

★ The Nativity Star ★

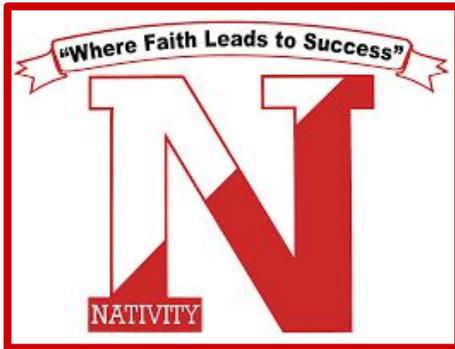
Shining Light on the Best of Nativity

2019 November 22

5th Edition

Nativity of Our Lord School

Orchard Park, NY



Upcoming Events

November

26- All School Mass

27-Thanksgiving Break Begins

December

2-Classes Resume

5-Report Cards

6 -No School - Conferences

10- Academic Assembly

12-Christmas Program

18-Dress Down Day \$1

20- All School Mass

20-Nativity Star 5th Edition

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Favorite Subjects

By Olivia Rydzewski

I decided to interview the junior high teachers about what their favorite subject was when they were our age. I thought it would be interesting to find out what subject my teachers enjoyed. Did they like the subject they are teaching right now? Why did they like that subject?

First, I started with our science teacher, Ms. Adrian. She replied to my questions by answering, "I enjoyed social studies when I was your age. Learning about our country and other countries was amusing and learning about historical events was very interesting to me."

Next, I interviewed our math teacher, Mrs. Borowski. She replied to both of my questions by saying, "My favorite subject when I was your age was math and science. My reasoning is because the math and science teacher were the same person. The teacher made a song out of the topic parallel lines. My teacher was sweet, adorable, and the teacher had her students figure out stuff on their own and not just be told facts. I loved this teacher better than other teachers."

The third person I interviewed was our social studies and Spanish teacher, Mr. Kerwin. He said, "I liked history because I liked learning about the past and especially learning about the United States."

Lastly, I interviewed our ELA teacher, Mrs. Pallante. She answered, "When I was your age, my favorite subject was English because I liked reading and writing."

After asking all my junior high teachers this, I learned more about them. Some of them liked subjects that they are teaching now, and others not. I hope to learn more about them during my years here at Nativity.

Thanksgiving Meal Origins

By Avery Walker

Most people agree that Thanksgiving would be incomplete without foods like turkey, cranberry sauce, and mashed potatoes. But do you know how they became such a staple? Let's dive into the origins of America's favorite holiday foods.

Cranberries are widely known as one of the only commercially grown fruits native to the United States, along with blueberries and Concord grapes. Native Americans ate them regularly, suggesting that they were present at the first Thanksgiving. Recipes for sweetened cranberry sauce go as far back as the late 1600's.

Mashed potatoes became a staple due to a campaign by a woman named Sarah Josepha Hale. She believed that the holiday would benefit families across America. In her novel *Northwood*, as well as a magazine called *Godey's Lady's Book*, she described several idealized Thanksgiving meals. These meals included mashed potatoes.

The most famous Thanksgiving food is turkey. A first-hand account of the first Thanksgiving says that there was "a great store of wild turkeys" killed for the feast. However, a culinary historian named Kathleen Wall revealed that duck, goose, or pigeon was the primary poultry dish. As the holiday grew in popularity, however, the turkey was chosen as the main dish for practical reasons. Turkeys were less expensive and easier to keep than ducks and geese. So, the turkey became the symbol of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving foods have interesting backstories. However, most Americans never pause to think about the origins of these famous foods. I hope that this article has enlightened you as to where your dinner came from!



Ski Club

By Peyton Johnson

Ski club is one of the many extra-curricular activities that our school has to offer. Every Friday during the ski season, a bus comes after school to pick everyone up. Once you arrive at Kissing Bridge, you can either bring your own skis or snowboard or you can rent some there. If you are already good at skiing, you can probably go straight to the large hills. However, if you are newer, I suggest either taking lessons or just practicing on the bunny hill. By the end of the season you should feel comfortable going on some of the larger hills like Holly or Mistletoe. Inside the lodge are food, drinks, bathrooms, and even a nice restaurant.

8th Grade Retreat

By Norah Carlson

About two weeks ago, on Friday the 8th, my class went on a retreat. We learned a lot about God and how we should act more like him every day. Our retreat leader was Mrs. Carrie Ford. She told us many stories about her life and how God was shown in it. Mrs. Carrie traveled to many countries and shared her experiences with us about different parts of the world. Mrs. Pallante, Father Peter, Mr. Gardon, and Mrs. Esack also came to the retreat. We did many activities with Mrs. Carrie and had lots of fun. Some of the things we did with her include Adoration, learning about road signs, the animal game, and going to church. I will be telling you about these different activities we did throughout the day.

To begin, we played the animal game. We stood in a circle and someone would be in the middle. The person in the middle would point at someone and say an animal. The animal choices were an elephant, whale, or cuckoo clock. The people standing next to the person who was pointed at would help create the animal. If they could not make the animal in 10 seconds the person pointed at has to go in the middle.



8th Grade Retreat continued...

Even if the person pointed at didn't mess up, but the people next to them did, he/she still had to go in the middle. The reason we did this activity was because sometimes you have to take the blame for things you didn't really do. Jesus died on the cross for us and not himself.

Next, we did an activity with different road signs. Mrs. Carrie gave each of us a road sign on a piece of paper. Some of the signs were the stop sign, yield, detour, and slow down. The stop sign might have meant to stop and think about what you are doing. The "slow down" sign could have meant to slow down and take a break to pray to God. Mrs. Carrie said there was a reason that you got the sign you did, and that God was showing us a sign. Those were some activities we did and enjoyed.

In addition to these, we went to Adoration. I never heard of this before the retreat. I am extremely glad I found out what it is. Adoration is a time to remain silent in a chapel and pray to God. It is a time to say thank you for everything you have and also ask God for help. My friends and I thought Adoration was calming and peaceful. Mrs. Carrie played music on her guitar. We all had a sheet of paper that asked questions. Some of the questions were about things we need help with, why do we praise God, and how to honor him more. I would definitely go to Adoration again and would recommend it to you.

The last thing we did on our eighth grade retreat was going to church. Father Peter was the priest for the mass. We had a choir in church that people could sing in, and Mrs. Carrie sang and played the guitar. This was a good way to end the retreat.

Our eighth grade retreat was very enjoyable and I would love to go on another. Mrs. Carrie taught us tons of information about God and how to love yourself. I think my class would agree that we had lots of fun doing activities and going to adoration. I am so thankful that our class had the opportunity to go on this retreat!

Shadow Day

By Sienna Schlee

This year's eighth grade class had their shadow day in October. You may be wondering, "What is a shadow day?" A shadow day is where you get to go to a high school of your choice and stay with one person there for the school day. I went to Nardin Academy and shadowed a former student at Nativity who graduated last year. At first I was a little nervous because it's a new school, but my nerves quickly went away as I walked into the building. Everyone welcomed me and it felt like I was actually a student there! When I walked in, I went to the gym and waited for my shadow. She came and got me and then we went to her locker to get her things. Then, we headed to her first period class. Nardin had a special schedule that day, and it was where you got together with your house (it's like a homeroom) and did a fun activity. We had to decorate a door. Then we continued on with the day. I got to see all her classes and she showed me around the school. Just like that it was over. It was really cool and helped me figure out what high school I was going to, as well as made me less anxious about next year.



Mrs. Carrie Ford and volunteers leading the group in song.



Nativity Sports



Nativity Red Volleyball Championship Game

By Lexi Morgan

The Nativity red volleyball team with Hailee Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Anna Marusza, Ava Marusza, Sienna Schlee, Grace Cullinan, Sydney Schoen, Genevieve Ricci, Norah Carlsen, Bella Taggart, Elizabeth Bestpitch, Rory Etheridge, and Lexi Morgan played against Saint John Vianney for the championship game. They had won to Saint Greg's before the championship game on 10/30/19. With many good passes and hits Nativity lost 2 of the 3 matches. Everyone on the team was doing a great job of talking to each other and cheering others on. Hailee Johnson had many serves in the game giving Nativity a lot of points, Anna Marusza had a lot of blocks from the other team hitting the balls over, and Grace Cullinan had a lot of serves in the game. Hannah Johnson had many passes to other teammates helping with getting points, Ava Marusza made sure no balls were going to hit the ground, and Genevieve Ricci did a lot of help in the back row while Sienna Schlee helped in the front row. Rory Etheridge had many good hits. Sydney Schoen, Elizabeth Bestpitch, Bella Taggart, and Norah Carlsen did a great job of helping with the team and cheering on everyone. Everyone was upset that Nativity didn't win, but everyone tried their best.

Go Warriors!

JV Boys' Basketball Game

By Patrick Cosgrove

On November 16, 2019, the JV boys 6th grade basketball team played Nativity of Sacred Heart in Williamsville. Nativity of Orchard Park only won by 4 points, with the final score of 28 to 32. It was a successful victory for the team. Logan Radloff, Matthew Enright, Jack Cullinan, Deacon Pope, and Patrick Cosgrove all put in points for the team. Meanwhile, Patrick Basil and Nick Ciancio put in astounding defense to prevent the other team from scoring. Matthew Schaller and Wade Pandolfi got many rebounds to help win the game. Now, the JV 6th grade boys team are 2 and 0 and are going to try and win another game next Saturday.

Bills Squish the Fish

By Charlie Graber

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, the Buffalo Bills beat the Miami Dolphins 37-20. The Bills controlled the game from start to finish. The offense had their way with the Dolphins' defense. Josh Allen completed 21 of 33 passes for 256 yards and three touchdowns. Allen ran for 50 yards and a touchdown as well. Devin Singletary and Frank Gore led Bills' rushers with a combined 26 carries for 102 yards. This game was very important for a previously struggling Bills offense as they improved on all things they had struggled with in previous games. The Buffalo Bills are now 7-3 and are in a great position for a playoff spot. They hope to carry this momentum into the toughest stretch of their schedule playing teams like the Dallas Cowboys, Baltimore Ravens, and New England Patriots.

Canisius vs St. Francis

By Patrick Cullinan

On November 16, 2019, the Canisius Crusaders faced off against the St. Francis Red Raiders in the Monsignor Martin, a championship game at UB. The Red Raiders were the favorites as they had defeated the Crusaders earlier in regular season and had a record of 8-1, while the Crusaders had a record of 5-5. St. Francis started the game with a good drive which ended in a 34-yard touchdown pass by Jake Ritts to junior Tommy Bestpitch. However, Canisius answered back with a 9-yard touchdown of their own scored by junior Joseph Dixon. Midway through the second quarter, Canisius scored another touchdown with a 36-yard rush by sophomore quarterback Tyler Baker, followed by a 5-yard touchdown by Joseph Dixon late in the second quarter. The score was now 20-7 at half with Canisius in the lead. The Crusaders then started strong in the second half with an opening 2-yard touchdown by Joseph Dixon to give them a 27-7 lead against the Red Raiders. With three minutes left in the third quarter, St. Francis Senior Xzavier Janczylik scored a 2-yard touchdown to get the Raiders within 14 points of the lead. Xzavier Janczylik then scored another 2-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter to make it 27-21. When Canisius punted their next possession, it gave St. Francis the opportunity to score. St. Francis then completed two passes to junior tight end Antonio Corsi for a total gain of 25 yards. St. Francis was now on Canisius' 10-yard-line when Jake Ritts threw an interception to Canisius' defensive back Riley Simpson who returned it forty yards to ensure Canisius's win against St. Francis with a score of 27-21.

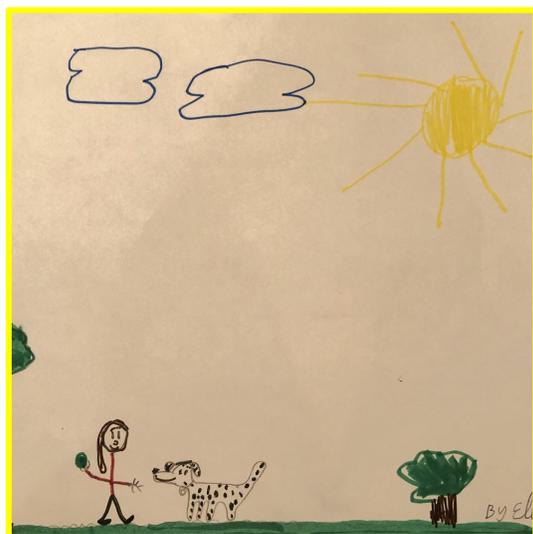
Art by Nativity!



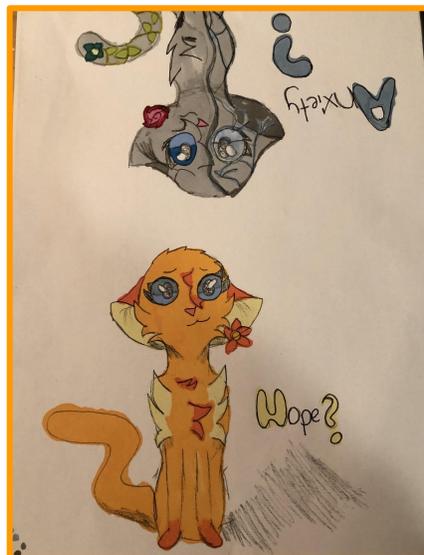
Turkey coloring by Mila Rodriguez
(Kindergarten)



Cat Announcement
Art by Hannah Makin



Drawing by Ella
Thompson



Cat Art by
Delaney Gradwell

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS!

Are you interested in submitting a drawing for the newspaper? We are asking all artists who create a piece for the paper to please go over any pencil with black marker, try to use markers or pens instead of colored pencil, keep it neat, and clearly print on the back your name and grade. All submissions should be appropriate for publication in a school newspaper and any writing should be legible and error free.

Submissions should be placed in Mrs. Pallante's mailbox in the main office, handed in to Hannah Makin or Delaney Gradwell, or emailed to Addison Barth at addisonbarth@gmail.com.