

NOW

more than ever

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEKRE-IMAGINED

Traditionally, the special liturgy for Catholic Schools' Week is one of the highlights of that special time when the entire school gathers at Our Lady of Poland Church. At a time when we are asked to make adaptations to the "normal routines", the first graders and their teachers, Miss Valle and Miss Seabury gathered in the Wellness Center gymnasium for their class Mass.

Father Mike Vetrano was the celebrant. Using center court as the place of the altar, the lectors approached the microphone and proclaimed the readings, offered the petitions and the end of mass thanks.

The first graders were seated at social distances on the blue bleachers and interacted with Father during his homily geared very specially toward them. From the green backpack that has become familiar to all at OLH, Father produced a special mask bearing Dr. Anthony Fauci's name. This hero on the health front during the pandemic is a product of Catholic elementary, high school and college.

The other students were able to participate fully in this mass via live-streamed into their classrooms, a practice to which we are becoming very accustomed.

The annual KINDY AWARDS were also shared via technology at the end of the week of celebration—the last day before vacation.

A special prayer service in honor of St. Valentine, filled with readings about the gift of love and special petitions for those in our lives was presented by Mrs. Hamma and Mrs. Rewinski.

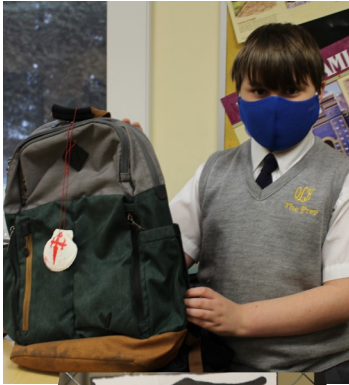
Several students were then cited for their gentle and sometimes unrecognized kindness,

humility and generosity toward others in the school. Each received a certificate of recognition.

Bouquets of roses were then presented to each homeroom teacher who, in turn, gave one long stem red rose to the students to bring home as a sign of the love we share this Catholic Schools' Week and always.



PREP 6PILGRIMS AT LAST!



For the second consecutive year, Senora Barbara Gaias le her Prep 6 students on a solemn pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

(Santiago de Compostela is the capital of northwest Spain's Galicia region. It's known as the culmination of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route, and the alleged burial site of the Biblical apostle St. James. His remains reputedly lie within the Catedral de Santiago de Compostela, consecrated in 1211, whose elaborately carved stone facades open onto grand plazas within the medieval walls of the old town.)



The class had been preparing in their Spanish language classes with study of the geography, culture and religion involved. Before the students embarked on their trek to Compostela (aka Our Lady of Poland), they created marking shells emblazoned with the cross of St. James that would help to guide their path. The shells were placed on windows, in doorways and on the doorknobs throughout the building.

The two separate groups set out on foot on a cold and snowy day, walking through the building encouraged by students who wished them Buen Camino (good trip). On their path, the only thing to break the silence was the constant repetition of the Hail Mary, alternating between English and Spanish.



THE SPIRIT WAS ALIVE ALL WEEK!

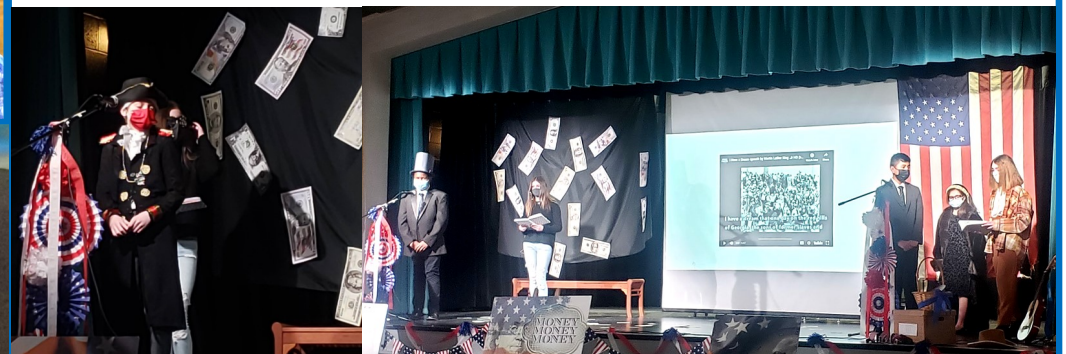


CELEBRATING THE ARTS



Theatre, dance, chorus and instrumental music are some of the cornerstones of life at OLH. While the wearing of masks and social distancing have hindered some of the progress in the arts, the traditions are held firm in the production of class plays. These monthly presentations, all live-streamed, have challenged the students to re-think how these gifts are shared.

The third graders and their teachers Miss Hernandez, Mrs. Lennon and Mrs. Berlin taught great life lessons in *Munchkin Mediation: Conflict Resolution*, a musical based on The Wizard of Oz. The colorful sets and terrific costumes enhanced the speaking and lip-synced songs.



Mrs. Hanley and her Prep 7 students took a different twist in their production of *Money, Money, Money*, and original script that focused on American Currency as seen through the eyes of those whose images appear on different denominations of bills. Guest appearances were made by George Washington, Ben Franklin, Abraham Lincoln and Alexander Hamilton who rapped a song from the musical in his honor.

Special features of this program included pre-recorded segments by students who are on home-study this trimester, a novelty dance by women suffragettes and two dances led by characters who encouraged students to join while live-streaming in their classrooms.



THANK YOU to a very special person

at OLH: our school nurse, **MRS. EILEEN SHIMKUS**. Her tireless efforts of caring for the entire community are greatly appreciated. The amount of extra work, pressure and study during the past eleven months need to be recognized! Carefully monitoring mandates from the State, the and the Health Department, Mrs. Shimkus is thorough in her execution of protocols, vigilant with reports and attestations and, above all....totally committed to the health and safety of students and faculty alike.



CDC



**Our Lady of the
Hamptons
Regional Catholic
School**

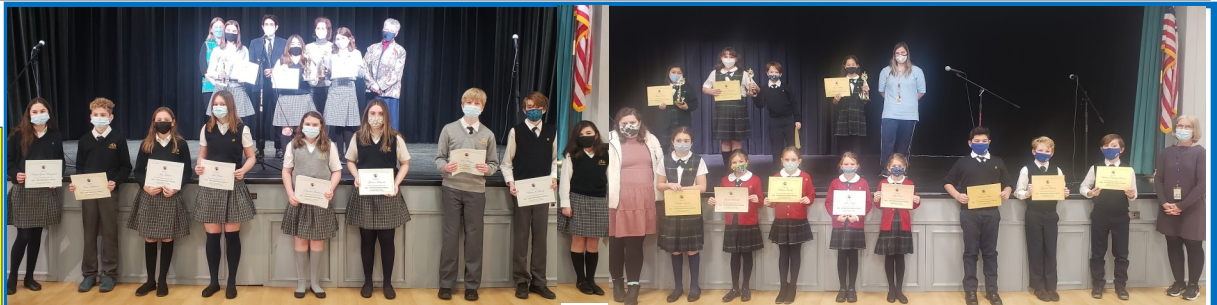
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.....IN THE WINNERS' CIRCLE



The winners of the Prep Oratorical contest were: 1st Julia Dell'Aquila, 2nd Maxine Boeding, 3rd Lucy Tillotson. The Intermediate victors were: 1st Olivia Caruso, 2nd Mikayla Torres, 3rd (tie) Wesley Wasse and Alessandra Paccassasi.



**PREP STUDENTS
SOFIA PATRONE,
PATRICK KAMM,
DANNY OSPINA and
JACK LEONARD**

have been awarded scholarships to St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School!

The class of 2021 has also been accepted to Regis High School, Chaminade High School, Sacred Heart Academy, St. Anthony's, Holy Trinity and Kellenberg Memorial.

PRE-K STUDENTS ARE READY FOR ANYTHING

Many people may not be totally aware of the ability and interest level of four year olds! Even in this time of change and adaptability, the OLH pre-school community has worked right along with the older students both in the daily face-to-face learning at St. Rosalie's campus and the occasional switch to remote at-home learning.

Learning how to build a volcano during "V Week" while watching the teacher via a computer screen, painting the planets behind individual screen dividers or working in groups while proudly wearing masks all add up to a successful PreK 4...thanks to the parents and Mrs. Wegman, Mrs. Webster, Miss Schadt and Mrs. Matute!

