



# THE PAW PRINT

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## Snazzy Science

by James Lucosky and Emily Rae Johns

Science is alive and well at St. Leo the Great school. Recently (September 24 to be exact), I passed the Science Lab. It just so happened that the sixth grade science club was working in there. They were making a tangram, which was a puzzle. They are being challenged to make a square using Legos. Another project they were working on was making a symmetrical shape using Legos. Additionally, the sixth grade was making a football field using origami. They have to use measurements to make the football field, the yard lines, and the football. At the end, they will be answering a series of questions, like which location has the highest field goal percentage? Which location has the lowest field goal percentage? And what other tests could you perform? The answers to these questions will be answered in the next couple of weeks through tough calculations in the science lab. Overall, the new science lab is awesome.



Mrs. Folk's science club in the new science lab renovated in the summer of 2018.

Mrs. Bently's old room, now Mrs. Vingelli's room, the science lab, and the computer lab have all been redone. They all have new computers and advanced technology. All of them look completely different.

## Dancing, Fun, and Food!

by Emily Rae Johns and Victoria Iacobino

This year, the student council set up a spectacular Halloween dance for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, in the cafeteria. After interviewing many students, it was clear that everyone danced their feet off. There were delicious treats and food for the students to eat. The student council worked very hard to decorate the cafeteria. Everyone had a good time. Many students could only think about how much dancing there was! 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, make sure you thank your student council for a great night!

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## Blessing of the Animals in Honor of Saint Francis of Assisi

by: Emily DeLuca and Mia Fitzpatrick

On October 4, 2018 we celebrated the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. On this day Father John blessed all the pets that attended this blessing. He also blessed pictures of the animals that could not attend. All pets of students came such as dogs, cats, bunnies, turtles, guinea pigs, and more! The pets got to make new friends and play with them! Some pets got scared and needed comfort from their owner. But although some pets got scared, other pets ended up having a grand old time! Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals which means he loved and helped animals who were hurt. Animals loved him and knew he cared for them so that was truly a miracle.



FUN FACT:

DID YOU KNOW THAT FATHER JOHN HAS TWO DOGS? HE CALLS THEM "HIS BOYS"!

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## Elective Period Clubs!

by: Keira Murphy

Quinn Niesz

This year, there are various new clubs for grades six through eight. They include Improv with Mrs. Baker, Geometry Art with Mrs. Doherty, and Law Enforcement with Mr. Coyle. The Science Club with Mrs. Folk and Mrs. Casciano is also very different than the previous Science Club with Ms. Lamberti. In the Science Club, they complete various challenges and competitions such as building structures out of straws, and also using Legos to build squares and symmetrical figures. In the eighth grade Law Enforcement club, Mr. Coyle explains to the students what they can get in trouble for and to stay away from doing those things. Mrs. Baker's Improv Club is preparing to do skits and quick thinking on their feet. She inspires creative ideas for the members to use during their skits. Mrs. Doherty's Geometry Art Club is learning the area of a circle and being introduced to geometric concepts. Mr. Daneman does several coding clubs with the seventh and eighth grade. He teaches the students python and java script, and as they advance, they will be able to make their own video games. Overall, the clubs are a great way to give middle school students a way to learn new things.



To the left you see Mrs. Baker's Improv Club. To the right you see Mrs. Folk's Science Club.

## You've Been Boomed!

by Emily Rae Johns

Around the hallway, you may have noticed multiple signs saying, "We've been boomed!" What does that mean? Well, teachers from every homeroom in the upper hallway have been leaving out candy for other teachers. Every teacher is allowed to boo 2 other teachers. Nobody knows who boos who, and then the chain continues. So every time you see these silly signs, you can thank your teachers for spreading this fun Halloween tradition.

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## Saint Leo the Great Day

by Emily Rae Johns, Ryan Shibles, and Joseph Cali

On Wednesday, November 14, 2018, Saint Leo the Great School celebrated Saint Leo the Great Day. There was a mass at 9:00 AM and a turkey feast for lunch in the cafeteria. During the Mass, we celebrated our patron saint, Saint Leo the Great. We learned more about the saint that our school is named after. At the turkey feast, you could see everyone's face filled with delight as they saw their food coming to them. Mrs. Newberry and the rest of the cafeteria staff worked very hard to give grades Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> a great turkey feast. Moms of Saint Leo's students also helped out, making butter and chocolate chip cookies, as well as serving the students their turkey feast. Mrs. Newberry said there were 260 pounds of turkey, 70 pounds of stuffing, 28 turkeys (that took 3 and a half to 4 hours to cook), 144 pounds of potatoes, 16 pounds of corn, 700 rolls, and 3,000 cups of gravy. Saint Leo the Great day was awesome!

Did you know that the Children's Corner is scheduled November 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All students have an opportunity for early Christmas shopping.

## Halloween Party

by James Lucosky

Every year at Saint Leo the Great School they have a Halloween party. On Friday, October 20, the Halloween party was scheduled. The AAC was beautifully decorated and ready for a party. At the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade party kids were very creative by making their own games. They had a game where you throw an object into a basket and if you made the basket they would win candy. They loved this. At the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade party they had games like volleyball and musical chairs. Overall it was a fun night and the candy was great. A big thank you to the PTA for a great party.

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## Trips With Preschool

by Emily Rae Johns

During the fall season, the preschoolers had many fun trips. Their first trip was to the Lincroft Fire Station across the street from Saint Leo the Great School. They learned safety procedures if they were ever in a fire. They also learned what number to call for help, 911. The preschoolers practiced more safety procedures when they got back to school, and even got to pretend they were firefighters! They got to use a water blaster to put out a fake fire. The next trip the preschoolers went to was the pumpkin field. The different classes went to different fields, including Dearborn Farms. The preschoolers got to go on a hay ride, look at pumpkins, go through a corn maze, and climb a hay tower! The preschoolers also carved pumpkins and dissected them. I wish I was still in preschool!



Fun Fact: Did you know this year is the first year that 6<sup>th</sup> graders were allowed to bring home their surfaces in the first week of school?

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## Thanksgiving Baskets

by James Lucosky

Every year on Thanksgiving, families spend time with relatives and friends to celebrate their gratitude and appreciation for all of our many blessings. It is the time of year to share our many gifts and reflect on the many wonderful things that we have. At Saint Leo the Great School we give back to families in need. Each classroom is assigned a family and we have a list of items to create a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Each person volunteers to bring in a specific item. The spirit is overwhelmingly beautiful. There are bags filled with food and holiday items. These items had to be in by Friday November 16, 2018. On this date the whole first floor was filled with bags of food waiting to be picked up. As we sit at our own Thanksgiving table, it gives us a great feeling that we share with others.

## Instrumental Fun at Band Demo

By: Emily Rae Johns and Vivian Moore

The entire school was invited to go to a band demo on September 11, 2018. We learned that students in grades 3 through 8 were encouraged to join band with Mr. Kelly, Mr. Bender, or Mr. Staveris. The instruments that were introduced to the classes were the flute, the clarinet, the saxophone, the trombone, the trumpet, the guitar, the violin, the piano, the snare drums, and the cymbals. Grades 1 to 2 are also allowed to learn the guitar, the xylophone, or the piano. At the band demo, some fun familiar songs were played including Ghostbuster on the flute, Thinking Aloud on the saxophone, and a song from *The Lion King* on the flute. Band sounds like it will be really fun this year.



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## Lockers, Lockers, Lockers!

By Vivian Moore

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade has many changes going on. They got surfaces, new teachers, classes, and lockers. Some kids have had no problem with their locks, while others have had trouble. This was a problem, because most kids go to the lockers before classes. Lockers are very useful if you know how to use them. You can decorate the lockers by using wallpaper, chandeliers, fairy lights, or shelves. Some even have carpets! All of the lockers are very unique, but really cool. Remember, if you can't get the lock the first time, don't give up, and try again. I am happy to report that most people have mastered their locks.



Fun Fact: Did you know that the Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for December 1, 2018?

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## Fourth Grade Solar System

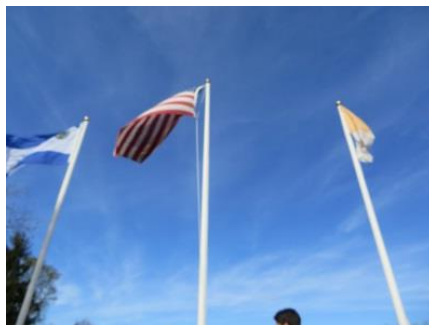
by: Ryan Shibles

Every year, the fourth grade students at Saint Leo the Great School take part in a solar system project. In the middle of September 2018, the students picked the name of an object in the solar system out of a hat. Some of the objects were planets, moons, or comets. The students had to create a t-shirt with the name of their object and a picture of it on the front. The back of the t-shirt had to have three facts about the student's object. In early October 2018, the students went out to the basketball courts and formed a solar system for about fifteen minutes. I hope the fourth graders had a lot of fun with their solar system.

## 2018 Blue Ribbon School

By Vivian Moore

On Monday, October 1st, 2018, Mr. Begley proudly announced that the Department of Education had awarded our school, Saint Leo the Great, the honor of being a national Blue Ribbon school. In order to earn this great achievement, our school had to have exceptionally good scores in the Iowa tests, strong academics (STEAM lab, surfaces) an academically challenging curriculum, and a focus on students to grow in faith and knowledge. 49 private schools across the nation applied to receive the Blue Ribbon award. We were one of 5 within the Diocese of Trenton to be recognized as a school with overall superior academic performance and progress. This is the second time that Saint Leo's has received the Blue Ribbon award. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Saint Leo's celebrated Blue Ribbon day, where we had mass and a flag raising. The next day, we had blue bagels in honor of our award. On Friday, (1 day later) we got to wear special shirts for receiving the Blue Ribbon award.





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## Positivity Project

by: Victoria Iacobino and Ryan Shibles

Every year, everyone from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Leo the Great School participates in the Positivity Project. The Positivity Project is a term for a series of educational solutions that help students to have a more positive outlook at life. Every week, we learn a new character trait. This year all the teachers took a test to find out what their strongest character trait is. Most teachers' strongest traits were perseverance and fairness. This is the third year that the school is participating in the Positivity Project. Some examples of the character traits the students are taught are curiosity, humor, teamwork, and self control. The Positivity Project is a very useful extra class that makes you a better person.



## Significant Surfaces

by Emily Rae Johns and Keira Murphy

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have been given a useful tool this year: surfaces. Surfaces can make school much easier as long as you follow these simple rules. First, you must always bring your surface and charger to school. Second, you have to make sure to charge your surface overnight. Lastly, you have to be careful with your surface. Mr. Coyle has taught us an easy phrase to remember that almost everyone knows: "It's a tool, not a toy." Surfaces can be used to take notes, usually on OneNote or Word. Although many people use their surfaces to play games, you have to be careful on how much battery you use, because it's more important to use your surface for education. Some people play with the stand of their surface, but they are very easy to break, so you have to be gentle with it. Many people have complained that they have problems with their surfaces, but our staff has been working hard to fix these problems. Overall, Saint Leo the Great is very lucky to have this significant piece of technology.

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## Model UN

By Vivian Moore

On Friday, November 2nd, students of the 7th and 8th grades went to a seven hour presentation; the Model UN. The Model UN is an event that CBA (Christian Brothers Academy) sponsors for many schools to participate in. The requirement to participate includes a two-page essay about the country of the student's choice. On the date of the presentation, the student's debated, acted, pretended and/or represented their country. On the day of the Model UN presentation, (November 2nd) the students were split up and put into different rooms. Then they started their debates. The whole event lasted seven hours, so there were breaks, and mealtimes. The meal served was spaghetti and meatballs. Next there were awards. There were multiple winners of all the schools. 7th and 8th graders of SLG got awards! Congratulations to the best two schools, Oak Hill and Holy Cross. The students of SLG who won awards were: Michael Lawson, Sean Lawson, Colleen Yurcisin, Eamon Sullivan, Grayson Testino, Tadgh Galvin, and Victoria Conrad.

## Saints Reimagined

by Emily Rae Johns and Victoria Iacobino

In the cafeteria, you may have noticed some cool looking pumpkins. Do they look familiar? Well, you probably haven't seen them on the sidewalk, but you may know them from religion class! They're our beloved saints, including Mother Mary, Saint Anne, Saint Mark, Saint Francis of Assisi, and so many more! The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders work really hard on them every year. They decorate them with paint, props, wigs, and clothing. They are displayed on the tables in the cafeteria, so all students can have a look at them at their lunchtime.



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## Busy Third Grade

by: Mia Fitzpatrick

The third grade has been learning about the seven continents and five oceans. They have been doing worksheets, reading, and making globes. Everyone in the third grade has remembered the seven continents by a song. Third grade has also been learning about writing poems and stories. For each holiday they make a story. For Halloween, they made pumpkin writings. They have also been drawing pictures for each month in art. These get hung up outside their class rooms. Reading is another big thing in third grade. They have been doing reports and biographies. These reports have made them learn more about a topic. All this has made them learn more and more.

## Make Way for the Student Council

by: Emily DeLuca and Mia Fitzpatrick

If you want to be on the student council think twice before doing something wrong. There are many requirements to be on Student Council such as if you get a demerit and you are always late to class, you will not be able to be able to join. When you are running for Student Council, you give a speech to the whole school. This speech tells the other students what you will do if elected to office. Following the speeches, students vote for the person of their choice. Student Council positions are photography, sports, religion, vice president, and president. On September 24, 2018 there was a ceremony installing the student council members. They took an oath and were declared Student Council. They also received pins and badges as well. We believe that they will serve us well. Good luck to all elected members.

Fun Fact: Did you know that Mrs. Shute and Mr. Daneman have the same birthdays and Mrs. Folk's and Mrs. Cotgreaves's birthdays are one day apart.

Fun Fact: Did you know that the preschoolers are learning how to spell their names and write letters?

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## New Software Achieve 3000

by Joe Cali

The middle school (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>) grade are now using a new software called Achieve 3000. Achieve is a Reading System that presents a topic for discussion. You read articles and answer questions about the articles. The middle school uses this in Language arts, Spanish, Social Studies, and other classes. Most people like the new program and feel that the stories are very interesting to read.



## The Fun First Grade

By: Emily DeLuca

First grade is definitely a grade you wouldn't want to miss! There has been multiple things that they have learned in the past three months. It is definitely a change from kindergarten, but I can tell that it is fun for everyone in the grade! Some things that they are learning is letter sounds, adding, and reading. They also had their first test, which was a test for spelling. Hopefully they all did well! Since Veterans Day, all of the first graders made a craft to show how thankful they are for our veterans. The crafts were put outside of their classrooms so everyone could see!