



Star Connection

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Winter 2023-24

Welcoming all families including military and those of all faiths

Celebrating 65 Years at the Oceanfront!



7th Grade Performs "Under the Boardwalk"

This entire school year serves as a celebration of our school's 65th year! We designed special blue t-shirts to commemorate the event and offered them for all of our families to order. We have had several dress down days to showcase this shirt and we will have a few more before our year is over.

On October 20th, each class performed a beach-themed song. In between performances, we reminisced about our school's rich history and shared some funny stories.

We are excited to see what the next 65 years hold for our Star school by the big sea.

Eucharistic Procession Hosted by Star of the Sea

On October 8th, we had a wonderful turnout at Star of the Sea with current students and alumni families for the annual Eucharistic Procession. Fr. Eric Ayers from St. Bede's in Williamsburg led the procession, which left from Star of the Sea and went ten blocks down the boardwalk.

Several priests, including our Pastor, Fr. Steve DeLeon, spoke at the stage area of 24th Street after which the group processed back to Star of the Sea. The event was also highlighted in the Catholic Virginian's January 22, 2024 issue. This event began, in large part, due to the efforts of school alumnus Michael Cistola, class of 1984.



Students carry a beautiful banner for the procession



Grade 3, 4 & 5 enjoyed a field trip to Jamestown in November



Kindergarten teacher and parent, Mrs. Padrick, raised money through tips on our beverage carts during our golf tournament

A Message from the Principal & Pastor

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

As we begin the second half of the year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible first semester we have undertaken as a Catholic school community. We continue to welcome new families with open arms and are excited to witness our school family expanding.

The collaborative efforts of parents, the hard work of our teachers, and the enthusiasm of our students have made this year truly remarkable. I want to extend my sincere gratitude for everyone's commitment to ensuring the safety of our school environment. Our safety initiative has been a resounding success due to your support, cooperation, and adherence to protocols. The well-being of our students remains our top priority while maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

As we navigate the remainder of the school year, let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration, resilience, and faith that defines us. We are excited for continual growth as we are in Open Enrollment and look forward to annual school traditions and events to include Catholic Schools Week, Raise Craze, and our in-person Annual Auction!

I am also thrilled to announce that we are in the initial stages of fundraising for a new playground. This exciting endeavor aims to provide our students with a safe, engaging, and fun space for play. I invite all members of our community to support this initiative as we work towards creating a vibrant and inclusive outdoor space for students of all ages.

Thank you for your ongoing support, faith and dedication. May the months ahead be filled with joy, learning and a deepening of our shared values.

In faith and gratitude,



Carey L. Averill, Ed.D
Principal



Fr. Steve DeLeon
Pastor



Kindergarten Little Saints on All Saints Day



Fr. Steve & Dr. Averill



Our Student Council Association Officers

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. #CDRCatholicSchools #DiscovertheDifference

Alumni News—Stacey Carpenter & Anne Hess

We were very happy to receive a wonderful update from **Stacey Carpenter**, class of 2010. Stacey went to Hollins University and graduated Suma Cum Laude with a degree in Biology and two minors, one in Math and one in Chemistry. She graduated in 2018. She then attended EVMS and received her Masters in Biomedical Medicine in 2019. Stacey is continuing her education at EVMS to complete her medical doctorate (MD) degree. She will graduate in 2024.



*Class of 2010 Alumna,
Stacey Carpenter*

Class of 2009 alumna, **Anne Hess**, just finished her Masters in Public Administration from Murray State University. She works as a Health Care Coordinator at Murray State's Purchase Area Health Education Center.

Congratulations to both Stacey and Anne!



*Class of 2009 Alumna,
Anne Hess*

Do you have an alumni update? Please email development@sosschool.org. Thank you!

Fall Mile Run



Our top male and top female finisher who happened to both be in 7th grade as they approach the finish!

Traditions are just one part of what makes our school so special. One of our favorite traditions is our fall mile run. We had speedy times on Wednesday, October 11th at the boardwalk.

Our top male finishes were Brendan C. (7) with a time of 6:04, Baron C. (7) with a time of 6:21 and Colton K. (7) with a time of 6:22. It was a sweep for 7th grade!

Salem A. (7) came in first for the female finishers with a time of 6:10. It is important to note that Salem's time was faster than the second place male finisher! Lilly L. (5) came in second with a time of 6:35. Grace G. (4) rounded out our top 3 with a time of 6:44.

Special thanks to P.E. teacher, Janet White, who is keeping this wonderful tradition alive at our school.



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.sosschool.org



News Around Campus

NEW SCHOOL COUNSELOR

We were extremely pleased to welcome our new school counselor, Mrs. Molly Jolly in the Fall. Molly was born and raised in Virginia Beach. She holds a degree from James Madison University in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling from Old Dominion University. She has been married for 20 years and has three beautiful children, ages 18, 16, and 13. Her middle child is a Star of the Sea alumna and her son, Brooks, is a current 8th grader. Molly utilizes her experience as a counselor, therapist, and a mom to provide our students with assistance and guidance. We are blessed to have her.

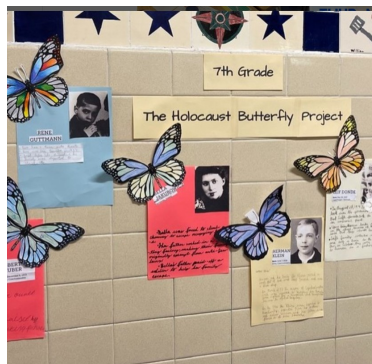


Molly Jolly

STREAM BUTTERFLY PROJECT

For the past three years, our entire school has participated in a butterfly project as part of our STREAM initiative. The letters in STREAM stand for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts and Math.

Mrs. Keith and Mrs. Radigan helped make STREAM connections with this butterfly project. They did a wonderful job teaching the history lessons of the Holocaust to 7th grade. Students



Holocaust Butterfly Project

learned and discussed the dangers of hatred and bigotry in order to cultivate empathy and social responsibility through transformation, hope, rebirth, resurrection and freedom. The 7th grade then took a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Richmond.

We are very proud that Dr. Averill had research published on this very project highlighting our amazing school. Dr. Carey Averill and Dr. Janet Herrelko co-authored an article based on our school's STREAMing with Butterflies Project, which was published in the Journal of Catholic Education Fall 2023, Volume 26, Issue 2, 144–159.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Home and School Association officially kicked off the 2023/2024 school year in September with our Annual Back to School Picnic. We couldn't have asked for better weather! This event was full of fun and fellowship, not to mention delicious food. Thank you to "Pittsburgh's Best", "Moontide" and "Magic Treats" for bringing their food trucks and keeping everyone fed. The 8th grade hosted a cake walk and everyone danced to music by Astro DJ while spending time with friends and family.



7th graders at the Picnic

We are thankful for the support we've received from our STAR families and extended family on these two fundraisers this year. In September we raised over \$1300 with our gym duffle bag sales and in October we made over \$500 selling custom SOS Yeti water bottles and coffee mugs.

Additionally, the HSA hosted two highly anticipated holiday events. In October we held our "Trunk or Treat" event where we had 35 decorated "trunks" for the children to trick or treat. The highlight of the evening was welcoming a Virginia Beach Police Patrol Car and a Virginia Beach Fire Department Truck for the kids to explore!



Trunk or Treat



Santa Sale

In December the students shopped for Christmas gifts for their Family and Friends at our annual Santa Sale. This event requires many volunteers to set up, break down and then help the children to shop, gift-wrap and process payment. We are so

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thankful for everyone who volunteered their time this year. In the end, we raised \$2,961!

As we move into 2024, the HSA is focused on Raise Craze, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Our goal is to raise over \$30,000 by completing Acts of Kindness in our community.



Santa Sale

We are grateful for the continued support we receive from our STAR families. We are overwhelmed by your continued generosity!

-The Home & School Board

DEVELOPMENT

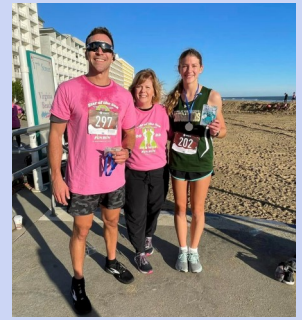
Our annual golf tournament was held on Friday, September 23 at Heron Ridge. It was a very enjoyable day of golf and fellowship despite a few drizzles. We had 96 players and we raised \$14,825 for the school. First place, first flight were the team of Andy Carlson, Jordon Rodriguez, Matt Mitchell and Wayne Smith. Second place, first flight went to the team of Shane Kinsley, Joe Davis, Fran Kelly and George Vallos. Our first place in the second flight was the team of John Cole, John Cole, III, Jeff Person and Rod Bradhurst. Our second place, second flight went to Robert Hennessy, Tara Mark, Jason Baldwin and Francis Lansangan. We are thrilled to report that our former principal, Susan Fentress, and alumni dads, Norm Hess and Rod Budd, each played in the tournament. These three have never missed a Star of the Sea golf tournament!



Dr. Averill with Norm Hess, George Grooms, Susan Fentress and Rod Budd

This year's 5K was extra special as we dedicated the run and designed our race shirts to honor the memory of alumna and former staff member, Alexa Uroskie. Many of Alexa's family and close friends attended the event. Our top male finisher

was Aaron Viso with a time of 18:23. Our top female finisher was alumna, Sara Ankley with a time of 21:40. Current 8th grader Mark Saulnier finished first in the mile fun run. The event raised \$8,780 for our school.



Dr. Averill with the top 5K finishers

Our annual auction will be held in April. After three years of being online only (with an in-person Mixer the last two years), our LIVE auction will be IN-PERSON this year. Tickets are available now as well as sponsorships! Please scan the QR code for more information. This year our silent auction will be online but we will auction our amazing class packages in person! Tickets are available for Friday, April 19 in Crawford Hall. Our theme is "Barbie Party." We look forward to an evening of fun and fellowship and raising our paddles.



"Raise the Paddle" will be put towards updating outdoor play spaces. Donations are being accepted now if you would like to contribute. Again, scanning the QR code will take you to the auction website.



ATHLETICS

It's been a great year so far. Let's quickly recap:

Girls Volleyball | Fall 2023

We had two teams this year totaling 22 athletes. White Team, a team of new-to-the-sport girls progressed both individually and as a team. Blue Team, a team of veterans and club players, went undefeated; losing in second round of the tournament to the #1 SMS team in a truly nail-biting game. Four coaches made this season possible: Jay Kotchka, Brooks Holuka, Jordan Ferger, and technical expert, Laura Nguyen.

Cross Country | Fall 2023

Carmel Alves (Head) and Alisha Lawrence (Asst.) led 13 athletes in this year's season. It was a "short" XC season with only three meets - two regular - one championship. "Long" (if you ask

the runners), as they started practicing prior to school-start, during the dog days of summer; finishing mid-Fall; and always full of distance and hills at Mt. Trashmore and Redwing Park. Throughout the season and meets, all of our athletes had personal wins and some earned points; and a few finished Top 3 overall.



Top finishers and siblings, Preston (8) and Salem (7) A. with their grandparents at the XC Championship

Kindergarten through 2nd all working towards the goal of running 24.2 miles before the Shamrock Marathon Final Mile where they will finish their marathon. Coaches Meghan Pfeiffer and Janel McGowan are helping our young runners get ready for their big event in March. We'll check back in on this club in the next newsletter.

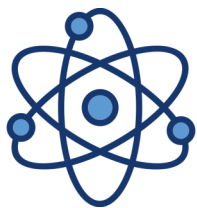
We're in the midst of our Winter Season, and it's full of awesome SOS Basketball and SOS Cheerleading.

GO STARS!

Matthew K. Chaney
Athletic Director
staroftheseathletics@gmail.com

Run Club | Fall-Winter- 2023-2024

We have over 50 young athletes in grades



Our school is hosting a Diocesan-wide Science Fair on Monday, April 22.



5th & 6th Grade Science Field Trip to the Virginia Aquarium in December

Security Enhancements

We are excited to share that we have successfully secured grant funding to implement several upgrades which will further strengthen the security infrastructure of our school! These improvements coincide with our recent upgrade of adding security cameras both inside and outside of our building, as well as, implementing a new check-in procedure.

In collaboration with the local police department, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our security measures and identified areas where we can increase overall safety. Our upgrades include adding another access control panel to ensure only authorized personnel have entry to specific areas, thereby increasing overall control and accountability as well as target hardening of windows and doors per police recommendation.

Our goal is to continue fostering a strong partnership with our local police department to enhance our emergency response procedures and coordination. Furthermore, we express our gratitude for their support and role in helping us secure grant funding. Their commitment to the safety of our community is truly commendable and we look forward to continuing this collaborative effort. As always, the safety and well-being of our students remain our top priority. It is our goal to keep you informed of the progress of our security initiatives as we move forward.



Annual Appeal Giving Circles for 2022-2023

Angels Circle

(Gifts \$5,000 and above)

John Buckley

Gold Star Circle

(Gifts \$1,000—\$2,499)

Vickie Berling

Michael & Marylin Borza

Mark & Regina DesRoches

Col & Mrs. James G. Edge

Rob & Debbie Giroux (\$500 in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Joseph & Annette Hawa

Capt. & Mrs. James Sullivan

Teddy & Susannah Uroskie

Silver Star Circle

(Gifts of \$500 to \$999)

Gary & Louise Allen

Scott Clark, M.D. (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Tim & Genie Glaser

Tony & Irene Boone

Mark & Andrea Bowman (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Philip Cockrill

Harold C Goodrum

Norm & Lynn Hess (\$500 in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Andrew & Karen Loiacono (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Rebecca McGuigan

Michael & Meghan Pfeiffer

Elizabeth Vick

Bronze Star Circle

(Gifts of \$250 to \$499)

John & Mary Coffey

Kathleen Edge

Susan Fentress (\$100 in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Robert F Grandfield

Kerry & Anna Grehan (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Bill & Beth McGloon (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Lynn Murrell, (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Frederick Napolitano (Napolitano Family Foundation, Inc.)

Melinda Nearpass

Stars Circle

(Gifts \$100—\$249)

Bryan & Carey Averill (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Theresa Bannon (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Rita Brown

Jean Choplinksy

Ann K. Crenshaw

Tish Destree (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Lorraine DeGiorgi

Sean Dowling

Jackie Garcia (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Donald & BJ Garmer

Raymond & Pat Gorski

Johanna M. Gross (in honor of grandchildren Jude & Rose McNally)

Barbara Hudak

Lynn Ittner

Ruth Jennette

Marc & Nancy Lambert

Pat McGlinchy

Dick & Sue Meeker (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Becky Ruffin (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Tommy Smith

Karen Speigelhalter (\$50 in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Steven Magliano & Jody Stowe (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

George J Switzer

Cecilia A Thomas

Katie Tippin (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Bill & Lyn Ungvarsky (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Linda Watson (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Harold & Cathy Whisman

Sallie Williams

Friends Circle

(Gifts to \$99)

Bernadette Aylward (in memory of Brenda Morris)

Raymond & Pauline Bach

Joseph & Maryann Bierman

Jim & Debbie Billing

Sister MaryAnne Bolger

Rosallie Cojulis (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

David Cullen

John & Barbara Davey

Sister Eileen Dugan

John & Mary Ann Faust

Brenda Gargiulo (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Tanya Groover (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Annette & Monty Hillard (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Patricia K Hyatt

Mary & Brittany Johnston (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Mark Kanter (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)

Fred & Kathy Prickett

Aimee & Robert Shenigo (in memory of Alexa Uroskie)



Brendan C. (7) with his prayer partner, Holden C. (K)



Sra. Martinez and her offrenda in honor of her family for El Dia de los Muertos

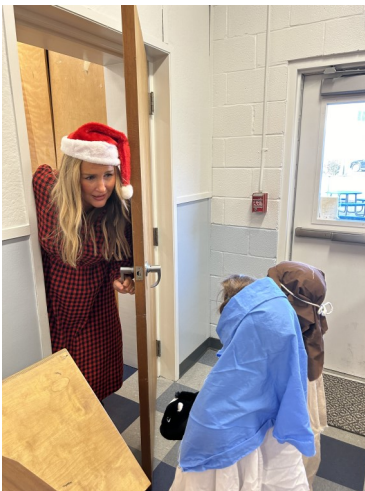
Star of the Sea Catholic School



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Dr. Carey Averill, Principal

Please follow us on social media to
increase our presence.



Mrs. Ressler says there is no room at the inn during the Jr Kindergarten Christmas Posada



Mrs. Madsen's 2nd graders celebrate with a book release party as they publish a book, "The Can of Exploding Beans"

SOCIAL MEDIA

-  [SOSVB](https://www.facebook.com/SOSVB)
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