



## Spring 2017

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning @St. Aloysius Academy

We have such a tradition of music at the Academy which was quite evident at our annual Jazz Festival. Five elementary bands and two bands from LaSalle College High School and the Archbishop Carroll Band delighted the standing room only audience. The SAA Jazz Band outdid themselves as they performed “St. Louis Blues”, “Splanky” and “Comin’ Home Baby”.

+ + + + +

In addition, all of our bands and choirs performed at the Spring Band Concert and delighted the audience. We are so pleased to offer a Cadet Band, a Junior Band, a Senior Band, a Jazz Band, a Percussion Ensemble, a Spring Ensemble as well as a Junior Choir and Senior Choir. It is wonderful how many of our students perform.



Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish class had lunch at El Limon in Bryn Mawr and ordered their meal in Spanish. The waiters responded in Spanish. The quesadillas, burritos and tacos were delicious and the Mexican soda and desserts were muy bien.

We had an exceptional Health Fair! Each grade made their way through a series of exhibits. For the first time, 8<sup>th</sup> graders were asked to pick a topic, research it and then present it to the students. Topics ranged from scoliosis, to concussions, to Down Syndrome. Representatives from Main Line Health shared tips on what’s in your drink, to poison control, to hand washing. Two of our moms introduced the students to meditation.

Earth Day was big at the Academy for K-5 students. Kindergarteners planted pansies to take home as 1<sup>st</sup> graders made terrariums and learned about evaporation. 4<sup>th</sup> graders “invented/repurposed” items transforming them into new configurations with a new purpose. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders showered every

nook and cranny of the Academy with Earth Day/Save the Planet posters. Fifth graders truly outdid themselves with their presentation/role playing of a scientist in this year’s Wax Museum of Scientists. Everyone from Galileo to Steve Jobs was there. Hit the start button and the scientist would tell you about his life and accomplishments. Our younger students, as well as parents and faculty, enjoyed themselves and learned a lot in the process.



4<sup>th</sup> graders were true pioneers/troopers/great sports at their very damp adventure at the Colonial Plantation in Ridley Park. They made candles, cooked and did 18<sup>th</sup> century chores. They even ate their lunch outside under a tent in the rain! Wildcat proud of their top shelf behavior!

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in their third “mini-retreat” of the year. They were in mixed groups and were asked what constitutes bullying? Is an apology enough for forgiveness to begin? What is a bystander? Who does the most harm - the bully or the bystander? Very thoughtful discussions broke out.

Our annual Career Day for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders provided inspiration for our boys to choose a career path that will bring them joy doing something they love to do. This sentiment was expressed by each of the six presenters. Lt. Andy Block, Deputy Chief of Radnor Police, shared the ins and outs of forensic science along with citing some case studies. Michael Blanche, SAA Class of 1986, shared his life as a therapist in private practice, helping people with addictions. Our very own web designer, Scott Haslip, talked about the languages he has had to learn and the advantages of being self-employed. He even brought his bathrobe to show how he can work out of his home. Louis Papa Jr. worked for 20 years in finance in order to fulfill

his dream of becoming a sports collectibles entrepreneur. Al Zencak, a tax accountant and attorney, worked for Price Waterhouse Coopers in Tokyo helping foreign companies set up shop in Japan. He encouraged our boys to learn a second language and to travel. The keynote speaker was Father Robert Hagan OSA, Assistant Athletic Director and Chaplain of Villanova University's men's basketball team. He spoke to all our students what a joy it is to be an Augustinian priest through helping people. We learned that the basketball team has an "attitude club" which tracks how many teammates go over to a "brother" who has fallen or how many times a player passes to a player who is more open (like the last 4 seconds of the National Championship game in 2016).

---

Our 1<sup>st</sup> graders were not only our leaders for May's First Friday Mass, but they also honored Mary with flowers. Nick Giangliulio, President of our Leadership Council, crowned the Blessed Virgin Mary.



3<sup>rd</sup> graders went under the sea and discovered so much. They were amazed at the many products we harvest from the ocean. They learned how human activity is harming the earth's oceans and therefore, the habitat of so many of its plants and animals. Individually, each student researched an individual animal wrote a report that contained interesting facts, what the animal ate, what particular part of the ocean made up its habitat and what dangers the animal faces. Most importantly, they discovered ways they could help the ocean thrive. They also handcrafted marvelous models of their animal and placed them right in their ocean creation. Parents were invited to see their handiwork.



John Dorenbos, long snapper for the Eagles, has a "back-up career" as a magician. We were blessed that he performed for our students. He not only amazed all of us with his magic, he shared many pearls of wisdom. He had a very challenging childhood and while he was in foster care, magic saved him. In between tricks, he told the boys that at their age they can choose to do anything they want to do and become. He advised them not to listen to any negative thoughts that might pop into their heads, but to work positively toward their goals.

---

We welcomed our new Class of 2026, next school year's kindergarteners to "Popsicles and Playground" - an afternoon of getting acquainted and playing together alongside our current kindergarten class. Six of our new Wildcats have older brothers already in attendance which makes them becoming a Wildcat even more special.



Every boy plays a big part in our annual Spring Show. This year, Marty and Doc took us "Back to the Future". The performers sang songs from the 1940s up to the present to the delight of the standing room only audience. The Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Band also performed.



Besides their musical talents, our boys used their athletic prowess on Field Day. There was hamster ball soccer, water balloon football, wet sponge relay, beach ball relay, "Big Foot" race and more. A great morning of physical activity and teamwork! This was the first year students were on either the IHM legacy blue or white team. Brothers and cousins are on the same team. Students will remain on the same team until graduation. It was a morning of friendly competition. The morning ended with ice cream sundaes from Bassett's Ice Cream.