



# Panther Pages

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## Editorial

*Mary Brodeur*

### Languages at St. Pius

Many schools do not have many foreign languages. They may have one or two, but not as many as four, as St. Pius has. If you don't already know, St. Pius X studies four different languages: Spanish, German, Latin, and Italian. Kindergarten - Grade 3 learn Spanish from Mr. Kronenberg and Grade 4 has German with Mrs. Cozzolino. Grades 5-7 have Latin also with "Mr. K" and Grade 8 has the extreme pleasure to work with the renowned Principal Fiore. The kids have a lot of fun with Mr. K's very creative Spanish activities. They truly get a lot out of it. German classes are also a lot of fun. I remember when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and we used to play German bingo and we had to figure out the German Mrs. Cozzolino would say aloud. That is a very good way of learning German vocabulary. At present, Grade 5 is learning Latin instead of another year of German. This way, the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders get a taste of Latin before heading into middle school. The Eighth Graders get all the fun though. ☺ Since I'm in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, I should know! We have already learned numbers 1-1,000,000, colors, and have completed a Christmas project.

Having more than one or two languages is pretty important and very impressive. It helps students know and understand the gist of a language and learning about its culture is just as important. In that case, if they ever go to a certain country, be it Italy, or Germany, the students will be able to order from a German or Italian menu from a restaurant. Pretty neat, huh? I already know at least numbers 1-10 in four different languages!! *Mary B.*

### Pre-K

#### Pre-K 3

Pre-K 3 recently made a quilt with Pre-K 4. They also visited the Elms to sing Christmas songs, see Santa, and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Pre-K

had juice and gingerbread cookies too! They loved visited the residents, and the residents loved them. One exciting and funny moment that happened was that Mr. Fiore joined Pre-K for the chicken dance. *Laura-Jo K.*

## Pre-K 4

The Pre-k 4 students performed an Epiphany play, which was a revised version of the Christmas play that was postponed due to a snow storm. Thank you to Miss Schackner for helping them during music class. They made ornaments and decorations during Advent, and were reminded that Jesus is the reason for the season. With the emphasis on honesty and always telling the truth, the case of the broken lunar moth was solved, and praise was given to show that honesty is always the best policy. *Elizabeth A.*



## Elementary

### Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been busy at center time, practicing letters and sounds, creating art projects, and so much more. In Science, they've been learning about living and nonliving things. They're also learning about names of baby animals. In Math, they've been practicing counting and writing numbers. For Reading, they are learning new sight words. In Religion, Kindergarten is thanking God for all the wonderful people he has given us: family, friends and teachers. They even got to go to a Christmas tree farm for a field trip with Grade 1. Big John Leyden gave them a seedling to take home. *Patrick D.*

## Grade 1

In Reading, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade has been sounding out and tapping out syllables, and have done comprehension questions. In Math, they are learning subtraction. They are learning about glued sounds (e.g. Qu) in Phonics and about 4 letter words in Spelling. In Religion, they are learning about Advent and Christmas, The Ten Commandments, and forgiving. As they shared their good deeds, and Santino V. made his teachers laugh. *James J.*

## Grade 2

Grade 2 enjoyed making Christmas cards for their families. A very funny event happened one day in Grade 2. One of the students, in the process of trying to get the air out of a zip lock bag, popped it very loudly! Mrs. Cozzolino and Mrs. Nelson have a few gray hairs from the explosion. *Nick M.*

## Grade 3

In Social Studies, the third graders have been studying changes that have occurred all over the world. They also worked independently on a project, where they interviewed an older relative or friend over Christmas vacation. They had to discover what important changes have occurred today that make their lives different from what their relatives were. Examples are- "What did they have for entertainment?" and "Did they have technology?" The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders also got to present their projects to the class. Lastly, Mrs. Senatore is proud of her students because they are always willing to share when a child is missing a lunch, or cannot buy something because they did not bring money. *Matt D.*

## Grade 4

In Religion, Grade 4 is learning about Baptism and how it unites us with Christ and the Church. In Social Studies, they

are learning about the U.S. government. In English, they are learning about direct object and subject complement. In Math they are performing their multiplication facts and are getting ready for division! Good luck Grade 4!! Grade 4 has begun writing in pen, and they are writing their spelling words and tests in pen now. Although all other subjects are still written in pencil, they write everything in cursive. -*Elizabeth A.*

### Grade 5

The Grade 5 students made dioramas of Newbery Award winning books. This was given as a reading assignment. In Math the students have begun the chapter on division, and are on the relationship between Multiplication and Division. In Social Studies the Grade 5 students read about when Cortez conquered the Aztec Empire. For Religion they watched a movie called "The Nativity" to show the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As a good deed, the Grade 5 students made Christmas ornaments out of recycled jigsaw puzzle pieces for the Christmas Bazaar. All 32 were sold! For fun they made gingerbread houses. Mrs. Iacoi, (Sydney's Mom) supplied the candy and goodies to make gingerbread houses that looked good enough to eat. *Nate E.*

## Middle School

### English

Gr. 6-Students gave congratulatory speeches, highlighting the qualities of their fellow students. Gr.7-Wrote out individual family traditions and shared them with the class. Grammar- Practicing using nouns in original sentences from subject to object complements.

Gr.8- Working on individual "How-to Articles" with clear and concise instructions.

Mrs. DiMuccio is waiting for Hollywood to call -School pictures of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were so pretty and handsome. *James J.*

### Literature

The Middle School grades have been working on supporting details, cause and effect, sequencing, comparison and contrast. Gr. 8 is very strong in recognizing the skills that are needed and how to apply them. Gr. 7 is getting more confident working with these formats. Gr. 6 just finished an excerpt from "My Side of the Mountain". Mrs. Swain believes they were rather surprised and dismayed at what the young "hero" of the story found to eat in order to survive. This prompted Mrs. Swain to ask the 6<sup>th</sup> graders what was the most unique thing they had ever eaten. Mrs. Swain thought she "won" with the answers of octopi and alligator! *Nicolas M.*

### Science

Sixth Grade has been watching their potato eyes grow during their class time. Some have been growing excellently; others have died and smell really badly. The ones that didn't die have been planted. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade have also been growing spider plant offspring. Due to the lighting, Mrs. Swain thinks they are better now that they are at the students' homes. Turtle Fudge is also quite interesting these days. He is in a semi-hibernation phase, and the students are finding him in weird poses under the lamp. The students often ask, "Is he dead?" Of course, they have to wake him to make sure he's okay. *Nicholas M.*

## Math

Grade 6 is learning different ways to graph sets of data. Grade 7 (Pre-Algebra) is solving one step equations by adding or subtracting and also by multiplying or dividing. They are also learning to use formulas for area and perimeter as well as other formulas. Grade 8 (Algebra) is solving linear equations, using adding and subtracting and/or multiplying and dividing. They also worked on geometry with angles and triangles. *Nick W.*

## Social Studies

Grade 6 just finished studying Ancient Egypt, including its geography, the Pharaohs, and the daily lives of Ancient Egyptians.

Grade 7 is discussing the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors in the Early Americas and the blending of Spanish and Native American cultures.

Grade 8 is writing a paper on immigration during the late 1800's and why their families decided to come to America.

## Religion

Grade 6 made "stained glass windows" using signs of God's love for them. Grade 7 wrote Haikus as part of their chapter-*A Prayer for the Kingdom*. They were to write about who they are right now, about their needs and wants, or about their hopes and actions. Grade 8 made a timeline on the history of the Church in the Roman Empire. They also worked on projects about people who helped spread Christian virtue by taking a stand against injustice. *Nick W.*

## Specials

### Music

The music room has experienced numerous highlights since our last newspaper review. On Sunday, November

16, the St. Pius X Choir traveled to Providence and performed at the Dunkin Donuts Center, singing "God Bless America" prior to the P-Bruins vs. The Norfolk Admirals hockey game. On November 26, Grades K and 1 sang "Thank You Lord". They sounded wonderful! Grade 4 is coming along on the recorder and Grades 7 and 8 are very involved in music technology. Miss Schackner said these classes are very challenging for the students, but also very rewarding!! All music students are progressing very well. *Mary B.*

## Italian

The eighth grade Italian class has been very busy. They have learned the seasons, months, and days of the week in Italian. They also learned how to count from 0 to 1,000,000 in Italian! Then, they presented culture projects all about Christmas in Italy. They recently learned adjectives, starting with colors, and are learning how to tell time in Italian. They would like to wish all Panther Pages readers a Felice Capodanno (Happy New Year.) *Nate E.*

## Latin

Grade Five translated Gospel passages about Christmas, translated some Christmas carols, and began to learn about "time" (Tempus fugit!). Sixth Graders translated from the Annunciation, and the Magnificat. They examined the artwork of Jerome Nadal, and translated the "Tantum Ergo" and "Salutaris Hostia" in preparation for Catholic Schools Week Mass. Seventh Graders listened to and translated the "O Antiphons", learned about Gregorian chant, heard more famous Classical music with Latin texts, read the Magnificat, and translated Tantum Ergo and Salutaris Hostia. *Liz A.*

## Art

Grade 2 students have been creating projects that show their understanding of texture and the process of collage. Grade 3- Has just studied the color wheel and has begun a unit using watercolors. Their first painting was a landscape. *Laura-Jo K.*

## Computer

Grade K Students have played Christmas games and had fun online, drawn themselves "at the manger", and played Jump Start Kindergarten. Grade 1 First Graders also did Christmas activities online, and played Jump Start First Grade. Grade 2

We continue to do fun learning activities online that are linked to their reading book: trees, seeds growing things and Johnny Appleseed; watermelons and gourds. Grade 3 We have practiced keyboarding (typing Chicken Jokes!), and learned about "money" and "time" using the Numbers Undercover game.

Grades 4 and 5 We went on "The World's Gigundest Christmas Treasure Hunt", using our internet skills to find the answers to over a hundred questions. We experienced "Manic Monday"! And we researched information about Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement. Grade 6 Students

went on the Christmas Treasure Hunt, researched Latin liturgical music (Ave Maria and Magnificat), researched St Thomas Aquinas, and used various painting programs to change historical photos into an "alternate reality". Grade 7 Seventh Graders went on their own Treasure Hunt, used the internet to view and listen to Latin Gregorian chant and other Christmas music (Bach, Beethoven), and researched Aquinas' "Tantum Ergo".

Grade 8 Grade Eight played a very realistic online election simulation, went on the Christmas Treasure Hunt, learned about Presidents and Martin Luther King,

and began their extended "Personal Budgeting" unit. *Liz A.*

## Library

January has been very cold with lots of snow! The younger grades have been reading winter stories and enjoying them. The inauguration of President Barack Obama and Martin Luther King Junior's birthday has contributed to books and lessons on freedom and opportunity for all people in the United States regardless of race. *Mary B.*

## Spanish

Kindergarteners learned "Christmas words" and made Spanish Christmas cards. They learned about Three Kings Day, made crowns, and walked around the school "looking for the Baby". Grade 1 learned "Christmas words", and watched videos of how Christmas is celebrated in Spanish countries. Second Grade learned about "Wants" and "Needs" (Quiero/Necesito), and did silly stick-figure coloring. Third grade learned about Christmas in Mexico, made Spanish cards, and marched a Posada (looking for room at the Inn). *Liz A.*

## Physical Education

Our indoor P.E. classes are having a blast playing indoor balloon volleyball when the weather is too cold to travel to the church hall. Those classes that are able to brave the cold weather and snow filled side walks will be learning the game of basketball. The focus this month for the Presidential Fitness Test is the right angle push up. *Patrick D.*

## Resource

The resource center isn't like a typical classroom. Students come for extra help in subjects like Math, Reading, and Language Arts. Teachers might come to discuss strategies for organization for a student, or even ideas about helping a student with difficult behavior. The past several weeks Miss Magowan has joined Mrs. Burris on Friday afternoons during 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Library. She tries to have a story to share with the students that is pertinent to the season or liturgical calendar. She also tries to incorporate an activity that corresponds to the story, such as making St. Nicholas shoes and reading the story about him. Miss Lepore made Barebones mobiles with Grade 2 for Frame Your Thoughts. *Alexander B.*

## Sports

### Girls' Basketball

Although the Girls' Basketball team is 2 wins, 8 losses (as of 1/27/09), they maintain a high morale. They're also working on plays like the give and go, the pick and roll, and improving basic skills like ball handling, passing, and shooting. They have also increased endurance, and of course, they pray. *Sarah L.*

### Boys' Basketball

Although the team is 0-6 they are getting better. They're better at shooting, rebounding, and overall defense. So far the boys have played CJCR#2, St. Joseph St. Mary Mansfield, Fr. Doyle, Good Shepherd, and CJCR#1. The team shows a lot of enthusiasm while playing, so let's hear it for the boys. GO PANTHERS!!! *Nate E.*



## Catholic Schools Week

An important part of our school year at St. Pius X School is Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week is a week celebrating how great Catholic Schools and all the people involved with them are. This year it was from January 26-31. Here is what our school did during Catholic Schools Week.

\*Jan.26 - "Our Community" - We had Mass at 9:30 a.m., open to the public. Right after the Mass, our school had Open House, where the parents of potential new students came to see the classes working. Student Council members got to give tours of the school.

\*Jan.27 - "Our Students" - Eighth-graders were teachers and administrators for the day - some were even principal and secretary. Everyone else got a free tag day and ice cream!

\*Jan.28 - "Our Volunteers" - We were going to have a Mass in honor of our volunteers, but because of bad weather we had to postpone it to April 27.

\*Jan.29 - "Our Nation" - We wrote letters to all the sailors on the U.S.S. Monterey to show our support for our armed forces.

\*Jan.30 - "Our Faculty and Staff" All the teachers enjoyed a gourmet Italian luncheon cooked by Mr. Fiore, and we got out of school early! We had a Tag Day for \$1 to help the needy. An engineer visited Mrs. Shea's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra Class to talk about the importance of Math in everyday life. *Alexander B.*

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## Special Accomplishments

*Compiled by Mary B. and Sarah L.*

- † Ashley and Emily DiPietro, Grade 4, had their first basketball game of the year and won. Also, Ashley scored her first basket.
- † Issy Roeever, Grade 4, made the gymnastics team at Seaside.
- † Laura-Jo Karam, Grade 6, donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love.
- † Nicky Wollenberg and Adrienne Husband won the Spelling Bee
- † Alex Berardo won the Geography Bee.
- † Mary Brodeur and Matt DePietro won the Patriots Pen Contest.
- † Katie Boegler won the DAR Essay Contest.

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## Interview With Mrs. Turner

Q. What is your full name?

A. Cynthia Raye Turner.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Fulton, New York

Q. Do you have any siblings? If so what are their names?

A. I have one sister, Wendy, and two brothers, Dustin and Edward.

Q. Who is your greatest inspiration and why?

A. My greatest inspiration is Jesus Christ, because he gave his own life to enable others to save theirs. Jesus personifies what everyone else should inspire to be. Most importantly, he loves unconditionally.

Q. Do you have any children?

A. Yes, I have one daughter, Karry Ann. She is also an alumna of St. Pius X.

Q. What is your greatest accomplishment?

A. My greatest accomplishment would be raising a daughter who has become a wonderful, faith-filled woman.

Q. How long have you been working at St. Pius X School?

A. I have been working at St. Pius for about one year.

Q. What's your personal motto, or words to live by?

A. God's time is perfect.

Q. Please describe a defining moment in your life.

A. The day I married my husband Richard.

Q. What is the hardest lesson you have ever learned?

A. "Learning the lessons taught, from the hardest lessons learned."

*Matt D.*

*If you want to sound really  
really smart,  
just say this in Latin...*

**Canis meus id comedit**

**"My Dog Ate It"**

Mr. Fiore's  
Joke of the month



Fr. Ray: *Mr Fiore, I think there are a couple of skunks in the church parking lot. Come and help me get rid of them!*

Mr. Fiore: *Okay, Father. I will be right there!*

Mr. Fiore ran to the parking lot and met up with Father Ray. They hid behind a nearby truck. The two handsome Italian bearded leaders of our school suddenly paused in amazement as they actually heard the two skunks speaking English. Fr. Ray and Mr. Fiore carefully approached the two skunks to hear what they were saying.

At that point, the first skunk looked at the second one and said, *"Let us spray!"*