

Jaguar Journal

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Our Lady of Mercy's 43 Robotics participants take time out to pose for a photo at the Robotics Park competition held April 2, at Edward R. Martin Middle School in East Providence.

A day at Robotics Park

By Robert C. Baxter III

Flashback to April 2, 2011. The Robotics Park exhibition is in full gear at Edward R. Martin Middle School in East Providence. Sixteen schools showed off their cool and crazy creations in five different events. Forty-three OLM students participated in this year's 20th anniversary of Robotics Park.

One event called Chain Reaction is when a line of mechanisms from seven of the sixteen schools is set off by the first creation from one school. The rest of the creations from the other schools are connected in a way that makes the last mechanism of one creation, trigger the first mechanism of the next creation in the chain.

Another exhibit is called Feeding Frenzy. All of the robots in this exhibit are made to look like animals such as llamas, dogs, turtles, and even horseshoe crabs compete to find "food," which is actually old CDs.

Last but not least, is the parade where robots pull floats made out of Legos. All the creations are made out of Legos. Some Chain Reaction teams are setting up their mechanisms, rewriting programs, and fixing things with duct tape. I'm not kidding about the duct tape. It's the handyman's secret weapon!

The T-shirt design for this year's Robotics Park was designed by Joey Turner, an 8th grader at OLM. If you would like to see for yourself what this event is like, contact Mrs. Corbett in the computer room to ask when the next Robotics Park is.



Second graders make many preparations for First Communion

By Alyssa Place & Sarah Basler

When we think of May, we think about spring and what it brings such as Memorial Day and Mother's Day. To the second graders, it's all about making First Communion. We were lucky enough to ask Mrs. Ryan's class some questions on the day they were making their First Communion plates. As we walked around the room, we saw students drawing grapes, crosses, hosts, and chalices. They all seemed filled with anticipation. We spent some time speaking with some of the students.

We asked Allison Mederios, about how she was feeling about making her First Communion. She said that she was very excited and after she makes this sacrament, she wants to go to church with her family every weekend. Another student, Cole Basler, said he was most excited about receiving Jesus for the first time. After attending his sisters and cousins communions, he remembered the boys' suits and the girls' dresses, but he also remembered the smiles on the children's faces as they left the church. When asked how he thinks he will feel making his first communion, Cole stated, "I will feel happy because I will have received Jesus and will be able to receive Him from now on when I go to church."

Continued on Page 6



Mrs. Martin-Tuite and Mrs. Ryan led the second grade classes through another successful first communion.

Behind the scenes of this year's Spring Fling

By Sarah Basler

The annual Spring Fling took place on Friday, April 29th at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence and raised \$44,000 dollars. Before the event, I spoke with Mrs. Nan Shea to learn more about the "big event" that most of our parents attend.

S.B.: What is the Spring Fling?

Mrs. Shea: Spring Fling is OLM's primary annual fundraiser. The proceeds from the event provide the major source of funding for numerous programs such as curriculum and cultural enhancements, extracurricular activities and technological

enhancements. This is the third year that it will be held at the Providence Biltmore Hotel. It is a wonderful social opportunity for parents, alumni, faculty, and staff to attend and support the education of our children. The Spring Fling includes a full evening with a sit-down dinner, live band, and silent and live auctions. Last year over 200 people attended and more than \$55,000 was raised.

S.B.: How many adults are on the Spring Fling committee?

Mrs. Shea: Approximately 25.

S.B. How long have you been planning this event?

Mrs. Shea: We set the date a year in advance. Some preliminary work begins in November but the heavy workload begins in January when we start soliciting local businesses. It's a full 4 to 6 months of planning for the event.

S.B.: What are some of the things that are auctioned off?

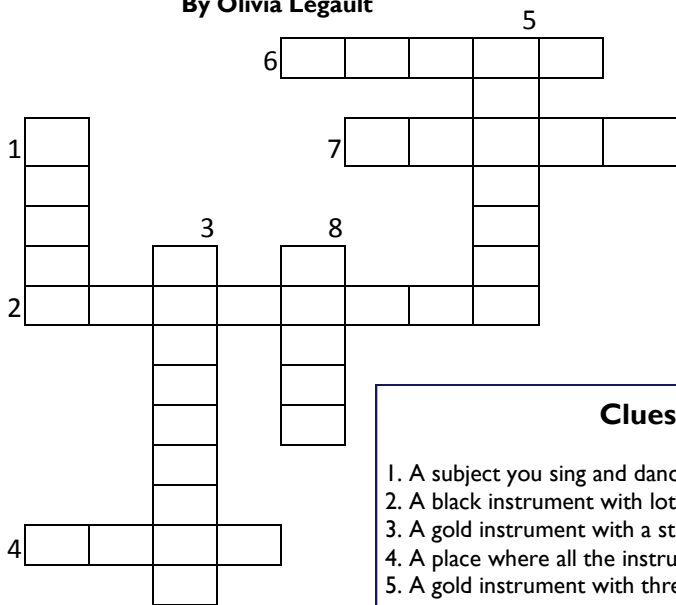
Mrs. Shea: Red Sox tickets, principal for the day, Patriots tickets, summer camps, Nintendo Wii, Xbox Kinect, American Girl Doll of the year, hot lunch for a year, VIP parking spot and golf packages.

Continued on Page 6

Maze Mystery Answer: In the last edition we asked why did the Bianca's brother and friends not finish the maze? They claimed that they saw a black platypus, but the maze only contained statues of animals that were in colors of the rainbow.

Music Crossword Puzzle

By Olivia Legault



Clues

1. A subject you sing and dance in
2. A black instrument with lots of holes
3. A gold instrument with a strap and lots of holes
4. A place where all the instruments come together
5. A gold instrument with three valves
6. A silver instrument with lots of holes
7. An instrument that you hit with a stick
8. An instrument with lots of keys

1 music, 2 clarinet, 3 saxophone, 4 band, 5 trumpet, 6 flute, 7 drums, 8 piano

OLM Band gets in tune

By Olivia Legault

The band this year has many instruments including the piano, trumpet, flute, clarinet, drums, and saxophone. When asked why they chose their individual instrument, most members of the Junior Band reported that they picked their instrument because a family member plays it. They decided to join the band because of recommendations from friends who enjoy band. Some of the special events this year included the spring concert and a trip to Six Flags. There are many levels in band such as Senior, Jazz, Junior, and Beginner. Some people believe that playing an instrument helps students do well in school. So, if you are interested in music, try going to a concert or experimenting with an instrument. It can be fun and helpful.

Art show brings out the creative side of students

By Emma DiMaria

The annual Our Lady of Mercy School art show was held on Wednesday, May 25.

The walls of the school gym and many partitions were adorned with beautiful artwork completed by students ranging from preschool to the eighth grade. Tables were occupied by stunning projects such as nativity

scenes, head sculptures, scrapbooks, and banners. Books held sketches which had been done by children throughout the year. There were even designer dresses made of duct tape!

In addition to these wonderful pieces, paintings of OLM school and church from different views during each season were hung in the hallways. These paintings were part of a special folk art project sponsored by the Art



Masters program. Each was done either by a class or grade and included people and special symbols of that specific month. Note cards and calendars of each picture were sold outside of the gym.

Overall, the art show was a tremendous success. Thank you, Mrs. Campbell!

Time to prepare for Summer Reading programs

By Kathryn Pope

When you receive your summer reading books, you probably wonder how the teacher picked those particular books. This article will clear up that mystery! Mrs. Impagliazzo belongs to a special organization, NCET, which has a conference where children's authors speak about their books. She picks out books that are easy to read without a teacher's help. Usually the books tie in with the books that students will read that year in class. She tries to pick out books that are funny and serious and tries to change the books each year. Mrs. Impagliazzo chooses the books for grades 6, 7 and 8. Based on her experience and research, she decides on books that she believes most students will like. Teachers have us read books during the summer because if you stop reading you'll fall back. Mrs. Impagliazzo suggests that you should keep a journal, not only regarding the summer reading books but also recording what you've done over the summer.



Mrs. Impagliazzo has picked out the best books for you!

Mrs. Vallone shares her passion for horses

By
Kelly Gallagher & Elliana Spagnolo

We love horses and take riding lessons at Dapper Dan horse farm in East Greenwich. Mrs. Vallone also loves horses and this is what she told us about her passion.

Q: What is your horse's name?

A: Rahcar

Q: When did you get Rahcar?

A: 10 years ago after my first horse died at 28 years old.

Q: Where do you board Rahcar?

A: In the barn behind my house.

Q: When did you start riding horses?

A: When I was 9 years old.

Q: Do you ride English or Western?

A: English, but I rode western at a ranch.

Q: Do you have children?

A: Yes, I have 3 boys and 2 girls.

Q: Do your children ride horses?

A: Yes, my daughters ride horses also.

Q: What kind of movies do you like to watch?

A: Horse movies like Secretariat.



'A': All about art with Mrs. Campbell

By Liz Abouzeid & Emily Gates

Mrs. Campbell is well known to OLM students as the art teacher who works very hard every year to put together the art show. We spoke with her about the annual art show and found out some things that not everyone may know. For example, she was born in Pennsylvania and has two children. Here are some other interesting facts about Mrs. Campbell.

Q: How long have you been teaching art?

A: I have been teaching art for 19 years.

Q: Who is your favorite artist?

A: My favorite artist is Picasso.

Q: Do you teach at other schools?

A: Yes I do. I teach at the Nancy Stephen Art Gallery.

Q: When did you decide you wanted to teach art?

A: I was in my 20's when I decided I wanted to teach art.

The annual art show is another event to showcase all the talent here at OLM. Thank you to Mrs. Campbell for another successful year!

Everyone's favorite gym teacher, Mr. Stefanik

By Brooke Mattos & Elliana Spagnolo

Q: Do you like being a Gym Teacher?

A: Yes, I Love It!

Q: How many years have you been teaching?

A: 38 Years.

Q: What do you do over the summer?

A: Construction.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Filet Mignon.

Q: Do you run a lot?

A: Yes, I exercise to maintain good health.



Ask JJ...

I want to help the Earth

Dear J.J.

I want to help the environment but I can't ride my bike to school and I don't have a metal water bottle. How can I help the environment?

Sincerely,

Environmental Helper

Dear Environmental Helper,

There are plenty of ways that you can still help. Why don't you try to reuse some of your school supplies from this year for next school year? If you bring plastic water bottles to school, you can reuse them throughout the day (just make sure your name is on it). What about reusing plastic bags that you use for your lunch or using reusable storage containers instead? Help out at home by placing old papers in the recycling bin along with plastic, glass and aluminum containers. Maybe you can't ride your bike to school, but perhaps you and your family can save gas by walking together on weekends. There are all kinds of things you can do to help the environment if you are creative. I hope these tips will bring you closer to the environment!

Sincerely,

JJ.



Steven Krasner

Nudging the Imagination Workshop invades OLM

By Emma DiMaria

Steven Krasner, a sports reporter and author, showed Middle School students at Our Lady of Mercy School how difficult it is to be a journalist. While at the school, he

portrayed a character he had invented called Floyd Flapjacque, who was a baseball player, genius, and ant farm owner. Steven talked while students hurried to copy down exactly what he said. Mrs. Impagliazzo had students write

short articles about Floyd Flapjacque based on the information they had recorded. Here are a couple of creative articles written from the point of view of future journalists.

Floyd Flapjacque: The All-Knowing Betty Crocker Award Winner

By John Duffy

EAST GREENWICH — Floyd Flapjacque: A normal, muscular 25 year old man, who has become a certified genius, and won the Betty Crocker Award for best cake. But first, let's talk about this genius. He went to the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and majored in four different subjects: archeology, paleontology, psychology, and of course, English. This man is highly regarded among society, for his work in these areas. Now, onto the good stuff: everyone knows Betty Crocker, a great chef, especially with desserts. At nine years old, living in Waxahachie Texas, Floyd decided he wanted to make a nice, warm chocolate cake. "I didn't win it for the cake itself, but for the style it was made with," he said. So, here he is, standing next to his shelf wondering exactly where to start. First, he makes a batch of batter, perfect for chocolate cake. And next to this batter, he has a 37-pound bar of chocolate, looking tastier than ever. Right next to that, he has a sharp knife, gleaming and untouched. Floyd throws the chocolate in the air, about 8 feet and 7 ¾ inches, throws the knife up with it, and chocolate chips come raining down into the batter. Certainly, this was made with style, but I wonder how the cake came out?

Floyd Flapjacque: A Man of Many Trades

By Charlotte Gemma

Nine-month-old Floyd Flapjacque is no typical infant. As he snatches one of the golden delicious apples from the bowl on top of his drawers, he precedes to toss the apple up into the air and take a "perfect swing" with his plastic yellow bat. The apple then soars into the air, whizzing out of his bedroom, across the living room, and through the picture window. The apple then crashes through his neighbor, Mr. Wilson's, picture window- landing perfectly in the empty rocking chair. This event caused the New York Yankee's to take a great interest in him, and around 24 years later, Flapjacque is out on the field as one of the Yankee's best players! However, baseball is not Flapjacque's only forte, as you will soon come to realize that Flapjacque is a man of many trades.

Floyd Flapjacque is also a certified genius! At two years old, Floyd's parents, whom he describes as "very nice but not extremely bright", realized Flapjacque's intellect was far superior to theirs. His parents then rushed him over to take an IQ test. Flapjacque's score was so high, that the test is now known as the Flapjacque test!

Flapjacque's achievements do not stop here! At the mere age of 5 years old, after Floyd had just finished reading the dictionary "from a to z",

and completed creating a CD Rom about the Peloponnesian War, bored and young Floyd decided to run from his house in Texas to a near airfield where a plane was just about ready to take off. Flapjacque pleaded with the driver to let him ride along, and noticing how very mature he was, the driver agreed to let him go for a spin! Over the Tibet Mountains Flapjacque flew, and before he knew it, it was his time to jump! As Flapjacque flew out of the plane and soared down towards the ground, he gave a tug on his ripcord. To his shock, the parachute did not come out, even when he pulled the emergency ripcord! Luckily, ("for me and not the mountain goats," Flapjacque remarks) he landed safely on a herd of mountain goats, and landed unscathed!

Flapjacque has had an interest in ant farms for 18 years! At 7-years-old Floyd Flapjacque was eating his sky blue popsicle on a hot summer day in Waxahachie Texas, when his popsicle suddenly broke and fell on the pavement. Floyd watched, amazed and impressed, as carpenter ants suddenly started to surround the popsicle. Two minutes and 30 seconds later, there were 96 ants hustling around the treat. Floyd was so impressed by their work ethic, that he scooped up the ants and

Continued on Page 7

Communion from Page 1

Thank you to Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Martin-Tuite for all you do every year and congratulations to all of the 2nd graders on receiving the sacrament of Communion!



Student feels good about communion

By Katrina Plaziak

First communion is a special time for our second graders. One of those students Grace Truslow of Mrs. Martin-Tuite's class told us that she was excited to receive her first communion and that she was going to wear a veil. All of the second graders made a special plate to remember the event. Prior to the event, all of the students worked hard practicing by going over to the church. Grace and her classmates made their first communion on May 7th and reported that making the sacrament "felt good."

OLM students show off their talent

By Natalie Pitocco

Recently, the OLM Middle School students were given an opportunity to showcase their talents to their friends, teachers, and family. First, the students had to audition after school and continue practicing their two-three minute routine/performance during scheduled rehearsals and in their spare time. They were given a choice to how and what they wanted to perform. Most of the participants chose to present themselves solo, with a friend, or with a group. The show was held in

the auditorium in the afternoon, for the school to watch, and again at night for their families. The acts ranged from singing and dancing, to playing a musical instrument such as the piano and drums.

Special thanks go to all of the volunteers, stage crew, and people that made the talent show a big success. The most gratitude goes to the students who volunteered their time and talent. Without them, no one would've been able to make the show possible. OLM definitely has a lot of hardworking students with a great deal of talent!

Spring Fling from Page 2

S.B.: How do you decide what to do with the money you make?

Mrs. Shea: An allocation committee is formed in May which consists of some of the PTG Board members and parents that represent the various grades. The PTG Treasurer and President lead the meeting and give some background on the prior year spending. The committee discusses and recommends an allocation budget (from money raised at Spring Fling) that gets final approval by Monsignor Lolio.

S.B.: What are some of things that you have used money on in

the past?

Mrs. Shea: A new gymnasium floor, Smartboards, overhead projectors and document cameras for the classrooms, a sprinkler system, a library automation system, and most recently, a new playground and open-air classroom.

S.B.: Did any of the money go to the new playground?

Mrs. Shea: Yes. We also raised money for the playground through the brick paver fundraiser. We sold over 200 bricks and made \$12,000.

S.B.: What are some things you have in mind to spend the money on this year?

Mrs. Shea: Mostly technology. We hope to install some more Smartboards in a few of the classrooms. We are working directly with the faculty and Mrs. Corbett to get their input. As a part of the allocation process, we also ask the parents for suggestions on spending ideas.

S.B.: What would you like to see as future projects for the school?

Mrs. Shea: We would like to continue to invest in technology.

Learning Guitar

By Kathleen Casey

Playing the guitar is harder than you might think. I used to think that all you had to do was pluck the strings. Now that I have taken lessons for two years, I know that it is not that easy. First you need to memorize a lot of notes. Then, to make a note, you need to press your finger on the string. Sometimes it hurts!

The first year of learning to play is the hardest. If you can get over that hump, than the rest is fun. Playing guitar can help you with math and teach you about different kinds of music. If you decide to try it, I'm sure you will like it!



OLM Poem

By Liz Abouzeid

OLM is so much fun
We are always on the run
There are so many things to do
We like many subjects too
Math is something that we do
Science, Art...how about you?



Engineering in action

Mrs. Corbett helped students at the Robotics Park event on April 2.



Flapjacque from Page 5

brought them home to start his very own ant farm. From there, he now has a large ant farm, to which he takes great care and enjoyment.

Not only is Flapjacque brave and adventurous, but we soon came to find out that Flapjacque can whip up a delicious chocolate chip cake, as well! At the age of 11, Floyd Flapjacque won the Betty Crocker Cake Contest. Having just moved from Waxahachie Texas to Tallahassee, Florida, Flapjacque decided that he wanted to begin baking. Not only did he win the award for the flavor of the cake, but he won the award for the style in which he prepared the cake, as well. Floyd prepared the batter, slid it

across the counter, right next to a 37 lb. bar of chocolate! He then proceeded to take a sharp knife, and with great skill flung the chocolate into the air (8 feet and 7 3/4 inches, to be exact) and hacks the chocolate as perfect chocolate chips fall right into the bowl! As a baseball player, Floyd has to keep his body in great shape. To do this, a portion of his workout before he munches on his cocoa puffs is to go into the garage, and benches the canary yellow Volkswagen beetle 86 times! Just to "get the blood and juices flowing", Flapjacque comments. Now, as our interview has come to an end, I have one last question to ask Mr. Flapjacque. I told him, "I believe

that you are a unique and talented man with many fortes, however, I have encountered people that believe you are conceded. Do you think or yourself as conceded?" Floyd Flapjacque slowly paced the room, his arms crossed against his muscular chest. He then proceeded to sit down, and look up to the sky as his brow furrowed in concentration, he replied with one simple word, ""No." Well, that accusation of whether or not Mr. Flapjacque is arrogant is up to you, but it is clear to everybody that no matter what his attitude may be, Floyd Flapjacque is a very talented and impressive man.

Thank you to our wonderful staff for 2011

The Jaguar Journal parent advisors thank the student staff of the Jaguar Journal for a great school year. Congratulations on contributing to each issue.

At every meeting, each student, from grades 3-8, always acted respectfully and collaboratively toward their fellow students. We enjoyed having the opportunity to work with these great kids all year.

Also thank you to the parents for every kind word and compliment on this year's 'newspapers.' We feel fortunate to have the opportunity to know your wonderful children.

We would also like to thank the PTG for their support; the teachers for graciously permitting us to use their rooms for our meetings and for supporting the students with interview requests; and mostly; thank you to Sister Jeanne for providing us with guidance and support throughout the year.

OLM Journalists

Elizabeth Abouzeid
Katie Allen
Sarah Basler
Robert Baxter
Cecilia Bianchi
Charlotte Brockmann
Lily Brockmann
Kathleen Casey
Hunter Corbett
Kevin Daley
Joseph Davey
Emma DiMaria
Mackenzie Duckworth
Katie Friedemann
Kelly Gallagher
Emily Gates
Dana Hackett
Julia Izzo
Jack Kineke
Olivia Legault
Grace Mahoney
Katie Moore
Natalie Pitocco
Alyssa Place
Katrina Plaziak
Kathryn Pope
Gabriella Shelzi
Elliana Spagnolo
Jimmy Truslow

Drama program takes on High School Musical in 10th year

By Dana Hackett

The OLM Drama program is in its 10th season. To celebrate, the drama program has asked Mrs. Ruggerio to organize a choral performance using songs from past plays. Each song will have a group of hand-selected students which will perform it. Some songs include *Tomorrow* from *Annie Jr.* (performed by some 7th grade girls and some 5th grade girls), *A Whole New World* from *Aladdin Jr.*, *The Wells Fargo Wagon* from *The Music Man Jr.*, *How Do You Do* and *Shake Hands* from last year's *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* and 6 more selections from the remaining plays. The 7th and 5th grade girls rehearse for *Tomorrow* during the middle school lunch period. The classes practice several other songs during their music period. The performances will be held on the same nights as performances of the play. Students participating in both the choral performance and drama will arrive in time for the chorus, then get to the rest of the group for the play at their assigned time, and then perform the play.

The announcement of this year's play was highly anticipated by those die-hard drama students. On Monday, April 10, 2011, Sr. Jeanne made the announcement after the Morning Prayer. It was a very good surprise when we heard her say, "I have just received word of the drama production for this year." Everyone in the room listened as she said, "This year's production will be *High School Musical Jr.*" Students looked around at their friends wondering who would participate.

The shows took place on June 11th and 12th! Look for a full report in the next edition!

This year's cast includes:

Liz Abouzeid	Kelly Gallagher	Lauryn Morrissey
Alexander Akhtari	Emily Gates	Caitlyn Murphy
Katie Allen	Matthew Goppold	Tim O'Brien
Mary Anderson	Dana Hackett	Olivia O'Connor
Sarah Basler	Kirsten Hanlon	Chukwudi Onyejose
Isabella Bernard	Jenny Imbriglio	Chukwuma Onyejose
Cecilia Bianchi	Jessie Imbriglio	Elizabeth Pauley
Lily Brockmann	Julia Izzo	Grace Pelletier
Carolyn Caldwell	Alexis Kane	Katrina Plaziak
Brittany Caskey	Danielle King	Kathryn Pope
Hunter Corbett	Katelyn King	Caroline Preston
Alicia Couture	Valerie LaBore	Lauren Salvatore
Sophia DiLibero	Olivia Legault	Gabriella Shelzi
Jack Dobrzynski	Grace Lombardi	Elliana Spagnolo
Mackenzie Duckworth	Isabelle Lucente	Alyssa Spencer
John Duffy	Grace Mahoney	Luke Stirpe
Elizabeth Duffy	Brendan Maymon	Jimmy Truslow
Shayla Dwyer	Kali Melone	Julia Tweedie
Patrick Faherty	Anita Millsom	Cindy Wen
Katie Friedemann	Kathryn Moore	Devon Werner