



The Rising Star Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 9

April 2018

Accepting God's Call

By: Brittany Ravestein-Grade 2

"On the first day of school, I felt the usual emotions of a new job: anxiety, eagerness, enthusiasm, and fear. I am currently in my tenth year of teaching and I still consider myself an amateur. Each day I learn something new and I have made it my life's purpose to inspire young minds to love the gift of learning. St. Benedict the Moor is an urban school. Educators have identified limited resources, high poverty rates, large class sizes, and low student achievement to be some of the major challenges they face when working in an urban school district. To overcome these challenges, the staff at St. Benedict works together in the mission of strong academics and building God's kingdom through making disciples. We have prayer partners and support each other in every way possible. We fill in the gaps and work together to make sure everyone's needs are met. When I looked

at the data, ninety percent of my students were below grade level. Through many prayers, asking God for the right words to empower, inspire, and change me to be the teacher that these students need, I have been privileged to see how much these students have grown, not only academically, but also spiritually. One day a student came up to me and said with the biggest smile on his face, "Mrs. Ravestein, I have gift for you. It's from God!" He pulled out a piece of junk mail from the Publishers Clearing House that had the word "ACCEPTED!" printed on it in large, bolded font. I replied, "Thank you so much, Malique! I am so happy that God used you to tell me how much he loves and accepts me just the way I am!" The students are

growing academically as well. I see an eagerness and self discipline that wasn't there the first few weeks of school. One morning, I witnessed two girls looking at a world map whispering the song I had taught them to remember the names of the seven continents. I feel proud and excited that God is using me to help these children develop a relationship with Him and about the world around them. I have a thankful heart that out of thousands of other educators, God chose me to work with these students. I look forward to the end of the year to see all the spiritual, social, and academic progress that was made with the help of God our Father.

This article was taken from the Congregation of the Holy Spirit publication Spiritans "One Heart, One Spirit" Spring 2018 edition.

Visit Spiritans.org

Special points of interest:

- *Ohio online testing – April 9 thru May 11 for Grades 3, 4 and 5- Math, ELA, Science*
- *April 23 Family Event 6:00pm*
- *April 30 Parent/Teacher Conference*

May 17th 1:00 PM

Fox 45 meteorologists will be here presenting severe weather safety to students in grades 2-5.



Making Leprechaun Traps in Gr.4

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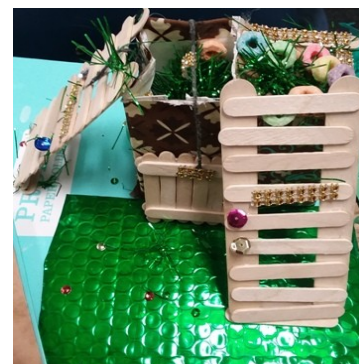
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School Motto:
The Wildcats



Motto

Ms. Shepard's 4th grade students used imagination and creativity to make leprechaun traps. Working with a partner or as an individual, students learned interesting facts about the leprechauns. They gathered materials and using a graphic organizer to plan and organize ideas, they made traps. Each trap had a green coin hidden to lure the leprechaun in hopes that it would get trapped. It is known **that if you catch a leprechaun, you are granted three wishes and it will lead you to its pot of gold..** However, no one captured a leprechaun. We had a great time working together and learning construction strategies.



St Benedict's Religion Ramblings...

We celebrated Lent carefully and inspired. On the last day before leaving for Easter break the school community prayed the 14 Stations of the Cross to start our Wednesday of Holy Week. Each class participated in retelling this incredible story of the God of Heaven, who sent His only son, Jesus to our world to save us from our sinfulness. The children learned throughout Lent that this Jesus, suffered greatly, despite being sinless. They learned that in order to celebrate the Joy that is connected to the Resurrection of Easter, there is only one way to get to that; through the pain and suffering of the Cross of Jesus. Aquileyce, our 5th grade Jesus portrayed how much loved He has for us when looking down from all the pain and torture from the cross, he lovingly offered "Father, forgive them, they know not what they are doing!" What other man could do this? Only the God-Man Jesus, our Savior and King! With all the attention superheroes get nowadays, I beg to challenge any who would come close to comparing to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, our real savior.

We now are on the quest of our final quarter for this school year. Students will continue to learn from the lessons that are contained in the Acts of the Apostles and how the early church began to set priorities in how they treated one another. We have experienced much in the two thousand years since the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, but please know that the Holy Spirit is truly alive and active at St. Benedict the Moor School and all through our society. God is alive and interested in each and every one of us. He loves you and I with the care of a loving parent, and is totally in love with us despite our actions. This is something for sure to take great consolation in. Finally, I shared with the students the idea behind a famous painting of Jesus knocking on a door, that represents our hearts. However, the picture shows the door without a door-knob. We must open our hearts to Jesus and invite Him in. There is no greater time than now. Please join me and our school community by inviting Jesus into your heart this Easter season. He is dying to enter!

Submitted by: Mr. Fortener

