

ST. MICHAEL'S s c h o o l

Growth Spurts

Well, a new school year has begun and St. Michael's School has welcomed five new students. Because of the generosity of the Friends of St. Michael's, the scholarship money raised last spring enables some students to attend who would have had a more difficult time doing so. Our school year began with a blessing from Fr. Michael Oyer of the schoolrooms and the surrounding grounds. The parents and students received quite a dousing of Holy Water from Fr. Michael's blessing and then the students went about their first day full of excitement and anticipation. Since then, the students have delved into their studies in history, language arts, mathematics, science, music, art, religious studies, woodworking and gardening. They've even managed to fit in a field trip!



Planting A Seed

We humbly and gratefully thank Christ the Savior Brotherhood for their generous grant for our garden. The students helped build the raised beds and fill them with dirt to be used for the planting last spring. According to Irish tradition, potatoes were planted on St. Patrick's Day. One year on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, the snow lay thick on the ground and spring seemed far away indeed. Many farmers decided that the time was not right to plant the potatoes, but one stubborn farmer would not deny St. Patrick on his day. Much to the jesting of others, this farmer dug through the frozen ground and worked hard to plant his crop. When harvest time came, his was the most plentiful and successful crop around. Glory to God, St. Michael's meager planting of potatoes on the Saint's day yielded over 70 lbs of potatoes! Other crops planted were strawberries, pumpkins, tomatoes, sunflowers, lettuces, cucumbers, herbs and peppers of various sorts. With care and attention, our garden grew abundantly. We were kept busy all summer picking the fruits of our labors. Perhaps this year we'll need lessons on canning and pickling!

It's A Small World

We have a wonderful little story to tell our kind readers. The students have been studying world explorers such as Drake and De Gama in their history classes. Now, when St. Michael's studies a topic, they approach it quite thoroughly and on various levels. The young would-be sailors had to learn how to navigate using a quadrant they had made themselves. Before bedtime, they had to locate the Big Dipper and the North Star. After locating the North Star they had to find the latitude of Santa Rosa using their quadrant. They (and their parents) were quite amazed at how difficult it would be to navigate with such an instrument on a sailing ship that was tossing and pitching at sea. While at "sea", the sailors learned some shanties to help make the difficult manual labor more fruitful and enjoyable. Once docked in India, a little East Indian princess (from the first grade class) dressed in many-colored silks, well-learned of the many spices her country grew, built a ship from cardboard and loaded this ship with the spices to deliver to the explorers and discoverers in the other classroom. She also brought with her freshly squeezed lime juice (no sugar or water added) for these sailors to rid them of any possible scurvy. They found the experience quite, well, sour. On our first field trip of the year, St. Michael's went to San Francisco to board the Balclutha (pronounced "Bal-clu-a") for a tour of the old sailing ship. Our wonderful guide, Pete, led us through the ship on a fascinating tour through the history of the Balclutha and what it was like to be a sailor on such a ship. Did you know that the original hardtack was actually biscotti? Not quite the chocolate-dipped, almond studded type we see today but biscotti all the same. Well, the sailor's life was hardly that of dipping a biscotti in his latte while taking in the expansive view of the Atlantic, so, as I have mentioned above, the sea shanty helped the sailors "haul in the bowlin'." As Pete geared up to teach us a shanty, the title of which was, "John Tanakanaka", the teachers and some students familiar with the St. Innocent's Academy CD "How Can I Keep From Singing" exclaimed, "We know that one!" After some discussion, we found out that Pete belongs to the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers, who took a tour in Alaska and was hosted by our sister school, St. Innocent's Academy! He is the one who taught those students the shanty and they, in turn, produced a CD with that on it (with new verses to suit the Alaskan fish trade). We heartily sang the verses Pete gave us and ended our tour on a sweet note. It is truly a small world, after all.



NOVEMBER, ISSUE 2



g r o w t h

Business Opportunities

• Sponsor a Student

St. Michael's is dedicated to offering a quality Orthodox Christian education and is the only formal school north of San Francisco to do so. There have been many inquiries to the school from young parents who are interested in sending their children to St. Michael's but do not have the means to do so. If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please contact Fr. James at 545-0861 or jkhughes@stmichaelschool.us.

• Recycle Ink Cartridges / Cell Phones

Recycle used printer cartridges and cell phones to raise funds for the school. If anyone knows of a business that would like us to take these unwanted items off their hands, we would gladly provide a recycling bin for them and would pick them up on a regular basis. We accept individual donations too! Please contact Lara Anderson 569-0175 or Tari Webber at 623-7089.

• Join Community Smart

Joining Community Smart is a great way for business to give back by donating a rebate based on your own revenue strategy. If your local business wishes to be on the list of merchants for Community Smart, you gain a loyal consumer base and encourage repeat purchasing, while raising money for local school. For more information how your business can profit from giving, please contact Laurel Counts at 795-5739.

• Join Office Depot Give Back Program

Office Depot offers St. Michael's School a 5% Back to Schools Program. If you or your business buys office supplies, you can help St. Michael's by using the ID #70209471. Call Fr. James at 545-0861 to receive a card with this ID number.

LOOKING *Ahead*

As you may or may not know, St. Michael's School is a small Orthodox Christian school with anywhere from 10 to 16 students in any given year. Although we are a non-profit school, it is difficult to find many grants to fund such a small Christian school. Our small student base also presents us a challenge when fundraising. Other larger schools have many families who participate in their activities. Our fundraising depends on those of you in our community and beyond who are interested in the growth of Orthodox education. The education experience at St. Michael's is one step away from home schooling, their motto being "Enlivening Hearts, Developing Minds, Nurturing Souls." The students who have graduated from St. Michael's School have continued success in their academic careers. The parents group of St. Michael's is dedicated to supporting this education through raising money for scholarship programs as well as operating expenses. Here are some of the many ways that you as a Friend of St. Michael's can help.

Turkey Drawing



Enter to win a turkey dinner and all the fixings! \$1 a ticket, do not need to be present to win. All proceeds go to St. Michael's School. The drawing will be held at Fusion Fitness and is sponsored by Marie Calendars and Fusion Fitness. Tickets can be purchased at the Fusion front desk or by contacting Tari Weber at 206.9434.

To add your name to the mailing list, please contact Lara Anderson at 569-0175. Want to know more about St. Michael's School? Visit our website at www.stmichaelschool.us.

Thank you for your support.

E-Scrip and Community Smart

What an easy way to help St. Michael's School! If you go online to www.escrip.com and www.communitysmart.com, you can easily sign up your debit, credit and store cards (i.e. Macy's, Safeway, Target, Barnes and Nobel's, Andy's Market) that you use for your everyday shopping. Choose "St. Michaels Orthodox School" as your beneficiary. Then, every time you use your card to make a purchase at participating retailers, restaurants and grocery stores, you earn money for the school! It's as easy as that! St. Michael's has earned almost \$100.00 this last quarter. Community Smart also works with cash, too! If you have any questions, please call Laurel Counts at 795.5739.

Bottles Everywhere and Not a Drop To Drink!



Our recycling of plastic bottles has increased over the summer thanks to the efforts of many individuals. We have donors from as far away as Oakmont (thank you David and Annadare Nelson) and San Francisco. Many thanks go out to the individuals at Holy Dormition and St. Seraphim's churches for all their contributions. Our newest group to join in this effort is Fusion Fitness on Sebastopol Rd. As a fitness club, of course their patrons go through much water. They have graciously allowed us to keep a recycling bin at their business. This has kept us busy at the recycling center. Since March, we have raised \$290.00. We want to see if we can reach \$500.00 by next March. Do you want to help? Please call Lara Anderson at 569.0175 if you have any questions.