

Rise Up and Read



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Volume 8, Issue 3 January - February 2023-2024

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Catholic Schools Week and a Special Visit

By Helena Fonseca, Grade 7

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy celebrated the beginning of Catholic Schools Week with an opening Mass on Sunday, January 28 at 9:30 a.m. Parents, students, teachers, and staff came together to ask God to bless our school and school families. After Mass, there was an open house. The teachers, staff, and student council welcomed parents and students to the school. Our hallways became an art gallery showcasing the art projects from each grade. There were paintings and drawings, as well as models of Egyptian art and skyscrapers from NY including the Statue of Liberty. Parents and students looking to make DMCA their school received a personalized tour.

On Monday, January 29, we had a special visitor to help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Monsignor Cassato, Vicar of Catholic Schools, joined us for the day. The whole school welcomed Monsignor Cassato in the gym. The DMCA cheer team performed a joyful cheer, and then the whole school joined in. The presidents of the student council presented Monsignor with a special 100th Anniversary DMCA shirt and glass. He then participated in art class with the 6th graders. He made a special silhouette of himself. Monsignor expressed that he had a great time. He was then given a special tour of the Art show by the student council presidents. As he walked down the hallway, students from each grade explained their art work and how they created it. He enjoyed the tour so much that it was featured on the front page of the *Tablet*. We hope Monsignor Cassato comes back to visit us again real soon.





The Students of DMCA Shine!

By Johannie Rodriguez, Grade 7

Red And Blue Teams

On January 30th, the students of DMCA were divided into red and blue teams. To show cooperation and fellowship, they were then paired up with their buddies for gym activities led by Coach, one of DMCA's gym teachers. Isabella from Grade 7 said, "I think it taught us good sportsmanship".

Board Games

That afternoon, teachers hosted students and their buddies to play board games and have fun. Sister Francis provided each class with brand new games to play. Thank you, Sister Francis!

Student Appreciation

Tuesday was Student Appreciation Day. Students were celebrated for their outstanding work and cooperation. Teachers spent the day surprising students with fun activities. Sister Francis rewarded each student with a yummy ice cream sundae. Students left the day without homework. Many thought that was the best part of the day.





Theme Day

By Aiden Terry, Grade 6

On February 1, 2024, our school had its first ever Theme Day. This Theme Day was an event during Catholic Schools Week. Days before, the classes decided what theme they would represent. All the classes had a unique idea for a theme. In some of the classes, the students had a vote. The ideas went from decades to Ninja Turtles. Classes participated in activities based on their themes. Fifth graders put together western crafts, and sixth graders completed Star Wars writing assignments.

Each class walked around the gym for a fashion show. Kindergarteners were Ninja Turtles. First graders wore clothes from several decades, while 2nd graders were Disney characters. Third grade wore tie dye; 4th graders were superheroes. Fifth grade wore western outfits, while 6th graders dressed as Star Wars characters. Seventh grade wore sports attire, and 8th graders wore 50s inspired outfits. You looked MARVELOUS!



Catholic Schools Week - Charity Day and Relay Race

By Lianna Lopez and Michaela Phillips

During Catholic Schools Week, on Wednesday, Divine Mercy Catholic Academy students supported the charities of their teachers' choices. On that day, classes dressed up in the charity's colors and donated money. We asked the teachers from our school to share what charity their class represented (See below). We, as a school, made several donations and created cards and posters to show our love and affection to those in need. Fourth Grade made posters which were displayed in the school hallway.

Charities each grade supported:

- Kindergarten- Alzheimer's (purple)
- 1st Grade- St. Jude's Children's Hospital (green)
- 2nd Grade- Breast Cancer (pink)
- 3rd Grade- Childhood Cancer (yellow)
- 4th Grade- World Wildlife Fund (black and white / animal print)
- 5th Grade- Shriners Children's (red and black)
- 6th Grade- Project HEAL (dark blue)
- 7th Grade- No Kid Hungry (orange)
- 8th Grade- Ronald McDonald House (red)

For Charity Day, we also had a relay race. Every grade was assigned a time span to have a fun race with their buddies. In the gym, Coach Dave hosted the races. During the race, the students ran from the back of the gym to a cone near the other side of the gym. Each class did different types of tricks with beanbags too, such as balancing one on our heads, running with them in our hands, and so much more!

Math Bee*By Joaquin Reyes, Grade 7*

On January 4th the Math Bee between 6, 7, and 8th graders was held in the school basement. Each grade held their own Math Bee to decide which students would represent their class. The top 3 of each class participated. The winner of the school Math Bee represented DMCA in the Diocesan Math Bee.

The students for Grade 6 were Zachary Sambhu, Kristian Rivera, and Giuliana Pecchio. For 7th grade: Ikechukwa Onyia, Joaquin Reyes, and Priscilla Sambhu. The 8th graders were Kyle Raghoonanan, Devendra Rambharoce, and Hannah James. The students from grades 3 through 8 were the audience. Zachary won and Joaquin was first runner-up. Zachary represented DMCA in the Diocesan Math Bee.

The Diocesan Math Bee was postponed twice. It finally occurred on February 26th. Zachary ended up in 5th place. DMCA is proud of his efforts. The Math Bee is a great way to have fun and showcase your math skills.

**A Fresh Perspective from a New Teacher at DMCA***By Priscilla Sambhu, Grade 7*

This school year brought many new faces to our school, including teachers. Ms. Fontanes, the new fourth grade teacher, joined us with a creative way of teaching that's sure to inspire and educate young minds. With a strong focus on creativity, teamwork, and school spirit, she represents a passion for education. She incorporates technology and fun activities into her lessons, which we value at our school.

Interview Questions:

1. What school did you previously teach at?
Saint Mary Gate of Heaven.
2. What inspired you to become a teacher?
“Since I was young, I loved working with children, and I knew that I wanted to inspire them and help build their futures”.
3. What do you find to be the best and worst thing about teaching?
“The best thing is that something happens every day that makes me smile, but the worst part is the stress that comes with wanting to do a good job”.
4. What is the most important piece of advice that you would give to your students?
“Every day is an opportunity for a new beginning and to try your best in everything you do”.

Donnalys and Jese, Grade 4 students, said that a favorite activity that Ms. Fontanes did with her class was drawing a panda during Catholic Schools Week. On Charity Day, 4th graders donated to the World Wildlife Fund.

Art/Writing collected and chosen by Isabella Guzman, Grade 6

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! ♥



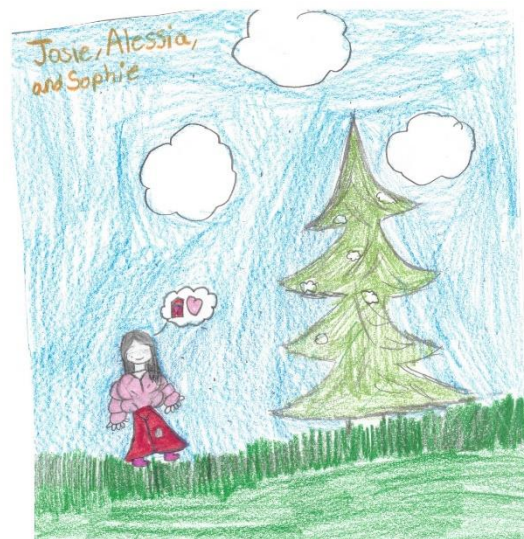
By Arti Gokul, Grade 5



By Vianka Liz and Katie Stephen, Grade 4



By Victoria Guzman, Grade 4



By Jose Burgos, Alessia Maruca, and Sophie Prado

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

Valentine Thoughts

Walking through the forest with nothing but me and my Valentine thoughts. It brings us chocolates, roses, and Valentine cards. Valentine's Day is not for everyone, but we can still have Valentines Day!



By Alicia Welch, Kindergarten

For this issue of Rise Up and Read, the seventh grade class wrote ‘Letters to the Editor’ where they shared their ideas regarding Catholic Schools Week. We have selected 3 of their letters to share with our DMCA community.

Dear Editor,

Catholic Schools Week is the best week in the school year. For this week we had many events like Buddy Day, Theme Day, Color Day, Spelling Bee, etc. I personally like Buddy Day because I was with my buddy Johnny, and he was very enthusiastic. We played board games after gym, and it was really fun. All of our buddies were filled with joy.

Catholic Schools Week is a very important week because it shows how schools connect with all grades, teachers, and other members. People like to show why Catholic schools are important to them. We like to celebrate all the good work students do, like art or projects that we showed for our open house. This week helps students be confident in their ideas and what they do to help people in need.

This week had many memories that I will keep forever, and I hope many others had this experience, like I did. This is the time we donate to help others, which grade K-8 did for many different charities. Catholic Schools Week 2024 has been one of the best Catholic Schools Weeks I experienced from being in the school since kindergarten.

Sincerely,

Mia Lit (Grade 7)

Dear Editor,

As Catholic Schools Week celebration unfolds, it's important to recognize the invaluable impact of Catholic education on students and communities. This week provides an opportunity to celebrate the fun traditions, academic excellence, and moral foundation that Catholic Schools offer. From instilling values of compassion and service to fostering a strong sense of community, Catholic Schools play a vital role in shaping well-rounded individuals who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.

As we honor Catholic Schools week, let's acknowledge the dedication of educators, the achievements of students, and the enduring commitment of Catholic Schools to nurturing both the hearts and minds of future generations.

Sincerely,

Suri Jagdeo (Grade 7)

Dear Editor,

Catholic Schools Week is one of the best weeks of the school year. We had many fun activities together and with other grades. Some activities we did were Buddy Day, Theme Day, and much more. These activities were fun and joyful.

My favorite day was Buddy Day. Seventh grade was paired up with kindergarten. My partner, Alena, was very kind. She was a bit shy at first. After the sports activities, she was more talkative. I played many games with my partner and other groups. We had a fun time!

Overall, Catholic Schools Week was full of joy and laughter. Catholic Schools Week is important because we show why our school is different. I had a fun time, and I hope everyone else did too. I can't wait for next year!

Sincerely,

Lavina Garraway(Grade 7)