



Homeless Experience

by: Daniel Llorens

On February 21st, the 8th grade class participated in the annual Homeless Retreat. The Homeless Retreat is an overnight experience that builds student empathy.

The 8th graders arrived at St. Agnes around six in the afternoon with an open heart to listen. Once they received the initial instructions, everyone boarded cars and trucks to deliver care packages and sandwiches to the homeless in downtown Miami. After serving the community, the students returned for reflections, prayers, and activities. They ate a simple meal, slept outside all night, and celebrated Mass with their parents in the morning.

The care packages delivered were made possible by all the students at St. Agnes. The different grades were responsible for collecting



David Rodriguez, Willy Franklin, and Nicolas Nadal

donations such as clothes, toilet paper, toothpaste, and other basic toiletries.

This retreat is an experience of true J.O.Y. Mr. Bustamante explained, "The homeless retreat has been a tradition at St. Agnes for many years, looking through my notes I found an old Islander



Eight Grade Class, Parents, and Teachers

News dated 1999, that ran an article about the homeless retreat at St. Agnes Academy." Therefore, St. Agnes 8th graders have shared this experience for over 20 years.

Most students initially believe they would have a slumber party at school, but the reality is different. The students will never forget walking in the streets, kneeling next to a homeless person, praying together, and hearing the stories behind those in need.

All people are uniquely created in God's image and should be a reflection of His love. Therefore, simply listening to each person tell their story despite all their hardships living in the streets and being thankful leaves the students with an everlasting impression.



Lily Lundeberg and Roberta Canedo

In the end, the play portrayed the life, amazing service, and love that St. Teresa shared with the poorest of the poor. St. Teresa's life of service and humbleness is an example for everyone to follow.



Sebastian Montoya, Franco Schena, Nicolas Nadal, & Matthew Ortiz

St. Teresa of Calcutta

by: Blanca Ruiz Verjano

This year, the 8th graders performed a play about the life of Saint Teresa. As a surprise, the Sisters of Charity were special guests during the evening presentation. Dr. Tatijana Surev, the music teacher, wrote the play.



As part of the arts curriculum, the 8th grade students researched the life of St. Teresa and told her story on the stage of the Academy's Auditorium. In addition, other grades collaborated in the production of the play. Along with some guidance from Ms. Escobar, the art teacher, sixth graders produced on the backdrop and scenery.



Annia Casanova, Daniela Oliveira, Annys Asher, Natalia Heller, Camila Hidalgo, Paulina Perez

A Cross on A Forehead



by: Sofia Aleman

Ashes on the forehead of Catholics marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Catholics around the world gather for worship and prayer as they mark their heads with ashes to remember Christ's sacrifice. The community is called to repent and believe in the Gospel.



On March 6, 2019, the St. Agnes student body celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass together. Students were marked on their forehead with ashes from burned palms blessed during last year's Palm Sunday liturgy. Ash

Continued on Page #3

Holy Week at St. Agnes Academy

by: Eduard Faus



Every year, Catholics around the world celebrate Holy Week. During this week, all followers of Christ remember His death and resurrection through prayer, reflection, and fasting as they await for Easter Sunday. Similarly, the students at St. Agnes await Easter with prayer, and they take time to walk with Jesus.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2019, fourth through eighth grade students participated in the Living Stations of the Cross. The eighth graders led the stations as the students walked through the campus and reflected on each of the fourteen stations. Altogether, the Living Stations of the Cross give students a chance to walk with Christ and feel closer to Him.

No More Testing!

by: Eduard Faus

This year the Iowa Assessment (I.T.B.S.) was replaced with the TerraNova exam. When students were asked, 2/3 or about 66% claimed that the TerraNova assessment and the I.T.B.S. mostly tested the same concepts. However, TerraNova test had a quantitative reasoning sub-test.



Arturo Castelo, a sixth grader, explained, "Both tests equally challenged me, but the TerraNova had more short and concise tests letting me clear my mind." Along with other students, Arturo Castelo preferred the new TerraNova test.

The results of the assessment allows teachers and parents to view how students are performing compared to the nation. The information gives insight to the strengths and weakness of each student. In the end, this new test will help teachers and parents understand the progress of each student.

The acts are judged by students and the top acts pass through to the finals. The rules allow students to participate in groups or alone. It is a way to have fun and show the amazing talents found at St. Agnes.

The finale took place on Friday, May 24, 2019 after the morning prayer. All participants received a Bear Pop as recognition of their school spirit. First place went to the Bobble Heads in eight grade.

St. Agnes Talent Show

by: Grace Aldrich

The student led talent show takes place annually at St. Agnes Academy. Students from fourth through eighth grade audition and compete on stage. Auditions are held during lunch time in the dining hall. Talents such as singing, dancing, and playing instruments are all parts of the show.

Circus Day

by: Paulina Montoya & Sofia Aleman

Did you know the first circus took place over 225 years ago? Well, Circus Day is one of many traditions at St. Agnes Academy. Circus Day took place on March 21, 2019, at the school playground. Students in Pre-K 4 dressed up in circus themed costumes and participated in many fun activities. The playground was filled with students dressed as tigers and clowns.

Students also enjoyed entertainment by Ziggy the clown. His show had many magic tricks such as a magic coloring book and a fiery cook book. Other activities run by parent volunteers included: pie in the face, face painting, hanging donuts, a photo booth, and a coloring station.

Circus Day is a day that brings many smiles to all Pre-K 4 students!



Welcome to St. Agnes Academy

by: Sebastian Loughlin

Saint Agnes welcomed new teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Two of the new teachers spoke about how they feel about working at this school. Coach Gilbert, came from Saint Timothy Catholic School in Westchester, and also taught Physical Education. He likes Saint Agnes because he is respected by the students and the school has a welcoming and loving atmosphere. "It is a small enough school that I am able to get to know all of the students, Coach explained. He sees himself teaching at Saint Agnes Academy for many years to come.

Another teacher interviewed was Sister Michelle. Sister Michelle came from St. Mary's Cathedral School and also worked with middle school students. Sister Michelle likes Saint Agnes because the students are welcoming and kind. She said, "The students have a great desire to learn about God and are open to learning new things about God." Overall, she enjoys working with all Saint Agnes students.

St. Agnes welcomes all the new teachers and prayers they become part of our family for many years!





New JV Girls Volleyball Team

by: Grace Aldrich

This year there is a new sports team! There is a new JV girls volleyball team. This team is for the girls in 5th and 6th grade. All of the girls on the team include: Marianne Arana, Lucia Canedo, Sophie Cini, Luisa Coscarelli, Ines de la Puerta, Elisa Erana, Javiera Escobar, Valentina Fernandez, Gabriella Goicolea Del Rio, Veronica London, Paulina Montoya, Alexandra Morris, Mariana Pardo de Zela, Valeria Stecchi, and Maria Ruiz Verjano.

They have practices on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Practices are always at the basketball court.

Their season started with wins and they will continue to improve as the season progresses. Game day is every Tuesday and they play two games weekly.



Sports Assembly

by: Grace Aldrich



On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, student athletes received recognition at the annual sports assembly. The awards ceremony took place in the St. Agnes Auditorium following the school Mass at 10:15 AM. Many students in grades second through eighth were honored by their coaches.

The 2018-2019 sports season included: primary, junior varsity, and varsity boys basketball; junior varsity and varsity girls volleyball; varsity boys volleyball; junior varsity and varsity girls soccer; junior varsity and varsity boys soccer; varsity girls football; varsity boys flag football; and primary, junior varsity, and varsity cross country.

All students that participated in a sport receive a medal. In addition, coaches also awards trophies to students that showed good spirit on and off the field, most improved player, and most valuable player.

The sports assembly is a great way to look back at all the accomplishments students have made on the field. Student athletes work hard to improve their skills and complete as a team.

Art Show

by: Sebastian Loughlin

Students at St. Agnes work all year on amazing art projects that are worthy of any art gallery. Once a year the art work of every student is showcased during the art show.

This year the art exhibit took place on May 3, 2019, during Grandparents Day. This gave many more family members the opportunity to visit the art show.



Mrs. Escobar, the art teacher, organized and guided students from PreK-3 thru 8th grade to produce wonderful works of art that put the creativity of St. Agnes students on display. One example is the recreation of Michelangelo's *The Creation of Adam* by Juliana Echeverri, Sebastian Loughlin, and Gustavo Ortiz-Pensol.

Once again, the art show surpassed expectations and made the students shine!



A Cross on A Forehead

Continued from Page #1

Lent when Catholics make a sacrifice, pray a Lenten daily devotional, fast, and abstain from luxury until Easter Sunday. It is a way to walk with Christ as He gave Himself for our salvation. The season of Lent lasts for 40 days in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert.

Students of the academy take a moment to reflect and thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon them. In addition, it is a season to help out others and truly live the mission of J.O.Y., Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last.



GO BEARS!!



Congratulations Class of 2019



Oh the places you will go!

Class of 2019

Isabella Alvarez	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM	Andres Mendoza	Christopher Columbus High School
Julian Alvarez	Belen Jesuit Preparatory School	Sebastian Montoya	Xceed Preparatory Academy
Anya Asher	Immaculata-La Salle High School	Nicolas Nadal	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM
Vicor Camara	Belen Jesuit Preparatory School	Daniela Oliveira	Immaculata-La Salle High School
Roberta Cañedo	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM	Matthew Ortiz	Christopher Columbus High School - MAS
Annia Casanova	Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart	Paulina Perez Villalba	Immaculata-La Salle High School
Simon Cavalieri	Gulliver Preparatory School	Nicolas Perez-Salah	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM
Camilla Cini	Immaculata-La Salle High School	Alec Ramoski	Gulliver Preparatory School
Nikolas Dimitrakis	Christopher Columbus High School	David Rodriguez	Christopher Columbus High School
Franco Garcia-Morillo	Gulliver Preparatory School	Lucas Ruiz	Belen Jesuit Preparatory School
Bautista Golod	Gulliver Preparatory School	Daniela Sannia	Immaculata-La Salle High School
Natalia Heller	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM	Franco Schena	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM
Camila Hidalgo	Immaculata-La Salle High School	Pauline Stanham	Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
Maria Jimenez	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM	Emilia Tarafa	Gulliver Preparatory School
Gavin Koppers	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM	Bautista Tedin	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM
Andrea Licata	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM	Oscar Santiago Trisini	Gulliver Preparatory School
Lily Lundeberg	Gulliver Preparatory School	Tomas Valdivieso	Gulliver Preparatory School
Ivanna Medellin	Appleby Upper School, Canada	Maria Zaragoza	Immaculata-La Salle High School - STREAM