



THE KNIGHT'S GAZETTE



New Playscape Nearing Completion

By Gloria Clinton and Olivia Ondrik

As you may have heard and noticed from the ongoing construction at school, there will be a new preschool playground. However, this isn't just a playground, it's a playscape with a nature vibe.

The theme is that kids will play however they want without being constantly directed what to do, and with warnings every way their head turns. The hope is that the kids learn to take risks — while of course with the necessary and obvious safety guidelines.

This may be called a Preschool playscape, but it is for the whole school, preschool through eighth grade. Each class is expected to play on it at least once a week, or when their teacher assigns a play slot for them.

The equipment is safe for all ages, even up to adults, and most equipment everyone is allowed on, except for a 10-foot slide that was gifted to us. The preschoolers will not be allowed to go on this.

There will also be a rock wall. There may or may not be some other surprises and equipment coming too, possibly something to do with a yurt ... but shh, that's a surprise!

How much longer will we have to wait before the playground opens? The answer is, not long at all. After some delays, the new Preschool Playscape is expected to be completed very soon. Thank you very much to Sr. John Elizabeth for this information.



Preschoolers Shine in Christmas Shows

By Ava Turbide

First through third grade, kindergarten, and preschool classes hosted their winter shows in mid-December. They worked very hard and were very excited to perform for their audience. A few songs they sang were "The First Noel," "We Three Kings," and "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

Monthly Mass Celebrated at MAA

By Ava Turbide and Mason Saunders

On the first weekend of November, all Catholics celebrated two holidays, All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Sr. Anne Elizabeth says that they are days where we "honor and pray for the people who have died."

There was a mass held in October for Mission Awareness Month. Items from South Africa and Ecuador came home with the Sisters from their travels, and were used at this mass. The altar cloth, father's vestment, the banner on the ambo were all from the countries. Sister has said we have to think and pray for the people who are victims.

A few parts of the mass include a theme, setup, take down and jobs. Sr. Anne Elizabeth is the one who coordinates every mass. Every mass role and part is chosen in advance weeks before it is held, at least 3 weeks.

Every mass has parts that go in to create the lovely mass that we go to every month.



6th Grade prepares for Mass

For gently guiding us in the Salesian Spirit to be no more and no less than our best, the seventh graders dedicate the The Knight's Gazette to the Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales.

Preschool Building Blessed During Dedication



preschool building photo

future city photo



The Future City team and its mentors gather around its model during the regional competition.

Future City Team Wins For Third Year

By Ava Turbide

Mount Aviat Academy's future city team, named Simbati, traveled to the Museum of Industry in Baltimore in January for the regional competition. They initially got 3rd place, along with awards for the best use of theme, best transportation, and best essay.

A week after the competition, the future city team got an email saying that not all the judges' scores were counted the first time around. After the recounting, Simbati had won 1st place. The team will now be moving on to compete in nationals in Washington DC!

The national competition invites teams from regions around the country and some international teams. Team members will have the chance to interact and learn from other winning Future City students.

Fr. Paul Colloton blesses the new preschool building during its dedication.

By Tenley Handy

On Jan. 8, Mount Aviat had an amazing prayer service and learned a lesson about St. Leonie Aviat. The 8th grade led the school in prayer, and the choir led in song. Sister John Elizabeth thanked everyone who has made donations to the school, especially the Gleber Family for whom the building is named after.

After that, the school and visitors went into the new preschool building where Father Paul blessed the children and buildings. We would like to thank Father Paul for leading the prayer service and Mr. Mario for being our pianist. This was an amazing service!

Mrs. Baynes Finds Mission Work Fulfilling

By Evan Rollins and Damian Drost

Mrs. Baynes is the missions coordinator at Mt. Aviat Academy. Her work with the missions has helped rebuild 2 schools in Ecuador after an earthquake devastated the area in 2016. The missions also help the poor in Africa. Mrs. Baynes says,

"The missions have a big impact on those who were affected by the earthquake."

Before Mrs. Baynes started working part-time for the school, she was an attorney. One day sister Anne Elizabeth came to her and asked her if she wanted to help with running the missions. Now she has worked for the school for about 10-11 years and is working very hard to support the kids in Ecuador and South Africa.

She enjoys working at Mt. Aviat because she said it is, "peaceful and calm" and is more than happy to work with the sisters for a good cause.

Mrs. Baynes sends out letters to potential donors asking them for contributions to the missions. The sisters used to send out the letters themselves, however after the earthquake the letters were a lot for the sisters alone.

But how can you help do your part? Every classroom in the school has a little piggy bank somewhere for the missions. If you need help finding it, ask your teacher for assistance. Every penny, nickel, dime, and dollar donated counts. The total amount of money is collected every other month. Another way to help out with the missions is by donating at <https://www.oblatesisters.org>

Advent Explained

By Mason Saunders

Advent is the coming of Jesus, but in today's terms, advent is about awaiting Jesus' Birthday and is a time of Hope and anticipation. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". We prepare to celebrate and give a good birthday to God the Son.

In the Fourth century, Advent was a time of Baptizing new Christians (400 AD). Advent would also be known as Saint Martin's Lent, which was 40 days of penance and prayer.

MOUNT AVIAT SPORTS

Varsity Volleyball reaches semi-finals

By Michael Lynskey

MAA Varsity Volleyball players won against Immaculate Heart of Mary with a score of 25-23. This brought them to the playoffs, landing them in the semi-finals where they lost to Saint Anne's with a score of 28-26. What a heartbreaking defeat.

Mount Aviat player Mia Nutter said the season went well and how much better it would have been if it wasn't for their loss. She said one of the challenging parts for her was transferring from a setter to a hitter.

Player Ava Turbide also said having arguments with her team on positions is another challenge. That still does not stop them from getting to the semi-finals, and making friends.



Mr. Wikes gathers his team on the field.

By Lucas McAneny-Droz

With 4 children involved in athletics (2 of them here at MAA), volunteering at school is important to Mr. Wikes. 5 years ago, he began coaching athletics and coordinating the teams and paperwork.

Now, he is the Sports Director at MAA. His responsibilities are centered around maintaining MAA's participation in the CYM (Catholic Youth Ministries) athletic programs. The biggest challenge Mr. Wikes faces is time management. One part of this is caused by hard deadlines and he constantly needs to be focussing on what's next. In the past few years, Mr. Wikes has been coaching basketball and soccer for MAA. This year he was the head coach for JV soccer.

This fall went very well for MAA sports. There were over 40 students across the board for co-ed soccer and girls volleyball teams. All varsity teams made it deep into the playoffs this year. Mr. Wikes also mentioned that MAA is looking into trying to offer track and field in the spring for Mount Aviat Students. Mr. Wikes said he enjoys his job. "I love that we are able to provide all of our students an opportunity to participate in athletics and compete for MAA."

MAA Soccer Wins Sportsmanship Award



By Luca Kovall

Mount Aviat won the Team Sportsmanship Award for the diocese of Wilmington. They won it for being respectful to other teams' coaches and referees. Coach Andrews said that the award, "truly reflects all of the core values that Mount Aviat instills in its students, not only to be good student athletes but to be good human beings by Living Jesus daily."

Even though the varsity soccer team had a losing record, they still showed a lot of spirit. Simon Besancon played varsity soccer with the MAA Knights. Their record for that year was 3 and 5, but they did win their first game in the playoffs. Simon said his favorite game was the game when they won 8-2.

The JV soccer team also had a losing record, but players said they had a lot of fun. Dylan Rueda said his favorite game of the season was the last game. Elliot Andrews said her favorite part of the season was getting goals.



Mr. Wikes enjoys coaching the JV soccer team.

AROUND CAMPUS

Suggestion Box

Created and Compiled by Ella Dunlap and Lucas Magaw



We hope that we will be able to get more suggestions later. A small reminder as well, is that we can't expect that Sr. John Elizabeth will agree to doing these suggestions but, we can keep our eye out for them.

Thank you for all your suggestions! We got so many good suggestions. We went to Sister John Elizabeth and shared what you said. We first shared about the person who wanted a Christmas Spirit Week. Now certain things aren't reasonable or are pushing things a little far, so we changed it a little to a Christmas spirit day. When we brought this up to sister, we made sure to say that we would still keep the Christ in Christmas, but extend the Christmas spirit. Now, hopefully you all had a good Christmas break and enjoyed our Christmas spirit day. We had a fun color day and enjoyed the festive activities.

Next, we told her about the most popular suggestion; an acting/Drama program. She said that it is something that would be fun, but it is a commitment. As well as that we needed enough student and teacher interest.

Last but not least, another popular suggestion was for extra recess. We asked if we could have extra recess on a Friday or Monday. She said on Fridays they don't ring the bells as early. So we already have a little bit of extra recess.

Annual Christmas Bazaar Offers Food and Fun



Sister Miriam Elizabeth and Sister Joseph Anne sell cream puffs to a Bazaar customer

By Natalie Smith, Mia Nutter, and Jocelyn Taylor

The Mount Aviat Christmas Bazaar is a fun event for both parents and children. The children's bazaar is a part of the event that the 8th graders run, to raise money for the graduation dance.. This helps promote school spirit by showing how dedicated the students are to earning something they really want.

Cream puffs are an important staple here at Mt. Aviat Academy. Ever since this school came to be, which was around the 1960s, cream puffs were being made by the Oblate sisters and being sold annually. Cream puff selling is an important fundraiser for the school.

In addition to fundraising, there are a lot of events. Catholic Schools Week is an exciting event that occurs on the last Sunday of January. CSW (Catholic Schools Week) starts on the 25th of January and ends on the 31st.

On Catholic Schools week, our school has a tradition of the 8th graders against the parents in a volleyball match. Usually the 8th graders win, but it's always fun to watch. Our school also has another tradition; playing bingo. In bingo we are able to win color days and posters!

Band Students Shine

By Ava Turbide

The band concert was held on December 15, 2025. Ava Turbide, Josie Rollins, and Eliza Rollins were the amazing soloists, while Guiliana Veasey and Ava Turbide had a duet.



Eliza Rollins plays flute with the band

Compiled by
Tenley Handy



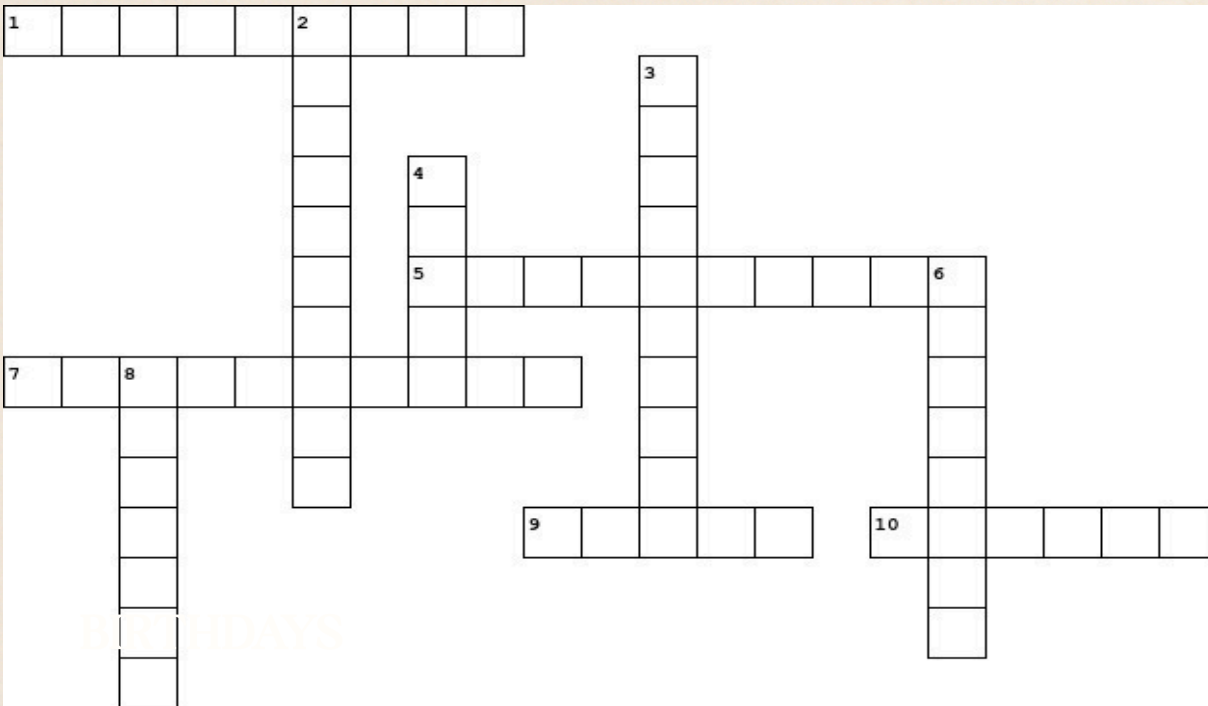
Happy Birthday to MAA December birthdays

- Charlee Herron - Dec. 1, age 11, wants air pods
- Brett Cooper - Dec. 6, age 14, wants money
- Liam Maynard - Dec. 10, age 5, wants stuffed animals
- Jackson Stevens - Dec. 12, age 8, wants an RC car
- Owen Nesnow - Dec. 16, age 14, wants money
- Evan Potts - Dec. 18, age 5, wants pokemon
- Giada Porter - Dec. 19, age 6, wants Paw Patrol toys
- Finn Demaio - Dec. 20, age 6, wants dino toys
- Rosalie Bennett - Dec. 21, age 14, wants money
- Mason Ware - Dec. 24, age 12, wants a VR headset
- Michael Lynskey - Dec. 26, age 13, wants Ninjago Legos
- Cruz Quinteros - Dec. 27, age 9, wants Harry Potter Legos
- Samuel Bragg - Dec. 27, age 14, wants money
- Aurora Creswell - Dec. 29, age 8, wants an American Girl doll
- Bowen Giorgilli - Dec. 30, age 5, wants Legos
- WillowRose Holdren - Dec. 30, age 5, wants a hair braider
- Ca' Lil Gillot - Dec. 30, age 4, wants stuffed animals
- Kendall Heath - Dec. 31, age 11, wants a vanity
- Kelyn Arnold - Dec. 31, age 11, wants a Wings of Fire book

JUST FOR FUN

Crossword Challenge

By Xavier Moran



Across

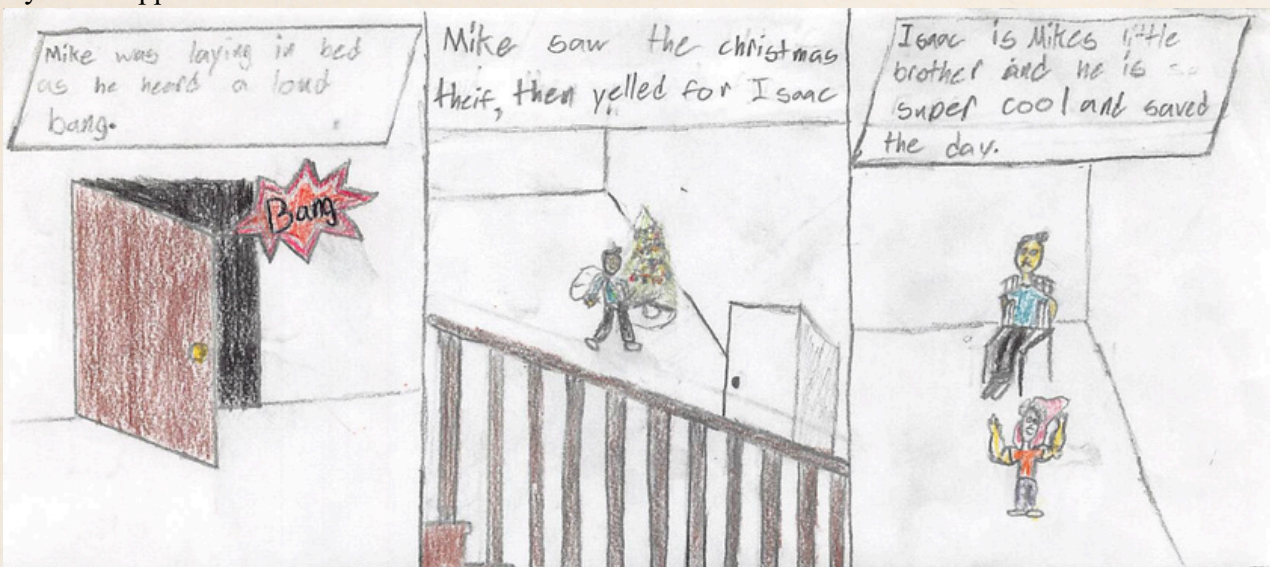
1. Who is the 5th grade teacher?
5. When is the Thanksgiving break?
7. How old will you be when you graduate 8th grade?
9. When was MAA founded?
10. What flies over the school every once and a while?

Down

2. 1st Sunday of Advent
3. When is the annual Christmas bazaar?
4. What is the school wide event that we do during class?
6. What is the last grade in our school?
8. How many service hours do you need every year?

Comic Corner

By Jesse Appenzeller



Asking for a Friend

Advice Column

By Olivia Ondrik and Gloria Clinton

As Students we have a lot of trouble staying organized sometimes especially as we are getting into the heart of the school year. This is the time when the stress of school and sports start to kick in. As middle schoolers we have most definitely know what it feels like. So here are some tips and tricks to help with that stress! We gathered these answers from Dr. Kennedy, Mrs. Landis, and Mrs. Whelan.

First, don't procrastinate on assignments! Find free time that you can do these assignments and do them to the best of your ability. Not when you have lots of other things to do. Be smart about homework by using time wisely and that will be one less thing you have to stress about!

Next, don't be scared to ask questions when you are confused! Lots of kids are embarrassed to ask questions because they have a fear of getting made fun of or the teachers getting mad. But when we interviewed some teachers they all said that they actually enjoy answering questions! So don't be afraid to ask questions when you are confused because if you are already confused as you learn more you will get farther behind!

Finally, don't be scared to make mistakes! As you get older unfortunately you will find yourself making mistakes. In school, at home or even in sports. Owning up to your mistakes helps you grow as a person! Making mistakes is how people learn!

In conclusion, we hope that we gave you some great advice that will help you get through these next few years! You got this!

Just a Joke

What's a cat's favorite color?

Ava Bogus, 2nd Grade: "ummmm green?"

Stevie Smith, 6th Grade: "Black?"

Leland Haight, 6th Grade: "Rainbow! That joke is not funny..!"

Answer: PURRple



Can You Solve It?

I am tall when I am young, but I am short when I am old. What am I?

Riddle Guesses:

Ashlynn Jaros, 2nd Grade "a flashlight?"

Marshall Jemkins, 2nd Grade: "an Ompa Lompa!?"

Lucas Tollenger, 2nd Grade, "umm a lightbulb?"

Answer: Candle

Compiled by: Layla DeGhetto

SUBJECT OF THE MONTH

Compiled by Elena Henderson

Teacher Talk

Q1 What do you like about Social Studies?

Mrs. Russell: "It lets children hear about the past and see how it relates to what we do in the future. There's always interesting stories about what happened."

Mrs Woodhull: "Teaching students about past history"

Ms. O'Connor: "I like how social studies kind of intertwines with our knowledge unit so we can learn between the ancient Greeks and the ancient Chinese."

Mrs. Baker: "I get to teach kids history."

Dr Kennedy: "Making connections from the past to the present"

Mrs. Landis: "I love history and the past"

Q2 Why do you think it's important to teach kids about history?

Mrs. Russell: "Because you need to know your surroundings, you need to know about the world, you need to know about other people and how others live."

Mrs Woodhull: "We have to see and learn from mistakes, and also learn about things that happened in the past so that we can try to make them better in the future."

Mrs. Baker: "They get to learn about the past."

Dr. Kennedy: "To know the origins of things from the past so that we better understand things today."

Students Speak

Q1 Why do you like social studies or do you not like it?

Student One: "I just don't like it."

Student Two: "I like that we are learning so many things from our ancient Greeks, and about so many Gods and Goddesses."

Student Three: "To learn about new things, and if we don't know it, we can study it."