

# Ss. Philip and James School News



*Fifteenth Week of School*

*December 1, 2016*

## Second Graders Conduct Artistic Environmental Experiments w/ Arts in Stark



Mrs. Newell's second graders have been working with the Arts in Stark program (through a grant secured by Holy Cross) to create projects and living keepsakes!

One experiment involved creating living necklaces made up of small aquatic environments with a living ball of moss [pictured above and modeled by Carlie to the right].



The students have also created two living terrariums inhabited by two small plants and moss. The students are subjecting the terrarium on the left to pollutants, such as acid rain (substituted by vinegar), road salt, and aerosol hair spray. The terrarium on the right has not been polluted (the differences between the two are striking).



After a period of examination, the students are then going to try to rehabilitate the polluted terrarium. The students will get to keep the terrariums and care for them for years to come! Special thanks to Arts in Stark and Holy Cross for this great experience!

## Third Graders Write, Illustrate, and Publish a Book



Mrs. Bonnot's third graders are newly published authors and illustrators! Mrs. Bonnot describes this new project: "*The How to Book* was a class book the third graders published. First, as a class I gave them three choice ideas for a book and voted on the ideas. The 'How to Book' idea won."

"As a class, we implemented the writing process by starting with the pre-writing; brainstorming the ideas for the how to do something each student was interested in doing. Then, each student drafted, revised, edited, and wrote their final copy to send to the press to publish. Next, each student drew a picture to illustrate their 'How To' paragraph. Lastly, the students worked together on the cover, title page, table of contents, and the 'Meet the Authors' page."

"The third graders really enjoyed making and publishing their book together!"

## Race for Education 2016

SPJ held its third bi-annual Race for Education on November 23 (pictures to come). The kids mainly raced & ran indoors due to the weather, but fun and revelry was the theme of the day!

The response to the drive, in only two weeks of letters coming in, has been spectacular, with **over \$8,600** being donated to the school! With donations expected to keep coming in through January, we can anticipate this Race for Education to be exceptionally beneficial to SPJ.

"Thank you" letters will be written and sent in late Jan.

# Santa Shop



For any new parents, this is a gift shop that the students can shop at to pick out presents

and have them wrapped for family members. It is a long standing and beloved tradition for SPJ.

We are looking for parent elves to help staff the Santa Shop (shopping assistance, wrapping and check out) for 2 hour shifts from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday, Dec. 12 and a clean-up shift on Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 11:00-1:00.

We are also looking for donations of wrapping supplies (especially gift tags and medium to small size bags) or any type of new, unused items for the shop itself. These can be items for any age or sex or even pet toys. As you are all doing your Black Friday shopping, if you see any great bargains or as you start getting out your wrapping supplies, we would be thrilled to have any extras!

There will be a Santa Shop box outside the school office starting Tuesday, November 29. Donated items can be placed in this box at any time. Please contact DeAnna Koch at [deanna13@sssnet.com](mailto:deanna13@sssnet.com) if you would like to volunteer for this year's Santa Shop. **NOTE: The Santa Shop is also in need of empty cardboard jewelry boxes or decorative bags for jewelry.**

## Upcoming Events

- Dec. 5:** Birthright Blessing (blessing of baby gifts/ Adopt a Family gifts) – 9:00 in social hall
- Dec. 8:** **Mass (Feast of Immaculate Conception)**
- Dec. 9:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance at SPJ (7:00-9:00)  
HCA Band Concert – 6:00
- Dec. 12, 13:** SPJ Santa Shop
- Dec. 14:** 7th & 8th Visit to Central
- Dec. 15:** Christmas Concert @ 6:30 PM (Dress Rehearsal @ 9:30 AM).  
**DAIRY QUEEN Fundraiser after the concert!**
- Dec. 16:** Pep Rally @ 2:30
- Dec. 20:** Birth of Jesus Play (performed by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
9:30 – performance for school  
2:15 – performance for parents
- Dec. 21:** Christmas Carols with Father – 2:00
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2:** Christmas Break
- Jan. 3:** First day back to school
- Jan. 13:** Last day of second quarter

### Christmas Concert

This year's Christmas Show is on THURSDAY, DEC. 15 @ 6:30pm. Grades 1-4 will present "A Christmas Gift for Amos." Please mark your calendars. This is a required performance for grades 1-4.



## Home and School Association

### SCRIP CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TEACHERS:

Save time on shopping and show your teacher/staff appreciation through a gift of Scrip! We are taking collections for each of the teachers and staff for anyone who would like to give the gift of Scrip gift cards for Christmas. Please see the order form attached to this e-mail.

For personal SCRIP use, the last day to turn in SCRIP orders and receive them before Christmas Break is Dec. 15.

### Midterm Reports Come Home Today

Midterm grades will be coming home today; please remember to sign the report and return it to your student's homeroom teacher.