

Knightly NEWSpaper

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Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Written By: Samantha Tokarz

For this year's Founder's Day, we did two special things: first, we had a Thanksgiving Prayer Service where one student from each homeroom brought something to our "Thanksgiving table." Each item represented something we are thankful for. For example, 8th grade had "Athletic talents," so the students that represented that grade brought a jersey and trophy to represent athletics talents. The service concluded with two of our eighth graders reflecting on their gratitude to OSM.



Founder's Day Carnival

We gather together in November to celebrate and honor OSM's very first principal, Barb Smith. She was a guiding light in the beginning vision for the school and loved working with children. Students in PK-3rd grade celebrated with a fun carnival!



Lip-Sync Battle

Written by Samantha Tokarz and Gabriel Morales

On Founder's Day, the Student Council organized the 2nd annual OSM Lip-Sync Battle! This year is OSM's 20th anniversary of establishment, and we're certainly making the most of it! The first act was Ms. Zara's room with "Blank Space", then Mr. Sherry's room with "Sunroof", then Mr. Carpenter's class with "Jingle Bell Rock", then Mr. Delgado's room with "Welcome To New York", then Ms. VanderHye's 6th grade class with "Jailhouse Rock", then Mr. Woodlock's room with "I Want It That Way", Ms. Douse's room with "Call Me Maybe", Ms. Kennedy's room with "Waka, Waka", Mr. Passarelli's room with "All I Want For Christmas Is You", and last but not least Ms. Maus' room with "All-Star". Out of all of these amazing acts, the winners were, Ms. Zara's, Ms. VanderHye's, and Mr. Woodlock's homerooms. Congrats to all the winners! Hopefully everyone had fun!



Thanksgiving Craft: Turkey

By Fox Boveroux

Step 1. First you are going to take a paper plate and color it brown.

Step 2. Next you are going to cut out 6 pieces of paper to the shape of a feather. The pieces of paper can be any color.

Step 3. Glue the pieces of paper to the back of your plate.

Step 4. Now you have to cut out the feet. Place the feet on the opposite side of where you glued the feathers.

Step 5. The final step is cutting out the beak. Make a triangle piece of paper and put it in the middle of you plate.



What is Advent?

Written By Fiona Dollear

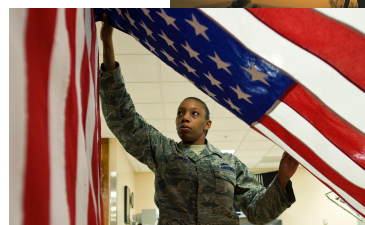
Advent is the preparation for Jesus's birth. Advent means "coming" in Latin and is celebrated from December 3rd to December 24th. This is a time for reflection and preparation for Jesus' coming. During advent we light one candle every week, the candles symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. The advent season gives us a reminder of how important God is in our lives. Unlike lent, advent is a time for hope and excitement, not forgiveness and repentance.



Veteran's Day

By McKenzie Ward

On Thursday, November 9th the fifth graders led us in an assembly to celebrate our veterans and all the hard work they have done for our country. They fought for us, so we honor all veterans for the hard choices that they made and what they sacrificed for us. This is why we celebrate Veterans Day to honor our veterans.



Girls on the Run

Written By Marko Zafirovski



Saint of the Month: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Recently, our determined 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the organization Girls on the Run finished off their season with a well ran 5k! They all ran their best along their guardians. The week after they finished their race, while they were doing a service project, we were able to ask them a few questions about their experience in the club! Some of the following are:

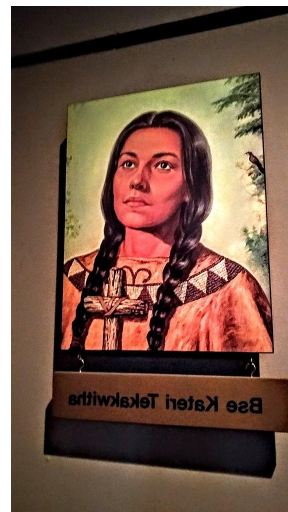
What's your favorite part of Girls on the Run?

- "I love the friends in it." - Kerrington
- "You get to run, talk with friends, and grow and learn with others." - Guiliana
- "I like working together and running." - JJP
- "I like working to complete my goals." - Flavia

What does this activity do/mean to you?

- "It always encouraged me to keep running." - Sofia
- "It feels like another family gathering together." - Guiliana
- "Girl Empowerment. It gives me strength." - Victoria Hernandez

November is when we honor all native americans, and coincidentally St. Kateri Tekakwitha was the first native american saint. In 1656, she was born into the Mohawk tribe by and Algonquin. At the young age of four she contracted smallpox, but survived while it put an end to the rest of her family. Tekakwitha was known as a very skilled and efficient worker, but she refused to marry in dismay of her adopted parents decisions. As a result, she gave her more work to do but she reluctantly never gave in. When she was 19, she converted to become catholic stating that she is only married to Jesus Christ. This did not sit well with the Mohawks, so she was kicked out to a small town on the outskirts of Montreal. She would often pray for her tribe members to be converted. Unfortunately, 5 years after she became catholic she became deathly ill and passed away. Hundreds of years later, she was announced as a saint in 2012. Even towards the end of her life, she was always faithful to God.



Made by Patrick O'Kelley

Guess the Movie!

Try guessing which movie each character is from!

Answers on the next page!

1



2



3



4



5



6



Christmas Tree History

Written By: William Johnigan

The Christmas tree originated in Germany. The Germans set up a paradise tree in their homes on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve. Candles hung on the tree, symbolic of Christ as the light of the world. In the same room was the “Christmas pyramid,” a construction of wooden shelves to hold Christmas figurines and was decorated with evergreens, candles, and a star. By the 16th century the Christmas pyramid and the paradise tree had merged, becoming the Christmas tree. Introduced into England in the early 19th century, the Christmas tree was popularized in the mid-19th century by German-born Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. The Victorian tree was decorated with toys and small gifts, candles, candies, and popcorn string. Blown-glass ornaments made in Britain and the United States as early as the 1870s and also created decorations made from tinsel. Today, we have trees that are artificial and decorate Christmas trees with plastic ornaments. Christmas trees have spread all over the world.

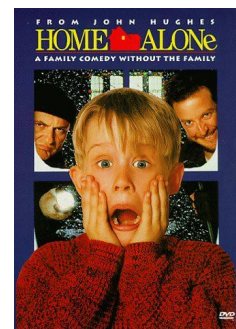


Christmas Classic: *Home Alone*

By Patrick O’Kelley

All you need to know about this classic Christmas movie!

In this popular Christmas movie, eight-year-old Kevin McCallister must get left behind on his annual family Christmas vacation! On top of that, there are two burglars that are planning to rob Kevin’s house on Christmas Eve. Kevin must defend his house from these two burglars by making traps all around his house. Does he defend his house? Or do the burglars get past all his traps and catch him? Watch to find out!



Answers to Guess the Movie!

- 6: Incredibles
5: Avengers: Age of Ultron
3: Monsters Inc. 4: Ratatouille
1: The Lion King 2: Inside Out

*Sign up for OSM's 2nd
Annual*

TALENT SHOW



Tryouts: Tuesday,
January 16th and
Thursday, January 18
from 3:00-4:15 *Forms
coming out December 8th

Talent Show:
Tuesday, January
30th during
Catholic Schools
Week.

Stay Tuned For More Info In The Coming Weeks!!



Current Events

American Elections

By Hank Pensinger



On the first Tuesday of November, Americans across the country went to the polls to vote on a variety of issues. Though here in Illinois we did not have elections, voters in the states of Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Mississippi were tasked with deciding the futures of their respective states. In Virginia, Republican governor, Glenn Youngkin, gave Democrats control of both the state senate and house of delegates. Meanwhile in Kentucky, a state that Trump won by almost thirty points in 2020, Democratic governor, Andy Beshear, won reelection by five points defeating current state Attorney General, Daniel Cameron. Beshear's victory silenced critics who claimed that a democrat couldn't possibly be reelected in such a red state. Many experts believe that Beshear's advocacy for working across the aisle, his general likability, and strength in helping his state through crisis helped him sail to victory. Another southern state holding a gubernatorial election was Mississippi. In the state, Republican governor Tate Reeves was reelected, defeating state public service commission member and second cousin of Elvis Presley, Brandon Pressly, by just under five points. Despite his defeat, Pressly overperformed Joe Biden's numbers from 2020 by eleven points. All in all, many experts and pundits hailed Tuesday night's results as a victory for the Democratic party. Democrats were able to sweep both houses of the Virginia legislature, and re elect a Democratic governor in ruby red Kentucky. Republicans, meanwhile, brushed off their defeats in critical races, highlighting Governor Reeve's victory in Mississippi and vowing to win the bigger prize in 2024, the White House.



Voters go to the polls



Governor Glenn Youngkin



Daniel Cameron (L) Andy Beshear (R)



Governor Beshear celebrates victory



Mississippi governor Tate Reeves

By Mackenzie Sullivan

Christmas Around The World!

Christmas is often considered the most wonderful time of the year throughout the world but did you know that it is celebrated differently depending on the country you live in? Here are five unique Christmas traditions around the world.

1. Saint Nicholas' Day, Germany



In this tradition Saint Nicholas leaves little treats like coins, chocolate, oranges, and toys of good children all over Germany on December 6th. He also visits children in schools where each child must recite a poem, sing a song, or draw a picture in exchange for a small present.

2. Parties with pinatas, Mexico



Families celebrate Nochebuena on Christmas Eve. This includes a huge feast, singing and dancing and often a piñata for the kids. More religious observers may attend midnight Mass, but it's always a time for family and togetherness.

3. Giant Lantern Festival, Philippines



Eleven villages compete to build the most elaborate lantern. The lanterns are usually large and six meters in size. They are lit by electric bulbs that sparkle in kaleidoscope patterns.

4. Kentucky Fried Christmas Dinner, Japan



Christmas has never really been an important holiday in Japan but recently a new tradition has emerged where family's feast on Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC).

5. Krampus, Austria

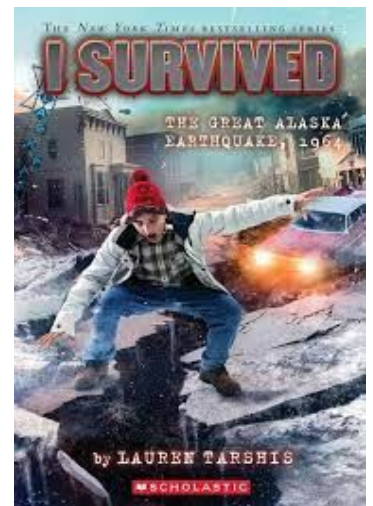
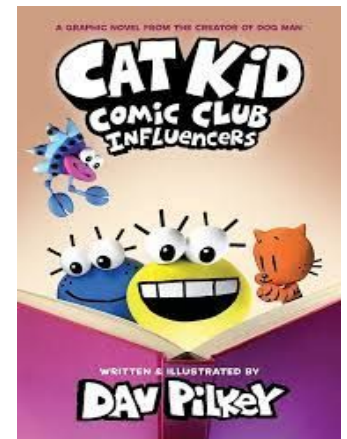
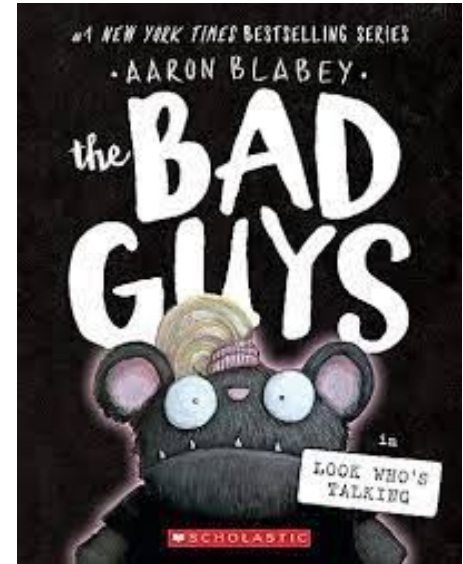


In the first week of December people dress up as the Krampus, which is a beast-like demon creature that frightens kids and punishes the bad ones. They run through the streets frightening children by ringing bells and clattering chains.

Top Reads This Month

By: Emily Pienta

1. The Bad Guys in Look Who's Talking by Aaron Blabey is about the wannabe heroes who look like Bad Guys but are doing good deeds whether you like it or not. This is a New York Times best-selling illustrated series.
2. Cat Kid Comic Club Influencers by Dav Pilkey is about the Cat Kid Comic Club being in a crisis after learning that one of their comics will be published, the baby frogs are filled with anxiety and doubt. Bestselling author-illustrator Dav Pilkey shows the reader that the best way to influence people is to be open, gentle, and kind.
3. I Survived The Great Alaska Earthquake, 1964 by Lauren Tarshis is about the story of the disaster that changed our understanding of earth science and tested one boy in ways he never could have imagined by New York Times bestselling author Lauren Tarshis.



Athletics

Written By Will Kent & Brady Murphy

Basketball:

Basketball season from 4th through 8th grade has officially begun! We wish all teams good luck going forward. Here is how each team is doing so far.

4th Boys- 1-1

4th Girls 1-1

5th Boys- 0-3

5th Girls White 1-1

5th Girls Blue 0-2

6th Boys White 1-0

6th Boys Blue 2-0

6th Girls 1-1

7th Boys Skyline 1-1

7th Girls Lakefront 0-0

8th Boys Lakefront 1-1

8th Boys Skyline 1-0

8th Girls Lakefront 0-1



Every team has a bright future ahead of them. With confidence and teamwork, any team can win any game. Go knights!

STUDENT COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE:

A look back on the month and what the S.C. has done!

By Gabriel Morales

STUDENT COUNCIL CONDUCTS 1ST EVER HALLOWEEN HOUSE WALK!

On Halloween day, the Student Council organized a Halloween House walk in the 3rd floor Teacher's Lounge. All classes participated in decorating a Build-a-bear house of their choice. There were some incredibly creative houses and we give congratulations to every class who won!

WINNERS:

Most Traditional Halloween Themed: The Sunflower Room

Best Use of Materials: Mrs. Andler and Ms. Duff-Russo

Most Comical: Firefly Room

Most Original: Caterpillar Room

Scariest: The Parish Center—Music, Art, & P.E.



NEXT 2 on the 20 celebration 12/20/2023 at 9:40 AM! Be sure to stay tuned!

Other Events Student Council Conducted:

- Thanksgiving Prayer Service (See Pg. 1 with Samantha Tokarz)
- Lip-Sync Battle (See Pg. 1 with Samantha Tokarz and Gabriel Morales)
- Middle School Rosary Service

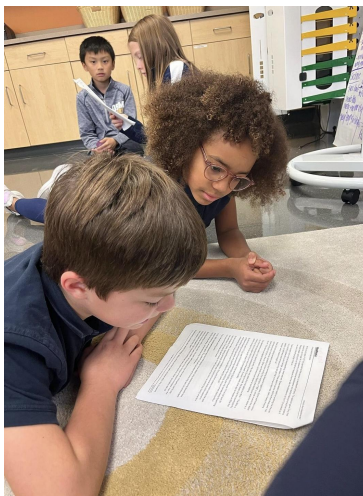
Grade Update: 4th Grade

Ms. Zara and Mr. Sherry

Written By Emily Pienta

This month the 4th Graders started a Non-Fiction reading unit.

They started their first essay of the year! Along with the essay, they also started working on energy and motion in Science class. In Social Studies they are studying regions and currently they are studying the Southwest. In Math, they are learning about division and remainders. Along with Math, in Religion they did comics about using their conscience that they presented. Other than academics, the 4th grade also lead Mass this month. Lastly, during the Lip Sync Battle, Ms. Zara's 4th grade homeroom came in 3rd place and was a part of the top three classes that earned a knight.



Diwali- The Festival of Lights

Written By *Matty Manglavil*

Diwali is a holiday celebrated by many people. It started in India and now it is celebrated all over the world, including the US! It is made to celebrate the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. We light diyas, or little candles during this day.

There is also a story behind why it was created. In the Indian Epic called Ramayana, King Rama defeated the demon Ravana by placing rows of diyas. Diwali actually means “rows of candles”, so that’s why we call Diwali, Diwali!

We worship an Indian Goddess named Lakshmi. She is the Goddess of wealth & fortune. We pray to her for good luck and when we need something to go right.

There are many way to celebrate Diwali, one being rangoli art. It is a form of art where you use different color powder to make the stars and different celestial beings.



Fall Recipe *Stuffing*

Made by: Cate Crowley

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Brush a 9x13 baking dish with melted butter, olive oil or nonstick spray. Put the bread in a large bowl or your baking dish.
- 2) Heat butter in a large skillet add garlic with a pinch of salt and pepper (at least ½ to 1 teaspoon each). Cook until the onions and celery soften, about 8 to 10 minutes. Add and stir in the sage, parsley and rosemary. Cook for another minute. Stir in 1 cup of stock.
- 3) Pour the onion celery mixture over the bread crumbs and toss well to coat.
- 4) In a small bowl or measuring cup, whisk together the remaining 1 ½ cups stock and 2 eggs.
- 5) Pour mixture into the bread cubes and stir and fold the bread cubes until thoroughly combined. Bake the stuffing for 45 to 50 minutes, until the internal temperature registers 160 degrees F. If the stuffing is getting too browned, you can tent it with foil.

Serves: 8-12 people
prep time: 1 hour 35 minutes

Ingredients

- 18 to 24 ounces bread cubes, (1.5 loaves of bread, or about 12 to 14 cups) preferably toasted or stale
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 3 cups diced sweet onion, roughly
- 2 large onions
- 2 cups diced celery
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- kosher salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 1/2 cups chicken or vegetable
- stock
- 2 large eggs
- a mixture of fresh herbs for sprinkling



KNIGHTLY INTERVIEWS

Written By Chinedu Madu



Coach Ramker

Coach Ramker has been at OSM for 9 years now. He came here during Mrs. Martin's time as principal, several years ago. He originally came to be a PE teacher, and after a few years in the position, was asked to assume the role of Assistant Principal, a role he's held ever since.

Before coming to OSM, he taught high school two years as computer teacher. He says his favorite thing about OSM are the students he sees everyday.



Mrs. Yvonne Wagner

Mrs. Wagner or Mrs. Yvonne has been at OSM for 18 years. She has taught preschool for all of that time. Ms. Wagner worked at OSM during its founding years and worked with Ms. Barbara Smith, our first principal. She has even seen some of her preschoolers go to college! What a feat!

Mrs. Wagner told the Knightly Newspaper that she came to OSM because the environment was warm and loving and people were very welcoming and friendly.

Getting to know all the families at OSM is her favorite thing to do. Thank you for your service, Mrs. Wagner!

KNIGHTLY INTERVIEWS

Written By Chinedu Madu



Ms. Duncan

Ms. Duncan was here for the first five years of OSM's existence. She was invited to teach by her long-time co-worker, Ms. Barbara Smith. She taught Kindergarten, Social Studies, and Art at different times. When she had her first daughter, Allie, who just graduated last year, she left OSM for a while to help take care of her daughters. She decided to come back and teach at OSM again because she loved and missed the school. Her favorite thing about OSM is the community.



Ms. Duff-Russo

Ms. Duff-Russo has been at OSM for 7 years. She came during Mrs. Martin's time as principal. She originally taught 5th grade and went on to become Associate Principal last year upon the departure of Mr. Martino. She loves watching everyone move up grades and get older, and also enjoys the 8th grade vs. teacher volleyball games (which they have always won).

She came to OSM because she wanted to teach at a Catholic school in Chicago and saw OSM was a special place where both students and teachers can grow and succeed.

Clubs

Have you ever joined or participated in a club at OSM? Old Saint Mary's provides the opportunity to join an extracurricular. Whether it's basketball or chess, it would be an amazing choice to join a sport. There is a lot of diversity in sports. In sports such as volleyball and basketball, there is a need for hand-eye coordination; however, if you believe you lack in that skill, it is perfectly fine. In debate, chess, and similar sports, you use mental abilities and logical thinking. Regardless of which extracurricular you choose, you are bound for a fun time. Let's be grateful for the clubs we have here at OSM.

House Project: Tying Blankets

As you may remember, our school came together to participate in a large project. Middle school students cut pieces of fabric that several grades later tied together. These tied pieces of fabric are blankets. The mission of the project was to help those who do not have access to warmth during the winter seasons, especially in the very cold Chicago. We plan on donating these blankets to those who need them.



Here at OSM, we value service; what can you do this Advent season?

Comic

By Ellsie Berchman



Monthly riddle!

By: Sebastian Sandoval

What fills a room but takes up no space?

Answer on the next page!

Nation Spotlight:

Guatemala

Written By Sebastian Sandoval

Knights, welcome to this new newspaper addition. This piece will be about a nation's history, selected randomly, and facts about it. This month's nation will be Guatemala! The first inhabitants of Guatemala were hunters like almost every place else. However, they soon developed into agricultural people. Soon the preclassic Maya came into the show. Even the Maya in their preclassic stage were very smart making their own number systems. Soon after came the period of the Classic Maya.

The Classic Maya held sacrifices for their gods. However the Mayan empire collapsed. The reason is unknown but war is a good suggestion. Then the Spanish empire colonized many of North America. Guatemala was a part of it. Some tribes allied with the Spanish while others fought against the Spanish. However they lost and the population was enslaved. However in 1821 The central american republic declared independence. Then, the Mexican empire declared WAR! They lost and became part of the Mexican empire. They soon regained independence, and the Mexican Empire soon collapsed and Guatemala was born! Their first leader Rafael Carrera was one of their best. Back then, they had a leader who ramped up the growing of cocoa beans. Unfortunately, there was a Dictator who ended up being kicked out in the Guatemalan revolution and then the next leader did a land distribution scheme to give poor peasants land to farm on. This angered the US owned united fruit company.

The CIA involved in a coup to kick the president out and replace him with a new president who was friendly to US interests. What followed was corrupt dictators and the Guatemalan civil war but it ended because of a UN peace deal between the rebels and the government. Then Guatemala soon made large changes and their economy has improved since then. That is the history of Guatemala. We'll be back next month!

Thanksgiving History

Written By Ben Kepler

Just like Halloween, Thanksgiving is a very old holiday! But just how old is it? About 450 years, to be exact. WOW! That means it was started around 1570, How did Thanksgiving start, though? Colonists in New England and Canada regularly observed "thanksgivings," days of prayer for such blessings as safe journeys, military victories, or abundant harvests. We think that the holiday started from a 1621 harvest feast shared between the Wampanoag people and the English colonists known as Pilgrims. The actual start was when an expedition led by Martin Frobisher gave thanks for its safe passage.



December Upcoming Events

Written Jackson Brown



Saturday, December 2nd: 8th Grade Catholic High School Entrance Exam

Sunday, December 3rd: 1st Week of Advent

Tuesday, December 5th: PK and K Pageant Rehearsal for OSM

Wednesday, December 6th-Friday, December 8th: Book Fair

Saturday, December 9th: 2nd Grade First Reconciliation

Friday, December 8th: Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass

Sunday, December 10th: 8th Grade Confirmation and 2nd Week of Advent

Wednesday, December 13th: All-school Reconciliation

Sunday, December 17th: 3rd Week of Advent

Monday, December 18th: House- Service/ Christmas activity

Tuesday, December 19th: Middle School Dance 6:30-8:30 PM

Wednesday, December 20th: 2 on the 20!

Thursday, December 21: HALF DAY, Sing Along

Friday, December 22-Wednesday, January 8: Christmas Break

GO KNIGHTS!