



The Paw Print

News from Saint Leo the Great School

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Dear Class of 2016,

The entire community of Saint Leo the Great School congratulates you, the graduating class. We wish you many good things for the future. We wish you good luck in high school, academic success, and personal happiness. We wish you good health, a continued growing faith in God, and the courage to face the future. We wish you patience to achieve your goals and a greater humility to acknowledge your strengths and your weaknesses. We thank you for all you have given to us! Thank you and God bless you.

-Faculty and student body of Saint Leo the Great School





"The Nifty Fifties"

By Joey Cisar

This past April, the students of Saint Leo the Great School were given the opportunity to take a ride back to the "Nifty Fifties". Saint Leo's 2016 spring production allowed the audience to travel through time. Directed by Mrs. Brennan with the help of Mrs. Ruane, the students played their roles extraordinarily well and sang their hearts out in the songs. The cast this year was very large with too many names to list. Although not everyone had a main role, Mrs. Brennan incorporates each student and tries her hardest to give them a "time to shine". The lead characters of Gracie Stanley and George Bullock were played by the very talented Julia DiFazio and Kevin Bauman. The setting of the production was a 1950's luncheonette, and the story line revolved around a school dance called the "Hippity Hop". In the end, "The Nifty Fifties" was a great success. Congratulations to a job well done!



Grand Day

By: Joey Stanton

On April 15th 2016, we invited all our grandparents and grandfriends to visit our school. The day began with a prayer service in the church where all our guests and the students attended. After, our guests went over to the AAC where they could grab a bite to eat and choose from a variety of drinks. The grandparents and grandfriends then got the chance to go around the school visiting their grandchildren in various classrooms. The teachers and students planned various activities from Jeopardy to making something special for their guests. The students left with their grandparents and grandfriends earlier than normal so they could spend the day together. The entire day was an amazing and exciting event.



Did You Know... That the Call Club hosted a shower for Birthright on Thursday, May 26, 2016?

Students donated diapers and wipes for new born babies.



Greek Olympics

By: Daniella Del Tufo

Every year, the 6th grade celebrates the Greek Olympics. They have been prepping for this event all year. In LA Enrichment, they have been learning all about Greek Mythology. The three teachers who were hosting this event were: Mrs. Cotgreave, Mrs. Tommolino, and Mrs. Shute. This event was broken up in two days. June 3, was the presentation of plays. June 10, was the poster presentations, myth presentations, and the outside competition. The outdoor competition included fowl shooting, relay race, potato sack race, egg race, and wheelbarrow race. We wish all of the 6th grade great luck!

Book Fair

By: Joey Stanton

On April 12th, 13th, and 14th, the Scholastic Book Fair came to our school. The book fair sold many different genres and many different types of books as well, from the World Record Book to novels. The book fair was set up in the cafeteria. Students from Pre-K to 8th grade were assigned a time to go down on one of the three days so they could buy books. The book fair was run by Mrs. Robestelli. Many students enjoyed buying books at the fair. The students then went to take their newly bought books home and read them. It was definitely an enjoyable book fair for everyone.



Did You Know... On Monday, May 9th, students practiced using the emergency exits on school buses? First, the bus driver reviewed with the students all the exits, and then students had to leave through the back door as if it were a real emergency.



D.A.R Essay Winners

By: Lauren Walsh

On Monday, April 11, 2016, an award ceremony was held at the Monmouth County Historical Society building in Tinton Falls. Recognition was given to the 2015 winners of the D.A.R (Daughters of American Revolution) Essay Contest. The topic was: The Colonial Families Reaction to the Stamp Act.

The students of Saint Leo The Great School were well represented.

The essay winners were selected from more than 575 essays submitted in Monmouth County. The winners were: Madelein Hicks, Abby Lonardo, Joey Cisar, Chris Montefusco, Grace Distefano, Andrew Scanlon, Seton Smith, Kaitlin Murphy, John Cizin, and Alaina Terrone.

Additionally, sixth grader, Andrew Scanlon's essay was forwarded to the state level, where he won first place. Andrew was a guest at a luncheon in Princeton on Thursday, April 21, 2016. Eighth grader, Madelein Hicks placed second at the State level.

Congratulations on a job well done!



Confirmation

By: Michael DiCarlo and Lauren Walsh

On Monday, April 18, 2016, the 8th grade students of Saint Leo the Great School, and the parish CCD students, made their Confirmation. There were two ceremonies for Confirmation, the first one started at 2:00 pm and ended at 3:30 pm. The second group made their Confirmation at 4:00 pm and ended at 5:30 pm. Monsignor Arnister from Saint Rose in Belmar discussed the importance of Confirmation and he also asked some questions like 'When were you born?' and "When was your Baptism?" The Confirmandi went up in rows and knelt down before the altar. Monsignor then put Holy Chrism on the forehead and the Confirmandi went back to their pews. It was a holy





Career Day

By: Joey Cisar

Wednesday, April 20, was Saint Leo the Great's annual Career Day. A total of 11 hardworking men and women volunteered their time to open students' eyes to the many jobs and types of work in the world. The presenters were: Joseph Borrino, Heather Dodds, Chris Doucette, Chris Hughes, Ross Licitra, Dr. Elie Mansour, Dr. Gabrielle Perrella, Fernando Torres, Mimi Turbitt, Melissa Welch, and Dawn Zolek. All of them did a fantastic job at informing the students. Chris Doucette showed the students how to make fresh mozzarella, and Dr. Elie Mansour discussed the importance of not smoking and the intensive care unit in hospitals. At the end of the day, each student had learned something new and surprising, proving Career Day to be successful.



Mother's Day Luncheon

By: Lauren Walsh and Michael Scotto

On Friday, May 6, 2016, the fifth grade class celebrated Mother's Day with a prayer service and an elaborate luncheon. Promptly at 10 a.m., mothers were escorted into church. The students honored their moms with poems, prayers, and thoughtful tributes. Father John spoke to the group. Mrs. Senkewicz was also in attendance.

Following the prayer service, a luncheon and program was held in the AAC. Again, the students honored their moms with songs, stories, and love. At the beautifully decorated table, moms were presented with a plaque which said "A mother's love is never ending". A special thanks to Mrs. Tyrell, Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Cotgreave, and Mrs. Pomanowski. It was a special day and we ask that God bless all moms.

Did You Know... Mrs. Tyrell and Mrs. McManus raised butterflies? 5th grade students watched caterpillars emerge into beautiful butterflies?



The Rainforest Play

By: Lauren Walsh

The third-graders put on an amazing play filled with many characters, colors, and animals. Each character, or animal, had a key role in saving the rainforest's kapok tree; one of the most important trees in the rainforest. It is home to many of the rainforest's animals, and it is their job to save it from being cut down by two men who are clueless to the fact that it is home to anteaters, snakes, butterflies, tree porcupines, and many other creatures. The third grade students practiced very hard to put this play together and make it as memorable as possible. Good job third grade!



Campfire Stories...

By Joey Stanton

On April 13, 2016 and April 14, 2016, the sixth grade students huddled around a campfire and shared legends and campfire stories. The shades in the classroom were drawn, the lights were turned off as the interesting stories took on a life of their own. Each student had to select a story to present to their peers. This activity allowed students to deliver a story using voice inflection, eye contact, drama and appropriate props. At the conclusion of each class session, the students voted on the story they felt was most dramatic. The finalists for the first round of storytelling were Joe Borrino, Tom Ern, Alex Bauman, Bob Williams, Jorge Gana, Chloe Van Berkel and Jason Gentile. Each finalist had the opportunity to retell their story to the entire sixth grade to compete for the title "Sixth Grade Storyteller of the Year" At the conclusion of the final campfire a tie vote produced two "Sixth Grade Storytellers of the Year." This honor for 2016 went to Chloe VanBerkel and Jason Gentile. Congratulations on stories well told.





Ready, Set, Build

By Joey Cisar

The students of Mrs. Pomanowski's sixth grade religion class put their faith in building Solomen's Temple. Each group had to plan and design their temple, supply the materials, and coordinate the construction within a one hour time frame. The groups worked diligently and produced exceptional models. The winning builders were: Eric Beyer, Daniella Del Tufo, Elena Fernandez, Bridget Incantalupo, Liam Kehoe, Gabe Nobel, and Helena Pecci.



Honor Band Trip

By: Jason Gentile

On May 21, 2016, six students from our school's band program were invited to participate in an honor band concert in Hershey. The performance was part of Hershey's "Take the Stage" program and the students were invited because of their standout performance at the music festival last year. The students that were invited were: Sara Wiessel, Gabe Noble, Andrew Kwapinewski, Jason Gentile, Joey Stanton, and Michael Rue. Sara, Gabe, and Jason play the saxophone. Andrew and Michael play the trumpet and Joey plays the drums. Unfortunately, Michael was not able to attend the concert. The rest of the students were there. The honor band consisted of the top players from many different schools. The students had one practice at Saint Benedict in Holmdel. After their practice, the students felt prepared to get on stage at Hershey. Once at Hershey, the students met at the stage on "Music Box Way" in Hershey. After the students performed, they were allowed to walk around Hershey Park. Congratulations and great job to all the students who performed.





8th Grade Flag Football

By: Joey Stanton

On May 19, 2016, the 8th grade got into their teams and went out onto the field for their annual flag football game. The 8th grade plays a game of flag football at the end of the year to enjoy a fun game with their classmates whom they might not see next year. The entire school was invited to watch the game. The students were split into four teams; red, blue, green, and black. For the first game, it was red vs blue with the red team being the victor. The second game was green vs black with the black team victorious. The final game was between the red and the black teams. The winner of the championship game was the red team. Everyone played a great game.

School House Rock? More like SLG Rocks!

By: Julia DiFazio

Many of you know what Mrs. Cotgreave's original "Reader's Theater" is all about. For those who don't, "Reader's Theater" is a 7th grade elective in which students can express themselves through the power of acting and being themselves. You may see them touring the hallways and stopping by classrooms to perform small skits. Their latest show was "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." What's next you ask? Coming to your school gymnasium... please get excited for... School House Rock! Already, Mrs. Cotgreave and her tireless group of students have put in long hours in preparation for their next performance. For this show, the school will gather in the gym to watch their very own seventh grade students tell tales of American History! Here is the best part: it is mostly in the form of song! From the Reader's Theater group themselves, we are looking forward to performing and hope you enjoy!



Did You Know... The Kindergarteners had their end of the year picnic? They had a magician and lots of games. They also had water balloons and ate their lunch outside. To finish the day, they took a picture of the grade and decorated a frame for it.



Marian Service

By: Michael Rue

On Tuesday, May 24th, 2016, the second grade students from Saint Leo the Great School honored our Blessed Mother. The students wore their beautiful First Communion outfits as they crowned the Blessed Mother, Queen of Heaven. The prayer service was conducted by Father John and included prayers, petitions and hymns. The children signed the Hail Mary. We are sure that the Blessed Mother was honored by their devotion.



Blasting off into Space

Jackie DiBenedetto and Alaina Terrone

On Monday, April 25th, Pre-K through 8th grade attended the Life in Space assembly. This assembly was presented by the Franklin Institute. It took place in the AAC. There were many cool experimental parts to this program. It started off with the presenter teaching us how a space ship launches into space. The assembly proceeded with a model of a spaceship made with a bottle. He sprayed a little bit of rocket fuel on the bottom of the bottle and put a lighter under it. The bottle then blasted into the air. It almost touched the ceiling! Next, he picked a student from the audience and dressed him up in a space suit. We ended the show with a big round of applause.



Teachers Say “Goodbye”

By: Jason Gentile and Dennis Vassalo

We would like to give a sincere thank you and a word of gratitude to Mrs. Tyrrell, Mrs. Pomanowski, and Mrs. Mallen who will be leaving the Saint Leo the Great family in June. Mrs. Tyrrell has been a teacher here for 17 years full time and 9 years as a substitute teacher. She has taught grades 5-8. She has moderated the Science Club and Science Olympiad. When asked about what she plans to do to with her retirement, Mrs. Tyrrell plans to take care of her mother, travel, get a puppy, and be a substitute teacher. The things that she enjoyed the most during her years of teaching were: the Mother’s Day Luncheon and making gingerbread houses. She wants everybody to know that she loved teaching and she is going to miss it. Mrs. Pomanowski taught gym, taught the second grade, and taught middle school religion. Mrs. Pomanowski was very involved in the music ministry at Saint Leo the Great School. She has been teaching for 29 years. In her free time, Mrs. Pomanowski plans to relax. When asked about her favorite thing she did, she said it was to be involved in the “God Squad” music program. Mrs. Pomanowski wrote a beautiful note to everybody in the school. In a nutshell the note said that Mrs. Pomanowski will remember all of the students that she has taught. She also said that she would remember all of the faculty and staff that she has worked side by side with. The last thing that Mrs. Pomanowski said was thank you to all of the parents that have trusted her with their children’s education. Mrs. Mallen has been with us for 16 years. She has lovingly cared for students in k-4. When asked what she is going to do with her retirement, she said that she is going to care for her grandsons, who will keep her busy! She loved everything about this school, especially how the students work hard and going to mass frequently. Mrs. Mallen wants everyone to know that she has enjoyed every day of teaching at Saint Leo’s. Our best wishes to each of the teachers mentioned in this article. May God bless you in your retirement. We are all hopeful that you will come and sub at our school!

Looking Forward to the Summer

By: Isabella Neves and Alaina Terrone

This year is coming to an end and everyone is ready to jump into summer. It seems like yesterday when we all walked into school for the first time to start the 2015-2016 school year. This shows us how time flies! We are sad that the school year is ending, but we are excited for the summer to begin. All the kids are excited about the SLG carnival, which is always a blast! Also, we can’t wait for our summer camps to start. We will truly miss our eighth graders and we wish them luck and success in high school and the future!



First Communion

By Joey Cisar

April 30th, May 7th, and May 14th marked the dates of a very important event in Saint Leo the Great's second graders' lives. These three Saturdays were filled with great spiritual and emotional joy revolving around the first communicants. The communicants received the Holy Eucharist for the very first time. The second graders worked very hard in preparation for this special day. They memorized songs and learned the importance of the Eucharist in our faith. When the day arrived, all of the girls showed up in their dresses and the boys in their jacket and ties. Each of the six ceremonies was beautiful. This was a huge stepping stone in the religious lives of the children of Saint Leo the Great.

Fiesta Hora

Anna Piancone

On June 7, 2016, the 7th grade held a fiesta for their class. There were Spanish based foods like tacos, quesadillas, and much more. They wore sombreros and ponchos. Next, the 7th graders were assigned groups. The groups picked two Spanish foods to make for lunch. Each group met at someone's house and made the two food dishes that they picked. At the fiesta, the students celebrated the Spanish culture with music, costumes, and dance.

Did You Know... The kindergarteners graduated on Monday, June 13? They are certainly prepared and are looking forward to formal education. The kindergarteners have mastered the art of sharing and caring.



Mock Trial

By: Michael Rue

Mock Trial is a great club to participate in. This year the Mock Trial team won both of their cases. They also got to perform on May 18, 2016 in front of twelve other schools eighth grade students. We are proud to say that all of the students in Mock Trial did an amazing job and all got a certificate for honorable mention. There were two cases that the mock trial group wrote and performed. The first case was called "The Shirt of Many Colors." The main role of this case was Victor Voice, which was played by Michael Rue. The other roles including Faith Freedom, played by Victoria Leibrock, Judy Justice, played by Sofia Gana, and Principal Jaime Jackson, played by Erin Horbacz. The lawyers for the plaintiff were played by Kyle Bogio and Riley Dinnell. The lawyers for the defense were played by Maggie Ward and Caroline Meany. The second case was called "Inside the Hive." The Main Role was Bianca Blogger, played by Sydney Koopman. The other roles including Betty Blogger, played by Carolyn Litwin, Tommy Touchdown, played by David Sprague, and Principle Walter Wasp, played by Michael Landolfi. The lawyers for the plaintiff were played by Grace Hanlon and Matthew Ruzich; the lawyers for the defense were played by Hailey Scarantino and Arianna Thomson. The other people who helped in the club who did not have a part in the performance at the law center were Isabella Mansour, Olivia Almedia, James Sullivan, Charlize Lam, and Christopher Sparber. Those who had main roles performed at the New Jersey State Law Center on May 18, 2016.

The Mock Trial group had to write about the 10 amendments. Both of the groups this year picked the first amendment to write about in the making of their cases. The first case was about the rights of freedom of speech. There was a student named Victor Voice who had a shirt that he wore for his presentation, but decided to keep on wearing the shirt in his International club meetings every Friday. More and more kids wore the shirts every week. All of the shirts said the words "What Would Jesus Do?" on them. Victor Voice was suing the school district for his first amendment rights of freedom of speech. The other case was about a girl named Bianca Blogger who needed extra credit to get into her dream college. She asked her teacher to give her an extra credit assignment. Her teacher agreed, so Bianca decided to create a blog and most of the students seemed to like it. Bianca was quickly suspended for posting some awful videos of the football player Tommy Touchdown. The videos posted were of football player Tommy Touchdown throwing interceptions to make his team lose the game. Bianca was quickly suspended for "causing a disruption in the school environment." Bianca was so upset because now she was unable to get into her most desired college because of her suspension. Both cases were well prepared and interesting to follow and watch.