A Halloween tale of curb appeal and being true to oneself

BY GAVIN GAYNOR

Once there was a haunted mansion. In that haunted mansion was a skeleton named Maurice. Maurice was a silly skeleton, and really liked candy.

Each Halloween night, he sat on the porch holding a bucket of candy, but no one came to his house. All of the kids kept walking past his door and staring. He couldn't figure out why.

The next year, Maurice decorated his house for Halloween and dressed in disguise as a normal human.

All of the kids in his neighborhood kids trick-or-treated at his house, except for a few that recognized Maurice even in disguise. He concluded that if he was going to continue getting kids to his house, he could not be scary.

It was hard not to be the scariest house on the block, though, seeing as he was a skeleton. And in his house lived Grandma Skeleton, Sardine Mama Skeleton, and Little Jimmy Jam Skeleton.

Maurice didn't want to be a human. He wanted to be a skeleton. He loved his family.

He decided instead of trying to be something he was not, he would make his house very haunted every Halloween.

It was a hit! And every Halloween afterward was a success.

We've been sweet on candy for ages

BY ERICA JOHNSON

National Candy Day was held Nov. 4, a perfect time because many kids have leftover Halloween candy.

Candy has a long history, with the first modern candies made in the 16th century. A few facts about candy, according to the National Day Calendar:

- People use the term candy as a broad category that includes candy bars, chocolates, licorice, sour candies,



salty candies, tart candies, hard candies, taffies, gumdrops, marshmallows and much more.

- M&M's were candies

that were first manufactured in 1941 and were given to American soldiers serving in the Second World War. M&M's are produced by Mars Inc.

- It was in the 18th century that the first candy is believed to have come to America from Britain and France.

So how did you celebrate National Candy Day? Was it a Hershey's bar, a Kit Kat, or perhaps some Sweet Tarts? Maybe all of the above?



Rita: You can do better than troublemaking friends

Dear Rita,

My friends are getting in trouble. A lot. The reason I'm asking you for help is because they try to make me do what they do. You're probably thinking, "Okay, then just move away from them." But I can't! They are my only link to the social radar. Without them, I wouldn't be popular and no



DEAR
RITA

one would notice me! I know I can't change people. I know I can't whine about it. All I can do is talk to you. Please help me out.

Puzzled Penelope

Dear Penelope, "Have no friends not equal to yourself." - Confucius

I'm sorry to say it but, like the quote, you cannot have friends who will only bring you down and make you feel miserable. I'm sure there are other classmates that you have

that you can at least be acquainted with. If not, don't pressure yourself. Good things come to those who wait. Get comfortable. But, remember: Don't look for a person who is 100% like you. That person will never exist. You are unique. Be patient. And, as always, PRAY!

Dear Rita, I have a fear of public speaking. It's nothing against my classmates. It's just when they look at me I feel like their eyes are staring into my

soul. To make it worse, My teacher gives a HUGE amount of points to whoever talks the clearest. Obviously, since I get nervous, I mumble. Because of that, my teacher gave me a 79% on my last speech and ever since then, I feel like I bear the weight of the world on my shoulders. Can you help me out?

Fearful Fiona

Dear Fiona, First, if your teacher grades that way, then the best thing to do

would be to ask the teacher for some tips, since the teacher give major points in that category. Now, as for your emotions, try performing in front of your family and even in front of a mirror. As you progress, you will realize, most people are not staring. They are usually interested in your presentation. But, remember, someone is going to have a negative response. Just remember, it was your article and you should be proud of it.

Do celebrities and politics mix?

Free speech protections mean they should, says our editorial panel

When both Kanye West and Taylor Swift publicly expressed support for politicians leading up to last week's midterm elections, people had different reactions. Should celebrities share their political views with the world? The Messenger staff weighs in on the debate:

Alexis Byks: I think it is OK that famous people give their opinion. They are people too! Just because they are famous, doesn't mean they don't have the opportunity to give an opinion.

Angie Itchon: I think celebrities could share their thoughts on politics. They have their own opinion and we have our own opinion, too.

Anthony Bommarito: I think that people can have their opinion but they shouldn't do it for more popularly. I think that Taylor Swift just wants to do it for the popular-



ity. But Kanye West is actually being serious about it.

Gavin Gaynor: I think that celebrities can express political beliefs. I think they can because some people might think it's interesting. But more people will probably despise that person. Also this will affect the country and there will be a lot of arguing.

James Andary: I truly believe that celebrities should state their political opinions. How would you feel if you were not allowed to state your political view? I would not



feel very good because, wouldn't my statement matter? If you disagree, I am okay with it, but remember — EVERYONE has the right to speak what they believe!

Rita Yammine: While celebrities are human beings and can share their opinion, they should remember their thoughts can cause issues because many people believe celebrities should not be pestering the area of politics. I am not completely denying celebrities' right to free speech. I'm saying they should be aware of their actions.

Erica Johnson: They should be able to because they are human beings, and they have the right to speech. Now, when the use their views to just get more attention, that is when they should keep it to themselves.

Mr. Dickson

(Continued from page 1)

playing it so gracefully for this long!

Have you ever thought about when you pass, what people will do to honor you? The people you mean a lot to, will always be there for you!

Mr. Dickson lived a lovely, happy life as a pianist, as a choir teacher, and most importantly, a good friend.

Every spare moment he had, he either spent it at church, praying in the pews, or praying upstairs in the loft, beautifully playing the piano.

John Dickson has done so much for all of us. He's cheered us up when we were upset, he's helped solve our issues, he's even calmed us down when we were stressed. So remember, any time you think of John Dickson, don't be sad. Remember how much he loved us and how much he did for us.

And no matter what, always love and pray for him, just as he did for you many times.