

Focus on Curriculum

Building Foundations for the Future

April 2009



Leigh Boghossian, daughter of Mrs. Lynne Boghossian, and Ms. Cartwright of the Gift of Life organization, shared their expertise on *organ transplants and organ donation* with sixth, seventh and eighth graders. The presenters reviewed the function of various organs, as well as information on tissue donations such as skin and ligaments. The boys learned that the Catholic Church considers organ donation an “act of love” as long as there is informed consent, just allocation, and “the complete and irreversible cessation of all brain activity.”

News flash! First graders write their first book report! Each student chose one of the over sixty children’s books written by Theodor Seuss Geisel, Dr. Seuss. Each student read his favorite Dr. Seuss book dressed in the *Cat in the Hat* chapeau he had made. This celebration will be capped off when the students see the musical *Seussical* at the Upper Darby Theater in April.



Eighth graders are truly challenged during the month of March. They are immersed in the Poverty Project in which they role play as a single parent with a two-year old and a seven-year old. They are laid off and then “processed”. They investigate local poverty from lack of affordable housing to effects of poverty on a child’s learning. It seems almost ironic, given the current economic times, but the students are facing an additional challenge: playing the Stock Market Game. Under the tutelage of Mr. Michael Cenci, eighth graders are trying to keep their heads above water.

Third through sixth graders are using a new medium in their art – Microsoft Word drawing tools. Using a blanket woven by a member of the Navajo tribe as a guide, students designed their own blankets while honoring the Navajo’s use of symmetry and colors of the earth. Don’t be surprised if the boys start using these drawing tools at home.

The school community considers itself blessed as many of its graduates have entered the priesthood. Among these ranks are

Bishop Robert Maginnis, current Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, and Father Stephen Paolino, class of 1994. In addition, two recent graduates have entered the seminary.



Vincent Marchionni, class of 2000, has entered the Jesuit seminary; and John Stokley, class of 2001, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Father Stephen Paolino recently spent the day at St. Aloysius Academy visiting classrooms to encourage boys to consider a life as a priest. Fr. Paolino also celebrated Mass on the First Friday in March.



Seventh graders are photographed re-enacting the Stations of the Cross. The photos are then placed in a PowerPoint presentation for all to see. In addition, seventh graders narrate the Stations in a very prayerful and insightful manner.

As part of the music curriculum, **fourth graders were challenged to not only make a musical instrument, but to make an instrument that could actually be played.**



Their creativity and inventiveness were very impressive. Guitars, xylophones, a drum set, and even a washboard made up this newly-formed band.