



# ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

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Teaching Minds. Guiding Hearts.

1/8/2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and the St. Joseph School and Parish Community,

Happy New Year! Glad to be back after a restful break. Wishing you great blessings in 2021. This week's letter will combine some highlights from just before our break (week of December 14<sup>th</sup>) and this week.

First, Early Childhood was able to visit the Nativity scene set up just outside the church. It was a special way for students to learn about the true meaning of Christmas as their teachers described the scene to them.



They also participated in remote learning for the first few days of this



week, and had a lot of fun – Nursery A is pictured here during in Crazy Hat Day that went along with a



lesson on shapes, size and texture. Now that they are back in the physical building, they can enjoy learning in person and using our playground, too!

First Grade learned about the American flag as a tradition and symbol in our country. Since we have Canadian students in the class, the students added to their lesson by asking questions about and drawing pictures of the Canadian flag, too! Plus, the class got to partake in their traditional Nativity presentation,



which was filmed and released to parents. Luckily, they weren't the only class that got to perform a traditional Nativity (more on that later!)..



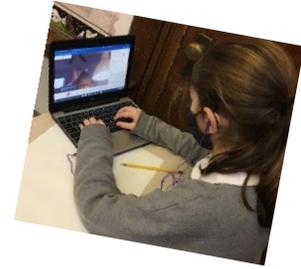
Our GRASP (afterschool) students were able to create their famous gingerbread houses. There were a lot of amazing designs! 3<sup>rd</sup>

grade created “shoebox nativities” to showcase what they learned about the birth of Jesus.





5<sup>th</sup> Grade continues to lead the way as an example of how to have our remote and in-person students interact together regularly. Here, students complete work together in pairs using Google Meet to connect from a distance.



The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade were treated to a Christmas luncheon before the break, which has become a tradition in recent years. Because we've been able to utilize our cafeteria safely (6 feet and barriers) the students were able to enjoy lunch together. A big thanks to our parent volunteers for following safety protocols!



Remember that additional tradition I mentioned earlier? Well, we were happy to be able to provide the 8<sup>th</sup> grade with the experience of participating in our Nativity tableau,



which has been a part of our Christmas celebrations at St. Joseph for many years. Although we had to make some modifications, the students did an excellent job and all parents were able to watch the filmed version. A big thanks to Mrs. Cioffi for coming back to help direct the tableau!



Last, we are so proud of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Kindergarteners for their work on their service project. The students created Christmas cards for the children at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In addition, both grades wrote letters to residents at The Bristol in East Meadow. These residents had been isolated for several weeks due to COVID-19. The students hoped to bring a little cheer to both of these groups during the Christmas season, and we have no doubt that they succeeded. We are looking forward to other grade-level groups completing service projects throughout the remainder of the year.

We'll have more highlights for you next week. Stay safe!

Warm Regards,

Mr. Brian Colombar  
Principal, St. Joseph School