



November 22, 2024

This morning, as our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders were at church for Confession, a beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky over St. Michael Church and I could see it from the school. For a moment, I couldn't help but wonder if it was a sign, perhaps a little reminder of God's grace, or simply a beautiful coincidence. Either way, it was a moment that filled me with hope and gratitude.

On Wednesday, 8th-grade students demonstrated their commitment to service by volunteering at the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**. Together, they worked to assemble 500 boxes that will be used to pack Thanksgiving meals for families in need within our community. Students also created cards to include in each box, adding a personal touch of kindness. Thank you to all our St. Michael School families for all your donations of non-perishable food items. Some of our 7th graders lent a helping hand by packing the PNC van with these much-needed donations.

You may have noticed an exciting new feature in our school playground area... a **GaGa** pit! This addition was made possible by the very generous donation from our PE teacher, Mrs. Sandy Callinan, and her husband, Jack. If you're not familiar with a GaGa pit, is an enclosed, octagonal-shaped area where players try to avoid being hit by a rubber ball from the knee down. The game is fast-paced and promotes agility, teamwork, and friendly competition. It's a fun activity for all ages and a great addition to our playground! **Thank you Mrs. Callinan!**



I'm very excited to share some fantastic news about our St. Michael School Robotics Team, *The Revolutionists*! This past weekend, our team participated in the **FIRST LEGO League Robotics** competition at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, and they did an amazing job. Their hard work paid off in a big way as they brought home the **1st Place Trophy for Robot Design**! One of our 4th graders summed up the excitement of the day perfectly, saying, "*This is the best day of my life!*" The team is now headed to the **State Championship on December 10th**, where they will take their skills to the next level. We couldn't be prouder of their efforts and let's all cheer them on as they prepare for their next big challenge. Go *Revolutionists*!

Did you have a chance to visit the **St. Mary Church Bazaar** over the weekend? We were lucky to have a wonderful group of carolers who filled the air with festive Christmas songs, brightening everyone's day. A special thank you to Mrs. Bernard for organizing our carolers and for carrying on this beautiful tradition.



Another friendly reminder for all families... As temperatures begin to drop, please ensure your child **brings a warm coat, hat, and gloves** to school each day. This is especially important for students in our After School Program, as they spend much of their time outdoors. Students still go out to recess each day, even when it's cold. Middle school students, this applies to you too—let's stay warm and cozy!



We have 2 upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraisers happening. The first is our **Christmas Greenery Sale** happening now! Place your orders by **Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** and a **Breakfast with St. Nick** on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. The **Dress Down Day** brought in over **\$700!** As always, our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class thanks you for your support!



If you have any items for our **St. Nicks Closet**, please send them in as soon as possible, as our elves are getting everything ready for the *Most Wonderful Time of the Year!* St. Nick's Closet is in need of bags, tissue paper, etc... Also, if you're a crafter or know of someone who would be interested in creating & donating items, please send an email to: [pto@stmichaelschoolct.com](mailto:pto@stmichaelschoolct.com)

Our St. Michael School boys and girls' basketball teams have officially begun their season. On Wednesday, the boys played against Sacred Heart Groton. **JV- Won 39-7 and Varsity-Won 59-5.** Both Girls and Boys teams are playing this Saturday at Monsignor Clarke! Come out and cheer them on! Let's Go Saints!

### **Looking ahead:**

Grades Close-**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Alumni Event- **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00-3:00**

December Hot Lunch ordering deadline- **Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm**

Picture Retakes- **Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Thanksgiving Break- **NO SCHOOL** -Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>- Friday November 29<sup>th</sup>.

1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Report Card issued-**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

In this season of **Thanksgiving**, we have so many things to be thankful for. While we are grateful each and every day, let us remember to thank God for all that is good and beautiful in our lives. I am so thankful for all of our St. Michael School families.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

Amy Babcock  
Principal



## St. Michael School Robotics Team





# Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center

