

Rise Up and Read



Principal: Sr. Francis Wystepek
Pastor: Fr. Tino

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy
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Divinemercuryca.org

Volume 8, Issue 2 November/December 2023-2024

Newspaper Staff

Sixth Grade

Isabella Guzman
Lianna Lopez
Michaela Phillips
Aiden Terry

Seventh Grade

Helena Fonseca
Johannie Rodriguez
Isabella Ramharak
Joaquin Reyes
Priscilla Sambhu

Eighth Grade

Julianne DeGuzman
Scarlett Melendez
Amelia Marrero

Moderators

Ms. Sandra DeMarco
Mrs. Kristina Kenny

We Are Thankful!

By Isabella Guzman, Grade 6

This year's DMCA annual Thanksgiving prayer service was hosted by Mrs. McAdam and Ms. Fontanes. On November 20, 2023 the third and fourth graders read Bible readings and our kindergarten class recited a poem in honor of Thanksgiving.

Mrs. McAdam was interviewed:

1. Are you proud of all your students?
"Yes, I am very proud of all the students in both the 3rd and 4th grades. They worked very hard in preparing for the Thanksgiving service."
2. Why did you choose these students?
"I chose those students because they volunteered, and they wanted to participate."
3. What was their reactions?
"At first the students were nervous to read in front of their peers, but once they did it they were so happy and proud of themselves."

Karina Garcia (Grade 4) said that she remembers finding out that she was reading for the prayer service in math class. She was one of the students who had volunteered. She said she had wanted to show her reading ability. She also said, "It was nice to hear the other kids say their readings."

DMCA students donated needed items to the mothers at Hour Children and the elderly at Queen of Peace Residence. Their generosity was appreciated by those we served.





A Fun-Filled Fundraiser at DMCA

By Julianne DeGuzman and Amelia Marrero, Grade 8

From October 31st to November 20th, DMCA students, staff, families, and friends participated in the Boosterthon. Money was donated to the school through the MyBooster website. Donations were received from people living in a multitude of states and even from supporters in other countries. In fact, our goal was surpassed and the Boosterthon was extended for a week longer than anticipated.

This monumental achievement could not have been accomplished without the support and donations from our DMCA families.

Prizes were received for certain amounts of money donated. Students were given a keychain for registering on the website. All the classes competed to raise the most money, and Pre-K4 won. On November 13th, the Fun Run was hosted, which was a great success. There were balloons, banners, pom-poms, and music. The event was aimed at promoting physical activity but was also hosted to reward the students for their participation by letting them have outdoor fun. Student Council vice president Hannah James stated, “The Fun Run was pretty engaging, and it was a nice way to get students outside and motivated to exercise. We did a great job with fundraising.” She could not be more correct, as we managed to raise over \$12,000 for the school!

We are so grateful to all the families who contributed and made the event a huge success. The funds raised will go a long way in supporting our learning at school, since it will be used to obtain new technology. The Boosterthon event was not only about raising money but also about building a sense of community. Way to go, DMCA!



Brunch with Santa

By Aiden Terry, Grade 6

Brunch with Santa was held in our school basement on December 16, 2023. It was a fun party/get together to celebrate Christmas with the DMCA students, their families, friends, and Santa. Many people participated in games such as Bingo. A contest was held where groups of children would wrap their friends and put a bow on them. People who participated in either event received a NUT card if they won. Even if they did not win, it was still so much fun.

In between running around and having fun that Saturday morning, the guests at the party ate bagels and cookies and drank hot chocolate. Christmas music filled the air putting everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Santa was not the only special guest who joined us for brunch with Santa. So many students, as well as parents, were excited to welcome Ms. Gillespie, DMCA's former teacher of grades 7 and 8, back to join the festivities for the morning. DMCA thanks the Parent Event Committee and parent volunteers for providing the students with this entertaining brunch.



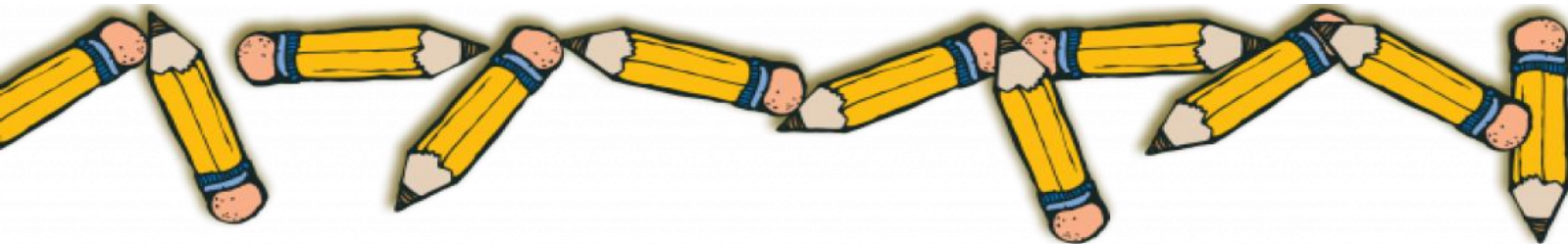
BAH HUMBUG! WE'RE LATE!

By Helena Fonseca and Priscilla Sambhu, Grade 7

On December 14, 2023, 5th and 6th graders went to see the play *Scrooge* at the Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center. All students were excited to go on a field trip with their classmates. The play started at 10:15 and parent chaperones had to be in school by 9. *Scrooge* is a great play to see around Christmas time because it teaches the true meaning of Christmas. Michaela (Grade 6) said, "I liked it because it was a fun time to spend with friends, and my class always has such a great time on the bus when we sing."

Lucas (Grade 6) said that the play was fine, but it was kind of sad that the class missed the opening scene due to a late bus arrival. Kayla (Grade 6) said, "The trip to the theater was very fun. At the end of the play, smiles filled the room." The actors put their energy and talents into it. The students in DMCA really look forward to going on more trips throughout the year!





Divine Mercy Catholic Academy

December 2023

Honor Roll



Grade 4

First Honors

Josie Burgos
Clarissa Silan
Aiden Surujbhan

Second Honors

Derek Ayala

Grade 7

Principal's List

Austin Gaton
Priscilla Sambhu

First Honors

Olivia Cid
Helena Fonseca
Lavina Garraway

Second Honors

Lia Gelo
Benjamin Welch

Grade 5

Principal's List

Aarti Gokul
Janet Hassan
Isabel Mann
Neera Mohan-Deodat
Giangelo Rivera

First Honors

Karla Benitez
Arian Curay Vasquez
Austin Persaud
Ian Persaud
Jaylee Ramasami

Second Honors

Yuvvikaa Arora
Sara-Jean Seemungal
Sophia Singh

Grade 6

Principal's List

Ashley Jacome
Shriya Jagdeo
Michaela Phillips
Zachary Sambhu

First Honors

Jandee DeGuzman
Skylee Fernandez
Genesis Fierro
Josh Lachhana

Second Honors

Giuliana Pecchio
Kristian Rivera
Aiden Terry
Kayla Torres

Grade 8

Principal's List

Julianne De Guzman
Arya Singh

First Honors

Hannah James
Joseph Rodriguez

Second Honors

Jason Bonilla
Suri Jagdeo
Tanuja Singh

Art/Writing collected and chosen by Lianna Lopez and Michaela Phillips, Grade 6



By Vianka Liz and Katie Stephen, Grade 4



By Aarti Gokul, Grade 5

By Karla Benitez and Neera Mohan-Deodat, Grade 5

November is here, and Thanksgiving is near. They are here for us to give thanks for the good things that happened this year. The tables are ready, and the chairs are booked. The turkey looks yummy, and it is all cooked up! Time to shop for Black Friday and buy me some goods. Oh, its so cold outside; maybe I'll buy me some hoods! Thanksgiving drives, oh how fun! In the skill department, helping people is my number one! To end it off, I'll say this: God gave us a life, which is a wonderful gift.

Thank you to all of our students who submitted artwork and writings for this month – it was hard just to choose a few!



By Vianka Liz, Grade 4

The DMCA Christmas Show

By Isabella Ramharak and Johannie Rodriguez, Grade 7

Every year DMCA has a Christmas show. The show takes place in the church basement. Each class prepares a song and a dance to perform on stage. The event has been occurring since the beginning of DMCA. Mrs. Spies runs this school event, which is a gift to the DMCA families.

The day of the Christmas show students sang songs and performed choreographed dances. Classes practiced their songs on stage for several days before the show. Students dressed up in Christmasy clothing to bring to life their songs and dances. The highlight of the show was the reenactment of the Nativity scene by the eighth graders. It reminded us that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season.



Christmas Wreath Sale

By Joaquin Reyes, Grade 7

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy had a Christmas Wreath sale. It takes place every year in December. DMCA needed help with the sale, so parents were asked to help by donating decorations, decorating the pine wreaths and selling them. Each year the wreaths look fun and unique. The donated decorations make the wreaths interesting because of the creativity of the parents. DMCA had the sale on December 3rd outside the church. Unfortunately, this year the weather did not cooperate, so many wreaths were not sold.

Mr. Miller (custodian) later hung them on the fence surrounding the Church and school property, which gave the area a festive appearance for Christmas. Hopefully next year the sun will shine.