



The Paw Print

News from Saint Leo the Great School

Volume 5 / Issue 2

December- February 2015

We Are One in the Spirit

The annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week began on January 25, 2015 and culminated on January 31, 2015. The theme for Catholic Schools Week was: Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

Saint Leo the Great School recognized this week with a prayer service, a student appreciation day, and a teacher appreciation day. We welcomed students to our school at an open house. A prayer chain contained intentions and personal thoughts of all who added a link. This was hung in the second floor corridor.

The family of Saint Leo the Great School is proud of being a community of faith, knowledge, and service. We are also proud to be students and faculty of a Catholic School.



Music Notes, Lots of Love... Saint Leo the Great

By: Julia DiFazio

Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic Education. This year the theme is Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service. Grades 4 through 6 prepared a song that was presented to Mr. Begley and Mrs. Senkewicz. Under the direction of Mrs. Pomanowski, our composer and director, we lined up in the hallway and began to sing our new school song *We are the Students of Saint Leo the Great*. A dedication was also read in their honor explaining what the song was about. It was a day to remember.



So You Think You Know Your Teachers?

By: Riley Plosica and Emily Gioacchini

The reporters on the Paw Print staff traveled around the school and completed a teacher survey. Teachers who teach grades ranging from kindergarten through grade eight were asked a series of questions about teaching, their career, and their experiences with teaching. The teachers answered questions such as...” What is your favorite/ most frustrating part about teaching? If you didn’t teach the current subject/ grade you do now, which subject/ grade would you teach? When did you know you wanted to become a teacher? Also, when did you start teaching?” Teachers responded to these questions differently. Mrs. Doherty said that if she didn’t teach her current subject, math, she would love to be teaching geography. Ms. Miller, the art teacher, said that her favorite part about teaching was watching a child’s face when he or she does a good job after completing a difficult task. The fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Berman, answered, “The most frustrating part about teaching is when the students don’t follow directions.” We asked Ms. Wetjen, one of the kindergarten teachers, why she decided to become a teacher. She responded by saying, “I had a really great teacher as a student and I wanted to become that role model to the students I was teaching.” Thank you, teachers, for all these responses to these questions. And for the readers... we hope you learned something new about the teachers here at Saint Leo’s.

Into the World of Science

By: Cara Martin

On November 18, 2014, the 5th grade students took a trip to the Liberty Science Center. The Liberty Science Center is like a museum, except instead of the no touching rule, the rule is touch everything! It is a center where kids get their hands dirty and experience amazing things. One of the exhibits the 5th grade experienced was walking on beams above the museum. They were attached to a harness. It is fun yet terrifying! Another exhibit is a robot that solves rubric cubes. You mess up the rubric cube and then give it to the robot to solve the intricate puzzle. Another favorite is the Infinity Climber. It is a play space with 64 steps winding around it and it is also 34 feet off the ground. In addition, the students also had the opportunity to experience a hurricane in a simulator. The students appreciated the fun-filled science day.

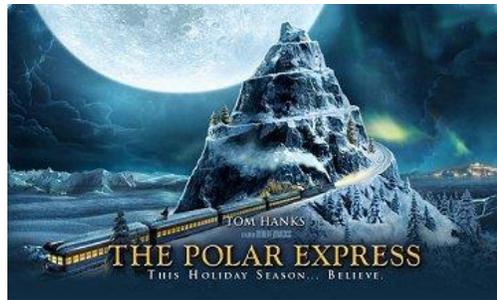


5th grade students enjoyed a fun attraction at the Liberty Science Center.

All Aboard the Polar Express

By: Brandon Sherman

Every year the students of Saint Leo the Great School celebrate Polar Express Day. December 17th was the day when every student was allowed to dress down in their pajamas. The students drank hot chocolate and watched the *Polar Express* movie. If you have not seen the *Polar Express* movie, the message clearly states that a person should never stop believing. It also tells you to always keep all memories alive in your heart. The movie follows three young children and their visit to the North Pole. At the end of the movie, all viewers had a true understanding of the spirit of Christmas.



The Nativity Scene

By: Catherine Buffalano

At the end of the Christmas play each year, the eighth graders perform the Nativity scene. The Nativity is when Jesus was born. In the Nativity scene, they reenact what happened the night Jesus was born. The eighth graders performed different parts. Some roles included angels, shepherds, the three kings, Mary, and Joseph.

Mary was played by Mary Gretskey and Thomas Gray was Joseph. There were 24 angels, three kings, and six shepherds. In the play there is also a narrator, stage hands, techies, a student, a guide, and a mom. The Nativity scene reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. God sent His only son as a baby. This child changed the world. He gave us hope and love. The Nativity scene is very important to our school and an important part of our lives. The students of Saint Leo the Great School enjoy watching the Nativity scene every year.



6th Grade Christmas Books

By: Amanda Van Duzer

The 6th grade was busy between November and December making Christmas stories for young friends. Each 6th grader adopted a 2nd grader to write a Christmas story based on a personal interview. The 6th graders went to the 2nd grade to interview the students. After their interview, students started writing a Christmas story about the magic of Christmas. When the 6th graders finished their books, they brought them to the 2nd graders. While they were there, they read them their stories. They also gave them a candy cane to enjoy. The young audience loved their stories. Both the 2nd graders and the 6th graders enjoyed the day. They really brought the spirit of Christmas to life.



Three of the 6th grade Christmas books given to the 2nd graders.

What is Your New Years' Resolution?

By: Catherine Buffalano and Taylor Consolazio

Many students at Saint Leo the Great had many New Years' Resolutions. Are you going to accomplish yours? Here were some examples.

To start with, KB's Giavanna Geisert wanted to learn how to do cartwheels. The next student was 1B's Gianni Buffalano, who wanted to read harder books. Next, was 2B's Vivian Moore who wanted to learn how to ride a two wheeler bike. Fourth was 3B's Michael Consolazio who wanted to do better in sports. 4B's Julia Krall wanted to learn how to make a YouTube account. Fifth grade's Brianna Jones wanted to learn how to do a layout, which is a type of back flip. 6C's Collin White wanted to get better at soccer and make the Saint Leo's soccer team.

As you can see, many of our school's students are looking forward to accomplishing their 2015 resolutions. Good luck everyone! Happy New Year!

Breakfast with Santa

By: Taylor Consolazio

Every year students in kindergarten through third grade go to visit Santa Claus right here at Saint Leo's! The students come to Saint Leo's and celebrate the event in the preschool and kindergarten hallway. First, everyone has a delicious breakfast with a variety of fruit, doughnuts, and croissants. While the children are eating breakfast, they receive a pack of reindeer food so Santa's reindeer can find their houses. After the breakfast, the children make a Christmas craft. Every year the crafts are different. In previous years, the children made snowmen out of stickers and made Rudolph ornaments. This year, the children made candy canes out of beads and pipe cleaners. They put beads on a pipe cleaner and shaped it to look like a candy cane. Finally, the children meet Santa and take pictures with him. Santa gives all the children Christmas bells as a special gift. The children may pick up their pictures with Santa on the way out.

Let's All Be Stars in the Sky

By: Brenna Walsh and Ally Lawson

Everyone has a gift from God and one of those gifts is creativity. We all have something special to give. At Saint Leo the Great School we have many young artists. Everywhere you look, you will find pictures and projects on display. We are very proud to have many artists to show what they can do. We searched high and low for local talent. It was amazing to find so many children with great imagination and the talent to express their feelings through art.

Some of the many artists in our school have volunteered to display their personal art. The following work is only a small sample of the talent in our school. We may have the next Michelangelo among us.



Vacation art projects featured in the first floor hallway.

Rapping the Books

By: Allison Lawson and Gabriella Arias

In the sixth grade religion class, Mrs. Pomanowski is teaching the students about the books of the Bible. Do you know how many books are in the Bible? We do. There are 73. The Bible is divided into two testaments, the Old and the New. There are 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. Mrs. Pomanowski has taught the kids a rap to help them learn the books in a fun way. Mrs. Pomanowski held a contest to see who could rap the books of the Bible the best. The contest was on November 24th, 2014 in Mrs. Pomanowski's homeroom. The students could work solo or in groups of two or three. There were 2 judges, Mrs. Shute and Mrs. Senkewicz. The contest was full of talent and fun. Everyone had smiles on their faces. The prizes varied from a dress down day to 10 points on the students' lowest test grade. The winners also got a certificate with their name and the place they came in on it. The winners of the solo group division were: Carly Fogler in third place, Kevin Henderson in second place, and Daniel DeMasi in first place. The winners of the group division were: Gabriella Berlingieri, Catherine Buffalano and Caroline Shultz who came in third; Gabriella Arias, Taylor Consolazio and Giana Coccimiglio came in second; and the first places winners were Ava Strobel, Caroline Spendio and Grace DiStefano. Congratulations students!



Ava Strobel,
Caroline Spendio,
and Grace
DiStefano



Elves Take Over Saint Leo the Great School



By: Kevin Henderson

You wouldn't think that the story of *The Elf on the Shelf* was made over a cup of tea. Well, it's true. The author of *The Elf on the Shelf* is Carol Aebersold and her daughter Chanda Bell. The idea of *The Elf on the Shelf* was created in 2004. With the help Coe Steinwart, the illustrator of *The Elf on the Shelf*, the trio then devoted their lives for their book to be published. The book was published after a year of hard work in 2005. The book comes in three parts. *The Elf on the Shelf* features a keepsake box, the book, the friendly scout elf, and sold separately *The Elf on the Shelf Movie*. The directions are that you place the elf on a shelf. You read it the story and give it a name. You may never touch the elf or it will lose its magic and won't return to Santa. The only way to redeem its magic is by putting a little bit of cinnamon on the elf. But, the only time it will work is if it was truly an accident when you touched the friendly scout elf. *The Elf on the Shelf* book has had many accomplishments over the past few years. The little scout elf has won *Learning Express' Best Toy Award* in 2008, 2009, and 2010. *The Elf on the Shelf Book's* highest profit is \$16.6 million dollars. Finally, the book has won multiple awards for children books. There were 12 elves on the shelves at Saint Leo the Great School. Oddly enough there were more scout elves upstairs than downstairs. Looks like the downstairs children are more angelic than upstairs. There were eight elves upstairs and five downstairs. The elves downstairs were Dexter Hall in Mrs. Siebenmann's classroom (Pre-School 1), Noel in Mrs. Ruane's classroom (Pre-School 3), Leo in Mrs. Goldon's classroom (1-B). Bobby in Mrs. Cilento's classroom (2-C), and Joy in Mrs. Farrar's classroom (3-A). The elves upstairs are Jojo in Mrs. Berman's classroom (4-A), Iggie and Effie in Mrs. McCarthy's classroom, Happy in Mrs. Gordon's classroom (4-C), Carlos and Juan Pablo in Mrs. Bianco's classroom (6-C), Marcus Xavier the third in Mrs. Eng's classroom (7-C), and finally Lab Elf in Mrs. McManus' classroom (6th Grade Science and Science Lab K-8th).

Children's Christmas Corner

By: Kevin Henderson

The North Pole workshop arrived at Saint Leo the Great School on December 2, 2014 and remained in business until December 4, 2014. The students of Saint Leo the Great School have always loved this special occasion. It is a time to buy special treats and gifts for their loved ones. The variety of gifts was endless.

An envelope was sent home with the student that holds the money that they will be using. The envelope has names of relatives, teachers, siblings, parents, friends, and pets for whom they will be getting a gift or treat. Parents are welcome to come, unless you don't want them to see the surprise you're getting them! Most gifts' prices were between \$3- \$10 dollars. The event was a lot of fun, and everyone enjoyed it!

Effects of Violent Video Games

By: *Brandon Sherman*

A lot of children these days like to play video games, just like me. Some kids like to play violent video games. Some violent video games are Black Ops, Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, and Halo. Violent video games of course have swearing, gory scenes, and are inappropriate for a younger audience. Some parents may not realize this but if your child has Xbox live they could meet strangers. Those strangers may contact your child. On the other hand, the video game company Nintendo has family friendly games so the whole family can play. This means if you type any bad words in the Nintendo console, it will not accept the bad word. Here is the thing, if you look at the bottom of the video game disk box the “E” means “everyone” and the “M” means mature. Some parents say violent events like the Sandy Hook shooting was because the violent games influenced people negatively. Video games can be fun and competitive if we carefully choose the right game.



Have You Heard From The Weasel?

By: *Emily Sherman*

Lincroft Lou, the one and only weather weasel, resides in 6-B. Now, some people must be thinking what is a weather weasel? To answer that question, I will tell you that there is only one weasel who can predict weather and that is Lincroft Lou. Lou only predicts when it is going to snow and when school will be closed because of weather. Lou is able to predict the snow because of a special gift called ESP. That stands for extra sensory perception. He had been around since last year and his accuracy is 100%. The interesting fact of the story is that he only communicates with Mrs. Pomanowski. Why? Because he is very shy and gets nervous around people. He first lived in Mrs. Pomanowski's house, but now he lives here at Saint Leo the Great School. An important thing about Lou is that he takes his job really seriously.

On Monday, January 26, 2015 and Tuesday, January 27, 2015, Lou came through for our students. He shared with Mrs. Pomanowski that there would be no school for the next two days, and he was correct. Thank you Lou!



Sending Our Care to Our Troops

By: Adriana Fernandez and Cecilia Heidelberger

The fourth and fifth grade organized a drive to assist in gathering supplies for our troops. With the guidance of Mrs. McCarthy, students from all grades were asked to bring in supplies that included Chap Stick, snack foods, toothbrushes, socks, and many other items. Each homeroom had a box dedicated to housing the supplies. These provisions were collected daily. The items were gathered and sent to The American Recreational Military Services to create care packages for our troops. This non-profit organization has been helping the brave men and women serving in our military since 2003. They have shipped over 1,300,000 lbs. of goods over the past twelve years to assist the people who have dedicated their lives to serve for our country. The Saint Leo the Great community gathered 34 full boxes to deliver to The Recreational Military Services. The van took three full trips to transport the items. Our overwhelming donation greatly improved soldiers' lives as they enjoyed their new care packages.



2nd graders stand by the boxes filled with items for the troops. From left to right: Daniel Russo, Steven Yurcisin, Jack McKeon, Alexa Lakeman, and Keira Murphy.

Get Pepped Up For the Pep Rally!

By: Catherine Buffalano and Giana Coccimiglio

Every year, the Saint Leo students get pepped up for the first pep rally of the year. For the past two years, Mr. Murray has been in charge of the pep rally. The first pep rally was fall sports. The pep rally featured soccer, cheerleading, cross country, and basketball.

As usual, the pep rally started with the Star Spangled Banner. Then we did a recap on all the sports and how great the seasons for the fall sports were. Next we listened to music while the students watched all the sports teams play their sports. The first pep rally was so much fun. Students cannot wait until the second pep rally!



Valentine's Day

By: Ava Strobel

Valentine's Day, The Feast of Saint Valentine, is an event celebrated on February 14th each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world. In some countries Valentine's Day isn't a holiday. On Valentine's Day, everyone gives chocolate to each other. Chocolate has been referred to as "the food of the gods." There are many different kinds of chocolate such as milk chocolate, dark chocolate and white chocolate.

It is unknown when Saint Valentine was born, but he died February 14, 269 A.D. Legend says that Saint Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and he signed it "From Your Valentine". There are lots of different opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some people say that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity.

Valentine's Day is a fun holiday that everyone enjoys.

Michael Takes the Gold!

By: Megan Mulroy

On Sunday, January 11th, 2014, Michael McCloud won first place at a gymnastics competition. This competition took place at Bridgeton, NJ. There were many competitors, and Michael won out of all of them! The category he won in was the Overall which is a combination of many skills.

Michael goes to practice 2 or 3 times a week at Ace in Ocean. Michael is lucky, and has the natural ability which makes him a good gymnast. It does take time, effort, commitment, and sacrifice though, even if you have natural talent. Michael definitely has all of those assets, and says he has been hurt roughly 20 times due to gymnastics. He says one of the worst injuries he has ever had was falling on his knee cross-tumbling. In cross-tumbling two people start in separate corners and cross each other as they do tricks and flips.

Michael also competed in another competition at SC Gym in Flanders. He got sixth in gymnastics out of 100-120 people. This competition is annual, and very intense. We are very proud of him. Good job Michael!



Youth in Action

By: Brenna Walsh

The CYO stands for Catholic Youth Organization. The organization helps people in many ways, like helping people who don't have the things that we do. This organization is designed to involve youth in social situations. It is opened to 6th grade students and older. Mrs. Kret is the moderator of this organization. People, who belong to the CYO, have helped pack shoe boxes filled with gifts for third world children for Christmas, help Holiday Express pack party gift bags and have held a concert with Justin and Alina from Sibling Rivalry.

On Sunday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 PM people who have signed up for CYO meet at Saint Leo's Parish Center to have fun, talk, play games, and pray. If you would like to sign up you can do it for God, do it for yourself, or you can earn service hours. Students from Saint Leo's who are currently participating in the CYO are Lauren Walsh, Michael Rue, Patrick Larkin, Caroline Larkin, Gabriella Mansour, Bella Mansour, Brenna Walsh, Madeleine Hicks, and James Krall. Please consider sharing your time and your talent with others.

The Many Faces of Mrs. Eng

By: Joey Cisar and Michael Scott



Normally, one would regard a math teacher as a serious minded "math" type. However, Mrs. Eng is a contradiction to this stereotype. Mrs. Eng dresses up in a costume for almost every occasion. Mrs. Eng was dressed as an Eskimo at the Polar Plunge, an elf for Christmas, and was a pilgrim for Thanksgiving. She started this tradition many years ago when she taught technology to the entire school. She says she loves to entertain the younger kids and make them laugh. Mrs. Eng has collected a closetful of costumes and strange outfits. She said, "When I see a costume or outfit I might wear in the future, I buy it." Everyone can agree, Mrs. Eng is a unique and fun teacher.



Pompeii Strikes N.J.!

By: Julia DiFazio

The 5th grade is creating a series of volcanoes that will soon erupt! The purpose is to show the students how a volcano erupts. Mrs. Tyrrell and Mrs. McManus' students have worked very hard on building their models. They used lamps, party hats, and other items to build the foundation of the volcano. The rocks around the volcanoes were either made from clay or plastic, and some people creatively painted the features on! Mrs. Tyrrell and Mrs. McManus then fill the bottles hidden underneath the décor with vinegar and baking soda so the volcano looks like it erupted! Take cover because Pompeii strikes N.J.!

Did Punxsutawney Phil See His Shadow?

By: Kevin Henderson

In the German legend, it says that if the groundhog sees his shadow on February 2nd, winter will last for six more weeks. If not, spring will come early this year.

This year Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow, so that means six more weeks of snow and cold weather.

Punxsutawney Phil lives in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania with his "wife" Phyllis. Phil and Phyllis don't live in just an ordinary hole in the ground. Despite the cold climate, they are comforted with hay, wood, and sometimes food. Punxsutawney, PA actually has a Groundhog Club which makes sure that Phil and Phyllis have plenty of food. Phil is a little overweight for a groundhog, so the club has to make sure that they don't feed him too much.

The prediction was announced moments before 7:30 A.M. The weather for Groundhog Day was very chilly with light snow showers and a low temperature of 4* F. By the looks of it, it seems it will be chilly for awhile.

Happy Student Appreciation Day!

By: Eilis Magnier

Friday, January 30th was Student Appreciation Day! Student Appreciation Day is a day to celebrate how hard all our students work and their contribution to our school. Student Appreciation Day is always full of fun activities and surprises! One thing we do on this special day is eat Hershey's ice cream. Students get to create their own sundae and get to choose from numerous toppings. Grades K-4 have the opportunity to play games in the gym. Grades 5-8 get to play in the game buses. Friday isn't only Student Appreciation Day, it's also Soup-er-Bowl Friday! Students donated a can of soup to our food pantry. I think everyone can agree that Friday was a great day!



Science Olympiad 2015

By: Caleigh Kehoe & Kyle Johnson

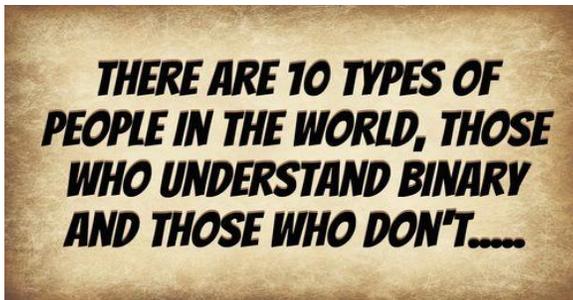
On Wednesday, January 7th, 2015, eighteen of our fellow students participated in the Science Olympiad at Union County College. In order to be in Science Olympiad, you have to take a test. The students had prepared for their events since September. The Science Olympiad lasted from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. There were a variety of events and many different schools competed. In the event Road Scholar, Nick Hanlon and Ryan Nerney won fifth place. Thanks to Mrs. Tommolino, Mrs. Tyrrell, and Mrs. McManus, the team had a great time and is already looking forward to next year.

HTML Attack

By: Cecilia Heidelberger and Sarah Magno

010010001.... Does this mean anything to you? They are not random numbers, they form a language. It is a computer language to be exact. This particular language is binary. Just like humans, computers have many different languages. Two of these many languages are Binary and HTML.

Mrs. Eng has started a club for 8th grade students to teach them the basics of computer programming. It is called "Introduction to CSS and HTML". In this club, students learn how to build and program their own webpage. By the end of the year, the students should have basic knowledge of computers to bring with them to high school.



Do You Believe the 4th Grade Can Survive Narnia?

By: Allison Lawson and Cara Martin

Recently, the fourth grade stumbled into a wardrobe and found themselves in the mist of Aslan, the White Witch and the adventures of Narnia. Mrs. Berman, Mrs. McCarthy, and Mrs. Gordon have the children reading the second out of seven books in the series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The author of this series is C. S. Lewis and the series was published between 1950 and 1956. The story takes place in a fictional realm called Narnia, a fantasy world full of magic, mythical beasts and talking animals. The main characters of these books are: Aslan, the great lion, the White Witch and, the Pevensie family; Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy. The four children become nobles in Narnia after they battle against the White Witch. In Narnia they become High King Peter the Magnificent, Queen Susan the Gentle, King Edmund the Just and Queen Lucy the Valiant. Another main character is Mr. Tumnus, Lucy's faun friend. While the fourth graders read this book they enjoyed a sweet snack called Turkish Delight. Eamon Sullivan, a fourth grade student, thought the book was "beyond amazing." The fourth graders are certainly not going to be frozen by the White Witch on their first adventure in Narnia.

Saint Leo's Annual 2015 Polar Plunge

By: Taylor Consolazio

Every year teachers, students, and staff of Saint Leo the Great School volunteer to plunge at the Polar Plunge. This year the people who plunged from our school were Mrs. Eng, Mrs. Berman, Mr. Begley, Mr. Leibrock, Mr. Biancanella, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Newberry, Thomas Distefano, Christian Ailer, and the Yurcisin family. On January 11, 2015, everyone met at the Saint Leo's tent. In the tent, there were cookies, hot chocolate, hand warmers, and Saint Leo the Great 2015 Polar Plunge T-shirts. They plunged at 1 PM at Pier Village in Long Branch.

At the beach, there was much excitement. It was so loud, you could not even hear yourself talk! This was the 9th Annual Polar Plunge. There were 23 Catholic schools and over 1,000 participants. Since there were so many people, they raised a lot of money. The money raised goes toward scholarships, equipment, infrastructure, and financial and school projects. All of the money goes toward projects in Catholic schools.

This year's participation in the event by Saint Leo the Great School was organized by Mr. and Mrs. Caprio, and because of their hard work, a lot of money was raised for our school. So as you can see, the annual Polar Plunge is a big deal for our school and we would like to thank all the participants for plunging, as well as all the observers for coming to support their friends and family. Also, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Caprio for organizing this fun event.



Did You Know...

Did you know that Ms. Cilento's class, 3-B, has multiple young volunteers? Not many children from this generation want to share their time with the world. Surprisingly, many students of this class volunteer by preparing meals for the poor. They also help their community by donating toys back to a cancer hospital and cleaning the beach. Hopefully they continue to pursue their "careers" in volunteering their time to the community.

The 100th Day of School

By: *Joey Cisar*

February 10, 2015 was the 100th day of school, and the Kindergarten students planned a special surprise. Every kindergartener dressed up as a 100 year old person and visited classrooms around the school. For a kindergarten student, 100 days feels like a long time. Dressing up as an elderly person represents how long the kindergarteners feel like they have been in school. We saw lots of gray hair, sweaters, mustaches, hats, and canes. The kindergarteners enjoyed their special day!



Business Shouldn't Burn You Out

By: *Julia DiFazio*

Three members of Mrs. Owendoff's Business Club have come up with a great idea for a future business. The idea was to make the candle business called IGNITE! These three "entrepreneurs" are Andre Terrone, Christopher Montefusco, and Collin White. They have come up with many different candle scents. Some include Christmas Cookie and French Vanilla. Their motto is "Smell it! Buy it!" I asked them how the idea came to mind. I was told that they first wanted to make Mets Candles instead of Yankee Candles, and the idea went from there. Collin says, "I like the idea of our business Candle Sensations because it puts your favorite scent in a candle form." Maybe one day, we might see this business on the show Shark Tank.

Soup-er-Bowl Friday

By: *Gabriella Arias and Cara Martin*

On Friday, January 30th, Saint Leo's celebrated the Soup-er-Bowl. The students brought in cans of soup and earned a dress down day in their favorite team colors. The Student Council has been putting up posters to remind us. The Super Bowl was February 1st. The Seahawks and Patriots made it to the Super Bowl, and the Patriots came out on top. The real winner was the food pantry because of all of the cans of soup they received from the students. Thank you students for all your soup donations!



Did you know...

On February 7th, 2015 our second graders made their first Penance? Making our first Penance is very special because your bond with God grows stronger. Hopefully our second graders will be strengthened and blessed by God as they prepare for the sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

Saving the Seraphs

By: Michael Scotto

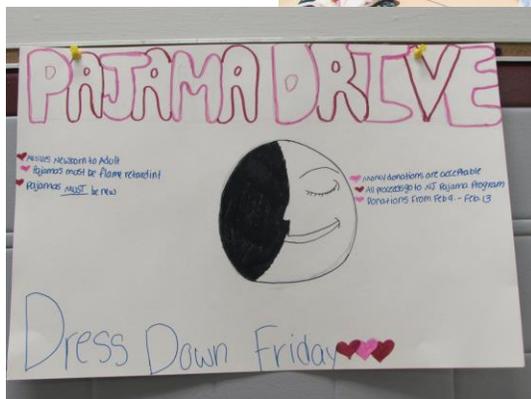
On February 20, 2015, Saint Leo the Great School had a dress down day to raise money for Mater Dei High School. Mater Dei has recently experienced financial difficulties. There is a serious effort to raise a significant amount of money. The students of Saint Leo the Great School proudly raised about two thousand dollars which will be added to the financial drive of Mater Dei.



Pajama Drive

By: Caleigh Kehoe and Kyle Johnson

On February 13, 2015, the Saint Leo the Great CALL Club organized a Pajama Drive. They collected 557 sets of pajamas and raised \$1,382 in donations. With the pajamas and money, Scholastic Books offered to match our contributions with books so that the children can read bedtime stories in their new pajamas. The charity we donated to, the NJ Pajama Program, acknowledged all the donations made and were deeply appreciative of the students donations of Saint Leo the Great School. This successful program was organized by Mrs. Devine.



Chinese New Year 2015

By: Joey Stanton

Chinese New Year has been celebrated 4711 times. This year it will be the 4712th time it will be celebrated. Chinese New Year goes back to the first king of China, the Yellow King. China first celebrated Chinese New Year when he became king. This year, 2015, is the year of the sheep. The calendar has twelve animals that go around in a cycle. The sheep is a farmland animal that doesn't do much work. If you were born in the Year of the Sheep, then you are naturally friendly to people who were born in the Year of the Snake or Year of the Horse. You are normally not friendly with people born in the Year of the Rat, Year of the Tiger, or the Year of the Dog. Your lucky color is purple. Your lucky numbers are 6, 7, 8, and 9. We asked Mrs. Eng a few questions about what her family does for Chinese New Year and Chinese traditions. "Does your family do anything to celebrate Chinese New Year?" She responded, "We put money in a red envelope and give it to each other. We all spend time together and have a big meal together." Then we asked her, "Are there were any special foods for the occasion?" She replied, "Fish is the main dish. They cook whatever they feel like having." The third question we asked her was about the dragon. She responded, "The dragon is a symbol for good luck for the upcoming year." The next question that was asked was: "How do they dress on the holiday?" She said, "They dress up in their best clothes." The next question was, "In the United States we celebrate Chinese New Year. What do they do in China that is different than what we do in the United States?" She told us that schools are closed for 8 days." The last question that we asked her was, "Do they celebrate our New Year like we celebrate theirs?" Mrs. Eng responded saying, "They do not celebrate it. They only celebrate their New Year." Chinese New Year is a very big celebration!