



Spreading *the* Good News

SRW Officially Opens the Center for Student Innovation

On Sunday, September 16, the faculty and staff of Ss. Robert and William Catholic School welcomed families and parishioners to the grand opening of the Center for Student Innovation (CSI). Located in the Merici Center, this state-of-the-art learning environment, under the direction of Mrs. McClusky, will be used for problem-based learning and collaborative projects by students in all grade levels.

The grand opening of CSI included a blessing of the center by Father John, as well as an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Guests were treated to donuts and invited to tour the center. The center includes a kiln for ceramics, two distinct learning areas set up for student collaboration, and two 3-D printers. The inspiring entrance design was done by Mrs. Boehmer, our Art teacher.



Mrs. McClusky cuts the ribbon to officially open the Center for Student Innovation

Early projects out for display to guests during the Open House included Upper School earthquake towers constructed from Styrofoam cups. The Upper School students began a unit on designing structures, investigating the factors affecting bridge, beam, and dome strength. The culminating activity for the unit was to construct a table using only rolled newspaper tubes and tape. The tables had to be built to support a science text book. They were



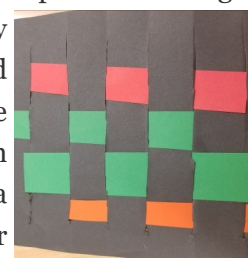
Upper School tables with original stencil designs

painted and decorated with homemade stencils in Art class.

In October, Middle School students began a unit on the basic principles involved in the concept of energy. Conduction, convection, and radiation were explored through experiments. The students will further investigate types of energy, including sound energy, by making musical instruments. They will also use coding to create an original musical composition.

Second and third graders have been busy learning about flight this month. They have made birds out of clay and discovered interesting facts about the Ohio state bird, the cardinal.

Kindergarten and first graders explored patterns through music, dance, and visual art. They classified plastic bears by color, tried their hand at weaving, and made pattern pictures, using the letters in their names. They also worked on a special surprise to use on their Thanksgiving tables.



Kindergarten weaving work

Thank you to the Parent Association, whose funding was instrumental in making this innovative space possible.

Inside this issue:

A Letter From the Principals	2
Buddy Bench Dedication	3
Classroom Chatter	4
Walk-a-Thon Recap	6
Country in the City	6
Ways to Give and Save	7
Advent and Christmas	8

A Letter from the Principals

The 2018-2019 school year is well under way and it is always with immense pleasure that we share the great things that are happening at Ss. Robert and William Catholic School! We are very proud to announce that after a two-year self-study of our school, SRW's School Improvement Plan was approved by the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association (OCSAA), and we were awarded the status of Full Accreditation. This 4-year plan will drive the strategies and opportunities offered to students to apply Catholic values as they implement problem-solving skills to real-life situations.

In late August, 475 students in Preschool through Grade 8 were welcomed back to SRW. Long before the students returned, the faculty and staff were working hard to prepare for the upcoming academic year. Over the summer months, many of the teachers chose to attend conferences and workshops as well as complete graduate level courses to stay current with the latest in educational best-practices; six teachers attended the Urban Institute held right here in Cleveland; four teachers joined the two principals in Portland, Oregon for the Fusion Conference which focused on the MAP Assessments used in all Diocesan schools to measure students' academic growth and progress; two teachers attended the National Catholic Educational Association Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and two teachers completed their Master's Degrees. How blessed we are at SRW to have such committed educators dedicated to being life-long learners and instilling a love of learning in their students!

The goal of the Capital Campaign has been reached and the gym renovation is targeted to begin in February 2019. With the anticipation that this project is generating, the theme "**Under Construction; Building a Strong Foundation of Faith and Knowledge**" has been chosen to inspire our academic growth and spiritual development throughout the school year.

Ss. Robert and William Catholic School is now entering into its third year of MAP testing, and is proud of the growth we have seen. The data

generated from these tests have allowed our teachers to truly differentiate their instruction and the results are impressive. (See graphs on Page 3)



SRW staff reports to the "construction site" on the first day of school

Two tools we are using to personalize learning for students are Achieve 3000 and Reflex Math. Achieve 3000 allows teachers to assign informational text at students' Lexile levels. By presenting information at a student's reading/vocabulary level, the student is able to increase his/her understanding and advance his/her comprehension skills. This learning leads to more difficult material and increased Lexile levels.

Reflex Math focuses on providing activities for students to master their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. This has been an area of weakness in our students for the last several years. In just two months of using this program, we are seeing students' tremendous improvements. Individual classes have completed as many as 50,000 facts!

We are confident that the trends we see will continue as the teachers' familiarity with the data and the students' strengthened foundations continue to grow.

As you read through this newsletter, you will be impressed with the many accomplishments highlighting the start of our school year.

Together in faith,

Ms. Meg Cosgriff

Ms. Meg Cosgriff
Co-Principal

Mrs. Dodd

Mrs. Martha Dodd
Co-Principal

No Place For Hate Brings Buddy Benches to SRW

Last spring, new Buddy Benches were dedicated and have become an important part of the SRW playground. The benches were the result of efforts by the *No Place for Hate* committee to make our school an even more welcoming and accommodating environment. The history behind the benches goes back to the spring of 2013, when 10-year-old Christian Bucks of York, PA, thought his family was moving to Germany for his dad's job, and his mom showed him brochures about his potential new schools.



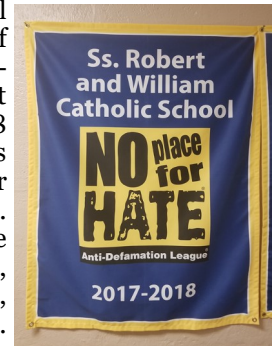
Students from the *No Place for Hate* committee with local law officers and the Buddy Benches

Christian knew that the playground could be a scary place. He was just in first grade then, but he knew what loneliness on the playground looked like from his experiences at his own elementary school. One German school he and his mom visited had a solution for this. It was called the buddy bench, and if a child was sitting on it alone, it was a signal to the other kids to ask him or her to play. Christian introduced the idea of buddy benches to the U.S.

This simple idea of having a safe place to go to when a child

is feeling left-out or alone creates a visual reminder to the other children on the playground that someone is being overlooked. Our SRW students have learned to be on the lookout for children sitting on the buddy benches and to invite those children to join in the activities around them.

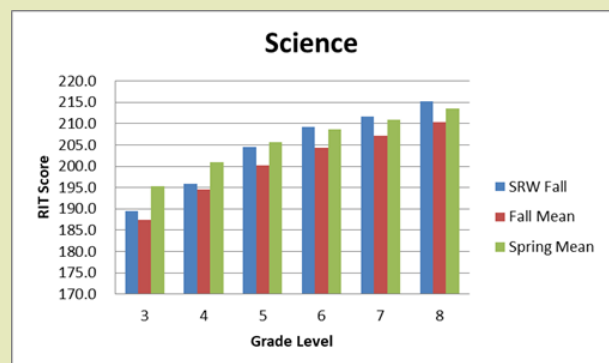
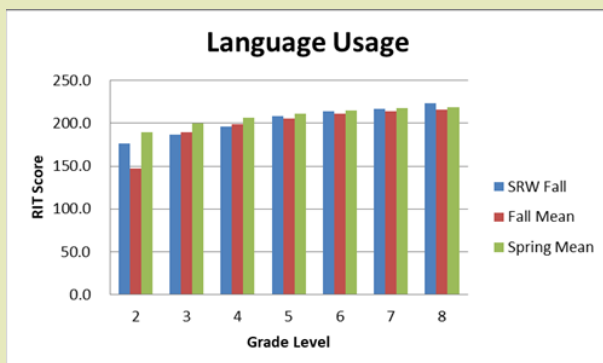
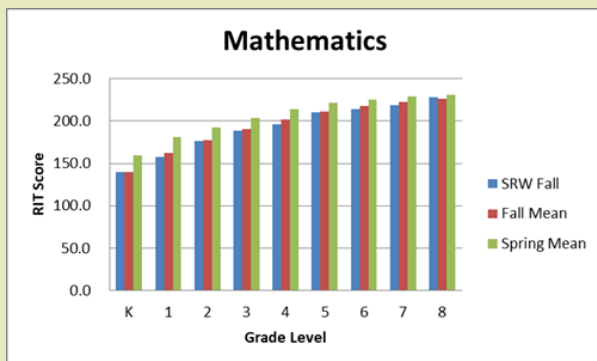
Bringing buddy benches to the SRW playground was just one project which the *No Place for Hate* committee completed last year in their successful efforts to earn another banner presented by the ADL. Committee members must work diligently all year long in bringing lessons of inclusion, acceptance, and anti-bullying to the school. While last year's student group consisted of 28 members, this year's group has jumped to 54 members from our Upper School. Mrs. Garuckas and Ms. Barber were also thrilled to welcome new staff members to the committee, including Mrs. Adkins, Miss Harkey, Ms. Loparo, and Mr. Williams. Members have been working hard on our first activity of this year, No Name-Calling Week, filled with activities and lessons.



Proud to be designated a *No Place for Hate* School by the ADL for the second year in a row

Fall MAP Assessment

In the graphs below, you will see the starting data points for the 2018-2019 school year. Please note, in some of the graphs, the students have already achieved the target scores for the spring of 2019. We cannot wait to see the growth that will occur this year!



Classroom Chatter

“Education is the foundation upon which we build the future.” Christine Gregoire

As you read in the Principals’ Letter, we are implementing educational tools such as Reflex Math and Achieve 3000 to help our students reinforce the basic skills upon which to add depth to their learning. Read below to see how our teachers are enhancing student learning in the classroom through problem solving and real world experiences.

Religion with the Wee Warriors: The school year began with an introduction to the Atrium, an area in the classroom where students conduct religion lessons. The children were given the lesson on altar setting, which is a naming lesson, identifying the objects of the altar. The children also understand that it is Jesus that calls us to the altar.



A Wee Warrior sets the altar in the classroom Atrium

The next lesson the children experienced was about Liturgical Colors. The children learned the different colors used by the church to signify the time of year. Currently, the color is green for ordinary time. Soon we will be in Advent which is purple for preparation. White is for celebration (Christmas & Easter) and red is for Pentecost. As we enter the season of Advent, students will learn about the geography of the land of Israel during the life of Christ, the Old Testament prophecies of Christ, and the infancy narratives.

A Storm is Brewing: Second grade is off to a constructive start! In ELA, we have been reading some interesting stories. One of our favorites is *Super Storms*. Students were able to work together to collaboratively research more information about storms from library books. We were fascinated by tornadoes and their power.

Election Experience: In early October in their Language Arts class, the Fifth grade students read a short story entitled *Off and Running*. The story is 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 in their respective homerooms for class president and vice president. Running mates campaigned for one week by designing posters, pins, and badges detailing their thoughts on how they would make this school year the best ever. Students then addressed their classmates with impressive presentations. There was great excitement in the air as the final results were announced.

Congratulations to President Frankie Oriani and Vice President Joe Fergus of 5A and President Mario Townsend and Vice President Bobby Parsons 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!!



5th Grade election winners

Scooter Olympics: It is the time of year for the Scooter Olympics! The Scooter Olympics are one of the students’ favorite activities. It is geared for students in fourth through eighth grade. The students choose their own teams and what country they wish to represent. This lesson teaches unselfishness, how to work as a team, sportsmanship, and how to win or lose with dignity. All of these traits are a big part of what makes an SRW WARRIOR!



7th Grade students work in teams during the Scooter Olympics

Mat Man: The Little Warriors had a lesson on Mat Man in the start of their school year. Mat Man teaches foundation skills, such as, naming body parts, listening to oral directions to attend to a simple task, and sequencing. It helps children to take turns with peers.



Little Warriors with Mat Man

Mat man helps with oral language, demonstrating active listening by attending to the teacher. It also helps young children with sensory motor skills to notice and attach meaning to visual information. The children love to build Mat Man over and over again!

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 represent at our school Mass on All Saints' Day, where a student



Students representing saints

processed to the altar, either dressed as, or carrying a symbol for, the saint. 8th grade students read about each saint after the procession.

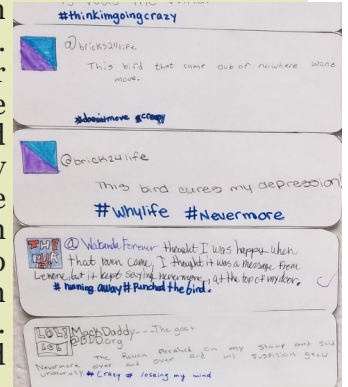
Bubble Wands: Third graders got some practice using the Scientific Method while also getting creative. Students observed bubbles and formed a hypothesis. They wanted to know if the shape of the wand would change the shape of the bubble. They created an experiment and analyzed the data. They came to a conclusion that all bubbles are round. The shape of the wand makes no difference to the shape of the bubble. Students designed and built the wands at the start of the project and communicated their results at the project's conclusion. The students are looking forward to more hands-on learning this year in science.



Third grade students test homemade bubble wands



#Nevermore: The Eighth grade recently finished a unit on Edgar Allan Poe in reading class. The last story students read was Poe's famous poem, *The Raven*. Students had to interpret the poem to be read and understood in modern day language. Following that, their assignment was to take the modernized poem and create "tweets" as if they were the narrator in the story telling his tale on Twitter. They had to include a username and an original hashtag as well. The results were funny and wonderfully imaginative.



8th grade original tweets

Grandparent Grandparents' Day: This year, Grandparents' Day was celebrated throughout the month of September. In years past, this day was just celebrated by Lower School students. However, with the creation of the Ss. Anne and Joachim Grandparents' Prayer Group by the grandparents of a couple of Upper School students, the celebration was opened to all grade levels on different days during the month. From Cleveland Trivia Jeopardy to Bingo, students and grandparents alike enjoyed spending the afternoon together. Thank you grandparents for all you do! The Ss. Anne and Joachim Grandparent group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the chapel. The next meeting is November 27.



All grade levels and grandparents enjoyed spending time together
Left: Upper School students and grandparents get ready for Cleveland Trivia Jeopardy



Right: Lower School students perform songs for their guests

Find us on Facebook: Stay up-to-date by finding the our school's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Ss-Robert-and-William-Catholic-School-105863876110885/>, and by reading the Warrior Weekly at www.srwschool.cc



Walk-a-Thon

God blessed the students of Ss. Robert and William Catholic School with a beautiful day as they took to the streets on Friday, October 5, 2018 for the fifth SRW Walk-a-Thon. The goal of the Walk-a-Thon was not only to encourage physical fitness among students, but also to encourage the spirit of working together to raise money for a specific reason. The funds from this year's Walk-a-Thon were designated for the gym renovation project including a new floor and ceiling, the addition of a kitchen for concessions, and restrooms.

Each grade level from Preschool through Grade 8 promised to walk for one hour to raise money for the construction of the new gymnasium. They solicited pledges from family members, friends, and businesses. Over 110 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 announce that we surpassed our goal! With 68% of full family participation over \$27,300 was collected. This is the highest total ever! In February of 2019, the gym

renovation will begin. The support from this amazing community, parish, and school, will touch the lives of many children for years to come. Thank you for your generosity!



Upper School students and parent volunteers take a break from walking to pose for a picture

Lower School students walking in groups and enjoying the beautiful weather



A Little Bit of Country in the City

Ss. Robert and William Catholic School looked a little bit like a western film when Cowboy Pat came for a visit! The Lower School students had just begun to learn about different communities and what it would be like to live in a rural area when they were surprised with their own rural experience. Pat, a professional horse trainer, brought his full-grown horse, a one-year old horse, a miniature bull, and a miniature pony to SRW. He also brought the trailer, hay, horse feed, and chicken eggs. He talked about living on a farm, the work involved with caring for farm animals, and answered many student questions. The students were surprised to find that different chickens lay different colored eggs, such as blue and green, and wanted to



Miss Cooper shows students a bag of horse feed

know if that changed the color of the egg inside. They asked about how much horses eat and drink, their weight, and how fast they run. They also were amazed to learn that bulls are actually color-blind!

Pat was able to meet with all of the students from preschool to grade 3 and answered their many questions. This was an exciting experience for the students since it provided them the opportunity to connect with the real world. It gave the students a chance to extend their learning from their classroom social studies lessons into their own first-hand experience with rural living.



A student sits atop Cowboy Pat's horse

Everyday Ways to Save

Did you know there are several ways to contribute to Ss. Robert and William School? Certain brands, stores, and sites for shopping can help raise money for our school. Little effort is needed to turn ordinary tasks into big bucks for the 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. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/271392588, 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.

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 or register at <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/>.

We are also able to raise money through recycling efforts. Recycle your paper in the yellow and green bins by the Merici Center. We can earn up to \$20 a ton.

Are You Using TRIP?

With the holidays coming, why not save some money while you spend? SRW is a participant in TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program), which turns your everyday spending into tuition credit or a cash rebate!

TRIP is a great way to receive school tuition savings simply by using gift cards to do your everyday shopping! Purchase gift cards through TRIP and redeem these gift cards while doing regular shopping for groceries, gas, clothing, even travel! Each gift card contains a percentage that is split the following way:

- 50% of rebate is paid out to you (tuition or cash rebate check)
- 25% of rebate is donated to SRW school
- 25% of rebate is retained by TRIP

With each gift card purchased, you build up credits in your TRIP account. Credits are paid out by SRW twice a year, either toward your tuition account or directly to you.

Visit <https://tripnorthllc.com/> to get started.

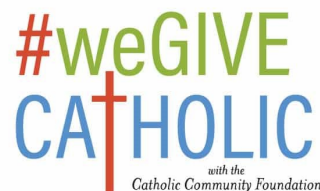
We Give Catholic

On **Tuesday, November 27**, 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.

This year, from 4:00-9:00 PM, we will host a Charity Night at Beach Club Bistro, 21939 Lakeshore Blvd, Euclid. 20% of all proceeds will go toward the We Give Catholic campaign.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.wegivecatholic.org/organizations/ss-robert-william-parish-and-school>





SS. ROBERT AND WILLIAM CATHOLIC SCHOOL

351 East 260th Street
Euclid, OH 44132

L i f e ~ L o v e ~ L e a r n i n g

Phone: 216-731-3060
Fax: 216-731-0300

Visit us on the web at
www.srwschool.cc

Advent and Christmas Calendar

November:			
Tuesday	27	#WeGiveCatholic Ss. Anne and Joachim Grandparents' Prayer Group	7:00 PM
December:			
Saturday	1	First Reconciliation	11:00 AM
Monday	3	Advent Prayer Service	8:00 AM
Thursday	6	Band Concert	6:30 PM
Friday	7	Reconciliation, Gr. 3-8	12:45 PM
Saturday-Sunday	8-9	PA Bake Sale	After All Masses
Monday	10	Advent Prayer Service Christmas Concert	8:00 AM 6:30 PM
Monday	17	Advent Prayer Service	8:00 AM
Wednesday	19	Advent Retreat Day Mass Dismissal	12:00 Noon 1:00 PM
Christmas Masses:			
Monday	24	4:00 (Children's), 7:00, 10:00 PM	
Tuesday	25	9:00, 11:00 AM	

