

# On 63 Liberty Street

St. Michael School  
Pawcatuck, Connecticut  
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Volume 10  
Issue 1



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#### Writers:

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Presley Smith

#### Advisor:

Mrs. Getlein

#### Upcoming Events:

Week of 11/12 – begin  
boys and girls basketball  
team practices  
Friday 11/16 – Middle  
School Dance  
Saturday 11/17 –  
Robotics Team Contest  
11/22-23 – Thanksgiving



## An Influx of New Students at St. Michael School

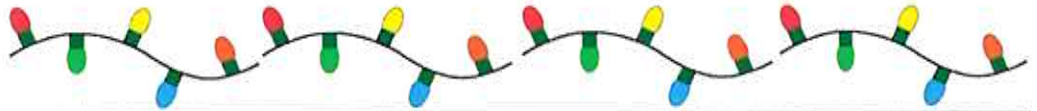
By Alexander McGrath

It is the fall of 2018 and there have been numerous amounts of new students at St. Michael School... of which I am one.

This past last school year was the last year for St. Pius X School. It was decided that the school would close its doors forever. All the students except for the eighth graders, who moved on to High School, needed to be taken into other schools. St. Michael School had been one of them. Some children went to Westerly Middle School, some to Sacred Heart in Groton, and some went to other surrounding communities.

I was welcomed at St. Michael School with open arms. Although, I still miss St. Pius X School, as I had been there for 8 years starting at a Pre-K 3 student, my memories reflect back on those days fondly. I loved it and miss it. However, I have been here only about two months at St. Michael School and for me I am getting into my niche.

In conclusion, the people are friendly here. There is a feeling of good spirit and of comradery. I am blessed to be here and I hope all of you feel the same.



## Christmas Poetry Contest

The newspaper club is holding another poetry contest. Poems can be written about any topic related to the Christmas season, and can be in any form (example: rhyming, non-rhyming, haiku, acrostic). Poems will be judged for clarity, originality and organization within these grade levels: K-2, 3-5, and middle school.

Prizes will be awarded and winning poems will be published in our next newspaper. Please include your name and grade on the back of your poem.

Each student may only submit one poem for this contest.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING POEMS IS FRIDAY, DEC. 14TH**

Please give a typed or neatly written copy of your poem to your teacher, or place inside the box outside of Mrs. Lawrence's office.



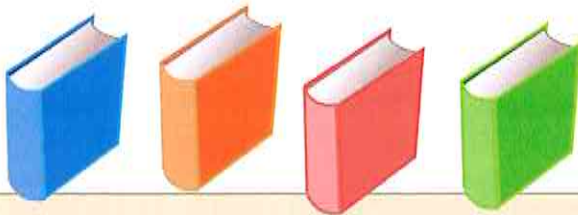
## 9 Years and Running STRONG!!! The SMS 5K Road Race

By Erica Cunningham

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Saint Michael School had their 9<sup>th</sup> annual 5k road race and 1 mile fun-run. The race started and ended at Donahue Park in Pawcatuck CT. We had over 200 walkers and runners. I ran the 5K, and can share that it was not easy because it was raining and very cold.

The overall male and female finishers were Marshall Johnson (18:38) and Rebekah Kepple (23:02). Gabriella Donnarummo and Zachary Yates won the 1-mile fun run. Thank you to all of the family and business sponsors, volunteers and basket raffle donors. It was great to see all the students from the Stonington high school cross country team along the sidewalk encouraging us while we ran. Boy scouts from Troop 9 also provided a water station on the course.

This event raised about \$8,500. All that money will be going towards the school. This is a great experience for all, and hopefully you can join us next year!



### SMS Book Fair

By Brooke Ilitzki

The St. Michael School book fair is a bi-annual event which is loved by students, teachers and parents. The book fair is attended by grades K-5. It gives the students an opportunity to walk around and browse some of the latest books, which are usually arranged into age appropriate sections. The students have an opportunity to purchase a variety of books, fun school supplies, crafts and toys!

I am proud to say that our school has raised more than \$3,000 on the event this year. If you did not have an opportunity to attend the event this fall, you are still in luck! The SMS book fair will be returning in the spring, and you should be sure to check it out!



### Flying by the Seat of your Feet: Cross Country News

By Alexander McGrath

A new year has started at St. Michaels' School and with it a new season of cross country. I am on the team this year. This year the number of members has expanded.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have been building our endurance by running three times a week after school. We take journeys to Wilcox Park, we go around the blocks near St. Michael School, and the triangle of land nearby. We work very hard by executing relays and long distance running. And, we never miss warming up as that is very crucial so that you do not pull a muscle or have a strain.



This year our meets consisted of St. Thomas Moore, Bluff Point, Pine Point School, Pawcatuck Middle School, and St. Bernard School. At these meets we compete against the clock and each other, and other school's cross country



teams as mentioned above. In order to determine who wins, the times of each of the top 5 finishers from each school are averaged together. The school with the best overall time would come in first place. It is very fun rooting each other on as well as meeting up with other kids from different schools as this allows us to be social and make new friends in the team spirit.

In conclusion, cross country is fun and is effective in keeping in shape. I have enjoyed my new team and I would recommend joining us as cross country supports you in doing your best. We only have about a week and a half left for this year. But there is always a chance to join next year.



#### *This space could be yours!*

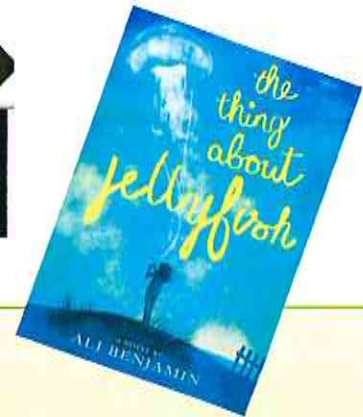
If you would like to have a creative writing piece, a story about something cool happening in your life, or a report on an issue impacting our school or community published in the SMS Newspaper... then all you have to do is reach out to one of our members (HINT: They are written on the front of this and every edition of the SMS Newspaper!). You need not be a member of the newspaper club in order to contribute an article or your creative works. We welcome all contributions. If you have questions, suggestions or ideas for stories, you can always ask our faculty advisor, Mrs. Getlein. THANK YOU!



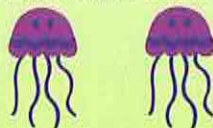
**Movie Review: SOLO***By Katie Danaher*

My movie review is about Solo, which follows the life of Han Solo in Star Wars. Star Wars is a series of movies in which Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, and Chewbacca (or Chewy for short) fight in a battle against the Evil Empire. Star Wars takes place *"a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away"*, so you can always plan on aliens and cool space stuff. Solo is suitable for the age group of about middle school and above or with parents' permission because of all the action in it. This movie is an action packed, exciting journey that leaves you on the edge of your seat. I like this movie because it gives us a backstory about how Han met Chewy. Chewy is a Wookiee, a type of alien that is tall and fluffy!

I give this movie 5 out of 5 fluffy Wookies!

**Book Review: The Thing About Jellyfish***By Presley Smith*

For this book review I read "The Thing About Jellyfish" by Ali Benjamin. The storyline of this book starts out when Suzy's old best friend Franny drowns while on vacation. But Suzy doesn't believe Franny drowned because Franny was an excellent swimmer. So Suzy goes on a mission to try to find out how Franny actually died. I didn't really enjoy this book because it felt really unrealistic to me. It felt unrealistic to me because who wouldn't know there kid was planning to fly to Australia! Also when Franny stopped being Suzy's friend Suzy stopped talking for almost a year. But when Suzy started to talk again her voice was fine. Wouldn't her voice be hushed or sore if she talked after a year? Also the ending wasn't very enjoyable. It felt unfinished and rushed because to me it felt like it ended without telling us what happened after what happened. The ending never told if she found out what actually happened to Franny or if any other important events happened after the fact. And for those reasons I give this book a 2 out of 5 jellyfish.





**Meet Our New ELA Teacher!**

*By Erica Cunningham*

This year, St. Michael School welcomed a new English and Language Arts teacher to the middle school and her name is Mrs. Getlein. Prior to becoming a teacher, Mrs. Getlein was a paramedic for fifteen years. She then taught in North Carolina for three years, before coming to Saint Michael School.

Mrs. Getlein's enjoys teaching all the middle school students, but shared that her favorite grade to teach is 8th because "the students are at the right age where they aren't little kids anymore - but not teens - and they can have in-depth discussions".

Mrs. Getlein's plan for the upcoming year is to help the students to enjoy classical literature and to learn as much from other students as they learn from her. Surprisingly, her favorite subject is not English – it is Social Studies, because she loves history. Mrs. Getlein shared her thoughts about education, "It's great when education is fun, but it's also work and you should take advantage of it because not everyone in the world is entitled to have an education".

We are so excited to have Mrs. Getlein as the new ELA teacher!

**An Interview with our new Religion & Technology Teacher!**

*By Brooke Ilnitzki*

For this interview, I met with the new SMS Religion and Technology teacher.

First, some background:

Name: Anna Brennauer

Subject: Religion and Technology

Credentials: M.A., The Catholic University of Lublin, Poland; M.A., University of St. Joseph

Q. How was it back in Poland?

A. It was different because we did not have many people who came from other places to Poland.

Q. When did you come to the United States?

A. 12 Years ago.

Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. Almost all of my life.

Q. Do you like teaching Technology or Religion better?

A. I like teaching them both. They are very fun and interesting subjects to teach.

Q. How do you like St. Michael School so far?

A. I like it very much. It is a very nice school and the students are so very nice.



### Making Changes

*By Alexander McGrath*

It was a regular sunny day when I made my way to the main office at St. Michael School to interview Father Perkins. I wanted to get information related to the rebuilding of the new church and how it was coming along.

I sat down with Father Perkins and asked, "What made you think to rebuild the church?" Father Perkins replied, "The structure was unsafe, especially in the roof and attic area. It had been under built and had stress on it. It had been a problem since 1870 when a storm shifted the church and they had to put up columns to support the roof."

I then asked, "What did you find pleasing and/or displeasing about rebuilding of the church?" Father Perkins said, "I was pleased with how generous the people were in giving to the fundraising effort. It shows me how important the church is to the people. The people have raised \$5.4 million dollars over the past six years. What I am displeased about is the construction process, as it is going slowly.



In conclusion, Father Perkins needed to rebuild the church due to structural problems. At this time there is no date pending for re-opening. The inside of the church is still being worked on. This was a great experience to hear about this story as I had been baptized by Father Perkins in the original St. Michael the Archangel Church back in 2007.

### Middle School Dance

This year our Middle School Halloween Dance will take place on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Halloween Dance will be taking place in the basement of Saint Mary Church. The dance will be hosted by our social chair Delany Reck and will be from 7pm to 10pm. The theme will be Halloween Costumes and in order to attend, you must be in the Saint Michael Middle School. Additionally, we ask that everyone bring a non-perishable food item and 5 dollars. I hope you all enjoy the dance.

