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## Congratulations Annunciation Class of 2022!



On Wednesday, May 18, we celebrated the 7th graduating class of Annunciation Catholic School. The class of 2022 is an amazing group of students. All were accepted to Catholic high schools. Many with honors and a few with scholarships! This class is unique in our school's history as this is the first class that has students who attended since Kindergarten. Eight in this class of 27 attended all 9 years. To see where they are going to attend next year, be sure to check out page 16-17.

## Evening Under the Stars 2022 Mardi Gras

On Saturday, February 26, Annunciation hosted the annual Evening Under the Stars fundraiser, Mardi Gras style. Great food, great music, amazing entertainment, beautiful auction items, and lots of fun people! The St. Gabriel's parish hall was transformed into a festive version of Bourbon Street, the likes you will see only in New Orleans. (Continued on page 15)



## IMPORTANT DATES

### August

- 8 Back to school Open house 1-4 pm  
New family orientation & dinner 4-6 pm
- 10 First day of school, early dismissal 12pm

## 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.

## Campus Construction Update — Final Stage of Project



The campus building project is in its final stages! It has been a joy watching the campus transform over the past three years. This summer will bring the project to a close. Here's what to expect before school resumes in August:

- The final building (D) will be completed in July. This building will house the parish offices on the first floor and adult faith formation meeting rooms on the second floor. These rooms will be used for many activities including RCIA, Bible study, Knights of Columbus, WINGs, St. Vincent de Paul, Stephen Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry – just to name a few.
- The parish offices will move into the new building.
- The school offices will move into the current parish office suite in building A. This includes the front office, principal, development director, IT coordinator, and school nurses.
- Building E, where the school offices are currently located, will be repurposed for children's faith formation, including atrium rooms for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

### ***Back to School 2022-2023***

August 8

Open House 1 - 4 p.m.

New family Orientation & Dinner 4 - 6 p.m.

August 10

First day of school. Early dismissal, 12 p.m.



**Order Student Supply Kits for 2022-2023**

**Order by June 15 for Early Bird Special**

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## Our Gratitude for the Carefree Kiwanis



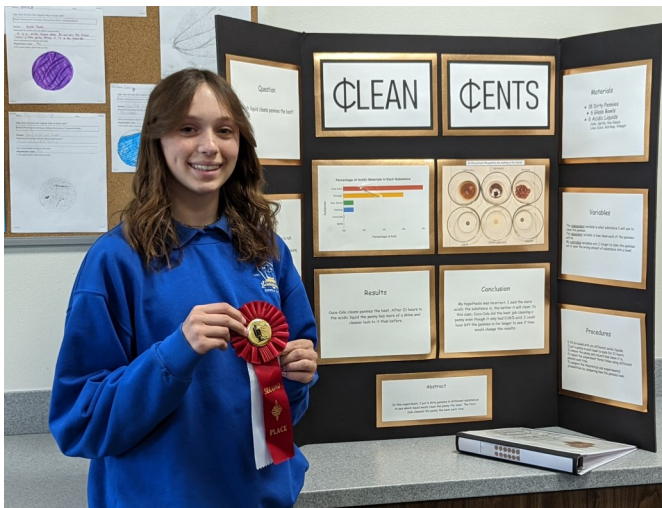
We are very blessed to once again have the support of the Carefree Kiwanis Club. Time and again they answered our prayers with funding for our technological needs, including robots for our STREAM lessons, interactive flat panels for our classrooms, and Chromebooks for our students. This year they also funded our new bleachers, team benches, and scoreboard for the outdoor sports court.

Please support the Kiwanis Marketplace in Cave Creek through donations, shopping, and volunteering.

## 7th Graders Science Fair Fun!

Our 7th grade students showed off months of hard work and preparation at the Annunciation Science Fair on March 15th. The enthusiastic and talented students showcased their individual projects to the school, fellow classmates, teachers and judges. The quality and range of the projects were well done, and surpassed our expectations. The science fair is an opportunity for students to apply the scientific method to conduct independent research on a subject of their choice. The students spent months working on their projects, and we could not be more impressed by all of their projects! Ben Hofmeister went the extra mile and competed in our Diocesan Science Fair which included not only his project but creating a google slide presentation and Flipgrid. Ben placed Second out of the whole Diocese. We are so proud of him!

First Place: Emma Recuber; Second Place: Brenna Sharp; Third Place: Benjamin Hoffmeister





## The Vibrant Vinnies are Rolling

The Vibrant Vinnies van was blessed by Fr. Chad on May 11 after morning Mass! It was beautiful blessing, and we are so thankful for his time! The van was graciously donated by Mary Causse and the Vinnies are extremely grateful. The Vinnies extended their arms and blessed Mary at the event as well, by which she was deeply touched. This van will enable us to get Vinnies to events and do more for our city by distributing food all over the valley and assisting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wherever we are needed.! Thank you, Mary, for your generous donation. Special thanks to Mr. Hank who got the van in excellent shape for us! We would also like to thank the Vibrant Vinnies founders Ling Patty and Shirley Smalley, and our district President Ed Carpenter who was instrumental in our conference obtaining this van. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, pray for us!





## YMCA Helps the Vibrant Vinnies with their Sock Collection for Blessing Bags

Thank you to the Foothills YMCA, who donated 200 pairs of socks to the Vibrant Vinnies conference to help assemble our blessings bags for the homeless.

The Y has been supporting our conference for the past few years with our “Sock Drive” and we could not be more appreciative.

**Thank you YMCA for your generosity and helping us help others in our community!**



Above: Vibrant Vinnies President Natalia Ehmann, Ms. Raye Gall, Director of the Foothills YMCA, Lily, Meadow, Henry, with founder Mrs. Ling Patty and ministry leader Mrs. Angel Vogelsang.

Left:

Students carry the box of donated socks from The YMCA.

To learn more about our Vibrant Vinnies Ministry, please their page on our school web site. <https://acsphx.org/vibrant-vinnies/>



## 8th Graders Volunteer at “Feed My Starving Children”



Thanks to a very generous donor, the eighth-grade class was able to donate over \$7,000 to the charity Feed My Starving Children in Mesa, AZ. Together, the students packed 81 boxes totaling 2,691 meals for those in need.

Pictured are Braylee Jevnick and Gia Velasquez (NJHS and Student Council presidents) delivering the check. Way to go 8th grade!





# Fruit of the Spirit Awards

Fruit of the Spirit Awards are celebrated each month at Community Prayer. Recipients are selected by their teachers.



## Love

Congratulations to the February Fruit of the Spirit award recipients. These students were chosen by their teacher for sharing the spirit of Love.

Front row: Emma Primavera, Danielle Walker, Sophia Rommes, Star Vogelsang, Lizbeth Espino, Evagrace Shen.

Back row: Eleanor Stratton, Jax Renner, Cameron Garrity, Ava Niemi, Bella Slepak.

## Faithfulness

Congratulations to the March Fruit of the Spirit award recipients. These students were chosen by their teacher for fostering the spirit of Faithfulness.

Front row: Elliot Rainney, Grace Riley, Alena Lopez, Rick Reichow, Jonathan Pierz, Chase Bainum.

Back row: Amanda Towns, Elena Scagnoli, Enzo Cannizzo



## Patience

Congratulations to the April Fruit of the Spirit award recipients. These students were chosen by their teacher for nurturing the spirit of Patience.

Front row: Owen Hefflinger, Dominic LaBrake, Allison Cave, Elizabeth Walker.

Back row: Penelope Ponce, Ariyan Baasten, James O'Neill, Camden Tilley, Amelia Wicker





## Fr. Chad & Seminarian's vs. ACS Student Basketball Team Players

The ACS Catholic Identity Committee started a new school tradition with some fun and competition. With the help of Fr. Chad King (who recruited a team of seminarians) the first ever Students vs. Seminarians basketball game took to the ACS court on April 1. The entire student body cheered both teams on.

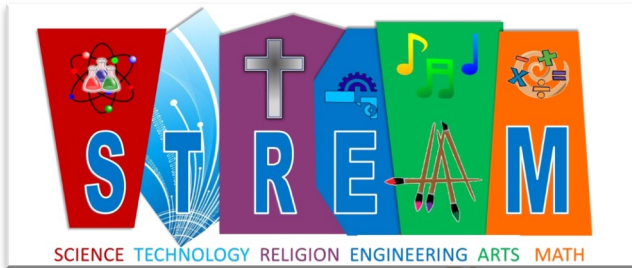
They played a fast paced, competitive game that ended in double overtime with a sudden death finale.

Our middle school boys and girls, who played on our school teams, gave it their all and took down their opponents with a buzzer beater basket by 6th grader Lily H.

We thank Fr. Chad and the awesome seminarians for their amazing sportsmanship. They played a large and well practiced group of students. Especially our 8th grade C.Y.A.A. team who recently won 2nd place in the small schools tournament! We look forward to a rematch next year.







## Kinder STREAMing Fun with their 8th Grade Buddies

Kindergarten has been learning about Magnetism and Electricity with hands-on investigations of how magnets work. We invited our 8th-grade buddies to help us complete our STREAM activity by engineering a magnetic car! The young engineers pretended to be mechanical engineers for the day by building a car that is powered by only the attractive pull or repulsive push of a pair of simple magnets. By using the Engineering design process, the students used their creativity to build a car, and then test it with magnets. If their design did not work, they would have to improve it. The students were quite "attracted" to this fun STREAM activity while spending time with their 8th grade buddies.





## What's Happening with American Heritage Girls

In February, Sr. Marie from Our Lady of Joy parish visited with our American Heritage Girls to share her journey to religious life. She explained the various groups of Sisters and answered vocations questions. The girls who participated earned the AHG religious vocations religious patch..



Left: Ellie, Lucia, and Zariah each received the Presidential volunteer awards which is earned by serving a minimum of 25 - 100 hours over a 12 month period. Service includes altar serving, assisting on Veteran's Day, etc.



Right: Meadow and Lucia, received religious emblem, "I Live My Faith", which is earned by learning and participating in the sacraments, through prayer, art, technology, and written word, over a period of 6-9 months.



Pictured left are 3rd graders Elizabeth and Olivia, who presented their "What I love about AHG Posters" to fulfill one of the requirements for their Level up award.



## Court of Honor Troop AZ0015

Court of Honor is a time to share with family and friends all the badge work, service, and special events the girls have completed.



### 3r Grade Level Up Award

Students in grades K, 3, 6, 8, & 10 are eligible for the Level Up award which is a compilation of leadership, badge work, and service.

Pictured left are the newest recipients of this award.

Our new Explorers:

Star, Olivia, Isabella, Hadley, Elizabeth, Charlie and Avery.

### 6th Grade Level Up Award

Meadow and Lucia are this years recipients of this Level Up award. They now move from the Explorers unit to the Pioneer unit.

Zariah, Patriot member and ACS grad class of '21, welcomed Meadow and Lucia to the Pioneer/Patriot unit.

Congratulations to all of the Level Up award recipients!





## Sonoran Arts League Celebration of Art Annual Youth Art Show and Awards

The Sonoran Arts League hosted its 26th annual Celebration of Art exhibit and awards ceremony this year rewarding students in grades 4 - 12 for outstanding achievement in visual arts. The awards ceremony took place on April 7, 2022. The following ACS students were selected to be recognized and received an incentive award. Their award winning artwork was displayed at the gallery. Pictured right, the ACS Youth Art Award winners from left to right: 4th Grader: Kellan Henry, 5th Grader: Evagrace Shen, 6th Grader: Athena Clark, 7th Grader: Tristian Sardina, 8th Grader: Analiese Oveson.



The mission of the Sonoran Arts League is to give to our community by promoting art, artists, and art education through leadership and service in the belief that an artistic awareness is essential to the well-being of life and our community. Visit <https://sonoranartsleague.org/> to learn more.

Annunciation students have participated in this student art competition for the last few years with great success. Special thanks to our amazing art teacher, Mrs. Debbie Himmelein, whose love for teaching art inspires great creativity in all of her students.





## 6th Grade International Day Shares Cultures of the World with Student Body

Mr. Hubbard's annual sixth grade international day was a huge success! The students have been working all year long on a specific country and all grades got to come by and get souvenirs and learn about many countries. Thank you Mr. Hubbard for making this such a fun and exciting learning experience!





## 2022 Evening Under the Stars Sponsors and Volunteers



Thank you Christy Brown , Melissa Vojt, Michelle Tranter, Kathleen Warner, Amber Piraneo & Michelle Boggiano



*Special Thanks to our Evening Under the Stars Mardi Gras Event Sponsors*

### *Gold Sponsors*

*Dawn and Paxton Jevnick    Marcia Balestrino and Dr. Charles Emery*

### *Silver Sponsors*

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*Dora and Eddie Bernal    Julie and Mark Jolesch*

### *Bar Sponsor*

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*Bee and David Piazza*

### *Raffle Sponsor*

*Grandparents Guild  
Susan and Thom Rindahl*





## Evening Under the Stars Mardi Gras continued

Over 150 guests attended the event. Many of our financial supporters and parishioners attended as well. We are grateful they came and we hope they enjoyed the evening. Thanks to all the school parents who attended as well. We are blessed with many active families in our school community and they are always eager to spend time together and support this event.

We are happy to report the event brought in \$28,359.96, after expenses, which goes to support the educational programs at Annunciation. We are humbled by the generosity of so many willing to give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Event Chair, Christy Brown, mom of Betsy (8th grade), DJ (6th grade) and Benjamin (Kindergarten), did an amazing job planning this event. We thank her for her countless hours of work and we are grateful for her time and talent.

Along with Christy, many parents pitched in to assist with the silent auction, decorations, and setup. Special thanks to our Homeroom Angels for their work creating class art projects and class gift baskets. We appreciate the help of Teresa Vitolo who took care of all the data entry on the auction website. We are blessed to have many sponsors who donated cash, services, products, etc. Without whom we would not have had the

success we did. We also thank our fantastic 8th grade Student Ambassadors for helping host the event by taking great care of our guests. They showed everyone what great dancers they are too!

Thanks to Keli McCann, our Director of Development, for her work on this event and facilitating our volunteers. We greatly appreciate Fr. Chad and the church staff for their help in planning the first large event in our parish hall. It was fun (and convenient) to have it on our campus. Plans for next years event are under way. If you would like to assist, please contact Keli at [kmccann@acsphx.org](mailto:kmccann@acsphx.org).



*Evening Under the Stars 2022 Chair  
Christy Brown and husband Doug.*



*Fr. Chad and guests shared in the evening entertainment. We appreciate his support and that of all who attended.*



## ACS Class of 2022 High School Plans



Kylan Brittain  
Notre Dame Prep



Oliver Bueno  
Notre Dame Prep



Betsy Brown  
Notre Dame Prep



Hayley Carrillo  
Xavier College Prep



Conner Cockayne  
St. Mary Shattuck



Olivia Connell  
Cactus Shadows  
High School



Amoree Eiden (1, 2)  
Notre Dame Prep



Josh Hammond  
Notre Dame Prep



Layne Henry  
Notre Dame Prep



Braylee Jevnick (3)  
Xavier College Prep



Luke Kanigan (2)  
Notre Dame Prep



Bevin Kremer  
Notre Dame Prep



Aubrey Kramer  
Notre Dame Prep



Joseph LaChapelle  
Brophy College Prep



Maddie Levell  
Notre Dame Prep



Sidney O'Dell  
Notre Dame Prep



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105*



Analiese Oveson  
Horizon High School



Ryan Peitzmeier  
Brophy College Prep



Chapman Richardson  
Notre Dame Prep



Zak Rossbach  
Notre Dame Prep



Sylverio Sardina  
Notre Dame Prep



John Shen  
Notre Dame Prep



Isabella Slepak  
Notre Dame Prep



Ella S.  
Notre Dame Prep



Henry Stratton  
Notre Dame Prep



Gia Velasquez (1, 2)  
Notre Dame Prep



Anja Vojt (1, 2)

**1 - St. Ignatius Scholar**  
**2 - St. Thomas Aquinas**  
**Program**

**3 - Xavier Scholarship**

### Our First K-8 Graduates!

Pictured below with Principal Pristash, are the 8 students who started at Annunciation from Kindergarten and graduated together this year. This group was the first Kindergarten class in our school's short history.

Front row: Joe, Josh, Zak, John. Back row: Dr. Pristash, Braylee, Ella, Bella and Haylee.





## School Administration

### Pastor

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  
Megan Hefflinger

For the complete staff directory visit

[http://acsphx.org/about us/](http://acsphx.org/about_us/)

## ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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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!](#)

## Vinnies Assist SVdP with Summer Food Bank Drive



**Congratulations to the Annunciation School students at St. Gabriel's for their food donations and assistance in transporting 678 lbs. of various food items to the Foothill Food Bank. Terrific team effort !!! - John Murphy - SVdP**

## Summer Break Vacation Plans?

Send us a picture of your family with location details for our back to school newsletter! Email to [office@acsphx.org](mailto:office@acsphx.org)

**Thank you!**

## BOX TOPS MADE EASY!

Help support ACS with Box Tops for Education. All you need is your phone! Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit your school's earnings online. **Twice a year, your school will receive a check and can use that cash to buy whatever it needs!**

