

SMA Informer



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Be sure to check the fun page! You could be a secret sticker winner!

Volume 8, Issue 4

Lent and Mardi Gras

Lent is a spiritual preparation for Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are 3 of the main ways we ready ourselves for Easter. Originally it lasted one or two days and has now increased to forty days to represent the forty days Jesus spent in the desert. The word "Lent" comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word *lenten*, which means "springtime," named for the time of the year in which it occurs.

"Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras" takes place on the Tuesday before Ash

Wednesday. Many historians believe that the first American Mardi Gras took place on March 3, 1699 when French explorers Iberville and Bienville landed in what is now Louisiana, just south of the holiday's future epicenter: New Orleans. To mark their arrival they held a small celebration and named the spot Point du Mardi Gras. On Mardi Gras in 1827, a group of students donned colorful costumes and danced through the streets of New Orleans. Ten years later the first recorded New Orleans Mardi Gras parade took place, a tradi-

tion that continues to this day. Other lasting customs include throwing beads and other trinkets, wearing masks, decorating floats and eating King Cake (see recipes on page 5). During Mardi Gras many people binge on meat, cheese, and other rich foods to prepare for many weeks of fasting. The only state in which Mardi Gras is a legal holiday is in Louisiana.

Try to find the hearts in this issue!

Answer on the Fun Page!



Who is your favorite saint St. Patrick, St. Joseph, or St. Valentine?

This month we asked the student body who their favorite saint is. Here's the results!

St. Patrick: 56%

St. Valentine: 22%

St. Joseph: 22%



2nd Grade's 1st Reconciliation



The 2nd graders just received their First Reconciliation. Here are some of their thoughts.

On Reconciliation I felt nervous and scared to go talk to the priest. I was brave though, so I did the hard work. I think people would be nervous for their first reconciliation, but some people are brave like me. I bet the priest knew I was scared and nervous so I think he made it easy for me. I like that priest.— Isabella Sego

Reconciliation was scary. The priest made me not so nervous. I'm happy I made Reconciliation! I would do it again. Now I can make First Communion!— Grace Bronski

I felt so good about Reconciliation. I had Father Andrew. I want to do Reconciliation more than once! It makes you feel proud and happy for yourself.— Kate Perez

Thinking of 3rd Grade

By Shannon Daughetry

In third grade Ms. Fricano and Ms. Clark must be very happy with their students' successes; the third graders have been working very hard on their moon calendars, fractions and regions chapter, and Winn Dixie books. In reading the 3rd graders are on the edge of their seats to find out what happened to Opal, the preach-

students are learning how to make fractions and regions. Finally, in science the third graders are hard at work on their moon and planets chapter. As an assignment students have to observe the moon so they can compare and contrast. Keep up the good work!

4th grade Haikus

Flower petals
falling

It's getting close to winter

I don't like the cold

By: Abigail De La Cruz

Vacation's coming

Going to hot Mexico

Can't wait until spring break

By: Sergio
Navarette

School will be out soon

I feel temptation for fun

Vacation's coming

By: Ariela Esser

Snowy wonderland

Snowball fight..boom..ah..that
hurt

I love snowball fights

By Connor Sturt

Vacation's coming

Hot sand squirming through my
toes

I love summertime

By: Grace Gronke



5th grade volleyball

The fifth grade boys have kicked off the volleyball season with one win and one loss. The 5th and 4th grade boys together beat SMOW at home. The 2nd game was not so hot, losing to St. Eugene. They are hoping for a much better game next time. At practice, they have been focusing mostly

on bumps along with setting the ball! Coach- es, Mrs. Lanza and Mrs. Robaczewski, are cool and the boys are having a blast! They are having so much fun with all of their teammates, from all the jokes, to goofing around while learning a great sport! They boys like to serve and al- most half of the team

can already serve over- hand! Fans are wel- come to come to their next game at St. Pascal at 11:00am.



6th Grade Movie Reviews

By Katy Coakley

Do you like movies? Well here is our movie of the month! *Interstellar* is about a man named Cooper who is a very smart man who has to go to outerspace to fix the soil in the ground. It stars Matthew Mcanchay, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain and Michael Caine. This movie is very similar to the movie *Gravity*. There

is also a book that you can read about interstellar. This movie would be a Katy's list: A- This movie is rated PG-13

By: Marty McNaughton

This movie is great! *Paddington* takes you on the journey of one rare bear. This rare bear's life is about to change when he goes on one

extraordinary adventure through England! This adventure is awesome and funny too. If you like great movies, watch this one! I rate this 5 stars out of 5 stars because this movie is funny, adventurous, and fun to watch. If you're bored one day, see this movie!

The Wolves Game

By Charlie Rademaker

This is the story of the game that I caught a puck with my head.....

We were sitting in the 4th row at the Chicago wolves' ice hockey game against the Andronick Flames. The crowd was going crazy as flames fly into the air and the team's player's race out onto the ice, it's chaos but I love it. Hockey is an intense game filled with

large men racing around on skates, purposely colliding with others to try to knock them onto the hard surface of the ice. I had purchased pizza, a large drink and popcorn and was enjoying the game tremendously. I was watching the game and then intermission came, the time when the girls went to the bathroom and the guys watch the ice girls. I was watching and didn't notice when the players came back on

the ice and started playing. A flames player flew up the ice at the blue line, and he released a killer slap shot at the goalie. The defense on the wolves dived in front to block. The shot and it ricocheted off the stick of the d-man and into the air. I being me looked up when Mr. Childers yelled "heads up!" the puck hit me in the head, and I felt a "crack" and then blood...blood...and more blood. They took me to the wheelchair and wheeled me to a waiting ambulance and to Resurrection Hospital. They stapled me up good, made sure I had no concussion and sent me home. "What a story to tell," the doctor said, "yeah, what a story" I replied.



Faith In Action

By: Adamaris Martinez

So as we all know Lent is coming which means lots of things. Ash Wednesday, and for the kids in 3rd grade and over, confession. I think everyone should think about giving up something. A good way to prepare for Easter observing good

deeds done by the junior high. The first thing I want to say is that the junior high reading teacher Mrs. Klingelehofer is pretty new to SMA. I have seen that the junior high is doing a nice job at being nice to her and welcoming her here. I have also seen many people help teachers and other students. They have asked

and other students. They have asked if they can go and check the mailboxes for the teachers and brought up all five teachers' mail. I have noticed that the students' manners have not grown short, as they always say please and thank you not only to teachers' but to their fellow classmates as well. Most of the students show great respect to their teachers and classmates. These are just a few ways you could do some good deeds too!

St. Patrick

By: Michael Mack

Known as the "Apostle of Ireland," St. Patrick is a very important saint in the history of Ireland. Although St. Patrick was not from Ireland, but from Kilpatrick, Scotland where he was captured and then taken in

to slavery by the Irish at the age of 14. As a slave he worked as a shepherd and prayed to God often. But at the age of 20 he had a dream from God that told him to go to the coast and leave Ireland. He escaped slavery and was reunited with his family.

He then had another dream of the people of Ireland calling him back to help them see God. He became a priest, then a bishop, and went back to Ireland to teach the Word of God. He converted the Irish, and performed miracles for 40 years when he died on

God. He performed miracles for 40 years until he died on March 17, 461 (St. Patrick's Day). St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

St. Valentine

By: Marty McNaughton

Since St. Valentine's Day has just passed, I thought that I should tell you some facts about him. All that people really know about Valentine, is his name. He was martyred and buried on the Flaminia, close to the Milvian Bridge, to the north of Rome on February 14. It is uncertain whether St. Valentine is

to be identified as one saint, or two saints with the same name. Most people don't know that Valentine was born in Terni, Italy. St. Valentine died around the year 270 AD (his birth day is unknown). It is rumored that Bishop Valentine would perform secret wedding ceremonies so men could

instead of the women, their families chose for them. King Henry VII of England made St. Valentine's Day a holiday in 1537.



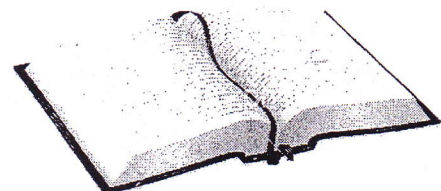
St. Joseph

By Jack Rademaker

Saint Joseph is a figure in the Gospels, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the stepfather of Jesus. In Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Anglican Christian traditions, he is regarded as Saint Joseph. Christian

tradition places Joseph as Jesus' foster father. The first appearance of Joseph is in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each contains a genealogy of Jesus showing ancestry from King David. Joseph is venerated as a saint in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental

Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran and Methodist faiths. In Catholic and other traditions, Joseph is the patron saint of workers and has several feast days.



By Kailey Kraft

Last weekend my hockey team and I played at a tournament in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. We stayed at the Chula Vista. For our first game on Friday, we played an all-girls team from Minnesota. We ended up losing our game 3-1. Our next game was on Saturday. For this

game, we played a boys team from Michigan. We played really well, but we ended up losing this game 4-2. Our second game on Friday was against the girls' team from Minnesota we played the day before. We ended up losing this game 3-0. Our last game was on Sunday. For that game, we played the boys team we played

on Saturday. We lost this game 4-0. Even though we lost all of our games, we still had a lot of fun.

On Friday night we had a huge party in one of the hotel rooms. We ended up staying up until 1:30 a.m. Hotel security even had to tell us to quiet down. At the party we ate pizza, watched Netflix and played shinny, which is a game where we play hockey with little hockey sticks and little nets. On Saturday we went down to the water park and swam before our game. That night we had a party, but it only lasted until 12:30. My tournament was really fun, and I hope to go to another tournament soon.

Book Review

By: Sabrina Soto

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan is a book about a boy named Percy Jackson who gets kicked out of a boarding school. For the summer he goes to a camp called Camp Half-Blood after getting attacked by a minotaur. Just to find out that his

father that he never met is a god! After just arriving the camp, he is sent out to go on a quest with his friend Grover and another half-blood Annabeth, a daughter of Athena, to get his mom. I really liked this book and



Recipe for King Cake

2 cup warm water (105 to 115 degrees)
2 packages dry yeast
2 teaspoons sugar
4 to 5 cups flour
1/2 cup sugar
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
1/2 cup warm milk (105 to 115 degrees)
1/2 cup melted unsalted butter, cooled
5 egg yolks
1/2 cup finely chopped candied citron

1 pecan half, uncooked dried bean or King Cake Baby
Glaze:
2 cups sifted powdered sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons water
Purple, green and gold sugar crystals
Directions
Preheat the oven 350 degrees. Combine the warm water, yeast and 2 teaspoons sugar in a small bowl. Mix well and set aside to a warm place for about 10 minutes. Combine the 4 cups of flour, 1/2 cup sugar, salt, nutmeg, lemon rind and add warm

milk, melted butter, egg yolks and yeast mixture. Beat until smooth. Turn dough out on a lightly floured surface. Knead in enough remaining flour until the dough is no longer sticky. Continue kneading until the dough is smooth and elastic (about 10 minutes). Place the dough in a well-greased bowl. Turn once so greased surface is on top. Cover the dough and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch the dough down and place on a lightly floured surface. Sprinkle with the citron and knead until the citron is evenly distributed. Shape the dough into a cylinder, about 30 inches long. Place the cylinder on a buttered baking sheet. Shape into a ring, pinching ends together to seal. Place a well-greased 2-pound coffee can or shortening can in the center of the ring to maintain shape during baking. Press the King Cake Baby, pecan half or dried bean into the ring from the bottom so that it is completely hidden by the dough. Cover the ring with a towel, and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove the coffee can immediately. Allow the cake to cool. For the glaze: Combine the ingredients and beat until smooth. To assemble, drizzle cake with the glaze. Sprinkle with sugar crystals, alternating colors. Cut into the cake and hope you do not get the baby.

Field trips

By: Alexa Itounas

All of St. Monica Academy was doing something fun for Catholic schools week. The book fair was open for Monday and Tuesday. We also had a spirit wear day along with a pep rally. There was also

crazy hat day, and I saw some pretty crazy hats! We also had a Trinity snowman door decorating contest, which was really fun! Congrats to all the winners! In addition to crazy hat day, we also got to create bookmarks with our book bud-

dies. On Friday, the whole school went on really fun field trips. Preschool and Kindergarten went to see Frozen on Ice! 1st and 2nd grade went bowling. 3rd grade through 5th grade went roller-skating. Finally junior high went ice skating and went to see "Into the Woods." Overall, the school had a very exciting week!



March Madness

By: George Murphy and Sebastian Monterroso

This years March Madness college basketball tournament will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. The selection show that will announce the teams that can compete for the 2015 NCAA tournament championship will be on March 16, 2015. The first games will be on March 17-18 they will be held in Dayton, Ohio. Right now the top five teams in the nation are Kentucky, Gonzaga, Virginia, Villanova, and Duke. Our prediction to win the tournament is Kentucky because they are undefeated 21-0.

Hockey

By: Joseph Laera, Jack Radamaker, and Ryan Curtin

This week in the hockey section we will be talking about the playoff standings in each Division and Conference. First of all the Eastern Conference Tampa Bay Lightning is in first place with 74 points then there is the Montreal Canadians

with 73 points and tied for third is the New York Islanders and the Detroit Red Wings with 71 points. After them are the Pittsburgh Penguins with 68 points and then the New York Rangers with 67 points. In the Western conference the first place team is the Nashville Predators with 78 points. Second place is the Ana-

heim Ducks with 75 points and then in third place is the Saint Louis Blues with 74 points. Fourth right now is the one and only Chicago Blackhawks with 69 points and then the Calgary Flames and the San Jose Sharks are tied with 63 points.

Super Bowl

By: Joseph Laera

This years Super bowl was filled with intensity, drama and fun. The two teams the were in the Super Bowl were the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots. There have been 49 super bowls in NFL history. Both teams kept in reach and didn't let each other have a big lead. Katy Perry performed the halftime show. In the fourth quarter the Seahawks were down 28-24 Russell Wilson of the Seahawks throws a pass that looks incomplete but Jermaine Kearse of the Seahawks caught it and the Seahawks were at the 1 yard line with about a minute left to go in the game. This is where the Seahawks looked like they had the game in the bag, because they had two of the best running backs in the league. But for some reason the Seahawks decided to pass and Malcolm Butler of the New England Patriots intercepted the pass and the patriots end up winning the Super bowl 28-24.

SMA Sports

By: Yamaris Martinez

The SMA volleyball season has just started, and for the first time fourth grade has a team which is shared with fifth grade. Hopefully with this new season some of our teams will make the playoffs! GO MUSTANGS!!!!

As always ladies first. The fourth and fifth grade girls are

year these girls will be even better! The sixth grade girls are at a record of 0-4. The seventh grade is at 2-2. Last year, the current seventh grade girls, won 2nd place at the playoffs! Maybe they can win 1st this year! Last but not least, the eighth grade girls are currently 1-4.

Now the boy teams. The fourth and fifth grade is at a record of 1-3, which is good for

year. The sixth grade boys is winning 3-2! Hopefully they will keep it up! The seventh grade is at 1-3, and the eighth grade boys are at 1-4. All the teams have a long way to go. They will all play a total of fifteen games! I wish all the teams good luck this season!

5 on 5

Volume 8, Issue 4

Antonio



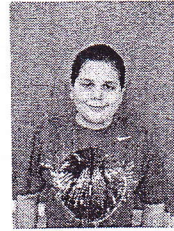
Henry



CJ



Jack



Stick man



Who's your favorite NBA player?				
Jimmy Butler, because he is good at shooting and defense.	Kevin Durant, because he is a good teammate.	Steph Curry, because he is really good at 3's.	Kevin Durant, because he is good at scoring.	Messi, because he has fast feet.
Who did you think was going to win the super bowl?				
Seahawks, because they have a good defense and a good running back	Patriots, because the team has great chemistry.	Patriots, because Tom Brady can throw it deep with accuracy.	Patriots, because Tom Brady has had great chemistry with his receivers.	Cardinals, because they have a good 4 th string QB.
Who do think will win march madness?				
Duke, because Jahliil Okafor is a beast.	Duke, because Tyus Jones can light it up.	North Carolina, because of good coaching.	Duke, because coach K is a smart coach.	Florida A&M, because they have the most losses a 1-24 record and they played good on their win.
How do you think John Fox will do as bears head coach?				
I think he will do good because the Broncos were a great team.	I think they will do bad because Jay Cutler is uncoachable.	I think the Bears will be better because John Fox can bring new plays.	I think he will be good because he can make players into stars.	I think he will do bad because foxes and bears don't like each other.
Who's your favorite MLB team and how do you think they will do.				
Cubs, and I think they will do okay.	Cubs, and they will do fine.	Yankees, I think they will do amazing.	Cubs, I think they will do better than last year.	Nobody, they will all be in jail for stealing bases.



Fun Page

Informer
Junior Editors:
Bailey Kraft and
Iivia Brunell

Senior

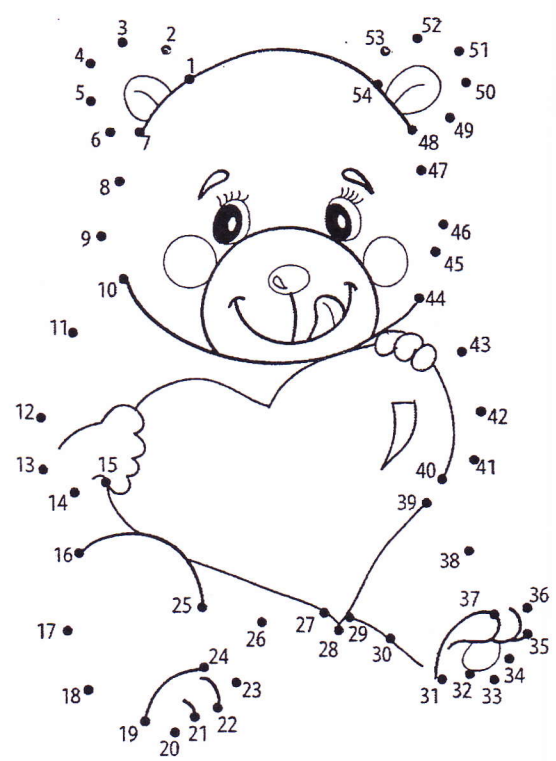


St. Patrick's Day

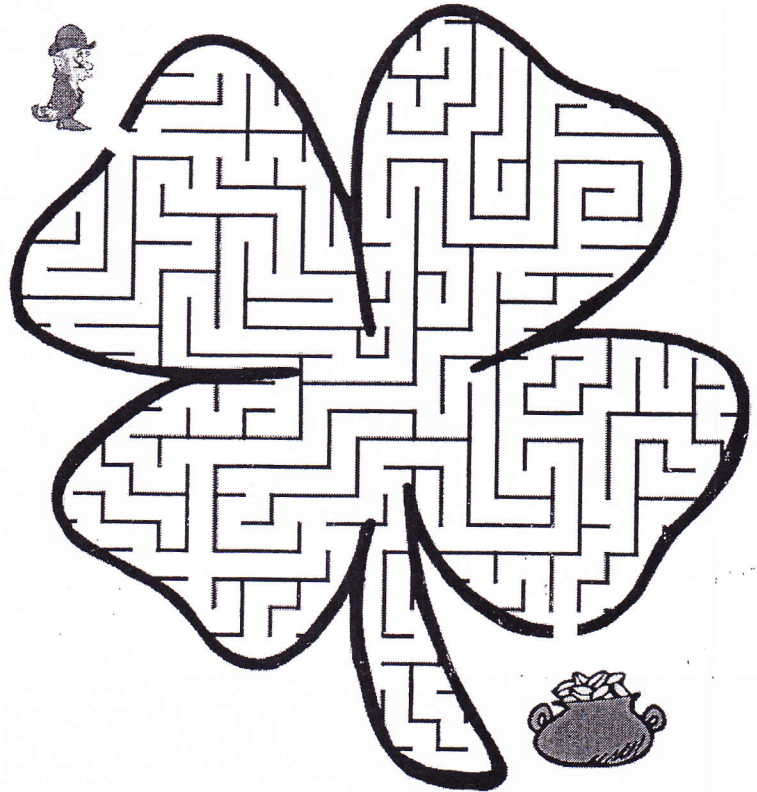
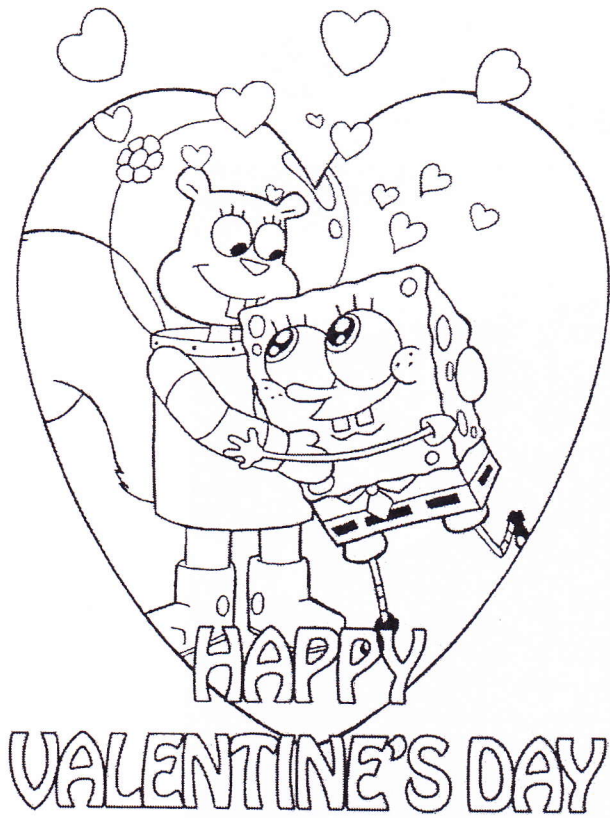
Would You Rather...

1	Find a pot of gold	or	Find a four-leaf clover that really did bring good luck
2	Have to speak with an Irish accent for three days	or	Have to sing everything you say to the tune of 'I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover' for three days
3	Take a one week trip to Ireland each summer for the next four years	or	Take a month long trip to Ireland this summer
4	Write a story called, "The Day I Caught a Leprechaun"	or	Invent and build a trap to catch a leprechaun
5	Be a leprechaun	or	Catch a leprechaun
6	Have to wear a leprechaun costume every day for a week after St. Patrick's Day	or	Every time you enter a room, have to do a little Irish jig in the doorway and loudly say "Top o' the mornin' to you!" for a week after St. Patrick's Day
7	Have to spend a week carrying a small but heavy pot of gold with you wherever you go	or	Have to spend a week carrying a large but not very heavy bag of shamrocks
8	For one day, be as small as a leprechaun	or	For one day, be as quick as a leprechaun
9	Have to always wear green clothes for the next year	or	Get to wear whatever clothes you want for the next year, but always have to wear a big green leprechaun's hat
10	Find a single pot of gold and keep it for yourself	or	Find five pots of gold and share them with all of your classmates equally
11	Get to plan a St. Patrick's Day party for your class	or	Get to plan a fun St. Patrick's Day art project for your class
12	Only be able to see the world in shades of green	or	Have everything you eat taste like boiled potatoes
13	Not wear green on St. Patrick's Day and be pinched by everyone you encounter	or	Dye your hair green for St. Patrick's Day
14	Have to find a four-leaf clover in a field where only one in every ten thousand clovers has four leaves	or	Have to make 100 four-leaf clovers out of green construction paper to decorate your classroom
15	Have green skin	or	Have green teeth and green hair
16	Be able to walk over a rainbow as if it were a bridge	or	Be able to make rainbows anytime you wanted, wherever you wanted
17	Catch a leprechaun	or	Have a pet unicorn
18	Eat green eggs and ham	or	Eat green string beans mixed with green jelly beans
19	Wear only green clothes for the 3 months	or	Eat only green food for the next year
20	Have a leprechaun sitting on your shoulder making sarcastic and snide comments about you and your friends	or	Have everything you touch turn green

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There are 25
hearts in this issue

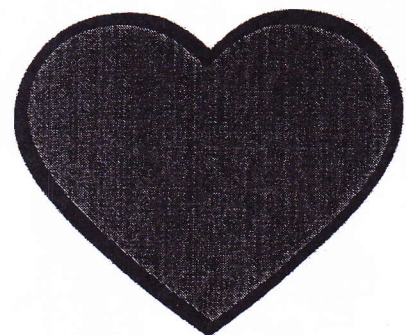
**Happy
Valentine's Day!**



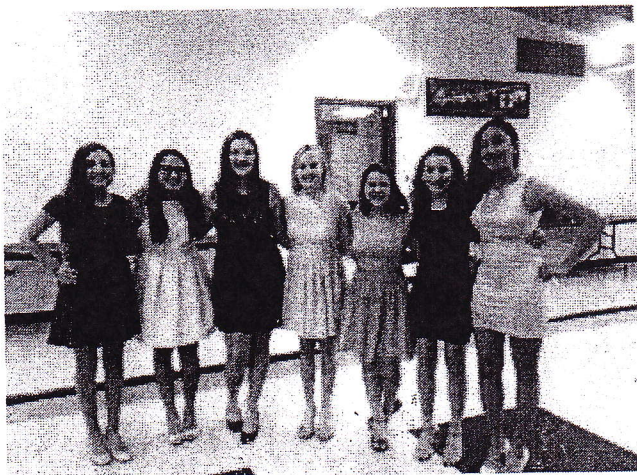
CANDY
HEART
HUG
LOVE
KISS
SWEET



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C	A	N	D	Y	I	Q
T	Q	G	A	O	M	G



Picture Page



8th grade graduation pictures



8th grade confirmation



7th grade volleyball team after taking 2nd place at the Resurrection tournament.



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Mission Statement

As the St. Monica Academy newspaper, we strive to provide students with news and entertainment. Through our newspaper, we hope that you will learn more about our Catholic academy and your fellow students. We will honor your stories and opinions and will publish objectively and factually. Our paper includes games, comics, jokes and fun pages for your creative side. Our goal is to live up to our motto, "We Keep Our School Informed."



Dear Mrs. Losurdo, Father Ted, and Mr. Sheehan,

After all of these years we still remember
you at SMA. We all love and miss you so much.

Thank you for your time here! We will never
forget you!

Classroom Articles: Grace Bronski,
Isabella Sego, Kate Perez, Shannon
Daugherty, Abigail De La Cruz, Ser-
gio Navarette, Ariela Esser, Connor
Sturt, Grace Gronke, Katy Coakley,
Marty McNaughton, and Charlie
Rademaker

Other Articles: Adamaris Martinez,
Michael; Mack, Jack Rademaker,
Sabrina Soto, Alexa Itounas, George
Murphy, Sebastian Monterroso, Jo-
seph Laera, Ryan Curtin and Yamaris
Martinez

Senior Editors: Lauren Abbatacola,
Mia Skibicki, and Anna Lisowski

Junior Editors: Kailey Kraft and Olivia
Brunell

Enforcer: Alex Knup

Thank you Mrs. Mash and Mrs. Jacin-
to for all the hard work you put into
the newspaper! We are so lucky we
have such wonderful teachers like
you on our newspaper staff!

Love,

The Editors and Staff