



THE DEFENDER

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND SERVICE
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Marathon Petroleum Engineers Visit SMS

On March 14 and 15, Engineers from Marathon Petroleum Company LP came in to work with our 7th and 8th graders. On the first day, the students were given a presentation explaining kinetic and potential energy, with a review of Newton's laws and the requirements for the activity. On Thursday, each group of four students was given a table, a chair, four 6' foam pipes, and as much duct tape as they needed to make "roller coasters". They had a wooden marble to simulate an empty car, a glass marble as a half-full car and a steel marble as a full car. Students were awarded points on height, loops, turns and creativity. After testing to be sure the "cars" stayed on the track, they performed time trials and calculated velocity.

Hannah Bodie says "It was really fun and we got to express our creativity with roller coasters". Grace Griffith says "We actually got to build something - it was really fun!" Emma Holdgreve says "It was interesting to build these roller coasters and to learn about what makes them go".



In technology this quarter we are working with Google Sites and Google Forms while starting work on a Portfolio for each student in grades 2-8. 'Sites' is essentially a web site, the settings only allow the

finished work to be viewed by someone within our Google domain. The Portfolio is something I have wanted to introduce for several years, Google Sites has made it possible. In the next few weeks have your student show you what they have thus far. The project pulls together many of the technology fundamentals we work on in class each week, the kids have really been enjoying this. We are also working with Google Forms, this is part of our Google account and allows students to establish a web form that will accept questions and comments. We will also be using Google Forms to do some surveys of students at our school. From the data collected we will be creating an assortment of pie charts, bar charts, etc. In technology class we also cover (again and again) how to stay safe while on line and what to do if we encounter any bullying or anything that makes us feel uncomfortable while using the web.

Alumni News

Six SMS alumni were selected for the Belize Outreach Program and will be participating in the annual mission trip this summer. Congratulations and good luck to Olivia Christiansen, Griffin Hohman, Jessi Lafontaine, Mat-



Updates from the Music Room!

Congratulations to the following students who represented SMS at this year's District III OMEA honors festival. Band students: Katie Suermann and Leah Himebaugh. Choir students: Ainsley Schroeder, Alyssa Touhalisky and Ella Welch.

Congratulations to the following students who participated in District III solo and ensemble Contest held at Elida High school on March 25th. All the students represented the school well and we are proud of them! Earning an excellent score of "II" – Katie Suermann piano solo. Earning the highest rating of "I" – Elizabeth Laird saxophone solo, Andrew Schroeder French Horn solo and Alyssa Touhalisky vocal solo.

New from the Band Room this Year!

Did you happen to see the SMS pep band? Students from the bands in grades 6, 7, and 8 volunteered to participate in pep band that performed at several of our middle school basketball games this year. It was such a fun time and we look forward to expanding on this next year! Thanks to all who participated and cheered with us at the games!

Evening of the Arts

The Evening of the Arts will take place on Wednesday, April 26th at 6:00 pm. The SMS Bell Choir, 6th grade band, 7th/8th grade band, 5th/6th chorus and 7th/8th chorus will all perform in our annual concert. The concert will be followed by the art show featuring work from all SMS students. We hope you will join us for this very special evening!

Fun Times with Miss Fox

- ◇ Several 8th graders gave up their Friday recess time during Lent and joined Miss Fox for Adoration in the Eucharistic Chapel. We found this to not only give us all much needed peace, but as a way to grow closer to Christ.
- ◇ After studying the beginning of monasticism in Church History, students in Religion 8A made up their own monasteries. Each student was made an Abbott and came up with not only a creative name, but also a 24 hour schedule for the monks to follow, along with rules, a motto, and who they would try to recruit. They had some very interesting ideas for sure.
- ◇ Excel 7 students celebrated with an Ides of March party on March 15th, after completing a study of William Shakespeare. Not only was food served, but students each were given a laurel wreath to wear handmade by Nora Conrad., Shakespeare trivia, along with "Pin (tape) the laurel on Julius Caesar" were played. Fun was had by all!
- ◇ Students in English 8 learned to write Irish Blessings on St. Patrick's Day. Each student then wrote an original, and many were powerful to read. It is now our intent to share our blessings with others, especially those for whom we have been praying.