

**ALUMNI REUNION**

BY CARISSA S. AND EDIE G.

The Mary Immaculate Alumni Tours, on January 9th, was held to reconnect with our graduates. They toured the school, seeing the renovated cafeteria and courtyard that is in construction for the new greenhouse. It brought so many smiles, from alumni and staff, talking about how MIS was to them and reminiscing about all their memories.

With a short presentation at the beginning from Fr. Alfonse and Sr. Mary Anne, they shared their goals for the future to the Alumni. One goal, however, always stays the same: To create wonder in everything done. Many Alumni have brought their children to MIS, so they greatly appreciated connecting to what they experienced to their children's experiences.

As Ms. Sanders said, "What we're doing here really sets them up to be successful." Shows the compassion shown in everyone and in everything that is done. Gracie Lawrence, a Mary Immaculate Student Ambassador, reflected, "A good experience to see everyone again, and I hope to come back as an Alumni myself. As we get ready for the upcoming 65th anniversary, Fr. Alfonse shared, "We enjoy the challenges."

When the Ambassadors arrived to take them on the tours, the excitement on the on the Alumni's faces was obvious. As MIS is getting ready for our 65th anniversary, reconnecting and seeing the school again was important and everyone was very grateful.

**LIFE OF ADMISSIONS**BY GRACE M. AND SIENA A.  
EDITED BY LUCAS S.

Our Fall Open House was a hit! We got to meet so many new families and have them experience our school! This month, Mary Immaculate will be holding a Spring Open House! This Open House will be hosted on February 8, 2024, at 9:00am and 6:30pm. You will be able to meet all our kind hardworking teachers and see what current students are working on and have a chance to meet our student ambassadors. We hope our school is the right fit for your family.

Here is our Student Spotlight! Mary Immaculate has recently held our annual spelling bee. Every year 5th-8th graders compete with their classes then advance to compete with other grades. The winners of the school spelling bee were Tressan Briones, a current seventh grader here at MIS, and runner up was a current eighth grader, Sam Falk. Tressan and his alternate Sam, went all the way up to Plano, Texas and Tressan Briones competed in the Diocesan Spelling Bee! He arrived the morning of January 25, at Prince of Peace Catholic School. Tressan tells us that, "The spelling was such a new and fun experience." Mrs. Huffman told us, "He did a great job and was very composed." Way to represent Mary Immaculate Tressan and Sam!

**HOMILY RECAP: LIFE GETS HARDER LIKE MATH**BY GIANCARLO R.  
EDITED BY LUCY D

On Friday, January 12, 2024, all students from Grades Kindergarten through 8th attended mass. Despite being very cold, thinking about the three day weekend and possibly getting snow, students were just as excited to hear Father Alfonse's homily. In Father's homily, he brought up many great points. He brought up students and asked them math equations. Father shows us through examples like this, that even though things get hard, its not good to give up on them and you need to push yourself.

After Father said, "If you think you're bad at math, then come up." Students from many different grades went up to the altar and Father asked them math equations. First, they were easy, and then they were hard. Father Alfonse taught us how life gets harder and harder, like math, and he told us how when he was a little kid, he loved math because it was easy, but as he got older he started to dislike it because it was hard and he didn't want to do it. He reminded us that we should be very thankful for our teachers, parents, and grandparents because they teach us so much. They truly do push us out of love. Father teaches us to never give up and never lose faith, for God will be with us through all our troubles.

**THE MUSTANG MINUTE**

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**IN THIS EDITION**

In this edition, the Mustang Minute sheds light on the naming of the Business Program, updates from Athletics, the state of the Nature Lab, the Alumni Reunion as well as classroom updates! Read all about it!

**BREAKING NEWS****MOTTER FAMILY BENEFITS BUSINESS PROGRAM**BY GRECIA T.  
EDITED BY BECCA K.

The Motter family, who previously had two students graduate MIS, pledged to donate \$250,000 over the next five years to our business program. In honor of their generosity, our business program has been renamed "The Motter Family Business Program." This donation will help open more opportunities for our current and future students.

Theresa Motter, former CEO of Van's Kitchen, is an active member of Mary Immaculate Church and was the September Business Speaker for our students. Van's Kitchen is a family-owned business whose founders were Van & Kim Nguyen, Vietnamese immigrants. Today, Van's Kitchen's food and famous egg rolls can be found nationwide. They are a business whose principles are based on faith, family, and friendship and demonstrate this with their donations to places like the North Texas Food Bank. Van's Kitchen has also supported women leaders in business and promotes women-owned businesses. "There are opportunities for us to show God's love and live biblical principles in the marketplace." Mrs. Motter described as the reason for their donation. Mr. Pulido, our business program teacher, is incredibly grateful for their donation. He already has several ideas on how these funds will be used. He would like to give our students different experiences such as going on field trips, having a more robust series of business speakers, and implementing the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association Foundation, also known as SIFMA, to MIS. Mrs. Motter hopes that these funds will inspire our student entrepreneurs to have a business mindset since, as she stated, "It is an amazing opportunity for middle schoolers to learn about business and money management." Mr. Pulido also believes that this will help bring more visibility and sets MIS apart from other schools in the Diocese. "Having these funds," Mr. Pulido stated, "will help our 8th graders leave with the four main pillars in business: knowledge on financial markets, personal finance, business plan development, and emerging technologies."

This is an amazing opportunity for all our students to build upon the knowledge that they learn to achieve their dreams. On behalf of all the Mary Immaculate community, we are grateful for the Motter Family donation! We know that the Motter family's generosity will not be in vain thanks to Mr. Pulido and his innovative ideas as an excellent business teacher and the perfect foundation for our students.

**NEED A LAUGH?**

By: Lucy D. and Giancarlo R.

How does Moses drink his coffee?

Hebrews it!

Why did the students eat their homework?

Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake!

What's blue and doesn't weigh anything?

Light blue!



## HAPPENINGS IN KINDERGARTEN

BY CARMEN D.  
EDITED BY ELIJAH M.

Our Kindergarten Mustangs are hard at work with mailing letters to their grandparents at the post office. Other events included for kindergarten are Johnny Appleseed activities, All Saints Day, Holiday Class Parties, 100th Day of School activities, Star-Student Program, and more!

Their Grandparent letters are very sweet. Once they are done writing them, they walk over to the Postal Office down the street, across from the park. They put their letters inside the box, and it gets mailed to the Grandparents!

Johnny Appleseed Day is very fun as well! They get to pick their favorite apple, red, green, or yellow, they take a picture, then they eat the sweet apple! They read books about Johnny Appleseed, make hats, and more fun things!

During All Saints Day, the Kindergarteners dress up as Saints, and attend Mass. After Mass, they stand outside, and sing a lovely song!

When there is a holiday, they celebrate it! They throw a Christmas Party, Halloween Party, and even small birthdays!

When it's the 100th day of school, they do fun projects. When it is the 100th day of school, they bring 100 balloons, and they get in a circle, and they pop them as they count to 100!

The Star-Student Program is amazing! Once a week, their teacher pulls sticks of their names in a cup. The stick that is called is the person who is Star-Student! The teacher and students pick their favorite things about them and write them on a poster. The Star Student also gets a bright yellow hat to wear during this time.

## PRIMARY

BY ELI E. AND  
ALEXANDER M.

These former kindergartens who are now first graders have lots of exciting and memorable events and field trips planned for them. They are taught by the amazing Mrs. Wunderlick and Mrs. Page. Some of these events and field trips include going to the Fort Worth Zoo and the talent show.

First, they will be going to the Fort Worth Zoo to see the animals and learn more about them. Also, they will be participating in the annual talent show to demonstrate their different skills.

This is a big year for the second graders as they will be receiving their first communion and reconciliation. They are taught by Mrs. Holubec and Mrs. Sullivan.

They will be receiving their first communion and reconciliation which will help them grow in strength in their faith and devotion towards God.

These third graders are now the oldest in the primary hall and have lots of interesting activities to participate in. They are taught by Miss Buckles and Mrs. McCord. They will lead Grandparents' Day Mass. Later in February, they will have their Valentine's Day party and the annual checkers tournament.

## BRAND NEW DINING HALL

BY CAROLINE M.  
EDITED BY SAM F.

The new dining hall was finished recently, and the kids love it! Led by Father Alfonse, we raised the money through a generous donation by the Knights of Columbus and by an estate gift. Construction began at the end of last school year and was completed by the construction company Taurus. The new tables and the fresh look have added a new feel to the school. It has brand new round tables, a wavy ceiling, a big window on one of its walls and a modern look to it. The Dining Hall used to be called the cafeteria but will be known as the Dining Hall going forward. The reason we changed the name to the Dining Hall is because it adds elegance, and it will help the students treat it better. While the Dining Hall was being built the new kitchen was opened. "I like it, it feels new and refreshing because it has that feeling when you get something new", Elizabeth McIntyre 5th Grade Student. The Parish Building Committee oversaw the building of the Dining Hall.

## JUNIOR HIGH

BY ISABEL L.  
EDITED BY DIEGO P.

Upcoming events for Junior High include the Junior High Dance, projects, and Grandparents Day. The Junior High Dance is on Friday, February 9th, 2024, with the theme being, "Take me to the Oscars". The Junior High students may dress fancy or as a character from a favorite movie. In fact, 7th grader Giancarlo Rodriguez said, "I think the Junior High Dance will be incredibly fun and that people will come up with creative costumes." To enter the Junior High Dance, you only need to pay \$10. However, the Junior High Dance is only open to MIS Junior High students. Other events in Junior High include the Junior High students in math 7-1 and 8-2 measuring parts of their body for a project using the Pythagorean Theorem. Once they have measured themselves accurately, the students draw a portrait of themselves using their measurements and include their hobbies. Finally, another event in Junior High also includes singing songs to our MIS grandparents for Grandparents Day. The day will be filled with joy for all MIS students and grandparents that will be participating in Grandparents Day.

## SETTING SIGHTS ON THE FINALS

SOPHIA M. AND LILYANA L.  
EDITED BY DONOVAN G.

Our Mighty Mustangs have just started their season and they are already off to an amazing start. The 5th grade boys won their game against St. Joseph-Richardson 30-14. The 5th grade girls did an excellent job playing their game even though they lost. The 6th grade girls won 22-6. The 6th grade boys beat Immaculate Conception 57-18. The 7th grade boys won 51-14 against St. Joseph Waxahachie. Player Samuel Aristizabal said, "Everyone worked really hard and supported each other and we did a really great job in this game, and we can keep it going." The 8th grade boys fought hard against Bishop Dunne. The 8th grade girls won 40-6 Saint Thomas Aquinas. Players are fortunate that teachers, students and even Father Alfonse attend!

## BUSINESS PROGRAM AND NATURE LAB

BY JOSHUA S.  
EDITED BY MADELEINE A.

Mrs. Kaplonski, a master gardener and PreK teacher, is leading the charge of the greenhouse and believes it will be done by mid-February, it is located in the junior high courtyard. Administration believes that it is important for kids to learn about agriculture and to not be afraid of getting dirty in soil. This project is receiving funding from donors, our church, and the school.

Mrs. Kaplonski believes that this curriculum will teach everyone where their food comes from, and to help them understand how much work is put into getting their food to the table, and that everything comes from God's will and that it's all up to him.

Many people take what they have for granted and forget that it all comes from God and that it takes work from many people around the world for them to enjoy what they like.

Mrs. Kaplonski is deeply passionate about gardening and wants others to understand it and enjoy it. The Greenhouse is going to be available for all grades. It was thought up of half-year ago. Something Mrs. Kaplonski wants you to know before "Don't be afraid of the soil and bugs!"

## EXCITING NEW CLASS

BY PAOLA M.  
EDITED BY SOPHIA G.

In seventh and eighth grade there has been an exciting change! There is a new class called Journalism in which the seventh and eighth graders will be able to write a newspaper called the Mustang Minute, and they will be designing this year's yearbook. This class will help students use their creative skills and they will be able to get better in their writing skills in a way that will be fun for them. Journalism is a new class, so no students have ever done this before, but these are some reasons why students chose to try something new. Some students chose this class because they thought it was going to be something new to try and interesting, other students decided to do Journalism because of their love for writing. One student was inspired to join this class because her grandmother was a journalist. Mrs. Sanders, the teacher of Journalism alongside Mrs. Grobe, said that what they envisioned for this class was to refine and to make students more aware of what is going on in the world. Mrs. Grobe said they felt that by developing a Journalism elective they could help students improve their writing skills.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2: GRANDPARENTS DAY  
FEBRUARY 3: HEART OF GOLD AUCTION  
FEBRUARY 6: CLASS PHOTO DAY  
FEBRUARY 9: JUNIOR HIGH DANCE

FEBRUARY 13: BUCK A JEAN DAY  
FEBRUARY 14: ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 17: DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE  
FEBRUARY 19: NO SCHOOL