

## Crusader News - February Happenings



### **FEBRUARY NEWS**

*February 4th Open House ... Registration and Financial Aid ... Divinely Inspired Art Show ... Faculty Spotlight on Mr. Bako .. Picture This ... Important Dates ... and more!*



### **BE SURE TO JOIN US!**

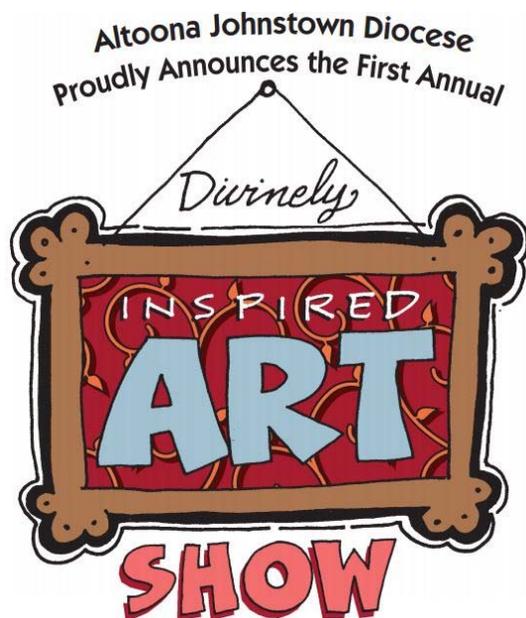
**Open House**  
**All Campuses**  
**Monday, February 4, 5pm - 8pm**

*Celebrate Catholic Schools Week at our annual Open House. All are welcome! See what's new in our classrooms and with our curriculum. We look forward to seeing you!*



**REFER A FAMILY,  
EARN TUITION CREDITS**

*Do you know a family that is considering DMCA? Invite them to our Open House on **Monday, February 4 from 5pm-8pm**. If they enroll, you'll be eligible for a tuition credit. Click [here](#) for more info.*



The next da Vinci, Monet, Muniz or Serra may already be walking the halls of DMCA. Find out for yourself at the first annual **Divinely Inspired Art Show**. Nearly 450 pieces from Diocese schools, including DMCA and Bishop McCort, showcasing a range of styles and subjects will be on display. **When:** February 15-25  
**Awards Ceremony:** Sunday, 2/24, 1-4 pm

**Where:** Bottle Works, 411 Third Avenue,  
Johnstown (in Cambria City)

*Many thanks to event co-chairs*

***Beverly J. Struble***, DMCA art teacher, and ***Karen Blaisdell***, Bishop Carroll art and religion teacher!

A graphic featuring two spotlights at the top corners, casting a yellow beam of light onto the text "In the Spotlight". The text is in a large, black, sans-serif font, with "In the" in a smaller size above "Spotlight".

# In the Spotlight

Mr. Michael Bako, 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies

It's nearing mid-terms and Mr. Michael Bako is roaming his 7th grade social studies classroom, quizzing students about cultures and communities. Working off their Google Chromebooks, his students quickly answer his questions and glance up at the SMARTboard to see if they hit it right. Mr. Bako likes what he sees.

"It's great to have this level of immediate feedback," he said. "The technology in our classroom means I can tell right away if the students have grasped a concept or if we need to spend more time on it. It's made my classroom so much more dynamic and interactive."



Mr. Bako, a 2010 Bishop McCort graduate, earned his degree in secondary education from Robert Morris University. When he was a student, computers were the exception and student resources like personal Google Chromebooks weren't even on the radar.

"We take a much more integrated approach to learning," he said. "On any given day, my kids are working on Chromebooks, immersed in small groups to analyze a concept, or engaged in all-class discussions on any given topic."

***Left: 7th graders Allyson Kanuch and Alex Wilson high-five each other after answering Western Civilization mid-term prep questions correctly.***

Interactive learning continues into Mr. Bako's 8th grade Social Studies classrooms. In November, in preparation for units on World War II, the class visited Washington, D.C. For many, it was their first time out of the Johnstown area.



"As educators, it's our job to challenge and engage our students. I'm grateful we have these kind of opportunities and I look forward to seeing where the future takes us." ***DMCA 8th graders recently visited the U.S. Holocaust Museum and other Washington, D.C. sites thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.***



### **LEARNING BY DOING**

This year, 3rd grade East teacher **Matt Ribblett** wanted to tap into his students' natural curiosity to help them learn. The result? The Social Studies Choice project. Each quarter, students choose among nine hands-on projects to help them better understand a unit. They can create and design dioramas, games, songs, posters, powerpoint presentations or other media to convey what they've learned. Students then present their concepts to classmates, a move that strengthens their communication skills and boosts confidence.

*As part of a unit on communities, **Teigen Errett** created a Lego suburb with homes, a hospital, a pizza shop and river. **Sophia Thompson** creatively repurposed her toys create a busy city streetscape, and other classmates designed*

*posters, powerpoint presentations and games to demonstrate their learning.*



## PICTURE THIS

*Capturing the everyday spirit of DMCA*

*Top and clockwise: East 6th grader **Sophia Shontofski** shares her original folktale with PreK student **Abigail Lickenfelt** as part of a class project; West 3rd grader **Lucas Rozwat** uses classroom tools to figure out air quality during a sustainable energy lab with the St. Francis University team; West students in **Mr. Woodruff's** 5th and 6th grade classes present books reports dressed as their favorite literary characters; and members of the DMCA and BMCHS team brief **Frs. Warchola, Patti** (back row), **Peles and Crookston** on curriculum updates and other new initiatives during a meeting with area pastors.*



## Registration Information

Open enrollment for the 2019-20 school year is here! Please note that **all** school families - whether you're a current family or a new member of the DMCA family - need to register through [School Admin](#), our on-line registration system.

The site also includes tuition rates and financial assistance info. Please note that students must be registered at DMCA through SchoolAdmin before financial aid considerations can be made. Current families can use their existing log-in info to register; new families will be asked to set up an account. Questions? Contact Maria Sanders at 536-8991 or [sanders.maria@divinemeracy.academy](mailto:sanders.maria@divinemeracy.academy) Thank you!



- 2/1** - DMCA Tomahawks Night, 7 pm
- 2/2** - Middle School Winter Formal
- 2/4** - Open House, All Campuses, 5-8pm
- 2/8** - SVDP Dress Down (East/West)

**2/6** - PTO Mtg, BMCHS, 6:30-8pm  
**2/18** - No School - President's Day  
**2/19** - Race for Education Dress Down

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.

*The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to empower our students through Christ-centered academic excellence within a safe and secure environment that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.*

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Want to change how you receive these emails?. Click [here](#) to let us know. how we can help.

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

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