



La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA

In the News...

Save the Date for our
LSA Proud Golf Classic
on **September 30, 2024!**



Stay up to date - see inside to learn more about what **Sr. Jeanne** and our **alums** have been up to!



Our **Catholic Schools Week Social and Meet the President Event** on February 1st was a huge success- check out page 6 for photos.



Congratulations to the **LSA Boys and Girls CYO basketball teams**. All players improved and had fun. Thank you, Coach Paul and Coach Lauren.

Letter From the President



The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes. - Matthew 21: 33-43

Dear Friends of LSA,

At La Salle Academy, we are grateful to have Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of our school and our Catholic faith. During **Catholic Schools Week**, we expressed appreciation for our faith by inviting friends of the school to celebrate our many blessings. Our school choir, led by **LSA Music Director Darin Williams**, shared their faith-filled joy in song in front of the backdrop of LSA's five core principles – To be Peaceful, Responsible, Consistent, Motivated, and Respectful. **Student Council President Xavier Gonzalez** introduced the students and joined them in reciting the school pledge, which we state together every morning at assembly. The LSA Student Council did a masterful job of providing tours for our guests and expressing pride for their school and their accomplishments. Our guests were impressed; our students' pride in and love for LSA were wonderful in our eyes. Our faculty and students certainly form the heart and soul of La Salle Academy with our five core principles forming the cornerstone.

Peace and blessings,

Maria J. Walker
President

Together, we shine the light of faith across our LSA community.



Join our La Salle Academy community and support LSA and our LSA programs by donating on St. John Baptist de La Salle's feast day APRIL 7th.



Letter From the Principal



Dear Friends,

Through La Salle Academy’s truly holistic approach to education, students develop academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally in a Christ-centered learning environment. In our February Newsletter, you will see and read about how the LSA students are living out this year’s school theme: “LSA: Good News is Poppin’!” Our theme this year has helped us all to focus on the good and positive around us. There is so much good at LSA! We can see and feel God’s love in our students each day.

Recently, I read a story about Fred Rogers that applies to LSA. Mr. Rogers said, “Anyone who does anything to help a child in his/her life is a hero.” I must say this—La Salle Academy is poppin’ with a lot of heroes!

Our students pray daily for our Board Members, benefactors, and friends, who as one fourth grader says, “makes their education possible.” Following the examples of the role models in their lives, our students are becoming heroes themselves as they research, develop, and implement service projects which are helping young and elderly people alike. Students are eager to “pay it forward,” and bring service into their daily lives.

Thank you for helping to extend our school theme into our community, for helping our children, and for being an LSA hero.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever,

Ms. Teresa Diamond

Principal



Featured Artwork

Once a week our students participate in a valuable piece of our curriculum, Art Class! Mrs. Adler teaches our students how to use multiple mediums and techniques to represent their creativity, help develop a sense of self-expression, and learn new skills. Our featured artwork includes: paper weaving and pattern drawing, a winter watercolor landscape, yarn weaving, an observational paint brush in tempera paint, a collage and line pattern painting, and a charcoal self portrait.



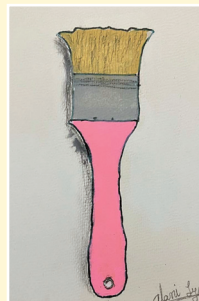
3RD GRADE
David Melendez Ortiz



4TH GRADE
Samantha Lopez



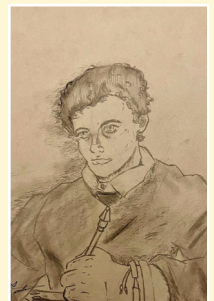
5TH GRADE
Juelz Sierra



6TH GRADE
Alani Gillard



7TH GRADE
Samuel Velazquez



8TH GRADE
Drake Rodriguez Smith

Technology Department

In technology class, students created colorful winter scenes on Google Slides using various tools, such as inserting shapes and lines, changing shape fill color, and resizing to match their unique visions! Students are also actively working to perfect their typing skills by memorizing the keyboard, especially the home row keys.



Music

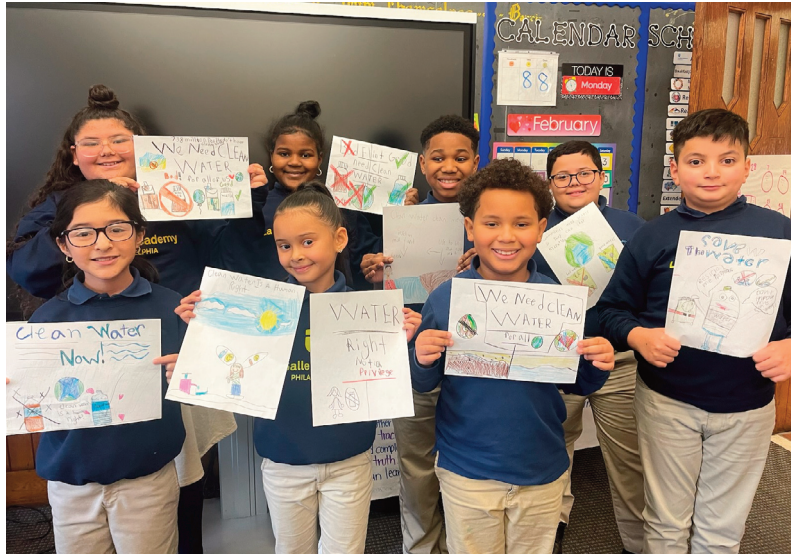
From singing during school Masses to being one of the highlights of our Catholic Schools Week Social and Meet the President Event, the musical talents of our students are expanding beyond music class. Mr. Williams does a fantastic job working with the students so that they each shine when performing. A special shout out to the choir who impressed the many guests at our Catholic Schools Week event!



Education Plus Health

One part of the LSA model that makes us different is our connection to the Education Plus Health program. Three days a week we have a certified nurse practitioner, Gabriella Melendez, who provides in-school wellness services that address students' emotional, social, and physical needs. Moreover, the program helps us bring in additional personnel to conduct vision exams. Doesn't Sage look great in his new glasses!





Third Grade

The third graders' service learning project is designed to engage, educate, and inspire them to take action to solve the global water crisis by raising awareness and funds to support implementation of water and sanitation projects with Catholic Relief Services. The students have been busy learning about the Flint Michigan Water Crisis and how the water filtration process works. They're enjoying hearing the true story—"A Long Walk to Water"—as they find themselves imagining being in the shoes of the 2 billion people around the world without access to clean water.

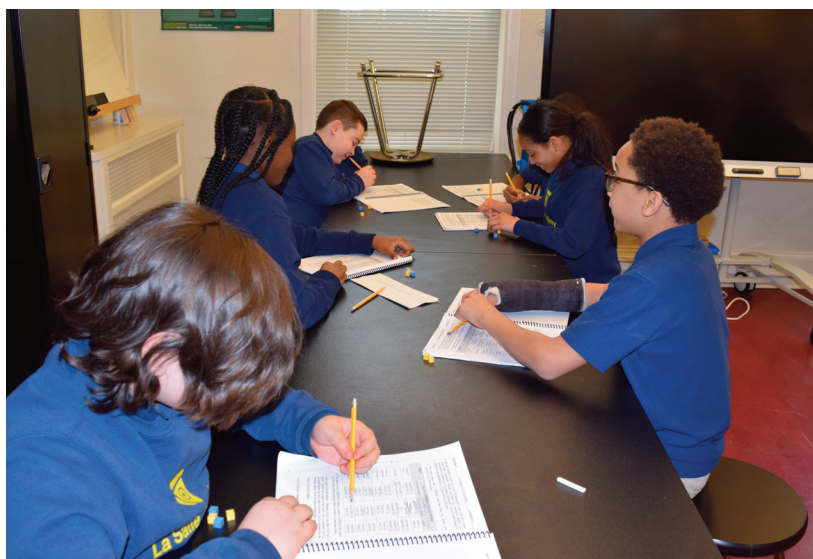
Fourth Grade

The fourth graders are working on putting out their very first newspaper for the school, with an overall theme of empathy. The students have been working extremely hard to do research, interview individuals, and put all of their information into proper writing format. Their hope is that the students, families, and staff of La Salle Academy can understand what it means to be empathetic and how it can strengthen communities.



Fifth Grade

Fifth grade's recent Social Studies classes have been jam-packed with learning about the American Revolution and its causes, the Civil rights movement, and celebrating Black History Month. Students also had a science unit on heredity and adaptation where they learned that traits are passed down from parent to offspring, which accounts for a great deal of variation in the human race. What's more fun, they participated in a lab activity where they extracted DNA from an onion!



Sixth Grade

In sixth grade math class, students are working on dividing fractions following the Keep, Change, Flip method. They are also learning about the Kings of Israel as they work through the Old Testament and prepare for the upcoming season of Lent. Additionally, they achieved a high score of compliments from teachers and staff on their “Compliment Counter” for impressive behavior throughout the school, scoring them a Valentine’s party!



Seventh Grade

During the month of February, seventh graders participated in our “Beyond I Have a Dream” presentation. Each student researched a Martin Luther King, Jr. speech that resonated with them and presented those excerpts to the student body and administration during assembly. Seventh grade also worked on developing slide presentations for President’s Day, with the goal to educate their peers on the impact of various U.S. Presidents of the past.



Eighth Grade

Over the last two and a half months, the eighth grade class dove into an ELA unit on the Holocaust. After reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Devil’s Arithmetic*, students compared and contrasted what life was like for those who hid and those who lived in the concentration camps. To bring to life the themes and takeaways from this unit, the eighth graders worked with Art teacher, Mrs. Adler, to create a special art project based on what they learned about the Holocaust. Their images are beautiful; Xavier’s is pictured below. Also, Ruth Kapp Hartz, a Holocaust survivor, pictured below, gave a presentation on her life and book, *Your Name is Renee*.



Philadelphia Career Pathways Resource Fair

On January 13th, La Salle Academy partnered with Philadelphia Career Pathways, a program of the Nerney Family Foundation, and Director Leonard Bentley to host a Resource Fair for LSA families and community members. LSA was visited by Hopeworks, Clarifi, Strayer University, New Kensington CDC, and more to connect individuals with resources including career and job training, legal and social services, educational opportunities, and workforce programming to help individuals achieve their personal and professional goals. Thank you to our staff, alumni, family and community members, and especially our presenters for supporting this event!



Catholic Schools Week / Meet the President Social

What better way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week than to have a social to introduce the New President of La Salle Academy, Maria Walker, to the LSA community. A huge thank you to our Board of Trustees, benefactors, and friends who joined us on February 1st to learn about the mission and goals of the school. Some highlights from the event include two performances by our fantastic school choir as well as additions to our positive message board for students.



LSA Connects



Olivia K. - Mercy Tech



Georganne S. - Little Flower

LSA Alumni Update



Kaylee J. - Neumann Goretti

LSA Connects, LSA's Graduate Support Program, assists LSA alumni through high school and beyond. This school year, LSA is grateful for the administrative support of three graduates: Olivia, Georganne, and Kaylee, who provide office support after school. These young women are recent graduates of LSA and now attend high school at Mercy Tech, Little Flower, and Neumann Goretti respectively. Four days a week, these students assist in our main office with answering phone calls and the door, making copies for classrooms, calling dismissal lines and more!

LA SALLE ACADEMY'S ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 30TH
AT WHITEMARSH VALLEY
COUNTRY CLUB



"Ready for Any Good Work"



La Salle Academy partnered with Philadelphia Career Pathways, a program of the Nerney Family Foundation, and Director Leonard Bentley to hold a Resource Fair for LSA families and community members. Always "Ready for any good work," Sr Jeanne joined us for the day. Fun coincidence! Sr. Jeanne was the Principal of Our Mother of Sorrows where Leonard was a student. What a small world to have them reconnect at the start of a growing partnership!



Sr. Jeanne McGowan, SSJ



La Salle Academy

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Breaking News!

La Salle Academy Young Explorers Boys Basketball Team took home the CYO Region 3 Championship with an impressive 39 to 30 Victory over The Lions of St. Laurentius! Congrats to Coach Paul Barycki and the team with 7th Grader Anthony Gordon earning the MVP Award!

Thanks for a Fantastic Season!

PA STATE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The PA EITC and OSTC Programs are a critical part of La Salle Academy's fundraising and development work. Companies and businesses make a big



impact creating scholarships for our students. Individuals can also participate through Special Business Partnerships utilizing the same Pennsylvania Education tax Credits for Personal Tax Purposes.

Contact Megan to learn more about both options at mgthomson@lasalleacademy.net



Stay Connected With LSA



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