

MARCH 2013

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Notre Dame High School

Sixteen students participated in the Chattanooga Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Katie Sutton, who produced fuel from algae and duckweed, won the Navy Award, a UTC Scholarship, the Outstanding Junior Project award, and first place in the energy and Transportation category. Vidas Dubininkas and Dylan Ireland, who measured the effect of pH on plants, won first place in the Plant Science category and a cash prize. Alejandro Gallego and Jack White, who measured the effect of calcium on shrimp, won second place in the Animal Science category and a cash prize. Andie Dorris won second place in the Environmental Management category with her rooftop garden project. Kayleigh Howard won third place in the Physics category and a cash prize for her sunglass efficiency project. James Teal's solar-powered heater project won the Army Award, third place in the Engineering category, and a cash prize. Also participating were Sophia Olenchek, Claire LeSar, Mary Connell, Niamh Cahill, Katrina Lundquist, Jessica Moore, Sarah Thomas, and Jiwon Kim.

Seventeen students participated in the State TSA (Technology Student Association) competition on March 14th – 17th. Jerry Lawler, Cooper Manley, and Ella Stites earned first place in Music Production. Jack White earned first place in Career Preparation. Ella Stites and Gus White earned first place in Debating Technological Issues. Gus White earned second place in Extemporaneous Speech, and Joseph Schumacher and Angelica Schumacher earned fourth place in Architectural Renovation. Jack White was elected State Secretary for TSA, and his brother Gus White was nominated to national office. First and second place winners qualified for nationals in June in Orlando, Florida.



Student-made Alfombras were on display prior to morning Mass at Notre Dame High School. Alfombras are one of the most scenic attributes to Holy Week in Guatemala and Southern Mexico.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

March was a very busy month of testing for OLPH. To lighten up the tone, we had a talent show that was presented in the evening to all, and then again during the school day as a special treat for the students. We are very blessed to have such a gifted student body. (See picture below)



Also during March, Mr. Craig Lawson did a Food Science presentation for our first grade. The students discovered how different colors of foods can alert the taste buds. They did several tastings and experiments which enlightened and educated all.

A more somber, and an incredibly moving, event at OLPH was the presentation of the Living Stations by the eighth grade (See pictures).



This was presented to the student body during the day and to the parish in the evening. It was a perfect way to begin the following Holy Week.

St. Jude School

St. Jude School conducted the IOWA Test of Basic Skills and COGAT tests in early March. St. Jude purchased and utilized the new IOWA testing materials that correlate to the Common Core State Standards.

As part of their Easter preparation, students participated in Stations of the Cross each week. Various classes presented stations in a unique way, including the third grade play, the fifth grade visual art presentation and the eighth grade Live Stations, attended by parishioners, parents, and Sister Mary Marta. (See photos of the Living Stations below.)



In spite of unseasonably cool weather and delays for snow in March, the spring sports season kicked off with both elementary and middle school Track and Field, Tennis, and Golf. Interested boys are participating in an Irish Baseball League, sponsored by Notre Dame High School and a very active basketball clinic sponsored by the Notre Dame Basketball coach. Eighth grade girls wishing to play basketball when they move on to Notre Dame have been invited and are participating in a special basketball clinic.

Knoxville Catholic High School

On March 6th, five Knoxville Catholic seniors signed letters of intent to play college athletics. Congratulations to Zach Cole, Football/Wrestling for the University of the Cumberland, Nolan Coulter, Football for Centre College, Reese Staley, Sprint Football for the United States Military Academy at West Point, Ryan Kerr, Gymnastics at the United States Air Force Academy and Preston Tucker, golf at Walters State College.

On March 7th, Father David Carter offered a discussion-style lecture on the process of the Conclave during activity period. Father David is a Canon Lawyer for our Diocese and has spent time in Rome. It was a very informative session and a great opportunity to learn about Church History.

The KCHS Band competed on March 15 at Farragut High School, where they received four superior ratings. They will perform at the State Concert Band Festival at Tennessee Tech in April.

The KCHS Robotics Team finished in 19th place out of 55 teams at a competition in North Carolina on March 15th-16th. This event was a warm up for the Regional Competition on March 28th-29th at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Dr. Kelly Kearse gave a very impressive presentation on March 20th regarding *The Shroud of Turin* as part of the Adult Faith Formation series at KCHS. Dr. Kearse has been involved in doing DNA research on the Shroud, and has published several articles on his findings. Over 70 students and their parents attended this session, reminding us of the blessing of being able to mix science and religion in such a meaningful way.

On March 21st, the sophomore class, as part of their studies in English, had the opportunity to hear a presentation from Mr. Art Pais, A Holocaust survivor who resides in Knoxville. Other members of the student body and staff who were free during activity period also attended this very informative and touching session.

Congratulations to senior Libby Fortunato, who has been offered and accepted *The Haslam Scholarship* at the University of Tennessee.

We are extremely proud of the KCHS Latin students who competed in the Tennessee Junior Classical League State Latin Convention on March 22nd-23rd. The team won first place awards for Skit and Website, and placed second and third in the intermediate and advanced certamen teams. Rhett Dunlap was chosen from over 600 students to receive the "Spirit of JCL" award. KCHS placed fifth from over 30 schools participating at the convention.

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Year of Faith We have embraced our school theme, "Increase our Faith" from Luke 17:5. The Year of Faith encourages focus on the areas of sacred scripture, participation in the Mass, and celebration of the gift of the Eucharist. Each month we focus on three areas:

- 1. Gospel selections or stories on Faith**
- 2. Commandments and portions of the Creed**
- 3. Synonyms for the word 'Eucharist'**

In **March**, our Gospel reading was from Matthew 8:23-27, the Storm at Sea. The creed/commandment was "He Died." Christ experiences everything. And, our word for the Eucharist was "The Lord's Supper". We are encouraging these topics for reflection and discussion within our families throughout the school year.

SHCS Student Wins National Art Award We are pleased to announce that 8th grade student, **Morgan Murphy**, has earned National Recognition in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2013. Morgan has been identified by panels of creative professionals as one of the most talented young artists and writers in the nation. This year, 230,000 works of art and writing were submitted. Only the top 1% was recognized at the national level. One hundred twenty-five eighth grade art works received national awards, four of which were from the state of Tennessee. Morgan Murphy's 3D Shoe Sculpture ("Heart & Sole") was honored with a Silver Key. A ceremony at the world famous Carnegie Hall in New York City will honor the award winners on May 31, 2013. It will also be webcast live at 6 pm ET. Learn more at www.artandwriting.org. Congratulations to Morgan on this great achievement!

Introducing Camp Eagle This is the inaugural year of Camp Eagle; a myriad of summer camps offered by our talented faculty on the campus of Sacred Heart Cathedral. Camp Eagle is a great opportunity to enrich your child's summer in a Catholic environment by learning new sports or activities in a relaxed setting. Currently, there are 15 camps to choose from; for all ages. Visit www.sacredheartsports.org for registration information.

SHCS Celebrates March Madness with Dad's Day Our school ushered in the month of March with our annual "Dad's Day" welcoming in fathers, grandfathers and special friends who make a difference in the lives of our students daily. Teachers made a dedicated effort to involve our male role models in instructional centers in the classroom or to participate in presentations about their professional careers.

Spring Drama Production SHCS "Heart to Heart Players" invited the community to step into the wardrobe for a magical evening of theater on March 22nd and 23rd. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe is C.S. Lewis' classic, allegorical story of good versus evil. SHCS drama teacher, Mrs. Katie Norwood Alley directed this adaptation by playwright Joseph Robinette. The performances were well attended and a huge success!

Word Surgeons Mrs. Markway's Second Grade class became "Word Surgeons" for the day. The class wore real surgeon's masks and gloves donated by Dr. Mike Carlson, father of David Carlson. The students took ten contractions and performed "surgery" on the two words that make up contractions.

St. John Neumann School

The students of St. John Neumann participated in a school-wide spiritual retreat on Thursday, March 28th. The spiritual retreat began with a prayer service. The students then completed a Walk with Jesus through Holy Week, and then observed a movie on The Passion and had a Lenten sing along with Mr. Leichman

The NHC Visits Club met on Saturday, March 16 from 10:30-11:30am for a visit to NHC Farragut. The group spent time visiting with the residents, singing hymns, playing the piano, sharing the children's "treasures", and simply taking time to talk to the residents.

Congratulations to our Grade 6 Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair participants! Honorable Mentions were given to Haley Cionfola, Maggie Keener, Samantha Peck, and Laura Daffron. Awards of Excellence were given to Jake Renfree, Thomas Kollie, and Alexandra Peterson. The Sigma Xi Scientific Research Special Award - 1st Place Physical Science was given to Samantha Peck. The Society for Women Engineers Applied Engineering Special Award was given to Laura Daffron. Alexandra Peterson earned 5th Place overall and is eligible to participate at the National Middle School Science Fair. Our SJNCS students did a phenomenal job this year!

St. Joseph School

Students from kindergarten through middle school performed a musical rendition of *The Velveteen Rabbit* on Saturday evening, March 2nd in the school's Performing Arts Center.

Students and faculty studied the process of electing a new pope and watched the inauguration Mass together after celebrating the feast of our patron saint, Saint Joseph. Parent teacher conferences were interrupted as we watched the white smoke!

Students and staff participated in a special prayer service on Holy Thursday. The service included washing one another's feet, reading the last discourse from Saint John's Gospel and concluding with a passion play.

St. Mary School – Oak Ridge

Spirit: Friday, March 22nd, at 2:00 and 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's School 8th graders and Young People's Choir presented a prayerful and very moving rendition of the Stations of the Cross to students, families, and parishioners. A highlight of the service came during the 11th Station, Jesus I Nailed to the Cross, when 8th graders Anna Tidwell and Austin Vinyard, portraying the Blessed Mother and Jesus, sang a duet based on Psalm 22 and originally written and scored by

Francine Britto and Sister Maria Sarradet, O.P. At the conclusion, all those present were invited to come up to the image of the Face of the Crucified Jesus and place flowers as a sign of reverence. Many thanks to the 8th graders and Young People's choir, and Sister Mary Rebekah, Kathy Mesmer, Kristin Swabe, and Carolyn Krings for preparing and assisting our students to make this such a prayerful experience for all attending!



Mission: St. Mary's School successfully hosted its five-year external review accreditation visit from the AdvancED team from March 3rd – 5th. St. Mary's has been accredited by AdvancED (formerly Southern Association of colleges and Schools, SACS-CASI) since 1998, and this year's team included chair Sister Matthew Marie, O.P., a former teacher at St. Mary's, now professor in the School of Education, Aquinas College, Nashville; Sister Maria Fidelis, O.P., 2nd grade teacher at Overbrook School, Nashville; Sara Hayes, Dean of Academics and Science Instructor at Father Ryan High School, Nashville; and Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler, Director of Graduate Studies in Education, Aquinas College.

Among other things, the school was highly commended for its mission, high stakeholder satisfaction, and academic excellence: "The commitment and dedication of the Sisters and the teachers were recognized and appreciated in the strongest of terms among all stakeholders, but the students, without exception, indicated that the teachers are what make St. Mary's the best school there is. The faculty and staff truly represent what is called for by the Catholic Church in regards to the educational community. Namely, 'In educational communities, therefore, the style of life has great influence, especially if the consecrated persons and the lay faithful work together, fully sharing the commitment to develop, in the school, "an atmosphere animated by a spirit of liberty and charity based on the Gospel." This requires that each one contributes the specific gift of his or her vocation to construct a family supported by charity and by the spirit of the beatitudes. (Educating Together In Catholic Schools #38)'"

Service: On the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19th, school parent Jennifer McMahan sponsored a St. Joseph's Altar, and school families donated homemade baked goods and other items that were sold throughout the day, with all proceeds benefitting the parish's St. Joseph's Food Pantry. Individual classes and parishioners visited the altar to leave prayer intentions, following a procession and blessing of the altar after Mass by Associate Pastor Fr. Dustin Collins. More than \$300 in cash and donated food items were given to the food pantry.



St. Dominic School

St. Dominic School hosted the Spring Catechetical Formation In-service for the teachers and staff of the Knoxville and Tri-Cities Diocesan schools on Friday, March 8th. We pray that everyone enjoyed their day and learned much about the Catholic Faith.

During the week of March 11th – 15th, students in Grades first through fifth took the Iowa Basic Skills tests. Also, during the next week, the school assessed the children in our Child Development Center using a new assessment tool.

On Friday, March 22nd, we held our Science Fair. The Fourth and Fifth graders participated. They all did a wonderful job on their projects and made it difficult to pick the winners! The winners in the Physical Science Division were:

Fourth Grade: Louisa Simpson – First Place
Nick Mize – Second Place

Fifth Grade: Maria Simpson – First Place
Faith Lucas – Second Place

The winners in the Biological Division were:

Fourth Grade: Anna Sago – First Place
Sonali Poobalasingham – Second Place

St. Mary School – Johnson City

Our Junior Monday Club Poetry Winners were honored at a reception at the Johnson City Public Library. Regional Winners were:

First Place Mara Donahue – first grade
 Austin Harris – fourth grade
 Hannah Donahue – sixth grade

Third Place Audrey Harris – second grade
 Lane Caughron – third grade

Honorable Mention Jacob Allen – first grade
 Carmen Palileo – third grade

Mara Donahue's poem went on to win second place in State.

Austin Harris and Hannah Donahue's poems went on to win second place in District.

Our school has started a Wellness committee to look into healthier food choices for our cafeteria, and to offer exercise for the entire family. Our students under the direction of our P.E. teacher, has started our own SMS garden. This is a new committee and we will give updates as they unfold.