



MAY 2018

# THE EAGLE

EAST CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2001 ARDMORE BLVD. PGH. PA 15221  
IS A CONSORTIUM OF 6 PARISHES WHICH INCLUDES GOOD SHEPHERD, MADONNA DEL CASTELLO, ST. COLMAN,  
ST. JOHN FISHER, ST. MAURICE AND WORD OF GOD  
412-351-5403



## Our Mission

The Mission of East Catholic School is to develop God's children from Pre-K through 8th grade both academically and spiritually.

### OUR BELIEFS

We believe that we:

- \*Educate for future success
- \*Expand learning experiences beyond the textbooks.
- \*Nurture leadership
- \*Cultivate positive partnerships
- \*Build moral character
- \*Promote social responsibility based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church
- \*Serve others

It's hard to believe that this is the last edition for the 2017-2018 School Year. The weather has been so cold and wet for so long that it doesn't seem like May.

You will notice that this issue is devoted mainly to the ways in which the teachers at East Catholic have been using STEM. In so many ways they have integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math in to many of their curriculums. The important thing is to make the integration meaningful. There is not enough room in this newsletter to tell you how each and every teacher integrates these subjects, but they do.

At the end of May the students in grades K-4 will participate in a Science Olympiad at school. They will be in teams across grade levels and travel from room to room to perform different experiments, often making predictions before hand. It is a fun way for the students to learn.

Since this is the final edition for the year I would like to thank all of you for your support this year. You have helped support us financially and with your prayers. Please know that you are also in our prayers. If you have been ill this year we have prayed for you when we pray for all those who are ill. If you or a family member is a shut-in cards were sent from the students. So you are always in our thoughts.

Have a wonderful summer.  
Sister Judith Stojhovic, RSM

## Technology in the School and Computer Classroom

This year East Catholic is happy to announce that we have introduced students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with Chrome books that have been used in various classes. Grades 5 through 8 have been utilizing Google accounts which allow the use of the Google Suite to complete assignments virtually. These students have engaged in using their Google accounts to allow for more cooperative learning in the classroom.

Students in Mrs. North's classes, grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade ,continue to further understand their knowledge of using computers as a learning tool. In various grade levels, students are learning to code, type, create slide presentations, present their presentations to their class, evaluate presentations, use publisher to create brochures and continue to learn about cyber bullying and the importance of staying safe in the online community.

The teachers and students have been working hard and adjusting well to the new technology that has been introduced this year.



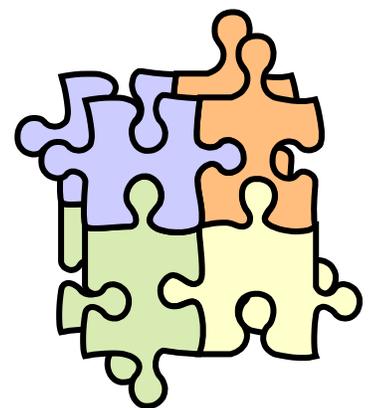
## **WE ASKED OUR TEACHERS HOW "STEM" IS USED IN THE CLASSROOM.....**

### **EAST CATHOLIC AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH "STEM" PROJECT**

Mr. Lamanti, our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher, welcomed back The Pitt Mobile Science Lab to East Catholic on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science classes were part of a STEM activity here at East Catholic School titled, "Healthy Living" where the students discovered the effects of exercise on organ systems and were given pedometers and were taught how to convert steps to calories burned. The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science classes were part of a STEM activity here at East Catholic School titled, "Moving Molecules" where the students discovered the body systems that exhibit diffusion and osmosis by:

- \*Observing the movement of molecules in real time.
- \*Testing the selectiveness of membranes for movement of various molecules.

Mr. Lamanti along with all of the teachers here at East Catholic integrate STEM activities in their lessons and the Pitt Mobile Science Lab does an excellent job in helping our students get an out-of-class experience on our campus for developing original science experiments designed to encourage students who want to pursue careers in science. Our students are very blessed to get an opportunity to extend their science process skills by learning to define and test hypotheses, graph and then analyze results by participating in hands-on, real world, laboratory investigations. The CTSI-Pitt Science Outreach program enjoys working with Mr. Lamanti and East Catholic several times a year on many programs that use state of the art laboratory investigations enhancing our Science curriculum and providing many opportunities for our student body.



### **EAST CATHOLIC AND CENTRAL CATHOLIC "STEM" COLLABORATION**

Our Science teacher, Mr. Lamanti and Adam Kronebusch, the Mathematics and Engineering Department Chair at Central Catholic High School have formed a collaboration for looking to expand the ways in which we can integrate more STEM activities into the curriculum. To accomplish this goal, our 8th graders were to be part of a hands-on STEM lesson which focused on robotics and circuits. Unfortunately, the day was snowed out and has not yet been rescheduled. Students will be able to program a robot to navigate a maze and shoot a target, to gain an understanding of the connection between programming and the robot's actions, understand the basic concepts of a circuit, and create their own basic circuit, both in a series as well as in parallel. East Catholic will continue this collaboration with Central Catholic High School to make this a yearly event.

### **3RD GRADE "STEM" FIELD TRIP**

Miss Breikreutz and the third grade will participate in an exciting STEM field trip at Fun Slides Carpet Skate Park. They will participate in fun activities and experiments, and then put what they learned to use while carpet skating! They will learn about friction, acceleration, unbalanced force, and more!



## SCIENCE STUDENTS ADVANCE TO PENN STATE FOR PJAS

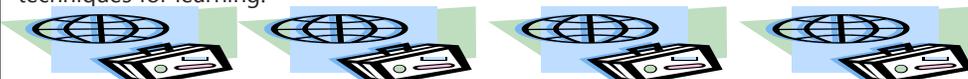
We would like to wish the best of luck to Mr. Lamanti and two of our students who will be participating in the Eighty-Fourth Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Fair which will be held on the campus of Penn State on May 20-22, 2018. Our Science teacher will be a judge in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Botany Division and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Benjamin Gaunt will present his Scientific research investigation, "The "V": An Integral Part of a Goose's Life" in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Biology Division. 8<sup>th</sup> grader Tomas Nelson will present his Scientific research investigation, "GMO: Better than Your Average Seed?" in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Botany Division. The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science is an organization that creates a statewide affiliation of interested science professionals and students. The goals are to promote greater participation in science activities among the youth of Pennsylvania, provide opportunities for the development of students as thinking people, and to improve the quality of achievement in the sciences by encouraging students to participate in scientific research and develop original ideas. This association can foster an understanding of the scientific community through close association with leaders in the scientific disciplines. It is an excellent way to develop the scientific attitudes and humanistic ideals. Each year Mr. Lamanti encourages 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in this higher level scientific venue which will perhaps build a strong foundation for the next level in STEM .

## 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STEM AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Throughout the year, Mrs. Zannikos's language arts and social studies classes have been learning about literature, grammar, and United States history. Math, science, and technology have also regularly been intertwined within the lesson plans, showing that certain subjects aren't just for certain classrooms.

We have been utilizing technology in many of our language arts lessons this year. Websites and video clips have been shown on our classroom SMART Board, and the school Chromebooks have been regularly utilized for many group projects and research activities. From Google Slides to sharing documents on Google Docs, the students have been able to explore many language arts topics to a higher degree, plus regularly practice their writing skills on our Criterion writing system as well as review books on Accelerated Reader to help drive future instruction. Our social studies classes also have used Chromebooks for research purposes and group projects. Google Slides and Google Docs have made presentations much easier and more effective for the middle school learners. Connections between science and math are made during social studies lessons, especially when we are discussing world geography and map skills.

The use of technology in the classroom is extremely appealing to students, so as I continue to learn through trainings, my classroom will continue to be exposed to different and new techniques for learning.



## LANGUAGE ARTS AND STEM

The use of technology has become a necessity in Mrs. Ward's 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes. Writing assignments are often completed on Criterion, an online writing program that helps the students correct their spelling and grammar mistakes before submitting their final assignment to Mrs. Ward. Google docs and Google slides make sharing information easy when the students are working in groups on specific projects. Students are tested on reading comprehension and vocabulary using the Accelerated Reading Program after completing a novel in class or for a book report. The addition of Google Classroom allows students to combine the use of the other Google programs on an assignment posted on this site. Most of these programs are accessible from home, as well as school, to allow students to continue working on them to meet deadlines. The students enjoy using the Chrome Books and have become very familiar with the programs. As teachers continue to be trained on technology programs, these worthwhile programs and materials are added to the curriculum to enhance the education of the students in school.

## PRESCHOOL

Happy Spring Everyone!

We have had so much fun this year in our Preschool Classroom! We got to explore the world around us and participate in different exciting adventures. Each week we have activities with our Letter Friends, numbers, colors, shapes, and holidays.

In September, we had our first visitation day where I got to meet my Preschool Kiddos and their welcoming and caring families. We started the school year by exploring the classroom, learning, classroom rules, and participating in many "Back to School Crafts".

In October, we visited, "Schramm's Farms and Orchards." It was a wonderful time as we learned about pumpkins, went on a hay ride, drank apple cider, and played with our friends.

In November, for Pajama Day, we ate popcorn and watched a movie! We celebrated Thanksgiving by giving thanks and learning about Pilgrims, Indians, and the Mayflower boat.

In December, we celebrated the birth of Jesus by attending the Living Nativity, as quiet listeners in church with the older students of East Catholic. Santa visited and brought everyone a puzzle.

In January, we attended Mrs. Lipchick's, "Preschool Storytime." We enjoyed listening to stories, participating in crafts, and interacting with other children from the community.

In February, we celebrated "Valentine's Day" with stories, games, crafts, and treats. We made "Valentine Bags" and passed Valentines to our friends!

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss Birthday and "St. Patrick's Day!" by enjoying stories, games, and making crafts. At the end of the month, we celebrated Easter. We learned that Jesus died for us, so we read stories and asked questions about, "The Easter Story" before attending, "The Living Stations" in church.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day. We talked about how we can take care of the world around us.

We planted our flowers and took time every day to water them and watch them grow! In May, we will visit the Pittsburgh Zoo to learn about all the different animals.

We will end our school year with our, "Moving On Program" to show our families and friends all that we have learned this year!

## 4TH GRADE

We have been so busy in fourth grade! Aside from doing the basics, reading, writing, and arithmetic, we have been learning how to write a research paper. For weeks we looked up interesting information on our particular animal and wrote facts about them. We also learned how to put all of that information together and write paragraphs in our own words telling about our animals. We also collected materials to build a 3-D model! Our projects were displayed during the week of April 30. We are also excited to have entered a poetry contest. Our whole class had our creative juices flowing when we scripted all types of different poetry! We have written everything from haiku, to acrostics, to freestyle. Hopefully, we will win some nice prizes! Even if we don't, we had fun.



## KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. McDaniel's kindergarten students showed their love of Jesus and others by hosting their own "Mini-M.S. Walk" at school on April 13th. One of the children's dad has MS and after learning about this condition, how it affects a person's body, through a story and discussion provided by his mom we decided to help. The children walked, in different ways in our school gym, for about 15-20 minutes. Most of the families and some teachers from East Catholic made donations to the MS foundation. After walking, the children enjoyed a sweet treat and were very proud of themselves. Thanks to everyone's donations, we raised \$294 towards this family's goal. How wonderful!

In recent Science classes the children have made rain clouds, completed a STEM lesson on spinning eggs, learned about eggs (parts, purpose), buoyancy, parts of a plant, tested sunflower seeds (with & without a shell) for buoyancy and grew rainbow crystals.

The children will be visiting "The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. They are most excited to see the Mo Willems exhibit. We have read some of his Pigeon and Elephant-Piggy books this year. The children have also learned how to draw these characters. We always laugh when reading his books.

