

The B.V.M. Student Buzz

Vol. 1 Issue 2

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The Top 10 Christmas Gifts

By: Aaron Haq, Alan Li, Christ Pirgu

10. Shopkins Fashion Boutique Building Set
9. FurReal Friends Torch My Blazin' Dragon
8. Pokemon My Friend Pikachu
7. Little Live Pets Lil' Turtles Tank
6. Throw N' Pop Pikachu and Pokeball
5. Sky Viper Pro Video Drone
4. Anki Cozmo Robot
3. Furby Connect
2. Hatchimals
1. PlayStation VR Launch Bundle

Christmas Jokes

By: Emily Gudas and Maria Stephen

Q: Which one of Santa's reindeers have bad manners?

A: RUDE-olf!

Q: Why do mummies like Christmas so much?

A: All of the wrapping!

Q: What goes "oh, oh, oh?"

A: Santa walking backwards!

Tableau/ Experiences By:

Christella Eborá

During the month of December, a majority of the sixth grade participated in the Christmas Eve Tableau of 2016. There were many practices to make the performance perfect for the 24th. The Tableau included Mary, Joseph, two heralds, angels, shepherds, the prophet Isaiah, King Caesar Augustus, the innkeepers, and the trumpeters. The tableau is a recreation of

the Nativity story, when Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God. The sixth grade was able to perform this successfully with the help of our school principal, Mrs. Zawisza, Sister Mary Beth, and Father Quinter. The church was decorated beautifully on the 24th, and the sixth graders took this event seriously. Overall, everything was performed wonderfully.

By: Jake Cahill

When I was on the stage for the 6th grade Christmas Tableau for the school, it felt different than when I went into the upper church for the Christmas Eve mass. When we did it for the school, it felt like practice. When we went up on the stage for the

Christmas mass, we were a little nervous. The entire church clapped for us after we finished. From dressing up, talking, or even both, we all had fun up on the altar playing our part. The tableau was a great experience for the sixth grade.

By: Azaila Jules

"Oh my goodness, what am I doing?!" I stressfully thought to myself. I panicked looking at the bright light, making my face known to others. This was supposed to be exciting, but it's scary! Practicing is super enjoyable and not frightening because it's in front of my classmates. But, in front of strangers, it's horrifying! It makes me want to shriek and vomit. For the Tableau, my part was an Innkeeper, which meant I was the mean person who yells at Mary and Joseph, "NO ROOM!" Even though yelling at someone feels exciting, it makes me nervous to yell at the most important people in the Catholic universe. On Saturday, December 24th, I panicked as I saw more and more people coming

into my school's Church. My friends, Moira, Maggie and Bella suited me into a calmly, relaxing position. They comforted me and I felt better. "Don't laugh Azaila!" I said to my anxious mind. We made our faces known to others by walking into the Church singing "O Come All Ye Faithful." It is truly such a lovely song. When Mary and Joseph came walking by us, it was time for our cue. "NO ROOM!" we all shouted in a loud, clear, and obnoxious way. This happened in front of probably more than hundreds of eyes staring us down. The play was nerve-racking but we did it; I am so glad I joined the Tableau and could experience it with my classmates that I call my friends!

DJ Party

By: Jake Cahill

Maternity B.V.M. had a DJ party on December 2nd for those who sold a certain amount of candy or bought things from a magazine drive. At the DJ party, we could do a tug of war, foot race, bowling, long jump, animal toss, and so much more fun games! The people who sold a lot of candy or bought a lot of things got to do a long jump for money and play Deal or No Deal. Deal or No Deal went up to \$100.00. Overall, everyone had a lot of fun at the DJ party.

Christmas Debate:

Does the Christmas season start too early?

By: Mariana Rodrigues and Kaitlyn Wallace

YES!! What happened to decorations for Halloween and Thanksgiving? Decorations for Christmas in stores are on sale when fall starts. Christmas music is supposed to get you in the “holly jolly” spirit but when it’s on the radio before Thanksgiving, it gets quite obnoxious. This religious holiday is supposed to be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, but it’s become a way to make easy money for businesses, which is a shame. Christmas is not about how much money you make or about which house has the most decorations, it’s about family and celebration in the Church.

NO!! We should be able to choose whether or not we want to put up our decorations “early” or not! Most people who do this are just very excited for the coming of Jesus Christ, but it’s become a way to make easy money for businesses, which is a shame. Christmas is not about how much money you make or about which house has the most decorations, it’s about family and celebration in the Church.

Book Report

by: Maria Stephen

The title of this month’s book is *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. This classic novel clearly tells us how we should act during the Christmas season and many people begin to forget the importance of Christmas. This story is about a man named Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge was never kind to his family, employees, or his friends. Another one of his problems was that he never cared about Christmas which made him not understand Christmas. One night the ghost of his friend came and told him to stop being rude or there would be a consequence. Then three ghosts appeared, showing him the past, present, and the future. I believe that this story can teach everyone something different. Something that I learned is that when we share the Christmas spirit with others, we will be happy and receive respect. I would recommend this book to any age group because it can help everyone and give us some Christmas cheer. Overall, I give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

The Story of Christmas What If

By: Isha Mankar & Maggie Cejne

On the day before Christmas, there was a girl named Allison. She was getting ready to go to bed. While she put on her pjs, she thought what would Christmas be like without presents? You see, Allison was a little greedy and had asked for many presents. All she cared about were the presents. As if some miracle had occurred, there was some kind of pixie dust that flew around. All of her thoughts from the future came alive. She dreamt of the things that would happen a couple of hours from then. But for some reason, the lights, tree, cookies, everything had disappeared. She saw some people outside; they looked sad. They were just walking around. It looked as if nothing special was going on. This was too much to handle. Allison needed to find out what was going on. She raced to the door and looked outside. Last night’s forecast said it was going to be a white

Christmas. Where had all the snow from before gone? Allison put on her coat and ran outside in her pjs. She knocked on her neighbor, Allen’s door. “Allen what’s going on? Everywhere I look I see dull things and no.....Allen where is your inflatable snoopy as Santa?....and your wreath? What happened to your lights?”

Allen looked confused. He looked up and down then said, “What on earth is a Christmas?” Allison frustratingly cried, ran away, and then started asking random people if they knew what Christmas was. Nobody knew, so Allison started running. She ran so fast and far, she was out of town! Allison saw a cottage. She went inside and saw an old lady sitting. The old lady pointed to a nativity scene. At first, Allison was confused but then understood. Christmas is not about presents. It’s about JESUS! Then Allison woke up.

Band Concert

By Stefanie Dundovic and Tommy Lindemuth

The Maternity BVM School’s annual Christmas band concert took place on December 15th. The band is split up into two parts, the beginner band and the advanced band. The beginner band played songs, such as: Hot Cross Buns, The French Song, Jingle Bells and more! The advanced band played more complicated songs, such as: Jingle Jolly Christmas, Christmas Chimes, Jingle Bell Rock and more! The advanced Band also had solos, duets, and trios done by the band members. The beginner band did great for their first concert. All of the band members filled the parish hall with Christmas spirit!

Advent is Here Christmas is Near

By: Maria Stephen

Advent is a time for waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. During the Advent season, our school prepares by having a prayer service every Monday. During the prayer service, we light a candle on the advent wreath for each week. Everything on the Advent wreath symbolizes something. On the Advent wreath, we have 4 candles, one for each week of the season. The first, second, and fourth candle is a purple candle which represents waiting, repentance, and longing. The third week’s candle is pink. This symbolizes joy. The circle of the wreath represents that God’s love is everlasting, it has no beginning or end. The evergreen on the wreath symbolizes hope for the coming of Jesus’ birth. At Maternity B.V.M., we have prayer services every Monday to pray and give thanks for each other. Advent is a special time of waiting for the birth of our Lord and Savior and to be thankful for everything God gave us.

Secret Santa Shop

By: Aaron Haq & Alan Li

As another year wraps up, we end it with gift giving. A special event held at our school helps us with this task. This is the Secret Santa Shop. The Secret Santa Shop is held in the Parish Hall in December. Many great gifts are sold there and range from \$0.25 to \$12.50. The gifts vary from custom ornaments to trophies for family members. It is fun seeing the variety of gifts you can get for your family and friends. It also feels wonderful to give rather than get. This is a great way to get a head start on Christmas presents for your family and friends. All in all, the Secret Santa Shop is a great way to get presents and share memories with the ones you love during Christmas.

Christmas Mass

By: Patricia Bodner

On Christmas, we all come together as a parish and celebrate Jesus' birth. It is not about how many presents you have or who was naughty or nice. At Mass, we see all of the BEAUTIFUL decorations and lots of TALL trees all around the church. On the Blessed Virgin Mary's side, there was a wonderful, colorful, spectacular tree filled with ornaments all around! The priest that said most of the Christmas Masses was Father Quinter. If you ever want to go to a special Christmas Mass, come to Maternity B.V.M.!

Tree Trimming

By: Jake Cahill

Maternity B.V.M Parish had a tree trimming ceremony on December 19th. Kids from K to 8th grade could sign up to be an angel, reader, one of the three kings, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and even more. Everyone did a great job in front of the parish members. Father Quinter said prayers. Christmas songs were sung. And lastly the church goes from dark to light. It was a great experience for everyone.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (Cartoon) Movie Review

By: Gavin Kelly and Yoofi Danquah

We reviewed Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* The setting is in Whoville and the town is terrified of Mr. Grinch. On Christmas Eve, he pretends to be Santa Claus but steals every present in the town. When the "whos" wake up on Christmas Day, they are disappointed because they have no presents, but they still keep their Christmas Spirit! At the end of the movie, Mr. Grinch returns all the stolen presents back to the inhabitants of Whoville. We like this movie because it teaches a great lesson: even if you do not get what you want, you can still have a great Christmas!

DOOR/BULLETIN BOARD DECORATING CONTEST

By: Bella D., Kristina P., Stefanie D., and Christ Pirgu

At Maternity B.V.M., all grades from kindergarten - 8th grade participate in the door/bulletin board decorating contest during the month of December. The Christmas decorating consists of decorating your door with a creative and unique theme that is special to you and your classmates. This year's judging was a little different. We had to construct a tree and include a bible quote. Each floor was judged differently: 1st floor, 2nd floor, and annex building. The winners of the contest were the 2nd grade- Rm. 1, 4th grade-room 11, and 6th grade- room 20. On the first floor, Rm. 1 did angels for their bulletin. The second floor, Rm. 11 did a chain Christmas tree, with a beautiful quote. Lastly, Rm. 20 in the annex building had a creative idea of including individual flags for each country in the shape of a Christmas tree. Even those that didn't win, still did a tremendous job. For instance, 8th grade Ms. Swallow's room created A WHITE CHRISTMAS balloon tree. Ms. Flynn's room created a monopoly inspired Christmas tree made of monopoly money. And Ms. Laurich's room created a tree with pictures of all of her students as the ornaments. Overall, it was a great time for all of the students to work together and help put the school in the Christmas spirit.