



St. Paul School Continues to Excel in the Online “Classroom” Amidst Pandemic



St. Paul School prides itself on our “family-feel” atmosphere. That warm and inviting feeling can be felt the moment you enter our doors. On March 13, 2020, we had to say “see you later” to our extended family, not knowing when we would gather in our school building again. Many wondered if we could extend our family atmosphere remotely. The following Monday we proved that our family atmosphere could not be contained by the walls of our building. “Everyone is working to make this a safe, productive, and non-frightening event in our children’s lives. St. Paul School is using this time as an adventure and learning experience, not just something we have to get through, but something we can grow from...I never get an email from SPS that does not begin by asking how my child is doing” said middle school parent, Amy Neeley.

Our teachers and parents rallied, working together to continue to provide our students with the top-notch education St. Paul School has been providing for the past 95-years. Stepping far outside of their comfort zone, our elementary teachers continued to make learning fun by hosting Zoom show & tell days, virtual GoNoodle dance parties, even a virtual science fair. “I loved doing Zoom calls and scavenger hunts around our houses with my class. It was nice to see videos of my teacher on Google Classroom!” exclaimed first-grade student, Emily Edmiston. Although it was difficult to provide the individualized education St. Paul School is known to provide, our teachers rose to the challenge by offering one-on-one tutoring via email, phone calls, and video chat.

Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Marcie Morris, did not allow remote learning to interrupt the class butterfly project she had planned for the year. The kindergarten class learned the lifespan of a caterpillar via Zoom and was invited to pick up their caterpillars the following week.

Each student was able to be a first-hand witness to the metamorphosis of their butterfly. Fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Leigh Enos, is well known for her love of Science. She provided her students with weekly, hands-on, STEM projects to keep their hands and brains active. For Earth Day, our fourth-grade class initiated a Help Our World (H.O.W) project by collecting aluminum cans to benefit *Aluminum Cans for Burned Children Fund (ACBC)*. Preschool students shared in the fun of learning remotely as well, practicing counting, learning shapes, colors, and writing just as they would have in the classroom. The preschool classes shared videos and photos via social media groups or Remind. Our 4-year-old preschool class even held their graduation ceremony by participating in a drive-thru event held at the school. “How do we as parents explain the world around us, let alone a worldwide pandemic, to a four-year-old child? Without hesitation or delay, Mrs. Shreve and Mrs. Neeley stepped up to the plate. Every day we received thoughtful messages, interactive conversations, activities, and lessons, virtual tours of their houses, games, stories, and even a virtual Easter egg hunt. As if that was not enough, they came to each child’s doorstep to talk to them in person. They created a sense of normalcy for the children when nothing around us was normal at all” wrote preschool parents, Chris & Stacy Cullinan.



(Story continued on page 3)



A \$50 ticket includes:

- Dinner
- Entertainment by Chris "DJ NIN" Cullinan
- A chance to win \$1,000.00!

Tickets can be purchased by calling the school, visiting our website, or emailing **Kedmiston@weirtonstpauls.org**

One Mission, One Day Was A Great Success!

St. Paul School, along with 18 other Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, participated in the 2nd annual "One Mission, One Day to Make a Difference" online giving campaign on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Together, West Virginia Catholic Schools raised over \$234,000.00 with more than 1,200 participating donors! It was a great day for Catholic Schools.

St. Paul School individually raised more than \$12,000.00 from 210 donors! Proceeds from the day went to support tuition assistance, as SPS is anticipating an increase in need due to COVID-19 unemployment.

New this year was a peer fundraising option, allowing staff, families, and friends to create a personal fundraiser linked to the school. SPS had 24 individual fundraising peers that contributed to the success of the Day. Our highest raising peer, Mrs. Maria Good, raised over \$1,400.00 and was awarded a catered dinner from *The Zesty Italian*.

St. Paul School and Corpus Christi School each received a \$500.00 scholarship from the Catholic Foundation for most money raised (CCS raised over \$40,000.00) and highest participation percentage (Go SPS!).

Thank you to ALL who participated in making this day so successful!



"The Sky is the Limit" Gala Postponed...Again

St. Paul School's fundraiser, our annual Gala, was originally scheduled for March 21, 2020. The event has been rescheduled, again, for **FRIDAY, October, 2, 2020**. Doors open at 5pm.

We will be honoring the *John & Angela Antonelli Family* as the 2020 "Family Traditions Award" recipients. This is our school's highest honor, with previous recipients including The James White, Sr. Family, Tom & Darlene Sessi, John & Babe Lesho, and most recently the late Mr. Charles "Chuck" Robinson.

We will have a Chinese auction, Silent Auction, and Live auction! Enter a drawing to win a wheelbarrow FULL of alcohol, pull a lucky cork with the return of the Wine Pull, and new this year, test your luck with our new "Shooting Star" raffle where the winner can take home any silent auction item of their choosing! This fundraiser will help to fund technology updates in our classrooms, including SMART boards, Smart TV's, and new iPads. Be sure to follow our Gala Facebook page for the most up-to-date information: *Weirton St. Paul School Gala*. This event is enjoyed by all who attend.

With the second postponement, we will continue to accept donations, sponsorships, wine, and auction items. Please contact Kim Edmiston.

Thank you for supporting our school!

SPS Excels in “Online” Classroom (Continued from Page 1)

Our middle school program continued to strive for excellence. These students were well versed in Google Classroom before the pandemic. St. Paul School students in grades 3 through 8 actively use their Chromebooks in and out of the classroom, as they are available on a 1:1 ratio. Zoom classes were held regularly for class meetings as well as one-on-one tutoring, COVID-19 time capsules were created, educational videos were streamed, students and teachers navigated Flipgrid to post responses on reading and videos. Mrs. Kristin Moffat, middle school English Language Arts teacher, continued to push her student's creativity. Each class wrote a themed poetry piece to share with their classmates and SPS families. As a fascinating and current assignment, middle school students investigated how public health officials solve problems and wrote the steps taken for a mystery illness. Mr. Jason Miller, Religion teacher, began a YouTube channel to post videos to relate to the student's scripture discussions. The learning and creativity flowed until our final day of school on May 22, 2020. “Our middle school teachers have challenged our students to learn online and our kids have accepted the challenge. It has been a lot of different technology, but they are persevering. I love the Wax Museum exercise that Miss Miller hosted via Zoom. Mrs. Racheal Hartley and Mrs. Kristin Moffat have held Zoom classrooms allowing the students and teachers to connect, Ms. Rhonda Piccirillo is balancing schoolwork with practicality. This is why I love our SPS teachers!” wrote middle school parent, Janet Owens.

While the upcoming school year has the possibility of looking different, we will continue to grow and offer our students a top-notch education instilled with Catholic Values. At St. Paul School, our students are always our number one priority. We are truly blessed to have a wonderfully dedicated staff and faculty at our school.

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

On June 3, 2020, St. Paul School was honored to celebrate our 8th grade class. While observing proper social distancing, a graduation ceremony was held. Immediate family members were welcomed by masked, but familiar faces as they gathered at St. Paul Church for the first time in three months.

Mass was celebrated by Pastor, Father Babu Joseph Elamthuruthil, with readings and poems read by the classmates. 8th-grade homeroom teacher, Ms. Rhonda Piccirillo, alongside Principal, Mrs. Michele Martin, awarded each student their certificates and personally engraved bibles, donated annually by our PTO.

Special awards and scholarships were also presented. Receiving the John & Angela Anotonelli Family Scholarship, awarded to a St. Paul School student attending Madonna High School, Alaina Baker (pictured bottom L). Receiving the Sarah Smalley Scholarship Award, voted on by classmates, Alexia Hayden (pictured second from L). At the top of their class, with the highest GPA's, Aquinas Medal Winner, Mia Pietranton (pictured second from R), followed by Mia Chiodo (pictured bottom R).

Congratulations to all of you!



WHAT'S NEW?

NEW THIS FALL!



St. Paul School is **THRILLED** to announce our **NEW** partnership with Blue Stream Farms! We are the **FIRST** elementary school to receive a donation from Blue Stream Farms. They have donated a hydroponics grow bed to our school. They will be working with staff and students to teach the proper techniques for aquatic farming, producing additional healthy and organic options for our salad bar!

Blue Stream Farms offers a **STREAM** education model that focuses on Science, Technology, **wRiting**, Engineering, Arts, and Math. We are ecstatic to offer our students this opportunity next year. Thank you, Blue Stream Farms!

WHY AQUAPONICS? TOP 10

1. Saves water-aquaponics uses 90% less water than traditional farming.
2. Ground pests are not an issue.
3. No hand weeding!
4. No pesticides!
5. Plants grow 10x faster.
6. You can grow 10 times as many plants in the same amount of space.
7. Aquaponics is a two-source income.
8. Aquaponics uses 70% less energy than traditional farming.
9. You can grow with aquaponics on any scale.



BLUE STREAM FARMS

School Happenings



Our parents arranged a group play date for our students to get together over the summer months. They met at Hanover Park and enjoyed some fresh air and play time! (pictured above and to right)



We LOVE when our students take their #IRISHPRIDE with them on their summer adventures. Incoming 2nd grade student, Alina Shaffer (pictured L with mother, Katie Shaffer) took her SPS gear to The Outer Banks this summer!

Mrs. Martin & Mrs. Ross maintained social distancing while registering students for next school year! (pictured above)

#blessedatSPS

THANK YOU!!!

St. Paul School is blessed to belong to a community that is both supportive and generous! From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you all for your continued support of our school and mission. Listed below are our 2019-2020 Annual Fund supporters. Our Annual Fund proceeds support technology updates, classroom supplies, staff benefits, and so much MORE!

Emerald Giving Society

Gary & Barbie Balint
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Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America
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The Center of Music & Art
Vocelli Pizza
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Shafer Electric & Construction
The WV Catholic Foundation
NC Sportz
Basil Dental Care
Starvaggi Industries
Graphics In Print
ERB Electric Company
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James & Erva Reardon
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John Clancey
Christine Rees
Paul & Diane Keller
In Memory of Joseph Brinsko Jr.
Brad & Katie Shaffer
Alessia James Tapler
Joshua Martin
Phyllis Lantz

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| In Memory of Sarah Smalley | In Memory of Terri Marino | Fr. Babu Joseph Elamturuthil |
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| Mark & Sharon Sperlazza | Shelia Cavalet | Kelly DiLullo |
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Ways to HELP St. Paul School

St. Paul School is blessed by the generosity of so many benefactors, alumni, school families, parishioners, and friends who have invested in the future of our students, teachers, and school by donating a financial gift. These gifts help to support our programs (academic, religious, fine arts, and athletics), our technology needs and upgrades, and our tuition assistance fund.

There are many ways to make a gift to St. Paul School:

- Cash or check donations will be put to immediate use. We also now accept credit card donations through PayPal.
- St. Paul School accepts memorial donations in memory of loved ones. Families are notified of all donations made to the school.

For more information on making a financial gift to our school, please contact the St. Paul School Advancement Office at 304-748-5225.

We thank you for your consideration!

Contact Us

St. Paul School
140 Walnut St.
Weirton, WV 26062

(304)-748-5225

info@weirtonstpauls.org
www.weirtonstpauls.org



#blessedatps



Info SPS

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