

LEAVING A LEGACY AT MIS

BY EDIE G.
EDITED BY CARISSA S.

Mary Immaculate invites everyone to leave their own legacy. By leaving money to the school in your will, you can support MIS even when you are gone. With an upcoming event on April 5th, everyone in the community is welcome to attend a luncheon. Along with the luncheon, there will be a roundtable discussion. At this event, the discussion will be about the importance of leaving a legacy, how to give, and how giving would affect the future of Mary Immaculate. This Legacy Circle event will be from 11am to 1pm in the MIS library. There will also be a representative from The Catholic Foundation speaking as well. If you choose to donate money, you will be mentioned in the Memorial Mass in September. As Richard Ferry said, "The gift that Mr. Gierhl left in his will allowed us to transform the dining hall into a space that allows our students to eat in a modern environment with their friends in a way that fosters a sense of wonder. Mr Gierhl's generous gift will allow our students to have a wonderful dining hall for years to come." Giving to our school will help every student, every staff member, and every life affected by Mary Immaculate.

NEED A LAUGH?

By: Lucy D. and Giancarlo R.

- Why do bees have sticky hair?
Because they use honeycombs!
- What do you call a train carrying bubble gum?
A chew-chew train!
- What do you call a pig that does karate?
Pork chop!

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE MUSTANG MINUTE?

Calling all 4th through 8th graders who have a passion for writing! The Mustang Minute is now taking submissions for guest writers for the next edition! Submissions are due to Mrs. Sanders by April 16th via email at ksanders@mischool.org. Prompts can be about whatever is happening in your grade, a subject you are learning about in class, or a topic you are passionate about that pertains to MIS. Happy writing!

HIGHSTEPPERS PREPARE FOR 2024-2025

BY GRACE M. AND SIENA A.
EDITED BY LUCAS S.

The new MIS school year is coming up! The drill team, The Highsteppers, are having try outs for the 2024-2025 team! We have the new incoming 5th graders joining the team and 6th graders trying out for social officers. The incoming 7th and 8th graders are excited to try out for dance officer and captain! The Highsteppers recently competed in a competition and were extremely successful! Along with The Highsteppers, the rest of the school is ecstatic! This month the people who applied to Mary Immaculate for the 2024 to 2025 school year are finding out if they got accepted into MIS! There was so much interest in our school we had to create a waitlist! MIS is so excited because with all our future mustangs come new and beautiful friendships. All of MIS cannot wait for all these new families to join our community!

TAYLOR SWIFT, APPLE VISION PROS OR THANK YOU CARDS?

BY GIANCARLO R.
EDITED BY LUCY D

At our past masses, whether being in the Mary Immaculate Parish Hall or in the main Sanctuary, we have never failed to worship God. In the Parish Hall, even though it was distracting and it hurt to kneel on the hardwood floor, we still put in effort to pray our best prayers. Father Alfonse's homily was very meaningful and the whole experience was very eye-opening because it showed us that, no matter the place, we can still pray and worship God. On March 8th, at Mass in the Church, the week before Spring Break, while everyone was excited, Father asked us if we would rather choose Taylor Swift Eras Tour Tickets, Apple Vision Pros or Thank You Cards. Most people, including Mrs. Schwalm, said that they would choose the tickets. Father brought us to the realization that the Thank You Cards were the best choice because of how much thought was put into them. We should always be thankful for the things we receive and the people in our life. A big 'thank you' to Father Alfonse for always helping us to see what really matters in life.



THE MUSTANG MINUTE

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IN THIS EDITION

In this edition of the Mustang Minute, high school decisions were released as 8th grade prepares for their last weeks at MIS before graduation in May. The Mary Immaculate community invites members to the Legacy Circle Luncheon to learn about leaving an impactful legacy for future generations. Students are preparing for major Sacraments to continue their walk with Christ. Read more about it!

BREAKING NEWS HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

BY GRECIA T.
EDITED BY BECCA K.

On Friday, March 8th, our eighth-grade students received their acceptance letters from high school. Many of these acceptances were favorable since they got accepted into their top-pick school. Some high schools our students applied to were John Paul II, Ursuline, Jesuit, Bishop Lynch, The Highlands, Cistercian, Bishop Dunne, Grapevine Faith, and one from Hockaday. Along with these acceptance letters, students received merit-based scholarships which were given to students who showed leadership and maintained good grades in their classes. Siena A, who got accepted into Ursuline said, "I am sad to be leaving, but MIS has prepared me for this next step in my life." As advice for next year's eighth graders, "Work hard and have the willpower to get through the year." Joshua S., a student who plans to attend Jesuit, said, "I am excited for a new experience and meeting new people at Jesuit. MIS prepared me with its good education and high values." On behalf of all MIS and as a current eighth grader, congratulations to all the 8th-grade class on their success in high school acceptances. After the long and tiresome process of applications, congratulations, and good luck in your future studies.



KINDERGARTEN

BY CARMEN D.
EDITED BY ELIJAH M.

This Spring, Kindergarteners have learned fun things and enjoyed activities. In Religion, they are doing a daily Lenten journey path. Each day they color in a square, resembling each day in Lent. They are also learning about the Stations of the Cross, and Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. They are even following Lenten promises and watching Brother Francis reflection videos.

In Math, they are learning about the concept of addition. It is very important for them to learn addition as it will prepare them for their future.

In English Language Arts, the Kindergarteners are learning how to write proper sentences. They are also learning how to solve problems in books or stories, and how to draw conclusions from known facts or evidence.

In Social Studies, they have learned about the USA flag and Texas flag. They even made their own USA flag out of construction paper! They are also reciting the USA and Texas pledge daily.

Before Easter, they will be doing an Easter Egg Hunt! The teachers will hide eggs around the park, and the Kindergarten students will have their Easter baskets and find as many eggs as they can!

The Kindergarteners had a fun time learning multiple subjects and they can't wait for Easter break!

SACRAMENTS AT MIS

BY ALEXANDER M.
EDITED BY ELI E.

As a Catholic school, Mary Immaculate focuses on a faith-centered and open relationship with God. Throughout the years, Mary Immaculate students receive Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. These Sacraments are the very foundation of the Catholic faith. Our second graders received their first Reconciliation on March 19, 2024. They were overly excited to receive the gift of the sacrament! Furthermore, they will be receiving their first Holy Communion on April 27, 2024. This is the most looked forward to and the most exciting Sacrament they will receive. Finally, our eighth graders are going to be receiving Confirmation on April 6, 2024. This Sacrament is the final step in being initiated into the Catholic Church. Receiving Confirmation will allow them to fully spread and defend the Catholic faith.

ROBOTICS

BY SOPHIA G.
EDITED BY PAOLA M.

In 7th and 8th grade there is an elective called Robotics where students can learn about coding and create many different things. One student said, "It is an incredibly fun experience, and you can learn about coding while talking with friends and having fun. You should also be careful though while handling the robot because if you drop it or accidentally move a part it can mess up the whole thing. I would definitely recommend trying this elective." The main purpose of this class is to build a robot design and then code it to do something. The codes used are based on the scratch programming system and they use two different Lego models, the Lego Mindstorms EV3 and the Lego Spike Prime. Lego provides instructions for a specific design and new learning blocks, so the student can enhance the code for the robot to do many different things. Beginning students start by creating a driving base with four wheels and then they learn to move it in different ways. The more advanced students have been creating many different and interesting designs such as a grabber, a CNC machine, a break dancer, and a weather forecasting machine! Mrs. Loshelder said, "My favorite thing about teaching Robotics is the excitement I see when the students successfully code their robot to do whatever task they are trying to do." Mrs. Loshelder also said "I think that Robotics helps students with more than just hands-on design skills but with problem-solving to make the robot move and react, all of which enhance critical thinking skills. I am hoping that we are building future engineers!" Overall, Robotics is an amazing elective you can take in 7th and 8th grade that you definitely should do if you love coding, robots, and having fun while making an amazing creation!

THEATRICAL ARTS

BY CAROLINE M.
EDITED BY SAM F.

This Spring, Junior High will present "The Enchanted Bookshop" by Todd Wallinger as their play. The performances will take place on April 24th and April 25th, with the latter being the day when parents can attend the evening show. The play will feature Junior High students, with Siena A., and 8th grader, taking on the role of the main character, Margie. Lucy DeLeon, a 7th grader, who will portray the Lady in Red, expressed her excitement stating, "I'm very excited to showcase this fun and exciting play to the whole school." Mrs. Mayfield, the Director, mentioned that the rehearsals are progressing well, with the entire show almost blocked. There is enthusiasm among the cast about their roles, including some new faces who auditioned successfully. Rehearsals will continue 2-3 times a week after Spring Break. Ms. Mentasana is assisting with the set pieces, and Mrs. Mayfield believes it will be a delightful show that the entire school will enjoy. Under the direction of Mrs. Mayfield, Junior High students performed the walking Stations of the Cross. All the students walked down the back alley through the stations. On Friday evening the students performed the Stations in the Church for the Parish.

JUNIOR HIGH UPDATES

BY ISABEL L.
EDITED BY DIEGO P.

This year will be an extremely exciting year for the 8th graders, as it is filled with charitable moments and fun events. First, the Junior High students, specifically 8th grade, are preparing for Confirmation with Sister Sophia and to go to their respective high schools. The acceptance to high schools was delivered to 8th grade on March 8th. Although 8th grade has many exciting activities, 7th grade does as well. For one, the 7th graders will be visiting Austin in April, which they are very enthusiastic about, as well as being able to enjoy the new Greenhouse. Finally, the Junior High students will be working together on a blanket service project, allowing for donations to other organizations. In conclusion, this has been a fun, but busy, semester as we approach summer break!



THE LAST SHOT

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

The Mustangs Basketball season is over and what a season for our Mustangs! Both 5th grade teams tried extremely hard and did well for their first basketball season. Next year they will come back with experience and hopefully can make the playoffs! Both 6th grade teams made it to the semi-finals and sadly got eliminated. They made it so far and had a successful season leading up to their last game. The 6th grade girls had a great and close game! The 7th grade girls also made it to the semi-finals which made our campus proud. Similar to last year, 7th grade boys made it to the championship! We hope that next year, they will be able to secure a championship! The 8th grade boys got to the quarterfinals, a wonderful way to end their last year at MIS. The 8th grade girls made it to the championship and tried their hardest to bring home a trophy. Even though they ended their season with a loss, the 8th grade girls did amazing in their last year! This was a great season for us!

Highsteppers had their auditions last week, and we are excited to see them in action next school year!

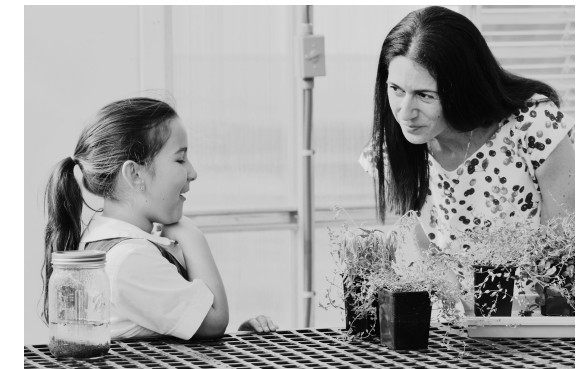
THE STATE OF THE GREENHOUSE

BY JOSHUA S.
EDITED BY MADELEINE A.

Mrs. Kaplonski, the Director of the Greenhouse, Master Gardener, and PreK Teacher, has some fun activities planned for the students of MIS. We will be ready for when classes start now that all the equipment has been set up. We will be planting many diverse types of greens and fruits, and Mrs. Kaplonski hopes everyone enjoys their time in the Greenhouse!

Now that the Greenhouse is fully up and running, students have started taking classes by getting their hands in the dirt and planting their first plants! Each class will be get an introduction during their first class.

The first classes will be based around planting fruit trees, veggies, herbs, flowers, and more. The introduction will inform us about the things we will be planting there and all the information the students need to know about it. Mrs. Kaplonski said, "Our evaporative air unit is up and running, water spigots are operational, and our garden beds have soil." We can't wait!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 28 - APRIL 1: EASTER HOLIDAY

MARCH 31: EASTER

APRIL 2: 8TH GRADE RETREAT

APRIL 5: LEGACY CIRCLE LUNCHEON

APRIL 6: CONFIRMATION

APRIL 8: SOLAR ECLIPSE

APRIL 11: JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL GAME

APRIL 12: GRANDPARENTS SPRING FLING

APRIL 13: PSIA STATE COMPETITION

APRIL 17: KICKBALL GAME

APRIL 18: 7TH GRADE TRIP TO AUSTIN

APRIL 24 & 25: ENCHANTED BOOKSHOP

APRIL 26: GREENHOUSE DEDICATION

APRIL 27: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION