

Spreading the Good News



The school community gathered around the newly-dedicated Peace Pole

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, the International World Day of Peace, Ss. Robert & William Catholic School dedicated its very own Peace Pole. The Peace Pole reminds us of the importance of peace and of our commitment to it. A smattering of these poles dot the landscape in the City of Euclid, and there are over 200,000 Peace Poles worldwide. SRW's pole is unique, as it was made by Facilities Director, Pat Fink, and designed by SRW Art Teacher, Jennifer Boehner.

Fr. John D. Better, Pastor, provided a heartfelt introduction to the students, staff, parishioners, and the community reminding all that "Jesus always greeted those he encountered with these words, 'Peace be with you.'"

Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail was in attendance with members of her administration and Euclid Safety Forces. "The Ss. Robert and William Parish continues to live their faith through action. The Peace Pole project is a visible reminder that we should work towards peace every day in every interaction. I am grateful for the leadership, commitment, and community spirit demonstrated by the SRW Parish and School," she said.



Former student, Adrian Fellows speaking at the ceremony.

During the celebration, SRW graduates and present VASJ students A'Diva Warren and Adrian Fellows, shared thoughts about peace from their perspective. They were accompanied by VASJ President, Bill Cervenik, who had this to say: "It was encouraging to join the SRW community today for the blessing of the Peace Pole. It was evident that even at their young age, the students fully understand the importance of respect and kindness and the role they play in keeping their community a peaceful one." Echoing his sentiments were SRW seventh grade students Dylan and Ryleah who described the pole as, "a great tool to spread peace around the world" and saying, "it serves as a reminder to have peace every day."

Kacie Armstrong, Director of the Euclid Public Library and a host of volunteers presented a short African puppet skit which was well received by the students. It taught a lesson related to bullying and the gift of sharing.

Patrice Garuckas is the SRW Upper School religion teacher and No Place for Hate moderator. Recently, and with her guidance, SRW earned the honor of becoming a nationally recognized No Place for Hate School, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. Carrying a Peace poster, representatives of each grade processed to the pole where they lead all gathered in a pledge of peace. Peace bracelets were distributed. Garuckas states, "The SRW Peace Pole ceremony was a wonderful event which unified the school, parish and community. Students were able to see that the No Place for Hate policies of our school are also applicable in the community of Euclid and in the world. Having the mayor, area principals, administrators, and emergency responders present at the service showed our students that creating peace is the responsibility of each individual from every generation and background." At the end of the ceremony, Fr. Scott Goodfellow, Parochial Vicar, blessed the Peace Pole.

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Kacie Armstrong

On a day that had been declared a day to focus on peace and friendship, the SRW Community and guests including Sue Pohly, Associate Superintendent of Schools at the Diocese of Cleveland and Mark Crowley, President of Lake Catholic High School, committed to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

A Letter from the Principals

Ready, Set, Grow

It is always with immense joy and pride that we welcome the opportunity to share the great things that our happening at Ss. Robert and William Catholic School. The 2017-2018 school year is off to a fantastic start. We opened the doors in late August to 464 students, with full classes in both the Little Warrior and Junior Warrior early childhood program, as well as in grades two, four, and six. The students and staff were excited and energized by the SRW Extreme Makeover that took place over the summer:

- The Middle and Upper Schools were reconfigured, moving Grade 6 to the Upper school (Middle School: grades 4-5, and Upper School: grades 6-8)
- The classrooms and hallways in Grades 4-8 were painted and new floors and ceilings were installed
- The Upper Hall, which serves as the cafeteria, was renovated with a new tile floor, wall color, and the addition of round tables and chairs, giving it a relaxed lounge atmosphere
- The music and art classrooms were moved into the main building, eliminating travel to the Merici Center for those classes
- Achieve3000®, an interactive, on-line program that provides differentiated instruction for nonfiction reading and writing was purchased. It is precisely tailored to each student's Lexile® reading level and is being implemented in grades 2-8
- A new text series was purchased for Social Studies and English
- The construction of a playground designed specifically for our Preschool students was completed
- Two basketball hoops were added to our supply of recess equipment for use by the elementary students

Before the new school year officially began, Fr. John invited all the parents to a mandatory meeting. The purpose was to engage the parents in a true partnership for the success of every student. Fr. John introduced the **Parents as Partners Agreement**. This agreement details what parents can expect from the school and what the school can expect from parents, in order to create a strong healthy partnership. The Leadership Team, faculty, and staff are committed to instilling in our students the desire for the highest standards spiritually, academically, and behaviorally. Throughout the coming school year, all will be working to renew what makes Catholic Schools so great: a focus on Jesus Christ and his teachings, high academic standards where all learners can

achieve, and clear behavior expectations that allow for healthy learning environments.

With the foundation set for a productive and focused school year, the theme **Ready, Set, Grow** was implemented. This theme challenges the teachers to identify where the students are and what they need to make measurable progress. The tool we are using to accomplish this goal is MAP Testing. MAP stands for **M**easurements of **A**cademic **P**rogress. This is the second year of participating in these tests and we are already seeing progress. Please review the figures on Page 3 to see where our students fall.

MAP Tests are computerized. Students take the tests on Chromebooks or iPads right in their classrooms. The tests are also adaptive. This means if the student answers the question correctly, the next question is more difficult. If he/she answers incorrectly, the next question is easier. When completed, MAP assigns students a RIT score. MAP uses this RIT scale to measure what students know, regardless of their grade level, as well as growth over time. RIT stands for **R**eady for **I**nstruction **T**oday. Using the RIT score, teachers are able to meet students where they are and differentiate instruction to present material that students are ready to learn.

With the emphasis this school year on identifying where students are ready to learn, both academically and spiritually, and assisting them in their growth, we are answering Pope Francis' challenge to encounter people and accompany them on their journey. The foundation has been set for a positive and productive experience for all the students of Ss. Robert and William School. We ask you to pray for the fruitful labor of our teachers and students, as we pray each day for you, the parishioners, alumni, and all those who support our school.

Together in faith,



Mrs. Meg Cosgriff
Mrs. Meg Cosgriff
Co-Principal



Mrs. Dodd
Mrs. Martha Dodd
Co-Principal

Preschool Program Steps Up to Quality

Ss. Robert and William Catholic School is proud to announce that our outstanding Preschool Program has been awarded a 4-Star Step Up To Quality rating.

Step Up To Quality is a rating system that awards one to five stars to early learning programs that go above and beyond minimum licensing standards. Star-rated programs lay a strong foundation for development and build skills that are important for success in school and in life. Programs with star ratings:

- Have highly trained teachers
- Develop children’s readiness skills
- Are committed to continuous improvement
- Value relationships with families and communities

A lot of hard work went into obtaining this rating. The Ohio Department of Education conducted an on-site visit. The evaluation included an in-depth look at the facilities, curriculum, student assessments, and parent communication. We also showed evidence of our community partnerships with places such as the Euclid Library, the Early Learning Center, our local police and fire departments, and Catholic Charities.

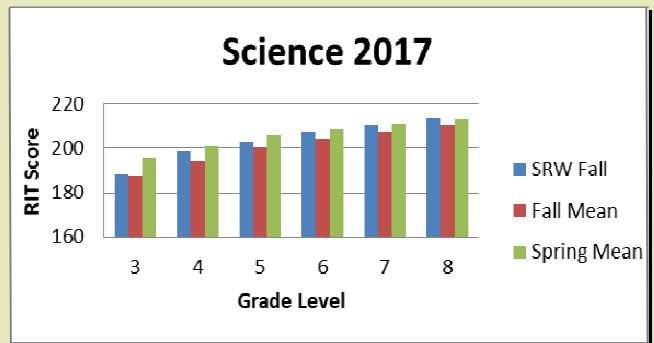
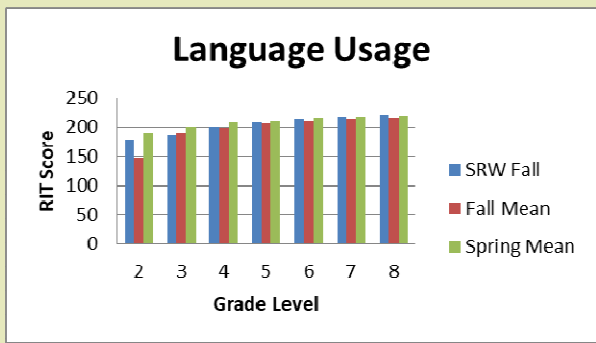
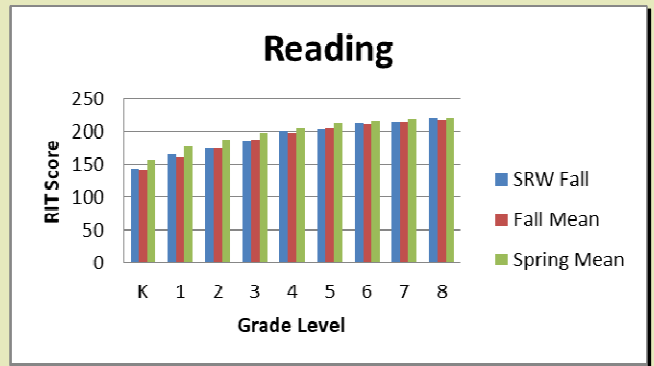
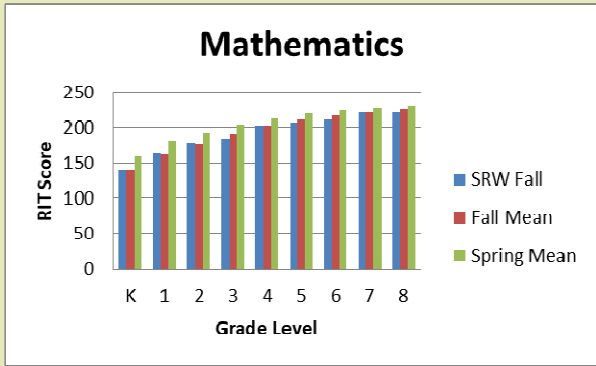
Ss. Robert and William is one of the first Catholic Preschool Programs in the Eastern region of the Cleveland Diocese to be awarded this prestigious rating. A quality program is provided by dedicated teachers to children from ages 3-5. SRW also offers the TOTS Program to 2 ½ -3 year olds in two 6-week sessions. This opportunity is a wonderful way to introduce young learners to a school experience with the comfort of a parent or grandparent. Our first TOTS session is currently in progress. If you are interested in signing up for the second session, or for more information on our Preschool Program, please contact the school office.



Our 4-Star Award Winner banner is proudly displayed. We are one of the first Catholic Programs in the Eastern region of the Diocese with this rating.

MAP Data (continued from previous page)

This is the second year of participating in these tests and we are already seeing progress. Please review the figures below to see: 1) Where our students scored this fall; 2) What the mean RIT score is for the fall; and 3) Where we need to be in the spring. In many subjects, at many grade levels, we are above the mean!



We are ready and set to grow – spiritually, academically, and behaviorally

Classroom Chatter

"The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as long as we live." ~Mortimer Adler

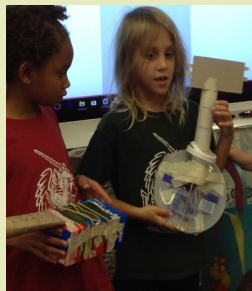
As you read in the Principals' column our focus for this school year is GROWTH, and there is a lot of that taking place throughout our campus! Read below to learn about a few of the lessons that took place since school began in August. From our Littlest Warriors in their own play space to our Upper School students and their cell models, learning is running rampant at SRW.

Preschool Play: Students of all ages have had the pleasure of a playground at recess in recent years. However, the equipment was not geared toward our Littlest Warriors. On Catechetical Sunday in September, we not only celebrated the catechists in the school and parish, we celebrated a dedication and blessing of a new preschool playground.



Students enjoying the newly blessed playground

First Grade Musicians: First grade used and practiced their cooperation skills by building "instruments." They read the story *A Musical Day*, by Jerdine Nolen and heard about the characters who make their own instruments to play. This inspired the students to make some musical instruments of their own. In small groups, each student was assigned a job to help accomplish the task. Each group elected a leader, a reporter, a timekeeper, and a materials manager. With each person assigned a job, they all worked together to design and create their group's instrument. Each instrument was expected to make a noise and the groups demonstrated that when the reporter presented the instrument to the class. After the project was finished and shared, students discussed the experience as a class. They talked about what worked and what was a challenge. They also discussed what could be done next time to make the instrument more beautiful or functional. The class then listened to the story *The Most Magnificent Thing*, by Ashley Spires and compared the character experience in the story to their experience with building.



Presenting instruments to the class

Third Grade Pioneers: Grade 3 had the opportunity to visit the Lake County Historical Society's Pioneer Village. The students stepped back in time to the 1800s. They learned how children in Ohio lived during this time. They visited a general store, log cabin, and one-room school house. Each child made a candle to take home. Students learned that the pioneer children would have had to make hundreds of candles to help illuminate their homes. They learned that during that time, children were to be seen and not heard. They would help on the farm and only attend school during the winter months. Children from the ages of 5-15 would attend school together in a one-room school house. The lesson that was taught was an actual lesson found in a teacher's journal from that time. All the buildings were authentic and moved to their current location from different parts of Ohio. The student's enjoyed the visit and agreed that they are glad to be living during present time.



Doing the work of pioneers

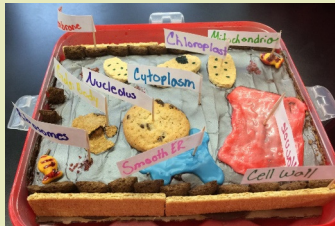
Election Experience: In early October, the fifth grade students in Language Arts read a short story entitled *Off and Running*, a story about two students hoping to become class president. In the narrative, the student candidates planned and shared election speeches in order to win the most votes. After reading the story, the fifth graders discussed what it takes to win a school election and how determination plays a major role in becoming a leader. To make the learning experience more authentic for the students, Mrs. Cox and Miss Harkey held elections for class president and vice president in their respective homerooms. Running mates campaigned for one week by creating posters, pins, and badges covered in glitter, bright colors, and pictures that displayed their thoughts on how they would make this school year the best ever. Students then addressed the class with impressive presentations. There was great excitement in the air as the final results were announced.



5th Grade election winners

Congratulations to President Bella Frederick and Vice-President Briley Caronchi of 5A and President Sean Walsh and Vice-President Jimmy Gibbons of 5B! Through weekly class meetings and interactions with fellow classmates and teachers, these 5th grade leaders will help make this school year a positive, fun-filled, and memorable one for all. We appreciate the many other students whose names were also on the ballots. Their enthusiasm and effort were quite inspiring!!

The Incredible, Edible Cell: One of the first rules students learn in Science class is never to eat in the lab. Our 6th grade students found a way around that rule while studying plant and animal cells. Students were tasked with creating an edible cell. They made models using cakes, brownies, rice krispie treats, and even candy as a base and topped it with other tasty treats, labeling each organelle. The final part of the project was to share the cell with their friends at lunch. Students were able to learn about cells while satisfying their sweet tooth!



6th Grade Cell Model

Achieve3000: Grades 2-8 have embraced our new nonfiction reading program, Achieve3000. Teachers can assign articles based on a specific skill, topic, or even their current *Journeys* story! In addition, students can search articles of interest to further their nonfiction experience. Before students read an article, they can take a poll. They have the opportunity to cast another vote in the poll after reading the article. Students earn points by completing the activity at the end of each article. Daily and weekly top scorers are announced at school. We especially love when we are able to announce SRW students who were top scorers in the State of Ohio! We are nearing the end of a school-wide competition, hosted by Achieve, called **Read to Achieve**. Classes have been racking up points by accurately completing activities after articles. We can't wait until December to see which room will win a classroom party!

Saints Among Us: Again this year, we took the opportunity at Halloween to focus on the real meaning behind the holiday. Each homeroom chose a saint to research before All Saints' Day. At our school Mass on All Saints' Day, class representatives processed to the altar, either dressed as or carrying a symbol for the saint. Eighth grade students read the short biographies as students processed.



Students representing the saint chosen by their homerooms

Bring on Battle Ball: Students in Physical Education class played a game known as Battle Ball. The rules of the game were simple. Students faced each other about twelve feet apart while seated on the floor and tried to kick a Cage Ball, an oversized inflatable ball, past the other team's line. Students enjoyed the

battle and even showed off the game on a video posted to the school's Facebook page. Soon, 4th-8th grade students will compete in the Scooter Olympics. This is always a good time!

Making Music: In Music class, lower school students learned about beat and rhythm by playing bucket drums. They paired seasonal words, such as "squash" and "pumpkin" with quarter notes and eighth notes to learn how to read rhythms. They also created their own improvised rhythms, being sure to have four counts per measure. Students realized they were learning math concepts through music in a fun and interesting way!



Keeping rhythm using buckets

No Place for Hate: At our October Worthy Warrior assembly, the No Place for Hate Committee informed students how to look for bullying, how to stand up to bullying, and how to make our school a bully-free space. Students heard a poem, a story, and even a rap about the effects of bullying. To end the assembly, students were introduced to the Inspiration Station, a place where students are able to stop in the morning to write an inspirational note to someone who may be feeling down. These notes are then delivered to students during the day. We are grateful for the students who have taken the time to brighten someone else's day.



No Place for Hate students reminding students that bullying hurts

Find us on Facebook: We invite you to keep up-to-date on the happenings at SRW by visiting our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ss-Robert-and-William-Catholic-School-105863876110885/> or reading the Warrior Weekly on our website: www.srw.school.cc. Better yet, stop by school! We would love to show you around so you can see first-hand how the Legacy of Learning that began in this building in 1947 continues today, 70 years later!



Walk-a-Thon

Rain and wind did not deter the students of Ss. Robert and William Catholic School as they took to the streets on Friday, October 6, 2017 for the fourth annual SRW Walk-a-Thon. The goal of the Walk-a-Thon was not only to encourage physical fitness among our students, but also to encourage the spirit of working together to earn money for a specific purpose. The funds from this year's Walk-a-Thon were designated for the creation of a Maker's Space for project-based learning opportunities. The students were excited to be a part of the efforts to make this dream become a reality. The space is being constructed in the Merici Center and will include such resources as building materials, 3-D printers, designing tables, and more.

Each grade level from Kindergarten through Grade 8 promised to walk for one hour to raise money for the construction of this 21st Century learning space. They solicited pledges from family members, friends, and businesses. Over 80 parents and grandparents joined the students and teachers, volunteering to walk or work at the several stations set up in the path of the walk: hula hoops, jump ropes, water, and pictures. Spirits were high and the energy was contagious!

It is with great pride that we can proclaim that our goal has been reached! With 64% of families participating, over \$23,000 was collected. In the spring of 2018, the Maker's Space, which will be known as the Warrior Workshop, will be available for student use. The support from this amazing community will touch the lives of many children for years to come.



Upper School students and parent volunteers brave the elements to walk an hour outdoors to raise money for our new Maker's Space



Lower School students were active and dry in the gym during the Walk-a-thon

Fall CYO News

Many of our student athletes in grades 3-8 participated in cross country, football, and volleyball this fall. Some teams had a rough season while others made it to championships. Together, all our athletes worked hard and took the opportunity to grow this season. All the girls on the 5th grade volleyball team were inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society in September, showing the true meaning of a student athlete. The 6th grade volleyball team won for the first time ever this season, and finished with a record of 5-3, qualifying for the City tournament! They made it all the way to the Elite 8 before being eliminated. The 8th grade boys finished their last football season as SRW Warriors. Hopefully we will see some of these young men under the Friday night lights next year.

The Warrior basketball season is well under way. Support our students athletes by going to a game. For schedules, check out CYO's webpage, <http://ccdacle.org/schedules-and-locations>. Go Warriors!



8th Grade Football Team



6th Grade Volleyball Team

Every Day Ways to Donate

Did you know there are several every day ways to contribute to Ss. Robert and William School? Through shopping, using certain brands, and even recycling, you can help raise money for our school.

With the holidays approaching, many of us will look to Amazon as we shop for gifts, decorations, and more! Through AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to our school. Follow this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/27-1392588, and shop like you normally would.

Giant Eagle and Heinen's both have reward programs linked to your shopper's card. Your card is scanned and points are earned for the school. Visit the store websites for more information about these programs and to register your card. Our school code for Giant Eagle is 2915.

Office Max also allows you to use your Max Rewards to give back to the school. Use school code 70078319 when checking out at stores.

After you finish all your shopping, turn your receipts into cash using the Shoparoo App on your phone. Simply download the app and take a picture of the receipt.

Don't forget to clip Box Tops from participating products! You can also download the Box Tops app for additional coupons. Labels from Tyson Chicken products will earn 24 cents per label. Both Box Tops and Tyson labels can be turned in at the school or parish office.

Coke Caps and Codes can also turn into cash. Caps earn 3.5 cents, while 12-pack codes earn 15 cents. You can turn these items in to either office or register at <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/>.

We are also able to raise money through recycling efforts. Sending your child to school with a drink pouch for lunch? These pouches can be recycled in the bin in the lunch room. Every 5,000 pouches recycled will earn the school money. Recycle your paper in the yellow and green bins by the Merici Center. We can earn up to \$20 a ton.

For more information on these fundraising programs, visit the Parent Association webpage at <https://sites.google.com/view/srwpa/fundraising>.

Taste of Nations

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 14, 2018, as this is the date for our annual Taste of Nations fundraiser.

This event celebrates our diversity with homemade food and desserts, entertainment, a casino, and raffles. You will have the opportunity to visit a number of countries as you travel from classroom-to-classroom sampling delicacies from that region. New this year? French cuisine which is being sponsored by SRW's NJHS and Mrs. McClusky!

Last year's event was 'sold-out' so don't wait to purchase your tickets. The cost remains the same as in 2017, \$35 per person, \$60 a couple, and a reserved table for 8 with priority dining for \$350.00. Beginning in January, tickets will be available in the school and parish offices.

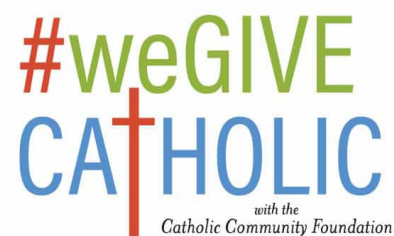


We Give Catholic

On **Tuesday, November 28**, Ss. Robert and William will join other Catholic organizations in Northeast Ohio in the #WeGiveCatholic initiative. All funds raised that day will go directly to our Angel Fund, which has a direct impact on our ability to make Catholic education affordable and possible for many families, especially the students whose families attend Ss. Robert & William Parish.

Last year we raised over \$13,000 for our Angels Appeal through #WeGiveCatholic including \$1,500 in prize money. Your donation may help us get even more prize money this year! There will be a "Donors' Lounge" from 7:00 – 8:00 PM that night in the Upper Hall. Come use our computer stations and enjoy some treats, all while helping our school.

For more information, visit: <https://www.wegivecatholic.org/organizations/ss-robert-william-parish-and-school>





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Visit us on the web at

www.srwschool.cc

Advent and Christmas 2017

November:			
Monday	27	Advent Prayer Service	2:00 PM
Tuesday	28	#WeGiveCatholic	
December:			
Friday	1	Reconciliation, Gr. 6-8	1:00 PM
Saturday	2	First Reconciliation	11:00 AM
Monday	4	Advent Prayer Service	8:00 AM
		Reconciliation, Gr. 3-5	1:00 PM
Friday	8	Immaculate Conception Mass	8:00 AM
Saturday	9	PA Bake Sale	
Sunday	10	Mass with Bishop Perez	11:00 AM
		PA Bake Sale	
Monday	11	Advent Prayer Service	2:00 PM
		Christmas Concert	6:30 PM
Tuesday	12	Mass	8:00 AM
Monday	18	Advent Prayer Service	8:00 AM
Friday	22	Advent Retreat Day	
		Mass	12:00 Noon
		Dismissal	
Christmas Masses:			
Sunday	24	4:00 (Children's), 7:00, 10:00 PM	
Monday	25	9:00, 11:00 AM	

