

Monarch Post

November 2025

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Day Of Service
throughout SMCS

8th Grade v. Faculty
Volleyball Game



Calendar – Jack K. and Will H.

November is Native American Heritage Month

1: All Saints Day

2: All Souls Day

7: SMCS Oyster Roast

11: Veterans' Day

13: World Kindness Day

14: Interims

15: Debate Club First Meeting

21: Children's Day

24-28: Thanksgiving Break

27: Thanksgiving

Faculty & Staff Birthdays in November:

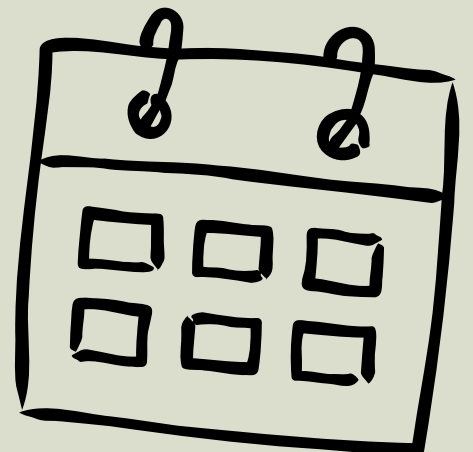
11: Mrs. Thompson

12: Mrs. Murray

17: Mrs. Beville

18: Mr. Schaefer

27: Mrs. Dahl



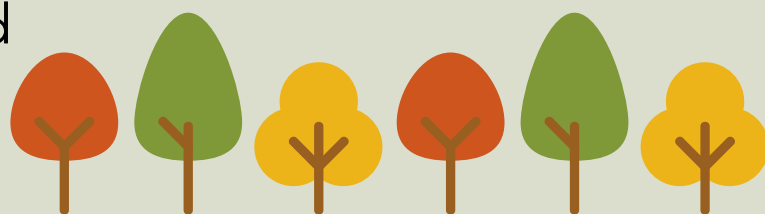
Art Spotlight – Eleri C.



In the Art Spotlight for this month, we recognize two grades! The 6th graders this month have focused on making prints called Identity Linocut prints. They used carved styrofoam printing plates, and ink. They carved into the styrofoam what they believed identified them. To roll on the ink, they used a tool called a brayer and then placed the prints onto paper!



The 4th and 5th graders completed the next project. Every month the elementary students learn about a new artist. They also learn about their art style and their life! Recently they learned about Frida Kahlo. The 4th and 5th graders created Frida Kahlo portraits using watercolors and sharpies. They created beautiful borders around their art work as well. What they used were mixed media paper types to create collage frames.

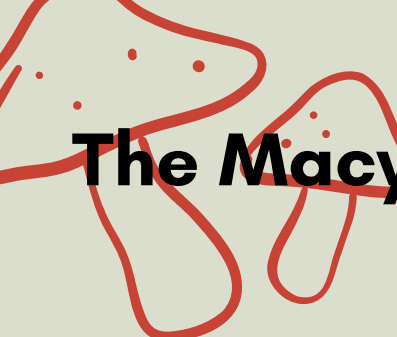


IB Learner Profile Trait – Olivia C.

I am so happy to be back writing in the newspaper club! Thank you to all who have continued to read over the past year! If you are new to this column, every month I write about the IB Learner Profile Trait of the month to help students know what trait will be recognized during our Monarch of the Month celebration.

This month's trait is "Thinker." To be a thinker means to think creatively and analytically. What teachers are looking for this month are students who excel in their studies, but also students who think creatively to solve problems.





The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Jack K. and Will H.

Every year, many New Yorkers line up in Macy's Herald Square at 8:30 a.m. just so they can see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This parade usually continues on for about three and a half hours. The National Broadcasting Company, NBC, usually broadcasts this nationwide celebration. The entry fee to get a balloon in the parade is \$200,000. This tradition was started in the early 1920s as a small event. Throughout the 1930s, the popularity of the parade began to flourish as the first Mickey Mouse balloon appeared in 1933. As World War II started, the Parade was suspended, in order to ensure the safety of everyone. The parade came back in 1945, and was prominently shown in the popular film *Miracle on 34th Street*. The parade was first broadcast on live TV on CBS, in 1948.



The first celebrity that performed during the parade was Benny Goodman in 1958. In 1964, a big change would come for the parade; the Parade allowed lip synching instead of actual singing by performers! The parade has continued in the same format in following years, but a few accidents occurred; In 1993, strong gusts of wind pulled and pushed the Sonic the Hedgehog into a lamppost! In 1997 the same thing happened with the Cat in the Hat balloon, but the falling debris sent a woman into a 24-day coma. Many more wind-related accidents have occurred, causing the city to pass regulations preventing any balloon-related accidents. To this day, companies will have balloons put up just for promotion and people fly in from all over the country just to see the balloons and floats come into the square. It really goes to show how influential the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is.



*HAPPY
Thanks
Giving*

History and Theology – Kali H.

History Spotlight: Veterans' Day

The original "Armistice Day" was at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This day commemorates the end of one of the deadliest conflicts in history: World War 1, where over 10 million people died. This day ended the war on the western front, and today we recognize this day as Veterans' Day.



Theology Spotlight

November is a busy month for theological events, such as All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and Advent. All Saints Day begins on Saturday, November 1 and is a Christian Holy Day venerating the saints. The following day, All Souls Day, commemorates all of the faithful departed. Some people celebrate this day by lighting candles and visiting graves of people that they've lost. Advent will begin on November 30th.



Science Spotlight: Maggie H.

Autumn has made itself at home here in Henrico County, and most everyone is crunching through fallen leaves and marveling at the bright oranges, reds, and yellows of the trees. It's the perfect time of year for raking leaves and having family photo shoots. These annual autumn colors have inspired poets and artists for centuries. This brings us to an important question: why do leaves change color in the fall?

For almost all of the year, leaves of deciduous trees are green because of chlorophyll, which converts sunlight to energy in the process of photosynthesis. When the trees start receiving less sunlight and the weather gets cooler, chlorophyll begins to break down. As the chlorophyll is breaking down, yellow and orange colors start to show. These colors are hidden during the summer and spring months.

Interesting fact: when sugars become trapped in the leaves, new colors, or pigments, are created, called anthocyanins. This makes the leaves look dark red. For the best leaf colors, trees must be growing in a dry, sunny, and cool climate. Location plays a large role in the speed of color change in leaves.

As we continue to observe the beauty of autumn colors throughout our daily lives, we can appreciate the interesting science behind this wonderful change in the leaves.

Work Cited

1. Smithsonian Institution. "Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?" Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian Institution, 21 September 2021, <https://www.si.edu/stories/why-do-leaves-change-color-fall>. Accessed 16 October 2025.



Catholic Schools Around the Diocese – Isabelle J.

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School

St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (SGGS) is located in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It was founded in 1965. SGGS is the largest Catholic school in the Diocese of Richmond. After interviewing an 8th grade SGGS student about their school, here is what they said:

A Day in the Life of SGGS Student Peyton D.

Students at SGGS have 90 minute class periods four days a week. Peyton's first class on Fridays is English from 8-9:25 A.M., followed by literature and Spanish. After lunch, she has two of her electives. Electives are resource classes, except you get to choose what they are. At SGGS, there are a total of four electives you have, two on Tuesday and two on Friday. On Fridays from 1:10-1:55, Peyton goes to her first elective, athletic training. Athletic training is an extra class of physical education. Then, she goes to STREAM for the remainder of the day. In STREAM, Peyton and her classmates build items and connect their learning experience to STREAM, which stands for science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and math.

Some SGGS traditions include the Saint Gregory award, which is awarded to two students from every homeroom once a quarter. Teachers select students who have been demonstrating the virtues of Gospel Living through kindness, courtesy, respect, cooperation, truthfulness, and obedience.

One thing Peyton especially likes about SGGS is their strict grading system. In order to receive the academic award of Principal's List, you need grades of 93s or above. Similarly, Honor Roll requires grades of 83s or above. Other Catholic schools in the Tidewater area (Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth) have these awards set at 90s or 80s and above. Peyton says that this grading system helps her try harder in every single one of her classes so she can strive for better grades.

Book Review – Maggie H.

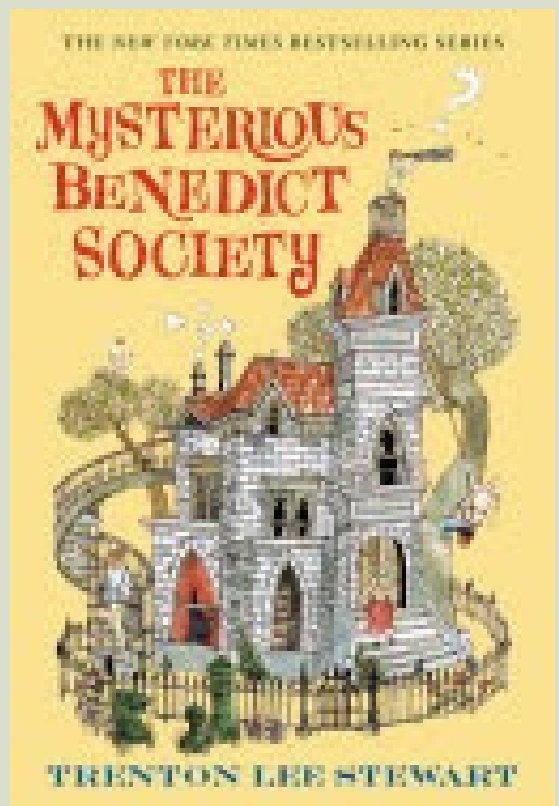
The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee

Stewart



An excellent mystery read! Well-developed characters with unique personalities spice up the story in unexpected ways. Filled with fun plot twists, this book kept me at the edge of my seat and had me reading it for hours. Follow stubborn Constance, adventurous Kate, intelligent Sticky, and code-expert Reynie as they sneak and spy to stop an

evil villain from taking over the world. If you are a fan of *The Name of This Book is Secret* by Pseudonymous Bosch, this book is for you. Enjoy! (Note: This story continues over a four-book series, with two bonus books at the end.)



*Happy
Autumn!*



Puzzles for Fall! – Jack K. and Will H.



Candy

Costume

Halloween

Family

Gratitude

October

Meal

November

Sauce

Or

Pumpkin

Trick

Thanksgiving

Treat

Turkey

Cranberry