

Students learn the meaning of giving back

By NICOLE DOUGHERTY and ALECIA THALER
Sixth Graders

A fun children's activity – face painting – sparked an idea that would result in donations to the James V. Brown Library and to an organization for homeless children.

We enjoy face painting and thought it would be neat to do this as a fundraiser for worthy causes. We had an opportunity to volunteer our time at the Fall Foliage Balloon Festival in Montoursville for the past two years. Our parents took us out to purchase the paints and brushes, and we worked throughout the Festival. We painted many children's faces, and it was fun meeting different children.

Last year, we earned \$152 and presented it to the James V. Brown Library for their new children's wing. We were excited to be invited to the groundbreaking ceremony last month.

This year, we raised \$130 and are giving it to a charity that will help homeless children. It makes us feel good to help others in our community. We hope to continue this fundraising effort in the years to come.



DOUGHERTY



THALER

Governor's School

By BARBARA MALEK
Senior

This past summer, I had the privilege of participating in the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Global Entrepreneurship at Lehigh University.

This program brought together 75 top-notch students from across the state of Pennsylvania, including 12 international students. My participation in the five-week program gave me the opportunity to experience a true sense of college life, and form friendships with other students from different cultures and backgrounds.

I was privileged to hear the inspiring stories of self-made business moguls, such as Seth Goldman, the CEO of Honest Tea, Donna Griffin, Vice President of Chubb Insurance, top board members of Just Born Candy, trading specialists from Morgan Stanley, and top government officials, such as Pennsylvania's State Reps. Karen Bayer and Douglas Reichy, Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Browne, and the South African U.S. Ambassador, Ivan Vosloo.

What's even more exciting are the incredible U.S. landmarks, which I was able to privately tour, including the United Nations, the Federal Reserve, Bloomberg Co. and the New York Stock Exchange.

To experience what it's like in a real-life business, all of the participants in the Governor's School were placed in groups and became virtual interns for select companies in the Lehigh Valley.

I, along with five other superb students, was chosen to work for a nonprofit organization, the Valley Youth House, which provides shelter for runaway or neglected children.

My group was assigned the demanding but rewarding task of creating a new marketing strategy for the organization, and developing ways to increase the number of donors and monetary contributions. My group gave a donation of \$234 to the Valley Youth House from fundraising efforts that we undertook during the Governor's School program.

Additionally, I took an array of classes related to global entrepreneurship, including: How CEOs Think, Trading and Investing, So You Want to Be a Millionaire, Understanding the Marketplace, Ethics and Values, Creative Outlook, Win-Win Negotiating and European Union.

"Gov School", as my fellow students and I called it, was not just an endless cycle of classes and lectures, though. It was also five weeks of fun and games.

Almost every night, the Governor's School mentors created a "Mandatory Fun", which ranged from toga parties, karaoke, salsa night, scavenger hunts around the Lehigh University Campus, swing dancing, and water balloon fights.

To complete the Governor's School program, each student is encouraged to create a leadership project for the betterment of their home community.

For my project, I am currently working with my school's National Honor Society to create a tutoring center at the St. John Neumann High School campus, and establishing reading centers at the Academy's elementary campuses, to assist students who need extra help with reading comprehension.

Today, as I look back on my experience at Governor's School, the most lasting impressions are the amazing memories and lifelong friendships that I have made. The Governor's School has also given me the knowledge and encouragement to take the information presented by the speakers and classes and apply it to my everyday life.



MALEK

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A closer look inside our schools from the students' perspective

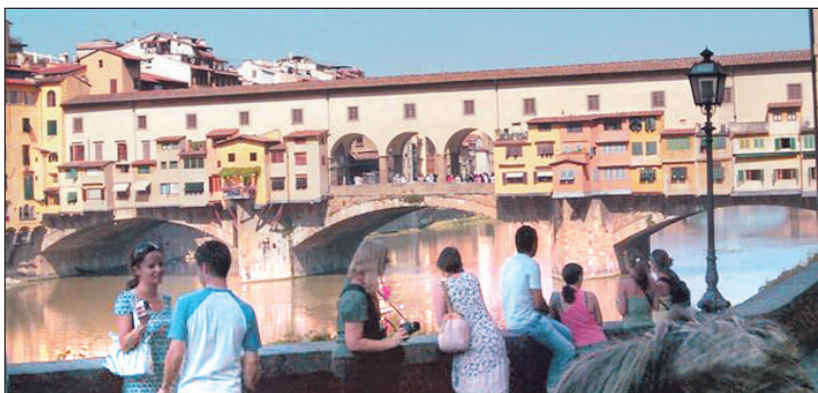
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This page was created by students at St. John Neumann Regional Academy



Above, Ryan Workman poses at the top of the Duomo, overlooking Florence, and at left, the Ponte Vecchio bridge is seen over the Arno River.



The Bell Tower of the Duomo, is shown above. The students climbed more than 900 steps to the top, and below, the St. John Neumann Regional Academy group poses Italy.

Viaggio Italiano 2007 (Italian Journey 2007)

By RYAN WORKMAN
Junior

Just a few short months ago, in June, several students from St. John Neumann Regional Academy embarked on an adventure of a lifetime.

Seven lucky students, their friends, family, and teachers, John and Christy Litchfield, went on an Italian journey. Little did we know our experiences would influence us for years to come.

Does an average vacation begin with a Mass? Does an average vacationer travel by limousine to the airport? Does an average vacation get delayed for 12 hours, stranding its travelers in an airport without food or a place to sleep? No! But that is exactly what happened during the first day of our vacation, and we hadn't even left America yet!

When we finally arrived in Rome, Italy, we were informed that in order to catch the rest of our tour group we would have to travel by bus for several hours to Assisi.

Once in Assisi, we unloaded our bags off the bus we had just arrived on, onto another bus to take us back to Rome, where we had just come from. We did get to experience a little of Assisi, a quaint town on a hill overlooking the romantic Tuscan wine country.

On our way back to Rome, we spent a few days in Florence. Florence was, by far, the best place to shop!

Everything you could possibly want to remember Italy was located at an outdoor market that covered a never-ending mile, or two, or three! Leather, silk, shoes, hats, hand bags, books, knick-knacks and more were available for purchase.

Not to mention the availability of Italian men willing to pack themselves in a suitcase



to go to America with one of the girls on our trip! One of the highlights was a meal we shared with Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield's nephew, Brian, who is studying opera in Florence.

Dinner was followed by one of Italy's greatest treasures, gelato. Real Italian gelato is nothing like what you can find in America. The ice cream-like dessert is absolutely delicious.

After Florence, and a stop at the beach, we finally made it back to Rome for the remainder of our trip.

The majority of our time in Rome was gladly spent in the Vatican City, the capitol of our Catholic faith. It could be described as a bit of heaven, or perhaps the most beautiful place

on Earth.

It felt amazing to stand on ground where the likes of saints and popes alike walked before us.

We will never be the same.

Our Italian journey was a life-changing experience. Even if the beginning of our trip was a little hectic, it was worth every minute, because it was the ups and downs that strengthened our friendship.

On behalf of all those who traveled, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield and St. John Neumann Regional Academy for bringing together a wonderful group of travelers for a memorable, faith-filled vacation.

Forensics League is active at intermediate campus



From left are Mr. Stephen Boyce, St. John Neumann Elementary Principal, Anastasia Georges, Allison Lax, Ray Farr, Jeremy Hiserman, and Mrs. Myra Kovalak, St. John Neumann English teacher and Forensics moderator.

Students at St. John Neumann's Intermediate Campus are actively involved in the National Catholic Forensics League. The Forensics Club is moderated by St. John Neumann English teacher, Mrs. Myra Kovalak.

Forensics is an oral interpretation of various genres of literature. The goal of forensics is to give students the opportunity to gain a better grasp of speech, poise, and personal confidence through oral presentation, both prepared and extemporaneous.

This year the fall competition involves an oral interpretative reading of poetry. Students are to read one or several published selections, running 4-7 minutes in length.

Their first school competition was on October 10. Twelve students in grades 4-6 participated and the top three, as well as an alternate, were chosen to represent St. John Neumann in the Western Regional Forensics competition, to

be held on October 26 at Epiphany School in Sayre. Those who take 1st, 2nd or 3rd place at the regional competition will move on to the final competition at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore in November.

The winners of the St. John Neumann competition and their Forensics selections are as follows:

1st Place: Anastasia Georges, grade 6. She read: "Math is Brewing and I'm in Trouble" and "Were You Fat Like Me?" by Kalli Dakos.

2nd Place: Allison Lax, grade 5. She read: "Mrs. Stein" by Bill Dodd and "Sick" by Shel Silverstein.

3rd Place: Ray Farr, grade 5. He read: "Casey's Revenge" by James Wilson.

Runner-Up: Jeremy Hiserman, grade 5. He read: "The Dirtiest Man in the World", "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Snout Would Not Take the Garbage Out", "Jimmy Jet and his TV Set", all by Shel Silverstein.