

# NORTH DEANERY NEWS

Welcome to the Winter 2018 issue of North Deanery News. In the pages that follow, you will read about the exciting academic and extracurricular programs and accomplishments happening daily in our nine North Deanery grade and middle schools. As your North Deanery high school, Bishop Chatard shares in this excitement and is pleased to join in celebrating the good news!

While each parish and school community is unique, we all participate in a shared mission: to prepare our students academically, socially and spiritually to excel in school and in life. The updates and stories shared here by each of our North Deanery schools reveal that we are on the right track.



Presented by Bishop Chatard:  
The High School of the  
North Deanery

Christ the King



Immaculate Heart of Mary



St. Joan of Arc



St. Lawrence



St. Luke



St. Matthew School



St. Pius X



St. Simon



St. Thomas Aquinas



ST. SIMON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## 2018 SPELL BOWL is I-N-T-E-N-S-E

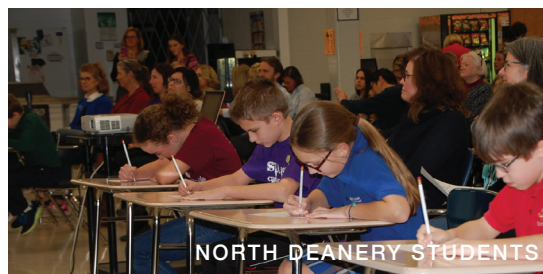
Teams from eight of the nine North Deanery grade and middle schools competed in the North Deanery Spell Bowl at Bishop Chatard on January 31. Fourth through eighth grade students were challenged with words chosen by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Scores remained very close throughout the competition. When the final pencil was down and the numbers were tallied, St. Simon emerged as the 2018 Spell Bowl champion, with St. Luke taking second place and St. Matthew in third.

Congratulations to all of the North Deanery Spell Bowl competitors, coaches and schools. The discipline and dedication on display during this academic competition was impressive!



ST. LUKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NORTH DEANERY STUDENTS





## ST. JOAN OF ARC Christmas Program

On December 22, St. Joan of Arc church was filled once again with the sounds of Christmas. Each year our students dress in their Sunday best and present a beautiful variety of carols to their families. Highlights include the band's lifting rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus, our beautiful 5th grade bells, our TK through 8th grade chorus, and the 4th grade Nativity play. The final piece of the concert portion, O Come All Ye Faithful, was directed by our 8th Grade Student Director Eva Wojciechowski.

Our 4th grade Nativity Play entertained the audience with talented narrators, actors and actresses, and an Angle Choir accompanied by Mr. Burrows on the church organ. This program is always a wonderful reminder of the true meaning of the Advent Season as we send our families home for a safe and blessed Christmas holiday.

## SJOA visits the North Pole

On Wednesday, December 20, the primary grades (K-2) participated in a Polar Express Day! As a Christmas gift from the teachers to the students, they were SURPRISED that day to find that their hallway had turned into the North Pole, complete with railroad tracks and other festive decorations!

After reading the classic story Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg, the students were split into six groups mixed of their grade level to participate in the day's activities. Each teacher hosted a station where they did activities ranging from crafts related to the story, decorating Christmas cookies and even a STEM experiment to silence a jingle bell!

The day ended with a viewing of the Polar Express movie together. The primary students and staff of St. Joan of Arc found the most exciting part of the day (other than dressing in our jammies, of course) to be enjoying time with their friends in other grade levels and getting to visit every classroom on our shared hallway. We are so proud of our school and the fun we can have together while still working hard!



## SJOA is Rooted in Our Catholic Identity

Catholicism permeates all that we do from our morning welcome to end-of-day prayer. St. Joan of Arc principal, Mrs. Andriole, has shared the importance of praying the rosary and honoring the 100th anniversary of Fatima. This fall, Mrs. Andriole purchased a rosary with a medal from Fatima at her very first French Market. In her excitement to share this amazing piece, she began sending that rosary home on weekends with a student she encountered during the week. This has turned into a very popular practice where students are now entered into a bingo-style drawing on Fridays to bring home a borrowed rosary! Prayer Warriors at St. Joan of Arc were born.

In a recent renovation, a rosary was added to our playground/parking lot. It's a wonderful tool for the students and parishioners of St. Joan of Arc to help visualize the power of the rosary. Praying the rosary calms our hearts, provides quiet time, and enables us to place our hearts and minds into God's presence. In a world that is loud and busy, the rosary slows us down and allows us to think. Join St. Joan of Arc's vision to pray the rosary by taking a trip to our Playground Rosary. All you need is an open heart and a willingness to grown in your faith.







## EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND at IHM!

Our students have been keeping us busy here at Immaculate Heart of Mary School! The IHM Robotics Team, ImmacuBots, qualified two robots in the Top 10 in their first tournament of the year. They have been hard at work making adjustments and improvements to their robots, gearing up for the next tournament. We can't wait to see what they come up with!

In just a few weeks our students will put on their second IHM production, *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, on March 8 & 9. Last year's production of *Willy Wonka, Jr.* will be hard to top, but if the rehearsals for *Alice In Wonderland Jr.* are any indication, this year's production will be spectacular! We invite all parents, friends and family to join us on March 8 & 9 at Marian University for the show!

## IHM LIGHTHOUSE TEAM Lights the Way

Our Student Lighthouse Team has been busy helping to plan and host our second Leadership Day, which was held in November. They have also been busy meeting with families and incoming students, hosting tours at our open houses. The Lighthouse students have perfected the school tour, giving prospective families a glimpse into IHM life and showing what it means to be an IHM Warrior! We are very proud of them!



## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS welcomes Father Michael Hoyt

STA School is pleased to welcome Fr. Michael Hoyt as our pastor! Fr. Michael makes time to visit classrooms each week to answer questions as well as play games with the students. We love you, Fr. Michael!





## NATIONAL JUNIOR Honor Society

CKS was happy to induct fourteen new members into our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) this year. These members were eligible after two trimesters of maintaining a GPA of 95% or higher and were approved by a selection committee of middle school staff who made the determination based on the criteria of leadership, service and character.

Our NJHS is run by Mrs. Cheryl Huffine, who does a great job of creating opportunities for students to serve. They use their study halls to tutor their peers and assist the elementary level teachers. They also are leaders during our Disability Awareness Week as well as many other opportunities throughout the year to serve and represent our school.

## CKS STEM lab enhances learning

Christ the King is in its second year of using the school's STEM Lab for our student's Project Lead the Way units and are looking forward to adding a garden to increase our interaction with STEM through outdoor education.

Our second graders have begun working on their Project Lead the Way STEM unit in our St. Patrick STEM Lab. Their unit is all about the three states of matter. Recently, they made observations about a Popsicle that they left out of the freezer. They had to describe what happened to the Popsicle and why, in their own words. This was the first step they will take in creating their own cooler that can prevent a Popsicle from melting.







## ST. LAWRENCE CELEBRATES its student athletes

The St. Lawrence Rams have had an awesome first half of the school year! The 3/4 football team went undefeated for the season and capped their milestone by winning a City Championship! These athletes attended study tables, worked hard in the classroom, and enjoyed the comradery of participating in a CYO sport. Some of the same 4th graders went on to win the Nativity Holiday Tournament in basketball, as well. *(top left and below)*

Cadet Rams Cheerleaders, who also play basketball, won the 5/6B Team Girls Division Championship this year! These young ladies are phenomenal athletes, and even better students. Their squad average grade point average is a 3.6! *(left)*

St. Lawrence Cadets won the Best Choice Fieldhouse Fall School League championship. *(bottom right)*

**Congratulations to all CYO student athletes!**







## ST. MATTHEW STUDENTS EXPLORE the world of robotics

Did you know St. Matthew has a new Robotics Team? This learning activity allows students from Grades 2-8 to build their own robots with kits and parts and then participate in competitions with their creations. This STEM opportunity was made possible by the generosity of donors as well as the volunteering by parent Mr. Aaron Rues, who is dedicating a great deal of time to the effort. We also are appreciative of the many other parent volunteers who are supervising the large group of interested students. We are excited about this new opportunity!



Every year our 7th Grade students learn so much as they dissect pigs in Mrs. Middleton's Science Class. The students work in groups to exhibit teamwork and peer learning to discover more about systems of the body. Thanks to Mrs. Middleton and other teachers who allow students to experience this opportunity.



St. Matthew is so very proud of our alumnus Mary (Kenney) Marsh (SMS Class of 1980) and current SMS Middle School Religion Teacher and 8th Grade Sponsor for receiving the Bishop Chatard High School Alumni Achievement Award at the BCHS Annual Fund Dinner on September 20, 2017. Mrs. Marsh is such a valuable member of our parish, school, community and family.





## THE RAMS ARE #stlukestrong

#stlukestrong is not just a hashtag, designed to stay current with social media trends. It is the core of who we are at St. Luke Catholic School. Every day students and staff are striving to make each other and those we serve stronger through sharing of our faith, time and talents. These acts of service can be small or large in scale and can be found across individual, grade and school levels.

Our younger students demonstrate how they are #stlukestrong through their support of a variety of local community programs. Kindergarten students earn pennies at home doing household chores that are turned in each week on "10 Penny Thursdays" to support the Indianapolis Humane Society. First grade organizes the collection of pop tabs from our school families. The pop tabs are given to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. When they have these tabs recycled, the money goes toward their operating expenses. Second grade students write letters to residents of the St. Augustine Nursing Home, on 86th street in Indianapolis, to brighten their day as part of the students' first reconciliation preparatory activities.

Our older students show how they are #stlukestrong in equally generous ways. For example, our fifth grade supports our dedicated Sisters through planting of their garden in the spring and most recently through stocking of their convent with a collection of donated supplies. Sixth grade, like our first grade, support the Ronald McDonald House. This winter they created blankets and treat baggies for the families who are staying at the House, providing comfort to their loved ones.

All of St. Luke School donated items for the Catholic Charities Christmas store. They were delivered by our Student Council who was proud to show they are #stlukestrong on behalf of their classmates and their families.

Finally, we have two examples which further prove no act of service is too small and that a single person can make a huge difference. An older brother showed he is #stlukestrong by taking time to read to his sister's kindergarten class. We also recently had one of our sixth-grade teachers, Justin Scott, named a "Hero for Scouting" at the Governor's Luncheon. Mr. Scott earned this distinction for his work with the Crossroads of America, being seen as a role model, inspiring youth to lead and teach others.

These are just a few examples of our continued focus on serving and showing how we live #stlukestrong every day.







# ST. PIUS

## embraces Catholic Schools Week theme

Each year, the National Catholic Education Association creates a theme for Catholic Schools Week. The theme for the week this year was to Learn, Serve, Lead & Succeed. St. Pius X Catholic School has taken this theme and run with it.



### LEARN

"Teachers who love teaching ... teach children to love learning." Some of the unique ways teaching strategies take place at St. Pius X is proof that the students are loving learning. Recently, Mrs. O'Brien, the Middle School Social Studies teacher, took reviewing for a test to a whole different level.

Mrs. O'Brien decided to change up the way the students would review for their upcoming test on Latin America. Instead of just playing the normal review games, Mrs. O'Brien decided to create a Jeopardy-style review. The students received clues just like the television game. If they came up with the correct question, then the students received the points.

Instead of waiting until the end to see who had the most points, Mrs. O'Brien decided that for each 1,000 points earned, she would play egg roulette. Each time a team reached the 1,000 point mark, the students would pick an egg and Mrs. O'Brien would smash it over her head. Some of the eggs were hard boiled and others were not. In the end, the students scored so well that they ran out of eggs!



### SERVE

Service is an important part of every Catholic school, but at St. Pius X we like to up the ante. One Thursday every month, our 22 Kaizens, grouped across grade levels, meet with the goal of service. Kaizen is a Japanese word for continuous improvement and our monthly Kaizens provide our students the chance to do just that. We work toward improvement of self, the school, and our community for the better. Synergy with Seniors, is one of our Kaizens, in which the group goes to Solana senior center to visit and play games with the residents, creating relationships that are special for everyone. Fill a Belly Feed the Poor, packages fresh food in kits to share with soup kitchens and the homeless. Our whole school comes together in the spring for an All-School Day of Service where we work by grade level in school and in the community, helping and serving others. We are called to "Use our God-Given Gifts to serve others," and St. Pius X is answering that call.

### LEAD

St. Pius X prides itself in the leadership opportunities made available to students. We believe, "Leadership is not a position or title, it is action and example," and lead by example they do. The school has started a Student Ambassador program. Over 50 students in grades 5 - 8 interviewed for this role and became our first group of ambassadors. They started by creating a mission statement and a welcome letter for prospective families. Student ambassadors are responsible for taking on leadership roles in the school by giving tours of the school, hosting prospective students for shadow days, and so much more. They have even taken an active role in the décor of the school. Student ambassadors truly show that leadership happens at St. Pius X. We would love for you to come see them in action at our Leadership Day on February 8!



### SUCCEED

St. Pius X incorporates Learning, Serving and Leading all year long. These tenets help us to Succeed, and succeed we have! Sometimes, we forget to mention our accolades like being a Leader in Me School, being named a Four Star School, or earning an "A" from the Indiana Department of Education. But as good as we are, we can always get better. This year, our school goal is to increase ISTEP+ Math Scores. Teachers in all of the subject areas are working to weave mathematics throughout their curriculum.

Mrs. McNulty, the middle school language arts teacher, decided to use both math and social studies as a hook to motivate her 6 - 8 grade vocabulary students. The middle school language Arts classes took the theme of the Winter Olympics and divided the students into groups by country. Each quarter, students track a certain part of their grade. Each team changes their fraction grade to a percentage. Next, they find the mean, median, and mode of the data they are choosing to track each quarter. Using this data, it becomes clear who has the best score, as well as who holds the most improved score. The winning country from each grade is presented with an award. This unique way of tracking data has challenged the students to be at their best both individually and to succeed as a team.

**Happy Catholic Schools Week to all of the schools in our North Deanery. It is wonderful that we can all "Learn, Serve, Lead & Succeed" together.**





## ST. SIMON SCIENCE STUDENTS skyrocket into space

St. Simon students in grades 4 - 8 have been chosen to participate in the sought-after Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP). This competition-style program provides an opportunity for students in upper elementary school through college to design microgravity experiments, with the possibility of their experiment running simultaneously on the International Space Station for analysis.

The astronauts will follow the procedure developed by the kids on the chosen team, and the same test will run concurrently on Earth by the students, with the results brought back to Earth for student analysis. St. Simon is only the second school in Indiana to ever participate, successfully rallying the school and parish community to provide the financial support needed to be considered and develop the chosen experiment. We will be the 12th mission to have gone out to the space station and one of 32 communities on Earth whose proposal was chosen and able to raise the funds needed!

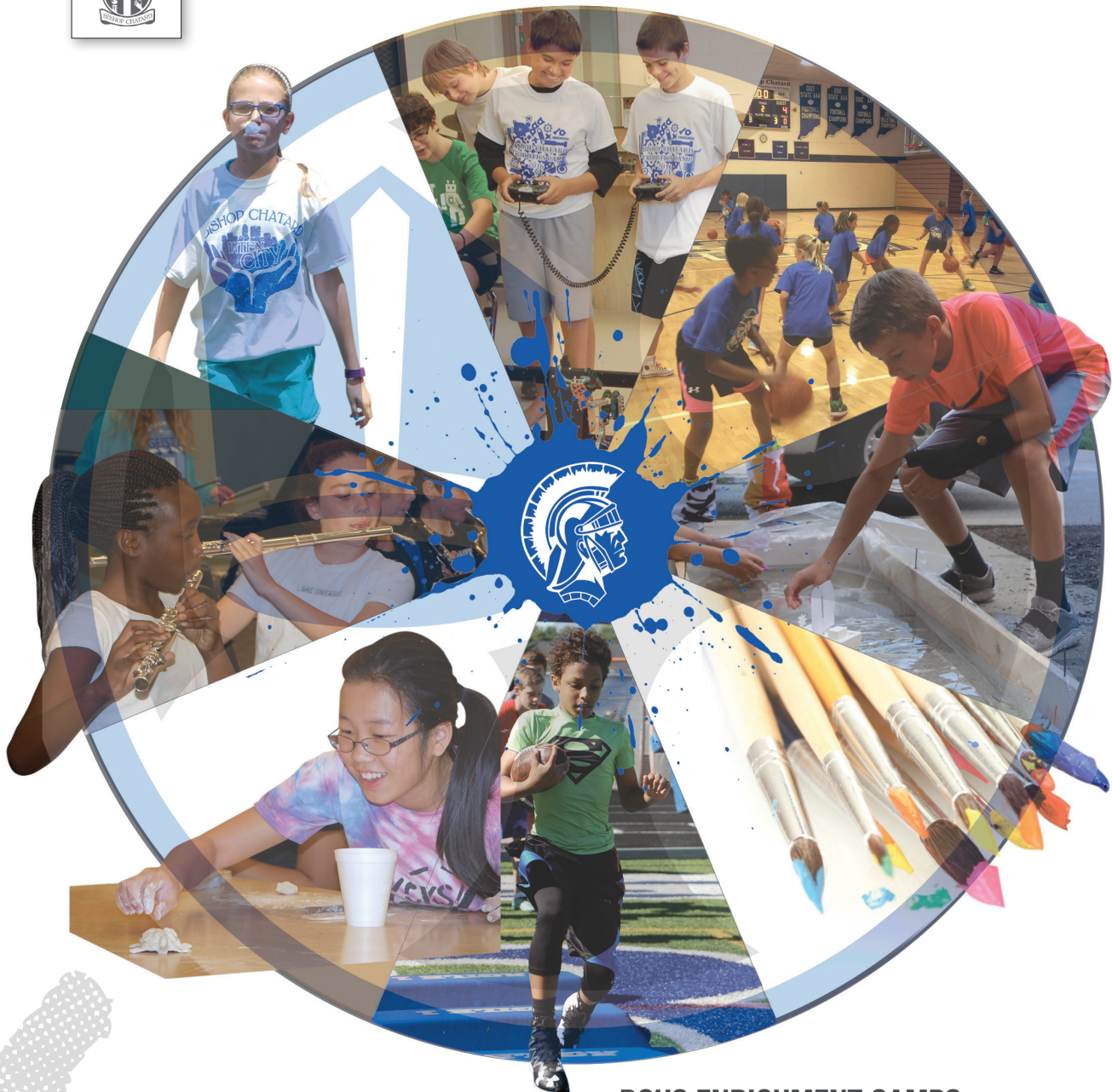
A program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE), the SSEP competition began with a standard call for research proposals, asking students to provide details surrounding the specific area of research and science they were pursuing. After whittling down the entries to three from our school, the proposal responses were submitted and peer-reviewed by a team of research scientists from the Smithsonian and NCESSE, who chose the experiment from St. Simon that will be executed in space. Students learned how scientific research proposals are done in the real world, learned about microgravity, and learned how to write persuasively so that their project was chosen.

The younger grades at St. Simon have been tapped to design mission patches that show the individuality of our community and what our mission is at its core. The two mission badges that the 8th grade leadership team have chosen will fly into space with the selected experiment!

The winning team will be invited to Cape Canaveral to watch the launch of the Space X rocket from the old Apollo launch pads. After the experiments are complete, the kids will be invited to attend a scientific symposium at the Smithsonian where they can be part of their own session explaining their experiments. We are proud to announce that an 8th grade team has been selected. Their project is investigating the germination of carrot seeds using grey water in a microgravity environment. Our school is represented by Hannah Nguyen, Arianna Darling, Marissa Spreitzer and Amelia Porter. Their experiment will launch in June.

In addition to participating in the SSEP program, 8th grade students traveled to the Challenger Learning Center in December. While at the Challenger Learning Center, located in northwest Indiana, students participated in a day-long simulation where the crew was tasked with searching for water and life on the Martian surface.





## BCHS ENRICHMENT CAMPS

- Art of Harry Potter Camp
- Broadway Jr. Experience (4-week camp & production)
- Catholic Creative Crafts Camp
- Cooking Camp
- Creative Writing Camp
- Everyone Can Code Camp
- Improv Comedy Camp
- IntenCity (service) Camp (5th - 8th grade)
- IntenCity Jr. (service) Camp (1st - 4th grade)
- Pop Art Camp
- Robotics Skills Camp
- Introduction to Robotics Camp

## BCHS ATHLETIC CAMPS

- Baseball Camp
- Basketball Camp (boys & girls camps)
- Cheerleading Camp
- Football Camp
- Lacrosse Camp (boys & girls camps)
- Softball Camp
- Soccer Camp (boys & girls camps)
- Volleyball Camp (boys & girls camps)
- Wrestling Camp

## SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP

at Bishop Chatard today!

Bishop Chatard High School offers a variety of camps that encourage 1st through 8th grade students to explore new interests, challenge their imaginations and hone current skills. Athletic and enrichment camps appeal to students interested in theatre, technology, music, sports, community service, art and more. Half and full-day camps are available, or your child may bring a lunch and experience different camps in our morning and afternoon sessions.

Camp registration is now open. Early-bird and multiple-camp discounts are available on many camps.

Learn more at [www.BishopChatard.org/camps/](http://www.BishopChatard.org/camps/)