



the MESSENGER

Mark Your Calendars:

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT AND REGISTRATION

St. Michael School is a partnership between St. Michael Parish in Independence and St. Basil the Great Parish in Brecksville. Each student is a child of God, challenged daily to achieve academic excellence and taught to embrace the gospel message to make a difference in the world.

“We are a Christ-centered community that strives to enhance lives through academic excellence in the Roman Catholic tradition,” said Mrs. Margaret Campisi, Principal of St. Michael School. “As a nationally recognized, Blue Ribbon Catholic school, St. Michael always works toward enriching school programs to help our students achieve both academically and, most importantly, spiritually.”

Information Night

St. Michael School will hold a Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Basil Parish Education Center, 8700 Brecksville Road. This opportunity is for parents interested in Catholic elementary education for their children. It will include a history of the school, the preschool and kindergarten philosophy, an overview of the curriculum and information on screening procedures.

Open House

An Open House will be held on Wednesday, January 28 from 5-7 pm at St. Michael School, located at 6906 Chestnut Road in Independence. Families are also invited to bring in families, friends, and neighbors who may be interested in a Catholic Education for their children.

Personal Tours

Families interested in receiving a personal tour of the St. Michael School campus may call Mrs. Margaret Campisi at 216/524-6405 or Mrs. Jennifer Fernandez at 440/717-0398 for the St. Basil campus during school hours.

Registration Information

Re-registration Week and Sibling Registration will be held the week of January 12.

New Student Registration Week begins January 20, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at both the main campus and the St. Basil campus. Students transferring from other schools in grades 1-8 are to register at the main campus. Preschool, Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration is at the St. Basil campus.

“The reason for our success is the dedication of our teachers, their willingness to go the extra mile, and always strive to take the students to the next level. Our students are encouraged to try new adventures and never to back down from a challenge,” said Campisi.

“Another reason for our success is our parents. Their dedication to our school, commitment to Catholic Education, and their willingness to work with the administration, teachers, and staff help create a partnership that is most valuable. Our goal is to graduate students who are productive individuals, concerned about others, involved in their community, and who will make this world a better place by striving to share their faith with others by word and example.”

- Mrs. Margaret Campisi, Principal

Families interested in learning more about St. Michael School can visit their new website at www.stmichaelschoolinfo.com or follow the school on Facebook.

Dear Friends of St. Michael School,



We are excited to present this *Messenger* newsletter to all of our school families, parishioners, and those families looking for the right school for their child.

There are so many wonderful programs and opportunities that St. Michael School offers to students.

You will find we have the perfect blend of curriculum and faith-based activities, with a multitude of clubs, programs, sports, arts, and music. Our goal is to provide the most well-rounded educational experience you can find for your child.

A special thank you to all our friends and supporters of our school as we strive to teach our students that God is so important in their lives.

On behalf of Fr. Pete, Fr. Walt, and the St. Michael School teachers and staff, I would like to extend to you much happiness and good health in the New Year.

God's Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Margaret Campisi
Principal

St. Michael's First Ever CASINO NIGHT!

save the date

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015

**DINNER | OPEN BAR | SLOT MACHINES
TABLE GAMES | 50/50 RAFFLES
SILENT AUCTIONS**

**AN INCREDIBLE EVENT
TO HELP SUPPORT
OUR SCHOOL!**

Calendar

January

- 5 Classes Resume
- 9 Report cards
- 12 Re-Registration and Sibling Registration
- 14 Market Day Pick-up 6-7 PM
- 17 First Reconciliation 10:00 AM
- 19 No School-Martin Luther King Day
- 20 New Family Registration Week
- 22 Conferences Pre. 4 (Evening)
- 23 Conferences Pre. 4, Jr. Kdg., Kdg.
(No school for these students)
- 25 Catholic Schools Week

February

- 2 Optional Conference Wk.
- 6 No School for Pre. 4, Jr. Kdg. (Pre School Inservice)
- 11 Market Day Pick 6-7 PM
Registration fee goes up
- 13 No School (Teacher Diocesan Inservice)
- 16 No School President's Day
- 17 Class Picture K - 8, Pre. 3, Jr. Kdg.
- 18 Ash Wednesday
Class Picture Pre. 4
- 19 Pre. 3 conferences-No school for Pre. 3 only
- 24 Cats & Iowa (Grs. 1-7, Feb. 24 -March 16)
- 27 Kdg. Screening, (no school for Kdg.)

March

- 6 End of Quarter
- 9 No School - (Teacher Diocesan Inservice)

- 11 Market Day Pick-Up 6-7 PM
- 13 Report card day
- 24 Writing Proficiency (Grs. 3, 5, 7)
- 28 SAVE THE DATE--St. Michael Fundraiser

April

- 3 Good Friday (No School)
- 5 Easter
- 6 Easter Break (April 6-12)
- 13 Classes Resume
- 15 Market Day 6-7 PM
- 21 St. Michael Volunteer Mass
- 24 St. Basil Volunteer Mass
- 26 Communion Practice
- 29 BOGO St. Michael Book Fair
- 30 BOGO St. Michael Book Fair

May

- 1 Summer Dress code begins
Kdg. Grandparents Day
No School Pre. 4, Jr. Kdg. (Pre School Inservice)
- 2 1st HOLY COMMUNION
- 5 Confirmation practice 7 PM
- 6 May Crowning-St. Michael
- 7 Confirmation 7 PM
National Day of Prayer
Muffins For Mom
- 8 May Crowning St. Basil

St. Basil Campus

what's new

They welcome Jesus daily into their hearts through song, sign language and prayer. After prayer, they put Jesus into their hearts so they can take him home to share with their families. Decorating the classroom walls with seasonal art for fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Advent has helped to encourage each child's self-esteem to flourish and has helped them to understand the concept of seasons and how special God has made their world. In preschool, we realize that we all belong to God's family and that each day we spend with each other and with our families is a gift from God. Learning in all areas of the curriculum is taught through hands on activities, finger plays, poems, rhyme, repetition, song and prayer. We bless ourselves daily with the sign of the cross - "our heads, our hearts and our whole bodies."

Jr. Kindergarten

Fall was a fun season learning all about apples, pumpkins, feelings, fire safety, Halloween and the First Thanksgiving. In addition to all of the activities in the classroom, the children visited Mapleside Farms on a sunny morning in October. We also had an exciting visit from two Brecksville firefighters. At the end of November, we gathered with family and friends to enjoy a delicious feast and thank God for His many blessings. Advent was a special time as we filled our hearts with love, faith and hope waiting for the birth of baby Jesus. We celebrated by inviting our families to watch our beautiful Christmas program titled "Counting Down to Christmas." This month we are excited to learn about snow, ice, bears and hibernation. We are also looking forward to attending our first school mass with kindergarten and first grade.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten started the season with Thanksgiving where they learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. As a class, they made applesauce and butter that was used at their Thanksgiving Feast. All of kindergarten sat at a long table to share a meal together and give thanks. The holiday season continued with Advent. The children made an advent chain for their homes to count down to the birth of baby Jesus. Kindergarten started a new tradition for their Christmas program by performing their interpretation of "The Nativity." They worked hard learning the lines, songs, and

Preschool

The children have made new friends and have adjusted nicely to their preschool routine.

sign language to make the play extra special for the families that came to watch.

First Grade

The first grade has been working very hard these first four months of school. We have been attending Friday morning masses since the beginning of the school year. In Religion, we have discussed creation and Baptism. In November, they studied several saints and made a saint book to take home. They made a special Advent chain of good deeds to do in preparation of the coming of Jesus. In math, students have been learning all of the addition and subtraction facts through 16. They continue to read stories in their Superkids reading book about the Superkids and their favorite dog, Golly, and pet cat named Coconut. The 10 spelling words weekly are pulled from these entertaining stories. The first graders have a chance to join K-Kids, which is a Kiwanis based organization. They have many members who all made cards for the veterans at the Veteran's Hospital in Cleveland. The first graders also had a wonderful opportunity to make Christmas ornaments with Mrs. Leigh, a school parent who is an instructor at the Cleveland Institute of Art. With the beginning of the New Year, the first graders will all have the chance to work with the Accelerated Reading Program.



Main Campus

what's new

Reconciliation, which is on January 17. They are studying the Ten Commandments and memorizing the Act of Contrition. In November, they began learning to write letters in cursive. For Math, students are continuing to practice addition and subtraction facts, while learning to add and subtract both two-digit and three-digit problems.

Third Grade

Third grade has been busy learning their multiplication facts and are excited to start division in January. Students in Mrs. Patterson's class have been sending and receiving postcards from other third grade classrooms around the United States. They have also been doing an author's study on Patricia Polacco. Both third grade classes are studying Biomes in Science and Communities in History in Social Studies. Mrs. Turk's class loved having Buddy the Elf on the Shelf visit their room daily in December. They wrote every morning in their elf journal about his daily antics and sent tons of questions to Santa Claus. They've also been reading *The Chocolate Touch* during Book Club. In the New Year, the third graders will be working on learning how to research and completing a research project.

Fourth Grade



on them. The students are looking forward to creating PowerPoint presentations about Ohio inventors.

Second Grade

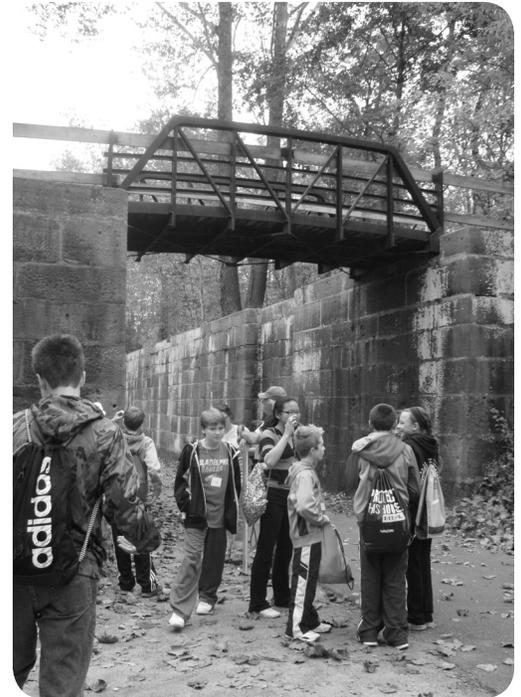
Second grade has been spending time preparing for the Sacrament of

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders have adjusted well to the second floor and switching classes between four teachers. They are working on manners and respect, as they share their desk and hallway with many other students. They have been lucky to have Father Kevin Shemuga visit each month to teach about the sacraments. They loved hearing the story of when he was in Kindergarten and how amazed he was when he first saw a monstrance.

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade is learning the beginnings of algebra, reading to find specific details and themes, and exploring the wonders of Ancient Egypt. The students are busy writing a weekly paragraph. They worked with a partner to develop a marketing plan for a Candy Cane company. The students created a logo, a jingle, commercial, and prototypes of new candy canes. They are being challenged to understand what it means to be truly generous during Advent, as well exploring the history of our Faith as they begin their unit on Moses and the Chosen People. The students have been busy making cards to celebrate different anniversaries or holidays. They decorated Christmas stockings for an independent and assisted living facility in North Olmsted. The students spent an enjoyable week in October at the Cuyahoga Valley Environment Education Center in Peninsula to learn about stewardship.



Seventh and Eighth Grade

Seventh graders are proving how 'tough' they can be while reading, discussing, and playing the parts of characters in *The Outsiders*. Meanwhile, they are using their superior writing skills to coax Santa into buying a gift or two for deserving friends and family members. They are putting their grammar into action with a unit on verbs and even tackling sentence diagramming.



In eighth grade, students will construct an argumentative research paper based on a wide range of topics including: animal rights, magic, flying cars, consumerism, feminism, sportsmanship, and others. They also are coming to discover the little 'quirks' of grammar such as phrasal verbs.

Grade 7 Science began to learn how to select questions and do research for a science fair project by studying lichens and doing a "group Science Fair project," which will be ongoing throughout the year. They are now in the midst of their earth science unit, studying weather and climate factors.

Grade 8 Science students are completing their projects in preparation for a Science Fair after the new year. They are

learning about volcanoes and earthquakes and forces that shape our earth.

Eighth grade Religion classes are researching their patron saints and challenging each other to be the best they can be with "Virtue Challenges." The students took part in their first ever R.A.C.E. to be Saints service project (Random Acts of Christian Example) where they raked the lawns of several City of Independence neighbors. They also made a toast to their patron saints inviting them into their lives to guide them on their Catholic journey to Confirmation and beyond. Proost! Salute! Cheers!

The seventh and eighth grade Math students are graphing, interpolating and extrapolating data, and solving some heavy-duty linear equations.

In eighth grade U.S. History, students have recently finished learning about the early stages of our country's government, and are now learning about the Jefferson Era of American politics and Westward Expansion. In eighth grade Reading, students are currently wrapping up a unit on understanding Jim Crow South through reading the great American classic *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Students will soon be acting out scenes from the book while using green screen technology.

In seventh Grade Social Studies, students have just completed a lengthy unit on Ancient Greece where they learned about some of the most pivotal battles in world history, the foundation of democracy, and how the ancient times can still be seen in today's society. Up next will be the Roman Empire.



Updates on COMPUTERS, SPANISH, ART & LIBRARY

Computers



One of the biggest changes this school year is that St. Michael School is now a Google Apps for Education school. The students in grades 5-8 each have their own Google account. This is a great way to keep all of the students' work in one location that is easily accessible with an Internet connection. Our younger students at the St. Basil campus are benefiting from the technology that has been acquired in the last couple years as well. They love their iPads.

Spanish

In all of the Spanish classes, there is a strong focus on vocabulary acquisition and experiential learning, so that every Spanish student can thoroughly enjoy Spanish and experience the language in as native a manner as possible. Preschoolers and Young 5s students are participating in a new program called "Sing-a-Lingo," where students learn using a great emphasis on music and movement. This is slightly different from last year, and it actually gives the opportunity to touch on more difficult topics; for example, these students will begin to learn the verb "tener," one of the most difficult verbs in Spanish, from that age. Kindergarten students are focusing on learning classroom objects, body parts, and possessions, and using a variety of games and activities to enhance student understanding in those areas. The first grade units are primarily focused on family



relationships, and thus students participated in activities where they drew their families and learned to express the relationships between family members in Spanish, and learned how to address commands and questions using the Spanish language and their new vocabulary. In the second grade classes, there was a focus on learning school vocabulary, vowel sounds, and numbers. The third grade classes have focused greatly on the Spanish alphabet and vowel sounds, and applied that knowledge in units on the weather, date, time, clothing, and the house. Finally, in one of the fourth grade classes, students started the new year by drawing flags of Hispanic countries, researching them, and creating a wall display to showcase their work. The other class created "Spanish passports" and virtually "traveled" to Hispanic countries, researching interesting facts, cultural elements, and information about Hispanic countries. In all of the Spanish classes, there has been a strong emphasis on learning how to read in Spanish and to identify Spanish vowel sounds, as those are the building blocks of the Spanish language and the most important elements to learn for continued language-learning success in the future.

Art

Creativity abounds in the art room. Primary students are busy drawing and painting snowmen and winter scenes. Middle grade students are learning about famous artists such as Picasso, Van Gogh and Andy Warhol, and their styles of art. Junior High students are enjoying drawing black and white designs with Sharpie pens.

Library

Students continue to enjoy the improvements and additions Ms. Dickerson makes to the library as they visit each week to select books, research, test on books, and learn about information literacy and search strategies. Our mascot, Ralph S. Mouse, entertains all as he pokes his pink nose out of his tubes and listens in with the younger classes as they read stories like the charming tale of a friendship between a horse and a cat, *Bayberry and Beau or Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library!* In September and October, both St. Basil Campus and the main campus hosted the Scholastic Book Fair. The fair, chaired by Ms. Dickerson, gives students an opportunity to purchase books for themselves and for the school library to raise funds for further improvements. In October, Ms. Dickerson attended a reading fair at Kent State University, learning a lot about fostering a love of reading and about the common core. In December, students were excited about the book trees, magazine angels, and the Book a Day Advent Calendar.

Updates on
MUSIC & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Music

Third graders have begun to play recorders and will perform at the Spring Concert. During December, the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth graders worked hard to perform their best at the Christmas Concert. The eighth grade used tone chimes to perform two carols as well as accompanying the other grades in their music.

Physical Education

Students in kindergarten through second grade have been moving to music, learning how to jump rope, playing games with bean bags and using scooters. Second grade rode their scooters in Scooterville and received scooter licenses. The upper grades enjoyed playing volleyball, kickball and scooter games.

Update from
ST. MICHAEL PTU

St. Michael PTU has started the 2014-15 school year with the annual Pumpkinfest, PTU's largest fundraiser of the year, and it was another success. Thanks to all the families who helped with decorating, baking, running games and cleaning up. Watching the kids enjoy the talent show like they were at a rock concert is always the biggest thrill. We had face painting, a photo booth, our own-pumpkin carver, games, haunted maze and great food. The creepy café and cakewalk were supplied with beautifully decorated goodies by our wonderful, talented parents.

Breakfast in Bethlehem, held on December 7 at Rappe Hall, was a wonderful way in which to begin the Christmas season. The children of the school participated



in the live nativity scene and the boy scouts helped serve and clear tables. A huge thank you to all the parents who organized and served. Starbucks of Independence provided more than 250 cups of coffee for this event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SMS BLUE ANGELS - FALL ATHLETES!



Updates on
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Builder's Club

The 41-member Builders Club started their year off by sponsoring the "Walk to School Day." This year we had the largest group of students sign up for the walk. On a beautiful fall morning we had 170 students, parents and staff walk from Elmwood Park to St. Michael School. After the walk students enjoyed drinking apple cider. The next event was Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. Students did an outstanding job collecting \$425, the club's largest donation to date. In November and December, members promoted "Toys for Tots." Members had the opportunity to go to the "Toys for Tots" warehouse to help count and sort the toys.

Students at St. Basil School participated in their own "Walk to School Event." Students walked through and around their school. They played on scooters, hula hooped, ran an obstacle course, jumped rope, did yoga and ate a healthy snack.

Power of the Pen

With two fantastic teams in place, Power of the Pen writers are now focusing on making the most of their 40 minute writing sessions. The participants from seventh and eighth grade attended their first level of competition on January 10 at Our Lady of the Elms. These talented and energetic teams are poised and ready to achieve success for themselves and for St. Michael School.

Jump Rope Club

The Jump Rope Club has 42 members. Students meet every Wednesday morning in the gym. Jump rope members are excited to learn new jump rope tricks.



ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL
DRAMA CLUB

PRESENTS . . .



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

INDEPENDENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM • 7PM
ADULTS \$8; STUDENTS/SENIORS \$6

TICKETS: KAREN LYNCH: 216-272-0396
DENNIS_LYNCH@ATT.NET

ANNIE JR

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
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