

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK NEWSLETTER

# ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL

JANUARY 2019

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The national theme of our Catholic Schools Week celebration is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." The theme encompasses the core products and values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country. Not only are we teaching students to become future leaders, faith-filled disciples and enriched citizens in our communities, but our educators are growing with them. In Catholic schools, we are all learners, servants and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work and succeed.

The theme also focuses on key elements of Catholic education: faith development, academic excellence and dedication to service, which align with our school's mission statement. These elements set Catholic schools apart from other educational options and are why families make sacrifices to provide their children with a Catholic education.

I am grateful every day for the teachers, staff, school board members, parents, volunteers, parishioners and other supporters who make our school a success. Catholic Schools Week is a great time for all of us to thank you for your dedication and overall commitment to St. Pius X / St. Leo School. We are looking forward to a very fun week\* to celebrate our wonderful school community.

Mr. Cory Sepich  
Principal



## PLEASE JOIN US

We will kick off Catholic Schools Week on Friday, January 25 with Masses at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. at school. Our parish celebration of Catholic schools begins on the weekend of January 26/27 at both parishes. Students and teachers will speak about SPSL school at all weekend Masses at St. Pius X and St. Leo Churches. As supporters of our school, please join us at any of these special Masses. We will also celebrate Mass on Wednesday, January 30 and Thursday, January 31, both at 8:30 a.m. at school.



\*For more information on Catholic Schools Week activities, please check the 'calendar section' on the school website [www.spsl.net](http://www.spsl.net).

ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL IS A DIVERSE COMMUNITY FORMING STUDENTS  
IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS AND SERVICE TO OTHERS.



## WHY I LOVE SPSL...

"I love going to school at SPSL because all types of people are welcome."

- Lila, 3rd grade

"I love waking up each day knowing that my teachers and friends will be there for me."

- Lucy, 5th grade

"I think the teachers show the greatest examples of how to be a Christian. They show us love, care and joy. That's not to say they are easy on us. They push us to be the best we can be. They prepare us for life."

- Paul, 7th grade

"I want to be a saint when I grow up because of SPSL."

- Alice, 2nd grade

## DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS...



The 7th and 8th grade Drama Club students will present two evening performances of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* during Catholic Schools Week. The free performances will be held in the school's gym on Friday, February 1 and Saturday, February 2, both at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend either (or both) of the performances as they will feature two different casts.

## SPSL SCHOOL ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER

St. Pius X / St. Leo School will host the fourth annual SPSL School Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at St. Leo Church. The following awards/honors will be presented:

- The Reverend George Kempker 'Volunteer of the Year' Award - Jacque Brink
- The NCEA and SPSL School 'Distinguished Graduate' Award - Judge Michael Pirtle (Class of 1967)
- The Sister Brigetta (Burns) 'Teacher of the Year' Award - Christy Vogel
- The Sister Viola (Miksich) 'Servant of Mary' Award - Luci Catalano
- SPSL School 'Hall of Fame' Inductee - Joyce Gubbels

## MEET MILES

The SPSL community just got a little more diverse. Our newest member is a little bit hairier, has four legs and has a lot of love to share. He is a two year old, F1B Goldendoodle named Miles. Recently, Miles has been certified as a Therapy Dog with Love on a Leash and is willing and ready to help our school community in any way he can. He has had over 42 weeks of training and has been on 10 supervised therapy visits to many nursing homes and memory care facilities. Therapy pets in schools are commonly used as a companion while students read, work and progress towards becoming self disciplined.



#smileswithmiles

## IN MEMORY

(January 1 - December 31, 2018)

Each year we receive many memorials in recognition of family and friends of the SPSL community. While we are saddened by these individual's passing, we are happy to continue their legacy and commitment to Catholic education through these gifts.

Edward Bianchi  
Thomas Bosiljevac  
Rita Brady  
Clarence "C.J." Bueltel  
Clayton Byam  
Salvatore Ciciulla  
Ethel Cockson  
Jane Coyle  
Fred Dohmen  
Malcolm Domon  
Lawrence Donovan  
Marlene Ellis  
Joseph Gasnick  
Joseph Giesler  
Peggy-Ann Grasso (Class of 1966)  
Robert Griffith  
Glenn Gubbels  
Cordelia Mae Hillebrandt  
Norma Johnson  
Patricia Kern  
Gladys Kestel  
Dorothy Klein  
Phyllis Langenfeld  
Donnal "Don" Leahy  
Elizabeth "Betty" Liebentritt  
Dennis Mailliard  
Matthew McGill (Class of 1980)  
Sister Viola Miksch  
Alfred Monaco Jr  
Grace Osborn  
Andrew Oswald  
Phillip Pogge  
Marcella Rose Siemek  
Margaret "Peggy" Sima (Class of 1968)  
Lena Tajchman  
Mollie Tibbetts  
John "Jack" Wolff  
Patricia Zach  
Ralph "Bud" Zender



## SCIENCE HAPPENINGS

The annual science fair for 6th and 8th grade students was held this past fall. A total of 142 students participated. The 8th grade teams of students created their very own Rube Goldberg machine. A Rube Goldberg machine is a machine that goes through a complex and humorous series of steps to do a simple task. They were built using a variety of scrap materials, toy parts and recyclables. The 6th grade teams of students chose and directed their own experiments, including writing a hypothesis and collecting and analyzing their data. They then designed a poster to display their projects and show their results.

Students in 7th grade worked on a project to create an awareness of the power of computer science to solve problems facing our world today. The objective was to create a computational artifact that addressed a problem related to plastic pollution. Students kept track of their own plastic use over a three day period to create awareness of how much plastic they use. They then read Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, which calls us all to be responsible stewards of our Earth's resources. Students used the four step problem solving process to guide their journey from problem to solution (Define, Prepare, Try, Reflect). Working in groups, students narrowed down the scope of their problem (e.g. plastic waste in the SPSL cafeteria) and then created an app or website that solved their specific problem.

## RESTAURANT NIGHT

Take the night off from dinner during a busy Catholic Schools Week and join us at Culver's on Wednesday, January 30 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. When you mention SPSL School, the school will receive 20% of your purchase.

MORE THAN A SCHOOL, IT'S A COMMUNITY.



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## KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

If you have a potential kindergarten student for the 2019-2020 school year, please join us for Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. We welcome you to become more acquainted with our exceptional learning environment here at SPSL. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

We are hosting a Pre-Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, February 2 from 10:30 a.m. – noon. This Roundup is for families interested in our Three and Four Year Old Pre-Kindergarten Programs. The programs will be discussed and you will have a chance to visit with the Pre-Kindergarten teachers and look at the modern classrooms these students use. We are very proud of these classrooms and teachers and would love to see you at the Roundup.

If you, or someone you know, have children who will be in 1st through 8th grades for the 2019-2020 school year and have an interest in learning more about SPSL school, please call the school office at 402-551-6667 to arrange a tour. Also, be sure to check out our school's website, [www.spsl.net](http://www.spsl.net), to see classroom information, upcoming events and more.



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