

Crusader News - December Happenings



DECEMBER NEWS

Christmas happenings ... Trout in the Classroom... Faculty Spotlight STREAM Update ... and more!



'Tis the season for
SINGING, CELEBRATING, SHARING and WORSHIPPING

This can be a busy time of year. With this in mind, here's a quick snapshot of holiday events for students and families:

- **12/4:** Reconciliation Service, 9:30am, OMOS
- **12/5:** Christmas Shopping Spree, East Campus*
- **12/7:** Christmas Shopping Spree, West Campus*
- **12/9:** Band and Strings Concert, Grades 4-8, Bishop McCort Guzzi Auditorium, 7pm
- **12/10:** K-3 Christmas Program, Bishop McCort Guzzi Auditorium, 7pm
- **12/11:** Reconciliation Service, 9:30am, St. Benedict

- **12/17:** DMCA Chorale performances at area nursing homes
- **12/19** and **12/20:** 4th Grade East Nativity Play at area nursing homes
- **12/21:** 4th Grade East Nativity Play, DMCA East
- **12/21:** Noon dismissal
- **12/22:** Diocesan Youth Chorale Concert with area performers, St. John Gualbert, 7pm

**Students can purchase an array of affordable holiday gifts for family members, with most gifts priced under \$5.*

HANDS-ON TROUT PROGRAM EXPANDS to WEST CAMPUS



It's one thing to learn about environmental ecosystems from a book. It's another to see them grow before your eyes.

That's exactly what students in grades 4-6 are doing through the hands-on Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program.

Under the guidance of **Mrs. Marian Cyburt** (above), 5th and 6th grade science teacher on our East campus, and **Mr. Jay Hicks**, 4th grade science teacher at DMCA West, our students are raising trout in preparation to release them in an approved stream in the spring. Over the course of the year, students will become more familiar with water quality issues and water resources, stream habitats, conservation, and water-related ecosystems.

Mrs. Cyburt has led the program on the East campus for many years. It's so popular that it's become a fond 'right of passage' for students as they move through the upper primary grades.



This year, she's working with Mr. Hicks to share it with students on our West campus. Early results indicate it's off to a great start!

Top: Mrs. Cyburt works with East 5th graders

Nick Dressick, Erik Radkowski, Haidee Errett and Ava Zucco as they test water parameters for PH, ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites. Left: West 4th graders **Lucy Smith, Cara Crocco, Myia Ferguson and Kaden Kovalchic** examine trout eggs.

STREAM ON ... STREAM ON ... STREAM ON ...

A glimpse of what our students are up to!

All of our students engage in at least one STREAM lab activity every week. In recent weeks, DMCA 5th graders (above left), have researched engineering technology used to develop **earthquake-resistant buildings** and constructed 2-story structures designed to survive a 6.0 earthquake *and* protect an egg from breaking. The structures are tested on an earthquake simulator that Mr. Ogline has built.

Meanwhile, teams of 6th graders (above right), using no more than 20 Popsicle sticks, are working together to build and test bridges that can support 20 pounds or more.

In 7th grade, our students (pictured below) have been programming

LEGO Mindstorm EV3 robots using block-based coding, while 8th graders are beginning to delve into our new **Engineering by Design** curriculum. These types of interactive learning experiences give our students the chance to invent, solve problems and create – key goals of our STREAM initiative.

*Clockwise: West 5th graders **Sophia Lamia and Ari Weigand** prep their structure for the earthquake simulator while 6th grader **Lucas Turner** tests the weight of his team's popsicle bridge; 7th graders **Alex Deskevich, Kaden Dudinak and Alexandra Otero** (lower left) and **Amya Shenago, Kyleigh Oster and Grace Smith** (lower right) begin the process of designing and programming robots.*

THIS JUST IN ... STREAM LAB OPEN HOUSE!

Join us as we officially dedicate our new STREAM lab at Bishop McCort!

Ribbon Cutting: Monday, 12/17, 10am

Family and Community Open House: Monday, 12/17, 5:30pm - 7pm



Our K-3 Faculty Team

Research indicates that a child's long-term academic success is linked to the foundation he or she builds during the early primary grades. At DMCA, our K-3 faculty team takes this responsibility seriously and works hard to help our youngest students reach their potential.

When students move into our full-day kindergarten program, they join a unique community of learners who combine academics with a commitment to service and faith. With student-teacher ratios that rarely exceed 15:1, our young students receive the academic, spiritual, social and emotional attention they need to prepare for opportunities in DMCA's upper primary grades (grades 4-6).

Our K-3 students are guided by an experienced and certified group of early childhood educators. Their focus on early literacy, writing, comprehension, and fundamental math skills is consistent across our East and West campuses so that all K-3 students master key concepts along the same general timeline. Their efforts gain extra traction with the help of their music, computer, art, wellness, and STREAM colleagues who work with students each week to round out their educational experience.

We know it's a privilege to teach your children. We thank you for the opportunity and encourage you to contact your child's teacher any time with any questions, comments or concerns you may have. Contact information for our K-3 team can be found

[here.](#)

The DMCA East K-3 team (above left) includes Mrs. Kimberly Portser (Gr 3), Miss Samantha Dravis (Gr 1), Ms. Shannon Stephens (K), Ms. Kathleen Marano (Gr 2), and Mr. Matthew Ribblett (Gr 3). Colleagues at DMCA West (above right) include (front row) Mrs. Jennifer Jones (Gr 1), Ms. Margaret Sindleri (Gr 3), Mrs. Casey Lovette (K) and (back row) Ms. Pamela DiRenzo (Gr 2), Mrs. Jaclyn Klein (K), and Mrs. Jennifer Tomkowski (Gr 3).



PICTURE THIS *Capturing the everyday spirit of DMCA*

*Top and clockwise: West students **Vindy Kohan** and **Evelyn Moore** cantor during a recent Mass; East students **Sophia Horwath**, **Sophia Shontofski**, **Sadie Instone** and **Evan Ream** sort food donations after Thanksgiving Mass; West 4th graders explore the digestive system with an IUP dietician during science class; East students **Timothy Hoff** and **Ava Zucco** work together to design and construct a trebuchet; Kindergartners and 1st graders get ready to be part of the RICH rally.*



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

As you may know, Mr. Tom Fleming, principal of Bishop McCort, has announced that this is his last year at Bishop McCort. The leadership team wants to hear your thoughts about the qualities and qualifications of the school's next principal. Share your thoughts at **Stakeholder Meetings** on **12/5 or 12/6 from 6pm - 7:30 pm at the Bach Student Union**. If you are unable to attend but would like to comment, please send your thoughts to trepak@mccort.org by 12/7.



Be sure to check out the [DMCA Google calendar](#) for school-wide events and specific happenings at each campus. Our 7th and 8th graders should also review the [Bishop McCort calendar](#) for important dates throughout the year.

Merry Christmas



On behalf of our faculty, staff, administrative team, and Board of Directors, we wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

Showcasing our extracurricular activities, including DMCA's cheer champions, our First Lego League competitors, our Reading Competition teams and more!

The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to promote exceptional, faith-based academics that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.

Copyright © 2018 Divine Mercy Catholic Academy All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?. You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Do you know someone who wants to stay updated on DMCA happenings? Tell us! We would be happy to include them!

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy · 2306 Bedford Street · Johnstown, PA 15904 · USA
East Campus: 814-266-3837 · West Campus: 814-539-5315 · Middle School:
814-536-8991

Questions? Comments? Please contact us [here](#).