

## Causes for celebration

Congratulations to Mr. Kowalski, who married Kelly Sherman on Sept. 19.

Warm wishes, too, to Mrs. Sheils, who gave birth to her second child, Ada, on Sept. 4

## 'Pennies' race making cents

Mrs. Lusch's class is off to an early lead in the Pennies from Heaven competition, accumulating \$176 in change through Oct. 10.

## Mark your calendar

- Oct. 17: PAC Hallway Halloween Spooktacular & Movie, 6-9 p.m.
- Oct. 22 & 23: No school
- Oct. 23 & 24: Haunted House (Main Campus gym), 6-8 p.m.
- Oct. 29: 3-year-old preschool Halloween party, 10 a.m.
- Oct. 30: 4-year-old preschool Halloween party, 10 a.m.; parade for preschool-4th grade, 11:15 (Half day)

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OCTOBER 2015

## Changes accompany new school year

BY GABBY PETRELLA

A new school year is underway at St. Mary, and several notable changes have come with it.

Three new teachers have joined the staff: Ms. Urban (third grade), Mrs. Kroha

(sixth) and Ms. Belknap (seventh). Meanwhile, Mrs. Losinski moved from third grade to first, and Mrs. Madonia has taken over in the media center. In addition, Mrs. Hartwig is filling in while Mrs. Sheils (seventh grade) is on mater-

nity leave.

We welcome the new teachers and students and hope they have a great year!

The "fence of dreams" was put up over the summer. It goes around the school and encloses the parking lot.

(Continued on page 2)



Seventh-graders Mackenzie Byars, left, and Paige Goodall coax Ralph, a hamster, from a plastic tube.

## Class pets help students learn to care for animals

BY ALEX MUNGER

Several teachers at St. Mary School have class pets, and say their students are enjoying their presence.

Mr. Pierce is one of those teachers. He got two adorable catfish last month. Their names are Butch and Peter. They are both male and are a dull brown color. Mr. Pierce lets kids take them home on the weekends, too.

(Continued on page 3)

## Want to see something really scary?

Haunted house set to serve up chills

BY DANNY SCULLY

It's almost everyone's favorite holiday — Halloween — which means that St. Mary's annual haunted house is growing closer.

The eighth grade and the St. Mary Booster Club have big scares planned at year's spookhouse, to be held Oct. 23 and 24, 6-9 p.m., at the Market Street gym.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, with a one-time-through ticket available for \$5.

Just looking in the di-

(Continued on page 3)

# Around School

## Monster tales prove popular

BY BEN SCHMITT

There were a lot of popular titles at this year's fall book fair.

There were also some new features. The teachers and staff did something new called "Teacher's Pick." All of the teachers who participated got in a drawing to win a \$20.00 gift card to Tim Horton's. The winner this year was Ms. Urban.

As for the most popular purchases for each grade, here are the results:

- Preschool-K: "Monsters Love Underpants"
- Grades 1-3: Sugar, Gummi, and Lollipop (The Puppy Place #40)
- Grades 4-5: "Goosebumps" series
- Grades 6-8: "A Night Divided"
- Trinket/Prize: Skateboard pen

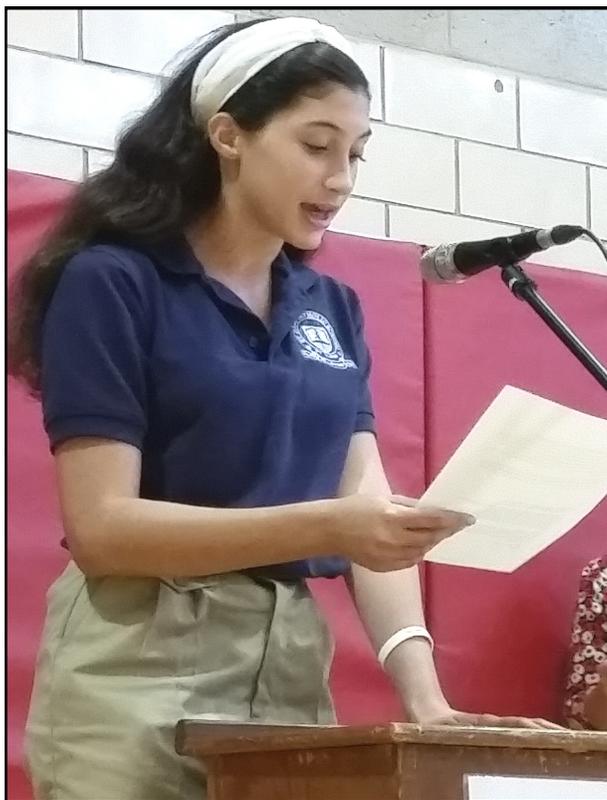
## Changes

(Continued from page 1)

Thank you again to everyone who donated to the fundraiser for the fence!

There are also new pickup procedures at SMS. Speakers were installed and hooked up to a wireless microphone that allows Mr. Willard to walk down the aisles and call students' names more easily.

In the cafeteria, there is a new item on the menu. It's called "lunch plus," and it lets students order a second entree without going back and forth.



Isabella DiPirro delivers her campaign speech prior to the Student Council election Sept. 25. DiPirro emerged from a crowded field to win the race for president.

## Election decides council

BY ADDYSEN CURTISS

St. Mary students and staff elected a new student council Sept. 25.

The winner for president was Isabella DiPirro, and Ella McKale was chosen as vice-president.

Other winners were Andrea DeMaria (secretary), Lilly Geml (treasurer) and Nico Moncaleano (NJHS representative).

All our winners campaigned with posters and our candidates had great speeches. Congratulations to our winners and all candidates.

## Alterations also affect St. Mary playground

BY KAYLA JOHN

This year, our playground has some new additions.

For example, we finally got a four square! Many people had been wishing for a four square since we previously had one at Main Campus. We also got a hopscotch grid, and our lunch box space on the blacktop has now been moved over to the opposite side of the basketball net.

We also now have basketball court lines as well as new playground rules. Students in kindergarten through third grade play 2-on-2 soccer, instead of full field as before. Football is now catch only and our lunch staff has also grown, too.

Hopefully, the improved playground is more fun for everyone, and helps us get off to a good start this school year.

## Students get lowdown on road safety

BY THOMAS NEWTON

I watched a safety video with both fourth grade classes.

The video, which was shown Sept. 17 in Mrs. Hartwig's room, was called "Harsh Conditions". It was about how hard it would be for drivers to see pedestrians.

Boy, was it hard to see anything. There was rain, dirt and hail. So watch out for cars because it is hard for drivers to see you. You want a long life.

# Around School

## Plenty of goings-on in fourth grade

BY NATALIE MONCALEANO

St. Mary fourth graders have done a lot of astonishing things lately.

Ms. Hartwig's and Mr. Pierce's classes made small constitutions for Constitution Day. In social studies, we are learning about the rights and responsibilities of the citizens. We also learned about the branches of government. We made a small booklet with each branch on it and wrote facts inside.

In math, Ms. Hartwig's class is working on place value, least to greatest, and addition and subtraction.

In science, Mr. Pierce's class is learning about animal habitats, food sources, and the eco-system.

Mr. Pierce's class is reading the book "Shiloh", and Ms. Hartwig's class is reading "Henry and Ribsy".

This year is the first time the kids in fourth grade can run for Student Council. The winner in Ms. Hartwig's class was Jaedyn Byars. In Mr. Pierce's class, the winner is Kayla Reynolds. Congratulations, winners!

## Growing gummy bears and other science fun

BY AVA SCHNEIDER

Fourth graders conducted two new science experiments recently.

In the first experiment, they placed drops of water on a penny, nickel and dime, and counted how many drops it took for the water to overflow off each. They discovered that each group had slightly more or less drops of water on the money. This may have been because some drops were larger than others.

The students also did an experiment using gummy bears. They measured each to see how long it was before putting it in a cup of water. The next day, the gummy bears were removed from the water and measured again. Students found that the gummy bears were longer and wider. This experiment was the favorite for most of the 4th graders.

If you want to try these at home and find out how much fun it was the directions are below.

Things you will need for the money experiment

- a dropper
- 1 penny, 1 nickel and 1 dime
- 1 cup of water

How to do the experiment: Place the money



Macro Gummy Bears by Ajay/Cubico | Flickr/https://www.flickr.com/photos/ajaycubico/60892060/ Attribution: Non-Commercial (@ip:creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0) Photo Attribution by PhotoOfClass.com

flat on a table, take the dropper filled with water and count how many drops it takes for the water to overflow on each of the coins.

Things you will need for the gummy bear experiment

- 1 of every color gummy bear
- 1 piece of paper
- a cup of water
- a ruler

How to do the experiment: Measure each gummy bear and note the length on the piece of paper. Fill a cup with water then put the gummy bear in water for one day. The next day, see what happened and compare your measurements.

## Pets

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Upchurch has a teddy bear hamster named Linguine. Students enjoy spending extra time petting and holding Linguine, she said.

Linguine also enjoys

working out on her little wheel! Carrots are her favorite snack, but she likes many other snacks and treats, too.

Ms. Belknap has a beta fish named Daqwon and a hamster named Ralph. She is also getting an ant farm this week.

"We are not going to name 100 ants!" she joked.

## Haunted

(Continued from page 1)

reaction of this haunted house will give you goosebumps. If you have been before, it is probably one of your favorite parts of Halloween.

Trust me, this year's event will make you jump out of your skin!

# Around School

## Third grade all aflutter over butterflies

BY NATALIE MONCALEANO

The third graders were busy with a lot of activities in September.

Mrs. Barkus' and Miss Urban's students each wrote personal narratives

In Miss Urban's class, they have been learning about edible plant parts in science, while Mrs. Barkus and her students are watching butterflies. They have also learned about plant and animal habitats.

In English, both classes are learning about complex and compound sentences. Both classes have already taken a religion, spelling, and vocabulary test.

Mrs. Barkus' class recently learned about



where and how the American Indians lived, they also learned about the geography of Michigan.

## Eighth graders harken back to colonial times

BY NICO MONCALEANO

In eighth grade, we have been having a lot of fun. We recently visited the Walled Lake Adventure center and participated in crazy activities such as zip lining, rock climbing, and high ropes.

We have gotten down to business in the classroom,

though. In reading, we have been reading the book "The Giver".

In math, we have been doing some Simple Solutions and review of last year. In science, we have been doing fun experiments, and recently got a hamster named Ralph.

And last, but not least we have been doing group colony

projects in history, where we have had to work as a group and deal with the road bumps that a real colony dealt with back in the 1600s.

All in all, eighth grade has been so far, so good. We have many exciting field trips coming up including Washington D.C. and Cedar Point.



Andrew Itchon, 10, is a fifth grader in Mrs. Zanotti's class. This is his first year at St. Mary School and his old

### Student Spotlight



school is Prevail Academy. He has a brother, two sisters, and no pets.

**What is one word to describe you?**

One word to describe me is smart.

**What is your favorite book?**  
My favorite book is

"Skyscrapers," because I like skyscrapers.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

I like to play sports.

**What is your favorite subject that isn't lunch/recess?**

My favorite subject is math.

**Where do you think you'll be in ten years?**

I don't know where I'll be in 10 years.

— Elyse Martel



### Mrs. Losinski

**Do you like being a first grade teacher?**

Yes, because it's fun.

**Is it new teaching first grade?**

Yes, it is different.

**Do you like your new schedule?**

Yes.

**How big is the difference between teaching**

**addition and subtraction, rather than multiplication and division?**

In first grade they're just learning math.

**What do you like more, third grade or first?**

Both, but I really like first grade.

**Did it make you sad that you moved away from 3rd grade?**

Yes, I miss it.

**Do you like the new third grade teacher, Miss Urban?**

Yes, she is very nice.

**Are you going to give out candy after the Iowa tests?**

Maybe.

— Jordyn Barnes



# Features

## Finland a quiet harbor of diversity

BY NICO MONCALEANO

If you are ever looking for a cool place to go, visit Finland.

Finland is located in the continent of Europe on a peninsula called Scandinavia.

Some of Finland's neighboring countries are Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. Finland's population is about 6 million people. People in Finland use the Euro as their main currency and Swedish or Finnish as their main language.

The national sports of Finland are soccer and hockey. Finland has the number one educational system in the world.

The government of Finland is similar to that of the United States. The president of Finland is Sauli Niinisto. One of the things that make the people of Finland



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### Around the World



love President Niinisto is that he has lowered taxes recently and supports laws that keep the country very green and supportive to wildlife.

Helsinki, the largest city in Finland also happens to be the

capital, and in most people's opinion a very diverse city, with many tourist attractions such as museums, parks, cathedrals, and the Helsinki Olympic stadium. The northern lights, Helsinki, and the nation's many ski resorts quietly make it one of Europe's top tourist destinations. The country's two main airlines are Finnair and Scandinavian Airlines.

## Adventure beckons at Halloween

BY SEAN HILLIARD

Halloween is one of my favorite holidays.

I have good ideas for some cool decorations like a witch on the ceiling, a skeleton on the wall, some lights around the house.

Funny things often happen at Halloween. One time, I got 10 pieces of Snickers and I couldn't have them because I am allergic to peanuts.

My last costume I had was a morphsuit and it got really cold when I went trick or treating. I got lots of candy when I went trick or treating.



## St. Mary clubs offer something for just about everybody

BY MEADOW SEPKE

St. Mary School has lots of after-school clubs for kids. They include:

- **Chess:** It is fun and you can learn how to play chess and participate in the chess tournament.

- **Art:** You can challenge yourself to become an artist and maybe have your art up in the school.

- **Newspaper:** It is cool how you can write articles in the school Newspaper and you could become a reporter some

day.

- **Choir:** It is fun and you can become a better singer and you get to go up in the choir loft, I mean how cool is that!

- **Lego:** It is cool how you can build stuff out of a few blocks and maybe become a lego inventor someday, now that is cool.

- **Ecology:** I think it is cool how you can make the earth a better place by recycling and throwing away trash and planting plants, remember be GREEN!

- **Drama:** You could act in plays and

maybe one day you can become a movie or television star.

Now it is time to talk to someone from one of these clubs and today I am talking to Evalyn Theut from Ecology club. So I asked her some questions and I got some answers.

**What do you talk about in Ecology club?**

We talk about how to make the world a better place.

**What made you interested in join-**

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Opinions

## Don't let inexperience stop you from following dream

Dear Maria,  
Winter sports at St. Mary are coming soon. I want to try out but I don't know if I'll be good because I do not have any experience. I don't want to embarrass myself in front of my friends. Please help me!

-Sport Shy



**Dear Maria**

Dear Sport Shy, I know you might not want to hear this, but you should try out. If you really want to try your sport, no lack of experience should hold you back.

I'm sure your coaches will help you if you are confused. They are not just going to throw you in a game if they do not have confidence in you. As for your friends, are they really your friends if they laugh at you? Good luck!

-Maria

Dear Maria,  
In class my best friend sits next to me and can not stop talking. The problem is I can't stop talking back to him! I have already gotten a warning from my teacher. I am worried that next time she catches me talking I will get into huge trouble. I don't have the courage to tell my best friend to be quiet. What do I do?

-Blabber Mouth

Dear Blabber Mouth,  
If you care about your grades you have to find your courage. You don't have to yell, just a simply "Please be quiet". Your friend will probably understand. If he keeps talking, you could ask your teacher to move you. Your teacher would most likely agree. She might even be proud of you because you knew to stop talking.

-Maria

Dear Maria,  
I've only had a few tests this year, but I barely passed them. It doesn't matter what subject. At this rate, I won't go to the next grade. I think the problem is I can't study very well. Please help me find a way to get a better grade.

-Soon-to-be Delinquent

Dear Soon-to-be Delinquent, I'm sorry to hear about your problem. My answer is basic but true: You need to find a studying technique. You can maybe make flashcards or make a game out of your questions. A way that I study is to tie words with ideas. An example would be if you had the vocab word sullen. Sullen means to be sad or grumpy. You could think of Grumpy the dwarf from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves". If you are still having trouble, you could have a tutor help you.

-Maria

## Provocative and touching, 'Giver' a gift to audiences

BY EMILY STRZYINSKI

I think other people would like "The Giver," because it's a very touching movie. It goes from black and white to color. At the ending it leaves you thinking about what will happen to the characters.

In this futuristic film, people are created equal and live on top of a mountain. They don't know how to feel, but the main character, Jonas teaches

them.

He is chosen to be the Receiver, and he is one of the only people allowed to lie. His teacher can show him memories of the real world though his mind.

Jonas and his baby brother Gabe take the journey in the real world. There are also robots and drones.

I recommend you see this movie. There is also the book version of "The Giver" that you can read.

## 'Minions' bring on the fun

BY GIANNA SWITALSKI

I think "Minions" was a great movie. Bob was so cute, wasn't he?

I especially liked when all three of them were in England, and Bob somehow managed to get out on to the Queen's "announcing area", then ran out and yelled, "KING BOB!!!" I loved that part.

Here is a different person's opinion. I give you, my sister, Sofia Switalski: "Um, it was funny, it was amazing and I will tell you

why. It had a giant Steve, (the minion). There was this tiny minion named Bob, and he carried this cute little teddy bear around with him. There was this evil villain called Scarlet Overkill and I hated her."

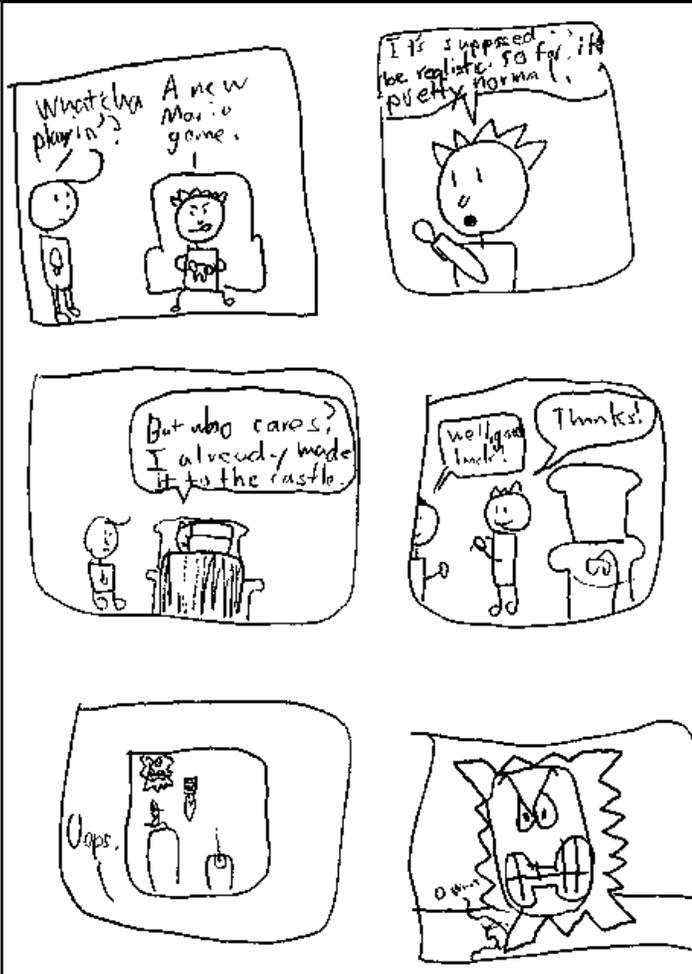
It was amazing how even though the minions do not speak English, the director managed to make it possible for us to understand what they are saying.

On a scale from one to ten, I give this movie an eleven.

# Fun & Games

## DOG DAYS

By Dash Heath



## Optical Illusion



BY THOMAS NEWTON

What do you see — a rabbit or a duck?

## Clubs

(Continued from page 5)

### ing?

I just liked the idea to join the club.

### Do you do big projects in Ecology?

Yes. We planted tulips on the last meeting.

### What activities do you do?

We plant stuff and make stuff.

### Who is the teacher of Ecology Club?

Mrs. Minoletti and Mr. Pierce

### What do you like about this club?

Yes. Because it is fun.

### Also I heard that you planted tulips. How many do you think you planted?

About five.

## Netters enter postseason on division-winning roll

The Varsity #1 volleyball team turned around its 2015 season in dramatic fashion, winning a share of the Division C championship.

After starting the year with a disappointing loss against St. Joan of Arc, the Mountaineers finished the season 9-1.

One of those victories came in a rematch against St. Joan later in the year.

“The girls came out determined not to lose to them again,” said Joe Media, who coaches the team with Susan

Hill.

After losing two games in the opener, St. Mary went 27-0, including 9-0 in match play.

The Mountaineers begin their quest for a CYO championship this Saturday with a noon match against Our Lady of Refuge at Shrine Catholic.

The team consists of: Hailey Esposito, Isabella Pine, Claire Stevens, Olivia Westphal, Grace Glavich, Leah Bieniewicz, Kelsey Starnes, Emma Bice and Jordyn Media.



St. Mary's Varsity #1 volleyball team (pictured above at the St. Catherine Tournament in September) finished the regular season tied with St. Joan of Arc for the Division C championship. The Mountaineers open the playoffs Saturday against Our Lady of Refuge.

# Fun & Games

## CROSSWORD

By Kayla John

### BACK TO SCHOOL



#### ACROSS

- 3. We have a \_\_\_\_\_ bee every year.
- 6. opposite of teacher
- 8. dry erase \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. used to write on blackboard
- 11. St. Mary \_\_\_\_\_

#### DOWN

- 1. Use a #2 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. colored wax
- 4. corrects mistakes
- 5. adding and subtracting
- 7. Another word for grammar.
- 10. We love the \_\_\_\_\_ Fair!



### Hip to be square

A new four-square court has been a welcome addition to St. Mary's playground. Giving it a go during a recent recess were (clockwise from left): Samantha Benford, Alex Munger, Tiffany Nguyen and Savvanna Cardaris. For more on changes to the playground, see story on Page 2.

## Jokes & Riddles

BY MARIA KREINBRING

**Q:** Why do cows wear bells?

**A:** Because their horns don't work.

**Q:** Why did the barber win the race?

**A:** He knew a shortcut.

**Q:** Why can't a bicycle stand up by itself?

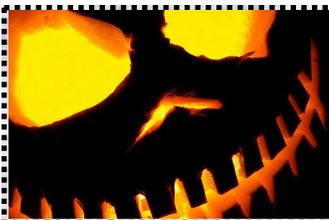
**A:** Because it's two-tired.

**Q:** A woman wakes up on a Sunday morning to find her diamond ring stolen. The police come to investigate the

crime and they interrogate three suspects. They ask what they were doing at the time of the crime. The chef says he was making breakfast in the kitchen. The maid says she was getting the mail. Finally, the butler says he was restocking the pantry. The police immediately know who the murderer is. Who is it?

**A:** The maid. There is no mail on Sunday.

— For these and more jokes, go to [www.childhoodbeckons.com](http://www.childhoodbeckons.com)



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

