



A Word From Our Principal

A Special Event

Have you ever had a special event and wondered if anyone would show up? We invited 700 people for three days, and they all showed up!

St. John Neumann Catholic School hosted the first Diocese of Charleston Teacher Education Conference at the beginning of March. Our three-day conference began on Wednesday evening with Mass in our church. Bishop Robert Gugliemone celebrated Mass and was joined by 11 school pastors. A beautiful reception followed for the pastors, principals and corporate sponsors in our library.

On Thursday, we had all 700 people admiring our wonderful school for the morning. Every room - all 30 - hosted a session for 25 teachers! We also had 45 vendors set up in the gym for teachers to peruse. The excitement could be felt throughout the school. Dur-

ing lunch, the junior high and high school teachers were bused to Cardinal Newman for specialized sessions, while the 450 elementary teachers stayed here to enjoy three more sessions. The day ended at 4:00 with everyone exhausted - but also very excited - from the fact-filled sessions.

Friday morning, the gym was filled with eager listeners waiting to hear our special keynote speaker: our very own Bishop Robert Gugliemone. His wonderful speech reinforced the mission of all Catholic school teachers and staff: compassion for all who we encounter. The conference ended at noon.

To be able to offer more than 180 sessions for all of the teachers in our Diocese was a wonderful experience. By opening our doors, we were able to showcase our school. It also allowed us to showcase the outstanding teachers we have in our Diocese,



since more than 125 of the sessions throughout the day were presented by various teachers of the Diocese. We had nine of our own SJN teachers presenting, several in double sessions!

We are very blessed in our school and in our Diocese, and this just brought these blessings to the forefront for everyone to appreciate.

*Barbara Cole
Principal*

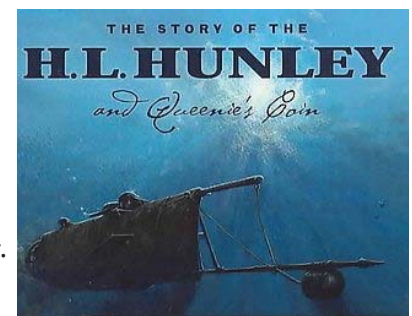
Third Graders Visit SC Book Festival

Melinda Beach

In late February, our third grade classes, along with Mrs. Zimmerman, loaded a bus headed to the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in the Vista to attend the 14th Annual SC Book Festival. Our speaker was author Fran Hawk, who has written children's books and writes weekly articles in Charleston's newspaper, The Post and Courier. Mrs. Hawk wrote *The Story of the H.L. Hunley* and *Quennie's Coin*, which is important to third graders who study South Carolina history all year.

During a question and answer session, the students asked Mrs. Hawk what her favorite books are, how she comes up with ideas for books, and how old you have to be to become an author.

A big thanks goes to Mrs. Zimmerman for arranging this great trip for third grade. We are hoping Mrs. Hawk will be able to visit our school to speak about her research when writing about the H. L. Hunley.



School Advisory Board & PSA



Moving Towards the Future

George Kreese, School Advisory Board President

Winter is almost over, and we're seeing the first signs of spring. This also marks the time when we commit to the following school year. For my family, the finest grade school in Columbia is no longer an option. My son is completing sixth grade and must move on from St. John Neumann Catholic School.



He does so with an exceptional PreSchool through sixth grade education that is the foundation for the remainder of his education. In addition to the three R's, he has been taught Catholicism, values and respect for others. He has made and developed wonderful friendships at the school; with teachers, administration and his peers. For him, it has been less like attending a school than being immersed in an environment. I know he feels a comfort at Saint John Neumann that has facilitated his growth.

Nearly as important for his future as this solid foundation, is that he has learned to learn. He can approach an assignment and complete it on his own. This ownership and completion of a task, often well in advance of its due date, are qualities that will serve him well as he completes his education.

We learn more when we are interested in a topic. My son can recite lessons, some from several years ago, because a wonderful teacher got him excited about learning. At dinner recently, he told me all about Constantine, and it was infinitely more interesting than the topics in current news.

We must now review seventh grade options and a new school. I feel a bit of envy toward those of you who still have some years ahead of you at St. John Neumann Catholic School. It was always an easy decision for us to sign up for the next year when it was an option.

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Marching Into Spring

Jhoanna Pineda-Kim, PSA President



Did everyone enjoy the recent snow? My girls certainly made the best of it playing outside, making a snowman and having snowball fights. It has been a long time since I remember having that much snow here in Columbia. I hope everyone stayed warm and safe. I know that the snow was fun, but I'm ready for some warm weather - aren't you?? Well, we have around two months of school left before summer break. Where has time gone?

For anyone going out of town, please remember to pick up several Auction donations forms in the office to solicit a variety of businesses for contribution. I'm sure the Auction chairs appreciate any contributions you donate. I want to thank Krish Rescigno for chairing the first grade Blood Drive for the American Cross. What a success! We donated 97 pints of blood through a total of 109 donors - 20 being first-time donors. We thank all the volunteers, donors, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Zelachowski, Mrs. Geddings, and the whole first grade class for all your hard work.

I hope you all enjoyed our three-day break during the first week of March. The teacher conference brought in 700 teachers statewide to gather at our school. I know that our school's wonderful reputation contributed in our school being chosen as the host for this conference. Way to go, Mrs. Cole! Thank you to all the teachers and office staff who contributed to make this conference a success. Please note that the Bishop will be presiding over our last Mass in May.

Elections for the PSA and the Board are coming up. Please consider running for a position. We can only make our school a success with parent involvement. Any questions regarding the PSA or any concerns or suggestions can be sent to me at jpinedakim@sc.rr.com.



Library Literacy

Special Books For Special People

Karen Zimmerman

Looking for a special gift for a child, teacher, or grandparent? Or maybe you would like to recognize a special achievement or special day such as an anniversary, birthday, or graduation. In either case, St. John Neumann Catholic School Library may have the solution with the Book Donation Program! Donations sent in for this program are used to purchase new books for the library, which make a lasting gift for our school. It also creates a special collection of “memories” in our Library.



Forms for these donations are available in the front office of the school, in the library, or may be downloaded from our school’s web site. Once the form is received, students may choose a book from a selection of new titles. A bookplate is placed in the book noting the special occasion, and the student is the very first one to check out the book! A list of these students and occasions appears each month in this column in the Eagle Events. Students are very excited to select a “birthday book” and often look for their special books from past years! Call Mrs. Zimmerman in the Library at 788-1367 x15 if there are any questions about this unique program!

Notable events in the Library for March include:

- The celebration of the anniversary of Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 2. Prior to this special day, students of all grades listened to stories written by Dr. Seuss and answered trivia questions on the morning news show. Students wore pajamas to school on March 2, in order to be comfortable for the Read-a-thon held in the afternoon. Cardinal Newman students also joined us in the afternoon to read stories to kindergarten and first grade students.
- On March 24, local author, Lynn Kelley will visit St. John Neumann and speak to students in second and third grade. Mr. Kelley is the author of *Boykin Spaniels: The Story of Dumpy and Singo*, which traces the history of the South Carolina State Dog. This book will also be available for purchase (another great gift idea). Special forms will be sent home with students and will also be available at the front office or in the Library. Parents are also welcome to attend our special session with this author!

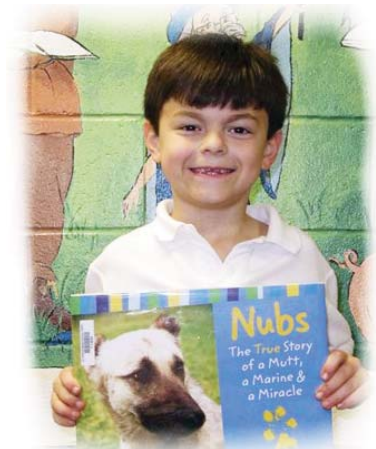
Birthday Books



Christine Encarnacion,
February 7, from Mom & Dad

Maya Duffy, February 8, from Nana & Grandpa for her 10th birthday

Tyler White, February 26, from Mom & Dad for his 8th birthday



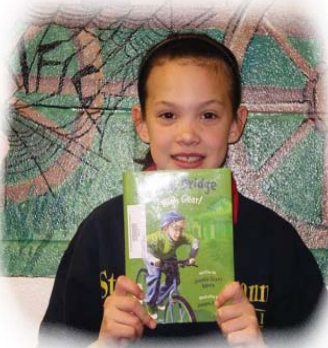
Memory

SJN Students & Faculty in Memory of Michael Krstulovich, Uncle of Mrs. Cole

Mrs. Geddings First Grade Class in Memory of Herman Bauer, Great-Grandfather of Jack Culp

Other

Mr. & Mrs. David Hartshorne in honor of their grandson, Alex Gregg, and his swimming accomplishments
The Widener Family





Differentiated Instruction

Alison Levitt

As teachers, we know techniques and tricks to help students learn at school. Sometimes it is difficult for parents to know ways to best assist their children at home. Here are a few ideas of things you can do to help your child(ren) in the areas of language, reading, and math:

Ways to help your child with language:

- Talk to your child and encourage him or her to engage in conversation during family activities.
- Give a journal or diary as a gift.
- Help your child write a letter to a friend or family member. Offer assistance with correct grammar usage and content.
- Have a “word of the week” that is defined every Monday. Encourage your child to use the new word throughout the week.
- Plan a special snack or meal and have your child write the menu.
- After finishing a chapter in a book or a magazine article, have your child explain his or her favorite event.

Ways to help your child with reading:

- Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read.
- Read aloud to your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child’s chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.
- Make time for the library.
- Play games like Scrabble, Spill and Spell, Scattergories, and Balderdash together.
- Follow your child’s interest—find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into this interest.
- Work crossword puzzles with your child.
- Give a magazine subscription for a gift.

Ways to help your child with mathematics:

- Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage better attitudes and stronger mathematics skills. Even everyday activities such as playing with toys in a sandbox or in a tub at bath time can teach children mathematics concepts such as weight, density, and volume. Check your television listings for shows that can reinforce mathematics skills in a practical and fun way.
- Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill.
- The kitchen is filled with tasty opportunities to teach fractional measurements, such as doubling and dividing cookie recipes.
- Point out ways that people use mathematics every day to pay bills, balance their checkbooks, figure out their net earnings, make change, and how to tip at restaurants. Involve older children in projects that incorporate geometric and algebraic concepts such as planting a garden, building a bookshelf, or figuring how long it will take to drive to your family vacation destination.
- Children should learn to read and interpret charts and graphs such as those found in daily newspapers. Collecting and analyzing data will help your child draw conclusions and become discriminating readers of numerical information.

Meet with your child’s teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child’s understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students. Working together, we can help all of our students Experience Success each day at St. John Neumann.



Teacher Focus

Getting to Know Our SJN Teachers

Marti Schottelkotte



Did you know Mrs. Patten’s in-laws were one of the founding families of SJN? They knew Dr. Adams very well and when Mrs. Patten was looking for a part-time job when her oldest was six months old, Dr. Adams hired her and allowed her to work from home. Awesome! Also, when Mrs. Patten’s husband was “courting” her, he moved after college at Loyola University in Maryland to South Carolina to be with his parents and for work. He traveled every other weekend back to Baltimore for nine months to be with her! Mrs. Patten’s oldest sibling is severely mentally retarded. She has the mentality of a three year old. She is, however a wonderful part of the family and Mrs. Patten’s kids really like seeing her

when they visit. Mrs. Patten says that having Frannie in their lives has taught them so much about caring for others who are different and to enjoy those differences.

Did you know Mrs. Lee has always worked with youth even when she was a kid? Beginning in eighth grade she worked with children every summer at day and overnight camps. She worked for the Girl Scouts throughout her teens and college, was a leader in her youth group and was Director of Youth Ministry when she graduated college! Whew – there’s some experience! One of Mrs. Lee’s favorite memories was teaching fifth grade in an “at risk” public school. She was able to organize numerous field trips and through fundraising, was able to give those students experiences they had never had before.



Did you know Mrs. White’s students call her “The Queen of Procedures?” She has a procedure for everything in the classroom...including trash disposal and nose blowing! Before teaching, Mrs. White was in advertising and public relations. A chance meeting with a client who had a passion for education sparked a new career path. Another interest of hers is animals. She loves to get up close and personal with all creatures and that includes dolphins, alligators and snowy owls, to name a few!

Did you know that Mrs. Gedding’s first teaching job was at a school where she attended when she was a child? She had the privilege of teaching beside some of the same teachers who taught her! Very cool! Mrs. Geddings is also a Columbia native. Born and raised here she grew up in Richland Two schools, graduated from U.S.C. with a degree in elementary education and began teaching right away.



Mrs. Pat Ray - Did you know Mrs. Ray packed up her two sons after college, had a whopping \$500.00 in her pocket and moved to Salt Lake City to ski? She stayed for eight years! It’s no surprise then that she LOVES to ski and takes her sons back to Snowbird, Utah every Christmas to ski for a week. By the way, she moved to Rome, Italy for three years too! One of her favorite memories is making a third grade child her P.E. Assistant when the child couldn’t participate in class due to medical problems. That’s creative thinking!

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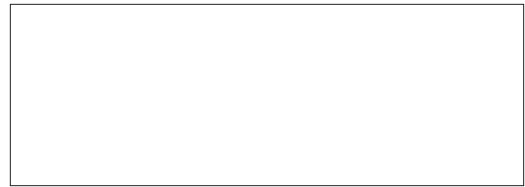


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Kindergartener's Share Their Love



In February, the three Kindergarten classes enjoyed a special visit to our “neighbors” at Wildewood Downs. We walked next door with our arms full of glittery, decorated Valentines to share with the residents and were very graciously greeted and led to their dining room. We first entertained our friends with several songs, which they seemed to thoroughly enjoy. After much applause, we gave out Valentines and hugs to our friends. A great time was had by all, and we all felt a warm glow in our hearts for sharing this special day of love together. We plan to go back for a visit in April!

