



DECEMBER 10, 2017

“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



FROM THE DESK OF SR. JUDITH STOJHOVIC

Advent is a time of preparation—preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. But often we spend so much time preparing our homes that we forget about Jesus. To prepare our hearts for Jesus we need to empty it of any anger, resentment or negative thoughts. So during this Advent season let us try to be positive in all things—make it a point to say something nice to one person every day. Then we will be ready to welcome Jesus in to our hearts at Christmas.

During the 2016-17 school year, the faculty of East Catholic were busy doing a self-evaluation of the school, including the curriculum. In the spring of 2017 a team of educators from various parts of Pennsylvania spent 2 1/2 days at the school visiting classrooms, meeting with the Pastors, faculty, staff, parents and students. They were evaluating our program.

At the October, 2017 meeting the Commission on Elementary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools voted to award accreditation to East Catholic School for a period of seven years, until December 1, 2024.

We are very happy that the evaluators and the Commission on Elementary Schools recognized that East Catholic is a school that helps the students grow into mature adults both academically and spiritually.

VETERAN’S DAY

Each year, East Catholic School honors our local veterans with a mass and a light reception. This year’s mass on November 10 was a wonderful tribute to the men and women who gave so freely of their time and sacrificed so much in order to give us the lives we have. During the mass, the veterans sat together in one section of the church. The children sang to them and about them with beautiful songs such as, “Thank a Vet”. Each year, one of the band students of East Catholic plays “Taps” to honor those veterans who sacrificed their lives to make our country a better place to live. After mass, the veterans were invited into the school’s cafeteria for some conversation and breakfast goodies. Needless to say, each year this celebration is extremely heartwarming. The veterans are so thankful, and East Catholic School feels that this is a very small way to show our gratitude for all they have done for us!

SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS!

Mark your calendars for the following Music Programs that will be performed by the East Catholic School Music Classes under the direction of Ms. Mary Beth Koontz.

Thursday, December 7, 2017 (Gr. K-3) will be performing at Barnes & Noble in the Waterfront Complex. Tuesday, December 12, 2017 (Gr. 4 & 5) Christmas Musical “Santa You’ve Got Mail”— Keane Hall at 7 P.M.

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 (Gr. 6-8) will perform the “Living Nativity” in St. Maurice Church at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

We hope everyone will be able to attend these events to support our students and school while celebrating the Christmas season!

" MIXED UP LUNCH " A PART OF THE WIPE OUT BULLYING PROGRAM

Students from preschool through 8th grade "Mixed It Up At Lunch" as part of the Wipe Out Bullying program kick off on October 19th. The students joined more than 2 million others across the country in this event, which was designed to foster respect and understanding in schools. The theme for our anti-bullying day was "I Inspire Others by..." During lunch the students wrote a sentence or phrase on poster board stating how they could inspire others and used that theme as one of the discussion starters at the tables during lunchtime.

Lunch times varied from the norm on this day. There were only two lunch periods, each extended to 50 minutes long. Students in preschool, K, 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 8th grades ate during the first lunch period from 11:00-11:50. Students in 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades ate from 11:55 until 12:35.

"Mixing It Up" encouraged students to sit with someone new in the cafeteria for just one day. How did we "Mix It Up"? Each student received a life saver. Large table signs indicated at which table students were to sit based on the color of their lifesaver. For example: A kindergarten student with a red lifesaver sat with a 4th grader who also had a red lifesaver.

Our first "Mix It Up Lunch" was very successful. The students really seemed to enjoy sitting with children from the other classes. Mixing it up allowed the students to realize we are all more alike than different!

Several 4th graders already asked "When can we do this again?"



SERVICE CLUB

Students at East Catholic School learn to value others and to serve them. Whether through opportunities for service in the community, or service to their fellow students each day, our students strive to live the Gospel, to be Christ for others, building His kingdom on earth through serving one another.

Pope Francis explained this in one of His talks to a group of children saying, "What does being magnanimous mean? It means having a great heart, having greatness of mind; it means having great ideals, the wish to do great things to respond to what God asks of us. Hence also, for this very reason, to do well the routine things of every day and all our daily actions, meetings with people, doing the little everyday things with a great heart open to God and to others."

This is what the East Catholic School Service Club seeks to instill in students, a greatness of heart and mind expressed in service. Each month from September through May students and parents meet after school and do a project for the community.

The projects the Service Club will support this school year are:

- *September : Foster Love Project Bag Drive *October: Father Daniel's Catholic School in Ghana
- *November/December: Veterans Place and Military Connection *January: Ronald McDonald House – Busy Bag Ktis
- *February: Beverly's Birthdays *March: Little Sisters of the Poor
- *April / May : Father Daniel's Catholic School in Ghana and Group Foster Care

East Catholic School Annual Gala Saturday, March 3, 2018 Doubletree by Hilton in Monroeville

This event benefits East Catholic School and is a fun-filled evening including: hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing, live auction and so much more! The Gala committee is seeking donations. We are in need of time shares, weekend getaways, jewelry, spa items, restaurant gift cards, vases, sports items, sports tickets, theater/ show tickets, bottles of wine, or gift cards. Any unopened donation. All donation is welcome whether big or small.

The Gala is being co-chaired by the dedicated Faculty of East Catholic School. **Volunteers are needed!**

To volunteer or be part of the Gala Committee, contact:

Jackie Fazio fazioteacher@gmail.com

Teresa Thompson teresathompson4@gmail.com

Terry Ward tgtbward@gmail.com

Beth Zannikos bkelly412@hotmail.com

SCIENCE NEWS

East Catholic School integrates STEM into the Science curriculum very effectively. Our Science teacher, Mr. Lamanti, is also on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the SEPA program at the University of Pittsburgh. The overall goal of the SEPA program is to foster scientific innovation in the STEM education of “biomedical scientists of the future” through an integrated program that couples learning strategies outlined to facilitate teachers developing Innovator’s Challenges for Biomedical Science. Since 2014, Mr. Lamanti has been promoting STEM learning, and East Catholic has the mission of educating for future success by expanding learning experiences beyond the book. The students of East Catholic School often are exposed to STEM education. Mr. Lamanti has worked closely with the University of Pittsburgh’s Outreach program for many years and has seen an impact on engaging students in scientific exploration and fostering public comfort with the process of scientific research. Mr. Lamanti has been delighted to host a number of lectures by students from the University of Pittsburgh program, “Speaking of Science”, which consists of lessons on the Brain, Vision, plus Exercise and the Heart. Also, the Pitt Science Mobile Lab visits numerous times during the school year providing a great opportunity for our students to receive hands-on research experiences. The equipment on the Mobile Lab is state-of-the-art, and we are very fortunate that our students have access to it, the program, and the highly qualified teachers. The SEPA program is a very useful tool that Mr. Lamanti uses to enrich his students’ science education.

East Catholic 8th Graders along with their teachers Mr. Lamanti, Ms. Koontz and Mrs. Zitelli, were a part of a special kind of field trip on November 8th to the Carnegie Science Center. “SciTech Day” featured the growth areas of Pittsburgh: biotech & health, nanotechnology & advanced materials/processes, information technology & robotics, and eco tech (think environment & energy). It also connected leading scientists and technologists in a fun, dynamic atmosphere. Mr. Lamanti strongly feels that this opportunity is another way to integrate **STEM** into the Science Curriculum here at East Catholic School.

STEM is an acronym that stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**. **STEM** is an approach to education that expands current teaching models for science and mathematics by incorporating technology and engineering concepts into standardized instruction. **STEM** programs are intended to transform a typical classroom into one that is driven by problem solving, discovery and investigative learning. The demand for professions that require **STEM** skills continues to grow, and America needs a world-class **STEM** workforce to address the challenges of the 21st century. **STEM** literacy is imperative for today’s students to become strong, innovative workforces of tomorrow. The students were given a passport booklet to collect as many stamps as they could (10-12), visiting the many corporate and higher education exhibit booths. Sections will be provided for each of the growth industries of Pittsburgh that are the focus of High School and Middle School Programs. A tear sheet had the checklist to tabulate the completed tasks and validate the completion of the passport which was collected by Mr. Lamanti and assessed for LAB credit in class. **Thanks to the East Catholic PTG for covering the expenses for the day as well as the bus transportation.**

The 50 eighth graders were separated into their homeroom groups and placed in three different **STEM** workshops.

Bioengineering Workshop / What is Bioengineering?

Bioengineering is a highly collaborative field where bioengineers work with molecular biologists, neuroscientists, pathologists, clinicians, and physical therapists. Think regenerative medicine, smart arms (robotic prosthetic limbs), smart homes (designed to support individuals), and so much more! This workshop touched on six tracks in bioengineering: Tissue engineering; biomechanics; bio signals and imaging; molecular, cell, and systems engineering; neural engineering; and medical product engineering. In this workshop, students participated in hands-on activities that supplement fundamental knowledge that bioengineers use to evaluate, design, and implement artificial tissue for clinical problems. The program also included time for the students to meet PhD students who described their career paths and shared experiences.

App Design Workshop

The students got a dose of what goes into writing a mobile app. They discovered how much Math programming and imagination goes into creating an app for everyday use. They learned some of the coding, and then wrote and edited a simple app. The Science and Technology topics included information technology, coding, math, and careers.

Neuroscience, Physics, and Your Brain - You Decide Workshop 2.0 Navigate the spectrum of the mind!

How do we learn about the brain? What have we learned? Discover current brain mapping basics. Explore: How have savants and injuries helped us learn about the brain? Think about the future: What kinds of images are okay to be public knowledge about your brain? Does that answer differ if the images are used for a trial, your permanent record, or an employer? Students studied physics and the brain by learning what the (f) MRI sees. The students also learned about the various careers that relate to this topic. ‘You decide’ workshops provided the opportunity for students to put into practice what they’ve learned during SciTech workshops. Reflecting on the workshop topic, students were asked to think about a particular issue, set priorities, make a choice, and choose an action. They were given opportunities to process the content both as individuals and as teams. By integrating the experience with content material, the impact and relevance of this experience was magnified. The Science and Technology topics included: anatomy, physics, new technologies, neuroscience, careers, and project-based learning.

Art



K-Looked at some of Vincent Van Gogh' paintings especially "Starry Night " and "Sunflowers". They used colored construction paper and crayons to make their own sunflowers. They drew trees with branches and Q-tip painted Fall leaves.

First graders were busy collecting leaves so they could do crayon rubbings using fall colors then they painted over them with watercolors to show how the wax of the crayons resisted the paint.

They also used a template of a simple animal to create their own creative colorful designs to make Colorful Critters . Now they are working on a Name Design on folded colored construction paper using construction paper crayons.

Second graders learned the Y method of tree drawing. They participated in a poster contest – " What My Family Means To Me".

Now they are learning about simple weaving by measuring & cutting a paper loom with its own warp. Then they measured & cut another color of paper to weave through the warp in a tabby pattern.

Third graders learned how to make a design using a variety of different kinds of lines. Then they traced their own hand on construction paper and embellished them with their own designs. They participated in a poster contest – "What Heroes Do" . They are getting ready to learn about "bark cloth" and will create their own.

Fourth graders learned how to draw faces & features more realistically ; participated in the poster contest- "What Heroes Do". Now they are preparing to do a Winter Night watercolor, learning how to use a variety of techniques.

Fifth graders made a very complex color wheel illustrating the relationships of primary, secondary and tertiary colors and their hues, tints, and shades. They watched a video on the SmartBoard about the Kuna people on San Blas islands of Panama, showing their special art of creating and sewing colorful designs for clothes and other items. Then they learned a simplified method to create a Paper Mola of a favorite animal.

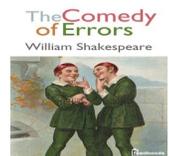
Sixth graders reviewed the complex relationships of primary, secondary and tertiary colors and their hues, tints, and shades.

They studied the Abstract Geometric paintings of Frank Stella and created their own. They are now working on "Relief Shoes" which they started on cardboard with a drawing of their shoe. Now they are gluing cotton cord to the lines of the shoe. They will cover the drawing with aluminum foil and then color in with permanent neon colored markers.

Seventh graders started with "Zentangles Extended" by drawing a Zentangle type of design on a small square sheet of paper, traced it onto a small square of metal & glued it near the center of the cardstock. They extended the lines & designs out to the edges of the cardstock to create stunning vibrant designs. Now they are challenging themselves to draw and shade two views of their hand & enjoying their progress.

Eighth grade learned about how Andy Warhol used the element of color to draw attention to the plight of animals who are in danger of becoming extinct. They viewed a slide show of his "Endangered Species Series". They traced/drew animals they studied from the website www.arkive.org. They used media & colors of their choice. They are now working to refine skills in drawing the human face.

SHAKESPEARE



East Catholic participants in the Shakespeare Monologue and scene contest. :

On Monday, February 12, 2018 at 11:30am. seven students will perform and compete on the stage in the O'Riely Theater.

Grade 8 students Gia Scaglione as Helena and Juliana Stellitano as Hermia will perform a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Sofia Porco as Mistress Ford and Kat Sammons as Mistress Page will perform a scene from The Merry Wives of Windsor.

Grade 6 students Alannah Enfield, Francesco Porco, and Robert Steiner will perform as the three witches from Macbeth. These students began rehearsing with Mrs. Zitelli after school in November and will continue to rehearse at least once a week until the scheduled day of performance.

Annual Shakespearean Play: The Comedy of Errors will be presented on Friday, April 27, 2018 and Saturday, April 28, 2018 in Keane Hall. In this early comedy a mighty rock splits a ship in half , separating a family and two sets of twins. All are rescued, but many years pass before the family is reunited. Mistaken identity causes numerous errors and a delightful comedy.

Students in grades 6 through 8 who have maintained a C average or better are invited to attend the reading sessions that will begin in January. After reading and tryouts, the play should be cast in early February. A schedule of rehearsal times will be distributed to the participating students.