

The Eagle News

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St. Peter to Experience “The Sound of Music”

—by Christina Dinh

St. Peter Schulte’s sixth annual musical, “The Sound of Music Jr.” is coming in May. Here’s a mid-point check in with the musical crew and cast.

Eighth graders Adelia Wright and John Lively play the lead roles, Maria Rainer and Captain George Von Trapp respectively. While Wright has participated in the musical since sixth grade, this is Lively’s first year. Both liked the fact that the Sound of Music Jr. is based on a real story. “I really like how it’s based off of a true story—most people didn’t know that,” Wright said, and Lively agreed. He said, “I really liked the movie. I think it’s an interesting story and it’s true so that’s cool.” Wright said, “I’ve never had the lead in the musical, but I really admired past leads in the musical because of how committed and hardworking they were.”

Seventh graders Chloe Pelz and Dominic Cherry, who play a part of the trio of the Saengerbund of Herwegen and Franz respectively, have also participated in the musical since sixth grade, and Cherry was in tech crew in fifth grade. Both said that the musical was fun to be in, even if some days it was tiring.

Sixth grader Nora Thome, who stars as Brigitta Von Trapp, had a lot of positive things to say about the experience. “I really like it! I think it’s pretty cool and that it’s a good program. I would take it again next



Seventh graders practice a scene from “The Sound of Music.”

year because it’s a really good environment and a good activity to do after school,” she said.

For fifth grade students, or those who haven’t taken part in the musical, the cast had some encouraging words. The eighth graders addressed the age-old-friend of many people: stage fright. Wright said, “If you have stage fright, at first you might be thinking: I made an enormous mistake. But once you get to the actual show, it’ll be one of the greatest experiences (as it was for me). Don’t be scared to go on stage because most of the time you can’t even see the audience. Just imagine it’s just you and whoever else is on the scene with you.” Lively said, “Don’t get really afraid of the stage. It shouldn’t be your enemy, it should be your tool. It should make you happy, not afraid,” Pelz gave some simple advice, “If you’re interested in

doing the musical, try it or do tech crew!” Thome said, “It’s really fun and it’s a really good experience! I think it helps you to develop character.”

Mr. Charlie Wolke, the director, contrasted the “Sound of Music Jr.” with the past two productions, “Madagascar Jr.” and “Beauty and the Beast Jr.” He said that while the last two were based off of movies, “The Sound of Music Jr.” is based on a real story. However, because the production is based on reality, Mr. Wolke noted that some difficulties may present themselves. He said, “Some of the difficulties will come with the acting and the presentation of these different themes, while allowing the light hearted music and

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the strong characters to really tell the story from start to finish.” He also noted that this musical has a larger cast. He said, “I think it helps, because the culmination of a large number of actors and actresses allows for a richer sound in the singing and helps to give confidence to all the people who are participating.”

Looking at the cast list, one may notice that Marta Von Trapp is not played by not a middle schooler, but by third grader Ava Shahan. Wulke explained, “A few of the characters are supposed to be ages of six to seven years old, and while we may have small students in the middle

school ranks, some of them do not appear young enough to fit those specific character roles.”

Musicals Wulke would like to do in the future include “The Music Man,” “Newsies,” “Fiddler On the Roof,” and “Shrek.” However, he stated that he does not know which one he’ll be doing next year.

Future musicals, however, will require funding. Mr. Wulke said, “I would be interested in seeing a growth in ticket sales from last year. While we already said a record last year with more than 1500 tickets, I would love to aim for closer to 1800 this year.”

Students Prepare to be Confirmed

--by Zulia Valles

On April 23, 2023, St. Peter sixth graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Father David Lies will be confirming them this year.

St. Peter pastor, Father Voelker, said he is preparing the students by “talking to them about the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit; the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how He leads and changes our life all at once.”

Confirmation is a powerful gift and a big responsibility for the students.

Father Voelker explained that the Bishop has a reason for deciding that children will be confirmed in sixth grade. He said the Bishop “deems it necessary during this time to have sixth graders confirmed because of the craziness of the world and the confusion of the world.” He said the purpose of the Sacrament is “to give them the light of the Holy Spirit to guide them to truth.”

Come, Holy Spirit!

Mr. Kenneth Blaschke, middle school religion teacher, helps prepare the sixth graders for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



First Communion Set for April 16

--by Nathan Ciaponi

The second grade students will receive their First Communion on Sunday, April 16.

According to second grade teacher Mrs. Debbie Neises, they have been preparing for the Sacrament for months. She said, “We begin preparing for First Communion from the very start of the second grade school year by deepening our understanding of Jesus as Savior and our need to reconcile with Him during Confession so that we may worthily receive the Eucharist in the spring.”

Students are getting excited for the experience. Mrs. Neises said, “The children are very ready to meet Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! There seems to be more excitement than nerves.” Second grade student Jace McDaneld agreed. He said, “I’ve already had two confessions and I’m feeling ready.” He said he is looking forward to “having Jesus fully in my heart and having Him in my heart in every Mass.”

St. Peter Catholic School is participating in the food drive “40 Cans for 40 Days” sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. We appreciate your support!

peanut butter = 2 cans
Ramen Noodles 5 pkgs.=1 can

The class with the most cans on April 14 wins a pizza party!

Talent Show Lights Up the Gym!



Teachers perform “Hallelujah” in monk attire.

–by Christina Dinh

The St. Peter Talent Show was a hit again in 2023! The show took place on Thursday, February 2, and was headed by the eighth grade class, who opened the show with a blinding display of lights and music!

The long-awaited teacher skit was the first act, and they did not disappoint. In an impressively coordinated act, the teachers--dressed as monks--“sang” a beautiful rendition of Handel’s “Messiah: Hallelujah,” wringing out laughter from the audience as they fought to keep up to the music.

After the monks scurried away, a series of acts took place, from the classic singing and piano acts, to the

eighth grade skits that had the audience smiling and laughing, to more niche talents such as singing the alphabet backwards.

A favorite of seventh grader Elouise Drouhard was the “Sister Act,” performed by several sixth grade students. She said it was “funny, and exciting and fun!”

Third grader Jenna Kelley liked the half-time show the eighth graders put on. “It was really funny!” she said, and the audience seemed to agree, as they doubled over in laughter at the eighth graders’ hilarity.

One of the talented people who appeared in the show was first grader Marley Whalen, who sang an amazing cover of “Fight Song.” by Rachel Platten. Whalen said that is her favorite song. She said it took around a week of practicing the song before she sang it live at the show. After the acts came and went, the show closed its curtains, and students left the gymnasium with smiles on their faces and stories to bring home to their families.



Eighth graders John Lively and Royce Eastman perform a segment for the talent show.



Second grader Harper Seitz plays the guitar, assisted by Mr. Wolke.

Students Rock the Spelling Bee



Spelling bee winners, from left: Kaylee Kramer, 3rd, Isaias Larin, 1st, and John Brunke, 2nd.

–by Zulia Valles

The spelling bee was held at 2:30 on Tuesday, January 31.

Students in third through eighth grade are able to participate. Each class has a class spelling competition to see which students will represent their class in the school spelling bee.

Congratulations to all the participants, especially to the winner, sixth grade student Isaias Larin. Larin went on to compete in the Diocesan spelling bee on February 15, where he placed 12th out of 30 spellers.

Students who competed in the spelling bee are listed below.

Third:	Jonas Riopel Easton Sandbo
Fourth:	Lillian Gerber Cadence Nutter
Fifth:	Addyson Johnson Parker Thome
Sixth:	Isaias Larin Kaylee Kramer
Seventh:	Elouise Drouhard Mary Elliott
Eighth:	John Brunke Ailey Franco

Eighth Grade Takes on the Teachers

-by Nathan Ciaponi

This year's eighth grade vs. teachers volleyball game happened on Friday February 3, 2023. A lot of people wanted the eighth grade to win the volleyball games, but the teachers won again!

Students who wanted the eighth graders to win had multiple reasons. Sixth grade student Quentin Englert said, "My brother was on the eighth grade team." Another sixth grader, Mason McKim, said it was because "they are good."

The last two years, the students have watched the game with their Faith Families instead of sitting with their class.



The eighth graders take the court with enthusiasm at the teachers vs. eighth grade volleyball game.

Seventh Annual Auction Raises \$143,448

--by Nathan Ciaponi

This year, St. Peter's seventh annual auction was held on Saturday, January 28. After subtracting expenses and the Fund-A-Need money, it raised \$143,448.68. This year's auction had some changes from last year.

After being held at Wichita Union Stockyards last year, this year it was moved back into the St. Peter

building. The auction had a buffet dinner instead of a plated meal. There was also musical talent to add some music for the bidders to listen to.

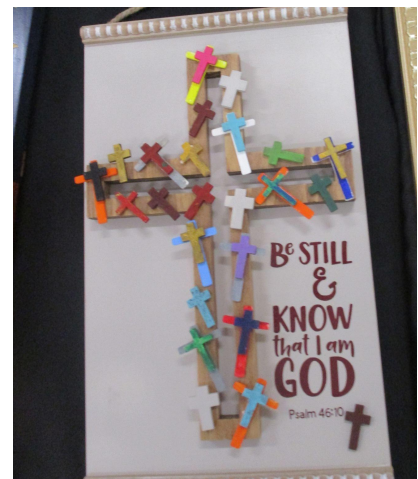
In order to be successful, the auction takes a lot of planning, and planning for the next auction starts right after the previous auction ends. However, according to Jen Meyers, who serves on the auction committee, the bulk of planning is in the six months leading up to the auction. She said, "The twelve auction committee members are a wonderful group of ladies that work really well together. But our hard work wouldn't mean anything without the support of the parish."

The money from the auction is

split up into parts and given to different parts of the school. Once all the money is calculated, 10% goes to the Diocese, 45% goes to the school, 45% is given to the Church, and the remaining 10% goes to CYM.



Mr. Blaschke's building elective constructed and donated a dog house.



Mrs. Mans' third grade class donated a cross they made.

Science Olympiad is Going to State!



The Science Olympiad team poses after regionals. The team will compete in the state competition on April 1.

—by *Christina Dinh*

Science Olympiad is back, bigger than ever, and going to the state championship in April!

The team placed 9th in the regional competition, held on February 4th.

Eighth grader Julianna McCosh, said she was sad that this will be her last year competing for St. Peter. However, she also said that she enjoyed her time because it helped her gain more

hands-on experience in applying her knowledge to real life projects and problems. She said, “It encourages you to work on time management and work hard! It’s kind difficult but worth it in the end.”

Seventh grader Parker Frederking said he plans on staying on the team next year. He described his experiences of being in Science Olympiad as having to do “a lot of

teamwork,” and that while the projects were difficult and took time and patience, were rewarding in the end.

One of the newest members of Science Olympiad, sixth grader Lydia Voss, said that she was already interested in Science Olympiad in fifth grade, and recommends that this year’s fifth graders try it out next year! She agreed with Frederking, and said that there is a lot of teamwork involved and that you have to put in effort and work together in order to succeed.

The sponsor of Science Olympiad, Ms. Brooke Jackson, is the middle school science teacher, and she’s been involved with Science Olympiad for five years. She said, “I think it is a good experience for them to interact with students from other schools and be exposed to the world outside of our school. I also think it’s an excellent opportunity to not only interact with other schools, but also with students from other grades which they don’t interact with much outside of the elective.” She said that the new environments the kids are competing in benefits them in learning and morale: “It’s always enjoyable for them to see how different schools are set up. Different set ups/seeing different schools allows them to see different things about other schools that St. Peter might not always have, such as different clubs or sports. I’m super proud of the team and how much work they’ve put in, because our competition is earlier than usual, and they really put in the time and effort. The team is also consisted of a lot of sixth graders, so it’s been nice seeing them step it up and apply themselves.”

Seventh Grade Marches for Life in Topeka

—by *Zulia Valles*

On January 24th, the seventh graders went to Topeka on the March for Life to speak for the unborn. Principal Mrs. Hickok said, “I’ve never been before and I really enjoyed it, and I really think the kids enjoyed it too! We got to meet Lilia Rose. She’s a really famous advocate and public speaker. She’s a big deal!” She said

they combined their trip with a tour of the Capitol Building. They were planning to also tour the dome, but the weather turned bad, so they had to skip the tour of the dome. She said she hopes to start a tradition where we take our seventh grade to Topeka every year. She said, “I hope that it inspired them to always advocate for the unborn.”



ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Weddings

Aaron and Jessica (Sponsel) Gouvion



Faithful Departed

+Jerry Silvers
+Catherine Simon

Baptisms

Rennley Armstrong
Gracelynn Logue
Jensen Gaida

Parish News

The parish office has been busy wrapping up all things auction, and is gearing up for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter!

Catholic Schools' Week Fun!

