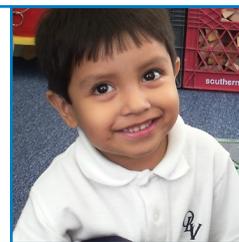


THE GOOD NEWS IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Supplement to *The North Texas Catholic*
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WINTER 2015

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Sometimes, the smallest routines trigger the emotions of childhood especially for Brittany Mata, **St. Joseph Catholic School** alumnus (2003).

“Writing ‘JMJ’ at the top of all school papers, prayer before and after every event, and even going to Mass with my classmates, when I was younger I never thought these practices meant much, but the older I got, the more I realized these influences have helped me become the best version of myself,” said Mata who has held on to her Holy Rosary moniker all these years. The name of the school has changed and that seems to be the hardest transition for me, but the important traditions appear to be the same,” said Mata, who returned to her elementary alma mater as a fifth/sixth grade girls’ basketball coach.

Mata invited her best friend and long-time classmate, Beth Hampton, to help. Both Mata and Hampton also graduated from Nolan Catholic and while their collegiate paths varied, they maintained

interest in the sport. “Beth and I have shared some of our best moments together on the court. Many of the skills and disciplines I’ve developed from playing basketball have helped tremendously throughout my life,” Mata said.

Hampton has coached with Amateur Athletic Union for the past few years and hopes to pass on “the drive to succeed and the willingness to put forth maximum effort” to the Lady Knights.

SJCS Athletic Director Rocky Cantu praised Mata and Hampton for their service to the coaching ministry while balancing their careers. “It’s nice for the student players to not only see someone doing the things they dream of doing like playing high school or college sports, but also giving back to their school,” Cantu said. “There is a certain level of respect the kids give to these alumni coaches. I think it’s because they share a similar bond.”

Mata also has another special tie to the school in her nieces, Allie and Madelyn,



who are current students at St. Joseph. “I wanted to be a part of their elementary and junior high experience. Since I had a great time here, I felt giving back to the school seemed like the natural thing to do.”

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Diego Soto is an **Our Lady of Victory Catholic School** alumnus who decided to answer God’s calling to the priesthood. Diego said the influence of his teachers Mrs. Hoyer, Ms. Bain, Mrs. Mocek, Sr. Dorothy Ann Flori and Sr. Teresa Honkomp gave him a solid education, taught him to be patient and find time to pray. It was also during these formative years that Diego would help Sister Teresa prepare for Mass. “At OLV, one seed was planted in what you were to become,” said Diego.

Diego also remembers a career day at OLV, when his friends told him they knew he would one day become a priest. Diego adamantly rejected the idea. However, the calling to enter the priesthood came to Diego during the Soto family’s weekly tradition of attending the Hour of Adoration at Holy Name Catholic Parish. He was confused about what he wanted to do in life. Diego recalls, “I felt a warmth come over me,” which he knew

was the Lord speaking to him, but ignored it at first. A month later, he felt the feeling again, but much stronger, the calling from God. This time, Diego, accepted the fact and knew it was what he should do by answering the call. “It feels good to know what I want.”

Diego has since entered the discernment period and has on occasion experienced challenging times, but the students and teachers at Cassata High School where he now attends have supported him along the way. A friend pointed out that he may be missing out. “But, God is calling me to be a priest and I know the direction I want to follow,” said Diego. “I don’t let my emotions rule my life.”

After graduating from Cassata, he will attend Tarrant County College for one semester and then enter the seminary. His goal is to become a diocesan priest and return to Fort Worth.

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



St. John the Apostle Catholic School's Lego Robotics Team is beginning its second year after last year's fifth grade team made it into the regional finals in the Core Values category.

This year's team, The Eaglebots comprised of fourth through sixth graders, participated in its first regional qualifier in mid-December. The team built their own robot for this student-driven project of which idea sharing, problem solving and planning and design resolutions must be directed, implemented and resolved by the student team with no direct adult input.

This year's challenge, *World Class Learning Unleashed*, consists of four areas of competition: the project, the robot competition, core values and the chassis production.

For the project portion of the competition, which focuses on improving learning in the greater community, the team created an SJS Field Library. Books can be read and exchanged through the field library located on the St. John campus. The library is available not only to SJS students but to students in religious formation and other groups who utilize the parish campus and St. John Formation Center. The team built a little house that serves as a book shelf for other young people to exchange books. The initial books were donated by the Eaglebots and hopefully over time others will donate more books to the field library.

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Andrew Catholic School has joined the world of robotics this year with its participation in the First Lego League (FLL) Challenge. Former St. Andrew students, who are now members of the Nolan Catholic Robotics Team, initiated a conversation with the school last spring to help start a program at St. Andrew. "Kyle Griffith (SAS'12) approached me last year with the idea of starting a program at St. Andrew," said Charles Llewellyn, school president. "I thought it would be a good way to pair Nolan and one of its feeder schools in a project together, highlight technology and advance our students by enriching their science and technology experience." The FLL promotes STEM, which is the cross-curricular combination of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Griffith paired with St. Andrew seventh and eighth grade science teacher Mike Fenoglio and two other Nolan classmates, Antonio Araujo (SAS '11) and Zach Wempe (SAS '12), have begun the process of establishing a robotics team at St. Andrew. "We held a parent information night at St. Andrew where the Nolan students spoke to our parents about the



program," said Mr. Fenoglio. "We could not have done this without the kids from Nolan."

St. Andrew has 52 students in the robotics program that make up seven teams, including both girls and boys. Each team

is equipped with its own robotics kit and tasked with building a robot and choosing a strategy for competition. Mrs. Watts, seventh and eighth grade math teacher, co-sponsors the St. Andrew program which calls itself the Robocats.

OPEN HOUSES

ST. JOHN

Sun. Jan. 25 | 9:30 – 3:30p
Sun. Apr. 19 | 9:30a – 3:30p

HOLY FAMILY

Sun. Jan. 25 | 10:00a – 2:00p

ST. JOSEPH

Sun. Jan. 25 | 10:00a – 2:00p
Shadow Day – Feb. 2

ST. PETER

Sun. Jan. 25 | 10:00a – 2:00

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fri. Jan. 24, | 5:30p – 7:30p

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The sixth grade students at **St. Mary's Catholic School** donated a quilt to the annual Fall Festival auction. This idea came about when their homeroom teacher, Tisha Green, remembered seeing a t-shirt quilt donated several years before. She thought this would be a great idea to bring back for the 2014 auction, and knew she could turn this project into a teachable moment. The students came up with the design for the quilt, including Bible verses on several blocks of the quilt. With the help of two fellow parishioners, the students learned what it takes to create such a masterpiece. The students had to integrate previously learned math skills to measure fabric. Payne Lee said, "You have to measure how long everything is, so you need precise math skills. It surprised me that you really use measuring and fractions in the real world." Rachel Hutcherson added, "We had to use calculations to figure out how big you want the quilt and the amount of material needed." They also learned to iron and sew. The quilt was made out a variety of past years' spirit wear shirts donated by junior high students. The sixth graders made sure that the shirts were a representation of all activities offered at SMS. While working, they made several trips to Pass Time Fabrics to work on this project. They even had a chance to run the quilting machine. Kaylee Edington commented, "I liked choosing the material the best. The colors we picked fit well with our quilt. It was fun learning how to use a quilting machine."



NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

It's a phrase heard often in classrooms throughout the country. "Students, please put away your phones."

But thanks to a recent grant from U.S. Cellular, teachers at **Notre Dame Catholic School** are encouraging students to do just the opposite.

"It's just such a wonderful tool to be able to use," said Notre Dame Upper Campus librarian, Cindy Smith. "Thanks to our new campus-wide wi-fi service, our kids are able to utilize all the technological devices at their disposal."

The school was selected in late 2013 as one of 20 schools to receive a \$25,000 grant after competing in U.S. Cellular's *Calling All Communities Campaign*. The nationwide contest made NDCS the first in Texas to be awarded the prize money. As a whole, participating schools received more than 37,000 votes.

"We congratulate all the schools who were able to rally their local communities to support their efforts," said Dave Kimbell, Executive Vice President of Sales and Chief Marketing Officer for U.S. Cellular.

Each school was free to spend the grant money on the educational purpose of its



choice. Notre Dame elected to install wi-fi internet service at both its Upper and Lower campuses.

In Mrs. Smith's classroom, students are encouraged to utilize the wi-fi service by accessing online study programs and apps, like Quizlet, on their cell phones. At the Lower Campus, students ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade, are able to

use mobile tablet devices to further engage their studies. All are possible without having to be plugged into a stationary spot in a computer lab.

"We needed a ton of integrate technology in the classroom, because it is the pen and paper of our time," Smith said. "This has allowed our school to do just that."

OPEN HOUSES

ST. MARY'S
Tue. Jan. 27 | 5:00p – 6:30p

ST. ANDREW
Sun. Jan. 25 | 10:00a – 1:00p
Fri. Jan. 30 | 8:30a – 12:00p

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON
Sun. Jan. 25 | 12:00p – 2:30p
Wed. Jan. 28 | 10:00a – 11:00a

ST. MARIA GORETTI
Sun. Jan. 25 | 10:00a – 1:00p
Tue. Jan. 27 | 9:00a – 11:00a

ST. RITA
Sun. Jan. 25 | 11:00a – 2:00p
Fri. Jan. 30 | 8:00a – 10:00a

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Students and teachers at **St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School** are utilizing new technology and computer programs to enhance their educational experience. This year, the school has implemented the Accelerated Reader Program across all grade levels and have coupled that program with the STAR reading web based assessment program. Using the STAR reading program, teachers are able to assess students quickly across many reading skill domains, and have all of that data from each student flow immediately to their class portal where the information is used to not only drive whole class instruction. It also targets tailored instruction for each student in the classroom.

“I love working with Accelerated Reader. The students are excited about setting goals and because the program places the student in their zone of proximal development, the students have become very engaged in the selection process of appropriate reading material. The program allows each student choice and ownership which places students in the optimal learning environment,” said Lisa Giardino, junior high ELA teacher.

Because the STAR assessments and the Accelerated Reader programs are quick and computer based, teachers have the ability to assign students the task of signing in on one of the classroom computers and taking their Accelerated Reader Quiz during their Daily Five Reading rotation, or anytime they have some free class time.

“We have students at many different skill levels here at St. Peter’s and it is important that we meet each student where they are at



and help them grow from there. With the data we receive, we have the ability to target instruction to help students who are below level in certain areas grow and keep our high achievers challenged and reaching even higher,” said Ms. Mendez, principal at St. Peter the Apostle. “We plan to continue these programs and look at other blended learning models to help us prepare our students for the future.”

ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Who would have thought that learning math facts could be so much fun? Yet, this is truly the case for **St. George Catholic School** students participating in the Reflex Math program, a computer game available to students in fourth through eighth grades. The program is tailored for math facts fluency with a focus on automaticity. It is completely differentiated and individualized to focus on the specific needs and skill levels of each individual student. “I really like the math games. It has helped me to learn my math facts better and faster. It makes learning math so much fun,” shared Abraham Arriaga, St. George sixth grader. The math teachers are noticing a change in their students’ motivation with learning math as well. Miss Andrea Carrera explains, “Kids are extremely excited when they know it’s the day to do the Reflex Math computer program. It has helped my students to feel successful at math, a foundation that will serve them well for years to come.”



What began with over 75,000 North Texas second graders in early September culminated in November at Texas Christian University with Seanna Muhitch, a student at **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School**, winning the 2014 Texas Reading Bee. Alexis Boehmler, St. Andrew, placed second.



“Step around! No, stop!” It might have seemed a little like the blind leading the blind, but **Immaculate Conception Catholic School** students were able to navigate through a team-building obstacle course during the school’s most recent Student Council social for grades five through eight.

Instead of the routine snacking and dancing, that at times can come with more than a few awkward moments, team-building was the theme of the ICCS fall social coined: *It’s the Greatest Show on Earth!*

The event started right after school when the students were invited to pick a balloon and pop it. Inside was the name of the student that they would team with. Three groups were formed with each rotating every twenty minutes. The challenges were three—lead your blind-folded partner through an obstacle course, learn the *Kindness Flash Dance*, and determine survival strategies if you were to find yourself on the moon.

“The obstacle course was the best!” shared seventh grader Leah LaBarbera. “I liked the blindfolded activity when we had to guide our partner through the obstacle course,” offered seventh grader Logan Moonier.

The Kindness Flash Dance extended beyond the social when the students did an encore performance for their fellow students at lunch one day. ICCS was also represented at the annual *Dance For Kindness* event held recently in Dallas in honor of World Kindness Day.

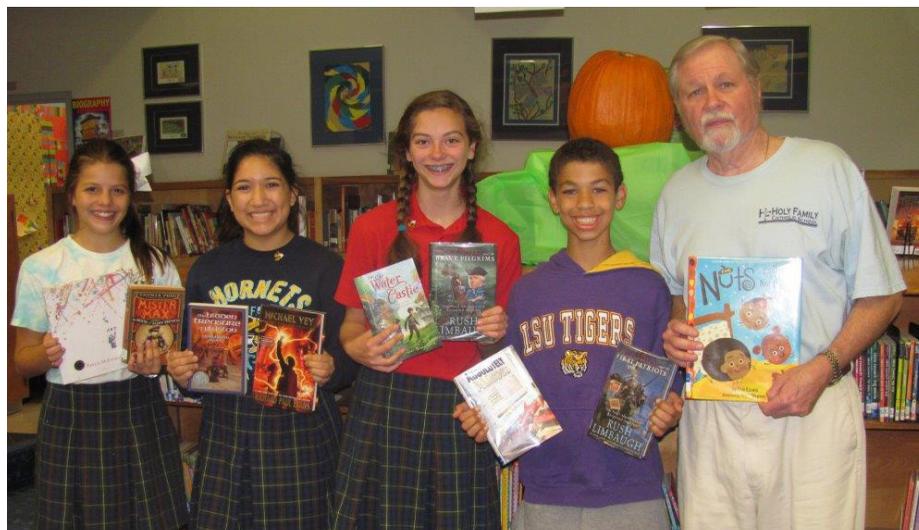
In spite of being a different kind of social, there remained the universal appeal of getting the young people together. “I liked the social and all the activities because I got to hang out with my friends,” said seventh grader Joana Guima.

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The library at **Holy Family Catholic School** receives an annual visit from Mr. Michael Davidson. As one of many of his philanthropic activities, since 2006 Mr. Davidson has been donating money to the school specifically to be used for books for the school library. Mr. Davidson is a native of Fort Worth and attended St. Alice, the original name of HFCS, and graduated from Laner High School, an all-boys school run by the Benedictine priests. He is now a retired teacher and counselor. His grew up with parents who were big supporters and promoters of Catholic education. Thus, he has witnessed first-hand the significant impact a Catholic education can have. Mr. Davidson has three children, all of whom attended St. Maria Goretti Catholic School in Arlington. It is in memory of two of these children that Mr. Davidson gives so generously to the school. Mr. Davidson’s two sons, Graham and Chase passed away at the early ages of nine and 33, respectively. When asked why he is a consistent supporter of the HFCS library, Mr. Davidson stated, “I just

felt the need to give back to the Catholic schools and to also honor my boys with some good memorials in their name.” Thus, Mr. Davidson makes two separate donations each year in memory of Graham and Chase. HFCS librarian, Maureen Szostek, says, “The school is blessed with his thoughtfulness and desire to give back

to the school and what a wonderful idea it is to donate books to honor the memory of his sons.” Grace Terrell, a seventh grader, says “His donation is important and impactful to all the students at the school.” She is amazed that he does this every year. HFCS is so very thankful for Mr. Davidson and his generosity.



Studying the Saints of the Church is an important aspect of a Catholic education. After beginning this study of the Saints, the first grade selects a Patron Saint to carry and intercede for them until they graduate at the end of eighth grade. One very special event at **Holy Trinity Catholic School** that continues this educational process is the annual All Saints Celebration Mass. This year, the celebration was held in early November with Fr. Jonathan McElhone, TOR from Good Shepherd Catholic Community presiding.

One of the most popular aspects of this celebration is the beautiful procession in which each second grader, dressed in full attire depicting their favorite Saint, walks ceremoniously to their places for the Mass. Through this depiction, the entire community is called to reflect on the lives of the Saints, remembering each grade's Patron Saint and other great Saints who are models of holiness for us. Before the final blessing, the second graders led the singing of the Litany of Saints to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In". After Mass the parents, grandparents and other visitors were invited to listen to presentations given by the second graders in their classrooms about the Saints they depicted. From St. Nicholas, St. Rosa of Lima, St. Patrick, to Mother Mary, the Saints were honored with great pride by the school's second graders.



While St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School second grader Trey Reyes is away from school for cancer treatment, he and his family are not far from the hearts and minds of his friends at school. He is remembered in morning prayers, by *Super Tre* T-Shirts on Spirit Days and meals for his family from the PSA Helping Hands Committee. There is even a special friend, Big Steve, keeping his seat warm! Big Steve participates in everything: PE, art, lunch and weekly Mass. He has an envelope that carries letters of encouragement and a journal of Big Steve's adventures back and forth between Trey and his classmates. Trey, his family and his school family are truly experiencing the Body of Christ on earth. "We feel grateful and humbled by the outpouring of love and willingness of everyone to help and support Trey," says Michelle Reyes, Trey's mom.



Mud Day is an **Our Lady of Victory Catholic School** tradition for the students in PK3 and PK4. Mud Day is a day of hands-on science and math. "Mud Day is the culmination of water study week. We bring in dirt and all sorts of tools to explore what happens when you mix water and dirt. We see how water runs, pours and mixes. It is a great way to make all they have learned about water come to life in a fun way," says Kathy Shaw, preschool teacher. After experiments are completed, PK students go wild and get to play in the mud. Mud Day is a memory that lasts forever!

ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“I wonder if the Bishop will arrive in a limousine,” Carlos Hernandez conferred with classmates on a recent Thursday afternoon at **St. Rita Catholic School**. The Wildcats were abuzz and perhaps a little nervous anticipating a visit from Bishop Olson the next morning for liturgy. Throughout the week, preparations were made for the Bishop. Teachers and staff painted the hallways while volunteers made improvements large and small throughout the campus. Students rehearsed for Mass and cleaned their lockers and desks. It is not surprising that amid all the activity, a brief rumor surfaced that Pope Francis was coming.

The next morning, Bishop Olson arrived for a jubilant celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In his homily, the Bishop relayed a story from his youth in which he manipulated curfew rules to his advantage. The Bishop shared the lesson he learned from his mother that night: following the rules is not always enough; doing what is right is what we are called to do. Throughout the service, fourth graders led as lectors, cantors in English and Spanish, and with liturgical movement and sign language.

After Mass, the Bishop was greeted by parents and parishioners at a reception in the library. Next, he toured each classroom in the junior high and elementary wings. While visiting, the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders were in house meetings.



Bishop Olson posed for a photo with the St. Francis House and later sent the image in a “Go Wildcats!” tweet. In the second grade classroom, the Bishop offered a blessing on the students in preparation for First Penance. The first graders demonstrated the sign of the cross in Spanish, English and Latin. When a fourth grader expressed his fear of the dark, Bishop Olson comforted students reminding them

they should not be afraid because God is always with them. The Bishop listened patiently while fifth graders asked many, many questions. Before he left, the students bestowed the Bishop with several St. Rita accessories including a sweatshirt, baseball cap and a tote bag.

After the Bishop’s departure, one unnamed Wildcat was heard to say, “He was pretty cool.”

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Sacred Heart Catholic School’s first and second grade students have been studying the parts of the Rosary and how to pray it. October was the month of the Rosary and preparing the students to recognize it fully was the aim of Religion teacher, Annette Bayer. The students were given wall Rosary posters to color and take home to use when they prayed with their family. The first graders were excited about the project. They had already learned to say the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*, but now know how to put them together to make a Rosary. Ivan McCoy said, “Mother hung it on my wall in my room.”

For the second grade, the prayers were learned in first grade but got more out of the meaning of the prayers. Katie Becker said, “Praying the Rosary leads you to sainthood.” Addison Blanton added, “I learned the prayers even better.” Overall, the students created memories about this project that will last a lifetime. They will use the prayers to help poor souls get into the gates of heaven.

OUR MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The National Dairy Council and the National Football League, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, combined to create *Fuel Up to Play 60*, a campaign designed to empower students to make healthy decisions, take action for change and encourage their friends to do the same. As a member of *Fuel Up to Play 60*, **Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School** received funding to create its own fitness center. Universal machine, stationary bikes, jumpropes, elliptical trainer and other equipment were purchased and placed in an empty classroom where students conduct fitness training twice-a-week. Students pledged to fuel up by energizing their mind and body eating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat and fat free dairy, play 60 by being active for 60 minutes a day and fuel up to play 60 by eating healthy being active and making a difference in the war against juvenile obesity.



NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

“It definitely gave me an appreciation for all the *little things* elementary teachers do every day.”

That was one of the many positive comments **Nolan Catholic High School** faculty and staff remarked about their fall in-service retreat in which they traveled to 14 diocesan elementary schools to work for the day.

The day began at Nolan Catholic with a community prayer service that set the tone for the retreat. After the service, designated teams dispersed to their assigned schools. This off-campus retreat experience enabled Nolan faculty and staff to work side-by-side and enjoy fellowship with those who are in different departments within its community. It also provided an opportunity to model Nolan Catholic’s mission of being servant leaders while strengthening the bonds of the Diocese’s largest Catholic high school shares with its diocesan partner schools and parishes.

In addition to providing service to the elementary schools, Nolan served lunch to their faculty and staff. “We enjoyed helping

with St. John’s Fall Fest cleanup after their carnival,” said Math Department Chair Katy Rodriguez. “It was also lovely getting to serve the faculty and staff lunch and to work playground duty so the teachers could get a break.”

All totaled, 111 Nolan Catholic faculty and staff participated in visiting 14 partner schools and serving 544 lunches. Tasks included general cleaning, painting, sorting/filing, landscaping/gardening, library support, and working with students and faculty.

In return, the schools provided tours of their facility and many Nolan Catholic teachers were given the honor of observing classes. “I very much enjoyed my time of service at St. John the Apostle. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming,” said Social Studies Teacher Cornelius Rogers. “I enjoyed my conversations with faculty and students.”

NCHS Principal Benedict V. Reyes said, “It was such a wonderful community-building experience and we hope to offer our services again soon.”



Cassata High School’s Landscape minilab students recently put the finishing touches on the new garden in front of the school. Over the course of the fall semester, they worked with volunteers from the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association to beautify the Cassata campus by designing and implementing two new plant beds. In addition, a group of students visited the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, where they learned about the LEED Platinum building and how they can become better stewards of their planet.



ST. MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Maria Goretti Catholic School has completed phase two of a three part renovation of the playground. The school's three equipment areas had sand for a surface covering. Although the students love to dig in it, parents have long commented on the amount of sand that travels home in shoes and pockets. Health experts raise concerns as sand can be unsanitary. So a concerted effort has been made to resurface these areas with a rubber surface material.

In phase one, one area received a fresh coat of paint and the new surface. An added bonus was the addition of a sun cover. Phase two included a second area which received a new piece of equipment and the new rubber surface. Monetary help for these renovations came from the school's annual appeal to supporters and alumni, past grants and the Home and School Association.

The completion of phase three will allow removal of the sand from the last of the areas. School nurse, Mrs. Marvel O'Brien, welcomes the new surface saying, "It helps cushion falls, minimizes head injuries as well as cuts, bruises and breaks. And the sun shade is nice to have to decrease UV rays."



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Walk into Holy Cross Catholic School on a Friday and you will likely hear little voices engaged in song, or the sound of bells and drums echoing from the upstairs fine arts room. On a Thursday, you might witness children recreating Van Gogh's *Starry Night* on a mural for the

hallway, or discussing how colors evoke emotions.

The school's fine arts teacher, Dorina Crutchfield, finds great joy in her job. She teaches music, art, Spanish and P.E. to students in grades PK3 through four. Her goal is to immerse students in the

field of study, integrate what they are learning across subject areas and give focus to Catholic identity throughout the curriculum.

For example, the students studied Leonardo da Vinci and his great accomplishments during art class. They then took what they learned and carried it over to Spanish class as they studied Dia de los Muertos, a Mexican holiday that focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember those who have died. This experience was a wonderful way to blend a Catholic cultural tradition into Spanish and art.

In addition, students have been exposed to a new music program this year. They are learning how to use Orff instruments and are often seen practicing beat counts and rhythms while they are doing activities in P.E. To further expose students to musical instruments and musicians, HCCS recently hosted the 2009 Guitar Center's King of the Blues, Kirby Kelley.



CASSATA HIGH SCHOOL

All too often, students fall behind in literacy by cleverly disguising their problems in the classroom. Many of **Cassata High School's** students test at a sixth grade reading level at entrance, and very often these students come from non-English speaking households. But a new program at Cassata is helping them bring their reading skills up to grade level.

The Literacy and Language Support program combines one-on-one instruction with the latest technology to help students improve their reading skills. A new software called Istation uses a game-like format to assess students in the areas of word analysis, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

The program is taught by teacher Marshall Mosley, whose postgraduate work is in reading and language. In addition to using Istation, he spends time working with each student one-on-one.

“Since I started at Cassata, I have watched these kids struggle, even though they are very hard working and determined students,” said Marshall. “I realized that we needed to back up and focus on providing language support to help them make real progress in all of their classes.”

In a small class setting (no greater than a 12:1 student/teacher ratio for remedial reading classes), Marshall is notified by the software when students are in need of additional instruction, and real-time scoring gives him instant access to each student's reading



progress reports. As a result of these efforts, students sometimes advance multiple grade levels over the course of a few months.

“Istation is very easy to use because it's fun and interactive,” said Nicholas Ornelas, who took remedial reading in the fall. “When I'm using it, I can tell that I'm learning. And if I'm reading on my own and don't understand a word, Mr. Mosley will go over what it means. Then we'll read it again to be sure I understand.”

In addition, volunteer reading tutors meet with students every week to work on improving their reading comprehension. With their help, Cassata students can continue to develop their reading skills, giving them the ability to excel in all subjects on their way to graduation.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Literacy at **All Saints Catholic School** is a joint effort. The more opportunities students get to practice this important skill the better they become. Not only does it help the younger students, but the older students receive benefits as well. Middle school students at All Saints have been supporting literacy in the lower grades by being reading buddies. The program began in September with the students alternating reading to each other every other Thursday. Eighth graders read to kindergartners, seventh graders read to first graders and the sixth graders read to second grade students.

The older students really enjoy reading with their young buddies. Jesus, a sixth grader said, “This is helping me with my reading too. I didn't like to read out loud before, but this makes me more comfortable.” Ms. O'Brien, our first grade teacher also noted, “The students get really excited on Thursday when they know their buddies will come. The students want to show off their reading skills and their new books. They would like it if their buddies came every Thursday.”

The relationships carry over outside the classroom as well. When the younger students see their buddies during the school day, they get excited and acknowledge them. The older students are also really enjoying this responsibility and it is helping them to build a sense of pride and accomplishment. In all, the All Saints Catholic School Reading Buddy program has been a success in strengthening literacy and nurturing a mutual interest in reading.

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

2014-2015 HONOREES



Donald P. Miller



All Saints
Danny Arriaga



Cassata
Priscilla Harrier



Holy Cross
Ann Beckel



Holy Family
Mary Salerno



Holy Trinity
Shelly Hickman



Immaculate Conception
Joe Ketchum



Nolan Catholic
Paul Combest



Notre Dame
Cathy McElroy



Our Lady of Victory
Sandra Jenkins



Our Mother of Mercy
Art & Cynthia Sanford



Sacred Heart
Stacie Miller



St. Andrew
Maria Gonzalez



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Kim Chiapetta



St. George
Mary Longoria



St. John
Joanie Ruppel



St. Joseph
Judy Gavin



St. Maria Goretti
Chris Abbott



St. Mary's
Rae Ann Gerken



St. Peter
Diana Yandell



St. Rita
Mary Burns



CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Fort Worth Convention Center Ballroom
Saturday, January 31, 2015

Honoring Diocesan Leadership Award Recipient
Donald P. Miller

For reservation information, please contact Lisa Griffith at 817.560.3300
or lgriffith@fwdioc.org or register on line at <http://bidpal.net/catholicschoolsfw>

OUR SCHOOLS

All Saints Catholic School (PreK-8)
2006 N. Houston St., Fort Worth, TX 76164
817-624-2670 • www.ascsfw.org

Cassata High School
1400 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-926-1745 • www.cassatahs.org

Holy Cross Catholic School (PreK3-4)
303 King St., Frisco TX 75035
469-362-2400 • www.hccsf.org

Holy Family Catholic School (PreK-8)
6146 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107
817-737-4201 • www.hfsfw.org

Holy Trinity Catholic School (PreK-8)
3750 William D. Tate Ave., Grapevine, TX 76051
817-421-8000 • www.holytcs.org

Immaculate Conception Catholic School (PreK-8)
2301 N. Bonnie Brae St., Denton, TX 76207
940-381-1155 • www.catholicsschooldenton.org

Nolan Catholic High School
4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth, TX 76103
817-457-2920 • www.nolancatholicchs.org

Notre Dame Catholic School (PreK-12)
2821 Lansing Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76309
940-692-6041 • www.notredamecatholic.org

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School (PreK-8)
3320 Hemphill Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110
817-924-5123 • www.olvfw.com

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School (PreK-8)
1007 E. Terrell St., Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-923-0058 • www.omom.org

Sacred Heart Catholic School (PreK-12)
153 East Sixth St., Muenster, TX 76252
940-759-2511 • www.shmuenster.com

St. Andrew Catholic School (PreK-8)
3304 Dryden Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76109
817-924-8917 • www.standrewsch.org

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School (PreK-8)
2016 Willis Lane, Keller, TX 76248
817-431-4845 • www.seascs.net

St. George Catholic School (PreK-8)
824 Hudgins Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76111
817-222-1221 • www.sgctx.org

St. John the Apostle Catholic School (PreK-8)
7421 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76180
817-284-2228 • www.stjs.org

St. Joseph Catholic School (PreK-8)
2015 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington, TX 76017
817-419-6800 • www.stjosephstx.com

St. Maria Goretti Catholic School (PreK-8)
1200 S. Davis Dr., Arlington, TX 76013
817-275-5081 • www.smsgschool.org

St. Mary's Catholic School (PreK-8)
931 N. Weaver St., Gainesville, TX 76240
940-665-5395, ext. 3 • www.smsmustangs.com

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School (PreK-8)
1201 South Cherry Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-246-2032 • www.spsfw.org

St. Rita Catholic School (PreK-8)
712 Weiler Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76112
817-451-9383 • www.saintritaschool.net

Visit the Fort Worth Catholic Schools
web site www.fwdioc.org

CHARLENE HYMEL, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



It is the Christmas season. A time of waiting, anticipating, celebrating and rejoicing the birth of Christ, our Savior. It is also a time of giving thanks for the many gifts we have been given throughout our lives. Here in the Catholic Schools Office, I am thankful for all the priests, faculty and staff members in our twenty schools, and for the Catholic Schools Office staff.

I am also thankful for Bishop Olson, Fr. Schilken and our Diocesan Advisory Council members. These individuals, like the fishermen at the Sea of Galilee, heard Jesus call with an invitation to follow him in a very special way. Each of these individuals has chosen to dedicate their lives to the ministry of educating our youth. It is their mission to nurture the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth of each child. Our children will learn to love God, love self, love others and they will share this love with others in their homes, their schools and their communities. Jesus calls each of us to serve in some unique way. I am thankful to those who choose to serve through the ministry of Catholic schools education. We are raising the future, the children who will be capable of changing the world to a world of love and peace.

Nolan Catholic High School Junior Lillian Cribbin had an idea for her class to help feed the homeless. She said, "Let's make sandwiches." From that simple idea, a meticulous plan was drafted in which Nolan turned its Commons dining room into a mass production of peanut butter sandwiches (more than 1,400 in about 30 minutes) that were delivered to the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth to feed many of its patrons. A great example of Nolan Catholic High students making a difference in the community.



Fifth and sixth graders from **St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School** saw the movie *Jerusalem* at the Omni Max at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Fr. Flores went with the students. "I'm happy we have these opportunities to go outside the traditional classroom to understand that the city we live in and the world at large has much to teach us. Everything has the potential to reflect back to us the hand of the Creator," said Fr. Flores.

Students in Tina Jezek's Fine Arts/Environmental Science classes at **Immaculate Conception Catholic School** are working on making a tree from junk mail as part of this year's reverse litter competition sponsored by the Denton Watershed Protection Program. The goal is to bring awareness in order to reduce trash and litter that enters local waterways.

