
ST. CHRIS GUARDIAN

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Scoring at the Science Fair

By Lauren Kennedy

Once again, all the 7th and 8th grade boys and girls of St. Christopher's School made projects for the Annual Science Fair held on March 20, 2007. Although it was Mr. LaRocca's first year organizing the event, it was an astounding success. It was an almost impossible challenge for Mr. LaRocca to choose the twenty-six finalists to be judged for awards. All six judges were chosen by Mr. LaRocca and included faculty from St. Christopher's School, teachers from other schools and even a college student! Over 100 people, including participants and their families were on hand for the event. The projects were incredible. From Vitamin C to Arsenic, and Oxidation to El Nino', everyone did an awesome job. All twenty-six finalists will receive a certificate of merit. The winners received medals and went on to display their projects at Chaminade's Annual Science Fair on Saturday, March 24, 2007.

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Above top: Anthony Zangrillo, Veronica Alvarado, Thomas Callaghan

Above bottom: Ashley Perez and Bhumika Salwan



Above: Kindergarteners share their teddy bears!

15 Minutes of Fame at Age 5

Newsday visits Kindergarten

By Caroline Brown

CB: Mrs. O'Heir, when did you and your class appear in Newsday?

Mrs. O'H: We appeared in Newsday on March 20 on the Future Corps page. Future Corps presents school projects that benefit the community.

CB: What was your project?

Mrs. O'H: Our class collected 100 stuffed animals to donate to the INN in Freeport. We wanted to give them to the children on Valentine's Day.

CB: How did Newsday get involved?

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Bulldogs vs. Lightning

Olympics

By Anthony Zangrillo

On Friday, March 23, the seventh and eighth grade boys of St. Christopher's school participated in a series of sporting events known as Ogympics. This event *continued on page 3*

The winners at St. Christopher's School are:

8th Grade

- First Place Anthony Zangrillo
- Second Place Veronica Alvarado
- Third Place Nicole Trepeta
- Honorable Mention Jean-Luc Salam

7th Grade

- First Place Bhumika Salwan
- Second Place Thomas Callaghan
- Third Place Ashley Perez
- Honorable Mention Stephanie Girards

The projects were judged on their merit, research, creativity and presentation. Students and their families worked on their projects for two months researching, gathering and studying data, making conclusions and preparing their presentations. Enormous effort went into these projects and it was very evident in their quality. Mrs. Lederer and Mr. LaRocca are very proud of all the participants and hope that future Science Fairs at St. Christopher's School are as successful as this one! †



Above: Mr. LaRocca, Anthony Zangrillo, Jean-Luc Salam, Veronica Alvarado, Ashley Perez, Stephanie Girards, Nicole Trepeta, Thomas Callaghan, Mrs. Lederer

St. Joseph's Day

By GinaMarie DiLeo

Saint Joseph's Day is March 19; on May 1, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph the worker. On these days, we honor Jesus Christ's father, the husband of Blessed Virgin Mary. As Joseph was a carpenter, he is also the patron saint of workers. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Joseph the patron of the Universal Church, and promoted

Mrs. O'H: Our class mother, Mrs. Pugliese, contacted Newsday and told them what we were doing. Newsday was interested in interviewing the children and finding out more about the project.

CB: How long did it take you to collect the stuffed animals?

Mrs. O'H: We collected them over three weeks. The students were very generous.

CB: What did you do after you collected the stuffed animals?

Mrs. O'H: We painted two huge boxes to hold the animals. We composed a class poem and included it in the boxes. Then we sorted all the animals and made an animal graph. Afterwards, we groomed them, hugged them each goodbye, and each child attached a tag to their favorite animal. The tag contained the animal's name, something special about the animal, and a request to give it lots of hugs.

CB: Whom did you give the animals to?

Mrs. O'H: The families who came to eat at the INN for Valentine's Day were each given a stuffed animal.

CB: Would you do this project again?

Mrs. O'H: Yes, we would like to do this again. In fact, someone contacted us about doing this project for Bethany or into another article. †

the "patronage" feast of Saint Joseph on the third Wednesday after Easter. In 1955, Pope Pius XII introduced the feast of Saint Joseph on May 1, intentionally coinciding with the international Labor Day. Saint Joseph is patron of many places and many trades. He is the guardian of the spiritual home of Christians, the Church.

The tradition of St. Joseph's Day began when there was a severe drought in Sicily in the Middle Ages. In desperation, people asked St. Joseph, their patron, to intervene. They promised, if rain came, they would prepare a big feast in his honor. The tradition says these prayers were answered with rainy weather. Today, special foods, linens, flowers, and statuary adorn the St. Joseph's altar, which is

Yo Ho, Yo Ho, A Pirates Life...To See!

By Erin Armellino

“What would you do? What would any of you be willing to do? Would you brave the weird and haunted shores at world’s end to fetch back wicked Jack?” On May 25 the pirate lords from the four corners of the earth must stand together. There has never been a gathering like this before, but they are facing the world’s end. I am sure *Pirates of the Caribbean III* will be a top blockbuster like the first two *Pirates* movies.

As a pirate fanatic, I can honestly say I am very excited for the third addition to *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, *At World’s End*. It is set to come out May 25. For those who have not heard of these action/romance/drama filled flicks, they are full of suspension and adventure. Captain Jack Sparrow is always getting himself in trouble. As for the other main characters, Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann, there is never a dull moment with their dramatic romance.

In *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Captain Barbossa steals the coveted ship, the *Black Pearl*, from Jack Sparrow’s grip. Adding to this drama, he also captures Elizabeth Swann, Will Turner’s love interest. Will and Jack team up to retrieve Elizabeth. Little do they know there is a cursed treasure chest keeping Barbossa’s crew undead. *Pirates I* is a must-see.

In *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest*, Jack has a blood-debt to pay to the legendary Davy Jones. He owes his soul to the ruler of the ocean’s depths. Along the way, Elizabeth and Will be caught in Jack’s dangerous paths. Can they escape this horrible fate? You have to watch the sequel to *Pirates I* to find out!

Not much has been revealed about *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End*, but one thing is for sure, Captain Jack is back! I cannot tell any secrets about the next movie, so you will have to see it yourself. For now, you can watch the preview on television or at pirates.movies.com.

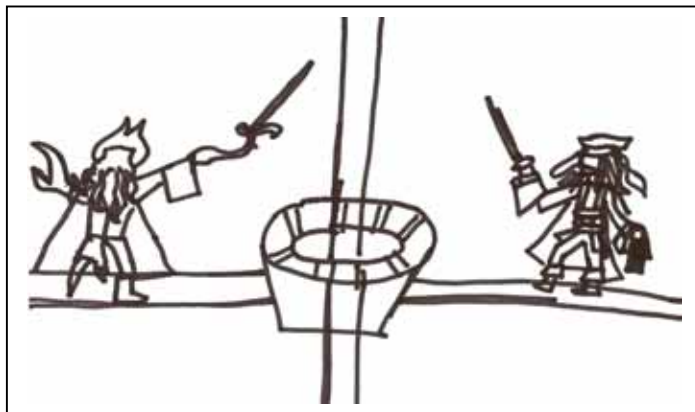
An exclusive pirates fan was nice enough to share her opinion on the movies. Erin Mandato was interviewed.

Predictions for the third pirates movie: Jack will break off the curse that Davy Jones has inflicted upon him. Will Turner will also reunite with his long lost father- Bootstrap Bill Turner. Elizabeth will also break off her engagement to Will Turner and turn to Jack Sparrow.

pitted the Blue Bulldogs against the White Lightning. The Blue Bulldogs’ captains were Fredy Cruz and Jonathan Roger. The White Lightning’s captains were Christian Fisher and Gary Lamb.

The seventh and eighth grade boys were divided into two teams to practice for one month before competing in various events. Each team decorated their side of the gym with posters and designed uniforms for the event.

On Thursday, March 22, many students of the school enjoyed the preview and they cheered on their peers. On the night of Ogympics, the spectators cheered both teams during every event. These events included a basketball game, two European handball games, a lay up contest, a three-point contest, an over and under contest, a scooter hockey game, a hockey shoot out, an Olympic run, a shuttle run, and a free throw contest. Every competitor displayed a Christian attitude through good sportsmanship and respect towards each other. The Blue Bulldogs won the event. Everyone celebrated after at the victory party. Congratulations to every competitor! †



Pirates by K.U.

Favorite character: The very charming Jack Sparrow, followed by Elizabeth Swann.

Favorite movie: I really liked the second one, but I hope the third one is better.

Advice for moviegoers: These movies are treasured in my book, everyone should see them! (The movies are rated PG-13. Parents are cautioned because these adventures are full of exciting and sometimes frightening images.) †



Above: Rachel's Challenge Club members clean up!

Dear Dr. Dianne,

What should students do about spring fever?

-Feeling Feverish

Dear Feeling Feverish,

Everyone is waiting for summer including me. It is great to get fresh air, but it is not so good to have incomplete homework. If I were you, I would do my homework outside. You can enjoy the sunshine and get your homework done. If you cannot resist tossing a Frisbee, why not do some homework, play outside, and then finish up. Before you know it, it will be time to put on a bathing suit and dive into a pool! †

Secrets of the Scientists

By Ashley Perez

Bhumika Salwan's project on arsenic contamination in water. Bhumika shared, "What motivated me was a show that talked about the dangers of arsenic and its presence in water. It made me want to find out if our water is contaminated. When I saw the projects in my category, I was intimidated by one particular project. Other than that, I was very confident in my work because I knew I tried my best." Salwan's efforts paid off when she won third place.

Thomas Callaghan won

second place on his project on how the falling temperature and falling barometric pressure affects his pain level from Arthritis. He said, "Having Arthritis and dealing with it on a day-to-day basis motivated me. I felt very confident in my project because I worked very hard on it."

Ronnie Alvarado was pleasantly surprised to win third place on her project about the ozone layers affecting the lives of Antarctic penguins. She was drawn to this topic by her love of penguins. Ronnie was confident in her project but said, "I noticed the caliber of work" when she saw the projects in her category.

St. Chris Spotlight: Rachel's Challenge Club

By Alex Gillen

"Rachel's Challenge is the greatest thing I've ever done!" exclaimed Nicole Metz.

"I love to help out the school and community," said Courtney Dubin.

"I enjoy being in Rachel's Challenge Club because Rachel did many good things and I would like to follow in her footsteps," said Graceann Giordano.

Since the introduction of Rachel's Challenge, the Rachel's Challenge Club has done many activities. So far, the bake sale took place on March 30 and raised three hundred dollars. We donated half the money to Holy Childhood. We helped clean up the area where the kindergarteners play. We are very proud of our hard work.

"I hope we do a lot more activities! They are lots of fun," said Dani Gehring. †

Vary Your Vocabulary

Word of the month: fusty. This word is synonymous with moldy, stale, rotten. †

Anthony Zangrillo wanted to learn why potatoes rust if you leave them exposed to oxygen. He also wanted to try to prevent it and succeeded. Anthony said, "I was really impressed with the other projects." Anthony won third place for his project on oxidation.

"I absolutely love orange juice!" Ashley Perez chose to do her project on Vitamin C content in fruits and vegetables, and which cooking method causes the most Vitamin C loss. Her aunt Norma also encouraged this topic. "I was a little surprised when I won first place." †

Quotable Corner

By Grace Solazzo

“We grow great by dreams. All big men are dreamers.”

- Thomas Woodrow Wilson

“America is too great for small dreams.”

- Ronald Wilson Reagan

Cooking with Colleen

By Colleen Riordan

For a tasty treat this spring, try this recipe!

What you need:

1 Ritz cracker

white cheddar cheese

1 stuffed green olive, cut into four slices

1 pepperoni slice

Cut cheese slices into flower shapes 1- ½-inch cookie cutter. Reserve scraps for snacking or other use. Top each cracker with 1 pepperoni and 1 cheese flower. Place one olive slice in the center of the flower. †



Night at the Museum

By Courtney Dubin

What happens during the night at the Museum of Natural History? Well, Larry Daley, the new night security guard is surprised to find out in “Night at the Museum,” a movie for children.

When it is dark, everything comes to life. This bone dinosaur named Rexy comes to life and wants to play

fetch. Rexy bumps into many things when chasing around Daley during the night. A monkey steals his keys. A Neanderthal burns down his exhibit. In the middle of the night, you will meet cowboys, Roman gladiators and Mayans. A tablet in the Egypt section makes everything come to life. Three men want to steal the powerful tablet. Daley looks to a wax statue of President Teddy Roosevelt for help. Find this movie in stores to experience a night at the museum yourself. I hope you like it as much as I do! †

build with three steps representing the Holy Trinity. In his honor, the custom is for all to wear red, in the same way that green is worn on St. Patrick’s Day. Generosity marks this day as it did the character of Joseph himself. In many nations, it is a day of sharing with the poor and needy.

Since March 19 falls during Lent, St. Joseph’s Day feasts often do not have meat. St. Joseph tables are placed in both churches and homes. Each table is blessed by a priest and presided over by a statue of St. Joseph. A stalk of lily blossoms, votive candles and a lace tablecloth are typically used to decorate the feast table. The table is created as an offering of thanks for favors asked of St. Joseph, for example, the return of a loved one from war. Special groups such as orphans, the elderly, or the homeless are invited to share in the feast. At the end of St. Joseph’s Day, left over food is sold or given away and any money earned is donated to the poor. In many countries, St. Joseph’s Day is a national holiday.

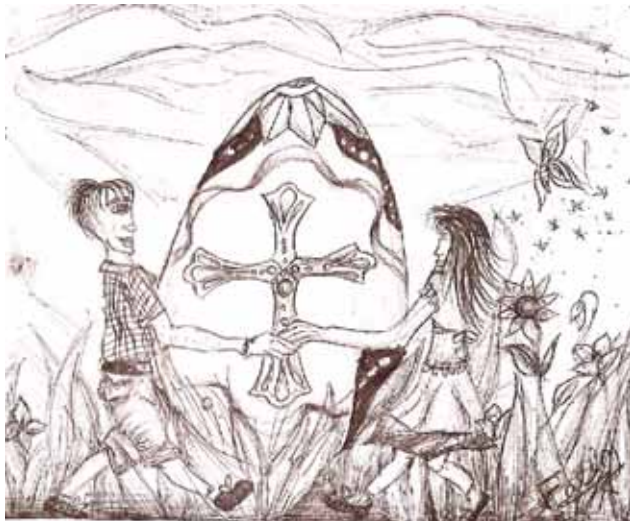
Little is said in the Gospel about Joseph, except that he was a descendant of David and a carpenter by trade. Legends provide additional details about Joseph’s life. He was supposedly a widower of advanced age when he was chosen by God to wed Mary. According to one legend, Mary’s many suitors left their staffs in the temple one night so that God could indicate whom she should marry. The next morning, Joseph’s staff blossomed with white flowers and leaves and sends forth a white dove, indicating that he was the chosen one. This explains why statues of St. Joseph generally show him holding the Christ Child and a stalk of white lilies. †

All About April

By Alex Gillen

How much do you know about April? Here are some pretty interesting facts about this past month. The arrival of the cuckoo is a signal that spring has arrived. The gemstone of the month is the diamond. The flower is the sweet pea.

There are many April sayings like “April showers brings May flowers,” and “When April blows its horn, ‘tis good for hay and corn,” and “Til April’s dead, change not ahead.” Celebrated dates include Daffodil Sunday, April Fool’s Day, Holy Week, Earth Day (April 22) and on April 15 1912, the HMS Titanic struck an iceberg and sank. †



by Fallon Kesicier

Gnarly Notions from the Notorious DJ

By DJ Massa

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis is the longest word in the English language according to the Oxford English dictionary. Have you ever heard it before? It is a supposed lung disease. There is a longer term using 1,909 letters, but the Oxford English dictionary says this “cannot be a word in the sense of an item of English vocabulary.”

It is the formula C1289H2051N343O375S. A Tryphtan synthetase; a protein, an enzyme that has 267 amino acids.

Spring has Sprung

By Graceann Giordano

“Spring has come and that means beautiful flowers blossom and summer is soon to begin,” said sixth grader Alex Gillen.

“The first hot day I knew it was spring the flowers started growing and leaves were starting to bloom in trees,” said eleven-year-old Nicole Metz.

This spring the world’s largest chocolate Easter bunny entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 2000 weighing in at 341 pounds

“Spring is here which means our class trip is coming soon and it’s probably going to be on a nice warm day,” said Catharine Herrmann in class 6-2.

I guess a lot of kids are excited about spring because it has finally sprung.

The world’s largest chocolate Easter bunny entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 2000 weighing in at 341 pounds with a 2.5-foot head and 2.1 foot ears. That is one big bunny! During March and April, six hundred million eggs were sold in stores across the United States, many for decorating.

Spring has officially started on March 21. You can tell by the spring weather. Sixth through eighth grades are going outside during recess again.

Flowers bloom and Easter is on its way. Lent is the season that lasts for forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter. We begin to think about what we will give up for Jesus because he sacrificed so much for us.

The sheer exuberance of spring-flowering bulbs is a delight to our winter-weary, color starved eyes. Colorful tulips and pretty pansies are a great change. You should start planting now and see what beautiful wonders spring can bring. †

Builders have been working on a project to build “Palm Islands,” artificial islands that will hold resorts. There currently are three islands. They are in Africa.

One building on a Palm island is called The World Trade Center. Former President Ulysses S. Grant was born Friday, April 27, 1822. Happy 185th birthday Mr. Grant! †

Sport Report

By Aaron Johnson

Hello, this is reporter Aaron Johnson on the kickball field for the boys and girls teams. On the boy's side, Andrew Sayage makes the first point for 6-1 boys followed by Jaclyn Gomez who is playing for 6-1 boys. She also scores a homerun.

During the girls' game, Brianna and Cody's team face off. Brianna's team is winning 4-2. Someone kicks the ball and bounces over the gate. After getting the ball, the bell rings and the game is over. Final score: Brianna's team 4, Cody's 2. †

Guess Who?

Get to Know Your Teachers

By Jaclyn Gomez

I went skydiving four years ago. My favorite color is light blue; it brings out my eyes. Look at page 8 for the answer! †



Boys Basketball Tournament

By Brittany Bentsen

March Madness for St. Christopher's boys took place on March 10, 11th, 17th, and 18th. At the tournament, boys in grades four through eight played to win a championship. There were concession stands and a 50-50 raffle to raise money for Boys CYO and eighth grade graduation. This tournament was the most successful one to date; just by concession stands, the eighth grade graduation raised almost two thousand dollars.

The fourth grade championship game was Merrick vs. Wantagh. Wantagh won and both teams put in a tremendous effort. The fifth grade B team was St. Chris vs. St. Anne. The game was very exciting; St. Chris came back and took the win! For the fifth grade C team championship, even though it was not a St. Christopher's team, the game was amazing. This game was St. Joe's vs. St. Aiden. The sixth grade B team championship was OLP vs. St. Rose and St. Rose took the win. The C team of the sixth grade was St. Martin vs. St. Raymond and St. Martin won. For both sixth grade teams, St. Chris was not in the championship but in all

A Bit on Baseball

By Kevin Torres



Kevin interviews eighth grade baseball player, Fredy Cruz. Fredy, a shortsop and pitcher. Cruz divulges, "Shortstop is my favorite." He also shared that the season is going very well. The team's record is 2 and 1. Fredy cheers on all of his teammates. Cruz said, "We have good chemistry. The best part of playing is being part of the team." Good luck St. Chris! †

The Scoop on St. Chris Softball

By Nicole Metz

I interviewed Lauren Trepeta about the St. Christopher's softball team. She reported that everyone gets along so well and the team seems very talented. Trepeta shared that the last game ended in an extra inning, very exciting. The team lost by one point, but St. Christopher's girls put up a good fight. Trepeta was happy to reflect on St. Christopher's first softball game. "Our first game versus Long Beach Catholic we won seventeen to zero." This will make any spectator say wow. Trepeta shares that softball is fun because "you get to hang out with your friends and even if you lose you know that everyone had fun." †

that is what really matters. In the seventh grade A team, St. Chris won. Spectators made their opinion heard, these seventh graders brought their A game. The seventh grade C team championship was OLP vs. Cure of Ars and OLP won the game. The eighth grade B team St. Chris vs. St. Joe (GC) was a great game; St. Chris won by working together as a team. Finally, the eighth grade C championship St. Chris vs. OLP, OLP won, but St. Chris had the lead for part of the game and they really tried their best.

During these tournaments, so many people came to have fun and watch the boys play and raise money for our eighth grade graduation and CYO boys. This year's tournament was a great success. All the basketball teams did a fabulous job and kept the crowd entertained with so many close games and overtimes. Not to mention all of the dancing going on during time outs, which was a wonderful crowd boost. Thank you to all the people involved in making this event a hit! †



Notebook Doodles by Cam Kelly

Baseball: Questions for the Coach

By Danielle Gehring

I got a chance to talk to Coach Gehring, the baseball coach (I call him Dad), and ask him a couple of questions.

DG: How is the baseball team doing?

Coach G: So far the team has two wins, and one loss. The only loss was to our archrival St. Agnes.

DG: How long have we had a team?

Coach G: This is the first year of the team but years ago, I used to play for the school baseball team, and it is nice seeing the baseball team coming back again.

DG: Do you enjoy coaching baseball?

Coach G: Yes, I do enjoy coaching baseball. It is my favorite sport, I have been playing it all my life, and I am still playing it now.

Coach Gehring adds that the kids are great and that they are having fun so far. Coach Gehring wants to thank Mr. Callaghan for starting the team and Mr. Rogers and Mr. Lamb for their help in assisting to coach the team. †

Guess Who Answer

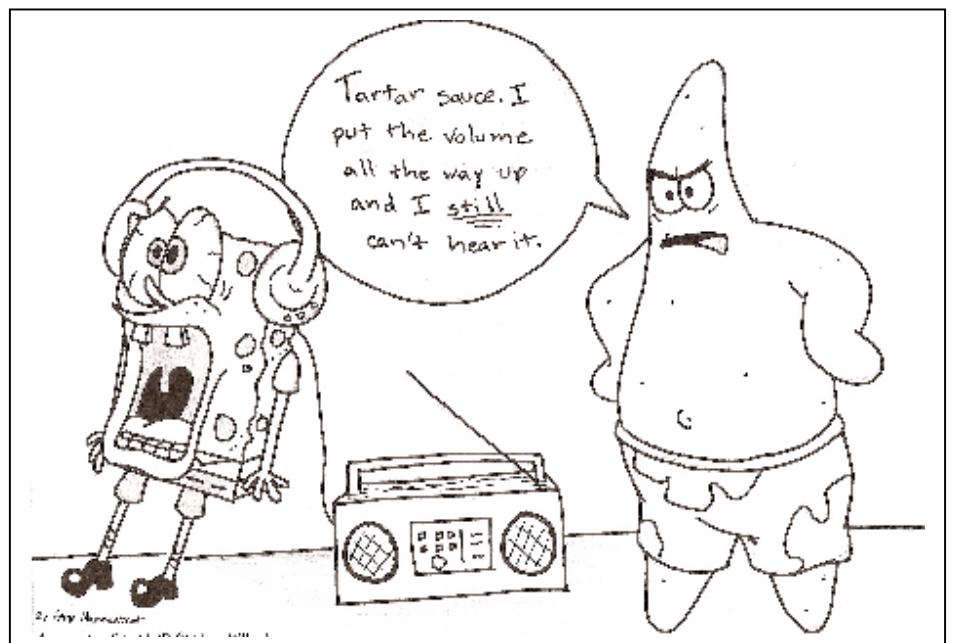
Mr. Danisi! †

Giggles with Grace

By Grace Solazzo

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note saying, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples." †



by Anne Namocatcat