

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 2017-2018 Beacon Junior Kaizen Committee Members

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

Robotics

Hey Panthers!

For this article I decided to write about the Robotics Club because basically only the members and leaders of the club know what happens during the practices and competitions. It works out nicely that I myself am a part of the club so I know a lot. There are two teams, a middle school team and an elementary school team. Every semester each of the teams makes a robot using VEX robotics pieces. We meet once a week on Mondays. Every week we work on our robots. Also we do a STEM project with a presentation and board similar to our Science Fair that we have here at SPX. This semester the elementary team did their STEM project on bio hybrids. Bio hybrids are small robots made of spiraling algae and cells that are injected into the body to deliver drugs and therapy exactly through cancer tumors. At the end of each semester both teams are entered into a competition and have the chance to win trophies based on our STEM project, points in driving, and points in skills. Robotics is a lot of fun! Though this year's season is over, I highly recommend doing it next year! Thanks for reading!

By: Josie Myers



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, Aileen Puno, Lauren Rennier, Molly Waymouth and Michelle Weber.

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

Meet Mr. Myers

Hey there panthers! We wanted you to meet the new primary/intermediate gym teacher, Mr. Myers! We went to interview him and here is how you can get to know him!

He said he really likes teaching and SPX. He said he likes the school. He loves the family aspect and how we all care for one another. A fun fact about him is that he has visited all the major league baseball stadiums in the US....how cool!

We really liked talking to him and he is a great gym teacher. We hope he loves this school as much as we do. Make sure you say hello to him when you see him in the hallway!

By: Maria Truby and Joe Whitlock



Get To Know The Teachers

If you have ever wondered what pets your teachers have, we have found your answers!

Mrs. Thompson: Dog named Lucy

Mrs. Warrick: Cat named Dory

Mrs. Austin: Dog named Buddy

Mrs. McNulty Dog named Wriggle

Ms. Tricky: Dog named Beauty



Middle School Ice Skating

This year the middle schoolers went on their annual ice skating trip before Christmas break. It was so fun! Some of the teachers went and it looked like they were enjoying themselves, too!

Everyone did so well on the ice, even the first time skaters like me. With the lights off and the disco ball on it was so pretty.

Everyone was bundled up at first but because we were all working hard we had to take some layers off. They had yummy churros and hot chocolate that everyone was able to enjoy and relax.

For the sixth grade it was the first time and they had such a good experience and cannot wait for next year. The seventh graders also had a good time and looked like professionals. For the eighth graders, it was sadly their last time but they looked like Olympic gold medalists on the ice.

By: Whitney Scherrer and Lexi Knoll



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The Teacher Tournament

The teachers chose their March Madness brackets and we have their chosen champs listed below!

- 1: Virginia 28%
- T2: Purdue 20%
- T2: Villanova 20%
- 4: Xavier 13%
- T5: Michigan State 7%
- T5: Duke 7%
- T5: Michigan 7%
- T8: Tennessee 2%
- T8: Arizona 2%
- T8: North Carolina 2%



Trip of a Lifetime

This past summer I was blessed with being able to go to Hawaii for the very first time. My parents wanted to celebrate their twentieth anniversary somewhere that we have never been before! They wanted to include my sister and me for a very special family vacation that we would never forget. It had always been a dream of all of ours to visit Hawaii. I am so grateful for being able to visit this beautiful and magnificent state.

Our first flight was to Texas, and from there we were off to Hawaii. We spent a long time up in the air, a total of more than nine hours in the air. There is a big time difference which made things very confusing, and it caused us lots of jetlag. The first island we visited was Honolulu, Oahu. Honolulu was the most economical and city-like island in Hawaii. We were there for a little over two days and two nights. The first day we woke up early to go and visit Pearl Harbor. I learned so much that I have always been so curious about. I got to go out and see the remaining parts of the boats that went down. I also saw real submarines, a beautiful memorial, a museum, and we watched a video with lots of crazy information I never knew about. It was truly a beautiful and very interesting experience that I will never forget.

Then we went just exploring the town, and went down to the ocean for a little bit. The beach was very crowded, but I still had a great time cooling off in the water. Then we sadly had to leave, but luckily got to go to The Big Island next. The flight is around thirty minutes, and we landed in an outside airport which was crazy! We went to our resort which was magnificent! The whole place was gorgeous and had endless activities to do. I got to do paddle boarding, snorkeling, swimming, relaxing, adventuring around the town, and so many more incredible excursions. I was lucky enough to spend a week in paradise!

Eventually we had to leave the Big Island and make our way to Maui. When I took my first step in Maui, my jaw dropped! I have



never experienced something so beautiful and gorgeous. This resort felt like I was staying at a castle. There were water slides, pools, and an ocean right next to the patio. The light blue water was so clear we were able to see a turtle swimming by. In Maui we did some more snorkeling and got to see gigantic turtles! We also were able to relax and spend some amazing family time that I would not trade in for anything! My parents renewed their vows for their twentieth anniversary, took some pictures, and then had a lovely celebration just the four of us. Those are some memories that I will hold very near to my heart. At the end of the week, we had to take a couple flights back home, which was a very difficult process. We eventually did make it back home to Indiana!



Other than the flight difficulty at the very end, I had the most amazing trip to Hawaii I could ever ask for. I would go back in a heart beat. I would love someday to go back with my family, and I highly recommend going to anyone interested. I am so thankful and grateful for this incredible experience. My trip to Hawaii was truly an experience I will never forget.

By: Kaitlyn Stehlik



Major League Baseball Teams

Top 5 Major League Baseball Teams Going Into The Season

1. The Houston Astros
2. The Los Angeles Dodgers
3. The Cleveland Indians
4. The Washington Nationals
5. The New York Yankees



Panther Helping Hands Kaizen

The Panther Helping Hands Kaizen is giving food to the Cathedral High School food pantry. They make the food and then give it to them and they give it to the poor and homeless.



Miss Trickey runs the kaizen. I asked her a few questions. She said they make meal items like spaghetti and banana pudding. They also make snacks like trail mix. There are a lot of hands on activities and looks like a lot of fun. This kaizen meeting they were cutting bananas and mixing trail mix. They are a big help to people in need! If you like cooking and hands on activities then this is the right kaizen for you! Bye my SPX friends!

By: Ella Gries



Top Broadway Shows

- The Lion King
- Wicked
- The Phantom of the Opera
- Dear Evan Hansen
- Aladdin
- Hamilton
- School of Rock - The Musical
- Chicago



Sphero

In technology class at St. Pius X Catholic School our new teacher, Mr. Esposito, has gotten a tool to help with coding for the students. This tool is a spherical robot that can either be used for fun and play, or for learning, and it is called a Sphero (see image). There are multiple ways to use a Sphero. The simplest of which is probably "Draw" coding, in which the user draws a path that the Sphero reads as code. Next is "Block" coding, where one uses preset blocks to program the robot. Finally, the most difficult coding type is "Write" coding. With this code one must type out all the code. This is what is taught to students in eighth grade.

With the different types of coding, you can make the Sphero do many different things, for example: roll, change color, speak, make a sound, or repeat code. Also, games can be played with the Sphero. In eighth grade, students are participating in a Sphero Olympics, events of which are speed skating and slalom.

In conclusion, the Sphero is a fun new learning tool at Saint Pius. We have enjoyed the time we have had to use it, and we believe it is well liked around the school. We certainly think that it will be an important technology teaching tool at Saint Pius in years to come.

By: Danny O'Gara and Jonden Folck



Top 10 Spring Break Destinations

- 1.Cancun, Mexico
- 2.South Padre island, Texas
- 3.Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 4.The Bahamas
- 5.Panama City Beach, Florida
- 6.Lake Havasu, AZ
- 7.Colorado Spring Break Ski
- 8.Negril, Jamaica
- 9.Las Vegas, NV
- 10.Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

The Take Over Of Battle Royale

There has been only one game that everyone is talking about and that is Fortnite: Battle Royale. Fortnite Had over 3.2 million people play at the same time last week! Battle Royale is a genre of game where you jump out of something flying usually an airplane but in Fortnites case a bus. When you pick the spot you want to land at you face of against 100 other players as you try to find weapons and supplies to be the winner, this is based of the Hunger Games. H1Z1 was the first major battle royal game but then in 2017 a game called PlayerUnknown's: Battlegrounds took over. But now in late 2017 and all of 2018 it's been all Fortnite. What separates Fortnite from the rest is the fact that it is free to play. You can also build fortresses and towers in Fortnite. Another great feature is the constant addition of content that they seem to update daily with new clothes and weapons that have different tiers. The challenge of these games are the shrinking of the storm that you have stay within or you slowly die. I think Fortnite is a good game and am very happy it is free.

By: Vinny Quarto



Parking Lot Rosary

Our SPX Art Kaizen has just painted a giant rosary in the back parking lot. We asked them some questions and here are there answers!

We asked them why they wanted to make a giant rosary, and what the purpose was. They said that they wanted it to be an interactive rosary that you can move around with. They also said that it would be easier if they did do that because they wouldn't have to bring their rosaries outside with them. They said that they want to also help the parish with it.

Thank you for what you guys are doing and make sure you take a look at that wonderful piece of artwork!!

By: Maria Truby and Joe Whitlock

