

# February 2023

# STA Shenanigans



Cover image by Anya Shah

# Introduction

We at the STA Shenanigans Newspaper Club are proud to present our third issue! Enjoy everything contained in it!

Also, we hope everyone has **a great Lent with fasting, praying, and almsgiving.**

There is an **interview with Bishop Checchio**, full photo coverage on what happened during **Catholic Schools Week**, a creepy Valentine's Day themed dream in **"The Really Real Nightmare"**, time-traveling excitement in **"New Year"**, a dive into **"Valentine's Day Around the World"**, more sky-high intrigue in **"The City in the Sky"**, insight into the history of **"The Super Bowl"**, a consideration of the question "Does St. Thomas Need a Hallway Pusher?", **"Snow Tips and Safety Hacks"** for taking care of yourself, and many, many, many, more exciting articles.

If you want to know more, just skip the rest of this long introduction and look at the Table of Contents! (Or better yet, read this issue from beginning to end.)

We are always trying to improve. From now on, we will be including **more illustrations and more photographs** in our issues, so be on the lookout for them!

*If you have any suggestions or comments, we are very open to **feedback in the comments section** of our website.*

*If you'd like to contribute to the student newspaper **as a guest writer**, there is a **freelance submission form** on our website.*



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# Interviews

## Interview with Bishop Checchio

By Elan DeSello



The Most Rev. James F. Checchio is the Fifth Bishop of Metuchen. Raised in Collingswood, he is the son of James and Helen Checchio. He has held various roles before becoming the Bishop of Metuchen. In the Diocese of Camden, he once served as the secretary to Bishop James T. McHugh. He was also vice chancellor, director of communications, and moderator of the curia, among other things. In Rome, he served as the vice rector, and later, the rector (the head of a college) of the Pontifical North American College. Bishop Checchio has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy as well as a Masters of Business Administration Degree, Doctorate of Canon Law Degree, and Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree. He currently holds many other positions in addition to being the Bishop of Metuchen.

I was able to arrange this interview with Bishop Checchio after a



chance meeting at St. Francis Cathedral after his Respect Life Mass. Emails were sent, and just a

day after, the interview was scheduled. After the spelling bee, I went to the principal's office, where I interviewed the Bishop. I'm very grateful for this opportunity, which has been so enjoyable and fulfilling. Without further ado, here it is:



- What are your duties as the Bishop?
  - Three things:
    - to teach about the faith (by preaching and writing),
    - to sanctify—to make holy—through the sacraments, like ordaining priests and Confirmation,
    - to shepherd—to care or to pastor—by organizing activities.
- How did you know God was calling you to the priesthood?
  - Prayer. Listen to what the Lord is telling you. To know the plan, you have to listen. Do God's will to be happy.
  - How old were you? College.
- What is your favorite childhood memory?
  - Going to the beach with my family in the summertime.
- What is your favorite prayer?
  - The Hail Mary, because she's been so special in my life.
- What do you love about your faith?
  - The sacraments. They give us direct encounters with God.
- How do you deal with worries?
  - You worry about what you're unsure of. Do planning and work hard. You have to trust God in prayer, and you also have friends to help you.
- What is your greatest challenge as Bishop?

- Leading people in holiness. You have to know the diocese in order to lead them to Jesus better.
- Do you have any advice for the students at St. Thomas?
  - "Be good to your principal and teachers. Thank your parents and those who've sent you here. Thank the people who keep the school open (benefactors). Enjoy your time here and study hard."

I hope you enjoyed reading this interview and received good advice from the Bishop. Thanks for reading!

## **Interview with Spelling Bee Competitors**

By Aisha Shah and Zofia Kozlowski

*Aisha and Zofia interviewed the 5th and 6th grade spelling bee contestants.*

### **Questions: Makayla Cabangon**

- How does it feel to be the spelling bee winner?
  - Proud.
- Is this the first time you have won?
  - 2nd year.
- Do you have any tricks for winning?
  - No.
- When you were doing the spelling bee, did you think you were going to win?
  - No.
- Are/Were you nervous about the spelling bee?
  - Yes.
- How much did you practice/study?
  - 3 days.
- What do you think is the most challenging part of the spelling bee?
  - All the words to spell

### **Questions: Adrian Jach**

- How does it feel to be the spelling bee winner?
  - I felt really accomplished and excited.
- Is this the first time you have won?
  - Yes.
- Do you have any tricks for winning?
  - Yes. Keep Studying.
- When you were doing the spelling bee, did you think you were going to win?
  - 4th place.
- Are/Were you nervous about the spelling bee?
  - Legs were shaking and cold hands.
- How much did you practice/study?
  - 2hrs.
- What do you think is the most challenging part of the spelling bee?
  - Mostly everybody was watching including the bishop.

**Questions: Alisha Desai**

- How did it feel to be in the spelling bee?
  - It felt amazing!
- Is this the first time you have won?
  - Yes!
- Do you have any tricks for winning
  - Not really, just study. Look up pronunciations.
- When you were doing the spelling bee, did you think you were going to win?
  - Yes!
- Were you nervous about the spelling bee?
  - Very Scared.
- How much did you practice/study?
  - 45 minutes of a day.
- What do you think is the most challenging part of the spelling bee?
  - How they pronounced the words.

**Questions: Jaslin Kasuri**

- How did it feel to be in the spelling bee?
  - It felt good!
- Is this the first time you have won?
  - Yes.
- Do you have any tricks for winning
  - You should sound out the words.
- When you were doing the spelling bee, did you think you were going to win?
  - No.
- Were you nervous about the spelling bee?
  - Very Nervous.
- How much did you practice/study?
  - Non-stop.
- What do you think is the most challenging part of the spelling bee?
  - Losing.



## When I Grow Up, I Want to Be A...

By Abby and Emma Lenning



Abby:

In 4B I did a presentation about what I want to be when I grow up, and that is a structural engineer. An engineer is a person who uses scientific knowledge to design and construct buildings. This career makes about \$150,000 a year.

Emma:

When I grow up I want to be a meteorologist. A meteorologist's salary in New Jersey is \$170,000 . In case you don't know, a meteorologist is a specialist who studies the earth's atmosphere and reports it to the public. In 4B I did a presentation on my future career.



## **Interviews with the Musical's Lead Roles**

By Mia G. and Ava O'Reilly

### **Questions**

- How did you feel when you got the lead role?-
- Do you like working with your fellow actors/actresses?-
- How do you feel about your character?-
- Have you ever performed before?-
- Are you happy with your role?-
- Did you get the role you wanted?-
- What part did you audition for and did you get that part?-

### **Anthony Roccanova**

- His role is Charlie Bucket
- Anthony says he never performed before
- He is very happy with his role
- He also felt very excited when he got his part
- He likes working with his fellow actors and actresses he says they are funny and kind
- He in fact got the part he auditioned for.

### **JJ Hamadyk**

- His role is Grandpa George
- He said he felt great when he auditioned
- He also said he is very happy with his role
- He said all his colleagues are easy to work with and professional
- This is his first time performing
- He auditioned for Augustus Gloop and Grandpa George but got Grandpa George.

### **Rafael Villarina**

- His role is Grandpa Joe
- He feels like he works well with his fellow actors and actresses
  - He auditioned for Willy Wonka, Grandpa Joe, and Charlie Bucket
- He is very happy that he got the role he wanted to get
- He has not performed in a musical before but in fact performed in a band

- He feels his character (Grandpa Joe) is a positive and wise person who gives good advice
- When he got Grandpa Joe he was surprised to get the role he got.

### **Ava Syslo**

- She was definitely happy
- Likes to be working with her fellow actors/actresses
- She does not know
- She has never performed in a musical but has competed in dance competitions
- She is happy with her role. She really wanted to get Veruca or Violet.

### **Rafael Paayas**

- He was very happy to get a lead role and is speechless
- He likes working with his fellow actors/actresses and believes they just try harder until they are great.
- Likes his character and usually takes a video each practice to try to get better and better.
- Has performed before because he has been doing piano for the past few years and has played in front of people.
- Very happy with his role because he is happy to do the work for the school to do anything he can for the play.

# Information

## Anime and Manga: An Introduction

By Alexis Martino



So, what is anime? Anime is the word for any animation that comes from Japan. Animation in Japan started in the early 20th century, when filmmakers wanted to experiment techniques that were pioneered in four other countries: The United States, France, Russia, and Germany. The oldest known animation from Japan was made somewhere between 1907 and 1912.

Anime is mostly adapted from manga, or Japanese comics.

Manga comes in all genres, ranging from action to romance to comedy. They are usually printed black and white (Manga artists do this to keep costs low, but there can be colored versions) and are available to read on different types of manga sites. They are also translated into different languages and are sold in bookstores around the world. Usually, if a manga series is popular enough, it will be adapted into anime.

Anime especially became popular in the 1980s and 1990s, with some of the more successful ones being Dragon Ball Z and Sailor Moon. Recently, it has gotten even more popular! More and more anime is being created and more people are starting to watch it. Anime has become popular in all parts of the world. Fans watch it through multiple streaming platforms and channels (ex. Netflix, Hulu, Crunchyroll, etc.).

Despite some controversy, anime has influenced big parts of the world. Its unique art style and animation makes it quite different and iconic from Western cartoons. People try and get into it every day, and perhaps you could too!

## **Ash Wednesday**

By Janie Poco and Sadie Lettiere

Ash Wednesday is on February 22, 2023. It's the first day of lent. It starts Lent by focusing on the Christians heart on repentance and prayer. If you go to mass on Ash Wednesday, the priest will place ashes on your forehead in the shape of the cross. Indeed, Ash Wednesday is an important day in the Church season.

## **Fun Holidays That Are Celebrated on February 1**

By Bianca Shah

- Change Your Password Day
- Decorating With Candy Day
- G.I. Joe Day
- National Get Up Day
- Sean Day
- Signing Day
- Hijab Day
- Read Aloud Day – First Wednesday of February, which this year fell on February 1, 2023

## **Five National Holidays in February**

By Bianka Ochlanova

There are many days off in this month of February. But, sometimes people are bored. So here are 5 national days in February. The first day is National Comfy Day which is on February 20th. The next day is National California Day which is on the 22th. Next is National Dog Biscuit Day which is on the 23rd of February. After that there is National Tortilla Chip Day. It is on the 24th. Last but not least is National Strawberry day. It is on February 28th. These are some national days you should look forward to.

## **Valentine's Day Around the World**

By Adrian Jach

Hearts. Roses. Chocolate. Love. Those are just some things that describe the day celebrated on February 14th - Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries throughout the world! Below are some examples of how this day is observed:

### **Argentina**

Argentina actually doesn't celebrate Valentine's Day, but they do celebrate something really similar. Argentinans celebrate something called, "the week of sweetness" where lovers exchange various types of candies, and delicious chocolates. This day actually started as a commercial convention but later became a tradition like this.

### **Wales**

Similarly to Argentina, Wales doesn't celebrate Valentine's Day but they do celebrate San Dwynwen, a Welsh "day of love" during which couples exchange and receive handcrafted and unique wooden spoons to each other. This tradition that has been practiced since the 16th century surely is an unusual way to express love to someone else.

### **France**

It started when a man, Charles, the Duke of Orleans, who was captured and imprisoned, sent multiple love letters to his wife in the year 1415. He wrote a poem to his wife, in which he used the word "Valentine" referring to his wife. To this day, this poem is believed to be the earliest Valentine's Day letter.

### **Czech Republic**

Valentine's Day in the Czech Republic is celebrated differently too. It is on May 1, when many young couples make a pilgrimage to the statue of Karol Hynek Macha, a famous Czech poet. The lovers kiss for good luck under this statue in Prague.

### **Ghana**

The people in Ghana know the way to someone's heart: chocolate! February 14 is National Chocolate Day. Ghana is one of the world's largest producers of cocoa, so on this special day, Ghana holds concerts and performances, and restaurants offer special chocolate-themed menus.

### **Thailand**

The way people in Thailand celebrate is really cool and interesting! This country's adventurous lovers often take risks on Valentine's Day, with skydiving, bungee jumping, and underwater weddings becoming common traditions!

The above are just some of the weird, wacky, romantic, and unique traditions of how Valentine's Day gets celebrated around the world. Regardless of how you celebrate, make it your own and show your special person you love and care about them. This is what Valentine's Day is all about!



## **The Super Bowl**

By Jayden Adackapara and Adrian Jach

The Super Bowl is one of the most well-known and loved sporting events in the world. Thousands of people gather together to see their favorite teams play against the opposing team. This year, Super Bowl LVII matchup will consist of the Philadelphia Eagles versus the Kansas City Chiefs. It will be hosted at the State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. During halftime, Rihanna will take the center stage with many other artists to perform their hit songs. Super Bowl LVII is scheduled to be on Sunday, February 12, at 6:30pm. The major sporting event got its unique name when the son of Lamar Hunt, the owner of the American Football League and the Kansas City Chiefs came up with the name "Super Bowl" after his toy called the "Super Ball". When Hunt went to an owner's meeting, he suggested the name "Super Bowl" for the championship game, but later contradicted himself. The name still stayed with the media and word of mouth. The very first Super Bowl was on January 15, 1967. The event was hosted at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles, California. The Green Bay Packers took on the Kansas City Chiefs with the score being 35-10 in favor of the Packers. The Lombardi Trophy was awarded to Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers after their win. The Super Bowl is one of the biggest sports events in the whole world and people from across the globe tune in to watch the game. To this day, families and friends all come together to watch and enjoy this amazing game.

## The History of Valentine's Day

By Nicholas Franchini

People all over the world celebrate Valentine's Day, also known as the feast of St. Valentine, every year on February 14th. Valentine's Day is when people express their love and affection for others with greetings and gifts, such as flowers, cards, or chocolates, particularly in the shape of a heart. In fact, over 145 million greeting cards are exchanged every year for Valentine's Day and over 250 million roses are grown for people to give to their loved ones on this day! These numbers show just how much people love to celebrate this holiday. The well-known Valentine's mascot is known as Cupid, who was the ancient Roman God of love. Although many people celebrate this holiday, not everyone knows who Saint Valentine was and how this holiday came to be.



While the Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine, many believe that it was St. Valentine, the Roman Bishop of Terni, Italy, who the holiday is named after. His exact date of birth and early life are unknown, but there are many stories about what he did as a Bishop to foster love that grew into the legend we know today. In 270 AD, Emperor Claudius II decided to ban marriages because he felt that men made better soldiers if they did not have wives and families. Valentine knew the importance of love, so he continued to marry people in secret. When the emperor found out, Valentine was arrested, put in prison, and then put to death. St. Valentine died on February 14, 269. Just before his death, Valentine wrote a letter to the people of Terni, signed "Your Valentine."

In the 5th century, Pope Gelasius declared February 14th an official holiday. It became known as Valentine's Day. In the 1700s, for the first time, Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines. Overtime, it has become a significant, cultural, and religious celebration of romance in many regions of the world. So the next time you are eating a chocolate shaped heart, or reading a Valentine's Day card, remember st. Valentine, who dedicated his life to spreading love.

## **Snow Tips and Safety Hacks**

By Aanya Guljarani

Wow! You look out your window and see nice soft snow waiting for you to play with. But have you ever wondered, what if you ran into a few problems, and no one is there to help you? So pay close attention to the following tips and safety hacks that can help you and others.

**Hack 1:** When you go out to play in snow, you will of course be cold when you get back inside. But don't immediately put your hands in warm water, go close to a heater, take a shower etc. Don't do that because your hands will hurt more. Instead wait about 5-7 minutes then you can start to warm your hands and they won't burn! Or instead you can rub your hands and that will make them warmer!

**Hack 2:** Don't stay in the snow for too long or it may cause frostbite. Remember to pay attention to your body as well. If you or someone is shivering, teeth are chattering, you feel dizzy or weak then go inside and keep warm.

**Hack 3:** If you ever have frostbites make sure to never put it near hot water, putting the frostbitten part in warm water is okay, just make sure that an adult checks the water temperature first. Always wear warm, big, and cozy clothes when you go outside to play with snow. Always have a hot glass of water or hot chocolate or anything warm/hot next to you to drink so that if you get too cold you always have something to drink and you can be well hydrated.

These were all the Snow Safety Hacks! Have fun, and stay safe!

## **Does St. Thomas Need a Hallway Pusher?**

By Elena Leone

The bell has rung and you are on your way to your first class of the day. With 8-10 classes in the same narrow hallway, it can get pretty crowded. It's not that uncommon to get pushed at least once while switching classes. In China, the buses in the morning get so crowded that they have to hire train pushers. "What's a train pusher?" you may be asking. Well it's pretty self-explanatory. A train pusher is a person hired to push people to the side in a train to make room for more people.

What would happen if St. Thomas got a pusher for the hallways? Well, on the bright side, it would be easier to walk without falling. It would also end up with less severe hallway injuries. However, many things could go wrong. If the pusher pushes someone without paying attention, the student could bump into another student and they would trip over each other. Also, if said pusher pushed a student too hard, the student could hit the wall and chaos would ensue.

Overall, I don't think St. Thomas needs to get a pusher. The way things are right now, the school basically already has a few. (hahah) Although St. Thomas can't have a hallway pusher, I think the idea of hallway pushers is kinda funny.

## **Top 5 Places with the Most Snow**

By Bianka Ochlanova

It has been a really long time since it has snowed here. Well at least snow that sticks. Here are the top 5 places in America that snowed the most. The first place it snowed is Erie, Pennsylvania. It had an average snowfall of 80.9 inches. The next place it has snowed is Duluth, Minnesota. It has an average of 83.5 inches of snow. Another place where it has snowed is Juneau, Alaska. It has snowed 93.6 inches on average. Syracuse, New York is another place it snowed. It has an average of 114.3 inches. And lastly the place it had snowed the most is Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It snowed an average of 119.3 inches. Those were the top 5 places it has snowed in the U.S.

## **Academy Awards**

By Lauryn Partnow

### **Best Picture**

- *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- *Avatar: The Way of Water*
- *The Banshees of Inisherin*
- *Elvis*
- *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- *The Fabelmans*
- *Tar*
- *Top Gun: Maverick*
- *Triangle of Sadness*
- *Women Talking*

### **Best Director**

- Martin McDonagh
- Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert
- Stephen Spielberg
- Ruben Ostland

### **Best Actress**

- Cate Blanchett
- Ana de Armas
- Andrea Riseborough
- Michelle Williams
- Michelle Yeoh

### **Best Actor**

- Austin Butler
- Colin Farrell
- Brendan Fraser
- Paul Mescal
- Bill Nighy

### **Best Supporting Actress**

- Angela Bassett

- Hong Chau
- Kerry Condon
- Jamie Lee Curtis
- Stephanie Hsu

**Best Supporting Actor**

- Brendan Gleeson
- Brian Tyree Henry
- Judd Hirsch
- Barry Keoghan
- Ke Huy Quan



# **Fiction Stories**

## **The Really Real Nightmare**

By Ava O'Reilly

"Have you heard about the Valentine's Day dance??" asked Sarah."

"What do you mean?" asked Luna

"I heard there is a dance and you need to go with a booyy." said Sarah mockingly.

"Stop pulling your sister's leg," said Dad."But Dad!" whined Sarah.

"That's enough, go to your rooms," Dad said.

"Okay, fine," said Sarah as she rolled her eyes.

"Daddy, I don't wanna go to bed!" Luna said quietly.

"Don't let your sister get to you, it's not real." said Dad.

Ding-Dong. "AHHHHHHH".

"Don't open it Dad, it could be a boy!" said Luna.

Dad opened the door. "See Luna, it's just a package, now go to bed!" "Ok" said Luna. Luna walked down the hallway and into her room. She checked her closet, under her bed, and even her backyard.....no one.

"It's fine, no ones there," Luna said to herself. So Luna went to bed.

"Where am I?" said Luna. "Hello?" She called out, and no one answered.

"What is this place?" Luna asked herself. "Oh my gosh this place is so...gross. Luna pretended to puke. It was a warm-colored room with heart balloons, hearts EVERYWHERE and worst of all a sign for a Valentine's Day dance!

"Hello Luna," said a young man.

"Uh-Hey?" said Luna, very scared.

"Oh Cupid, we have Luna right here,"said the young man.

"Cupid?" Luna thought to herself.

"Bring in the boy,"said the young man.

"Yes master." The boy named Cupid left the room and came back with a BOY!

"Hi Luna, would you go to the dance with me?" said the boy.

The boy got closer and closer to Luna as he reached out his hand

"NO THIS IS NOT REAL THIS IS JUST A DREAM" yelled Luna.

Luna felt herself come back to reality. She looked at her closet, bed, and backyard, just the same as before.

"It was just a dream".Luna said to herself. Her dad ran into the room.

"Luna are you alright?" asked Dad.

"Yes, just a nightmare," said Luna, still shaken up.

"Well, it's morning so come for breakfast,"said Dad.

Luna went to the kitchen.

"OMG...there's another email on the dance!" said Sarah.

"No there isn't," said Luna stiffly.

"But don't you hate Valentine's Day?" asked Sarah, confused.

"Not anymore, and I know what you're up to," said Luna.

"Fine, you're right," said Sarah, a little disappointed.

"Anyway, I have to go to acting class, you have to come!" said Luna as she walked off.

"Come on!" said Sarah.

"You're coming, get in the car," said Dad.

"Fine," said Sarah, very annoyed.

They got in the car and started driving away.

Luna felt proud for standing up to Sarah, her annoying sister.

THE END

## **The City in the Sky, Part 3: In Which an Airlolite Is Highly Confused**

Written by Mariel DeSello, Illustrated by Elan DeSello

"I don't think I know what you're talking about." Aira shifted from foot to foot.

"I am a truth seer, the only one in the city. It's a rare wispin-airlolute ability." Ezra said.

Do I have brain damage, or am I hearing this strange humanoid wisp-cloud is a truth seer? Aira thought to herself.

Ezra looked at Aira expectantly, as if he wanted an answer. Aira couldn't mumble a word. It was too confusing, it didn't make sense why Aira was here standing before a so-called 'truth seer'. Was Aunt Akeila playing tricks on her? No, Aira knew her aunt was a grumpy person who thought that everything was rubbish if it wasn't necessary. Also, Aira already figured out this place was real.

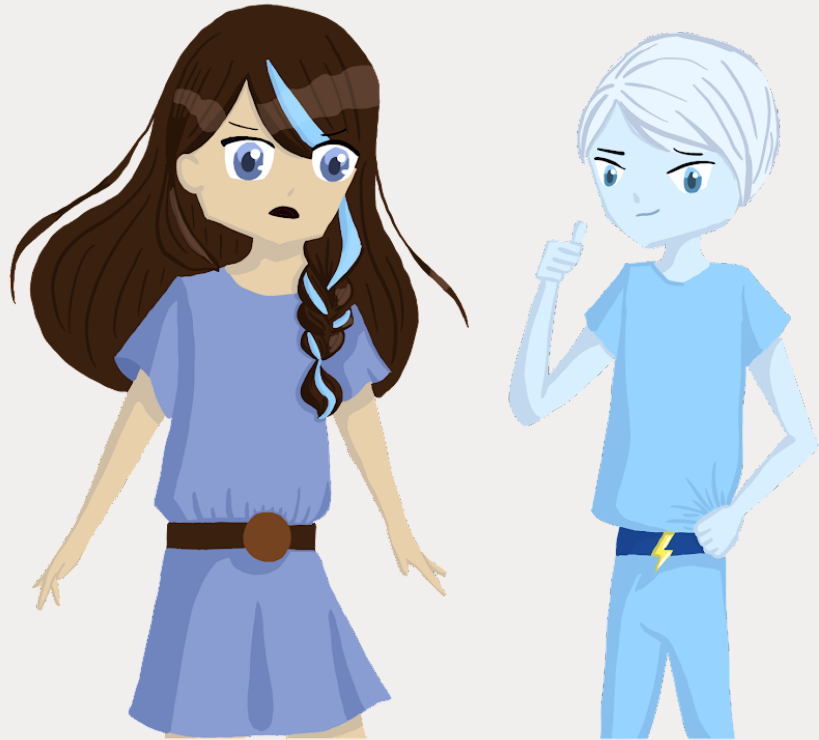
"I sense that you are deep in thought." Ezra was creeping Aira out of her wits.

"I am." Aira forced herself to say something.

"Of course you are. I didn't need an answer for that one." Ezra was also getting a bit annoying.

"And I also didn't get your name." Ezra said.

Aira didn't answer.



"I wanted you to answer that one!" Ezra exclaimed like it was obvious.

"How am I supposed to know whether or not I have to answer your questions!" Aira yelled exasperatedly.

"You are confused." Ezra responded.

"Of course I am." Aira rolled her eyes.

Ezra sighed.

"My name is Aira." Aira finally said.

"That was unnecessary." Ezra whispered.

But Aira could feel that was a lie. Suddenly, a defeated feeling came over Aira. Part of the truth came out. Aira was stuck with this weirdo until she could find a way back home and she had to discover what she really was, which was clearly not some normal human girl.

TO BE CONTINUED

## **New Year**

By Makayla Cabangon

"Ugh!" Courtney said. "No, no, NO!!" The wifi bars on her phone were gone. "Why!?!?!" Courtney fell on her bed frustrated. If she used her phone any longer, she would run out of data. She needed to pay more money to get more data for her phone. "Why does that even exist?!" she complained. "I bet if I was in the 1900s, I wouldn't have this trouble!" Courtney fell asleep and woke up in a bed, but it wasn't her bed...

"Where am I?" Courtney asked. The mattress looked old fashioned and the walls were dirty and old. "Ew! Yuck! Who would live in this dump?" Courtney said, covering her nose. She suddenly heard her father call her name.

"Courtney! You're late for school!" Her father called. Courtney came down the stairs in curiosity and anger.

"I thought school didn't start until 9:00! Besides, it's fine if I'm late!" she said. Her father looked very confused.

"School starts at 8:00 hon. You can eat this leftover bread for breakfast. Now, run!" He said. Courtney turned around in confusion and scared.

"Why?!" She asked.

"You need to walk to school? You're already late, and so am I for work! The cows aren't going to milk themselves and the shoes aren't gonna sell themselves!" He said, pushing Courtney out the door.

"What?! What time is it? What day is it? I thought it was Saturday!" Courtney asked quickly.

"No, it's Monday, and it's December 18th, 1990 obviously! It's the last day before winter break! Now go!" He said before shutting the door. Courtney tried calling an uber, pulling over a taxi, but she was unsuccessful at both. She groaned and walked to school.

At school, everybody looked very weird. They were dressed nothing like how everyone in Courtney's generation dressed. They were old fashioned, and everyone had these weird flip-phones!

"Cleo? Brittany? What are you two wearing?!" Courtney asked.

"What are you wearing?!" Cleo asked. Brittany agreed.

"Ugh! You two are so cringey!" Courtney said in disgust. She walked away to her classroom. She couldn't believe it! The classroom TV was replaced with a chalkboard! This was unbelievable! She needed to get back to 2023! But how?

When she came home from school, her dad wasn't home.

"Dad?" Courtney yelled out. No reply. Courtney went upstairs to her room and looked in her mirror.

"Okay, world, or whatever." Courtney said to the mirror. "I don't know what or why this is happening, but I need to go back. NOW!" Courtney closed her eyes, and opened them back again. She was still in the old room.

"Ugh!" she cried out. "Why can't I just wake up in my own room?!" Courtney fell on the bed and closed her eyes. She focused on her need to get back to her century. Eventually, Courtney fell asleep, and she woke up in a different room...

When Courtney woke up, she examined the room.

"Yes!" she cried out. "I'm out of that horrible room!" She sat up then paused.

"Wait a minute," she thought to herself. Courtney looked across the room and realized she still wasn't in her room. Instead of the dusty, old walls and furniture, the walls were metal and most of the things like her mirror were holograms! If they weren't they still looked cool!

"What in the world?!" Instead of the past, Courtney was in the future.

"Dad!!!" Courtney yelled out. She ran for the stairs, but it was replaced with this blue flooring. As soon as she stepped on it, she teleported to her kitchen! There, sitting down and having breakfast, was her dad.

"Courtney!" her dad said. "You're supposed to be at school!" Courtney looked at everything and groaned.

"It's the future and they still have school!" Courtney's father looked confused.

"Of course! They're—"

"They're shaping the future. I know, I know." Courtney continued, groaning. Courtney sat at the table and waited for her breakfast. Then, her dad sat at the table.

"Aren't you going to make me breakfast?" Courtney asked. "I'm kinda hungry."

"Oh, not me, but you will still have breakfast." Courtney's dad replied. The robot in the kitchen brought eggs and bacon for Courtney.

"Oh and I forgot! We only eat the finest!" Her dad snapped his fingers and the robot brought out a spray can and sprayed Courtney's breakfast until it was shimmering gold.

"It's edible gold spray, dear. I just bought it with the money in your grandfather's will." Courtney looked surprised and sad.

"So Gramps dies in the future." Courtney said disappointed. "Did he leave anything for me?" Courtney's dad smiled.

"Actually, yes." Her father said. He took out an old watch and gave it to Courtney. "He said whenever you find yourself twisted in time, you just turn the knob. I have no clue what that means, but that doesn't surprise me. Your grandfather always wrote metaphors and figurative language." Courtney smiled and went up to her room.

"Wait, Courtney!" Her father called out.

"I just forgot something in my room!" Courtney yelled, running to the teleporter. When Courtney got to her room, she turned the knob backwards. Nothing happened. She was so disappointed. Maybe it was her grandfather's figurative language and she got too desperate to get back to 2023. She fell on her bed and fell asleep.

When Courtney woke up, she found herself in her bed. She was back! She ran downstairs and found her father and mother making breakfast. Her mother spotted Courtney by the staircase.

"Courtney! It's--"

"It's time for school, I know, I know." Courtney happily got her breakfast and got outside.

"Aren't you going to wait for the limo to take you? The butler can get it from the garage!" Her dad said.

"No," Courtney replied. "I think I'm going to do it the way you guys did it 'back in the day'" Courtney said. She giggled and went out the door.

Before heading to school, she went to her grandfather's house.

"Gramps!" Courtney called. Her grandfather spotted her and smiled.

"Did you get my watch?" He asked. "It's a prototype for my time machine." Courtney was surprised. Her grandfather was making a time machine?! Wow! Courtney smiled and nodded.

"Oh good! Now, in the future, I won't be around anymore, so whenever you want to see me, you know what to do." Her grandfather replied. "I'll leave it in my will." He whispered. They both laughed and Courtney left. She headed to school thinking about her grandfather, and that amazing trip through time.

"I wonder what day it is," Courtney wondered. She checked her phone and saw the date. "January 1st, 2024." She said, it certainly was an amazing trip! It was definitely a wonderful new year!

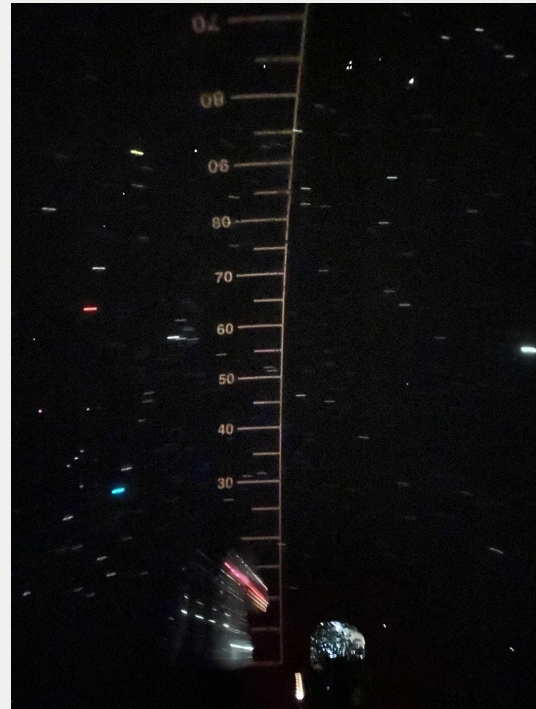
THE END



# Catholic Schools Week Photo Gallery

## Planetarium

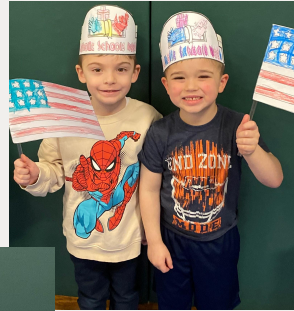
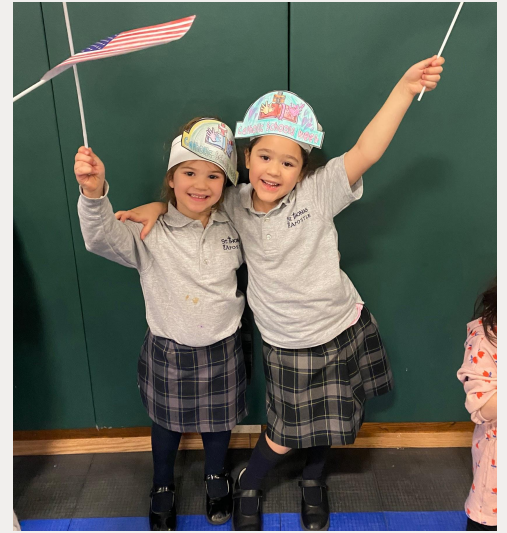
By Valentina Joseph





### Pre-K and K Parade

By Valentina Joseph and Daniela Ramirez





**ABC's of America By Valentina Joseph**



**ABC's of America (continued)**

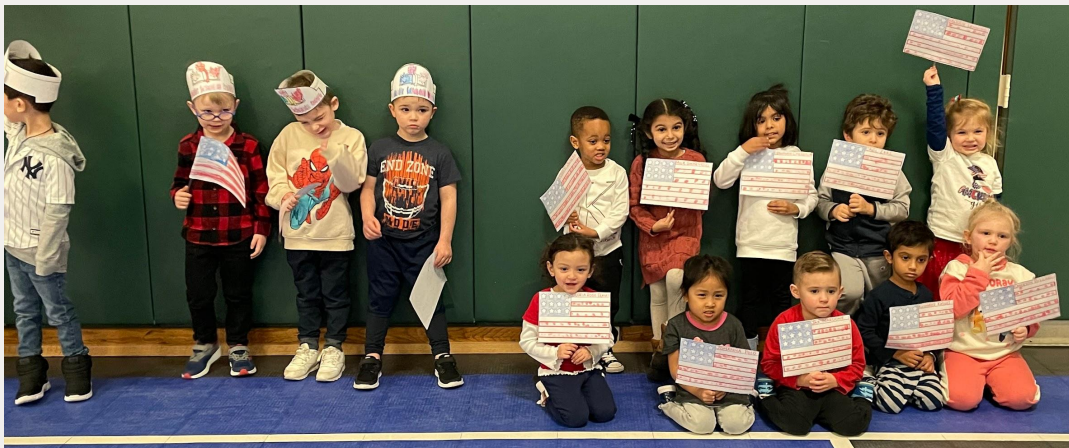
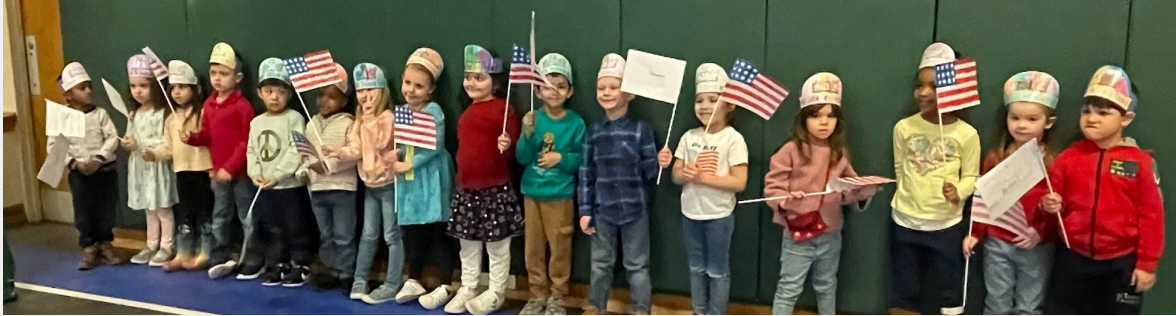
By Marc Colangelo





## Pre-K and K Parade

By Marc Colangelo



## Bulletin Board Contest

By Marc Colangelo

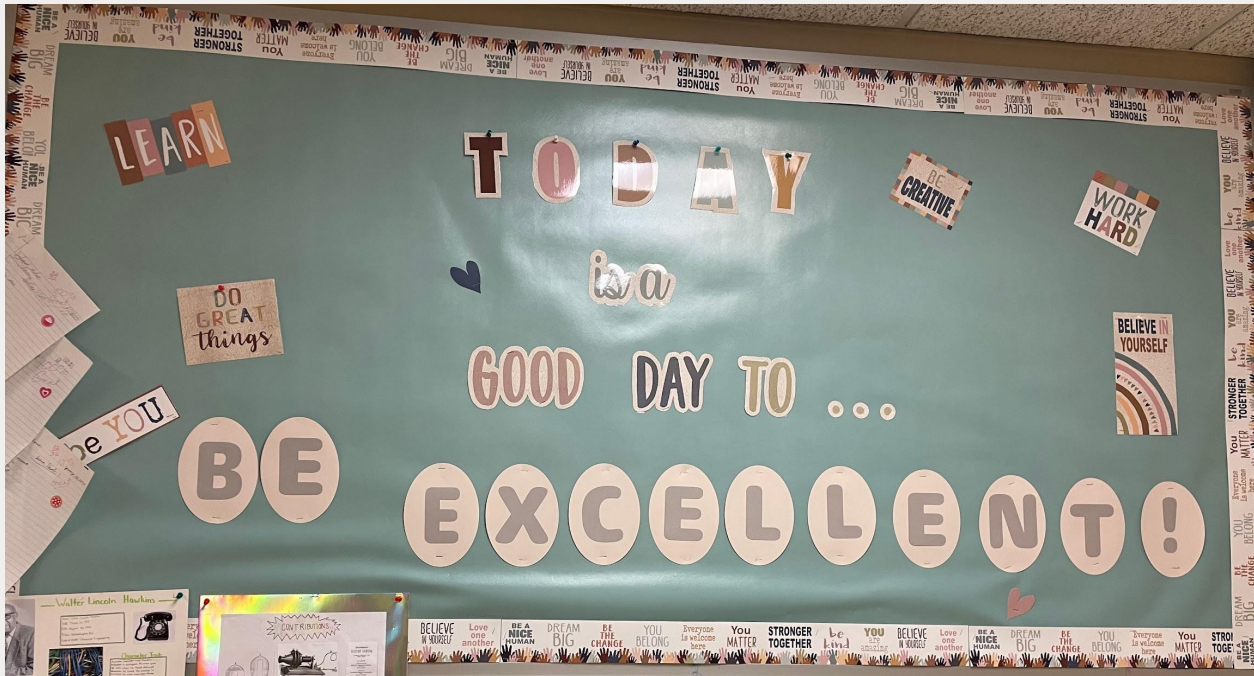








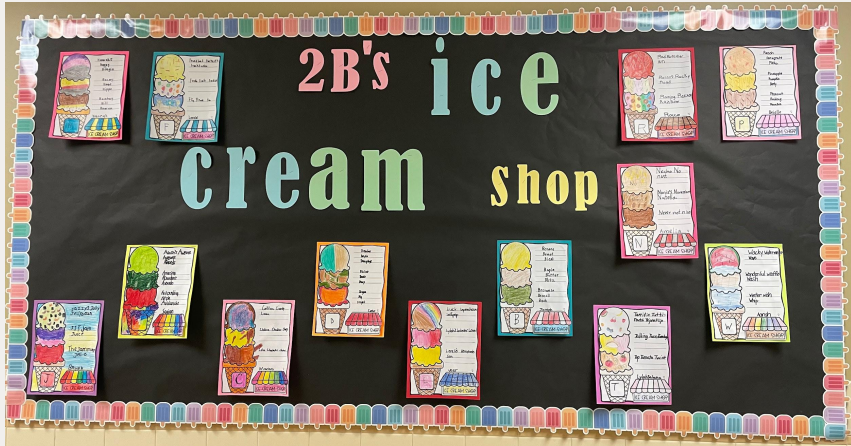




















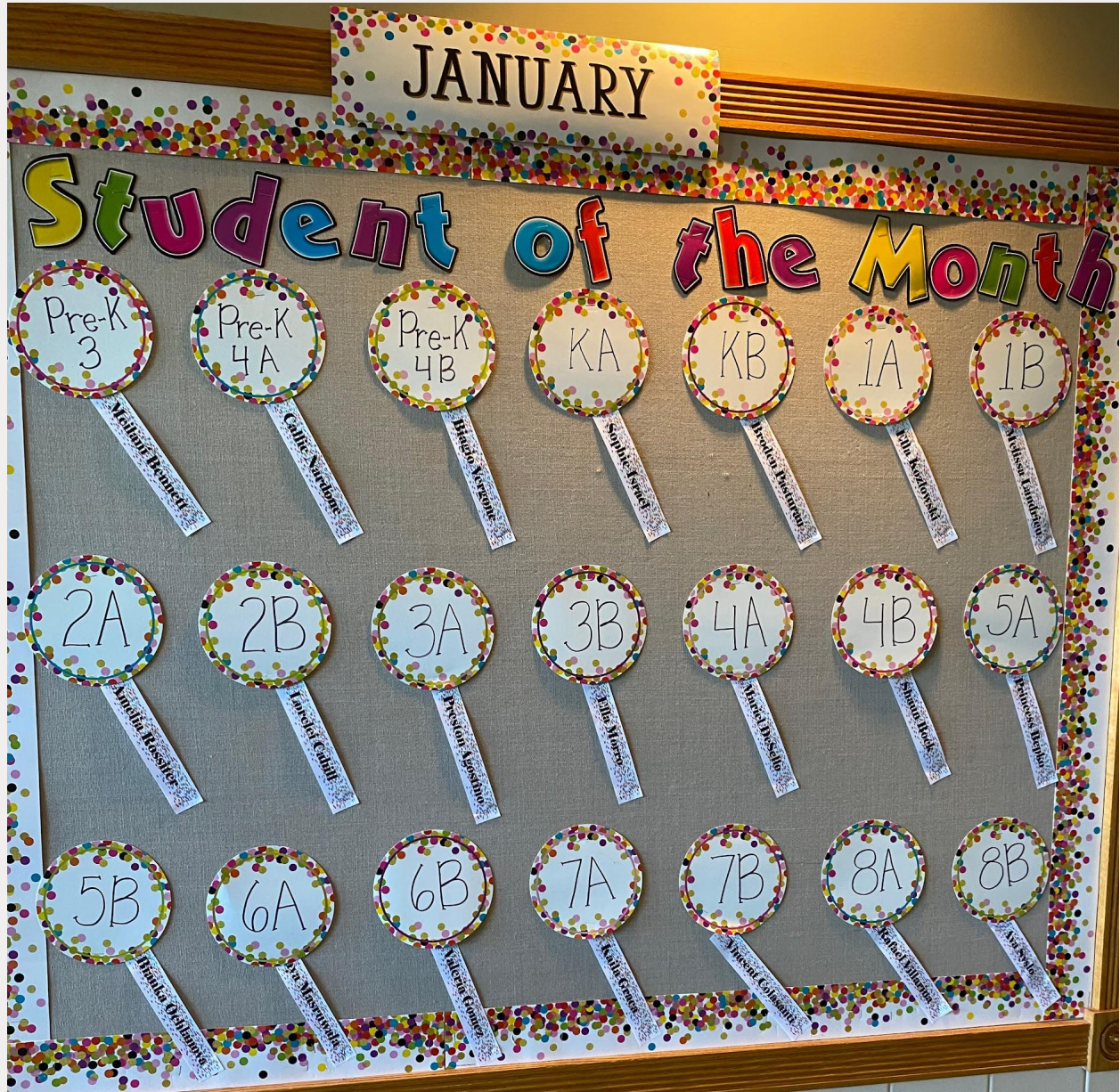






# January Students of the Month

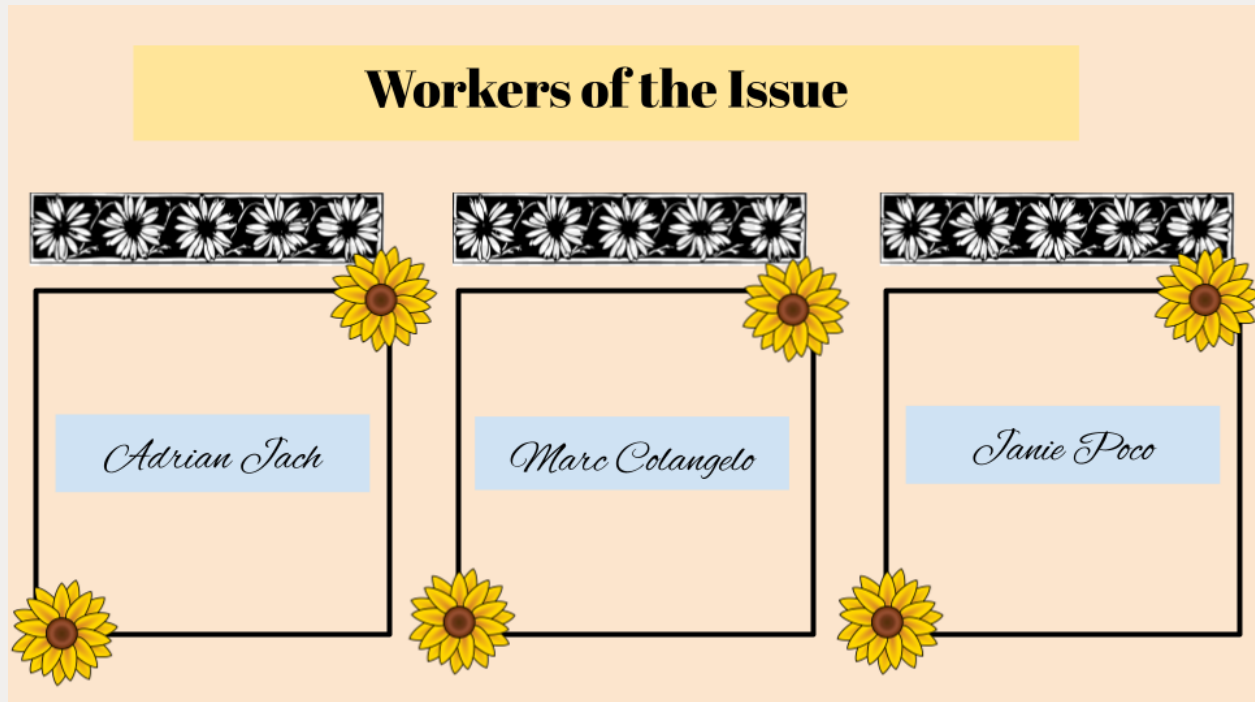
Photographed by Ava Ventura



# Staff Members of the Issue

*Celebrating the staff members who worked hard to make this issue a success!*

Image created by Anya Shah





# Trivia and Games

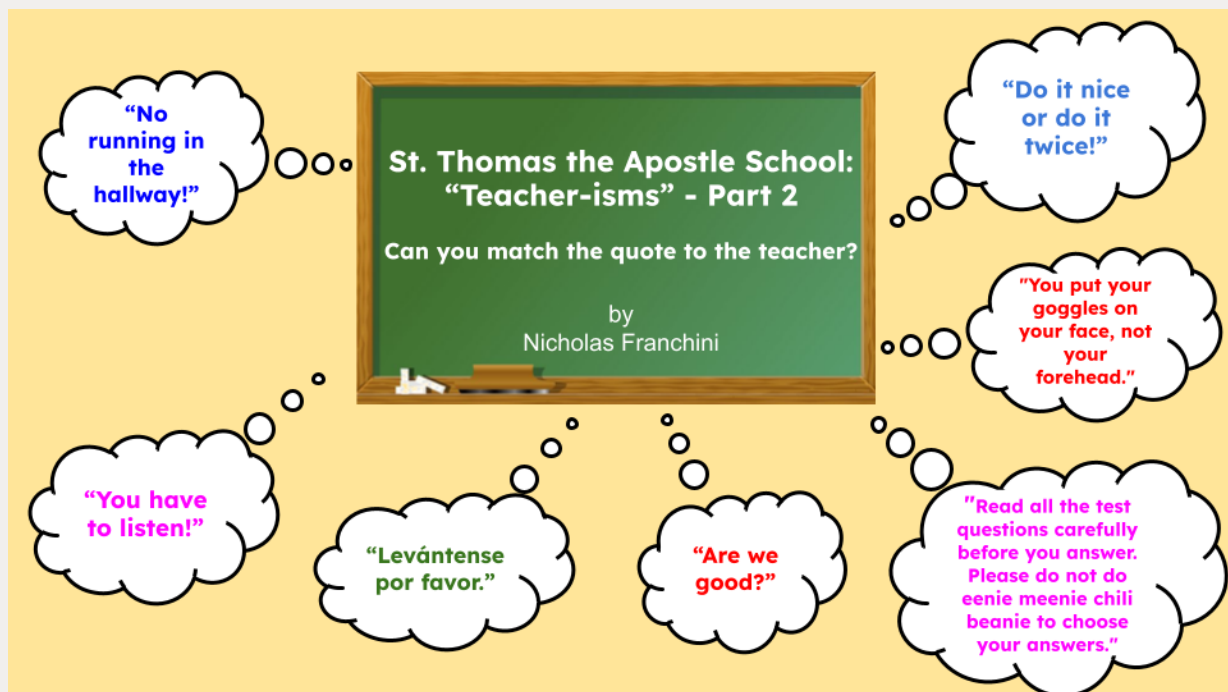
## Presidents' Day Trivia

By Alisha Desai and CoraLynn Taylor

1. How many presidents' birthdays are in July?
2. Which president was inaugurated at 54 years, 2 months, 27 days?
3. Which president hated uniforms?
4. Which president was naturally ambidextrous?

## Teacher-isms, Part 2

By Nicholas Franchini



## Valentine's Day Word Search

By Alyssa Eggers

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/37160/valentines-day/>

## Answers

1. 3
2. Martin Van Buren
3. Ulysses S. Grant
4. James A. Garfield

The graphic features a central green chalkboard with a wooden frame. On the chalkboard, the text reads: "St. Thomas the Apostle School: 'Teacher-isms' - Part 2", "Can you match the quote to the teacher?", and "by Nicholas Franchini". Surrounding the chalkboard are six thought bubbles, each containing a quote and the teacher's name and subject. The quotes are: "No running in the hallway!" (Mrs. Grewal, PreK3), "Do it nice or do it twice!" (Mrs. Dennis, 1A), "You put your goggles on your face, not your forehead." (Mrs. Kulesa, Science), "You have to listen!" (Miss Skunakis, 2B), "Levántense por favor." (Mrs. Ramirez, Spanish), and "Are we good?" (Mrs. Kropa, Social Studies). A sixth thought bubble at the bottom right contains the quote: "Read all the test questions carefully before you answer. Please do not do eenie meenie chili beanie to choose your answers." (Mrs. Ruocco, 3B).

**St. Thomas the Apostle School:  
"Teacher-isms" - Part 2**

Can you match the quote to the teacher?

by  
Nicholas Franchini

**"No running in the hallway!"  
Mrs. Grewal  
PreK3**

**"Do it nice or do it twice!"  
Mrs. Dennis  
1A**

**"You put your goggles on your face, not your forehead."  
Mrs. Kulesa  
Science**

**"You have to listen!"  
Miss Skunakis  
2B**

**"Levántense por favor."  
Mrs. Ramirez  
Spanish**

**"Are we good?"  
Mrs. Kropa  
Social Studies**

**"Read all the test questions carefully before you answer. Please do not do eenie meenie chili beanie to choose your answers."  
Mrs. Ruocco  
3B**