

# THE PAW PRINT

ST. ATHANASIUS SCHOOL

Oct. 2022



## SURVIVING A FUN DAY AT FONTANA

By Grades 5 and 6

During the first quarter Mrs. LaFontaine's 5<sup>th</sup> graders read *My Side of the Mountain* and Ms. Jacobson's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class read *Hatchet*. In each book, the main character has to survive in the wilderness. With these stories in mind, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders went to Fontana Park on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> to see for themselves how challenging this can be.

First, the students learned how to make a solar still to collect clean water. This involved digging a hole in the ground and putting a plastic poncho over it, with a cup under it. Then they went into the woods and built tents, using only tarps, string, and the plants and rock formations around them.

After that, the students split into groups, and with Ranger Michael's help, learned to make fires. According to Corrine (6<sup>th</sup>), this "proved to be difficult" because dry tinder was hard to find due to the morning rain. Even so, reported Sophie (6<sup>th</sup>), "one group made a little fire, but it went out in like a minute."

Students also ate sack lunches outside and toured the animals and displays at the Nature Center before returning to school.

According to Adalyn (6<sup>th</sup>), "We all learned something new," and Dylan (6<sup>th</sup>), added, "What was super memorable was all of us talking and having a good day."



Sophie (6<sup>th</sup>), JD (5<sup>th</sup>), Jayda (5<sup>th</sup>), and Corrine (6<sup>th</sup>) prove that teamwork makes the dream work, with JD claiming that this is where he lives now.

## BUDDY TIME AT PUMPKIN PATCH!

By Kelsey (8<sup>th</sup>) and Lydia (8<sup>th</sup>)



8<sup>th</sup> grade and kindergarten buddies had a fun afternoon at Heartland Farms.

On October 14, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their Kindergarten buddies went to the pumpkin patch at Heartland Farms. The weather that day was a little chilly and pretty windy, but that didn't stop them from having a good time. While they were there, they went on a hayride, through a corn maze, through a haunted house, and looked at the animals. According to Logan (8<sup>th</sup>), "The corn maze wasn't scary or hard, but it was still fun."

Before leaving, the group buried each other in a pit of corn kernels, getting corn kernels in their pants. When they jumped a bouncy pillow for a while, with corn flying out of their pants. Even so, Carter reports that when he got home that day, he was still finding kernels of corn in his clothes. Lastly, they each picked a pumpkin to paint together the following week.

## Wildcats Welcome Vets to Jesup

By Mya (7<sup>th</sup>)

On September 16, Saint A's students lined 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Jesup, cheering, clapping, and waving posters to cheer on and show support for two retired Marine corps sergeant majors as they made their way through town on a 3,356-mile walk. Coleman "Rocky" Kinzer (44) and Justin "J.D." LeHew, (52) began their journey in Boston, Massachusetts on July 6. They plan to arrive in Newport, Oregon sometime in November, averaging 20 miles a day at three miles an hour. They are doing this to raise awareness and funds for History Flight, an organization that identifies and brings home the remains of U.S. military killed overseas. We thank Rocky and J.D. for their duty, and their selfless act.

## staff spotlight

# St. Athanasius Welcomes Mrs. LaFontaine to Unit B

By Corrine (6<sup>th</sup>)

This year, we welcome Mrs. LaFontaine, our new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She grew up in Waterloo, Iowa and attended Washburn Elementary and Hoover Middle School. After graduating from Waterloo West, she attended U.N.I. where she earned a Bachelor's degree in education and a teaching endorsement in social studies.

Mrs. LaFontaine says she became a teacher to share her love of learning with others, and she likes how teaching "is a job that thrives on variety, with no two days the same." This is her 23rd year of teaching.

Mrs. Lafontaine says that if she had to choose a favorite subject, she'd say math because she loves "seeing the light bulbs go on, as students learn new concepts and strategies."

She also reports that she enjoys how St. A's is really close to the church community and she loves how close the students are to each other.

Mrs. Lafontaine and her husband, Brian, have two children, Keenan (29) and Kennedy (21). Kennedy is studying neuro-science at the University of Iowa, and Keenan is a security specialist at Veridian Credit Union. She also has a cat named Princess.



Mrs. LaFontaine helps Karter (5<sup>th</sup>) with an assignment.

In her free time, Mrs. Lafontaine enjoys shopping, reading "just about anything," and spending time with her family. She also likes to attend NHL games, and follows the Chicago Blackhawks and the Minnesota Wild.

Welcome to St. A's, Mrs. LaFontaine! We are glad you're here!

## SECOND GRADE: A BUSY AND EXCITING YEAR IN RELIGIOUS ED

By Madyson (6<sup>th</sup>)

Each week, classes at St. A's take turns hosting the school mass. On October 13, Mrs. Junk's second graders planned their first mass of the 2022-23 school year.

Dylan (2<sup>nd</sup>) started mass with the Call to Worship. Oakley (2<sup>nd</sup>) read the First Reading, and pronounced "*Ephesians*" correctly several times, which isn't always easy! Jaylon (2<sup>nd</sup>) lead the Responsorial Psalm and Caroline (2<sup>nd</sup>) lead the Prayers of the Faithful.

Originally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders had planned to have their 6<sup>th</sup> grade buddies stand with them at the podium, but after practicing, the younger class decided they could do it on their own. They were right, because they did an amazing job!

According to Mrs. Junk, "The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

worked very hard to prepare for hosting mass and I am very proud of them. They are busy preparing for two big sacraments this year and we are all very excited as we become closer to God."

Mrs. Junk's class is now learning the Act of Contrition to prepare for their first Reconciliation in December. They are also learning about how God gives each of us the ability to make choices and that our choices have a consequences - good and bad. Their classes also include lessons on how God loves us no matter what we do, and that we need to ask forgiveness from others and forgive those who have hurt us.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are also preparing for their First Communion in the spring by learning more about the mass and the sacrifice that Jesus gave for everyone.

# QUESTION OF THE QUARTER: What do you most like about Halloween?



<p><b>Preschool</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: ALLIE</b> "Dressing up because I love to do that."</p>	<p><b>Pre K</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: KYLEN</b> "Getting candy and then going home to eat it."</p>	<p><b>Kindergarten</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: QUINN</b> "Getting candy because I get to eat as much as I want."</p>	<p><b>First Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: ARTHUR</b> "Getting candy because it tastes really good."</p>
<p><b>Second Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: JACOB</b> "Dress up as Blippi."</p>	<p><b>Third Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: LUKE</b> "Trick or treating because you get to dress in a costume"</p>	<p><b>Fourth Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: GRACE</b> "Trick or treating because I get candy and spend time with my friends."</p>	<p><b>Fifth Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: BECKETT</b> "Dressing up and seeing everybody else's costumes."</p>
<p><b>Sixth Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: MADYSON</b> "Trick or treating because I get candy and sometimes I get my brothers' candy too."</p>	<p><b>Seventh Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: MYA</b> "Hanging out with friends because it's fun."</p>	<p><b>Eighth Grade</b></p>  <p><b>NAME: MALORI</b> "Haunted houses because they're fun and scary."</p>	<p><b>Preschool-12</b></p>  <p><b>WILEY:</b> "Tricking people by dressing up as a dog and eating lots of Kit Kat candy bars."</p>



Martha Wehrspan

