



The Paw Print

News from Saint Leo the Great School

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September-December 2016

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

By: Jack Cunningham and Matthew Celli

Each year at Saint Leo's, the kindergarten students take part in a Thanksgiving prayer service. Each and every child participates in this special event. The students dress up as either a pilgrim or a Native American. During their presentation, the children tell the story of the First Thanksgiving. They point out to those in attendance the hard times the pilgrims faced. At the conclusion of the prayer service, they sing songs and read special passages picked out for this occasion. This is a tradition at Saint Leo's and the official beginning of Thanksgiving.



Did You Know...That as of November 22, 2016, the 6th grade students are now allowed to bring home their Microsoft Surfaces?

Back to School Night

By: Madison Stavola

On Thursday, September 15th, 2016, a large group of parents carefully followed the class schedule of their children at “Back to School” night. It was a great opportunity for the teachers to meet and welcome the parents for the 2016-2017 school year. Each class was scheduled according to the students’ class schedule. Teachers had the opportunity to describe the curriculum and activities planned for the new school year. The shared information included, course outlines, topics to be learned, projects, student expectations, grading policies, homework, and testing. The teachers answered any questions that they may have been asked. The evening began in the AAC, with welcoming and opening remarks from Mr. Begley. The “last class” ended at about 9:30PM. Most people would agree that it was a very fun evening.

Microsoft Surfaces

By: Julia Stefano and Madison Stavola

This school year has introduced new Microsoft Surfaces for grades six, seven, and eight. These tablets are a great way to take notes, research, and help students stay organized with their school work. The teachers and students are very grateful for this new edition of technology, so they make sure to take great care of these new Surfaces. The tablets make student life much easier because if a student is absent, another classmate is able to directly send the notes to the absent student through email. These Microsoft Surfaces are also a great way to teach the students responsibility and help prepare them for high school and their future. So far, everyone has been enjoying their new Microsoft Surfaces, and are adjusting to this new addition of technology very quickly.



The Blessing of Animals

By: Gabriella DiCesare and Hannah Ahmed

The Blessing of the Animals was on October 4, 2016. October 4th is the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi. Saint Francis is known to be the patron saint of all animals. There were many types of animals that were at the blessing. There were dogs, bunnies, cats, turtles, hamsters, and many other types of pets. If a pet was unable to attend the blessing, students brought in pictures of their pets to be blessed. The animals were blessed by Father John in the parking lot. Overall, the students and even the animals had a great time!



The Book Fair

By: Madison Stavola

The Saint Leo the Great Book Fair of 2016 was full of many new books and authors. The children this year loved the new books because it gave them more options. They were all walking around and looking at the numerous amounts of books. The kids were all smiling while reading their latest purchases. At the Book Fair there was more than just reading materials, there were pens, erasers, some toys, book marks, coloring books, and posters. The students could not wait to start reading.

The Pumpkin Saints

By: Julia Krall, Holly Hanlon, and Matthew Celli

October was a very busy month at Saint Leo's. Every grade was doing something different for Halloween. Second grade was working on their Pumpkin Saints. Each student is allowed to pick their own individual Saint, but no two people can pick the same Saint. The second graders each decorate their pumpkin into the Saint they chose. They also need to include a paragraph which contains information about the Saint, and what the saint represents. The pumpkin Saints are displayed in the cafeteria, for all students and faculty to observe.



The New Student Council and Ambassador Installation

By: Madison Stavola and Julia Stefano

On Thursday, September 29th the 2016-2017 Student Council and Ambassador members took their oaths to serve the school in their respective roles. During this ceremony they recited a pledge and received their pins and lanyards. Our 2016-2017 Student Council and Ambassador members were chosen because of their responsibility, passion, and love for our school. The students and faculty are very excited to see what the new members of the Student Council and the Ambassadors have in store for the new school year.



Halloween Parade

By: Erin Fitzgerald and Julianna Merendino

Every year on Halloween Saint Leo students dress up in their Halloween costumes. At the end of the day, the school hold's a fire drill to get all the students outside. From each of their lines, starting with preschool, the students of Saint Leo's parade around the parking lot. This year, the costumes ranged from football players to Star Wars. Even Mr. Begley dressed up as a Jedi. Many of the teachers dressed up as well. For example, Mrs. Gross was Annie from Brain Pop Jr. Saint Leo faculty and students had a very successful and fun Halloween!



The Blue Butterfly

By: Jack Cunningham and Matthew Celli

Everyone in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade should watch out for the blue butterfly. The blue butterfly can ruin your day. This has something to do with locking your lockers. If you find your locker with your lock turned backwards or a different lock on it most likely it is not another student trying to make your day tough. It is probably a blue lock put there by Mr. Coyle. After school Mr. Coyle will be checking that your locker has been properly locked. Everyone one should lock their lockers or else the Blue Butterfly will be coming your way!





Christmas Doors Reflect Christmas Spirit

By: Christian Ailor

Teachers on the second floor spent time and creativity in designing classroom doors for the Christmas season. Many of these doors have flashing lights and bright colors to bring the beauty of the season to school.

Did you know.....

That the fourth grade is currently reading *The Last Holiday Concert* because on December 14th they will be performing their last holiday concert for the rest of the time they are at Saint Leo's?

Everest Hero

By: Matthew Celli

Do you idolize a hero, a famous person, a nice person? If you do, you're in luck because a courageous man visited our school on November 7, 2016. Gary Guller had always wanted to mountain climb. He was taught by a famous mountain climber and continued his passion. When Gary was mountain climbing with his two friends, one started to fall off the peak and ended up taking Gary and his other friend down. They fell a couple of thousand feet! Once they hit the bottom of the mountain, he was covered in the snow that saved his life. He laid in the snow for three days until somebody found him. Sadly, one of his friends had died and Gary had major frostbite. In order to live, they had to detach his arm. Gary decided to help people like him with disabilities. He helped approximately 30 people in wheel chairs, people with mental disabilities, people with physical disabilities, and people who could not even move, reach Everest Base Camp. He had once reached the summit of Everest himself. He has other amazing stories which are the result of his faith and strength



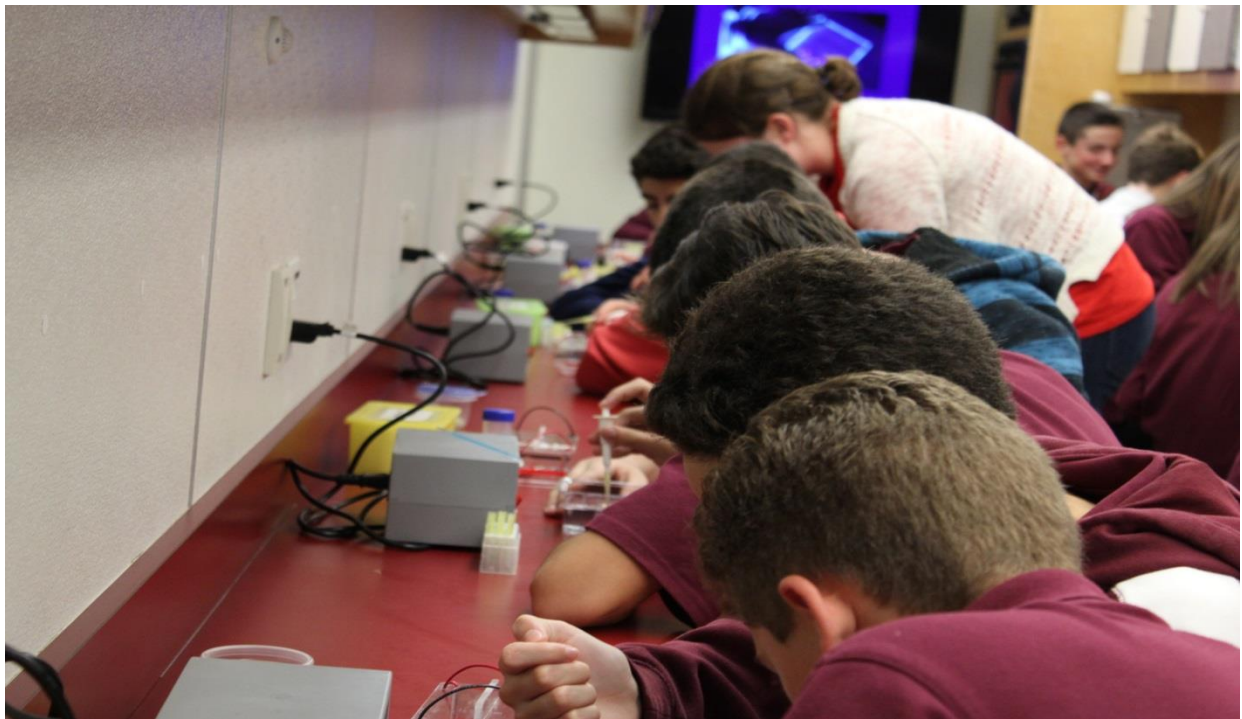
Winter Pep Rally

Every December and every May the school puts together a winter and a spring pep rally. On December 15, 2016, we had the winter pep rally. The pep rally is a great chance for the students to show support to all of the contributors that make up the teams. In the winter, the Varsity and JV boys and girls basketball, soccer, and cheerleading are the main focus. Every player gets called out and comes to center court. Every team picks two songs, one when they come out, and one when they demonstrate what they can do for the whole school. So when the spring pep rally comes around, come and support the Saint Leo's Lions!!!



DNA Bus

This year, on November 26, 2016, the 8th grade students went to the Edison Venture Fund and Rutgers Math and Science Bus to learn about DNA and how scientists find corruption in the cells. The 8th graders are put to the test to find the missing or destroyed DNA cells. They can also create cells and find diseases in Petri Dishes. The DNA Bus is a fun experience for kids that want to take part in chemistry and become a great scientist that can change the world. Such experiences hopefully encourage Saint Leo students to follow their dreams and become someone who changes how we live!



Second Grade Christmas Stories

By: Matthew Celli

Every year, the sixth graders interview second graders and ask them questions about what they like most about Christmas. With that information, the sixth graders put together a story that fits their personality. The story is supposed to take the second graders on a trip with Santa and save Christmas. The second graders are always thrilled to receive a Christmas story that has them in it! The sixth graders read the stories to them. The second grade students take the stories home with a candy cane to make it even sweeter. The sixth grade felt really good watching the faces of the second grader light up. It is more than a literary project. It becomes a sharing holiday event. Especially when they see a sixth grader walk in the classroom with a story in their hand (and of course the candy cane).



Toy Drive

By: Matthew Celli

Every year for the past 3 years, Sophia Almeida organizes a toy drive for the poor. This year the donations are going to St. Peter Claver. This spectacular act started off as a small project in fourth grade just with a little drive in her town. But that quickly grew into a massive toy drive that helps so many people in need. Sophia's family helps out as well and some donations also go to the food bank. Two years ago, she collected about 7 dozen toys. Last year, she collected 9 dozen, and this year is expected to collect 11-12 dozen toys to give to the poor. Every year there are more needy people, which means more toys need to be collected. I asked Sophia what her inspiration was and she said, "I watched the news a lot and saw people my age that were helping others in need, so that made me think 'how can I do that too?'" It is amazing what Sophia does. But this year is special, Sophia and Mrs. Senkewicz worked together so they could collect even more toys to help even more people. Mrs. Senkewicz incorporated the requests from the Saint Leo The Great Church "Giving Tree" with Sophia's collection resulting in many toys for many children. Once again, this year was very successful for those who are less fortunate than us.