



THE BUSY BEAK

THE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**WHY IS MRS. TRAUM
STUCK ON ST. FRANCIS?**



Stuck on St. Francis de Sales Catholic School

Mrs. Sarah Passarell issued a challenge to the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School community which they met with flying colors. As Advancement Director, Mrs. Passarell has been working hard to get enrollment commitments for next school year. It's important to be able to plan ahead so that we are able to continue to excel and grow as a school. The challenge was to have no less than 85% of our current students re-enrolled for next year by the time Catholic Schools Week concluded. The Healey Education Foundation, who sponsors select Catholic schools throughout the U.S., added to the incentive by offering our school \$5,000.00 if we met the 85% mark.

We met our goal and then some! As a result, our beloved principal, Mrs. Debra Traum, agreed to be duct-taped to the wall by the students. Every student was provided with a five-foot piece of colorful duct tape as they systematically and quite strategically taped Mrs. Traum to the gym wall.

Teachers and students enjoyed the morning with singing and dancing to such songs as Rubberband Man and Stuck on You. At one point we had a Conga-line around the gym that included at least 85% of the students. Once everyone had applied their piece of tape, the chairs Mrs. Traum had been standing on were pulled away and students cheered while our principal stuck to the wall! The entire joyfilled event was broadcast on Facebook Live for parents and followers to enjoy.



**Know someone who isn't
receiving the Beak?
Receiving more than one
Need to change your address?**

**Are you an alumnus with some
exciting news or
updates to share?**

We want to hear from you!
Email us at spassarell@sfdscs.org

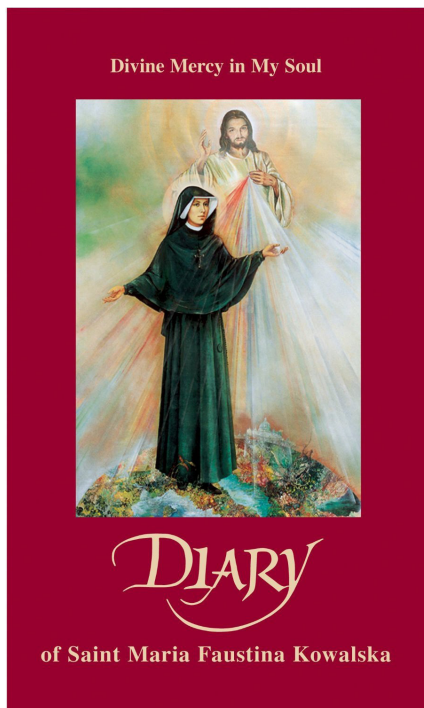
Jesus, I Trust in You!

This past October, students at St. Francis were graced with a special presentation about the Divine Mercy. The assembly program was generously donated by Dr. Sophie Welch, alumni parent.

Students listened attentively as they learned about the Divine Mercy painting, the wounds of Christ as reflected in the Shroud of Turin, St. Faustina, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The Divine Mercy of Jesus is a Roman Catholic devotion to Christ associated with apparitions of Jesus revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska. Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of and conversations with Jesus. She kept very precise notes in her diary which was later published as *The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

Sister Kowalska was granted the title "Secretary of Mercy" by the Holy See in the Jubilee Year of 2000. The Roman Catholic Church canonized Faustina as a saint on April 30, 2000.



Feast Day: October 5
Patron of Mercy
Birth: 1905
Death: 1938

Beatified By: Pope John Paul II on April 18, 1993
Canonized By: Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000

News from the Development Committee The Busy Beak is a mission of the Development Committee.

The Busy Beak is a mission of the Development Committee. The St. Francis de Sales School Development Committee is organized to promote, market, and solicit financial support for St. Francis de Sales Catholic School. You'll notice an envelope included in this issue for donations - our intention is not to imply any pressure to give (the Busy Beak helps us share many of the exciting events happening at our school), but rather to make it easier to give if you are so inclined. The funds raised through the efforts of the Development Committee are used to subsidize the operating expenses associated with the school budget in some of the following areas: teacher salaries, improvement of school facilities, and the procurement of property. The principal raised is an endowment. The committee, with the approval of the pastor, shall decide how to raise funds and how to spend investment income. If you would like to help us with these efforts, please send your tax-deductible donation made payable to St. Francis de Sales Catholic School with a reference to "Development Fund" included in the memo section.



Have you visited our school website?
Go to www.stfrancisdesales.net and check out all the good things happening at school.

Chromebooks and Our Education

By Taylor Gray

Every day, new technology is being created and used. Whether the production of it is for health, security, or entertainment benefits, many people are using this technology. This year our school was granted the gift of Chromebooks. The Chromebooks act as your textbooks. Ms. Upshaw said, "Students are able to utilize different methods to get information back to their teachers." This is very true. Many students find themselves in a situation where they must contact their teacher for help. The Chromebooks allow you to email back and forth anywhere at anytime. Mrs. Traum agreed saying, "As a school administrator, I

sometimes meet with other administrators on Google docs. In fact, the Diocese often has forms



that need to be shared in the Google drive," hinting that the students are not the only beneficiaries of this upgrade. Even students in middle school agree with the positive outlook on the Chromebooks. Audrey Gianelle, current 8th grader, says, "I like Google Classroom. Classroom is nice because it helps me with my homework. When you are missing an assignment you see the word MISSING and it's very displeasing to the eyes. The commenting system is nice because the teachers can respond when you need help with your homework." Mason Rosten, current 7th grader, says, "It's really helpful because it allows us to talk to our fellow classmates if we are confused." However, the connection system is not the only perk of Chromebooks. Ms. Upshaw explains, "The biggest blessings are the fact that we are able to look at each student as an individual, which we've always done at SFdS, but now we can do it for their academics as well."

xMrs. Traum elaborates, "Teachers can monitor students, assign work, and grade it all in one place." This is an amazing feature to help students dispense and receive academic information in a more efficient manner. In essence, the Chromebooks are a wonderful academic addition to our school, helping with efficiency, communication, and time.

Diocese of Wilmington Seminarians

The Diocese of Wilmington Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations has asked each of our Catholic Schools to remember and pray for our current Seminarians. We all know there is a significant need for priests across our great nation and our diocese is no exception. Please keep these godly men in your prayers as they seek to discern their futures.

Mr. Adam Bauer
Mr. John Enemu
Mr. Brennan Ferris
Mr. James Gebhart
Mr. Craig Kursinsky
Mr. Michael Preston

Prayer for Our Seminarians

Loving God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Please bless and protect all those who,
having responded to Your call,
have offered themselves for priestly service to Your Church,
especially those men who are in
formation for the Diocese of Wilmington. Giver of all good
gifts, bless these men with prudence
and wisdom,
that they may be absorbed in Your mysteries;
bless them with the desire for all things holy and chaste,
that they might lead us by their example;
bless them with courage, generosity and zeal,
that they might be faithful companions of Your Son,
Jesus Christ,
in whose name I make this prayer.
Amen.

Accomplishments By Audrey Gianelle

Savannah Scott, a 2015 graduate, recently won this year's club championship at Green Hill for golf. Savannah played for our St. Francis team, but she's been playing for about ten years.

Savannah started at a golf camp at the age of six and fell in love with it. At SFdS, she played alongside her younger sister,



Caroline, which added a fun, friendly competition. Savannah also mentioned having an undefeated season her last year before she graduated. She was even awarded a parking spot at Green Hill Country Club! Her new

parking spot is very convenient because it's the closest to the clubhouse. Therefore, she has less of a distance to walk before she can get back out on the course.

Something In The Air By Audrey Gianelle

Marriage is in the air! Some of our St. Francis alumni have gotten, or are soon to be, married this year. Our former teacher, Elle Phillips, was married in November of 2017 to Frank Rowe.

Former graduates of SFdS and the children of our principal, Michael and Shelby Traum, each got engaged last year. Michael, a 2003 grad, proposed on Christmas Day to Erin Williams, and Shelby, a 2005 grad, was proposed to on New Year's Day by Zachary Trenary. Michael's wedding will be in June of 2018 and Shelby's will be in September of 2018. A lot of things are happening in the Traum house! Another graduate, Nick Gianelle, a 2004 grad, got engaged to Mary Foley on Memorial Day and their wedding is planned for July of 2018. Keep these couples in your prayers as they begin the happiest times of their lives!



The Nutcracker Interpreted by the St Francis de Sales Student Body

In just a few short days, our student body was turned into a ballet troupe. Every class, and even our principal, participated in what turned out to be an incredible display of fun, excitement, and dance. Ms. Shelby Traum, a professional dance instructor, shared her talents with us to create magical scenes to tell the ageless story of Clara and her toy Nutcracker soldier. "I loved seeing the whole school work together for such a beautiful performance," remarked Ms. Traum. Each class was assigned a dance, and then with only three practices under their belts, performed for teachers, staff, students, parents, grandparents, priests, family, and friends. For those who were unable to make it



into the building to see the performance, it was simultaneously cast on Facebook Live. Through the wonders of technology, we had parents and grandparents watching from all around the world, including Africa! Every class did their best to shine. Our Pre-Kindergarteners, performing as angels, enjoyed "the sunshine

move" as mentioned by Henry, and had a lot of fun as voiced by Myla. Kindergarteners were snowflakes. Kenzley and Sarah both enjoyed taking part and even though they thought the dance was a little difficult, the whole class gently floated through their song. The first graders were "the kids" and opened the show walking in with their "Parents," the 8th graders. Emily had a lot of fun, and Gram shared, "It made my whole day. I got to do it with my friends, and we got to wear pajamas!" Aiden and Michael agreed, "Walking in with our 'families' was a favorite part."



Principal Traum, playing the part of Mrs. Stahlbaum, the party hostess, handed out toys to the children as the families arrived for the evening.

The second graders, dressed as tea from China, danced their way on-stage. Max and Laura shared that even though they were a little nervous, they enjoyed switching lines with "the front going to the back and the back coming up to the front." The third graders split into two groups with the boys becoming soldiers and the girls scampering around as mice. The soldiers were so serious and the mice, well, they were adorable.

The fourth graders acted the part of toy soldiers. The synchronized marching was a favorite for Hudson and Finley. Fifth grade almost stole the show portraying bakers and gumdrops. As Nick and Maya will tell you, they had some pretty cool props. The girls danced with giant lollipops and the boys used wooden spoons to magically "stir" their bowls. The sixth graders, as candy canes, also used a fun prop. A favorite dance move for Jackson was "jumping rope with a hula-hoop." The seventh grade personified chocolate from Spain. Brennan shared, "It was cool and fun to do." Hailey enjoyed skipping through the line.

Finally, at the end of the show, our students and families were treated to a special performance by a real ballerina, Sarah Rathkamp, who has performed with the Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre as the lead in The Nutcracker.

The play was such fun and so well done, our students will always remember dancing their parts through the Nutcracker.

The Pajama Project



As is the tradition at St Francis de Sales, our students give 110% when it comes to helping others in our community. This year was no exception. The fifth grade class spearheaded a program to give to the children of the Eastern Shore a special gift at Christmas. They joined the Pajama Program to collect new, warm PJ's for the less fortunate. Fifth graders kicked off the two-week fundraiser by coming to school dressed in PJ's for the day. They made posters and hung them up all over the school. To make it fun to give, we made it a competition to see which grade level could bring in the most donations. The winning class was granted a PJ party of their own. Altogether, St Francis collected and donated 237 pairs of PJ's.

These were added to collections from all over the Eastern Shore, totalling 1,100 new pairs of warm pajamas. Another really cool thing about this program is that not only do the kids get a new pair of PJ's, but they also receive a new book of their own donated by Scholastic. All of our PJ's and books stayed right here on the Shore. When asked what she liked the most about the PJ drive, Maya Braxton said, "We donated more PJ's this year compared to last year." Luca DePaola added, "I enjoyed hosting it, and I felt helpful giving PJ's to the poor." Rose Freda joined in saying, "I learned there is a good side of me that cares for others." Great job, St. Francis!



"Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest

Every year, St. Francis de Sales Catholic School enters the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. With the guidance of Mr. McLeod, our art teacher, interested students can create a masterpiece to submit. Students compete with others in their age group: 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14.

This year, our school presented our entries to the Knights of Columbus of St. Francis de Sales Council #3489 and came out on top with winners in each category.

In the 5-7 age group, taking third place was Sophia Watson, second place was Olivia Trice, and the first place winner was Gabby Kelly.

In the 8-10 age group, taking first was Darcy Manes.

Finally, in the 11-14 bracket, second place went to Daniela Carrasco-Gonzalez, and winning first place was Jordan Moore.

"I have entered before, but this is the first time I won," shared Darcy Manes.

I made a story with comics about an angel going to the nativity scene. I used crayons and colored pencils to make it."

"I made ornaments with crosses and the disciples in them with marker, pen, crayons, and color pencils," said Jordan Moore. "I was super happy when I found out I won first place in my age group since there were a lot of others competing in the contest."

Our winners are looking forward to spending their Barnes and Noble gift card prizes.





**St. Francis de Sales
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