

FAW News
Oct. 22, 2023

“We must learn what God wants of us, and having learned it, we must try to carry it out, if not generously, at least cheerfully.” - St. Francis de Sales

Dear Father Andrew White School Families,

We are so blessed to have so many talented faculty members who spend extra time helping our students learn beyond the textbook. They do so with great generosity and joy!!

This week, several of Dr. Schneider's students were featured in the Junior Saints section of *The Catholic Standard*. They wrote about St. Francis and caring for our earth. Use this [link](#) to see their work! The students are so proud of their work being published!

Mrs. Sarlo arranged for several speakers to visit her students. Mrs. Leard, the coordinator, from our St. Aloysius Food Pantry, came in as a speaker to talk with our FIRST Lego League (FLL) team. They are designing and coding an App for Food Pantries in the area. Mrs. Pietsch came in as a speaker during elective time to help an FLL team understand Tinkercad for designing their innovative project for FLL. Mrs. Sarlo also taught her fourth graders to construct a closed circuit with a switch!

Mrs. Downey arranged for speakers from NAWCAD at PAX River to speak with our students during STEM class. The speaker for the next two weeks is focusing on radios and how coding is used to assist our military operations, medical applications and entertainment.

Mrs. Cacko is once again organizing Destination Imagination teams, assisting the school choir and giving middle schoolers an opportunity to present a play during the Christmas pageant.

Mrs. Valeski's second grade class planted bean seeds and had a wonderful time viewing the [fruits of their labor](#)!

Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. George and Mrs. Guerre assisted the PK - 1st graders on a trip to the Pumpkin Farm where the students will extend their learning by making pumpkin bread, counting pumpkin seeds, planting a pumpkin as well as other fun activities.

Ms. Skane's students are creating their own book to be published.

Mrs. Stewart assisted with the *Mercy Tree Adventures* activities, even arranging for two teachers to participate in tree climbing! Why would we do that? To make the connection between Zaccheus seeking our Lord by climbing a tree! The K- 6th grade students participated in a treasure hunt so they could better understand the parable of selling all that we have in order to obtain the treasure of the Kingdom of God.

Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Kavanagh are working with the students on learning about Saints and creating interest by having students dress as Saints in preparation for All Saints Day! Mrs. Armsworthy had her students copy and illustrate their favorite Bible passages. These were then placed around the school building to inspire all of our student body.

Deacon Vavrus has done a wonderful job of helping the students understand their faith. He is also teaching students about Architecture and creating building models.

Fr. David is teaching the students in so many ways! He spends time visiting the classrooms explaining icons and other items we find in the church but may not understand. He also comes to school to teach the elective students how to play Chess!

Mrs. Fleury taught her students how to express thankfulness and gratitude by having them write thank you cards to the Knights of Columbus for their donation of dictionaries to our students. She made sure that the grammar, spelling and punctuation were correct, so the students can see how these skills extend beyond their schoolwork!

Mrs. Haley is working with the Safety Patrol, helping students learn responsibility and leadership skills. She is also helping students with organization and how to make presentations as she sponsors the Science Fair. Lastly, she taught students how to exercise their heart muscle this week as they recorded pre and post data on their heart rate after performing a fitness challenge!

Mrs. Breedlove arranged for the Fire Truck visit to the primary students. Mrs. Hinkle's class compared fiction and non-fiction books about the Fire Department. They learned about how firemen respond to fires, as well as several fire safety tips. They reviewed the procedures for a fire alarm and then practiced, "Stop, Drop and Roll."

In Art, Mrs. Gavin had her students analyze fall shapes, like leaves and pumpkins, and look for ways to incorporate a variety of lines and patterns into their naturally occurring segments.

To celebrate Digital Citizenship Week, Mrs. Greer helped students learn how to be safe while at school, at home, or anywhere there is internet. Students took a virtual field trip where they practiced staying safe during online adventures to reiterate how the power of the internet allows them to experience and visit places they might not be able to see in person.

Mrs. Moore's eighth grade has been comparing and contrasting American versus Hispanic families. They will be studying what homes and living situations are like in Mexico and Latin America.

Nurse Rose is always explaining the importance of following good health practices to our students.

These are just some of the happenings from this week! We have such a great community here and I am so grateful and amazed at all of the creative ways the teachers extend learning! I hope you enjoyed reading about them!

Boxes of Joy were sent home with students who requested them! We are so grateful for any support you can give to these children who are less fortunate. Please return the Boxes of Joy by November 1.

The Student Council Association is collecting items for Stockings for Soldiers. Please return any items for the stockings by November 8. Let's support our troops!!

Thank you for your flexibility as we tried a new approach to our weekly newsletter. We will be returning to a Tuesday weekly newsletter as of Tuesday, October 31. There will no longer be a FAW Friday News as we continue efforts to streamline communication.

Have a wonderful weekend and as always, please attend Mass so you can learn more of the creative ways that God helps us to become the best person we can be!!

Sincerely,

Janet Szoch

Principal