

# It's Elementary

A Publication of St. Walter School



Winter 2015

## From The Principal's Desk

Dear St. Walter School Families,

As we continue our Advent journey and begin the Year of Mercy, we are called to celebrate this season of love, light, peace and forgiveness. We continue to prepare by shopping for the perfect gifts, decorating our homes, finishing our holiday letters and cards, and planning our holiday menus. However, as Catholic people, we know that the clear message of the Advent season is to prepare the way to welcome the Christ Child into our lives and homes. With time for prayer, reconciliation, and special attention to the beautiful Scripture readings of the Advent season, we can "Prepare the Way" with a faith-filled sense of peace and renewal, while mindful that we begin our year-long journey of gratitude for the gift of God's forgiveness and mercy.

May each of your families be blessed with the peace, joy and beauty of this Christmas season, and may each of your families be renewed in the loving spirit of God's forgiveness and mercy.

Mrs. Mary Lloyd  
Principal

## We are Joyful Disciples

Our Advent project this year is "We Are Joyful Disciples" and partners with the Parish Giving Tree. As disciples, we are committed to following Jesus' call to worship and serve. Our support of the Giving Tree brings alive the call to serve in our St. Walter School community.

This year, students will provide sixteen children from the Giving Tree with Christmas gifts. These youths are residents of the Marklund home, a residence for children with severe developmental disabilities. The gifts purchased from the student donations will be presented to a representative from the Marklund organization at the school Mass on December 18.

Through their service to others, our students find their hearts filled with the joy of discipleship.



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## Second Grade Receives Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to our second grade students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in November. We are proud of their work and preparation as they receive another sacrament on their faith journey. A special thanks to Father Mario, our parents, teachers and extended family members who helped them prepare, as well as celebrate this sacrament of God's love and forgiveness.

## Students Join in Celebrating The Feast of St. Nicholas

When we hear the name of St. Nicholas, colorful legends come to mind. St. Nicholas was a bishop who was known for his enthusiasm for life, charity to the less fortunate, and miracles that saved lives.

December 6 is the feast day of St. Nicholas. Students celebrated the memory of St. Nicholas at an all-school para-liturgy. The celebration, led by first grade, provided insight to the many good and loving things that St. Nicholas did during his lifetime. The celebration ended with each student receiving a candy cane, the symbol of the bishop's staff.



## Page Flippers

St. Walter School's book club, Page Flippers, is a diverse group of students from grades six through eight who have one thing in common: they love to read. Each month they gather in the library during their lunch to "book talk". They discuss their favorite book titles, themes, characters and authors.

Looking for a good book, just ask any member of the Page Flippers and they will be able to give you a few suggestions of their favorite books. We thank Mrs. Julie Olzen for making this club possible at our school.

### Club Members

Emilio Filippo	Francesca Butera	Jamie Ziegler	Briana Gonzalez
Mia Arquilla	Brooke Arquilla	Maddie Hatfield	Lina Jensen
Isabella Dudas	Michael Corliss	Olivia Perez	Cassidy Gibson
Madeleine Weber	Joe Bollard	Ella Walsh	Sarah MacQueen
Julia Sakowicz	Jake Nowakowski	Alyssa Coladietro	Francesco Console
David Deimling	Caroline Derango	Josh Dohnal	Morgan Schoebel
Emily Roth	Lily Boyle	Skyler Bialek	Genevieve Rentmeester

# HONOR ROLL

## FIRST QUARTER

### Grade 5

**High Honor Roll** – Katelyn Bandovich, Cameron Birk, Ryan Camblin, Nicholas Chmielak, Kaylee Choi, Joseph Coladipietro, Mary Kate Corliss, Benjamin Fasana, Kyle Freeman, Cailynn Gdowski, Abigail Hatfield, Gabrielle Husmillo, Emma Jahaske, Jessica Kaszubski, Talia Leuzzi, Rachel MacQueen, Joseph Majeske, Joseph Mangold, Olivia Miller, Leah Morawa, Arya Patel, Michael Pitello, Emmi Scales, Sydney Shannon, Connor Spoczynski, Emma Streck, Margaret Thiemann, Elle Tzamouranis, Grace Walton, Jordan Wetmore, Isabella Zielinski

**Honor Roll** – Despoina Alexakos, Margaret Brady, Robert Bucaro, Joseph Chmielak, Mia DiTuri, Rory Geroux, Zachary Iacullo, Vanessa Karantonis, Gina Kent, Vincenzo Kopulos, Nathan Kot, Allison Kruse, Theresa Mazza, Frank Melchiorre, Nicolette Miranda, Isabella Rentmeester, Brooke Ross, Isabella Scheidecker, Peter Sheffer, Sofia Stubitsch, Analiase Tomaso

### Grade 6

**High Honor Roll** – Alexis Abbott, Skyler Bialek, Joseph Bollard, Tianna Bongiovanni, Giovanna Breslin, Francesca Butera, Michael Corliss, David Deimling, Cassidy Gibson, Lina Jensen, Jacob Koch, Marion Krowczyk, Alexia Morawa, Jacob Nowakowski, Drew Piaskowy, Ryan Rochford, Emilia Rzeszutek, Isabel Salter, Andrew Sommers, John Streck, Albert Sudor, Rinna Talwarr

**Honor Roll** – Allison Ardito, Anne Marie Ciccone, Joseph Consoli, Ross Coulolias, Anthony Defilippis, Joshua Dohnal, Alexander Fonseca, Lilliana Gibas, Ryan Lane, Michael Mangialardi, William McAteer, Haley Mills, Caroline Nelson, Ramsey Peandro, Joseph Pelagio, William Rath, Daniel Reilly, Matthew Schrack, Zachary Soderberg, Jacob Vera

### Grade 7

**High Honor Roll** – Michael Breslin, Timothy Buranicz, Liliana Castellese, Alyssa Choi, Alyssa Coladipietro, Nicholas Degen, Caroline Derango, Isabella Dudas, Donald Falk, Daniel Feutz, Dylan Freeman, Madelyn Hatfield, Quinn Jaeger, Matthew Johnson, Sarah MacQueen, Ariana Marchese, Charles O'Leary, Grace Oleksyk, Mathew Oleksyk, Olivia Perez, Ann Poremba, Julia Sakowicz, Patrick Scales, Emily Swiderski, Andrew Thennes, Ella Walsh, Michaela Wilson, Alyssa Wojtowicz, Jamie Ziegler

**Honor Roll** – Mia Arquilla, Summer Balaskovits, James Biernacki, Thomas Biernacki, Gianna Bucaro, Julianna Chiappetta, Francesco Console, Isalie Dominguez, Olivia Essary, Giacomo Fanizza, Emilio Filippo, Jack Finn, Trey Gora, John Jimenez, Matthew Kazmirak, Patricia Lachowicz, Luca Leuzzi, Emma Mangialardi, Kaitlyn McGehee, Samantha Miranda, Anthony Pitello, Ashley Ptak, Kayci Regalado, Genevieve Rentmeester, Gianna Saverino, Scott Scheidecker, Sebastian Schlau, Morgan Schoebel, Maxim Strzelecki

### Grade 8

**High Honor Roll** – David Anderson, John Bialek, Elise Bollard, Michelangelo Castillo, Savanna Dixon, Danzcel Gerona, Nicholas Guida, Paige Jahaske, Jake Kenney, Benjamin Radel, Michaela Rosenow, Adrianna Rotondi, Samantha Shah, Riley Spoczynski, Daniella Surdo, Clement Tom

**Honor Roll** – Amanda Aleman, Matthew Angus, Nicole Ardito, Antonio Bavaro, Stefano Bucaro, Antonio Butera, Ryan Carey, Gaetano Console, Madeleine Fasana, Michael Fasana, Tyler Freeman, Olivia Hahn, Jennifer Hart, Isabella Illescas, Andrew Koch, Megan Kruse, Michael Lane, Blake Lipowsky, Andrew Locascio, Barbara Mann, Nina Neri, Robert Nocek, Nicolas Pelagio, Jacob Perez, Anthony Piraino, Bridget Rath, Adriana Rodriguez, Marisa Ross, Henry Stelter, Stanley Szatkowski, Tara Troesken, Robert Troiolar

# Early Childhood Concert

Our 4-year-old preschool and kindergarten children celebrated the Christmas season with joyful songs and the telling of the nativity story. The reenactment of the 1st Christmas brought the true spirit of the season to audience members.

After the festive concert, the children, parents and special guests gathered for hospitality and enjoyed yummy Christmas cookies.



## Tristan Grosam Participates In Punt, Pass and Kick Regional Finals

Congratulations to sixth grader, Tristan Grosam, who advanced to the Regional finals in the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Contest. Tristan captured the 1st Place title in Sectionals by out performing some of the best athletes in the multi-state region. As the regional winner, Tristan was invited to be a VIP at a Chicago Bear's game. Tristan was the youngest contestant in her age category and captured 3rd Place in the Regional Competition. She also appeared on national television demonstrating football techniques as part of the Chicago Bear's half-time show.



ST. WALTER 23RD ANNUAL ENDOWMENT GALA  
THE BELVEDERE, ELK GROVE VILLAGE  
FEBRUARY 20, 2016



## Pope Francis

In early fall, after Pope Francis made his historical visit to the United States, Father Mario asked our students to explain what they admired most about his Holiness. Following are a few excerpts from Father Mario's hand-picked selections.

1st Grade

Anastasia Koval – *I like Pope Francis because he loves others.*

2nd Grade

Sophia Shah – *He shows people how to be kind and helps us to learn how important the church is.*

3rd Grade

Danielle LaPorta – *I like that he is very humble. Humble means that he does not need a lot to make him happy.*

4th Grade

Ella Biernacki – *I admire Pope Francis because he is concerned about the poor.*

5th Grade

Jessica Kaszubski – *Our Pope is an influence for us Catholics to treat people fairly and nicely even if they are not the same religion.*

6th Grade

Ross Coulolias – *I admire Pope Francis' love and the forgiveness he has for everyone.*

7th Grade

Alyssa Coladipietro – *Pope Francis is actually trying to make a difference among us. He is doing many things to inspire people.*

8th Grade

Riley Spoczynski – *He loves social media: The world needs a Pope who posts prayers and quotes on the internet. I sometimes read them when I get home from school or in the morning.*

# Santa's Spectacles

'Tis the season to be jolly...and a jolly good time was had at the eighth grade Drama Club presentation of Santa's Spectacles. The humorous play began when Santa's spectacles were lost. Things became mixed up when the gloomy character, Prunella Crookshank, found them and began to wear them. Suddenly, her gloominess was gone and she became happy and merry. In the end, Santa got his glasses back and made his Christmas Eve visit to all the children.

We congratulate Director, Mrs. Claire Adachi, and all the drama club members for an outstanding performance. Special thanks to Mrs. Joan Figley, Mrs. Chris Schrack and Mrs. Julie Olzen for their help behind the scenes. We especially acknowledge Mrs. Franca Byrne for her costume donation.



## Drama Club Members

David Anderson Johnny Arey Antonio Bavaro John Bialek Elise Bollard Anthony Butera	Michael Byrne Jenna DeFranze Danzcel Gerona Olivia Hahn Jennifer Hart Olivia Hartnett	Isabella Illescas Paige Jahaske Jake Kenney Michael Lane Tarin Malloy Barbara Mann	Ben Radel Michaella Rosenow Adrianna Rotondi Samantha Shah Tara Troesken Robert Troiola
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# Christmas Band Concert - A Winter Spectacular!

The St. Walter School band kicked off the Christmas season with spectacular sound! Under the direction of Mr. Uriel Portillo, band members started on a dramatic note and ended on one even more powerful. With just a few weeks of lessons under their belts, the band members were able to provide the sounds of the season in spectacular form. Selections included such classics as Jingle Bells, Up on the Rooftop, and Christmas Bossa Nova. The advanced band members closed the concert with Highlights from the Star Wars Saga, leaving audience members spellbound and all smiles. We congratulate Mr. Portillo and the band members for their outstanding performance.

## Band Members

Elementary Band		Cadet Band	
<b>Flutes</b> Rachel Dohnal Maria Provenzano	<b>Trumpets</b> Mariam Tadros Trevor Balla Matthew Tavolacci	<b>Flute</b> Lilliana Gibas	<b>Trombone</b> Rachel MacQueen
<b>Clarinets</b> Ana Rodriguez Abriella Navarrete Jacob Braun	<b>Percussion</b> Peter Nowakowski Ethan Voncina James Catania	<b>Clarinets</b> Lily LoCascio Peter Sheffer Allison Ardito	<b>Percussion</b> Margaret Brady
<b>Saxophones</b> Dominick Agostino Evan Sperling		<b>Trumpets</b> Connor Spoczynski Matthew Schrack Alex Fonseca Cameron Birk	

Concert Band			
<b>Flutes</b> Isabella Illescas Jamie Ziegler Sarah MacQueen Kaitlyn McGehee	<b>Alto Saxophones</b> Sebastian Schlau Jacob Nowakowski Zachary Soderberg Riley Spoczynski Blake Lipowsky	<b>Trumpets</b> Caroline Derango Daniel Feutz Johnny Catania Andrew Sommers	<b>Baritone</b> David Anderson
<b>Clarinets</b> Adriana Rodriguez Jennie Hart Clement Tom		<b>Trombones</b> Joshua Dohnal Jacob Vera Joseph Consoli	<b>Percussion</b> Nicholas Majovsky Adrianna Rotondi



## Student Council Gingerbread Houses Enjoyed by All

Nothing says the holidays like festive gingerbread houses. Student Council members joined in the holiday fun by building and decorating gingerbread houses for the upcoming Junior High Dance. Their stunning and delicious gingerbread masterpieces will be on display in the gym where students will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite house. We thank our council members and Mrs. Peppers for providing us with this merry holiday tradition.

# News & Notes

## Please Take Note...

Grades 1 through 4 will perform the Christmas program for the student body on Friday, December 18. Due to space limitations, we will not be able to accommodate any additional guests. We appreciate your cooperation!

## Afternoon Pickup

**St. Francis Hall Circular Drive** – The drive in front of St. Francis Hall is reserved for our parents who are picking up their kindergarten children. For safety reasons, parents of older students should park in the lot.

**Parking Lot** – Please remember to enter the parking lot using the North entrance off Maple Avenue and exit using Pine Avenue. Traffic should always be moving in the same direction - North to South! **DO NOT EXIT USING MAPLE AVENUE.**

## Emergency School Closing Procedures

Please know that we will be communicating school closure information by sending an email and/or text message to the **Parent account on School Speak**. This new procedure will replace the individual phone notifications, and will enable us to communicate with you in a quicker and more efficient manner.

We will also continue to notify the media and post school closings on our website.

Please be sure to activate your Parent account and make sure your School Speak 'Profile' is updated to include a current email address and your cell number in order to receive the communications!

## Upcoming Holiday Events & Schedule



### Christmas Program

Thursday, December 17  
Grades 1- 4  
7:00 PM Gym  
(Doors open at 6:00 PM)

### Kindergarten Togetherness Morning

Friday, December 18  
Morning & Afternoon Sessions  
will gather for the AM Session

### Christmas Vacation

Friday, December 18  
11:30 AM Dismissal  
*Please Take Note:*  
No Preschool • No PM Bus • No PM B.A.S.I.C.

### Classes Resume

Tuesday, January 5

## St. Walter School 2015-2016 School Board

Rob Burns – President

Catie VanValkenburg – Vice-President

Kris Campton – Secretary

Michael Butz

George Menard

Carl Olofson

Beth Sommers



'Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign;  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive,  
and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel.'

*Isaiah 7:14*

May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart and home  
with joy now and throughout the coming year.

*St. Walter School Board*