

A closer look inside our schools
from the students' perspective

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE
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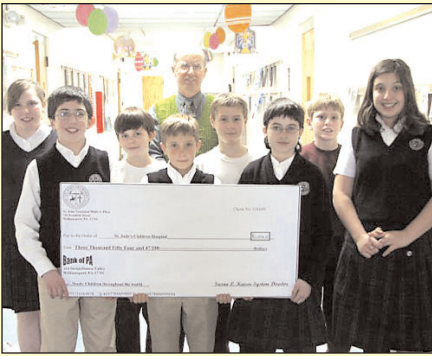


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Front row, from left, Mark Odorizzi, Domenick Marazzo, Annelise Matzinger, Janaya Daniele. Back row, L to R: Cortney Steinbacher, John Burfeindt, Mr. Roger Keller, Jeremy Hiserman, Noah Androvette pose with a check for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Math-A-Thon: Math for a good cause

By Katie Bahr,
Sixth Grade

Recently, the Franklin Street Intermediate Campus of St. John Neumann Regional Academy raised over \$3,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by participating in a Math-A-Thon.

Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 participated in the Math-A-Thon, an annual fundraiser for the hospital. Math-A-Thon is a fun and educational fundraising program for St. Jude's.

Students that chose to participate asked for sponsorships from family and friends to work math problems.

After students completed the math problems, they collected the pledges from their sponsors.

Mr. Roger Keller, our math teacher, introduced the Math-A-Thon fundraiser to the students.

He showed us a video of the kids at the hospital, and it was very sad to watch. Watching the video convinced me, and over 75 percent of the students at our campus, to do the fundraiser.

Mr. Keller said that participating in the Math-A-Thon would be something great to do for others, especially during the season of Lent.

St. Jude's is located in Memphis, Tennessee, and according to their brochure, "St. Jude's researchers and doctors are treating children with genetic immune defects and pediatric AIDS, as well as using new drugs and therapies to fight infections."

Patients at St. Jude's need help to have the surgeries and treatments that they need to live.

The kids and their families that come to the hospital don't have to pay for the surgeries.

For families that are poor, or don't have insurance, or don't have money to pay for the surgeries, this is very important.

This year, St. John Neumann students raised \$3,054 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Fellow sixth grader, Janaya Daniele, raised \$325, the most by any one student.

I had a lot of fun participating in the Math-A-Thon, and thought it was a great experience.

Hopefully, in the years to come, St. John Neumann students will be earning more and more money to donate to this very needy cause.



BAHR

Program is the essence of teamwork and creativity

By Phillip Trometter,
sophomore

I have been involved in the Odyssey of the Mind program at St. John Neumann for four years. It has taught me a lot about what it means to work as a team and think creatively.

By participating in Odyssey of the Mind, students learn the essence of teamwork and creativity. Every year, Dr. Sam Micklus, founder of Odyssey of the Mind, creates six problems that are very complex. The goal is to not just solve the problem, but to solve it as creatively as possible.

Odyssey of the Mind offers numerous benefits and rewards that help many students through their adult and professional lives not only succeed, but to go above and beyond any problem with fellowship and creativity.

Through my involvement in St. John Neumann's Odyssey of the Mind program, I have learned that there is never just one way to solve a problem, and I can relate this fact to almost every problem that I have encountered in my life.

In Odyssey of the Mind, every member of the team truly contributes to the problem-solving effort.

Teamwork is the key to Odyssey of the Mind and participants learn that in order to solve the problem, the whole team must get involved to get it done right. In turn, participants gain greater self-awareness of their talents, and they have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of everything from machines to poetry to come up with a creative solution to a complex problem.

Odyssey students and fans are usually found cheering on other teams, as well as respecting and admiring each team's



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St. John Neumann Division III Odyssey Road Rally team members, are, from left, John Mattiace, Phillip Trometter, Adam Bahr, Vincent Trometter, Coach Kathy Bahr, Coach Keith Bauer, JoAnne Murphy, and Coach Jeff Trometter. Missing from the photo is team member Doug Hasko.

▶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **STATE FINALS:**
Saturday, April 12,
Altoona Area High School.
- ▶ **WORLD FINALS:**
May 31 to June 3,
University of Maryland
College Park, Md.

unique solution to the problem. Participants are usually smiling at one another and discussing the many different ways to solve the problem, even though they are competing against each other. This is just part of what makes Odyssey a fun, exciting and rewarding experience for students. Odyssey differs from sports because you will not find any team "booing" or jeering at a rival team's solution.

The Odyssey of the Mind problem solving process is a long and challenging one.

This year, our team chose to solve the "Odyssey Road Rally" problem. We started in September and went through a multitude of possible solutions before we decided on the one that we believed was good enough to



present at the regional competition at Mansfield University earlier this month.

After working for almost six months and critiquing every single detail of our solution, it was quite exciting to present our solution to the judges and fans.

We were rewarded for our hard work and efforts, as we placed first in our division at the regional competition.

Three other teams from St. John Neumann also placed ei-

ther first or second in their division, and earned the right and privilege to represent our school and our region at the Odyssey of the Mind state competition on April 12 in Altoona.

The St. John Neumann Odyssey of the Mind teams must now concentrate on fine-tuning their solutions and preparing for the state competition.

We will surely do just that, forever stretching the boundaries of teamwork and creativity.

Academic Decathlon team shines

By Kahlie DeHotman
and Danielle Byrne,
sophomores

Last month, Academic Decathlon teams from nine area schools gathered at Penns Valley High School to participate in the district Academic Decathlon competition.

The teams competed in various tests, including Math, economics, language and literature, speech, interview, es-

say, music and Super Quiz.

The St. John Neumann Academic Decathlon did exceptionally well, winning a total of 21 medals. The following students won medals:

In the Varsity Division: Desirae Mausteller: Gold in Speech; Kelsey Silvagni: Silver in Speech, Bronze in Music; Nicholas Ward: Silver in Super Quiz, Gold in Art, Gold in Music, Bronze in Essay, Silver Medal for Individual Overall Score.

In the Scholastic Division: Hannah Harris: Bronze in Speech, Gold in Art, Silver in Music; Danielle Byrne: Gold in Speech, Silver in Language-Literature, Silver in Essay; Ann Kaufman: Bronze in Super Quiz, Bronze in Essay.

In the Honors Division: Hannah Facey: Bronze in Interview, Bronze in Math, Bronze in



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St. John Neumann's Academic Decathlon Team. Front row, L to R: Desirae Mausteller, Julia Ryan, Danielle Byrne, Ann Kaufman. Back row, L to R: Hannah Facey, Jacob Hiserman, Ryan Workman, John Geritzen, Nicholas Ward, Hannah Harris.

Economics, Bronze in Science. John Geritzen: Silver in Math.

Our Academic Decathlon adviser, Mrs. Denise Tobin, commented, "We are extremely proud of the number of medals that we won and, with

such a young team, we look forward to very competitive events over the next few years."

The St. John Neumann Academic Decathlon team members all agree that the competitions and practices are well worth it.



HILLER

PANELLO

KOLCZYNSKI

LIVORNO

Four Neumann scholars honored

Four St. John Neumann Regional Academy students were recently recognized by the Diocese of Scranton for attaining the highest scores in their grade on the Terra Nova standardized tests taken in the fall.

They have been denoted "St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Scholars".

The students recognized were: **Patrick Hiller** and **Anthony Pannello**, fifth-grade students at the Franklin Street campus; **Natalie Kolczynski**, third-grade student at the Jacks

Hollow Road-Bastress campus; and **Giuseppe Livorno**, a third-grade student at the Sheridan Street campus.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the Foundress and First Superior of the Sisters of Christian Charity in the United States. She left an enduring legacy, which makes Catholic education a reality.

She is the patroness of Catholic schools because of her pioneering role of establishing them in the United States.