
★ The Nativity Star ★

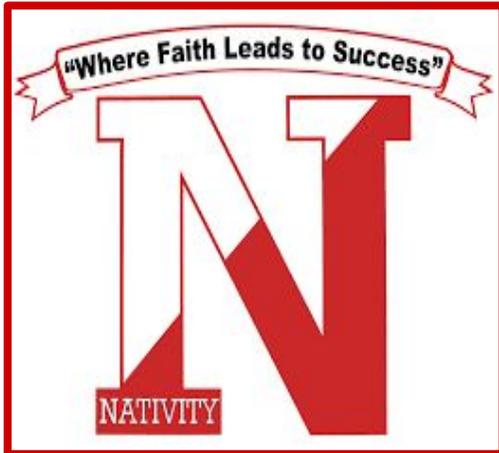
Shining Light on the Best of Nativity

2020 June 12

11th Edition

Nativity of Our Lord School

Orchard Park, NY



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Butterfly photo taken
by Andrew Cook.

Middle School Tips

By Anonymous Junior High Student

If you are a fifth-grader going into middle school, here are some tips and pointers to lead you in the right direction. My first suggestion would be to always have enough pens and pencils. You always run out super fast, and you also lose a lot of them while changing classes. My second suggestion would be to always have your homework done because you don't want to start off on the wrong foot with your teachers. Also, if you do your homework, do not copy off someone else's, because most of the time you get caught and are in big trouble. My third suggestion would be to not sit close to your friends because you get distracted and miss a lot of the things the teacher says, which you will be tested on, so you will get a bad grade. My last suggestion would be to start studying for final exams about 1 month in advance. I thought I didn't have to start studying until the day before, and so I didn't do very well. In conclusion, if you take these tips and apply them to your middle school years, you will have an amazing experience.



The Life Cycle of Butterflies

By Amelia Cook

Recently, my family and I watched some monarch butterflies grow and released them. When the butterflies came to us, they were only small caterpillars. After eating a lot of food for a few days, they formed cocoons on the lid of their container and had to be moved to a bigger habitat. It took the butterflies multiple days to grow inside of their cocoons before they could hatch. Once they were done growing, the butterflies would emerge from their cocoons. Every day, one or two butterflies would hatch. Most of the butterflies emerged safely, but one butterfly had trouble coming out of its cocoon and in the process, its wings were damaged and one of its legs fell off. Once the butterflies hatched, fresh fruit was placed in their habitat for them to eat. The monarchs stayed in their habitat after hatching for about a week before it was time to release them into the wild. When it was time to release them, my family and I brought the habitat outside and unzipped the top. It took a long time for the first butterfly to emerge, and when it did, it sat in the sun for a long time before it finally took off and left. One by one, all of the monarchs left their habitat until only two were left. These two butterflies were unable to fly because they were injured, so we placed them in our flowers. Watching butterflies grow from caterpillars is an interesting and fun experience and I recommend it to anyone.

TV Review

By Hannah Makin

Now that most of us are home, I think it's a great time to sit back and watch some TV. I watched the TV series on Netflix called *Voltron-Legendary Defenders*. It includes 39 episodes. The protagonists are Lance, Princess Allura, Shiro, Hunk, Coran, Emperor Zarkon, Pidge, Witch Haggar, Prince Lotor, and Keith. It is about 5 robot lions that need to be found to be put together to create Voltron. The evil forces controlled by Emperor Zarkon want to destroy it so he can rule the universe. Voltron battles Zarkon and his army in pursuit to protect the world from evil.

Lance, Shiro, Pidge, Keith, and Hunk try to find the 5 lions so they can put them together to create Voltron. These main characters are people from Earth that train to fly spaceships. Each of them is called to a lion - red, blue, yellow, green, and black - after visiting the Castle of Lions when crashing down to the planet. Each of the lions is found in different kinds of nature- red: lava, blue: water, yellow: sand/earth, green: plants, and black. Lance powers the blue lion and is known for his jokes. Shiro powers the black lion, creating the body of Voltron. Shiro has a robot arm after being captured by Zarkon. Pidge powers the green lion and is secretly a girl because girls aren't allowed in the training camp. Keith powers the red lion and is known for his great fighting skills and plans. Hunk powers the yellow lion and is known for his horrible cooking skills. Lance, Keith, Pidge, Shiro, and Hulk find Princess Allura and Coran in the Castle of Lions.

TV Review continued...

Coran explains to them that their home was destroyed by Zarkon. Princess Allura agrees to help them find the lions and tell them where they might be. She says that her father once used to fly it, but he separated them so no one would find them again. Even though they may seem slightly crazy, when facing a problem like protecting the universe, they all make a great team. The antagonists from Voltron are Emperor Zarkon, Witch Haggar, Prince Lotor, and Zarkon's armies. Emperor Zarkon wants to rule the whole universe and destroy Voltron. Witch Haggar is Zarkon's best advisor, and they plan evil things together. Prince Lotor is the son of Zarkon and is just as evil. He wants to rule more than his father- he wants to own the whole galaxy and have his own Voltron. Voltron and Zarkon's forces fight all different monsters and machines in the series. Zarkon's armies include robots and his own native people from where he lived. He used to fly a lion, but after an agreement he turned his back on Voltron and good, turning to the evil side.

Shiro, Keith, Lance, Pidge, Hunk, Coran, and Princess Allura try to find the 5 missing lions to create Voltron as Emperor Zarkon's forces grow stronger. They face many hardships, but they are a great team. *Voltron-Legendary Defenders* is an action-packed, mysterious, and shocking TV show, and I suggest this show to anyone looking for something to watch.

The Outsiders

By Nicholas Szpylman

As my current independent reading book, I am reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hilton. The book follows Ponyboy Curtis, a 14-year-old, and the divided society he lives in. There are the Socs, as they are called, who live in the upper class of society, and the Greasers, who are like hoods. The greasers are poorer than the Socs or the Middle Class. They are wilder, too. When a Soc or Middle-Class person saw a greaser, they immediately thought of a dirty troublemaker. But that was the reputation the Greasers had.

There is a lot to like about this novel. One of my favorite aspects of the book has to be the characters. They see lots of character development and are relatable and likable. Ponyboy is in a small "gang" with his closest friends; they include Darrel "Darry" Curtis, Johnny Cade, Sodapop Curtis, Keith "Two-Bit" Matthews, Dallas "Dally" Winston, and Steve Randle. My favorite character, though, has to be Dally. He is the leader of the gang, and he makes most of the decisions. At first he is portrayed as seemingly mean to Ponyboy, but when Ponyboy needs him he's always there. Dally is the toughest and also the oldest. He's also been to jail. There are many other memorable characters, like Johnny, Randy, Ponyboy, the list goes on.

This book was recommended to me, and I definitely don't regret it. I look forward to reading the rest.

Peyton's Point of View

By Peyton Dotton

Hello, I'm back with more advice. The first question is "Hello Peyton, I was wondering if you had any tips on dealing with stress?" Well, a great tip is to take deep breaths, look at the situation in front of you, and figure out how you're going to deal with it (logically). Sometimes asking a parent or a friend or even a trusted adult about your stress helps. They can help you figure out ways to deal with it. Don't run away from the problem. You need to conquer it head-on or else it will continue to follow you. You don't have to conquer it alone; you can have a friend help you or just encourage you. Those are some great tips for dealing with stress, especially during this crazy time.

This will be my last advice column because I am graduating. I've enjoyed my time making these and helping people around our school stay emotionally and physically happy and healthy. If you need anything, feel free to email me even though I will not be going to Nativity anymore. Thank you for all the love and support with this advice column.

Summer Fun

By Lauren Szpylman

Due to Covid-19, not many places may be open in some states this summer. But there are still some things to do in summer for fun. Though in the beginning of summer places like Green Eats in Orchard Park may not be open for business at first, you can make your own smoothies and drinks.

Summer Fun continued

Another thing you can do for summer fun is water balloons. I recommend Bunch-O balloons. They self tie and you can find them at your local CVS, Tops, and Rite Aid. Orchard Park Country Club and other swimming places should start opening to go swimming. If you have a pool, then that is something enjoyable in the summer. You can also buy a bocce set or other outdoor games on Amazon.

Another thing to do in summer is go to an outdoor restaurant. Most places outdoors are opening such as Taffy's and Mangia. You can also cook, which goes along with making drinks. You can buy brownie mix anywhere and make brownies or cookies. I recommend edible cookie dough. It is really good and easy to make. If you have a tent or RV, there are some great camping spots that have great views and places to hike. One campground is Evergreen Trails. It is about an hour and 20 minutes from Orchard Park.

There are so many fun things to do during summer. You can go to a park and bike or scooter with a friend. You can also take lessons for an instrument during the summer or read a good book. Those are all my ideas for summer fun. I hope people use these ideas for fun!



Congrats to our Kindergarten graduates!



Art by Nativity

Hungry Birds (below) by Joey Kontrabecki, Grade 2.

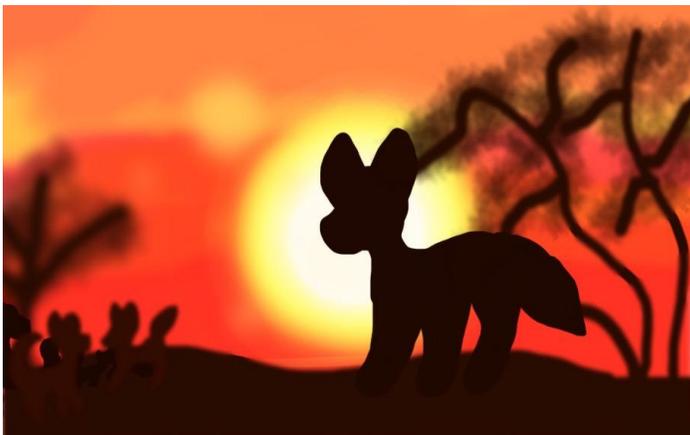
Summer Cat (right) by Hannah Makin, Grade 6

Cardinal (below right) by Ella Kontrabecki, Grade K



Watermelon (left) by Lola Philips, Grade 2.

African Sunset (below left) by Delaney Gradwell, Grade 6.



Saint of the Week provided by Mrs. Esack.

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

THE PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS TO SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE FOR THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATING FIRST FRIDAYS:

1. "I WILL GIVE THEM ALL THE GRACES NECESSARY IN THEIR STATE OF LIFE."
2. "I WILL ESTABLISH PEACE IN THEIR HOMES."
3. "I WILL COMFORT THEM IN THEIR AFFLICTIONS."
4. "I WILL BE THEIR SECURE REFUGE DURING LIFE, AND ABOVE ALL IN DEATH."
5. "I WILL BESTOW A LARGE BLESSING UPON ALL THEIR UNDERTAKINGS."
6. "SINNERS SHALL FIND IN MY HEART THE SOURCE AND THE INFINITE OCEAN OF MERCY."
7. "TEPID SOULS SHALL GROW FERVENT."
8. "FERVENT SOULS SHALL QUICKLY MOUNT TO HIGH PERFECTION."

9. "I WILL BLESS EVERY PLACE WHERE A PICTURE OF MY HEART SHALL BE SET UP AND HONORED."

10. "I WILL GIVE TO PRIESTS THE GIFT OF TOUCHING THE MOST HARDENED HEARTS."

11. "THOSE WHO SHALL PROMOTE THIS DEVOTION SHALL HAVE THEIR NAMES WRITTEN IN MY HEART, NEVER TO BE BLOTTED OUT."

12. "I PROMISE THEE IN THE EXCESSIVE MERCY OF MY HEART THAT MY ALL-POWERFUL LOVE WILL GRANT TO ALL THOSE WHO COMMUNICATE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN NINE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, THE GRACE OF FINAL PENITENCE; THEY SHALL NOT DIE IN MY DISGRACE NOR WITHOUT RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS; MY DIVINE HEART SHALL BE THEIR SAFE REFUGE IN THIS LAST MOMENT."

