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IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

- 4 - Classes resume
- 9 - High School Placement Test for 8th graders
- 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, No school
- 29 - Early Dismissal, Staff day
- 31 - Catholic Schools Week begins, Open House after 10:30 Mass. School tours

FEBRUARY

- 1-5 Catholic Schools Week
- 3 - Picture Retakes /Class Photos
- 5 - 8th vs. Teachers VB Game
- 12 - No School
- 15 - President's Day No School
- 21 All School Mass
- 26 Early Dismissal at noon, staff meeting.
End of Trimester 2

Opening Day of New School Building is a Time of Thanks and Prayer



Monday, January 4, 2021 was a historic day for the students and staff of Annunciation Catholic School as they returned from Christmas break to their new school building. All were gathered for morning prayer on the freshly painted basketball court. It was cold, 41 degrees to be exact, but that didn't chill the excitement. It was the day that many were awaiting since the school was founded in 2009. A day made possible by many prayers and gifts from those who share our mission and believe that children should grow and learn in their faith and with great spirit. A place to become disciples of Jesus Christ and faithful, educated citizens of the world. As they stood in the shadow of the new church, which is still under construction, it was clear this gift was greater than words of thanks could properly express. So we prayed together, led by Fr. Chad, and we gave thanks to God. It was humbling, it was moving and we are indeed thankful.

Shortly thereafter, joy filled the air as the students bustled with excitement into the breezeway and then into the hallways and the classrooms. In some ways it was no different than any other year coming back from a long break away from friends and co-workers. But this day was different because we were no longer separated from each other. We were together under one big roof. All 9 grades. All 230 students and 17 teachers. This little school full of character and faith finally had a home, fenced and secure, safe and sound, in the shadow of our church which looms large in our vision and even larger in our hearts. And we are blessed and so very thankful.

Check out all the great pictures of our moving day on pages 8 - 11. The tremendous outpouring of help from our parents, students, and alumni was inspiring. Truly a day full of hard work, and community coming together.

The Mission of Annunciation Catholic School

Within our strong Catholic community, we develop children to their fullest God-given potential - spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially, and physically.

Annunciation Catholic School would like to thank Carefree Covering based in Carefree, AZ for their very generous gift of window coverings for our new classroom buildings! Gary Pelow, owner of Carefree Coverings, is a parish member of St. Gabriel Catholic Community. We have many windows both

inside and out of our buildings and this gift will keep our students and staff much more comfortable with our Arizona heat and help with safety issues.

THANK YOU !



Mrs. Cullen Recognized for Excellence in Teaching by Past Students



Congratulations once again to Mrs. Cullen, ACS Middle School English and Religion teacher, who recently received the Xavier College Preparatory Golden Gator Award for Excellence in Teaching! This is her 4th year receiving this honor.

Alumni students from the ACS class of 2020, who currently attend Xavier, were given the opportunity to nominate a 7th or 8th grade teacher who inspired her and significantly helped



Opt-Out of Re-Enrollment for 2021-2022

All current ACS will be re-enrolled for next school year unless parents notify the school office to opt-out. The Opt-Out period is from January 15 - 31, 2021.

Parents will be billed the re-enrollment fee of \$100 in the March Smart Tuition billing.

Contact the school office via email at office@acsphx.org to Opt-Out or if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Student Spotlight: ACS Students are Raising the Bar

Braylee Jevnick



ACS 7th Grader Braylee Jevnick decided to turn her Halloween fun into a service project. Braylee collected over 80 pounds of candy for Operation Gratitude.

Operation Gratitude distributes candy donations to our military, first responders, and veterans!

Check out the link for more information!
<https://www.operationgratitude.com/>

Great job Braylee!!

Harris Richardson Wins National Art Award

Harris Richardson, a 4th grader at Annunciation Catholic School, was awarded 3rd place in the 2nd Annual National Student Art Competition conducted by the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Student artists were asked to create 2D artwork which visually shows what "Welcome Home" means to Marines. Richardson won in the K – 6th grade category with a graphite drawing titled, "Welcome Home Soldier".

Student artwork was judged in three categories: K-6, 7-9, and 10-12. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation awarded a certificate and cash prizes to the winners.

His art is on display through January in the gallery at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia.



Photos of Our 2020 Veteran's Day Celebration



Thank you to all the Veteran's and active duty soldiers who attended our celebration. We are honored to be with you and to recognize your service to our country. We are thankful for your sacrifice to protect our country and keep us safe. God bless you and your families!





Congratulations to 8th graders Jackson Stack, Christian Bax, and Rachel Hauer (pictured above) who were recipients of the Catholic Citizenship Essay contest. Their award winning essays depict a time when their faith provided support during a particular time in their life. This award was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

The American Heritage Girls hosted this celebration and carried the flags of all branches of the military. They are proud to wear the colors of our flag as part of their troop uniform. Special thanks to Mrs. Garcia for planning this beautiful event and for growing our American Heritage Girls group each year.



ACS Catholic Schools Week
Free Throw Contest
 Sunday, January 31, 12:00 PM



For Boys & Girls Grades 3-8

Place: Annunciation Catholic School
 32648 N. Cave Creek Rd.
 480-361-8234

Date Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021

Time 11:30 Registration
 Or register in advance (form attached)
 12:00 Contest begins

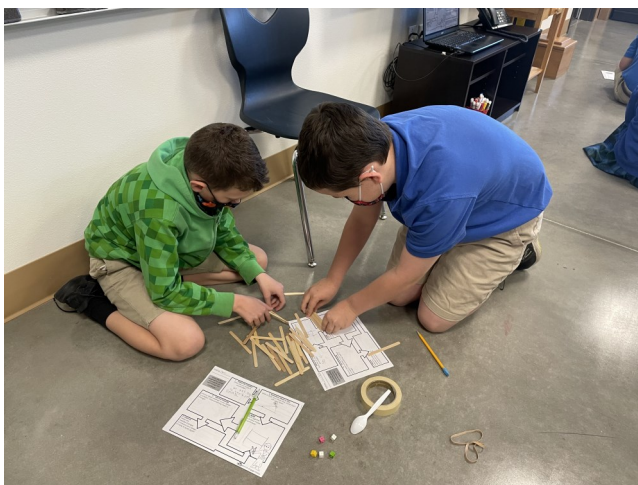
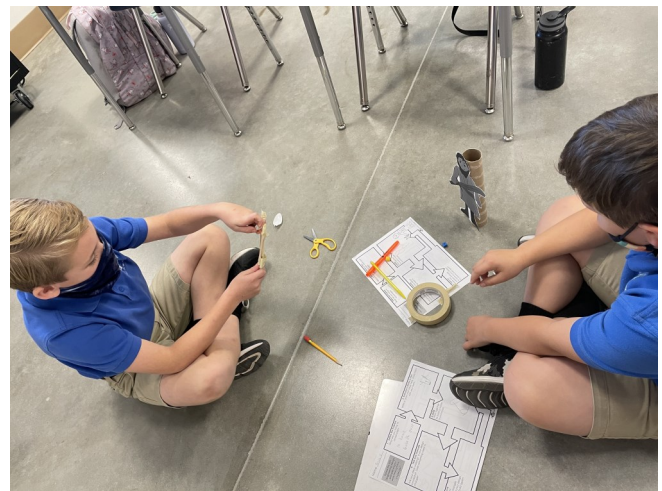
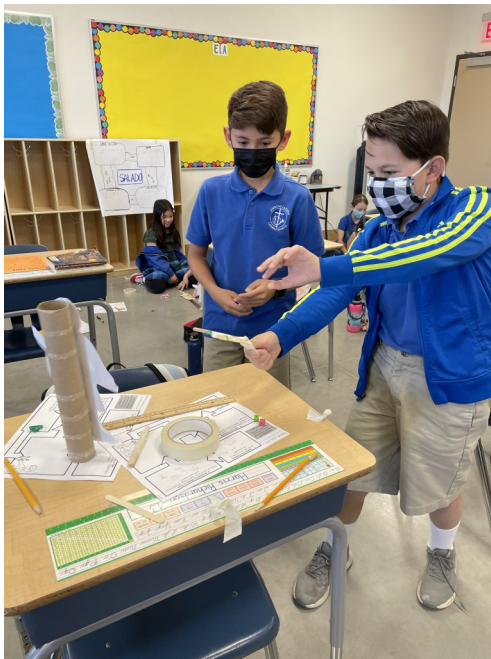
Winners will compete in 4 groups:
3rd-5th Girls & 3rd-5th Boys (from 12 ft.)
6th-8th Girls & 6th-8th Boys (from 15 ft.)
One winner for EACH GROUP
will win a trophy



Download the [ACS Free Throw Entry Form](#) here!

4th Grade David and Goliath Challenge

This month Ms. Mayberry and her 4th graders learned the story of David and Goliath. After studying the story, students were challenged to build a slingshot using a plastic spoon, masking tape, popsicle sticks, and rubber bands. The kids tried out their designs by shooting at "Goliath" on a paper towel roll! Students were encouraged to test and improve their designs as they worked. Integrating STEM challenges into religion lessons helps our Catholic history come alive!



Living Your Faith: The Catholic Identity Committee

Catholic Identity Committee

January 31 marks the start of Catholic Schools Week and all sorts of FUN is planned for that week, starting with the Open House (with Food Trucks!) on Sunday, January 31!

This year we will continue our relationship with St. Michael's Indian School on the Navajo Reservation. St. Michael's was founded by St. Katherine Drexel in 1902 and is one of the only schools she founded still in operation. The Navajo Reservation was hit especially hard by COVID-19 and this year, they are only schooling "virtually". To help their elementary school students, we'll be gathering ART SUPPLIES for them to use at home.

We are asking you to bring in:

- Grades 1, 4, 8: Coloring and Activity Books (appropriate for grades K-5) and 24 Packs of Crayons
- Grades 2, 5 & 7: Bottled glue & glue sticks and child safe scissors
- Grades K, 3 & 6: Packages of construction paper and washable markers

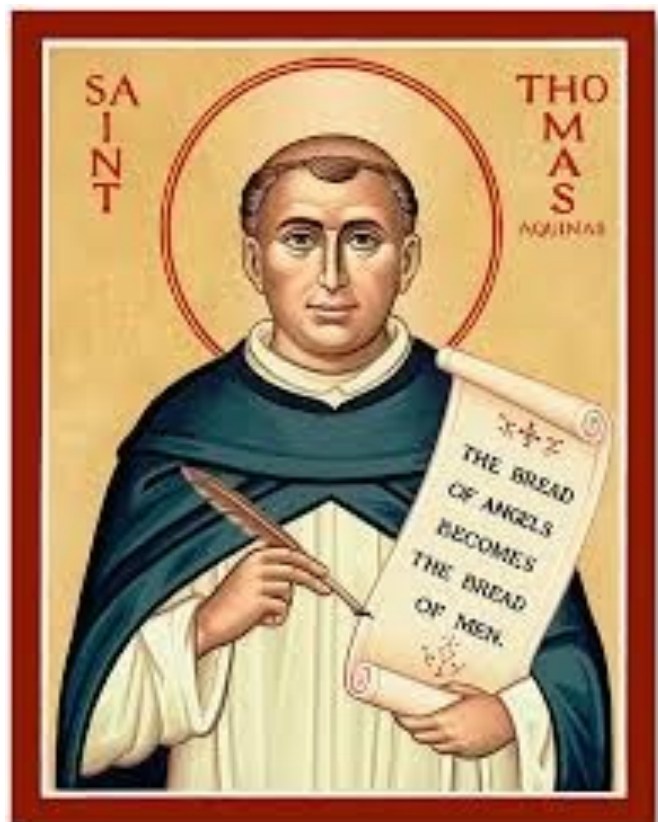
Now is a great time to gather supplies together! Every bit helps, so thank you so much for helping us help this wonderful school!

Saint of the Month

Also, this month (Jan 28), we celebrate St. Thomas Aquinas' feast day. Born in 1225 in Sicily, he is considered to be one of the two most significant theologians of the church. His book, Summa Theologica was noted by Pope Leo XIII to be second only the Bible in the Catholic faith.

During his life, he was seen levitating in weeping prayer before a great crucifix, speaking to the Lord. After his death in 1274, his body remained uncorrupt, smelled of flowers, and great numbers came to his tomb and were healed by touching him.

He is the patron saint of students and universities. A fun coloring page for families to color can be found here: <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/saint-thomas-aquinas>



Because of you, life doesn't stop.

#VitalToLife



ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS are encouraged to help maintain social distancing.



All donors must bring and wear a **MASK** or **CLOTH-BASED FACE COVERING**.



Learn Your Antibody Status
You may have the antibodies to help patients battling COVID-19.
Because of you, life doesn't stop.



DONATE BLOOD
vitalant.org | 877-25-VITAL

St. Gabriel the Archangel BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, Jan. 31

8 a.m. - noon

Bloodmobile - 32648 N. Cave Creek Rd.

Contact Joe Rostowsky at 480-241-0406 or visit
Bloodhero.com (Sponsor code: gabriel)

vitalant™

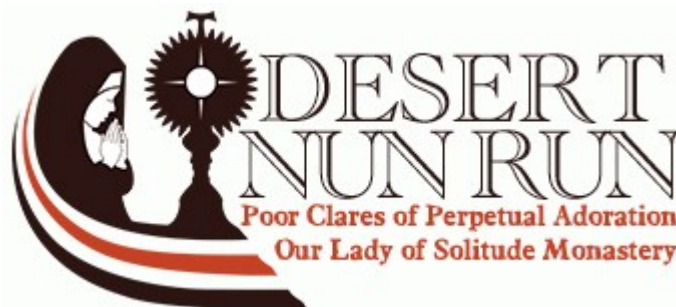
The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration are excited to host the 12th Annual Nun Run on Saturday, March 20th! Due to COVID restrictions, this year's Run will be virtual. The four races offered are 10K, 5K, 1 mile and "Prayer Walk."

The "Prayer Walk" is a new addition to the Nun Run and is offered so that everyone can participate in the Nun Run in whatever way they can – whether it's a long prayerful walk or just a few steps!

Register for this virtual event to support the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration.

All registered participants will be mailed a packet containing the official Nun Run Race Shirt, race bib, and resource flyer that will include the Nun's prayer schedule for the Solemnity and some prayer resources to celebrate St. Joseph as well.

...THOUGH SEPARATED BY DISTANCE, WE WILL ALL BE UNITED IN PRAYER AS WE TAKE PARE IN THIS WONDERFUL EVENT.



[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE!](#)

Moving in to the New School Building, Our Community Working Together





Moving day went smoothly and quickly with over 40 volunteers consisting of parents, students, alumni and school and parish staff. Everyone work together to empty 4 buildings, moving classroom furniture and boxed materials into the new school classrooms. While that was happening Keli McCann and our Religious Education and Safe Environment partners from St. Gabriel's (Michael Garibaldi, Patrick Klein, and Deb Vinci) were moving into the K-3 building.

Thank you to all who helped that day. We appreciate your time and your strength! We also want to thank Mike Scagnoli, President of the ACS Dad's Club, for planning the move and arranging for all the moving equipment. Also, thanks to the many families who donated their hand carts and wagons. Thank you Justin and Michelle Kohls for covering the cost of the rented moving equipment.

Special thanks to Joel Eshelman and his son Nathan (ACS class of 2019) for the many hours spent hanging all of our new bulletin boards and white boards. It was a huge task and we are so appreciative of your time and skill.

To our assemblers, Patrick and Kristie Burgess, Mike Kraus, Mike Sharp, Shaun Oveson, and Greg Cockayne for putting together some new storage furniture for our K-4 classrooms. (See pictures on page. 10.) Thanks Tom Macauley, Aron Polkoski, Jaime Fonseca for hanging all of our pictures and crucifixes! And thanks Mike Sharp for securing all the lockers to the walls in the breezeway!

Lastly, we are so grateful for our teachers and staff (and their families) who spent most of their Christmas break setting up their classrooms for our students return on January 4. We are so thankful for your love of teaching and your passion for education. Your classrooms look wonderful!







COME AND SEE WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES AND WHY

An invitation for children (7+) and adults who are interested in our Catholic Faith

Do you have questions about what we believe?

Are you thinking of joining the Church?

**Do you have a family member or friend you are
thinking of introducing to the Catholic Faith?**

RCIC

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children - for children (7+)
seeking "full immersion" in the Catholic Faith.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - for adults (18+)
seeking "full immersion" in the Catholic Faith.

Classes begin in January 2021.

Inquire today!

PARISH CONTACTS :

Michael Garibaldi - Executive Director of Discipleship & Mission

adultfaith@stgacc.org / 480-595-0883, EX. 8218

Patrick Klein - Director of Child Faith Formation

childfaith@stgacc.org / 480-595-0883, EX. 8220

Alumni News



Mark Rossbach, senior at Brophy College Preparatory, ACS Alumni Class of 2017, received the Distinguished Student Award from Brophy College Preparatory on November 17, 2020. Each year, thirty-two seniors are recognized annually for the Distinguished Student Award at Brophy College Preparatory (16 in the fall, 16 in the spring). The award is given to those students who are recognized and recommended by their teachers and counselors. To Achieve this distinction, students must be an exemplary representative of Brophy College Preparatory, demonstrate outstanding effort in school, achieve a solid record of participation in co-curricular activities and establish a record of service to not only the Brophy community, but the greater community as well.

Mark is very active in student life at Brophy College Preparatory. Continuing his rigorous studies from Annunciation Catholic School, he enrolled in Advance Placement and Honors courses at Brophy and received high academic achievement all four years. With a true thirst for challenge and accomplishment, Mark became a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) last year after going through the Brophy selection process that concluded with induction into the school's National Honor Society chapter.

He is a Photo Editor for the Brophy newspaper, and active in several other after-school clubs including Photo/Video Club, Big Brothers (mentoring club), Red and White Club (Brophy promotional club) and Corpus Animus (anatomy club). In addition, he has participated on the Varsity Mountain Bike Team since his Freshman year. He continues to serve as an acylate alter server at his home parish St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Parish. As for college, he looks forward to seeking a degree in Engineering. He has received early acceptance to ASU-Engineering, and was also accepted to the Barrett Honors College at ASU, and Colorado School of Mines. We wish him well!

Drew Savage, ACS class of '17, is also a senior at Brophy College Preparatory where he is on the Brophy varsity soccer team. He was also a kicker for the Brophy varsity football team. Drew continues to play club soccer for the U18 Gilbert Arsenal ECNL team.

In the classroom, Drew continues to excel academically with AP and Honors classes. He has a 4.4 GPA and is member of the National Honor Society. He was awarded early admissions to ASU and has applied to several colleges and universities on both coasts and is awaiting acceptances. He plans to study business with a focus on finance, and a minor in physical therapy or psychology.

Drew hopes to play soccer in college and we wish him well. Congratulations Drew!



Above: Drew, center, with his Arsenal teammates after their championship win!

School Administration

Parochial Administrator
Fr. Chad King frchad@stgacc.org

Principal
Dr. Sharon Pristash
spristash@acsphx.org

Dean of Students
Ms. O'Keeffe lokeeffe@acsphx.org

Director of Development/Marketing
Mrs. McCann kmccann@acsphx.org

Office Manager
Mrs. Schwartz lschwartz@acsphx.org

Office Support
Mrs. Garcia office@acsphx.org

School Nurses: nurse@acsphx.org
Joann Perraut & Bridget Primavera

For the complete staff directory visit
[http://acsphx.org/about us/
staff directory](http://acsphx.org/about_us/staff_directory)



Student and Staff Birthday's

January

Christian Bax
Elizabeth Brown
Conner Cockayne
Junior Demalek
Madailein Erskine
Lizbeth Espino
Zariah Garcia
Alexa Gonzalez
Walker Humphrey
DJ Kosik
McKinley Kuipers
Alexander Motola
Oliver Pajak
Jonathan Pierz

Grace Riley
Hayden Shields
Eleanor Stratton
Henry Stratton
Gianna Velasquez
Anthony Vitolo
Nicholas Vitolo
Avery Warner
Jackson Warner
Amelia Wicker
Ryan Yparraguirre
Ms. O'Keeffe
Mrs. Daley
Fr. David

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Phone: (480)361-8234

Fax: (480)207-6730

www.acsphx.org

E-mail: office@acsphx.org

School Hours 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Find us on [Facebook!](#)

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

January 25, 2021

