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## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH

25 - School Mass with Bishop Olmsted, Annunciation of the Lord. 8:15 a.m.

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### APRIL

1 - Field Day, Early Dismissal  
2 - Good Friday, No School  
4 - Easter Sunday  
5-9 - Easter Break  
18 - All school Mass 8:30  
19 - 30 ITBS Testing  
24 - Evening Under the Stars  
30 - May Crowning

### MAY

7 - Early Dismissal Staff Day  
8 - Daddy Daughter Dance  
16 - ACS Mass 8:30  
18 - 8th grade Graduation  
21 - Kindergarten Promotion  
28 - Last day of school for students. Early dismissal 12pm

## ACS Celebrates Catholic Schools Week 2021



*Fr. Kurt, chaplain of Notre Dame Prep, takes questions during Catholic Schools Week.*

Each year at the end of January and into the beginning of February we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We started our week with our annual Open House and basketball free throw contest. During the school week our students learned about vocations to religious life from Fr. Kurt and Sr. Mary Eileen. They completed a service project which collected art and school supplies for St. Michael Indian School in northern Arizona, and came together as a community in prayer and in

fun. We had a Saint's Alive sock day and red, white and blue day. We started a new tradition this year with the first ever volleyball game that pitted the teachers and staff against the 8th grade class. It was attended by the entire student body out on our new court. It was a great week that celebrated the many things that make Catholic education special. See pages 8, 9, and 10 for pictures of this fun-filled week.



Pictured left:

Some of our Kindergarten and 1st grade boys enjoying the beautiful weather on Red, White, and Blue Day during Catholic Schools Week 2021.

## 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.

## ACS Snack Shack and Spirit Store is Open!

The Annunciation School Store has officially re-opened for business! The store is headed up by ACS mom Paige Hill and ACS grandmother Terri Hill, together with a large team of students filled with entrepreneurial ambitions. Paige and Terri have worked hard to open the newly named ACS Spirit Store to sell gently used uniforms, PE uniforms, hoodies, sweaters and spirit shirts. The new ACS Snack Shack is a mobile store located near the east gate of the new school. There students can purchase all kinds of snacks and drinks. They also offer a \$10 punch card that parents can purchase online and have delivered to their students. The punch cards allows the students to purchase items without the need for cash. The Sprit Store will be open on specific days to be announced and the Snack Shack is open from 7:20 am—7:55 am each school day and from 3 p.m. –3:30 pm after school.



*Paige and Terri Hill, School Store Leaders*



## Classroom Wishlist– Bookcases for 3 ACS Classrooms

Kindergarten, 4th grade, and Mrs. Redendo need your help. They would each like the following set of bookcases for their classroom. If you would be interested in helping with purchasing, assembling and/or delivering a set, please contact the school office. They can be ordered online at IKEA for pickup at the store in Tempe.

### [IKEA Billy Bookcase in White](#)

Set of 3 for \$87 (each class would one set)

Please contact the school office ([office@acsphx.org](mailto:office@acsphx.org)) if you would like to help. Thank you!



## Student Spotlight: ACS Students Inspiring Others to Serve

### Jamison Jolesch, Kids Kindness Program Ambassador

Service to others is not just for adults. In fact, there is a history of Annunciation students serving the poor, the hungry and the impoverished. There are also those who serve the sick and that is where we are so happy to share the inspiring work done by 6th grader Jamison Jolesch. If you know Jamison, she is a fun and energetic kid with lots of extracurricular sports and activities. But she also gives her time to an organization that is near and dear to her heart and that of her family. She is an ambassador of the Kids Kindness program of the Arizona Children's Cancer Foundation. The ACFC is a local foundation whose mission is to provide ongoing social, emotional and financial support for families managing the health and well being of a loved one with pediatric cancer. This foundation was created by a family who lost their precious daughter Ava to Neuroblastoma. The Jolesch family holds Ava and her family near and dear to their hearts.



*Ava & Jamison*

The Foundation offers many ways for people to support and serve their mission. Their service programs for kids and teens provides a way for local youths to participate and effectively serve families.

As an ambassador, Jamison volunteers several hours a month helping with various activities and events to support the organization and more specifically the kids and families they serve. Whether it's serving at the monthly meals program or creating crafts to share with the kids who are battling cancer, Jamison is participating first-hand and making a difference. As one of "Ava's Angels", she grew her hair long and donated it for the purpose of making wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy. Sadly, Ava lost her battle at age 5. But her light shines bright within Jamison and the many other volunteers who serve this tremendous organization. This year, for the 2nd time Jamison grew her hair out and donated it once again.

While Jamison will never boast of her work, we know it's important to share her inspiring story to encourage others to do the same. As an ambassador of Kids Kindness, Jamison, and those like her, help shine the light of Christ in the hearts of those they serve and those they inspire.

*A letter from Stephanie Pham, Volunteer Coordinator, Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children*

Sixth grader Jamison Jolesch is one of the many Ava's Angels who is seeing a need and wanting to help others through this pandemic. She dedicated 2 years to grow out her hair to finally cut and donate it. Through one of our many partner organizations, Crowns of Courage, Jamison is able to provide a life changing wig to a child battling cancer. Jamison and the action of many other kids inspired us to launch the Arizona Children's Cancer Foundation for Children's Kindness/ Thoughtful Teens program. The Kid Kindness program is rethinking the way we approach philanthropy. It's not necessarily based on a dollar amount you can donate but what you can offer personally - passion and wanting to give back to your community. Jamison is just that and one of the ambassadors of this new program. The Kid Kindness program guides you through an adventure map of self-discovery on your philanthropic journey. We challenge you to grow personally while you directly impact the lives of cancer warriors in Arizona. On behalf of everyone at Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children and the families we serve, thank you Jamison, for being a future changemaker!





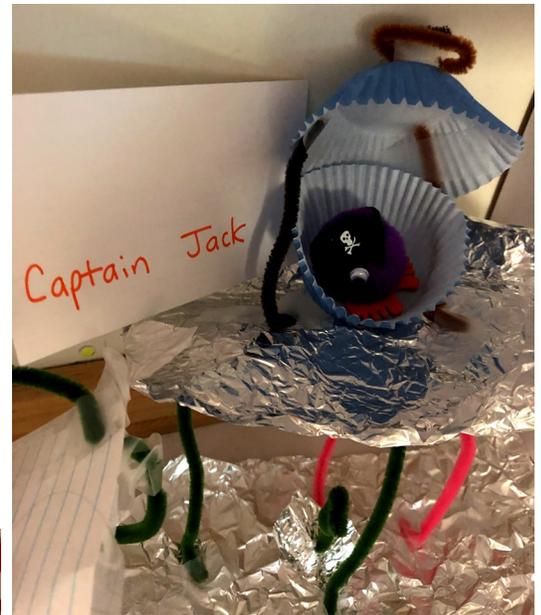
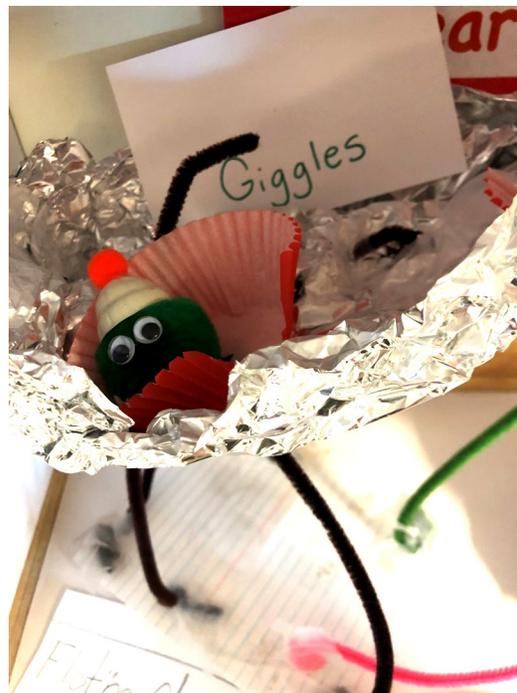
## 2nd Grade STREAM Challenge: The Importance of Building Safe Habitats

One of the many fun academic activities that all ACS students enjoy experiencing is the gift of STREAM. Even Grades K through 3 have STREAM based lessons and it's such a tremendous gift to the students.

The second grade students have experienced a wide variety of STREAM lessons this year, but the one lesson that is always a huge hit with the second graders is "Help Harry!" A major focus of 2nd grade science curriculum is the study of animal species and their habitats. After the children learn about how scientists classify animals and all of the different habitats that animals can live in, they apply the new knowledge with the "Help Harry" STREAM activity.

Here's the premise:

An adorable fuzzy little creature has fallen out of a tree and is in desperate need of help! Otherwise, the cute little fella could end up being eaten by a predator. This dramatic entrance kicks off the lesson. Then, the kids work in cooperative groups to engineer a "perch" that must be off of the ground and with specified materials, so that their new found fuzzy friend can be safe and protected. After all of the groups ask, imagine, plan, create, and improve their perch, they display their engineered creations on our "Resourceful Learner" classroom shelf. The task closes with this specific question; "What species of animal can fall out of its nest and find itself unprotected?" Of course, all of the second graders will enthusiastically answer, "Birds!" This STREAM lesson allows students to truly understand not only why birds build nests, but it also cements the idea that one reason every animal needs a habitat is in order to protect itself. STREAM lessons foster children's imaginations and promote critical thinking skills while building each child's social skills by working in cooperative groups. What a blessing!



# Kinder and 8th Grade Buddies

## CSW STREAM Event

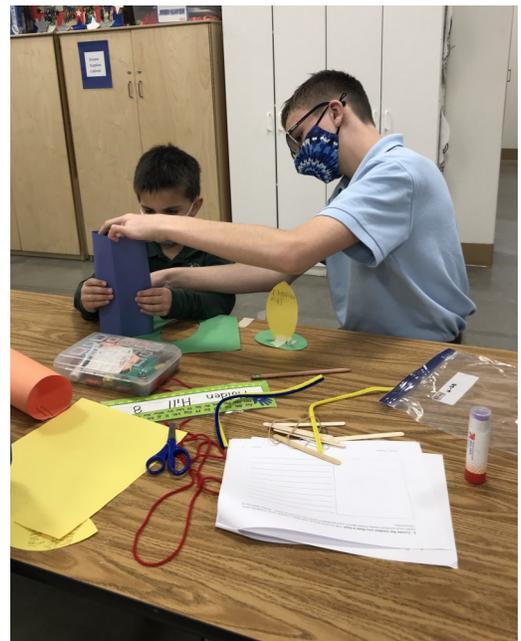
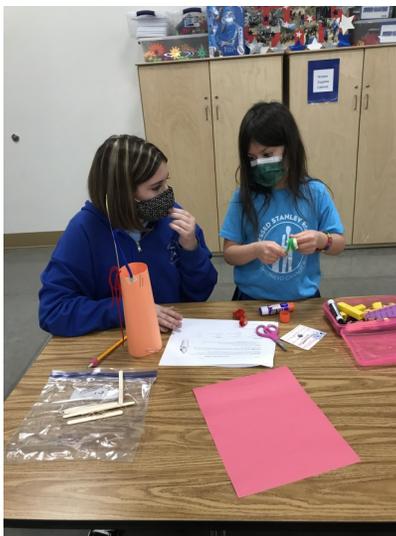


Catholic Schools Week found 8th grade teaming up with their Kindergarten buddies to complete a STREAM Challenge called *Let Your Light Shine: Lanterns*.

After reading Matthew 5:14-16, the students discussed how we need to thank God for our gifts and talents by letting them shine for all to see. This was followed by the challenge to design and create a lantern with specified criteria.

The lantern needed to contain a "flame" on which students wrote a gift or talent that they will let shine for the rest of the school year. The lantern needed to stand alone or hang on a hook, support the paper flame, and be at least 6 inches tall.

This cooperative activity certainly helped our students let their lights shine!



# 2021 National Junior Honor Society Inductions Celebrates Achievement



Dr. Pristash

On January 27, 2021, Annunciation Principal, Dr. Sharon Pristash, the middle school Dean of Students, Ms. Lynne O’Keeffe, and the current student board of the Annunciation National Junior Honor Society were very happy to host the induction of their newest members. Special guest speakers included ACS alumni Jayden Jevnick and Iain Erskine from the graduation class of 2020.

To qualify for National Junior Honor Society students in grade 7 and 8 must maintain a GPA of 3.85 and demonstrate a commitment to exemplary character, leadership, service, and citizenship. We are very proud of each of these students. We congratulate them and their families for their commitment to learning and leadership!

This year’s inductees pictured below include:

*Front row: Luke Kanigan, Analiese Oveson, Isabella Slapak, Madeline Levell, Gianna Velasquez.*

*Back row: Zak Rossbach, Rachel Hauer, Hayley Carrillo, Braylee Jevnick, Gabriella Stein. Not in attendance, John Shen and Andrew Corso.*



Ms. O’Keeffe



8th grade NJHS Members



Iain Erskine and Jayden Jevnick

## *Living Your Faith: The Catholic Identity Committee*

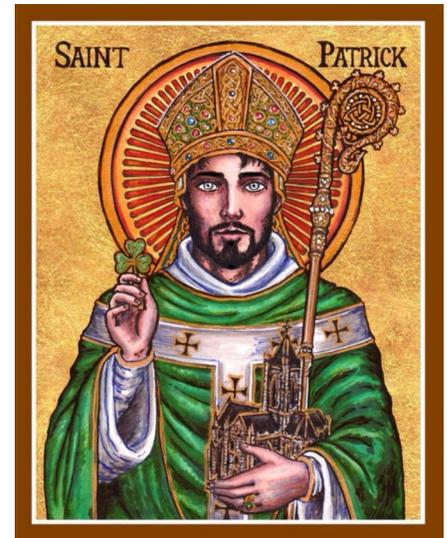


# Catholic Identity Committee

## Saint of the Month – March

March brings us many wonderful Catholic holidays and feasts! Everyone knows about St. Patrick's Day on March 17, but did you know that just two days later we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph? St. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers, workers and families - and Pope Francis has declared 2021 to be the Year of St. Joseph! St. Joseph has many nicknames - including "Terror of Demons." We ask for the intercession of St. Joseph for guidance, protection and for a happy death!

March is also the month we celebrate our school's namesake: The Feast of the Annunciation. Like Mary, we are called to put God first and to answer His call in our life. What is God whispering to you?



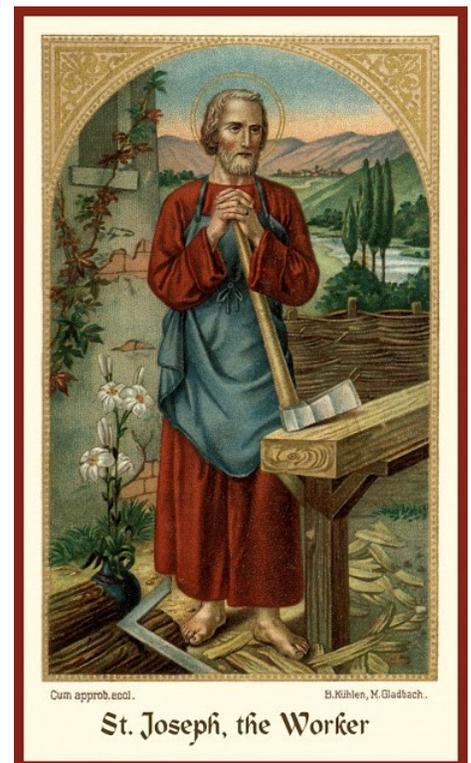
### **THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER**

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021 IN PICTURES



Welcome Back ACS Alumni



Fun on the New Playground!



Family Time at Open House



Hoop Contest  
Winners



Awesome ACS Parents!



Our Amazing Volunteer Leaders & Dr. Pristash



Student Ambassadors!



Fr. Chad and students at the Open House



Thank you Sr. Mary Eileen for a fun time singing with our students!



Patriotic Kindergarteners



Thank you Fr. Kurt for teaching about vocations and sharing your story!

Open House, Vocations Day with Fr. Kurt, Red, White and Blue Day, Staff Appreciation and our Catholic School's Week Service project to collect school supplies for St. Michael Indian School.



Patriotic 1st Graders



Ms. O'Keeffe enjoying staff day treats!



Supplies for St. Michael School



Happy 6th Graders!

# 8th grade Vs. Teachers/Staff Volleyball Match Tradition Begins

Coach Hubbard led a team of fellow teachers and staff against 8th grade class in a spectacular volleyball match during Catholic Schools Week. The competition was tough but in the end the 8th graders took the overall win. The entire student body watched and cheered on their favorite team. Ms. O’Keeffe lead a stunning rally of serves but in the end the students and their team of skilled ringers were too much for their opponents. Thanks Mr. Hubbard for planning this fun event which will certainly be a tradition at ACS.



Ethan Reno decked out in pink makes the save!



Coach Hubs!!!!



Mr. Elijah not only keeps our computers going, but he also keeps the volley going!

The 8th Graders serving up a lot of trouble for the ACS teachers!



# Alumni News

Hadley Hawkins is an ACS alumni (first ACS 8th grade, class of 2016), and recently graduated from Cactus Shadows in 2020. After graduation, she launched a custom t-shirt company with the help of her business partner Allison Daley. Hadley makes each shirt custom to order, giving you the option to choose shirt color and logo color. Her line includes short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts, and sweatshirts. *Live Like Hadley* is a concept we came up with to represent Hadley's dream of running her own business and creating a clothing line that truly represents Hadley, her personality, passions and ideas.



Living like Hadley means living your life with a lot of love, laughter and maybe even an ice cold Diet Coke. Hadley says the best advice to give to you from *Live Like Hadley* is, "Don't be afraid to sparkle a little brighter." We hope this inspires you to live each day like Hadley does.. to the absolute fullest!

A few words from Hadley herself:

"Fashion has been a dream for quite a while now since COVID 19 hit and we have been handling working from home. We will keep the business going perfectly. We keep everything in the loop because that's what we do. This has been an endless dream forever. I wish one day we get an award for running a company or business and do what we deserve. We will keep adding more & more for now we are sticking with T-shirts (\$15), Long Sleeve (\$25), Sweatshirts (\$30). Thanks for your time and the final words of wisdom, thank you for supporting our vision & helping support my dream."



If you're interested in learning more or placing an order, follow @livelikehadley on Instagram. How to order: Direct message Hadley on Instagram (@livelikehadley) & include size, t-shirt color/logo color, shipping (include address) or delivery (if local), and preferred payment method. Hadley accepts Venmo, cash or check.

If you have Instagram you can DM us on it for your order, but if for any reason Instagram doesn't work for you or don't have it, then you can reach out to the team at the numbers below.

CEO Hadley Hawkins: 806 282 6228  
 Team Member # 1: Heidi Hawkins 806 570 8169  
 Team Member #2: Allison Daley 814 730 4247



## Classical Guitar Class Comes to 8th Grade

Thanks to a generous gift from our STREAM donor, we were able to purchase 30 guitars and cases, which allows the entire 8th grade class to receive instruction in classical guitar every week. *Guitar To You* is a music outreach program available to all K-8 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Phoenix, offered through Notre Dame Prep. ACS is one of only five schools in the diocese participating in the program this year.

The purpose of *Guitar To You* is to enhance the musical development of students and to develop students in the art of liturgical and contemporary guitar music. Under the direction of former University of Arizona and University of Illinois Guitar and Music Professor, Philip Hemmo, the program builds skills in note reading, classical and popular technique, chord strumming, ensemble, and accompaniment.



### The program includes:

- ◆ Complete classroom guitar curriculum
- ◆ On-site support with NDP's Director of Music Outreach Phillip Hemmo
- ◆ Constant phone or email support
- ◆ [Watch this video](#) to learn more



**Thank you to our generous donors!!!**

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2021-2022

August 11 - First day of school, Early Dismissal  
 October 8, 11 No school, Fall In Service, Columbus Day  
 November 24 Early Dismissal  
 November 25 - 26 Thanksgiving Break  
 December 18 - Jan 3 Christmas Break  
 January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School  
 January 30 - February 4 Catholic Schools Week  
 February 18, 21 President's Weekend, No School  
 March 11, 14 -No School (Teacher Spring In Service)  
 April 15 - 22 Easter Break  
 May 18 - 8th Grade Graduation  
 May 27 - Last Day of School

### Apply for Tuition Assistance Catholic Education Arizona (CEA)

Apply by April 15 for 2021-2022  
 Visit [www.fairapp.com](http://www.fairapp.com)  
 New users create an account  
 Existing users login with your info  
 School username 700  
 School Password cea700  
 Best to apply for Round 1  
 Deadline to apply to round 1 is April 15, 2021  
 Deadline to apply to round 2 is August 15, 2021  
 Call the school office if you have questions

*Join us for an  
Evening Under the Stars  
Dinner en Blanc™*



**Dinner and Auction**

SATURDAY  
**24**  
APRIL



COCKTAIL HOUR  
**6 PM**  
32648 N CAVE CREEK RD

*Come dressed in white for an evening gathering  
to celebrate and support Catholic education.*

For sponsorships, ticket pricing, silent auction  
and event details visit

[www.annunciation.schoolauction.net/eus2021](http://www.annunciation.schoolauction.net/eus2021)

*Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing  
under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be joyful..."*

*-Ecclesiastics 8:15*



## School Administration

**Parochial Administrator**  
Fr. Chad King [frchad@stgacc.org](mailto:frchad@stgacc.org)

**Principal**  
Dr. Sharon Pristash  
[spristash@acsphx.org](mailto:spristash@acsphx.org)

**Dean of Students**  
Ms. O'Keeffe [lokeeffe@acsphx.org](mailto:lokeeffe@acsphx.org)

**Director of Development/Marketing**  
Mrs. McCann [kmccann@acsphx.org](mailto:kmccann@acsphx.org)

**Office Manager**  
Mrs. Schwartz [lschwartz@acsphx.org](mailto:lschwartz@acsphx.org)

**Office Support**  
Mrs. Garcia [office@acsphx.org](mailto:office@acsphx.org)

**School Nurses:** [nurse@acsphx.org](mailto: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

### February

Drake Beffort  
Kayla Brady  
Liam Burgess  
Enzo Cannizzo  
Hayley Carrillo  
Cameron Garrity  
Noah Gonzalez  
Hadley Huston  
Lillie Kludt  
Gabriella Muth  
Riley O'Dell  
Liam Pacheco  
Breyden Peitzmeier  
Stanley Pierz  
Hunter Pope  
Chapman Richardson  
Isabella Slepak  
Benedict Snozek  
Gabriella Stein  
Danielle Walker  
Emma Wicker  
Mr. Juan Fernandez

### March

Mae Primavera  
Elliot Rainney  
Tristian Sardina  
Amelia Shen  
Evagrace Shen  
John Shen  
Anderson Stack  
Kellan Tilley  
Dean Titze  
Beau Wallace  
Grace Wieseler  
Madeline Wilson  
Ava Yparraguirre  
Jayden Zuno  
Mrs. Himmelein  
Nurse Joann Perraut  
Mr. Elijah Morford  
Sebastian Bax  
Liam Cave  
Dominic Colligan  
Lucas DiPasquale  
Nolan Dyer  
Leili Fazeli  
McKenna French  
David Hernandez -  
Ramos  
Jamison Jolesch  
Joseph LaChapelle  
Ian Macauley  
Dalton Muth  
Sidney O'Dell  
Olivia Piraneo

## ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

32648 N. Cave Creek Road  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Phone: (480)361-8234

Fax: (480)207-6730

[www.acsphx.org](http://www.acsphx.org)

E-mail: [office@acsphx.org](mailto:office@acsphx.org)

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

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

Find us on [Facebook!](#)

## An Annunciation Must See Event!



## Annual State of the School Address 2021

Hosted by Dr. Pristash and Fr. Chad King