



# THE BUGLE

St. Bartholomew Academy Newsletter  
January 2017



Dear Parents,

In 1942, Frank Capra wrote *A Wonderful Life*. The story centers around the life of a young man named George Bailey, who dreams of traveling the world and becoming a great architect. But life has other plans for this young man. At each corner of his life, something happens to change the course of his own dreams for the dreams of others.

He helps to run the Savings and Loan his father started when his dad had a stroke. He holds off going to college when his brother (whom he saved when they were children) is ready to go to college. He continues to manage the building when he learns his brother marries and will be working for his father-in-law. And finally, when everyone is settled, he sets off to pursue his dreams.

Something else happens to change his mind, however. Without his leadership, as chairperson of the Savings and Loan, the business of his father will close. Refusing to allow Old Man Potter, the greediest and richest man in town to take over the S&L during a recession period, George assumes the position. All goes well for awhile. Then one day, another tragedy occurs. Money, appropriated to finally buy the last shares from Old Man Potter, are misplaced. With no way to raise any money in the time designated, George despairs. He decides that his life has been wasted and that the best thing to do is to end it all. While walking over the bridge that night, he pauses for awhile. He says to himself, "I wish I was never born." And with that he plunges into the freezing waters. At that moment, an angel following George all his life, jumps in and saves him.

George is then taken, by the angel, through his town and shown what has happened to it because he wished he had never been born. There is no S&L. Now the poor and immigrants have no means to buy their homes and save money. There is no beautiful town. Because he does not exist, no one recognizes him as he goes about with the angel. And Old Man Potter-he runs everything. He has turned the town into fast bucks. The poor live in shabby, ill-kept homes. There are no happy faces and proud family spirits. People are sad and miserable. There is no peace in their lives.

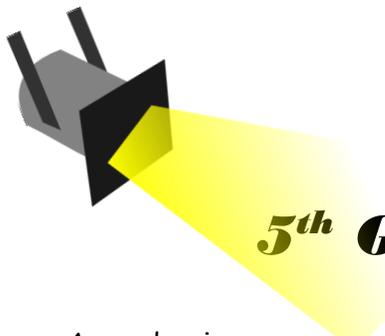
George is horrified and can't believe that one life could have made such a difference. He finally comes to his senses and asks the angel for his life. He finds himself back at the bridge and you know the end of the story.

George Bailey was born with a good heart. Even though he wanted to pursue other avenues, his passion for goodness always rose to the occasion when someone needed his help. And in the end, it was this passion that saved his life. It brought him peace.

When there is peace within our souls, there is fullness of life. We do things because they have meaning. We do not wander aimlessly. We are kind and gentle with people because we are peaceful inside not frustrated and angry. We laugh and enjoy those around us because we do not look at their faults; we see their goodness. People enjoy being in our company because there is something special about us. We have discovered who God is in our life and know we have been given everything we need. When this happens, we join the ranks of the great saints.

I do not know what this new year of 2017 will bring. I only know that when we are peaceful people, only goodness can follow and I trust the the words of Jesus, "Peace I leave you, so that you may enjoy life to the fullest." May these words ring loud and clear in your beings this New Year.

*In Christ,  
Sr. Elizabeth*



## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spotlight**

As we begin a new year, the 5th grade will continue their academic and spiritual journey here at St. Bartholomew Academy.

The fifth graders continue to grow in their relationship with God and learning more about their faith. The students take turns leading prayers and contribute daily prayer intentions. To celebrate All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, the class completed projects about a saint and shared stories about those who have gone before us. During the Advent season, the students took turns reading scripture verses and decorating the classroom Jesse tree.

In Language Arts, the students participated in a Poetry Workshop. They completed free verse poems about their favorite place. The poems were completed in a post card format, complete with illustrations. Using the acrostic poem style, the students wrote a poem about homework excuses. Rhyming poems were written about the consequences of not taking out the trash.

Believing it's never too early to learn to live within a budget; Mrs. England gave the class a Thanksgiving shopping list and a budget of \$100.00. The students went "shopping" using grocery store ads. With any leftover money, they purchased items to add to the dinner menu. With a new appreciation for the price of groceries, the students now understand why their parents look for sale prices!

A weekly challenge activity has given the students a chance to exhibit their creative abilities. For one activity, the students pretended they were Santa Claus and a new reindeer was needed. Help wanted ads were created outlining the skills and requirements of a successful reindeer. Another challenge was to create a poster about alternate Thanksgiving dinner choices, written from a turkey's point of view.

Looking forward to the New Year, the 5th grade will become skilled in the use of fractions, learn about the settlement of the Americas and read the novel Dear Mr. Henshaw. The 5th grade students wish you a happy and healthy 2017!

Mrs. Lynda England

### **SBA's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**Brianna Cabrera  
Caitlyn Falkowski  
Steven Judd  
Joshua Madaraz  
Lorenzo Modica  
Jack Perreault  
Alejandra Rodriguez**

**Malaysia Cowherd  
Haiden Fuhrmann  
Christopher Kennedy  
Alex Maya  
Mia Mortarulo  
Sofiya Piede  
Katherine Romanyshyn**



**Christopher Duran  
Sekai Jones  
Gerome Lioanag  
Taryn Mitchell  
James Nitro  
John Roder  
Isabella Saltalamacchia**



## *Important Dates:*

- January 4: Re-registration forms go home
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, 8:30 AM Liturgy
- January 6: **NOON DISMISSAL**, Faculty Meeting
- January 12: Re-registration forms due
- January 16: **NO SCHOOL**, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- January 25: Progress Reports go home
- January 27: Comedy Night, 8 PM (Doors open at 7:00)
- January 29: Catholic Schools Week begins - Open House, 11:45 AM



## *Middle States:*

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) is a nationally recognized school accreditation agency. According to the MSA, accreditation is the result of "an external, objective validation of school quality and achievement-the Gold Standard." St. Bartholomew Academy has been an accredited MSA member school since 2000. Accreditation is not only a status; it is also an ongoing process that ensures continued growth and excellence.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the faculty and staff engaged in a comprehensive self-study for reaccreditation, using the MSA protocol "Excellence by Design. Thanks to the participation of parents, students, and faculty in the Middle States surveys completed in January of last year, the faculty was able to complete the self-study with the input of our stakeholders. All comments and ratings were given serious consideration and contributed to the overall picture of our school. The self-study also provided the necessary information needed to determine areas of needed growth and improvement.

Upon completion of the self-study, the Planning Team and faculty determined three Objectives for Growth and Improvement. These are long-term goals that should be addressed during the 7 year accreditation period. Two of the objectives are related to student performance, and the last is related to organizational capacity. The objectives are currently under technical review by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and will be published on the Academy website once they have been approved.

We look forward to meeting the chairperson of the Middle States visiting team in January and hosting the visiting team on Sunday, March 12 through Wednesday, March 15. The team will be here to observe classes, interview parents, students, and teachers, and to affirm the results of the self-study. The team will also analyze our Objectives for Growth and Improvement and related Action Plans. The team will provide an oral report on the final day of their visit that will include their recommendation for re-accreditation. Please note that there is a noon dismissal that day.

If you'd like to submit something to the monthly Bugle – please send digital content by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to Mrs. Florendo at [aprincipaleddev@sfbacademy.org](mailto:aprincipaleddev@sfbacademy.org).



## A Message from the Home School Association

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is well rested after the winter break. It's time to kick off 2017, but first a recap of what went on before Christmas:

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the St. Bartholomew Church and Academy community came together for what has become one of the most anticipated events of the Christmas season – Breakfast with Santa! Led by Sunny Aumenta and her hard-working elves, this event was, yet again, a huge success! There were many prizes, tons of great breakfast food, and of course pictures with the guest of honor – Santa! Thank you to Sunny and everyone who helped make this morning special!

Did you unwrap a special gift picked out by your child(ren) at the SBA Christmas Shop on Christmas morning? Thanks to Michelle Erbafina and her committee, the students were able to do some Christmas shopping while learning about budgets, counting money and getting change. Not to mention the pride they felt picking out gifts for their loved ones!

### ***What to look forward to this month:***

After school enrichment classes will be starting up again and we're introducing a new program by Mad Science – Intro to Robotics and Technology! Children will play engineer, chemist and stunt pilot then investigate physics fundamentals and bring their scientific minds to basic magic tricks. Your Mad Scientists will be shocked by what they learn about electricity, blown away by their experiments with air pressure, and swept away by the excitement of working with waves!

As we settle back into our routines, keep an eye out for the Catholic Schools week activities schedule! The week kicks off on January 27<sup>th</sup> with our annual Comedy Night! This event is open to the entire community, so grab some friends, get a sitter (this is an adult only event!) and come out for a fun evening!

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, after 10:30 Mass, there will be an Open House for prospective families. Please invite anyone you know who is interested in learning about the Academy. Beginning in the Fall, SBA will also be offering a half day Pre-Kindergarten 3 program!

Catholic Schools Week will end with the annual bowling event at Linden Lanes on February 3<sup>rd</sup>!

### ***Calling all Volunteers!***

We have an amazing community here at SBA! We have lots of special events and fundraisers to make sure our children are getting the best experience here. None of these things are possible without volunteers. If you are looking for a way to get involved or help give back to our school community, there are plenty of opportunities coming up. We need volunteers to help with grocery card sales after Masses, lunch duty volunteers, as well as for events coming up in the Spring such as the annual school picnic. Lastly, if you have a fundraising idea you'd like to share we're all ears! Please contact me at [njgribbins@gmail.com](mailto:njgribbins@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continuing support!

Jeanette Gribbin  
HSA President



# Athletics Update

**Best of luck to all of our winter teams!**

**Schedules and game results may be found at:**

<http://stbacademy.org/Athletics.html> (scroll down to basketball section)