

THE BEACON

THE WEATHER IS USUALLY SUNNY AT SPX - BUT SOMETIMES A BEACON OR LIGHTHOUSE IS NEEDED TO HELP GUIDE THE WAY. A LIGHTHOUSE IS AN "AID FOR NAVIGATION"

The Beacon Junior Kaizen Mission

To put together a quarterly publication to further educate the St. Pius community on the Leader in Me process, Parent Lighthouse Committee and school Kaizens.

The 2015-2016 Beacon Junior Kaizen Committee Members

Jonden Folck, Ella Gries, Lexi Knoll, Josie Myers, Danny O’Gara, Vinny Quarto, Whitney Scherrer, Kaitlyn Stehlik and Joe Whitlock

Gaga Pit

Hi Panthers!!

We are doing an article about the new Gaga Pit. Gaga is a sport that you hit a ball with your hands and you cannot have the ball hit you below your knee. It is a popular camp game.

We found out that the people who donated the money for the Gaga Pit were Karen and Rick Brodfueher. We asked Mr. Mayer what he thought about the Gaga Pit and he said that he was happy because he sees that the students are having a blast with it. We asked some of the students and everyone loves it! They think it was a great idea that we got this new addition to the playground

We would like to say thank you to the Brodfueher Family because everyone loves what they donated to our school. Thank you!!

By: Maria Truby and Lexi Knoll



Parent Lighthouse Committee Mission

Guided by our Catholic values, we will support St. Pius X and the Lighthouse Committee in implementing the Leader in Me principles. This includes encouraging The Leader in Me process with families to integrate at home and within our community.

Parent Lighthouse Committee Members

Chairs: Jody Freije, Christel Harding and Deanna Murphy

Staff Members: Keith Yost and Jeanine Ritter

At-Large Members: Jenny Brown, Natalie Dycus, Nicole Hartley, Meg Herdrich, Marcella Kates, Heidi Leaman Lisa Medenhall, Kate McGowan, Katie Pastorino, Aileen Puno, Lauren Rennier, Molly Waymouth and Michele Weber.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with questions or concerns at any time!

Altar Servers at SPX

At Mass, you may notice kids on the altar helping the priest to keep the Mass running smoothly. These kids are servers, and they can receive training for this job as early as fifth grade. They have assorted jobs throughout the Mass, and these jobs range from carrying in the processional crucifix to bringing the things needed for Communion to the altar to holding the book for the priest. Serving is a great job to do in the Mass, and I have asked some servers about the job.

Serving has many reasons that a kid might begin doing it. Two servers I asked each gave me the reason that they each serve. James Paul, a new server, told me he serves to serve God, and Claire O’Gara, who has served for over two years, told me that she enjoys the ability to be more involved in Mass. Serving can be very appealing to certain kids, and I would certainly suggest trying it when you get to be old enough.

To conclude, Serving is a great adventure that allows children to become closer to God and participate in Mass. Servers possess the ability to learn a way to serve God, but also the ability to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at Mass. I have learned many things from serving including the actual position itself, but also more of what the priest does at Mass and where things go to set up for Mass, or what the Sacristan does. Serving is a wonderful opportunity kids have starting in fifth grade, and I can think of no better way to be involved in Mass than by doing it.

By: Danny O’Gara



3rd Grade Advice

You are braver than you think.

Practice makes progress, not perfect!

Reading gives us a place to go when we have to stay where we are!

Mistakes are proof that you are trying!

Work hard, dream big!

Don't give up. I believe in you all. A person's a person no matter how small.

- Dr. Suess

Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience.

By: Jonden Folk and Joe Whitlock

Middle School Genius Hour

For this article I will be writing about Middle School Genius Hour. I have asked Mr. Mayer, Mrs. McCarthy, and a few other sixth graders a few questions about this new program.

While talking to Mrs. McCarthy she told me that she decided to do Genius Hour because it would give students a chance to choose what they learn. She thinks it is important that we do Genius Hour because kids who do not like normal subjects get a chance to learn something they enjoy.

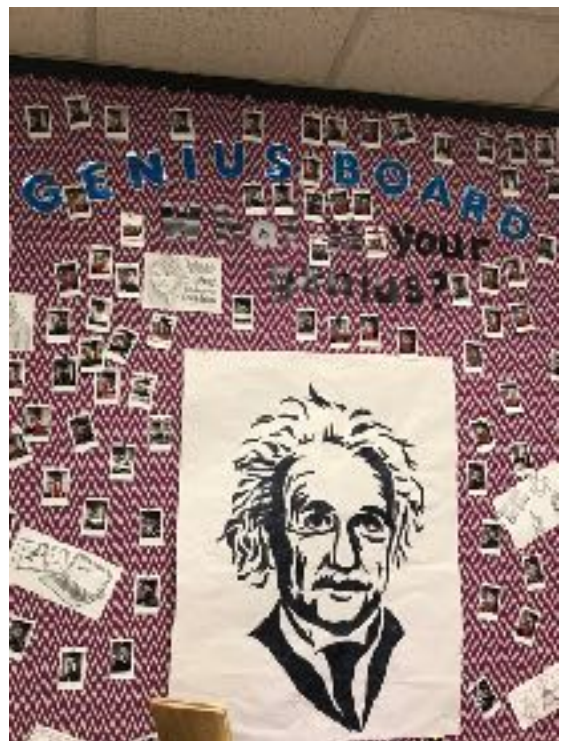
I also asked her, "What difference she thinks it will make at St. Pius and in the community?" She said it will teach students real life skills like advertising if they are selling and problem solving.

I also asked Mr. Mayer that question and he said, "It will change the students and everything they touch in an amazing way."

Anybody who did not do Genius Hour said they are very excited to learn new things, experiment, and be creative.

I am also super excited!

By: Whitney Scherrer



Best Winter Vacation Spots

1. Costa Rica
2. Bora Bora
3. Kauai
4. Lake Tahoe
5. Barcelona, Spain
6. Whistler, Colorado
7. Playa del Carmen
8. Tulum
9. St. Martin
10. Queenstown
11. Seychelles
12. Aspen, CO
13. San Miguel de Allende
14. Key West

By: Jonden Folck and Joe Whitlock



Meet Mrs. Sitzman

This school year we have a familiar face in the fifth grade... it's Mrs. Sitzman!

Mrs. Sitzman taught kindergarten for a year during the 2012-2013 school year and with her return she's teaching the same class she had 6 years ago. Being a member of that that class I got the chance to ask her some questions.

First, I asked why she chose to come back to Saint Pius X and her response was "I love the St. Pius culture".

Next, I asked what other schools/grades she had taught at previously, she said she taught 4th grade at St. Simon and 4th grade at Cumberland (HSC).

Lastly, I asked how it was to have the only class she taught again six years later. She said it is a "treat".

We are very excited to have Mrs. Sitzman back in the St. Pius X community!

By: Vinny Quarto



**Current College
Football Rankings**

Alabama

Clemson

Oklahoma

Penn State

USC

Washington

Georgia

Michigan

TCU

Wisconsin

Ohio State

Virginia Tech

Auburn

Miami

Oklahoma State

Meet The Beacon Jr. Kaizen

Hey Panthers! A lot of people have been asking what our Kaizen does. Our Kaizen is The Beacon Jr.. The Beacon is the name of the quarterly newsletter that we write stories for. Every Kaizen meeting we write new stories or edit and add to already started stories. Another thing that we do is take pictures and interview students, teachers, and faculty members. Here are



some stories that we worked on that have been in previous copies of The Beacon. Previously in The Beacon we did an article on Catholic Schools Week, Everybody Counts and 8th Grade Buddies. This year The Beacon members include Danny O’Gara(8th), Maria Truby (6th), Whitney Scherrer(6th), Kaitlyn Stehlik(8th), Jonden Folk(3rd), Joe Whitlock(3rd), Lexi Knoll(3rd), Vinny Quarto(5th), and us, Josie Myers and Ella Gries(5th). Another thing that we do is sidebars saying things

such as most popular songs ,shoe brands, and restaurants, etc... Also sometimes we put bible verses in the sidebar. We would like to thank Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Freije ,and Mr. Esposito for their help with this Kaizen!



By: Ella Gries and Josie Myers

College Basketball Preseason Rankings

- Duke
- Arizona
- Kansas
- Michigan State
- Wichita State
- Louisville
- Kentucky
- Villanova
- USC
- Florida
- Miami
- North Carolina
- Notre Dame
- Minnesota
- Northwestern

The Heart of Letter Writing Kaizen



The Heart of Letter Writing is a Kaizen that writes letters for all different types of people! A couple of examples of people who receive letters from this Kaizen are people in need, veterans, victims of tragedies, and hurricane victims.

They write that letter to make others happy, help them, support others, and show love.



The Heart of Letter writing Kaizen has many goals they would like to achieve by the end of this year. They would like to come to understand how much they can make someone's day with a note. This Kaizen believes that bringing happiness to others is extremely important, and they want to spread as much kindness as possible. Currently, they are showing some love by making letters for veterans for Veterans Day! How kind is that!



Since this Kaizen is helping others so much, they need a little extra help with supplies! They

appreciate the items that we give them and would love more time if possible.



Sending letters to others requires some postage and some art supplies (paper, markers, pencils, etc.). A little supply goes a long way. If you know anybody that would appreciate or needs a letter to make them, happy, just contact kap1102@yahoo.com (Katie Pastorino).

By: Kaitlyn Stehlik