

St. Patrick School

What's The Buzz?

November 24,
2009

Issue

Thanksgiving

Article by Taylor



Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November to give thanks for all that God has done. It all started back in 1621 when the pilgrims settled on new land off the Atlantic coast of Massachusetts. They called it Plymouth after the English town. The pilgrims faced many difficulties during the first few days. Many of these people died of hunger and starvation. Lucky for them the pilgrims founded the Native Americans. The Native Americans Squanto and Samoset taught the pilgrims how to plant beans, corn, pumpkins, and where to hunt for fish. With a well planned and a successful harvest the pilgrims and Native Americans had a feast to thank God for all that he has done for them. The pilgrims did not think of this as a holiday but as a feast for the fall harvest. Not only do we give thanks and remember this story we also eat turkey on thanks giving. Most people do this because [Queen Elizabeth](#) was celebrating a harvest festival with a baked goose. When she found out that the Spanish were on there way to attack [England](#), the Queen was so happy that she ordered another roasted goose. Because of this, geese became the favorite at the harvest celebrations in England. So when the Pilgrims from England arrived in America, roasted geese was replaced by roasted turkey because wild turkeys were more abundant in America than geese .

Friday Night Fever!

Article by Angela

Bright, neon, flashing lights. Sweaty preteen kids. Teachers guarding every door, in or out. Is it a school locker room with bad lighting? No, it's the first school dance of the year, a kick-off to the brand-new second quarter!

Roughly half of the 7th and 8th grade partied in the old church basement at the hours of 7 to 9, each paying 5\$ and giving a much-needed canned goods to the Soup Kitchen. The disco theme had lava lamps, 25 cent glow sticks (used as bracelets, necklaces, belts, anklets, etc.), and a very flashy pair of lit green glasses that broke down halfway during the dance. There were also the standard 50 cent water bottles, frequently forgotten and lost and bought again.

There was also a limbo contest, and the competition was heated up. Finally, the two winners were the 7th graders Adam C. and Sasha B, each winner receiving a necklace of silver plastic pearls. Memorable dance songs included "3", "Paparazzi", and "She-Wolf".

Even if you can't dance, jumping up and down, yelling and screaming to whatever song is playing (knowing the lyrics or not) seems to do the trick. And please, try not to fall into any chairs or the floor (or any other person trying to dance.) When the dance slows down though, grab a partner (friend, enemy, or random person) and try not to step on their feet. For those blessed with good footwork, the dance is a great way to show it off/have fun with it. You can cool off with all that dancing with a bottle of water or staying near the door of the church.

The standard dress code of the school dances are simple: t-shirt, jeans, a pair of sneakers. But even in that simple standard dance uniform, one can become very sweaty, especially in the spring dance with the load of about 60 more people (6th graders) joining in on the fun. After the dance, tiredness and the worn out adrenaline of dance take over and you could nearly fall asleep in the car ride home.

Even though the dances at high school might be more fun, there is nothing like a good party of the St Pats students. It's for a good cause too. We collected about 100 cans (and some 500 dollars, and that's only in admission fees) for the food pantry and Soup Kitchen to those who need help in these tough economic times. And all that money and those cans are the only payment for roughly 2 hours of fun! You will have fun and the money of for a good cause. Did I mention it was fun?



WE ROCKED THE COURT!

Article by Abbey

The girl's volleyball league of 2009 is rocking out! The 7th and 8th graders had to do hard work during tryouts this year. Good tryouts girls! You all did a great job!

This year has been a splendid year with serves, spikes, sets, and passes. The 5th graders did a great job this year. Since this is the first year for them we didn't get the status for their team. The 6th graders had 3 tournaments this year. They got third in the conference tournament, fourth in regular season, second in the St. Peter's tournament, and first in the St. Lucy's tournament. Great job girls, we are really proud of you! Now Our 7th grade girls played in 3 tournaments this year. They got 3rd in conference, and 2nd in regular season. The 8th grade team played in 4 tournaments. Their successes included placing 3rd in conference, and 3rd in regular season.

I had the opportunity to talk to Monette and Julia on the 6th grade team. Monette thought the season went awesome! Her favorite part was when she spiked it behind the serving line. Then, they won the St. Lucy's tournament she was so excited to beat POP! (Prince of Peace).

Julia, another girl on the team, 6th grade thought the home games went pretty well. She loved the excitement.

"It was cool getting 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st," said Julia. When the 6th girls' grade volleyball team won the St. Lucy's tournament, she was so excited to beat POP since they had never beaten them before. Thanks for talking to me Monette and Julia!

It was also cool talking to Maddie S. on the 7th grade team. The team's toughest competition to play against was POP.

"POP has a spiker that's why it was hard to beat them," says Maddie.

"What was the hardest thing you had to do?" I asked.

She said, "It was hard to control our passes at times." Wow that seems hard! Thanks for talking with me Maddie! I hope you had a fun year this year!

It was also an honor to talk to Nikki M. from the 8th grade team. She thought the season went very well.

"Our record was 6-6," said Nikki. "What was the hardest tournament you've played in?" I asked. She said the Emmos tournament was the toughest, in which they placed 4th. Her biggest goal this year was serving over hand. She accomplished this goal during the regular season. Thanks Nikki for talking with me about your team and accomplishments.

Excellent job this year ladies! Keep on working hard and I bet you can get 1st place in every tournament next year. I hope for a wonderful season next year, but for now keep practicing and working hard. St. Pat's loves your great effort on and off the court!

CHICAGO'S VERY OWN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

Article by Ryan

As you know there is a long list of great stuff to do in the city of Chicago. On the top of my list is be the Museum of Science and Industry. This museum has tons of interesting exhibits to see and participate in which are enjoyable for all ages.

On the main level, you will be able to learn about trains, jets, airplanes and more. Up on the balcony, you can go inside an actual airplane and learn all about it. There is some information about the Wright brothers and several fun airplane games to play.

Also on the main level you will watch a machine make some awesome toys. The toys are called Gravitron and they spin like a top. You get to choose your own color and have your name engraved on it. The great thing about this exhibit is that you get to see the toy made from start to finish. The machine even packages it for you!

As you can see the toy machine looks very high tech. If you look carefully you can see an image of one of the toys. One of the exciting exhibit has a huge submarine called a U-505. This submarine actually fought in a war. The submarine was pulled up on the beach of Lake Michigan and then moved to where the museum is now. Its so big you could fit at least one hundred people in it. If you think they got it in through the door, you are wrong. They actually built the building around it!

"Fast Forward" is an exhibit all about the future. You enter through a smoky fog, which makes you feel like a ghost. While inside the exhibit, you see out of this world technology showing many new inventions. For example, you see what a car and a snowmobile will look like in the future. There are some futuristic games to play, too.

Another exhibit is "YOU the Experience" which allows you to learn more about yourself. This interactive exhibit challenges your mind and body. First, there is a giant hamster wheel that you run on and it calculates your body's activity. Another display shows a heart beating according to your pulse. Another, a machine lets you hear what your voice will sound like when you are older. Nearby is a machine which shows what your face will look like when you are older. Other great activities to do in this exhibit are the laugh garden, the information board, the hobby screen and much, much more.

Don't miss going to the lower level and seeing the exhibit "Eye Spy". This is an exhibit kids will love that is based on "I Spy". This exhibit challenges kids to find hidden objects, which are actually hidden in 3D life scenes.

The museum also has an Omnimax Theater and don't forget a souvenir from the gift shop. Overall, the Museum of Science and Industry has over thirty different exhibits. It is a building packed with an entire day's worth of family fun. So if you and your family are looking for something to do over Christmas Break, consider visiting this Chicago museum. As 8th grader Tyler says, "Big. Fun. Fun for all ages. Lots of interesting stuff."



The Carmel Retreat

Article by Brittany

On Monday October 19th the eighth grade students traveled by bus to Carmel High School in Mundelein to participate in an all day retreat. Friendship and leadership were the primary topics of the retreat. Our St. Patrick students were joined by eighth grade students from three other area Catholic schools; St. Joseph's of Libertyville, Prince of Peace from Lake Villa and St. Francis De Sales of Lake Zurich.

The day began with the students gathering in the gym breaking down into small groups of about eight or nine students each. There was one Carmel senior student assigned as a leader to each of the smaller groups. On each student's chair was a card which we were initially instructed not to turn over. When we were instructed to turn the card over, we found the name of an animal written on each card. Then, when instructed, we were to find the group leader making the sound of the animal written on our card. This was a fun way for us to mix with some other students that we may not talk to otherwise and form new friendships.

Once we settled in our groups, one of the Carmel student leaders, Mary Riordan, gave a short talk on her interpretation of Friendship. We then had the opportunity to answer questions and discuss what friendship meant to us in our groups. Then another Carmel student leader, Brian Morris, gave a short talk on what leadership meant to him. Again we were given the opportunity to answer questions and discuss what leadership meant to us.

After a busy morning we all gathered in the cafeteria to refuel for the afternoon. We had the opportunity to gather with our school friends and some of our new friends to enjoy our meal and talk about the morning's activities.

After lunch we met back in the gym and listened to a talk by one of the Carmel teachers, Mr. Fitzgibbons. He also reinforced some of the topics we discussed in the morning on friendship and leadership and the importance of having both in our lives. It is important for us to have both in our lives for a fulfilling lifetime and to live up to the best of our God given talents.

We finished the day together with a prayer service in Carmel's Brandsma Chapel, a chapel named after a Carmelite priest who was martyred in 1942 during World War II for speaking out against Nazi propaganda and continuing his priestly duties. It was a meaningful service and time shared together contemplating the important lessons of leadership and friendship which we discussed throughout the day. We are thankful for this opportunity and learning experience as we develop our individual talents as young adults.

What I got out of this experience was that it is good to be a leader, so people have someone to look up to and follow your good example. Also, that you should always be a friend to everyone because you never know when someday you'll need someone and they'll remember you and be there for you too just as you were there for them.

Trick or Treat!

Article by Kara & Maggie

Princesses, werewolves, celebrities, and vampires were among the popular costumes this year at trick or treating time. Did you know that the most popular Halloween costume this year was Michael Jackson? One of the most original costumes that have been around for years is the Spiderman costume. And, for girls, witches. Some of the most popular candies that were handed out this year were tootsie rolls, dots, air heads, Hershey, reeses, and whoppers. That'll make your sweet tooth crave!



ATTENTION NEWSPAPER STAFF:

Please come to our next meeting on December 15 from 2:45 to 3:30 P.M.

St Pat's Band Jazzes Things Up!

Article by Jenna

Most people wonder what goes on in band. Well, I'm here with the Advanced Band and Mr. Sobaki to answer some questions.

"So, Mr. Sobaki, how does a person learn how to read music?" I asked.

He said, "The same way you learn how to read words. You learn single notes at first, like letters. Then you learn to read groups of notes, like sentences, and then you go on to phrasing, short stories, and longer books."

"When playing the drums, do you have to count the beat?" I asked.

"Yes, of course! It keeps you honest and prevents you from getting lost," he replied, chuckling.

I asked next, "How do you blow into the clarinet and saxophone?"

And Mr. Sobaki answered, "Loud! No, just kidding," he said laughing. He continued, "1. Your lower lip folds over your teeth like a pillow for the reed. 2. Your upper teeth rest on the mouthpiece. 3. Wrap your mouth around one third of the mouthpiece. 4. Place the tip of your tongue on the reed. 5. Pull your tongue back and blow at the same time." Maybe, you could try doing this with a lollipop; the lollipop being the reed.

"How does the flute vibrate to make music?" I asked.

"By splitting the air column, the air vibrates, making the sound," he replied.

"Is it easier or harder to play with only a few "keys", such as the trumpet or coronet?" I asked him.

Mr. Sobaki answered, "You have to be more involved in producing the correct pitch. You can get many different pitches with the same fingers, so you must "hear the pitch" more precisely for it to come out right." So, there really isn't a difference in difficulty.

"All right. Thank you, Mr. Sobaki," I replied, smiling.

Band is easy, if you practice. There's the flute, clarinet, trumpet, coronet, saxophone, tuba/baritone, trombone, percussion, and more! Playing an instrument gives you goals to work towards to achieve; trying to get at your full potential. It feels good having a special talent like playing an instrument, and having the feeling of the vibrations flow through you.

On a Wednesday afternoon, the Advanced Band practices for their Christmas concert, which is coming up.

Now, I've asked a few questions about Mr. Sobaki himself.

"So, how long have you taught at St. Patrick School?" I asked him.

"I started in the year of 1992. First, the band lessons were in the narthex of the new church. Then they were in 5P, the staff room, old church basement, and the preschool rooms. Now we do it in Dyer Hall and the Science Lab." He continued, smiling, "I guess we really are Music on the Move."

"Why do you prefer to teach at Catholic schools instead of teaching at public schools?" I asked.

Mr. Sobaki answered, "I like the teachers, students, and principals better."

"How much training did you have that allows you to teach?" I asked him.

"About six years of college. Well, you know, we had to learn how to teach the music, and how to teach the instruments," he replied.

Lastly, I asked, "What did you do before you taught lessons at Catholic schools?"

He answered, "I was a professional trumpet player. I played in many different bands: symphony orchestra, salsa band, jazz band, wedding band, klezmer band, solo trumpet, Chinese funerals, Renaissance fair, dance band, and toured in Europe."

Well, as you can see, Mr. Sobaki is very serious about music. He is an excellent teacher, who hopes that every year there will be an excellent sign-up list for beginners.

I hope that reading this has influenced you to play an instrument. It doesn't even have to be in the school band. And don't be shy, stand tall and proud. Say, "I play an instrument!" We're always glad to see people play music.

Keep on counting the beat!



Destination Imagination

Article by Thea

The Jr. High students recently participated in an all day, in school field trip. Each grade was split into different groups and all groups were given team colors. In the color groups were even smaller groups of seven. These seven people became the seven people you would be with all day and you would experience a jungle themed day! During the day, groups rotated through the Jr. High classrooms, Dyer Hall, the Science Lab, and the Gym to do different activities. The activities were about increasing our teamwork skills and making us think outside the box.

The day started in the gym with a small introduction and then an activity. Then all the groups went to separate classrooms to start their activities. The activities varied from skits, getting materials through an obstacle course, or using materials and our imaginations to build objects. Each activity had instructions but we were challenged to try and find ways around the instructions. So, if the instructions didn't say you couldn't use something then you could. For example, during a challenge we had to make a performance and use our imaginations to make a plant that turns into an animal. The instructions didn't say that we couldn't use an existing plant and animal so some did but others made a completely different and unreal plant and animal. All the groups of seven took pictures during different times of the day. In the picture, we had the option of using hats with zebra or leopard prints and plants found in a jungle. Each group came up with different poses to make in their picture, this is one of the ways during the day we used our unique imaginations.

Around the end of the day, all the color groups met back in the gym. Every group of seven was given a big piece of cloth and a tennis ball. We had to try and throw the ball up and catch it in the cloth without moving our hands off the cloth. Once we accomplished this we were asked to join with another group of seven and try to toss the ball back and forth between the two groups. We then began to increase the number of groups until all the groups were trying together. Our last activity of the day was all the groups of seven basically playing one big game of charades. One person was picked from each group of seven, The other six members were given a bag of materials. The people picked were then shown an object that they had to recreate it with the materials in their groups of seven. There's just one catch.... The people that could see the object couldn't talk or touch the materials! These communicators had to come up with signals to try and recreate the object. At the end, everyone was shown the object and the groups compared theirs to the original. In conclusion, Destination Imagination was a huge success. It helps us use our



imaginations and have a day of fun with a day of learning!

Fall Fest!

Article by Monica

This years Fall Fest was amazing! There was dancing, farm animals, hay rides, and Kroll's farm famous corn maze. This year the younger kids ruled the dance floor. They were having a blast dancing ALL over the place. Inside they offered pizza and dessert, my favorite was the cupcakes. They were delicious. Outside by the animals', baby goats were running everywhere. My mom and I got the chance to talk to one of the owners. She told us that recently one of their donkeys, Jenny hade given birth to a female donkey named Zea. Zea was only nine days old and super cute. Most of the activity outside was kids were running all around and petting the farm animals while parents were talking. The corn maze was so much fun! When I went, we lost a few members of our group and a few of us actually hade to escape through the emergency exit to leave the corn maze. At Fall Fest I got a chance to interview several kids. One of them was fifth grader Hana H. I asked her if this years Fall Fest is better than last year's. "Well, I didn't go to last years, but I think two years ago was better because there're not as many people to talk to this year," she replied. "What is the best part of Fall Fest?" I asked.



"Definitely hanging out with my friends and going through the corn maze!" Hana shared. Later on I was able to interview sixth grader Will A. "Will what was your favorite part of Fall Fest?" I asked. "My favorite part of Fall Fest was petting the baby Billy goats," Will answered.

"Was the corn maze hard?" I asked him.

Will's answer was, "No, I figured it out by following another group of people." I also got a chance to interview another sixth grader, Nick F.

"So, Nick do you think this year Fall Fest was better than last years and why?" I asked him.

He replied, "No, because last year hade more activities." The last kid I interviewed was forth grader Ryan B. I asked her what was her favorite thing about Fall Feast was. "Well I would say my favorite part of Fall Fest was the corn maze." she replied. Well, it looked like the kids favorite activity was the corn maze. Whether you figured it out by following another group of people, doing it the hard way, or giving up and having to use the emergency exit like me, the corn maze was fun for all!



When the Tree's Leaves Leave the Tree!

Article by Ethan

Why do the leaves change color? A very interesting question I'd say. For many years, scientists have tested and experimented trying to understand why. There is one very important factor that causes this change. First, scientists needed to know why leaves were green in the first place.

Chlorophyll, a green pigment that absorbs light that is only found in producers, and *carotenoid*, a special leaf pigment that is found in many chloroplasts of leaf cells as well as chlorophyll, are found in leaves during growing season (spring and summer). But only chlorophyll is continually being produced and broken down in every leaf cell. Because of this, only its lush green color appears, when not a single color is shown by the carotenoid.

The variable that changes the leaves colors is the season. The length of night and cooling of temperatures is the most varied factor (from warm and sunny to cold and dark) that affects the pigments in the leaf. In response to the bright light given and the excess plant sugars within the leaf, *anthocyanins*, watery pigments, are produced. Also, because of this shortage of daylight, chlorophyll production slowly decreases and finally comes to an abrupt halt, which eventually is the cause of all chlorophyll being destroyed. This loss of chlorophyll allows the carotenoids and anthocyanins to show off their color. Carotenoids are usually yellow, orange, and brown, while anthocyanins are usually red, crimson, and dark blue or purple. But the science of this tremendous change isn't over yet.

This spectacular event occurs at different times for different species. For instance, Sourwood trees in southern forests become marvelously colorful in late summer, while most other plants are still vigorously producing and breaking down chlorophyll pigments. Oaks finally bring out their colors when other species have already shed their leaves. These differences are genetically inherited, not determined by latitude.

Leaves show off their best possible when there is a pattern of a combination of warm, sunny days and cool, crisp but not freezing nights. This is because during the day, many multi-colored sugars are produced, while during the night the veins of the leaf close, therefore not letting any colorful sugars out. These conditions rapidly start the production of the anthocyanin. But even though these new pigments are being produced, the carotenoids are still present and still give off a yellow and gold influence.

After all this, you might still wonder why trees don't adapt and keep their leaves from falling. Well there is a reason for that. When the trees "hibernate" during the winter, most organisms do the same; therefore there are very few nutrients in the soil. But when the leaves fall and decompose, they give nutrients to the soil that stay there throughout the winter so that the tree can get a jumpstart to grow in the spring. This is very important because without these "startup" nutrients, plants would have a hard time growing which delay the animals from coming out of hibernation; therefore the animals could possibly starve. This process of falling leaves is very important to most organisms.

The Boy Scouts of America

Article by Tyler

If you read my portfolio you may know that I am in Boy Scouts with Troop 675 in Wadsworth. Boy Scouts of America is the Nation's largest and most value based youth group focused on developing young leaders. Boy Scouts follow the Scout Law that states "A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent." The group is organized into Troops with various leadership positions. They are broken down into patrols with 8-15 scouts. We do many activities to include camping, community service, hiking, and other outdoor activities. My personal favorite activity is to when we go camping. We set up our tents, cook our meals over a campfire and eat under the stars. The campfire is the best part of the night. We tell stories, jokes, and cook around or over it.

We meet every Thursday in our "Old Church" basement to review different "skill sets" in order to get our Merit Badges. We do first aid, physical fitness, plan camping trips and plan community service events.

We usually go one weekend a month on an activity with the Troop. We leave Friday afternoon and come back on Sunday afternoon. Most of the time, we are tired and dirty, but happy with our achievements. During the summer, we go anywhere between 7 to 14 days to a main camp in Michigan called Cole Canoe Base. We train with rifles and shot guns. We also go canoeing, fishing archery and of my favorite a night of wilderness survival. I had to camp away from the main group and create my own shelter. The coyotes made the evening interesting. We only had with us what we could carry. We also get to do a variety of projects such as baskets or a leather knife case. We close the end of camp with different games like sinking the canoe. This is more fun at the end of camp, because now you have made new friends to share the good times with.

The best thing about Boy Scouts is the life time friendships that I have made. The experiences that I have had will always be an important part of my future. I am proud to be a Boy Scout.



The New Newspaper Staff Says Hello!



Hi! My name is Theaphania P, but lots of people just call me Thea. I'm in 8th grade. I play basketball and volleyball for the school and I'm also one of the editors of the school newspaper! I love music and I play piano and I'm in the St. Patrick School handbell choir. Hope you enjoy the Newspaper!

My name is Brittany R. I live in Wadsworth, and I have three older brothers and a White German Shepherd named Hunter. I like playing basketball and hanging out with my friends. I am an eighth grader at Saint Patrick's and I have been on the newspaper for three years.

My name is Jenna and I was born in Russia. When I was nine months old, an American couple adopted me and brought me into their lives. I have a huge collection of stuffed animals and I play the flute. I wouldn't trade anything for the stuffed animals or flute. I also have a pesky older brother, who is very loud.



My name is Taylor, and I'm in 7th grade (7-0). My favorite sport is basketball, I don't just like basketball, and I'm also a good player. I love cheerios, but I prefer them without milk, I could eat them all day. My favorite food would probably be steak, it is so yummy. Baking brownies, cakes, cookies, and cupcakes is one of my favorite things to do. The place I enjoy visiting the most is Monett, Missouri, because most all my cousins live there. I am not a very shy or boring person to be around; in fact I would say that I am very enthusiastic. My favorite color is green and my favorite animal is definitely a dog, I also have a dog named Andi, which is short for Andorra, she is a German Shepard-Husky mix.

Hi! I'm Abbey! I am a new reporter on the newspaper, and I love to write about school news. That is why I wanted to become a writer. I am really excited to be on the staff this year. I will be writing about sports, and popular school events. I do cheerleading and volleyball when the season is going on, and my brother does basketball, too. That is why I like writing about sports. I am excited to be here, and I hope you like my stories.

Hi! I'm Kara! I'm in 7th grade. I have 6 cats, a fish, and a talking/singing parrot at home. I have 2 sisters: Ashley, who is in 8th grade, and Kimberly, who is 23 years old and lives in Washington D.C. I love to sing and want to pursue a singing career.



Hi, my name is Maggie and I am one of the editors for the school newspaper. I am in seventh grade. I play volleyball for school and for the Wisconsin Juniors and I plan to play girls basketball at school. I enjoy hanging out with my friends. I love singing, reading, and writing. My favorite subjects are either Literature or English. I hope you all enjoy reading this year's newspaper!!



Hello, my name is Ryan and I'm eleven years old. I'm in sixth grade. I like to play the piano, collect rocks, and have a creative mind for everything. I play basketball volleyball, and like to play mini-golf. Well, see you around school!

Hello my name is Tyler. This is my first time as being part of the newspaper. My favorite board game is Monopoly. I like playing Smack Down vs. Raw2008, the video game. My favorite movie is Ghost Rider. Watching Two and a Half Men cracks me up! I love drinking coke reading comics and being a boy scout!



Hi, I'm Monica. I'm in sixth grade and very excited to start the news paper. My hobbies are volleyball, reading, writing scary stories, and dancing. In my free time I enjoy hanging out with friends, practicing volleyball with my sister, and playing with my dogs. I hope you enjoy my article on Fall Fest.

Hello! My name is Ethan C. I work for the school newspaper. I'm also in Boy Scouts, on the 6th grade boys basketball and volleyball teams, and in the school's intermediate band. I also play soccer: it's my favorite sport. I love traveling and like to write and take pictures in my spare time.

