

# The Montessorian

Dec. 2007 - Jan. 2008

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## Winter Festival Fun!

By: Amelia Palmer, 6th Grade Staff Writer

Do you want to go to a fun festival at school with crafts, presents, and much more? Well, Winter Festival is the event for you! Winter Festival is a holiday event the school has as a fundraiser, which occurs every year on the first Sunday of December.

This event puts the FUN in fundraiser. With crafts, gingerbread houses, games, a gift shop, craft vendors, as well as pictures with Santa Claus, you can just spend your whole day there with so much to do.

You may be wondering how long it took to plan and some other interesting facts about Winter Festival. You came to the right place. The co-chairs this year were Julie Swart, mother of Andrew Swart (MS), and Mary Giuliani, mother of Michael Giuliani (MS). Julie and Mary were fortunate to have 17 other committee chairs and families that made this festival happen. It took the committee nearly seven months to plan this jam-packed event. This year, there were even a few new features, like the live auction on Saturday night and a mini family portrait studio. Many thanks go to Mary and Julie.

So if you didn't make it to the event this year, be sure to come next year for a visit.



Photo: R. Spector

Hark! The band played many songs to entertain the audience.



Photo: R. Spector

Vendors sold their wares.



Photo: B. Heitz

Andrea Richter (CH2) told Santa what she wanted for Christmas.

# Thoughts from Our Administrator

By: Donna Barton

**E**ach October, nationally standardized tests have been administered to our students who are in grades four, six, and eight. In 2007, for the first time we began testing Grades 5 and 7, as well. The test given is the Terra Nova California Achievement Test. The format of the test resembles state proficiency testing, which includes several writing responses. The students in the classes also take a test of cognitive skills.

Our reasons for administering standardized tests are varied. For parents, it is helpful to see the statistical information about their child's progress in acquisition of specific skills which are generally accepted as necessary at the elementary level. While we all recognize the tremendous enrichment provided with a Montessori education, it is reassuring to see verification of accomplishment in basic skill areas.

The tests are also very helpful to the teachers and are used primarily for diagnostic purposes. The data provided assists the staff in assessing educational needs and in curriculum and program planning for an individual child or for a group. We study the results and meet together to discuss strengths and weaknesses: this process prompts decision making for future materials and lessons.

The following general information about our school results for October, 2007, should be of interest to all of you. 70% of our students scored above the 75th percentile on the total battery of tests (i.e. above the score of 75 of every 100 students nationwide who took the test.)

Using national percentiles is also one of the clearest ways to express group performance. A national percentile is the percentage of groups whose scores fall below a given group's score. For example, a group that scores at the 80th percentile scored at or above the score of 80% of groups nationwide. National percentiles of 25-75 are considered to be in the average range.

The total battery national percentile for each group was:

- Grade 4 – 73.5
- Grade 5 – 86.0
- Grade 6 – 88.5
- Grade 7 – 82.7
- Grade 8 – 92.5

We keep a five year history of the group scores. If you would like a copy of these, you may stop in the office and request one.

While the test results are an important source of data about individual student progress, group achievement, and the school's success, we must also recognize that they are



Photo: R. Holonitch

**Donna Barton**  
dbarton@cdeeducation.org

only a single indicator of overall development. When your child is tested and the results are shared with you, it is critical to remember that the child's teachers are a more significant source of assessment information. Their observations of your child are derived from consistent personalized contact and their professional expertise – a far more reliable indicator than a generalized testing tool.

Our students, as has always been the case, achieved very respectable scores. We are proud of them for this example of their continuing academic growth.

# Tangerines by Midnight



Photo: R. Holomitch

I have an idea! What is we wrote articles and publshid for the school to read. Wouldn't that be great?



Photo: R. Holomitch

Rachael Brenner had special powers to make the show a success.



Photo: R. Holomitch

The ladies of the ensemble strike a pose for a perfect Kodak moment.

Lights! Camera! Action! Those were the words that were racing through our heads when we all experienced the Erdkinder show, "Tangerines By Midnight." On November 15th, this ensemble cast, made up of the 7th and 8th grade students, put on a spectacular show at the Muirfield Country Club.

The mystery dinner began with a wedding of two lovebirds from different sides of the tracks. Unfortunately, the bride goes missing, when her affliction for tangerines kicks in. Feuds flare up, accusations fly, and fashion choices are critiqued. At the end, the bride is found and the "I Dos" are said.

Sandra Matheny, along with help from Colleen D'Angelo setting up the location, Jason Nappier (SJMS 1999) planning the choreography, and Meghan Eberly working the lights and sound, put together a great show that all enjoyed.

# Cookies & Carols

On a cold winter night in December, a church full of proud parents experienced a wonderful concert. The great concert that we are speaking of is Cookies & Carols. At Sacred Heart Church, we saw a mini play starring the 2nd and 3rd Grade students in Primary 1. The story was about an angel choosing a star to be the star that would shine over the baby Jesus. Songs were sung beautifully by our school choir, with a surprise "Echo" Choir in the organ loft. Our band delighted us with Christmas carols and the bells chimed with the amazing church acoustics. Our music director, Sandra Matheny, worked very hard to put together such an pleasurable show.



Photo: R. Holomitch

Atom Slaughter and Julliette Stripling perform as Mary and Joseph in the Star Play.



Photo: R. Holomitch

Our Bell Choir played in perfect harmony.

## Donna Barton Honored on Catholic Principal's Day



Photo: R. Holonitch

Students honored Donna with flowers, a balloon, and a certificate for her hard work at SJMS.

On November 15th, Donna Barton received a big surprise. No, not the bad news like broken toilets or snow days. Four students arrived in the office early in the morning to thank her for her hard work. November 15th is National Catholic Principals Day, and Will Hunter (P1), Sam Kukor

(MS), Elisabeth Spector (MS), and Claire Alexander (MS) presented Donna with flowers, a balloon, and a giant certificate to say congratulations. Donna was very surprised and thankful for the kind thoughts and generosity in remembering her.

## New Year Resolutions

By: Claire Alexander,  
6th Grade Staff Writer

New Years resolutions are a fun and easy way to help make the world a better place. They can be made—and fulfilled—just about anywhere. Here are eight New Year's resolutions for 2008, from students and staff at SJMS:

1. I will work harder at schoolwork.
2. I will try and eat healthier snacks and food.
3. I will get up earlier, so I'm not late for school.
4. I will be more athletic and join a sports team.
5. I will learn to draw.
6. I will recycle more, and conserve water.
7. I will stop biting my fingernails.
8. I will help my parents more around the house.

So whether you're setting a goal for something big or trying to do lots of small things, do your best to keep your resolutions to help yourself and others.



We Want  
**YOU**  
to come to our  
Summer Learning Camp!



Learn more at [www.sjms.net/slc](http://www.sjms.net/slc)

## Staff Updates SJMS Alum Becomes Staff



Photo: R. Holonitch

Bethany with some of her new Children's House friends.

This month, one of our own graduates became a staff member. Bethany Torres (SJMS 1999) is now working the 11am-6pm shift for Children's House 1 and 2. In December, Bethany graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education, with certification for PreK-3rd grade.

## Carol Durbin Earns Master's Degree

Another recent graduate is on our staff, as well. Carol Durbin, from Children's House 4, has graduated from Ashland University with a Master's Degree in Education in Literacy. This program took 3 years for Carol to complete as a part time student. Her favorite part of the program was the final project, where she made a digital movie about Peace using Microsoft Moviemaker.



Photo: R. Holonitch

Carol Durbin

## New Lunch Program

By: Lindsay Hester, 6th Grade Staff Writer

Over the years, SJMS has ordered hot lunches from D&A Catering. Recently, the students had a chance to try lunch samples from three other catering services.

The three services were supplied by Arlene's Cuisine, Hallmark Services, and the Wellness Forum. All the vendors had a "Taste Day" for any student who wanted to try the food. After the students sampled their lunches, they were given a survey. According to the results, the school decided on a new food service company. Laura Miller has been working closely with all three companies in planning the change. "We want the best for our school, and we want the best for our students," Laura said.

Even though it was a hard decision, the final choice was Hallmark Services. The new program will begin on February 4th.



Photo: R. Holonitch

Elizabeth Hatch (P1) checks out the lunch bags on "Taste Day" that were provided by Arlene's Cuisine.

## The Geome-TRIO

By: Elliott Narcross, 6th Grade Staff Writer

If you have ever seen Andy, Piper, or Chris walking in late, they were simply at Bishop Watterson High School taking a geometry class - not tardy.

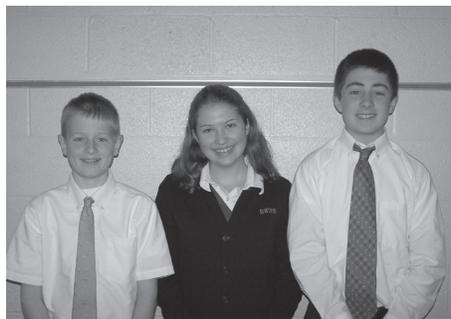


Photo: R. Holonitch

(L-R) Andy Speed, Piper Rasmussen, and Chris D'Angelo sporting the uniforms required at Bishop Watterson High School.

This 'Geometry Trio' is an exceptional group of eighth grade students that were put in our algebra class in the seventh grade. They arrive to their class at Watterson by 8:15 every day. They even have to wear uniforms to this introduction to high school life. Andy Speed says, "It's awesome."

This truly is an outstanding group of students and they well deserve pats on the back for their achievement.

# Primary 1 Busy Building Gingerbread Houses

By: Maria Walliser, 6th Grade Staff Writer

The Primary 1 classroom was able to enjoy the fun of making gingerbread houses in early December. During these weeks, the students had a chance to build, name, and decorate their houses. Before the project began, students were given notes telling their parents what to bring and how they were going to build their houses. This is an annual fun holiday activity for the kids.

Chloe Tussing, a first grader, said, "It was fun making a gingerbread house." Lucas Palmer, a third grader, said, "The decorating was fun, especially the gummy bears!" This yearly activity for Primary 1 children is a great way to start the holiday spirit, and it is tasty, too!



Photo: L. Gruber

Emily Miller becomes an architect of sugar with this project.

## Primary 2 Classroom

### Makes a Wish Come True

By: Cassidy Poe and Alexandra A. Walker  
Primary 2 students

The P-2 classroom did a Unit of Study on compassion in November and December. The "Make a Wish Foundation" came to our classroom and told us about wishes for sick children. They gave us a calendar with special children for each month of the year. We learned about the Ronald McDonald House. We made lunch for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The lunches included: homemade soups, homemade bread and pumpkin cookies. We also made Compassion Boxes for each family staying at Ronald McDonald House. We delivered our gifts to the families on a field trip on December 11th. We took a tour of the house and saw where the families stayed,

where they do their laundry and played games. We even saw a special place for families to shop for their holiday gifts!



Photo: S. Zoldak

Joce McBurney-Buell shares her thoughts about the experience.

## Erdkinder Fundraising

The Erdkinder class needs your help! We have a variety of fundraisers throughout each month to raise money for our class trip. Students have been hard at work to raise the following:

School Store....	\$522.88
Soda Machine....	\$534.85
Gallery Hop...\$1,	317.55
Pizza Day.....	\$576.30
Dances.....	\$519.36
Mac & Cheese....	\$288.42
Sloppy Joe's....	\$236.68
Italian Festival	
Parking....	\$5,613.43
Scrips.....	\$80.00
Barnes & Noble	
Event.....	\$536.55

Total=\$10,226.02

We appreciate your continued support and participation in our fundraisers.

## Techno Trek Coming Soon!



Photo: R. Holomitch (Archive)

April 25th

# MONTY JR.

## Emoticons Quiz

Each symbol, or emoticon, is a clever face made of a series of keystrokes. Tilt your head to the left to see the faces, and then match them with the clues.

- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1. 0:-)   | A. baby          |
| 2. -:0    | B. chef          |
| 3. C=:-)  | C. Uncle Sam     |
| 4. 5:-)   | D. clown         |
| 5. *<:0)  | E. angel         |
| 6. =):-)= | F. Elvis Presley |

Answers on Page 9.

## Pictographs

Look close. can you figure out the hidden message in each little box? It's not as easy as you think.

1.



2.



3.

STEP  
IT

4.

Dip  
Dip

---

## Jokes

**Q** - What did the radio DJ name his son?

**A** - Mike

**Q** - Who cleans up after the fish?

**A** - A Mermaid

## School Changes

By: Elliott Narcross,  
6th Grade Staff Writer

As you may have noticed the school is undergoing many changes to our facilities both short and long term.

The improvements are continuing along the plan that started in late 2005. Some of the more recent changes were new paint and an enforced railing to the stairs leading up to Middle School and Erdkinder. Also the parking lot was repaved, the elementary building playground was converted to mulch from gravel, and we began improving heating and cooling systems. Construction in the future will include a multi-purpose room, a new library, and a new Erdkinder classroom. These construction plans will go into effect soon.

The Board of Trustees, the SJMS staff, Terry Connor, and countless other individuals, have climbed many mountains to get this project off the ground to a wonderful new future. John Narcross, my father and Board member said, "I think that it's very important that the students, teachers, and staff all have a building that reflects the quality of the education that is conducted there."



Photo: R. Holonitch

The main stairway received a big "makeover."

# The Annual Fund—Why We Need Everyone’s Help

Susan Zoldak, Development Director

At SJMS, as in most private schools, the Annual Fund is a necessary component of our fundraising efforts. The purpose of the Annual Fund is to help close the gap between tuition revenue and what it costs to run the school. Additionally, the annual fund is a measurement of our philanthropic health for donors outside our community.

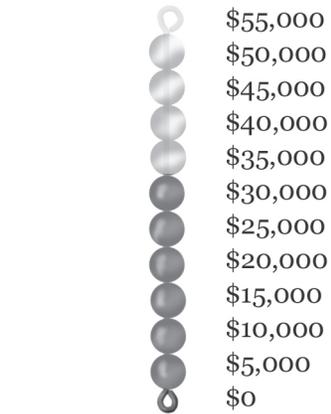
Some of you may be asking, why doesn’t tuition cover what it costs to run the school? In a for-profit business model, pricing a product or service based on cost and adding an amount for profit is standard operating procedure. In not-for-profit organizations, revenue from the core product/service often falls short of what it costs to operate and the “gap” comes from other sources. At SJMS, the gap is filled from a combination of mandated funds from the state of Ohio, our other programs, such as before/after care, summer program, and fundraising.

This model enables us to keep tuition as affordable as our core ex-

penses allow and provides those who are able to give more structured opportunities to do so. We ask that everyone participate in the Annual Fund, but we don’t expect everyone to participate at the same level. The Annual Fund provides an opportunity for everyone to give an amount that fits their financial situation—all gifts are meaningful to us whether it’s \$5, \$50, \$500, or \$5000.

Annual fund participation is also a measure of a charitable organization’s philanthropic health. When we solicit corporations for donations and apply for grants, annual fund participation by community members is usually requested. Outside organizations want to know that our board, faculty, staff, and families believe in our mission -- one measurement of such believe is the success of the annual fund.

We are on our way to meeting our 2007-08 Annual Fund goal of \$55,000 thanks to those of you who have participated already. As of December 31, 2007, we have raised



\$31,500. If you have not yet considered your gift, please do. This is a community-wide endeavor; whether you have a child in Primary, Children’s House, Erdkinder or Middle School, we need your meaningful support. For those of you who want to talk to someone about the Annual Fund, our phone-a-thon takes place on February 7th. A group of volunteer parents will call all families who have not yet pledged. If you feel like you have enough information and do not need a phone call, fill out your pledge card today.

Remember, the only gift too small is no gift at all!

## Project Care Kids Give Time During the Holidays

By: The Project Care Kids Club

On December 4, Project Care Kids Club visited Lutheran Village Retirement Community and sang songs, like, “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” We also gave holiday ornaments to the residents. “It was

fun passing out the presents because they probably don’t get many presents, like we do,” said 5th year Bianca Tucker. We visited the retirement community to spread holiday cheer and we really hope we did!



Photo: Buell

Project Care Kids rang in the holiday season with songs to the residents of Lutheran Village Retirement Community.

# SJMS Goes "Green" with Posters

By: Elisabeth Spector, 6th Grade Staff Writer



Photo: O. Jack

Our winners pose with their posters: Eva Bayliss (4th Grade), Moriah Miller-Gnann (5th Grade), and Nick Salamon (6th Grade)

SJMS was going green! During December, everyone in fourth through sixth grade got to draw posters of trees for the National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest. Why? Well, to be judged of course! First through eighth graders get to vote, even the teachers. They get to vote for two posters from each grade.

The three posters (one from each grade) with the most votes, get to move on to the state competition.

Our three winners from this year

were, Eva Bayliss (4) who got 62 votes, Moriah Miller-Gnann (5) who got 81 votes, and Nick Salamon (6) who got 124 votes! Our winners earned an art kit and a certificate. Everyone is a winner with the poster contest. All participants earned a certificate and a pencil.

For the first time, we have a two-time winner. This is the second time Moriah has won this contest. We wish our winners good luck in the state competition, and hope that they will move onto nationals!

Carpool  
Coffee

February 1st  
March 7th



## monty jr. Answers

### Emoticons Quiz

1= E, 2= A, 3= B, 4= F, 5= D, 6= C

### Pictograph

1. Toy Box
2. Ace in the Hole
3. Step On It
4. Double Dip

### Guess Who? Answer

Janette MacConnell  
Children's House 5



## Support SJMS!

Cut out and save your Box Tops for Education labels and Campbell's Labels for Education. The boxes are located in front of the school office.



# Alumni News

## Winter Festival: 2007 Alumni Room



SJMS Class of 2006

'Tis the season to remember SJMS. Our alumni were all thinking of this phrase when they attended the Winter Festival Alumni Room. We had an astounding 53 alumni return to catch up with friends and teachers, as well as enjoy the festivities and maybe even get a picture with Santa.

## Kelly McCoy-Williams

Kelly attended SJMS in the 2nd and 3rd grades. She then graduated from Lima Senior High School in 1983. With a major in Political Science, Kelly graduated from the Bowling Green State University in 1988. Kelly has worked with some exciting people in the area of politics, like Howard Metzenbaum and Richard Celeste.

## Bishop Ready Honor/Merit Roll

### First Honor

Alex Kegelmeyer (SJMS 2006)

### Second Honor

Katie Speed (SJMS 2007)

## Andrew Connor

As part of the Performing Arts Series at the Ohio Wesleyan College, Andrew Connor (1983-1986) and his performing arts partner, both OWC grads, performed the "Cody Rivers Show: Stick to Glue." Their act has been described as "out of this world" and "outstanding."

## Alumni had a Taste of "Tangerines By Midnight"

On November 15th, there were more than proud parents in the "Tangerines by Midnight" audience. Over fifteen SJMS alumni attended this fantastic show.



Our alumni enjoyed "dinner and a show" at Muirfield Country Club.

## Laura Phillips

A remarkable 20,000 teens arrived in Columbus for the National Catholic Youth Conference at Nationwide Arena and the Columbus Convention Center on the weekend of November 10th.

Laura Phillips (1997-2004) participated in this event as an animator, a person who performed on stage with choreography and song. This was an uplifting and spiritual event for all participants.

## Classes of '00 & '01

### Bierley Fun Run

To honor a very supportive and enthusiastic parent, Bishop Hartly High School Cross Country Team renamed their annual fun run to the Annual Suzanne Bierley Memorial Fun Run. You may recognize the Bierley name because both Leah (SJMS 2000) and Lily (SJMS 2001) graduated from our fine school. If you would like to support this great cause, save the first weekend in October on your calendars for a fun run.

## Class of 1999

### Amanda Kirk

After graduating from SJMS in 1999, Amanda attended Hilliard Davidson High School. She then moved to Fort Myers, Florida to attend Southwest Florida College for an Associates Degree in Graphic Design. She is currently working in the graphic design field in Cape Coral, Florida.

## Class of 2002



Photo: S. VanTilburg

**The Capital University Crusaders celebrated their big win! Cameron VanTilburg, #20, cheered along with his teammates.**

Cameron VanTilburg (SJMS 2002) is a proud part of the Capital University Crusaders Soccer Team. This year, the men earned the 3rd OAC title in school history. The team will go into the play-offs with a 14-3-1 overall record and a 7-1-1 record in the OAC. Congratulations Cameron!

## Class of 2004

### Alexander Reifeis

It is amazing to think that Alex Reifeis is a senior at Bishop Hartley High School. He is currently enrolled in Physics, Honors English, Government, Choir, Spanish 4, Religion, and Pre-Calculus.



Photo: R. Holonitch

Alexander Reifeis

He is investigating colleges that have a music/drama program.

## Class of 2006

### Kavya Dalavayi



Photo: R. Holonitch

Kavya Dalavayi

Kavya Dalavayi (SJMS 2006), now a sophomore at the Columbus Alternative High School (CAHS), has stayed very busy after graduating from SJMS. She is taking courses like Algebra II, AP European History, Bio/Chem, and Chinese.

She is also using her volunteer time at SJMS by working in the Erdkinder room. Cool Kavya Fact: Kavya had Dawn McCombs, Primary 1 teacher, in Children's House at CMEC. Small world, huh?

## Class of 2007

### Frankie Robinson



Photo: R. Robinson

Frankie Robinson in action.

Frankie is making waves at Bishop Watterson High School by earning a place on the varsity swim team.

### Thomas Phillips

Thomas Phillips (SJMS 2007) has made a splash at St. Charles Preparatory School by joining the Water Polo Team.



Photo: M. Phillips

Thomas Phillips

### Alena Mohler

Alena Mohler (SJMS 2007) moved to North Carolina after graduating from SJMS. She has placed on both the field hockey and track teams at Reagan High School.

## We Want to Hear from YOU!

If you are an alum from SJMS, go online and visit our alumni page at [www.sjms.net](http://www.sjms.net).

# Calendar of Events

Jan. 27 - Feb. 2  
Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 29  
Spaghetti Dinner  
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Feb. 1  
Carpool Coffee  
8am - 10 am

Feb. 6  
Ash Wednesday Mass

Feb. 18  
NO SCHOOL  
President's Day

Feb. 25 - Feb. 29  
Montessori Education Week

Feb. 28  
Interest Fair

March 6  
Musical Picnic - Primary 2  
6:00pm

March 7  
Carpool Coffee

March 10, 12, 18, & 19  
Parent / Teacher Conferences

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a .pdf format of this issue.

# Guess Who?

Use the clues below to guess who this SJMS community member is. You can find the answer on Page 9.



- Guess Who just became a grandmother.

- Guess Who enjoys Toastmaster Club.

- Guess Who likes to knit.

- Guess Who played in a bell choir.

- Guess Who likes yoga.

# Newspaper Staff

## Writing Staff

Claire Alexander  
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Olivia Jack  
Elliott Narcross  
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Elisabeth Spector, Layout

Olivia Jack & Audra Banfield  
Photo Co-Editors

## Special Thanks

Donna Barton  
Susan Zoldak