



November 2017

Grade 5 Students to Assist Raleigh Homeless

What does it take to make a difference? Sometimes all it takes is one good idea and one good person committed to a cause.

Caden Klausner, a Grade 5 student with three siblings also attending St. Michael School, had a strong interest in helping the homeless. Caden’s father, Dr. Brian Klausner, a primary-care physician for WakeMed, specializes in population health initiatives, working to improve the health outcomes of the most vulnerable in our community, many of whom are homeless. He partners with Raleigh Rescue Mission and other community providers to collaboratively care for these highest-risk patients.

Caden began to raise money to help, and hoped his classmates might also be able to help. He presented his idea to his teachers, and then to the students, and everyone was enthusiastic.



Caden says he first encountered homeless people when visiting San Francisco with his family. “We had been to Lake Tahoe to see my grandparents and then went to San Francisco. I saw the homeless people just being ignored and asked my Dad if we could give them some money. When I got home I decided that my Dad was the one making a difference, not me. So, I started saving my money, and then my friends wanted to help, too,” Caden said.

This voluntary Grade 5 service project is now taking shape.

Students are discussing ways to raise money for the homeless through car washes, lemonade stands, bake sales, etc.

The students posted flyers at school asking for a \$5 or more donation. Those that donate receive a blue rubber bracelet that says, “I helped the homeless. St. Michael the Archangel School.”

All donations will be tracked and then presented to the Raleigh Rescue Mission at the end of the school year. The students have chosen to financially support a “snack attack” drive that helps provide healthy eating habits in the children and families served by the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

St. Michael School is proud of these Grade 5 students and fully supports their efforts. Watch for those bake sales, car washes and lemonade stands, and help if you are able. And if you see a student wearing that light blue bracelet, ask them about how they are helping the homeless.

What a great way to help make the students aware of their blessings and teach them how to work to help others not as fortunate.

Students Tour Hispanic Countries via “Pasaporte”

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, St. Michael School families joyfully shared the cultures of their native countries.

Mrs. Karen Dries, who has taught Spanish at St. Michael School for 12 years, wanted to engage school families and students in a new and different way. She suggested an interactive, fun Hispanic Heritage Tour, which was held on October 11 in Archangel Hall.

Mrs. Zawierucha knew that her middle school students would be eager to work on this, as well. With the assistance of parent volunteers, Mrs. Dries and Mrs. Zawierucha moved forward from an abstract idea to a concrete plan. The goal was to celebrate our diversity and shine a spotlight on the many StMS families with roots in Spanish-speaking countries.





Students and guests were issued a “pasaporte” as they entered Archangel Hall. They toured the event and visited Argentina, Perú, Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Spain, and many other countries. Each family worked hard to decorate their table space with maps, flags, instruments, clothing, and more. After learning about a country, guests received a stamp in their “pasaporte” and moved on to another country. In addition to the wonderful tables, the Archangel Hall walls were decorated with flags made by Mrs. Zawierucha’s middle school students. It was a team effort and a wonderful “year one” for this event.

Some of the comments shared after the event included:

“It was amazing to hear the kids’ comments, questions and watch the expressions on their faces. They got to see different parts of the world and learn how we differ and yet how we are so much alike. Many were eager to tell us about their heritage and if they knew anyone from our countries.”

“What a wonderful time we had! Thank you so much for making this possible!”

“I am thrilled at the result; this morning was more than I had hoped for. It was a wonderful celebration of Hispanic Heritage at StMS.”

“I hope this is the beginning of a wonderful tradition. Our hearts are filled with joy.”

School Counselors Provide Education, Support

St. Michael School is blessed to have two school counselors. Mrs. Lael Mills works with our PreK to Grade 5 students and Ms. Lorelei Lindow has been recently hired to support our Grade 6-8 students and their families.

But, what does a school counselor do and why is their work important?

“Our school counselors are very important members of our education team,” said Ms. Peggy Lane, assistant principal. “As a school, and especially a Catholic school, we have an obligation to help our students become well-adjusted, productive, and faith-filled citizens. Navigating the ups and downs of

daily life as a child or teen is not easy. Mrs. Mills and Ms. Lindow have the training and experience to help students achieve academically while growing in their personal and social lives.”



Mrs. Mills explained, “Ms. Lindow and I are advocates for the students’ needs. We provide classroom guidance and work in small groups to meet needs identified by teachers, administration, and parents. Most of our time is spent interacting with individual students, and then meeting with parents to discuss any needs that may be prompted because of life changes,” she said.

StMS school counselors also teach classroom lessons on subjects such as worry, friendship, and kindness, and

arrange for guest speakers and special programming for preventative measures, such as Funny Tummy through Safe Child in Wake County.

Mrs. Mills shared an example of the important role of a counselor. “A teacher shared a concern about a new student who was doing very well academically, but didn’t seem to be making many friends,” said Mrs. Mills. “After talking further to the teacher, and then to the student, we were able to help the student get to know a few classmates who shared similar interests. It was a simple intervention that really helped the new student feel more comfortable in his new setting,” she said.

Our counselors work closely with the teachers and with Mrs. Heidi Lawrence, Director of Curriculum and the Connections program.

Mrs. Lawrence said, “A team approach allows educators, counselors, learning specialists, parents, and students to work together to guide a student’s overall development. Issues range greatly from student to student; however, through the knowledge and collective experience of many, the student and his or her family always benefits. Our goal is to maximize each student’s academic, emotional, and social success at StMS.”



Members of the Sisterhood Club enjoy lunch and conversation with Ms. Lindow.

To learn more about the role of school counselors, please visit these pages:

<http://www.schooltube.com/video/bfedcdeb28ad6966016f/How-School-Counselors-Contribute-to-Student-Success>

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Careers-Roles/WhyMiddle.pdf>

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Careers-Roles/WhyElem.pdf>

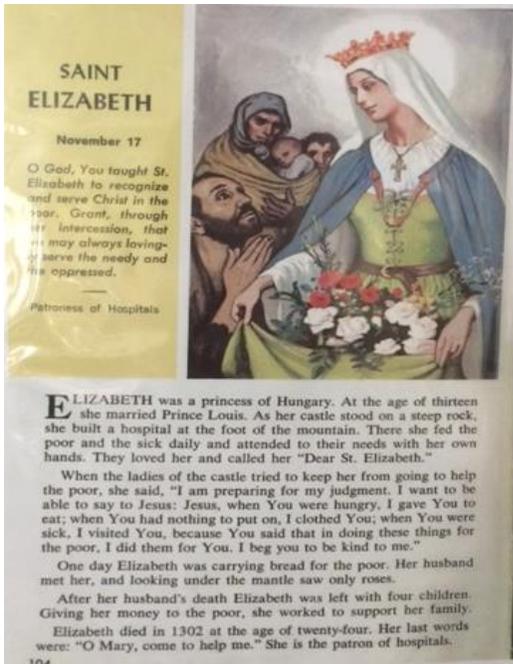
To arrange to speak to either [Mrs. Mills](#) (Tuesdays/Thursdays) or [Ms. Lindow](#) (Wednesdays), please email them or leave a message at the school office.

Catholic Identity Mission Team Helps StMS Learn About Catholic Saints

Every member of the St. Michael School faculty is a member of one of four Mission Teams. Each team is tasked with advancing the mission of the school in accordance with the school’s strategic plan.

The Catholic Identity Mission Team works to strengthen our school’s Catholic identity by educating the community about the faith. Last year the team chose to focus on providing information about our Catholic saints. They created an extensive calendar of saints by the day of the week, and then provided links to biographies, photos, videos, and other teaching tools.

“We started with the daily calendar list of saints,” explained Mrs. Siobhan Brown, Gr. 8 Math teacher and a member of the Catholic Identity Mission Team. “Then, Mrs. Kim Wisniewski researched each saint and provided a short biography, a photo, and links for further information,” said Brown.



The teachers now have access to a very thorough electronic binder of information, and they can add new links and information as they teach.

One saint was chosen for each month, based on the qualities of that saint that most closely match the three or four Positivity Project character strengths for that month. Students study one character strength each week in their classrooms, so an effort was made to choose monthly saints that would reinforce that study.

Mrs. Karen Dries, Pre-K to Grade 5 Spanish teacher, researched the best ways to help our younger students understand the saints. These included coloring pages and simple stories of the works the saints performed.

School parents Mrs. Jennifer Sliva and Mr. John Flanagan also assisted. Once the monthly saints had been determined, they prepared a more in-depth PowerPoint presentation as a resource for teachers.

St. Michael Catholic School Saints of the Month

Month	Saint	Strength Connection	Feast Day
September	St. Teresa of Calcutta	Other People Matter & Open-mindedness	September 5
October	St. Michael	Bravery	September 29
November	St. Elizabeth	Humility/Modesty	November 17

December	St. Nicholas	Kindness	December 6
January	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Perseverance/Hope/Optimism	January 4
February	St. Valentine	Love	February 14
March	St. Dominic Savio	Zest/Enthusiasm/Forgiveness/Humor	March 9
April	St. John Baptist de la Salle	Love of Learning	April 7
May	Blessed Mother Mary	Leadership/ Month of Mother Mary	May

For information about the Saints of the Month, please visit these websites:

<http://www.reallifeathome.com/free-catholic-word-search-printables-for-kids/>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<https://wau.org/resources/categories/saints-christian-heroes/>

<http://gnm.org/saints-find/>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints>