

## THE MESSENGER



ST. MICHAEL  
*the Archangel*  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February 2018

### Mary Angela Lee Shares Native South Korea with Classmates

Mary Angela Lee, a new Grade 3 student in Mrs. Sosa's class, moved to Cary this December from South Korea. She grew up on the U.S. Air Force base in Osan, in the province of Gyeonggi. This city is about 75 miles east of Pyeongchang, South Korea, the site of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

"I liked living there and I miss my old school," Mary said, "but I like it here, too, and I'm making many friends. At my old school {American military school} there were not very many English-speaking teachers and the children were from many different places."

In South Korea she enjoyed basketball, baseball, handball and rock climbing. She is hoping to begin Karate lessons soon.

She has enjoyed watching the South Korean athletes compete in previous Olympics, especially Kim Yuna, the famous figure skater who lit the Olympic cauldron at this year's opening ceremony.



For her recent country project, Mary was excited to share South Korean with her classmates.

"I told them about the different money and the food, and about the Korean Folk Village that I loved," she said.

She also taught her classmates about significance of the elements in the country's flag, South Korea's history and famous palaces, Korean instruments, ceremonial dress, important holidays, and popular music and culture.

## Students Prepare for Catholic Schools Academic Decathlon

St. Michael Catholic School students have been intensely training for an upcoming decathlon, but they haven't even laced up their sneakers!

This decathlon is not the traditional "10-event athletic contest consisting of the 100-meter, 400-meter, and 1500-meter runs, the 110-meter high hurdles, the javelin and discus throws, shot put, pole vault, high jump, and long jump." (Merriam-Webster)



A dedicated group of 24 students, Gr. 6-8, has been meeting for several months to prepare for our school's first entry in the [Catholic Schools' Academic Junior High Decathlon \(AJHD\)](#). They are coached by Heidi Lawrence, Curriculum Director.

Mrs. Lawrence said, "What a tremendous opportunity for our students as they focus on their God-given academic strengths! I am

so proud of them. They have given their time both in and out of the school day. I am also grateful for our parents who lovingly support their children as they work hard to represent our school."

Two 10-member teams of Grade 6 and 7 students will compete on March 2 in the 10 events, sparring against Immaculata School, St. Catherine of Siena School, and The Franciscan School. Unfortunately, our Grade 8 students will be on their traditional trip to Washington, D.C. that day, but they are glad to be helping the younger students, which is great preparation for next year's competition.

The 10 events are:

1. Logic Quiz – team event
2. Super Quiz -team event
3. Religion
4. English and Spelling
5. Literature
6. Science
7. Mathematics
8. Current Events
9. Social Studies
10. Fine Arts (art and/or music)

The Catholic Schools AJHD was founded in 1989 by Dr. Mark Ryan, a teacher in Los Angeles. Over the years, it grew to be a nationwide event and is now organized by the California Catholic State Superintendents Curriculum Committee.

The organization lists its five goals as:

1. To promote academic excellence
2. To promote collaborative spirit and cooperative learning skills
3. To promote logical and higher order thinking
4. To recognize the contributions of parents, teachers, school administrators, and business and community members in supporting high standards for all students
5. To celebrate the diversity, excellence, and tradition of Catholic school,

Students, faculty, and StMS families will be cheering for our StMS Academic Decathlon Teams. We'll keep everyone updated on the results through Twitter @StMSCary.

[Follow this link to view the names of all students participating in the Academic Decathlon.](#)

## StMS to Participate in NC Science Olympiad

As many of us are watching and enjoying the Winter Olympics on television, 36 students and their coaches have been meeting every Monday afternoon, as they have been for many months, to prepare to compete in a different kind of Olympics. Every year, St. Michael School students compete in the [NC Science Olympiad \(NCSO\) tournament](#). This year's competition will take place on February 24 at Fayetteville Community College.

Students will compete in both the JV and Varsity competitions. They compete in teams, tackling various activities aimed at increasing their understanding of science and the importance of research and process. Some of these events are: Crime Busters, Disease Detectives, Meteorology, Hovercraft, Ping-Pong Parachute, Potion and Poisons, and the Duct Tape Challenge.



"I love science and Science Olympiad's has given me the chance to work on projects and learn about subjects that I am interested in. This year, I am working on Ping Pong Parachutes. We spend the year

working on the design and then testing it. We must perfect our launch and maximize the amount of air time. Our coach, Mr. Elms, has worked with us for three years. He worked at NASA during the rocket launches and his experience, knowledge and stories has taught us so much. It has been a really cool experience.”

The Science Olympiad teams are looking forward to next Saturday’s competition, where they will be ready to demonstrate their science knowledge. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has been buzzing after school with future scientists and engineers working hard on their events, as the competition approaches. Let’s go Science Olympiad Angels!

[Follow this link to view the names of all students participating in the Science Olympiad.](#)

## Catholic Identity Team Spearheads StMS Catholic Schools Week

This year’s celebration of Catholic Schools Week at St. Michael Catholic School, thoughtfully planned and executed by our faculty, was the perfect mix of “celebrate” and “Catholic”.

Every faculty member serves on one of four mission teams – specific areas of focus identified in our Strategic Action Plan.



The teachers who comprise the Catholic Identity Mission Team were charged this year with making CSW 2018 both fun and relevant for our students, teachers, and families. They are: Ms. Dries, Ms. Wisniewski, Ms. Brown, Ms. Corcoran, Ms. Sondag (not pictured), Ms. Enright, and Ms. Krear.

Catholic Schools Week began on Sunday, January 29. Mrs. Navarro and Ms. Lane, joined by Mrs. Toscano, director of St. Michael Preschool, spoke at all the weekend Masses, thanking parishioners for their support and welcoming them to join both schools in their respective weeklong

celebrations.

The week’s activities included:

**Sunday: Grow in Christ** - Students wore their school uniforms to weekend Masses to show their pride in their school.

**Monday: Grow with our Community** - Each student received a CSW button to wear. Prizes were awarded all week for wearing the button.

**Tuesday: Grow with our Students** - Crazy-Hair Day was great fun, and students enjoyed cross-shaped lollipops.



**Wednesday: Grow with our Nation** - Weekly Mass was followed by a patriotic assembly and the presentation of \$768 to the RDU USO to assist traveling service men and women.

**Thursday: Grow with our Vocations:** We celebrated vocations with a fun Family Feud game: Priests/Deacons vs. School Administrators and Faculty. Younger students made thank you cards for our clergy and parish staff.

**Friday: Grow with our Faculty and Staff** - What better way to end CSW 18 than with a teacher lunch provided by our PTO, and an afternoon pep rally!

**Monday: Career Day** – We welcomed dozens of speakers and speed mentors to interact with our middle school students. NC State Head Football Coach Dave Doeren was our keynote speaker. In addition, the author of a hands-on science book engaged our Gr. 4 and 5 students.