

The Knightly News

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Mater Dei Students Divided into Houses

By Isaac Cooper

Hogwarts has come to Mater Dei to introduce houses, and no they will not be sorted into Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, or Ravenclaw. The Mater Dei houses are named after saints. These houses

are multi-aged groups who come together to learn how to interact with other ages, and also how to be leaders. These houses are led by a homeroom teacher and an assistant teacher. They will also be sitting at Mass together unlike in the past

where they would just sit with their own individual class.

The house members are chosen from the jump rope from heart groups, and the eighth graders were chosen through a number generator. These house groups meet every other Tuesday to do activities such as play board games, but it's not all fun and play. There are also times when they have to learn about things such as leadership and communication.

Andy Storer and Autumn Lane are two seventh graders that were interviewed. They said that they like that they get to spend some time with the younger kids from different age groups. Then again they have different opinions on how the sitting at Mass is being arranged Andy likes being with his house, but Autumn says that she liked it better when she was sitting with just her own classmates.

Elijah and Isaiah are two 6 graders that got interviewed as well. Both said that they really don't like the houses, but they also said that they like communicating with all the different age groups as well as in taking leadership to lead the younger ones

Mrs. Hillebert the Mater Dei principal says, that she likes the multi age interaction between her students, but she still thinks that it could still use a little bit of improvement in some of the areas.



Students play Bingo in their houses during Catholic Schools Week.

New Spanish Elective Offered

By Henry Herreman

The Spanish elective is an elective that takes place every Thursday in Mrs. Harvey's classroom. It is taught by Mrs. Gonzalez and focuses on learning the Spanish language. Basically, the teaching process is this. She says an English word, and then she says it in Spanish. Then the class tries to say it after her and memorize it. This elective does sometimes have homework.

Recently, there has been a con-

test in Spanish. You have to fill in the blanks for a story in Spanish. This contest has something to do with this piece of homework. Basically, you have to memorize the whole story in Spanish, word by word.

The winner of this contest will receive a prize. This prize is their choice of either a can of soda or a candy bar. This contest will be on the next Spanish class. Spanish class is quite an interesting and neat elective!

Famous Kansans Elective Proves Interesting

By Emma Bauguess

What do Dwight Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States, Kate Bender, an infamous serial killer, and Abram Burnett, a Native American chief, all have in common? Each individual is going to be studied by the five students in the new elective, Famous Kansans. Teaching the class is retiree Mrs. Saracyewski, who has a passion for the history of Kansas and taught

at Assumption School for thirty years. The Famous Kansans class meets every Tuesday during third hour in the resources room.

This semester, the students will be studying famous athletes, women, Native Americans and overall, Kansans who put their state on the map. Each student will be assigned several influential Kansans to study. After their research is com

plete, the choice for who to learn about next is open to them. When the semester is coming to a close, the information on the Famous Kansans will be put into the format of a book. Unfortunately, this elective is only offered the first semester. However, if you take an interest in the history and people of your state, you should definitely sign up for next year!

New Year Brings New Electives for Middle Schoolers

By Sophia Friess

New years come with new changes, and school years are no exception. One change happening this year in the middle school of Mater Dei Catholic School is having 2 electives a day. Electives, as defined by Mrs. Hillebert, are a portion of a student's day where they choose what they learn. With a wide variety of choices, the students of Mater Dei were not only

overwhelmed, but excited by the options. Everyday, except Tuesdays and Fridays (Mass days), students attend 2 electives from 9:15 to 9:40 and 11:30 to 11:55. Some electives were available last year, but accompanying those are some new ones. These include Famous Kansans, Origami, Handbells, Theatre, Spanish, and Makerspace.

Among the excitement come differing opinions.

"There was a wide variety of choices, but I didn't really like most of them," says eighth grader Emma Bauguess.

Megan Carr, another eighth grader, eyes our conversation and adds "I like it, but I wish we could have 2 study halls a day."

Quincy Smith, seventh, says, "It's cool that we have two a day now. Before, I couldn't decide on just one a day."

But for sixth graders, as put by Natalie Hillebert, "Well, all the electives are new to us this year."

Fall Bazaar Proves Successful

By Emma Bauguess

Every year as leaves change color and pumpkin pies are being baked, Mater Dei Catholic School holds the Fall Bazaar. This year's bazaar marked the 45th annual celebration and proved to be one of the most successful, raising over an estimated \$20,000. The Fall Bazaar kicked off with the S'mores and Sangria Night on November 4th, making it only the second year that this event has been held. As s'mores and sangria were being served, the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Vernon and Sharon Long and the Volunteer

Family of the Year was given to the Spindlers. There was a large turnout at the S'mores and Sangria Night and an excited buzz for the next day's festivities.

The Fall Bazaar held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Parish Hall, with Karen Hiller, Topeka city council woman, and Sam Brownback, Kansas governor, in attendance. The bazaar also had game booths, craft booths, a traditional turkey dinner and a raffle. Overall, the weekend's celebration had good attendance, nice weather and plenty of fun.

While many of the stories in this issue are outdated, they represent the work of the first semester beginning journalism students.

Fall 2017 Staff Members

Katherine Bartlett
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Catherine Doyle
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Henry Herreman
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Mater Dei students often serve as an honor guard for funerals during the year.

Mother-Son Game Knight Proves Popular

By Isaac Mead

The Mother-Son Video Game Knight was a big hit. This evening of fun included video games and laser tag provided by Sky's the Limit Mobile Gaming. I had an interview with Mrs. Mock, who was one of the mothers in charge of this event. I asked her why the PTO decided to have a video game night, instead of a dance or a repeat of bubble soccer.

"We just wanted to change it up," Mock said, "we wanted more participation from the students and the parents."

Of the activities, laser tag was the most popular. Many boys played it, but most of the mothers stood on the sidelines and watched their boys have fun.

"It's fine," Mrs. McKee, mother of Tanner (6th grade) and Jacob (8th grade) said. "Just as long as they play on different teams, I'm okay with it."

But not all the mothers were just watching. Mrs. Lee, mother

of Andrew (2nd grade) and Ashley and Emily (5th grade), played an intense game of laser tag. This motivated other parents to try it. This list includes Mrs. Anguiano, mother of Frankie (5th) and Sandy (8th); Mrs. Driver, mother of Stacy (2nd) and Blaise (4th); Mrs. Waters, mother of Nate (7th); Mrs. Soria, mother of Ruben (2nd); Mrs. Prieto, mother of Lucas (2nd) and Madalynn (1st); Mrs. Meir, mother of Cody (Kindergarten), Austin (2nd), and Caden (5th); Mrs. Em-

erson, mother of Trey (3rd); and a few others.

"I like laser tag because I get to kill people and know they'll come back to life," Mrs. Anguiano jokingly said. Though the evening was enjoyable, some anonymous mother said that the video games were too violent, and they preferred old school games like Pac-Man. But, through and through, the evening strengthened friendships and family between the mothers and their sons.

Christian Group Entertains on YouTube

By Ethan Burns

Dude Perfect is a group of 5 Youtubers that do crazy trick shots. They have many world records of many different sports. They are Christian, so they believe in God. They get money for the job at Youtube and donate some of it to charities. Their names are Tyler Toney, Coby and Cory Cotton, Garrett Hilbert, and Cody Jones.

My favorite is Coby, because he is really cool and does a lot of the trick shots on their channel. He is the funniest Dude Perfect member of them all in my opinion. My least favorite is Cody, because he doesn't do a lot of the trick shots and he really isn't that funny. Hope you guys start watching their channel and rack up their subscribers soon on the Youtube app!



Mr. Josh Benteman teaches band.

New Band Teacher Arrives

By Ryan Spindler

There is a new teacher at Mater Dei. It is the band teacher/drumline instructor. Mr. Josh Benteman, the man for the job. Mr. Benteman is also the band instructor at Hayden High School in Topeka. He got his BA in Biology with minors in Chemistry and History from Taylor University and his BME in Music Education with a minor in Business from Washburn University. He has been officially teaching for six years. Before he got his teaching license, he worked as a drumline instructor for six years.

He is married with four sons. His oldest is nine; next is a six year-old followed by another that is five years. His youngest is two years. He also has two four-month-

old puppies. He says that his sons and his dogs take up most of his extra time. He enjoys watching movies with his wife and doing home improvement.

He was asked if he would be able to teach music at Mater Dei by the principal of Hayden Catholic High School. He said "...if it worked time wise, I would love to do it." He also says that it has been a wonderful choice.

He has really enjoyed working at Mater Dei. "My co-workers and administration have been amazingly supportive," he says. He has enjoyed the respect from the students. "They are all trying hard and I appreciate it," Mr. Benteman explains.

Drama Elective Is Offered During Fall Semester

By Isaac Mead

A new addition to this year's selection of electives, is the theater elective. This class was added to teach students about the ins and outs of theater and the technical aspects of it. This elective meets on Thursdays during the 6th Hour elective time period and is taught by Mrs. Palubinski. Over the year, students will learn basic theater skills as follows: stage presence, stage direction, and good public speaking. At the very end of the year, the students will be performing a play entitled: "Green Eggs and Ham," based on the Doctor Seuss book "Green Eggs and Ham."

What makes Mrs. Palubinski certified to teach this class? Mrs.

Palubinski has a double major in literature and theater from Washburn and Emporia. The 13 students taking this elective include Isaac Mead, Autumn Lane, Nate Waters, Jeremy Went, Gabbi McCarthy, McKenna Jones, Sophia Friess, Sandy Anguiano, Catherine Doyle, Morgan Stous, Quincy Smith, Nat-

alie Hillebert, and Molly McGuire. Most of these students have done theater in the past with their experiences ranging from school plays to community theater. These students are very excited to take this elective and learn the "what you need to know" of theater.

Makerspace Is Fun Elective

By Catherine Doyle

Makerspace is a fun creative activity the Mrs. Hillebert came up with. The program is run by Mr. Sean Hillebert. He has been working Makerspace for 3 years. Makerspace is open Monday through Friday for kindergarten through fifth and Wednesday and Thurs-

day for sixth through eighth as an elective. Makerspace is in the south basement room 000. Mr. Hillbert works Makerspace so he can teach kids to use different types of tools and to teach them pre-engineering ideas. He gets his project ideas from the internet.

Soccer Memories Still Remain Strong

By Gabe Gonzalez

With a new beginning the Mater Dei soccer team is looking to have a good season this year like they have in the past. Their head coach Mr. Spindler said they have 15 players on their team and each one has a special ability. He said that the team made it really far in the tournament last year and have tried to learn from their mistakes for this year.

The other teams that are in the soccer league are Holy Family, Most Pure Heart, Christ the King, Saint Matthews and Topeka Collegiate. He said that he has been coaching soccer at Mater Dei for 3 years and every year is a fun year for him and the kids.

The players on the Mater Dei soccer team are Aiden Amis, Mary Burenheide, Mackenzie Flood, Trey Fulton, Natalie Hillebert, Elijah Jarmillo, Hannah Schmitz, Catherine Doyle, Molly McGuire, Sarah Schmidt, Ryan Spindler, Andy Storrer, Eli Tanking, Maribell Belaire-Serna, Miranda Hillebert, and Gabbi McCar-

thy. Their games are on Saturdays at either at 10am, 11am, 2pm, and 1pm. All the games were at Hayden High School but they only have

three games left. Mater Dei has had a tough start to the season of a record 1-6 but they continue to play hard and with a lot of heart.

A Look Back at Halloween

By Ethan Burns

Halloween is a holiday that a lot of people celebrate. It is when the students get candy and wear scary costumes. Halloween is also the “Eve” of All Saints. America started celebrating Halloween in the 1900’s.

Every year, Mater Dei School celebrates Halloween as “Trunk or Treat.” That is when people come to Mater Dei School and open their trunks to decorate. The people give out candy to the students after they march around the block. Sometimes the middle school has a haunted house that is really scary! After “our” Halloween party, everyone goes and Tricks or Treats at other places.

This year, it snowed while the students were trick or treating! It

was cold and snowing all evening. It was the coldest Halloween in 12 years..... 26 degrees. People looked like they were freezing as they ate their candy. Some of my classmates were saying, “It was crazy and awesome!”

School Has New Seventh Grader

By Katherine Bartlett

Catherine Doyle is a 7th grade and she 13, and her birthday is October 28. Her favorite color is purple. She has blond hair. She is super sweet and very kind to her classmates, even if they’re not to her.

Her favorite sport is soccer where her position is mid or forward. She is talented, and she is mazing at having an open mind. She is a sibling of 8; she is the youngest and her oldest sibling is 29. There are four boys and four girls.

In class her favorite subject is Science. She is very smart in this subject and in all her subjects. She used to go to Most Pure Heart of Mary and moved here.

Out of her electives, her favorite class elective is Makerspace



The eighth graders read to the kindergartners each Tuesday.