

# Panther Pages

November 2009



St. Pius X School, Westerly RI

## Meet The New Editors

*Nicholas M. and Alex B.*

We would like to introduce ourselves as the new co-editors of the St. Pius X School newspaper, the *Panther Pages*. First of all, we'd like to thank the previous editors, Mary B. and Sarah L., who did an amazing job as editors of the school newspaper. They are the ones who introduced a school newspaper to St. Pius and it certainly was a great idea. We wish them well for the future.

In the first Newspaper Club meeting this year, we learned that we had been named editors. We were pleasantly surprised to have been chosen, given that the Newspaper Club has so many dedicated students who volunteer their time to attend each meeting and contribute their efforts. We will certainly "do our best, to be our best, with the help of God."

We are looking forward to leading the school newspaper for the next two school years with an excellent staff of writers and we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that new members are always welcome. We are excited to introduce some new ideas and improvements to the *Panther Pages*, such as more news stories, interviews, photos, and graphics. (The photos might be tricky; we're looking into it.) We hope to introduce a new look beginning with our second issue.

If you have any ideas for news stories or improvements, please feel free to drop us a line in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at any time.

# Panther Pages

**Co-editors:** Alex B. & Nick M.

**Staff:**

**Grade 8**

Alex P. B.  
Nicolas W

**Grade 7**

Nathaniel E.  
James J.  
Laura-Jo K.  
Erica T.

**Grade 6**

Maryam A.  
Lydia C.  
Chris M.  
Rachel P.

**Faculty Advisors:**

Mr. Fiore  
Mrs. DiMuccio

**Technical / Layout:**

Mr. Kronenberg

**Proofreader:**

Mrs. Benevides

## Pre-K

*Miss Cindy*

The pre-schoolers have had a great start to the year learning the schedule and routine. They are being taught how God made us special and that we are "a present from God to our parents!" They have also learned that God made everyone different and how all people can be friends. For September the class taste tested apples to graph their favorite kind; they even made apple sauce!

The class came up with a set of rules:

- ~Use our walking feet inside the school
- ~Keep hands to our own bodies
- ~Stay home if you're sick

- ~Don't go to closed centers
- ~Use kind words
- ~Stay with your class
- ~Be a friend!

*(Nick W.)*



## Elementary

### Kindergarten

*Mrs. McDonald*

Kindergarten has been busy learning new things like knowing how to write the letters a, b, c, f, m, n, t, and learning what sounds they make. In Religion they are learning about God being the creator of all living things. Their day starts off with Morning Meeting, where they discuss the message of the day and calendar activities that include math related concepts. An interesting highlight of the class is at the end of the day, as the car riders are leaving, one student said, "Have an extended day, Mr. Fiore." Some students have now joined in wishing Mr. Fiore, a happy "extended day". *(Lydia C.)*

### Grade 1

*Mrs. Buehler*

In first grade there are centers for the children to work in. It appears that this is a new idea and

that the kids and teachers have fun with it. For Foundations the first grade students are reviewing the alphabet and the letter sounds. In Religion they are learning about the Church and the Church Community. For Math the kids are learning their numbers from one through twenty. The first grade also helped grade three make "get well cards" for the sick in our community. (*Chris M.*)

### Grade 2

*Mrs. Cozzolino*

Second grade has recently acquired a puppet theater, (which was given to them by Miss Magowan,) and will be using it for their reading series. An interesting moment that occurred in second grade was that the class had planted marigold seeds and all of the seeds sprouted plants. They will be replanted soon, and will be kept in the classroom for the whole year. (*Laura-Jo K.*)

### Grade 3

*Mrs. Senatore*

In Religion class Grade 3 is learning to follow God's call not only to love others but to serve God by doing good things around us. Respecting each other is a good way to carry this out in class. They have completed and tested out the 1<sup>st</sup> Math chapter where they played "The Price is Right" To learn how to count change in money. Practicing addition and telling time is next. Guided Reading groups begin this week and writing a personal narrative is a project presently under way. On Friday they studied seeds by examining many from some fruits and

vegetables they had in our lab. Soon they will study animals. Twice monthly they plan an activity with 1<sup>st</sup> grade. This past week they made cards for Third grade's monthly nursing home visit. (*Nick M.*)

### Grade 4

*Mrs. Kimmel*

Grade 4 is diligently working towards a successful year. In Religion, the students are learning about the Ten Commandments. Math is a challenging subject. They have learned about place value to the millions place and how to round numbers to a given place. Through reading they have journeyed to New York City and discovered what gardening is like in a high rise building. They read about a boy's unique hobby of collecting words and sharing words. They also learned how different cultures can add a lot of flavor to a holiday pageant. Grade 4 is proudly practicing cursive writing and is excited about using a pen.

One interesting moment was when Mr. Fiore came into the Grade 4 while the students were taking a spelling test. He purposely spelled one of the words for them. He's a very nice principal and a good speller. (*James J.*)

### Grade 5

*Mrs. Forcier*

The 5th Graders are working hard this year! In Math, they are learning about how numbers can have a certain place, which is called place value. Students are also comparing

and ordering whole numbers and decimals.

In Religion, they are learning the beatitudes and how everyone can follow them in everyday life.

In Social Studies, the students are studying explorers and conquerors of the New World. They are also reading about how the Spanish took the lead in exploration in the 1500's.

In Reading, students wrote short stories. They are also practicing narrative element skills.

In Science, students are learning about the earth's surface and how plates can move, causing volcanoes to erupt and earthquakes.

In English, they are studying nouns and their possessive form.

Also, students are looking forward to presenting mystery book reports. (*Erica T.*)

## Middle School

### English

*Mrs. DiMuccio*

Grade 8 has two new, delightful students - Alex and Jae. All English classes in the Middle School have been using their workbooks to review and learn the multiple rules of punctuation and capitalization. Writing projects concerning personal narratives were underway. Grade 8 wrote essays revealing the origins of their first names. Grade 7 wrote about a time when a lesson was learned. Grade 6 described their perfect summer day. Students will orally share their informative and expressive essays. (*Alex P.B.*)



### Literature

*Mrs. Swain*

The school year started wonderfully for Middle School Literature and Reading. The students all made beautifully artistic renditions and insightful book reports. The book reports were clever and the art on some of their covers were incredible. The artistic renditions were all amazing. Mrs. Swain seems to have some extremely talented children and she intends to utilize those talents all year. (*Nick W.*)

### Science

*Mrs. Swain*

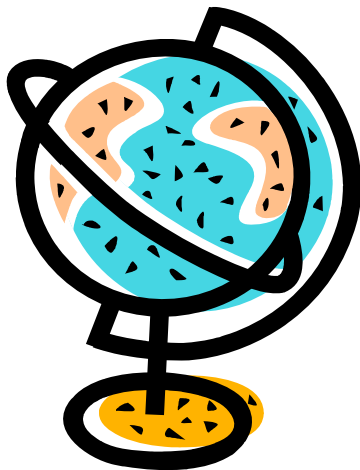
Eighth grade compared their classroom turtle's behavior when he was in two different situations: his classroom tank and the great outdoors. The students were "scientists in the field", observing their test subject and noting their subject's behavior. The turtle walked quickly in the enclosed circle of the children's feet, looking for the sunshine and its heat. They did this activity for about 20 minutes, blocking the turtle's way until he finally "escaped" over someone's feet.

The students were truly surprised as to just how fast their turtle could move. What impressed Mrs. Swain the most was the care the children took while being outside with this little animal. (*Nate E.*)

### Math

*Mrs. Shea*

Math can be a difficult subject for some students. The middle school students are off to a great start trying their best. Grade 8 is being challenged with Algebra and trying to remember what they have learned in Pre-Algebra. The biggest challenge so far is remembering the different properties. Grade 7 is a little nervous starting Pre-Algebra. They are reviewing some skills and learning more about variables, expressions, and equations. Grade 6 is getting used to being in the middle school wing. They are starting off with adding and subtracting with decimals. They even got to do a little Algebra, using expressions and equations. (*Nick M.*)



### Social Studies

*Mrs. Kay*

Grade 6 is learning about the Iceman of the Alps. Archaeologists discovered he lived in Europe during the age of Prehistory and testing revealed that he was about 5,300 years old.

Grade 7 is studying the early people and cultures of North America. They are working in groups to learn more about individual Indian tribes.

Grade 8 is looking at how settlers moved out to the Great Plains, changing the region forever. They are individually creating Winter Counts in the manner of the Lakota (Sioux). (*Alexander B.*)

### Religion

*Mrs. Shea*

All three grades have made their own "Treasure Boxes" to tell more about one another. Each person used 5-7 possessions that told something about him/herself. Even some of the best of friends learned something new that they didn't know before!

The sixth graders made small posters with their names on them. Then they decorated the posters with words that described something special about themselves. Each word had to begin with a letter from their name.

Grade seven decorated their own Baptismal candles, remembering their Baptisms and Jesus' Baptism, as well.

Eighth grade made posters to show that whatever we say or do

should always show that we are disciples of Jesus. *Erica T.*

## **Specials**

### **Music**

*Miss Shackner*

Miss Shackner enjoyed greeting her former students and welcoming her new students into the Music Room. They have been busy learning about music and how music is so much a part of their lives. She's very proud of her boys and girls!

The Music room has been very busy recruiting choir members. With a total of 31 young singers, it looks like they have begun with a very good choir. All choir members have auditioned and their first rehearsal was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, from 3:00-3:45. The sound from the Music room was wonderful and the group is looking forward to another good year of singing at the Masses and Prayer Services.

Since the entire school visits the Music Room, there were many funny and interesting moments. She wants the classes to be engaging, educational, and enjoyable, and in doing so, they have their occasional funny moments. *(Alex P. B.)*

### **Italian**

*Mr. Fiore*

Eighth graders have been enthusiastically learning Italian pronunciations and vocabulary. They have studied definite articles, days of the week, months of the year, and the seasons.

*(Nate E.)*

### **Latin**

*Mr. Kronenberg*

Fifth graders are discovering how Latin is "hiding" inside our own everyday English vocabulary. It even lurks inside popular music! Sixth graders are reading the "begats": the genealogy of Christ, according to Matthew. They are also making their own family tree. The seventh graders have been looking up various Mass readings in Latin and translating them. They are also learning parts of the liturgy in Latin. *(Alexander B.)*

### **Art**

*Mrs. Kay*

In Mrs. Kay's Art class, the eighth grade is working on a still life of shoes. As they draw they are inventing texture through the use of pattern and value. Seventh grade is working on Egyptian wall murals. They are learning Egyptian perspective while drawing figures.

*(Christopher M.)*

### **Computer**

*Mr. Kronenberg*

Kindergarten is learning parts of the computer by singing songs. Grade one has learned that it is always important to "take an adult" with you when you travel on the internet. Grade two has fun exploring links that have to do with their reading book stories. Grade three is also focusing on computer safety online. Grade four has watched and discussed videos about "outsmarting the bad guys" online. Grade five has also been discussing online safety. Grades six and seven talked about the terrible results cyberbullying.

Grade eight students took several broken computers apart, and with the help of parent volunteer Mr. Gladski, replaced the power supplies and got them up and running again!

*(Alexander B.)*



### Library

*Mrs. Burriss*

Students have been requesting new books. With budget cuts, this has been difficult. Thanks to the "E" family's very generous donation, the student's book requests may now be filled. A huge thank you to the "E" family! *(Erica T.)*

### Spanish

*Mr. Kronenberg*

Kindergarteners are learning colors and numbers, and how to express "I like..." First graders have put together a "gracias list" for God. Grade two is learning vocabulary by reading really wacky stories, like "Mr. Kronenberg y la Gran Tina de Chocolate" (Mr. Kronenberg and the Giant Bathtub Full of Chocolate"). Grade three is making up their own quite complex sentences by linking

together "building block" words like language Lego! *(Alexander B.)*

### Physical Education

*Mrs. DeSarro*

The kids have had awesome weather for their P.E. classes. All off the classes are playing soccer and are participating in various stations, such as heading, trapping, kicking, and playing man-to-man (offense /defense).

Have you ever seen young children heading foam soccer balls? It's very funny! *(James J.)*

### Resource

*Miss Lepore*

*Miss Magowan*

With a start of a new year, the Resource Team is striving to establish a more focused and student specific program that is centered on guided reading in grades three through five. Foundations in grade one have been fun so far! Miss Lepore and Miss Magowan are currently working on updating files, plan, and support resources for all grade levels. They are looking forward to another positive and fulfilling year!

*(Lydia C.)*

### Sports

#### Girls' Basketball

*Mrs. Pryor, Coach*

This year's Girls' Basketball Team is as follows:

Maryam A. - Gr. 6

Rachel P.-Gr. 6

Kacie P. - Gr. 6

Phoebe D. - Gr. 6  
Laura-Jo K. - Gr. 7  
Sarah P. - Gr. 7  
Sophia D. - Gr. 7  
Meghan M. - Gr. 7  
Kassy M. - Gr. 8  
Hollie P. - Gr. 8  
Tina P. - Gr. 8  
Catherine S. - Gr. 8  
Virginia D. - Gr. 8

This year's Girl's Basketball team is being coached by Mrs. Pryor, and we are hoping to get more wins than the three we had last year.

### **Boys' Basketball**

*Coaches Najim, McGill, and King*

This year's Boys' Basketball Team is as follows:

Alex B. Gr.8  
Kevin B. Gr.5  
Joseph B. Gr.6  
Jack D. Gr.6  
Nate E. Gr. 7  
James J. Gr.7  
Connor K. Gr.6  
Ryan K. Gr.7  
Joey K. Gr.6  
Justin K. Gr.6  
Chris M. Gr.6  
Connor M. Gr.6  
Nick M. Gr.7  
Jason W. Gr.6  
Nick W. Gr.8

This year's team is hoping to rebound from last season where they went the whole year without a win. Also, this year's coaches are Coach Najim, Coach McGill, and Coach King, who are all terrific. They are all capable of taking this team to a winning season. Most importantly they all put having fun and learning the game of basketball over winning. (*Nate E.*)



## **St. Pius X Introduces Lego Robotics Program**

*by Alex B. and Nicholas M.*

On October 16, 2009, eight students met after school and attended the first-ever St. Pius X Lego Robotics session. Dr. and Mrs. Carrano taught the course, and Mr. Kronenberg assisted them.

The idea for a Lego Robotics course at our school came through a St. Pius parent. Mrs. Dowd ran into an acquaintance, Dr. Carrano, and the two discussed Lego Robotics. Mrs. Dowd asked him if he and his wife might be interested in teaching Lego Robotics at St. Pius.

After consulting with Mr. Fiore, it was decided that St. Pius would try a Lego Robotics program. Mr. Fiore felt that a Lego Robotics program at St. Pius would be worthwhile, as it would enhance the curriculum. He also implemented a Robotics program at Msgr. Clarke, a former school. According to Mr. Fiore, he's extremely excited to have the Carranos teach the course, as they are "distinguished people who are recognized internationally."

The Carranos have 20 years of experience teaching Lego Robotics. Dr. Carrano is a former school superintendent and his wife is a former teacher. The couple founded several businesses, including an education consulting business called SchoolSuccess.

According to Dr. Carrano, there are several reasons why it's important for students to learn about Lego Robotics. The students find it interesting, and it improves their literacy, numeracy, and technical skills. He also said that it involves several learning disciplines and ties all school subjects together.

The Lego Robotics program at St. Pius is available to eight students for a four-week course. After that, a new group of students will be selected. Mr. Fiore stated that he wants this to be an ongoing program at St. Pius, continuing for years to come. At present, the participation fee is \$100 per student for materials. (Dr. & Mrs. Carrano are volunteering.)

The eight students that have been selected are from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The students were selected based on essays they wrote and teacher recommendations. They include 8<sup>th</sup> graders Jonathan C., Tyler G., and Thomas G., and 7<sup>th</sup> graders Alex B., Nathaniel E., James J., Ryan K., and Nicholas M. Essays sent in by students were read and judged by the Robotics Committee, which consists of Dr. & Mrs. Carrano, Mr. Fiore, Mr. Kronenberg, and 3 parents: Mrs. Dowd, Mr. Anhalt, and Mr. Spano.

Seventh grade student Ryan K. said that he wanted to join Lego Robotics because he was curious about how the robots worked and he was interested in learning about them. Jonathan C., an eighth grade student, felt the same way and believes that learning about Robotics might help people make the world a better place.

\*\*\*\*

### Student Council

Last year's Student Council raised enough money to buy two TVs and 4 DVD Players.

The following is what we will do each day in Spirit Week:

Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: Spiritual Day  
Each class will have students sign a dove to pray for peace. They will then be placed on the classroom's windows.

Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: Fun Day  
Wear your favorite sneakers with white socks. The \$1 will be donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: No School

Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: Community Day and Student Council Gives Back Day  
Kindergarten to Grade 2 will draw pictures of their classroom or school. Grades 3 to 8 will be given one piece of paper per class. They will write one sentence depicting their answer to the question, "Why is Catholic education important?" Bracelets with

messages will be distributed to the school.

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>: Pep Rally  
After Study Hall/Recess, the school will gather outside for the Pep Rally. Each class will perform a cheer, promoting their school spirit. We will also meet the basketball team. A dance for the Middle School will follow that night. The cost is \$5 and a non-perishable food item.

(Alexander B. and Laura-Jo K.)

\*\*\*

## Special Accomplishments

*Compiled by Laura-Jo K.*

- This summer, the band "The Tree Frogs" played at the Fifth Annual Misquamicut Music Festival. (Maggie S., Gr.5, Bella S., Gr. 3, and Sophia S. Grade K)
- Trenton B., Grade K, just started piano lessons and can play, "Rain, Rain Go Away."
- Joseph T., Gr. K, tested and got his yellow belt in karate.
- Reed T., Gr. K, swam across the YMCA pool without a flotation device for the first time.
- Akil R., Gr. K, can name all capitals of the 50 states, and name all U.S. presidents in chronological order.
- Jillian B., Gr. 2, just completed her 1<sup>st</sup> year of piano lessons.
- James J., Gr. 7, became a referee for the Chariho Youth Soccer League.

- Ryan K., Gr. 7, joined a hiking club this summer and climbed eight 4,000 foot mountains.
- Grade 8 held class elections, with Nick W. being president, Molly G. the vice president, Catherine S. the secretary, and Jae C. the treasurer.

(Laura-Jo K.)

\*\*\*\*

## Interview With Jaewoo Chung

*Jaewoo Chung is new to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Jae was born in Seoul, South Korea, on October 31, 1995. Previously, he went to school outside of Boston, MA. Jae plans to go to The Prout School for high school, and after that, he hopes to attend MIT for college, majoring in architecture.*

*What made you come to the United States?*

**I came to the United States to study English and for my education.**

*What problems did you face when you first came to the United States?*

**The language barrier was difficult. My grades are getting better because I am more familiar with the English language.**

*What are some of your interests after school?*

**I like to draw manga, play piano, playing with my band, and playing basketball.**

*You said you went to school in Boston. What school did you go to and where did you stay when you went to school there?*

**I went to OCLA. It was in Lexington or Waltham. My mother's friend boarded me at her home.**

*What makes the United States different from South Korea?*

**The language and culture are different. Sports are basically the same. Soccer is a big sport in my country.**

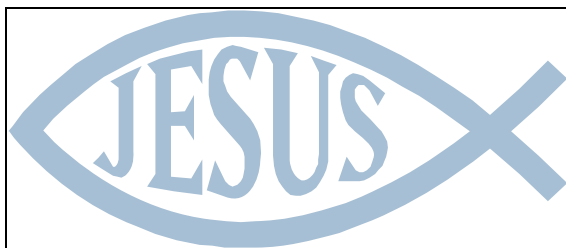
*If you could be in any movie, which movie would it be and why?*

**I would be in a Korean movie, but I cannot spell it in English. It's a horror movie. They are my favorite types of movies.**

*What is your life motto?*

**Try, try again. This helped me learn the English language and to make new friends.**

*(Alex P. B.)*



## **Mr. Fiore's** **Joke of the Month**

### **An Unusual Confession**

**Fr. Ray:** "Mr. Fiore, I would like to add some humor to my homily for Thanksgiving. I will work out a deal with you. Instead of regular penance for your confession, I would like you to come up with three good jokes with a Thanksgiving theme."

**Ten minutes later.....**

**Mr. Fiore:** "Okay, Father, I hope you like them .....

If April showers bring May flowers,  
what do May flowers bring?  
Pilgrims!

If the Pilgrims were alive today, what  
would they be most famous for?  
Their AGE.

Can a turkey jump higher than the  
Empire State Building?  
Yes- a building can't jump at all

**Father Ray:**" Go now, and sin no  
more".

*See cartoons on back cover!→→→*

Joe Joe and the Cat



Joe Joe and the Cat

