



Star Connection

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Welcoming all families including military and those of all faiths

Spring 2021

Congratulations Class of 2021

We are so proud of our 14 eighth graders as they graduate and head to high school.



*Back L-R Riley Justice, Lily Turberville, Olivia Magnini, Regina Molyneaux, Kate Olkowski, Brigid Gross, Lea Wareing, Isabella Clark, & Emma Parker
Front L-R Morgan Stacks, Keene Lincoln, Zain Duffy, Jacob McGuire, & Felipe Lugo-Gooding*

Alumna Joins Blue Angels!

Monica Borza, class of 2004, was selected to be the Flight Surgeon for the Navy’s demonstration team, the world famous Blue Angels in August of 2020. Monica is a Lieutenant in the Navy and was most recently stationed with the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron “Black Knights” in Miramar, California.



Lt. Monica Borza ('04)

She went on to attend Catholic High School and then Virginia Tech after graduating from our school. Lt. Borza’s dad, Michael Borza, continues to be an active supporter of our school having served as financial advisor to principals (starting with Mrs. Fentress), school board member and many other roles.

CORRECTION: In the Fall 2020 edition under the Bronze Star circle Mr. & Mrs. Frank Napolitano should have been listed as Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Napolitano.

First Eucharist

Congratulations to all our 2nd graders who celebrated their first reconciliation and their first Holy Communion this year. They include Porter C., Gavin R., Ella Rose G., Juliet G., Hudson H., Declan H., Marley J., Cole K., Cash & Cooper K., Lyla K, Nicholas L., Trinity L., Lily L., Emma M., Rose M., Clayton O., Jackson S., James S., Hailey S., Bianca T. and Emmett V.



Spring Mile Run

Our 1st through 8th grade students enjoyed a beautiful day for our Spring Mile Run on Wednesday, April 28. Due to continuing restrictions on the boardwalk the students began their course at the back of the Lower School Building and ran around the church and gym parking lots. Two laps equaled one mile.



*Second Grade Starting Line!
See more photos on back page*

The preschoolers and Kindergartners were allowed to come out to the triangle lot and cheer on the students.

Congratulations to our top runners. For the boys we had Keene Lincoln (8th) 6:38.6, Niko Cochran (6th) 7:06.2, and Niels deMontmarin (7th) 7:07.8. For the girls we had ties in both the 2nd and 3rd places. Juliet Guerrero (2nd) 7:51.6, Lily Leone (2nd) and Sarah Beth Hourigan (5th) 7:53.3 and Salem Alves (4th) and Joy deMontmarin (5th) 7:53.8. Congratulations!!

Excellence in Education Award

Congratulations to our school's Excellence in Education Award recipient for this school year, Mrs. Joanne Selig. Mrs. Selig has been a part of our school longer than any other staff member. Her role as technology teacher was never more important than last year when suddenly we needed to go virtual.

Joanne is a consummate professional, always going above and beyond to make sure the needs of the students and faculty are met. She has a can-do attitude and always keeps the fun in her work with both students and colleagues. Her creativity knows no bounds and we are so proud of her representing our school this year for the Diocese.

Congratulations Mrs. Selig!



*Superintendent Kelly Lazzara, Mrs. Joanne Selig
& Dr. Carey Averill*

Gym Upgrades

Just prior to our 2020-2021 school year, water seeped in under one of the gym doors and damaged part of the floor. This resulted in a portion of the gym floor needing to be repaired.

The school took the opportunity to strip down the entire floor and to repaint it. The process took several months and the finished product is stunning!

The school also replaced all the gym doors so that we will never have that kind of water problem again. Our gym floors are shining for our Star students!



Star of the Sea Catholic School is rooted in the rich traditions of our Catholic faith to provide a Christ-centered learning environment where students are dedicated to spiritual growth, academic distinction, and social responsibility.

A Message from the Principal & Pastor

Dear Parents, Friends & Families of Star of the Sea Catholic School,

This year has made us reflect on our faith, family and school community like never before. We are so proud of being a part of an amazing Catholic Diocese where we successfully offered in-person instruction all year! While so many of our rituals and activities were drastically modified, our spirit of togetherness was amplified! The value of Catholic education has been highlighted and we continue to grow in faith as well as with enrollment. The pandemic has certainly affected us all, but with challenge comes opportunity and we welcomed wonderful new families to our school community.



It is now that time of year where we farewell a wonderful group of 8th grade graduates as they head off to Catholic High or other surrounding high schools and welcome a new group of little STARS in the Fall! Our amazing faculty and staff have new goals and initiatives for next school year and we are excited for our future. As Pope Francis stated, "Prayer leads us forward in hope" and we continue to see that strength in Star of the Sea. Thank you for your continued support in our school!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Carey Averill
Dr. Carey Averill
Principal

Steve DeLeon
Fr. Steve DeLeon
Pastor

News Around Campus

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)

The Home & School Association had STELLAR success with its first attempt at using the Raise Craze fundraising platform. The original goal for the fundraiser was \$5,000. We are thrilled to report the final tally was more than \$24,000!

This fundraiser encouraged students to spend time serving, not selling, through Acts of Kindness. More than 1500 Acts of Kindness were logged between Catholic Schools Week and Ash Wednesday. Students emailed family and friends



2nd grader Declan H. leaves a kind note for his 5th grade prayer partner



WTKR Interviews Kate O. (8th) and Brooks J. (5th) in Dr. Averill's Office

to share their KIND deeds and donations poured in.

The fundraiser was embraced by all with open hearts and recognition of such efforts quickly came. Star of the Sea School was featured in a full-page article in the Catholic Virginian

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See what is happening at Star of the Sea Catholic School!

For information or to arrange a tour, call us at (757) 428-8400.
Visit our website at www.soschool.org



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highlighting the good news. Then, two local television stations interviewed school staff and students. Our school was spotlighted on both Channel 3 (WTKR) and Channel 10 (WAVY).

We are so proud of our students for being true shining stars, exemplifying virtues of love, kindness, empathy, and service. This is just one of the many ways our parents are reassured of their excellent decision in sending their children to our school.



Kristin Markle and her son, Andrew

Speaking of parents, we would like to recognize **Mrs. Kristin Markle** whose son is in 4th grade. She spearheaded all the online fundraising for the HSA this year. She introduced Raise Craze and organized the school-wide Acts of Kindness. With other school volunteers and countless hours of work, the fundraiser was a huge success

Home & School purchased picnic tables with some of the proceeds from Raise Craze. They also presented the school faculty and staff with appreciation gifts and supported graduation by ordering bibles. They will be presenting the school with a check for \$25,000 at the end of the year. If you would like to be a part of this committee next year, please contact Tricia Smigel at tricia.smigel@gmail.com.

ATHLETICS. They say “absence makes the heart grow stronger.” This is how I feel when thinking about the impact the pandemic has had on our sports program this year. With the help of the SOS Athletic Board, we spent many hours trying to be creative in ways to keep our student athletes engaged throughout the year. However, we weren’t able to come up with a plan that mitigated the potential risks. We were able to put together our largest Star of the Sea golf team in the history of the school. This had its own challenges but we did set the foundation to have a



Our golf team in action

strong team for the next several years led by Coach **Nick Ritz** and assistant coaches **Danny Maas** and **Duncan MacLeod**.

Congratulations to our golf team for placing third overall in the league. 8th grader **Kate O.** finished 3rd overall for the girls. 6th grader **Niko C.** also finished 3rd overall for boys and won the long drive competition. We also had the 4th place for both boys and girls with 5th grader **Tanner A.** and 7th grader **Natalie R.**



Kate O. (8) and Natalie R. (7) at award presentation

We are the “Little School by the Big Sea” and we have BIG school spirit when it comes to our athletics programs. I’m looking forward to our many new families getting involved next school year as we plan for the return of Cross Country. Please consider joining the Athletic Board or coaching one of our many sports once we get back in August. This is a great way to get involved with the school and all of the student athletes will benefit from your contributions.

Have a great summer!

Scott Levine
Athletic Director

DEVELOPMENT. As our year comes to a close we are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support for all of our Development efforts. We finish the year with our annual appeal bringing in over \$35,000 this year, well above our original goal of \$25,000.

Our auction was scheduled originally for late March. The venue unilaterally cancelled all events January through March. Our new date was April 17 but as the COVID restrictions were slow to lift, our committee decided quickly to keep our event virtual.

As was done in 2020, we used our auction software for our silent items. Bidders had 8 days to bid on a wide variety of items. Within minutes of closing out our silent auction on Saturday, April 17, we began our live stream video, again from the auction software. Two school dads, **Bryan Silveri** and **Tom Saulnier**, hosted our live auction. The chat board

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was lively and the bids came in fast! We were able to raise money as if we were in person. So far, the auction has grossed \$65,000. Thank you to all our volunteers, donors and sponsors.

AWARDS Congratulations to **Kate O.** (8), winner of the school’s spelling bee. Runners up were **Natalie R.** (7) and **Adrian R.** (6). Kate represented our school in the local competition.

Regina Molyneaux (8) had another poem published.

7th grade Battle of the Books team, “Read It” advanced in their preliminary battle. The team composed of **Sara A., Logan F., Jaden L.,** and **Devin L.** enjoyed competing in this annual event.

Jaden L. (7) won the school Spanish competition entitled “Juguemos Tuti Fruti.” Muy bueno, Jaden!

8th grader **Morgan S.** won a cash award in the Patriot’s Pen essay content. Carson Woolridge (6), **Sara A.** (7) and **Kate O.** (8) each won an award in

Thank You to our 2021 Auction

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Kindergarten worked as a team to build a wall with 100 cups



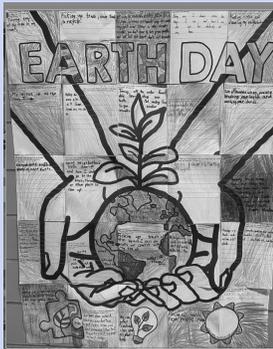
7th graders Michael A. and Benedict O. study objects in motion



The Garber siblings celebrate Pi day



2nd grader Lyla K. studies structure & properties of matters



Mrs. Hugill’s 4th graders Earth Day display



Early learners study lifecycles of plants



Mackenna H. studies moon phases with oreo cookies



Early learner Carmella G. learns about lightning



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Dr. Carey Averill, Principal



More Spring Mile Run Photos



Salem A. (4)



Top Finisher
Keene L. (8)



Adrian R. (6)



Ruby H. (1)



Faculty & Staff



6th grade starting line



Jr. Kindergarten cheers
on the runners



Niels D. (7)