

# On 63 Liberty Street

St. Michael School  
Pawcatuck, Connecticut  
February 2020  
Volume 11  
Issue 3



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#### -- ANNOUNCEMENT--

Do you enjoy the SMS newspaper? We have a great time putting it together, however at the end of this year, both parent advisors who make the club possible will be leaving. **We need new parents** to help the club for the 2020-2021 school year. If interested, please let one of us know!

### St. Michael Church Dedication

*By Dahlyla Belanger and Lauren Koswaski, Gr. 5*

On Saturday, January 18, 2020 Saint Michael Church opened again after 8 years of waiting. In 2012, the original church closed because it was found to be unsafe due to structural issues, so they decided to knock it down and rebuild it. Volunteers and parishioners donated 6.6 million dollars toward the rebuild. Parishioners were sad when it closed but said that it was getting old and unsafe, so they were glad to see something done about it.

During construction, workers uncovered stencils that were hidden beneath and between layers of plaster. The stained-glass windows were restored from the originals as well as the confessionals. To rebuild the church, it cost 8 million dollars. Bishop Cote and Father Perkins said it felt good to dedicate the altar and the whole church on the same day. Bishop Cote blessed the walls, crosses, and other various items in the church. After the blessing, he lit candles and then the lights came on. Downstairs, a large table displayed items found during the construction.

The opening of the church was a momentous occasion with local television and newspapers there to report. After the official celebration, the church remained open until 8pm so people could come and see it. We are so happy to see the church open again!



### The March For Life

*By Gianna Kennedy, Gr. 5*

I recently went to the March for Life on January 24<sup>th</sup>. If you don't know what the March for Life is it is when thousands of people march by the Supreme Court in Washington D.C to stand up for innocent unborn babies being killed by their own mother, this is called abortion. The last time I went to the March was 6 years ago, so I did not remember a thing. My favorite part about the march was when all the speakers got up and talked. It was really encouraging to know that there were kids there my age and a lot of young college and high school students. I was surprised when I heard that Louisiana was the most pro-life state. There were two people that said that they have survived an abortion. One person said that she had a twin and that the twin was killed instead of her. I was really sad when I heard that there were a lot more aborted black babies killed than white. I got to see Donald Trump in person and that was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I held up a sign that was my favorite saying. It said, "Any country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor" -Mother Teresa. I recommend you to go because I had a lot of fun!

My name is Gianna Kennedy and I am 11 years old. I have been strongly pro-life since I was born. Nearly 125,000 unborn babies are killed in one day throughout the USA. We need to stand up and do something we need to be a voice for the voiceless and a defender for those who can't protect themselves. Now they are thinking about killing the baby after it was born. They say they would make the baby comfortable while their mother makes the decision to keep the baby or not. The population has dropped in the USA because of so many abortions. On January 18 I went to the Pro-Life dinner where they honor someone who has been a defender of life for a long time and that person was Gov. Carcieri and he opened up and asked if anyone had any questions or comments and one guy said: "I will not make decisions for a woman's body, but there is another living thing in there and that is a baby". Gov. Carcieri later said that one woman came to his office and asked if they could talk she said that she had been "pro-choice" for her whole life, but when she saw the sonogram of her first grandchild she made the decision of becoming Pro-Life!

Many people might want to disagree with being pro-life but here is my explanation of why I am pro-life. You can't honestly sit here and say that you stand for abortion because if killing unborn babies is legal then so should killing a regular person, I'm not saying that it should be legal to kill a person but killing an unborn baby is the same thing as killing a regular person except unborn babies don't have anyone or anything to protect them so why shouldn't that be illegal. There are other ways to solve a problem than just killing a baby. You could give birth to the baby and then put it into adoption or you could find someone to raise the baby. You could be killing a person who could have done great things. Babe Ruth was adopted and he was the best baseball player ever known, you could have just killed someone who could have invented a cure to cancer. People who are (pro-choice) want to use fancy words just to cover up the truth, you are killing an unborn baby. I could keep on going on and on about why I am pro-life but I am going to stop here. In conclusion, I hope you are Pro-Life and if you are not then I hope this article convinced you.

**Meet Our New SMS Music Teacher!**

*By Gianna Kennedy & Molly Niedbala, Gr. 5*

St. Michael School has recently hired a new music teacher and his name is Mr. Nisbet. Both of us decided to interview him and we asked him 11 questions. We think that he gave us very accurate responses. We would like to share all the answers with you. Mr. Nisbet said that he has been teaching music to kids for about 35 years and that his favorite instrument is the organ as well as the piano. His favorite song is "Holy, Holy, Holy". He also said that it was a very hard choice because he has a lot of favorite songs. He expects the students to make progress and see them enjoy and understand music.

Mr. Nisbet first became interested in music at the age of eight. He says that he is very experienced in music. He teaches private piano lessons and choral music to children. He also said that he had a wonderful teacher when he was younger and that is what inspired him to become a music teacher. To conclude our interview, we asked him if he had anything else he wanted to share. He wanted us to tell you that he is very happy at St. Michaels school because he feels that the students have a lot of potential.

**Meet Our School Secretary: Mrs. Lawrence**

*By Mae Giovanelli, Gr. 5*

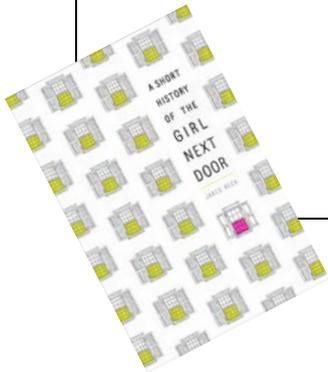
Recently I had the pleasure to interview Mrs. Lawrence, who is our secretary at Saint Michael school. Most of you know her as she greets us every morning to start our day. Here's what I learned in my interview, Mrs. Lawrence joined St. Michael's School 21 years ago. She attended Stonington High School and graduated from a small business school. When asked where she gets her energy from, she stated, "A good nights sleep!" I then asked her, what she loved most about Saint Michael School and she said, "seeing and helping all the students." If she didn't work at SMS, she said, "she would work with the public in some capacity, as she enjoys helping others." Finally, when she is not at St. Michael's, Mrs. Lawrence enjoys exercising, spending time with her family, and working on puzzles. For fun, she likes hiking and running. She comes from a large family and has a great husband and son. Her favorite activity is spending time with her husband. So now you know a little bit more about our amazing school secretary.



**Book Review***By Presley Smith, Gr. 8*

The book I read for this article is *A Short History of The Girl Next Door*. This book is about a student-athlete, Matt, who is starting his freshman year of high school with his best friend Tabby. Or that's how it was supposed to be before Tabby starting hanging out with a senior named Liam. Matt can't hang out with Tabby anymore with having Liam come into their conversation somehow. Their friendship is constantly put to the test while Matt is under stress from basketball and his love for Tabby. Matt believes that his life can't get any worse. Then tragedy strikes and Tabby dies in a car crash. This book is filled with sorrow, anger and the regret Matt feels after Tabby dies. *A Short History of The Girl Next Door* takes you hand by hand with Matt while he goes through his difficult times that he never saw coming.

I give this book 5/5 doors.

**Movie Review***By Presley Smith, Gr. 8*

The movie I watched for this article is *The Hate You Give*, at first a book by Angie Thomas. *The Hate You Give* is a very powerful, moving and relevant movie to today's world. *The Hate You Give* is about a young black girl named Starr who lives in the run-down section of town called Garden Heights. Starr was only 16 when she witnessed the shooting of her childhood friend Khalil by an officer who mistook a hairbrush for a weapon. This movie covers the basis of black discrimination and gun violence by putting it in the views of witnesses, not by those who watch it on the news. *The Hate You Give* is full of empowering and eye-opening insights into how some people are treated and live. This movie is a great way to really comprehend and understand what goes on in our world today. I highly recommend that you read this book and watch this movie.

I give these movie 5 / 5 stars.



### Middle School Dance

*By Gabby Caracciolo, Gr. 8*

On January 31, 2020 the middle school had their fire and ice dance. The girls were fire and wore red or orange. The guys were ice and wore blue or white. The dance was held at the Saint Michael's Church Hall. The dance was put together by the 8th grade class officers.



### Super Bowl LIV

*By Gianna Kennedy, Gr. 5*



As you all know Super Bowl LIV (54) happened on Sunday, February 2nd at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Florida, home of the dolphins. I am a big New England Patriots fan, but the Tennessee Titans 13-20.

Instead, the two teams that were in the Super Bowl were the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs. The 49ers got the ball to start the first quarter of the game. With about three minutes into the first quarter Patrick Mahomes, the quarterback from the Chiefs handed the ball off to Deebo Samuel, a wide receiver and made an amazing run to about the 50-yard line. Then, 8 minutes left in the first quarter, the 49ers made a field goal which counted as three points so the score remained 3-0 until the Chiefs came back and Mahomes ran the ball and scored a touchdown with 30 seconds left. At the end of the 1st quarter, the score remained 3-7 Chiefs in the lead.

At the beginning of the 2nd quarter, Jimmy Garoppolo was under pressure so he threw the ball nowhere until Breshaud Breeland the cornerback from the Chiefs caught it and it resulted in an interception. Then, right after that Samuel Watkins makes a great catch around the 30-yard line. 9:33 left till halftime and the Chiefs make a field goal. The score was 10-30, Chiefs. A few moments later Garoppolo hands off the ball to Samuel and it is in the 50-yard line. 5 minutes left and the 49ers score a touchdown by a beautiful pass to Kyle Juszczyk. Everyone is on the edge of their seats when they end the 2nd quarter 10-10, tied. The Halftime show gets worse every year. Shakira and Jennifer Lopez were singing along with one other man.

2 minutes into the 3rd quarter and Samuel makes another run to make a 1st down. 9:29 and the 49ers make a field goal. 13-10, 49ers in the lead. Right after that Mahomes passes the ball to Watkins and he makes it to the 29-yard line. There is 6 minutes left but then Mahomes gets the ball knocked out of his hands. He managed to recover and get the ball back. Right after that Mahomes makes a pass but then Federico Warner, a linebacker from the 49ers, intercepts the ball. Then Garoppolo makes a great pass to Samuel and he manages to catch it around the 40-yard line. Then Raheem Mostert, a running back from the 49ers makes a touchdown from a handoff. The score remains 20-10 at the end of the 3rd quarter, with the 49ers in the lead.

In the 4th quarter, Mahomes made a great run towards the 20-yard line with 3 minutes into the quarter. But then the 49ers tackled the person with the ball and intercepted the ball again! Then 7 minutes left till the game and Hill, from the Chiefs, makes a catch towards the 20 yard-line. Kelce makes a touchdown from a pass by Mahomes. The score was 17-20. Watkins makes a fantastic catch by the 10-yard line and almost scored a touchdown. Williams makes a touchdown. The score was 24-20, Chiefs. With 2:39 seconds left in the game.

In the end, the Chiefs won. 31-20. It was their first Super Bowl win since 1989. So it was a huge win for Kansas City.

### SPRING POETRY CONTEST!

The SMS newspaper club is holding another poetry contest. Poems can be written about any topic related to the Spring season. Poems will be judged within these grade levels: K-2, 3-5, and middle school.

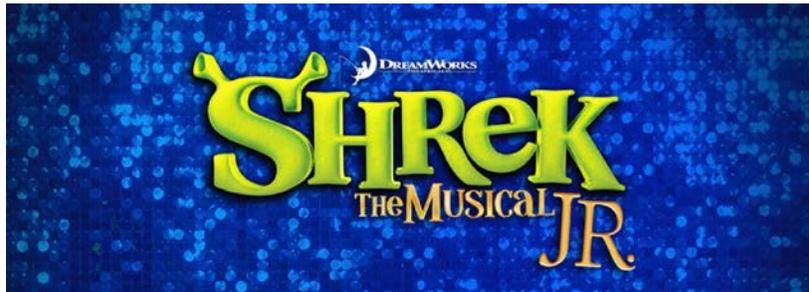
***1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE GIFT CERTIFICATES TO DQ***

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 MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

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.



#### Shrek Jr. the Musical

*By Fiona Doyle & Mae Giovanelli, Gr. 5*

This Spring Theatre Scrapbook and St. Michael School will be presenting "Shrek Jr. - The Musical". The mission of Theatre Scrapbook is to provide students of the community a fun, safe, and enriching environment where they are able to experience the wonders of musical theatre among their peers. Everybody who is interested in trying out will be cast in the show. Antonella DeAngelis is the director of Theatre Scrapbook and will be holding auditions on February 19, 2020 from 2:00 - 4:00pm. The director will pick a part of song from the show and teach it to the students. Then only if anybody wants to, he or she can get up and sing it to the director. Also, there is a choice of singing with a friend. Then students will get paired up with a buddy and they get a page from the script. The director will tell them what character they are reading for and give them 5-10 minutes to practice. There are 2 assistant directors Abrianna (Abri) and Jalisa.

There will be grades K-4 practices on Thursdays from 2:00-3:30pm, soloist practices on Wednesdays from 2:00-4:00pm, and grades 5-8 practices on Fridays from 2:00-4:00. Dress rehearsals will be April 27-29, 2020 from 4:30-6:30pm at the Westerly Middle School.

The shows will be on May 1, 2020 at 7:00pm and May 2, 2020 at 5:00pm at Westerly Middle School. There will be flyers coming out to all students at SMS with some more info. Anyone can also get more info on the website theatrescrapbook.com.

### **2020 Middle School Science Fair**

*By Gabby Caracciolo, Gr. 8*



This year's Science Fair took place in our very own St. Michael's Church Hall! All middle school students participated in the science fair as part of the science curriculum. The top finishers from 7th and 8th graders are eligible to go to the Connecticut State Science Fair, where they compete against other top finishers from schools throughout in the state. Even though 6th graders cannot take part in the State Science Fair, the top three finishers in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are recognized at our school science fair.

Here are the winners for this year's science fair:

Sixth Grade: 1st Place - Connor Walsh, 2nd Place - Isabella Benedict, 3rd Place - John Bennett, Honorable Mention - Joey Benin.

Seventh Grade: 1st Place - Katelyn Cadmus, 2nd Place - Emerson Baltrukonis, 3rd Place- Gracelyn Smith, Honorable Mention -Alexander McGrath.

Eighth Grade 1st Place - Matthew Drago, 2nd Place - Katie Danaher, 3rd Place - Chloe Babcock, Honorable Mention - Rebecca Benin.

Congratulations to all the top finishers, and best of luck at the State Science Fair!!!

### **The Early Easter Bunny**

*A Short Story By Molly Niedbala, Gr. 5*

Once upon a time, there was an early Easter Bunny. This is how it all happened. One day, about 15 years ago, and the month of February a little girl named Jane wished for a holiday to come sooner. She wanted a big holiday, like Christmas. Jane loved all the holidays. So, Jane waited outside that night for a shooting star to appear. She was determined that one would come. After fifteen hours of waiting, Jane saw a shooting star and said, "I wish for a holiday to come sooner." Suddenly, the ground started to shake. With a flash of light, Jane was in her bed fast asleep. When Jane woke up, she wondered what had happened. Jane got out of bed to look out the window. She saw Easter eggs!?! What??? Her wish came true? Then she saw the Easter Bunny place the last egg on the ground, smiled and waved. When Jane turned around to get her camera, then when she turned back, he was gone! Jane was so happy her wish came true! She ran outside and began to find eggs and eat candy. This was the best wish ever! That is the story of the early Easter Bunny. *THE END*

### **Basketball Season in Full Swing**

*By Erica Cunningham, Gr. 8*



The SMS 2019-2020 girls' and boys' basketball season is off to a great start! The coaches for the boy's junior varsity team are Dave Bennett and Joseph Benin. The varsity coach for the boys is Mark Benedict. This year's girl's JV team is coached by Deanna Cadmus and Dina Kelly who assist Kim Smith and Brian Wright in coaching the girls' varsity team also. So far this season the boys' varsity team is 3-5 and the JV has won one game. The girls' varsity has only lost one game so far (but it was out of conference). Even though the girl's JV haven't won a game yet, they are still trying their best. This has been an amazing season, and everyone has been playing their hardest!

### Midnight Winter

*A Short Story By Alexander McGrath, Gr. 7*

It was the middle of the winter in the Evergreen Forest and beyond the reaches of humankind. The stars were glistening in the sky. There was only a very faint wind moving through the trees. A star-studded sky was revealed as there was not one lone cloud to be seen. In a small clearing near the middle of the woods were some rocks, and large tree branches that littered the forest floor. A small frog came hopping out from under a log, and onto a large rock. He started croaking while looking up at the moon. The silence was broken as he billowed a tune while watching the moonlight spread over the snow. Shadows were cast everywhere. As he croaked in rhythm from a distance, a Great Horned Owl started hooting in his own rhythm complementing the frog. Soon thereafter the owl flew to a nearby upper branch continuing his song. A little marmoset scurried along the snow and semi hid under the large rock and started making long high pitched squeaking noises that added to the now symphony sounding night. The air current took the sounds down the valley. A coyote picked up on what now sounded like music and added beautiful howls that resonated back to where it started. The coyote made his way to the clearing and continued howling. The crickets then entered in as they were arisen by the song of the night. They chirped heavenly notes, which were followed by the katydid's- katydid, katydidn't song. A beaver climbed up over the damn nearby, and he perched himself on the rock next to the frog and made tail slaps on the rock for percussion. Then, a porcupine walked up to a tree and started sawing his back up and down against a tree, which made for a nifty sound. A boar came to join in and started snorting in time. Then a donkey came to see who was making all the noise, and he followed suit and started hee-hawing. The birds appeared at that time and became the soprano section.

A cowboy climbed on his horse to ride out to see where the sounds were coming from. As he climbed a hill he saw all the animals together making beautiful music. So he hopped down off of his horse and unloaded his guitar and started strumming along. All were happy and content and had something to add to the song. The symphony went on for an hour more. Then one by one as they came, they left until it was only the Great Horned Owl and the frog. It was then that the snow came down in large and furious flakes. The wind howled and started whipping the snow all around. Once again, silence, except for the windy blizzard. The frog hopped home as quickly as he could, and the Owl made a bee line for his nest. But all took with them the heartwarming experience of coming together and making beautiful music. Each one having their own talent to share that night. Some say the wind was jealous as well as the snow and they had come to play their music too, but everyone had already departed. The legend is that when you hear the wind and snow in the winter, they are still searching for the music they long to catch up with. Have you ever heard them searching??????

Have you considered playing Little League Baseball or Softball this year?  
The season starts April 18 and runs 10 weeks.  
Tee ball (ages 4-5) is every Saturday from 9-10:30am, \$70 per player

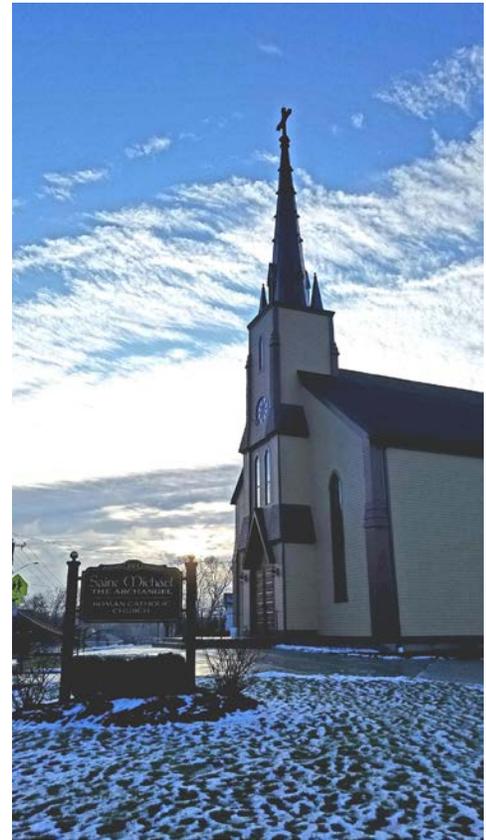
Sign ups for all ages at [www.pawcatucklittleleague.com](http://www.pawcatucklittleleague.com)  
It's time to make some lifelong memories with your kids. Let's go!!!



### **Thank You for Supporting 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Fundraisers**

*By Erica Cunningham, Gr. 8*

The 8th grade class has multiple fundraisers throughout the year to pay for special events and activities for their class. A few fundraisers that are happening are the Fish Fry in Stonington at The Portuguese Holy Ghost Society. This event took place on February 7th. The 8th grade students took shifts serving and directing people where to sit. This event raised over \$900 which was a great help to the 8th grade class. There is also a bowling night planned at Alley Katz in Westerly. This event is Saturday, March 7th. A lane (6 bowlers) can be reserved for \$125 before February 28th, or individual bowlers can purchase tickets for \$25 per person. After February 28th, prices go up to \$150 per lane, or \$30 per individual ticket. Parents can bring children if they supervise them while bowling. These fundraisers help 8th grade students have special privileges such as a trip to Boston, a luncheon with their grandparents, and making their 8th grade year a fun one!



### **Other SMS Fundraising Activities**

Dine to Donate, Pizza Place – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

Annual Golf Tournament

Raffle Tickets

Shopping with Scrip

Pawcatuck Duck Race

Friday Fish Fry

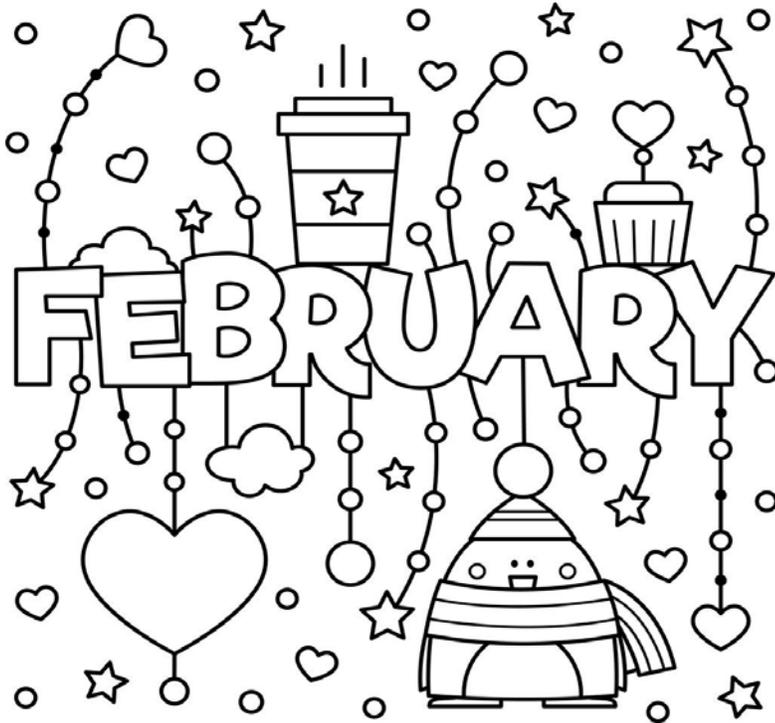
and Many more!!!

### **High School Musical - The Musical - The Series Review**

*By Mae Giovanelli & Lauren Koswaski, Gr. 5*

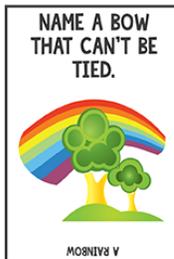
This is a one of a kind series on Disney Plus. The first season has just finished, but hopefully there will be another season. The show is all about life and relationships. The main characters are Nini, Rickey, EJ, Carlos, and Miss Jenn. These kids go to school where High School Musical was filmed, and they have never done a production of the play. Miss Jenn is the new drama teacher and decides to perform this musical. To complicate things, Rickey and Nini just broke up and now Nini's dating EJ the coolest kid in school. Nini and EJ audition for the show and unexpectedly Rickey does too! Rickey's trying to win Nini back. Casting results come out in three hours and Nini plays the role of Gabriella and Rickey plays the role of Troy, which makes everything super awkward given the current situation. Will Nini get back together with Rickey? Watch season one on Disney Plus to find out.

# FUN PAGE

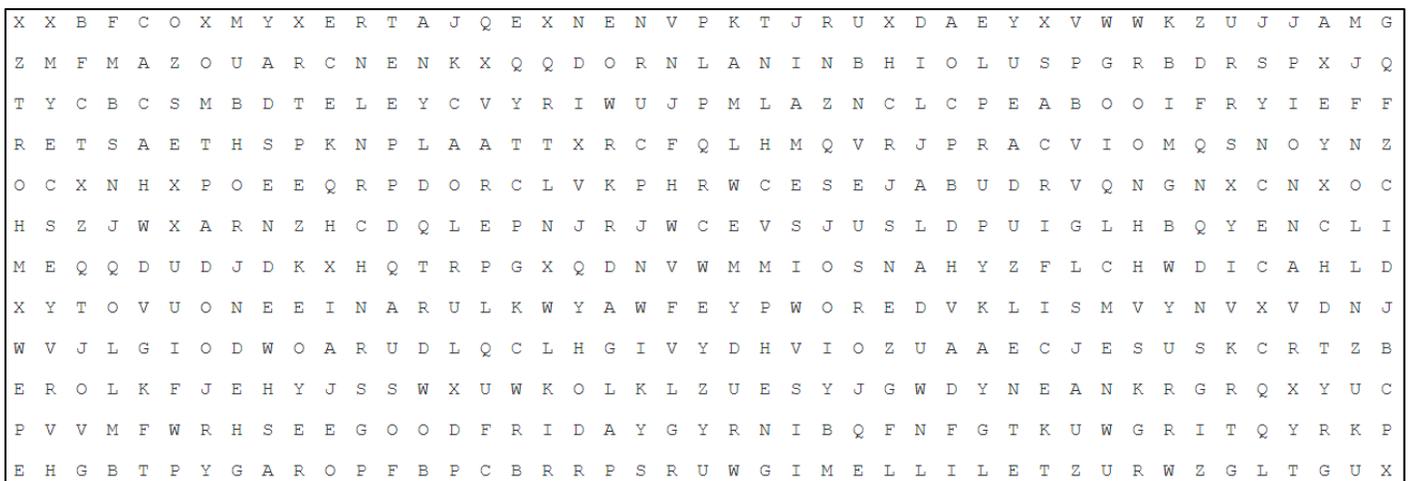


### Key Dates in March

- March 12-April 3 is NCAA March Madness
- March 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins – Spring Ahead and get an extra hour of sleep!
- March 17 is St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 is the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring!



### Word Search



Ash Wednesday	Easter	Fast	Good Friday	Jesus	Lent	Love
Palm Sunday	Passover	Prayer	Purple	Repent	Resurrection	Sacrifice