

# Gregorian Gazette



2024

*A Knight's Honor*

2025

## ANNUAL SPELLING BEE

Our school had a marvelous Spelling Bee this year, including 21 rounds of spelling various words. Our first place winner, William Murphy, states, "I read books to study for the Spelling Bee." In second place was Jackie Kubikian. Then in third place was Mason O'Leary. Mr. Martell shared that it was the biggest back and forth for first place.

C-o-n-g-r-a-t-u-l-a-t-i-o-n-s to all!



Marshall Whalen, our very own skier, has been attending ski school at Sugarbush, which will last until March. His motivation to keep skiing comes from his parents, and he aspires to compete in the NorAm Cup, which is a combined event for skiers from Canada and America. Marshall's favorite skiing event is the slalom. He advises other aspiring skiers to not overthink things, listen to their coaches, and not to be afraid, as skiing isn't as challenging as it may seem.





# SGS SPORTS

2024

2025

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

The boys' school basketball team is doing well and thriving so far. They are 11-2 and are going to the playoffs!

We interviewed one of their best players, Mason O'Leary, and this is what he had to say. Mason says that he plays basketball because it is a sport that he excels at. He also loves to play shooting guard. His words of advice to younger children who are just starting to play the sport are to never give up and always pursue your dreams because someday, you will make it.

-Greyson Rigolosi



## WINTER KNIGHT OUT

With considerable thanks to the Parents' Association, Thursday, February 13, in the gym was an electric night filled with basketball, families, fans, cheering, laughter, and an all-around joyful spirit. The students competed vigorously on the co-ed maroon vs. white game and entertained us all in the stands along with DJ Caroline and the Siena Saints Dance Team at halftime. Sake and the Yang Family provided a delectable dinner, and the event could not have been more successful. Congrats to team maroon!

*"SOME PEOPLE WANT IT TO HAPPEN,  
SOME WISH IT WOULD HAPPEN,  
OTHERS MAKE IT HAPPEN." -  
MICHAEL JORDAN*





# Local and National Events



## Fourth Grade Native American Project

The fourth graders each stepped up to a podium in the little gym to explain their nation and what they did for their project. Some of the students took over a month to create their project! After that, the 4th graders stood by their diorama while parents, students, and teachers walked around to see all of the projects.

-Jackie Kubikian



## Albany Firewolves

Once again the amazing Firewolves Lacrosse Team has come to our school. Players Will Johnson and Dyson Williams came and talked about their backgrounds in lacrosse. Students then asked questions regarding their own lacrosse career or the Firewolves'. Next, students were each able to pass the ball around for a little bit. Last but not least, students were able to obtain autographs and free tickets to a Firewolves game at MVP arena. Those who went remarked that it was a blast. Maybe we can have our next field trip there?!

-JACKIE KUBIKIAN





# Local and National Events



## Lunar New Year Presentation

On February 11, The Chinese Community Center of the Capital District gave an amazing presentation of the culture and traditions of celebrating the Lunar New Year! Students learned about how and why the Lunar New Year is celebrated and Chinese Zodiacs! The presentation had traditional songs and dances even featuring our own Emily Tao and Mrs. Yang!





# Local and National Events



## California Wildfires

Horrible accidents have been happening in California. As we know, citizens in the Los Angeles region are dealing with terrible fires. These fires have been spreading widely, especially the Palisades fire. Over 130,000 people had to evacuate their homes because of this devastating fire. Thankfully, as of approximately two weeks ago, the Palisades fire was contained. We should all take the time to pray for those who lost their homes as well. These types of natural tragedies can be prevented with proper oversight. We must also take a second to think about all the firefighters who have risked their lives for our nation, specifically California.

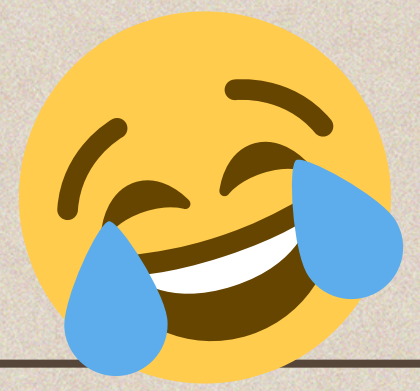
-Jackie Kubikian







# COMICS & CODES



What are you doing?

Building a snow palace!

With a garbage can?

It's just making a sand castle only BIGGER

I've packed this can solid with snow

A few dozen bricks stacked together and my palace will be complete!

AHHHHHHHHHHH

Are you starting in the basement?

Get the shovel...

This stinks it should be cold! There should be snow on the ground!

Well it's kinda cold...

It's windy anyway.

Wind, shmind! I want winter weather not just wind.

Snowflakes! It's snowing I'm gonna catch one in my mouth!

ACK HOCK KAFF KOFF

Great day for grilling!

## EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT WORD SEARCH!

E	S	U	L	M	C	O	H	H	I
L	Y	E	A	A	V	L	Q	L	Z
Q	Y	R	A	D	N	R	U	K	Z
Q	J	N	L	Y	T	B	Z	M	Y
K	E	Q	E	Y	I	I	L	E	U
J	O	B	E	S	U	L	V	C	J
D	L	D	Z	B	A	E	A	K	W
V	H	F	A	H	A	M	C	N	F
Z	K	P	O	M	F	R	I	Q	R
M	A	R	S	H	A	L	L	L	C

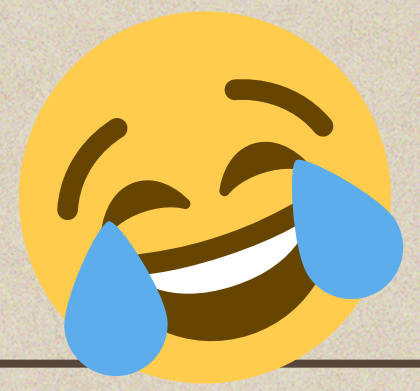
ALEEZA    ALI    IZZY    KHLOE    MADY    MAEVE

MARSHALL    SAMI

<https://puzzel.org/en/wordseeker/play?p=-OEKhKxCeB0G4Z3ArseN>



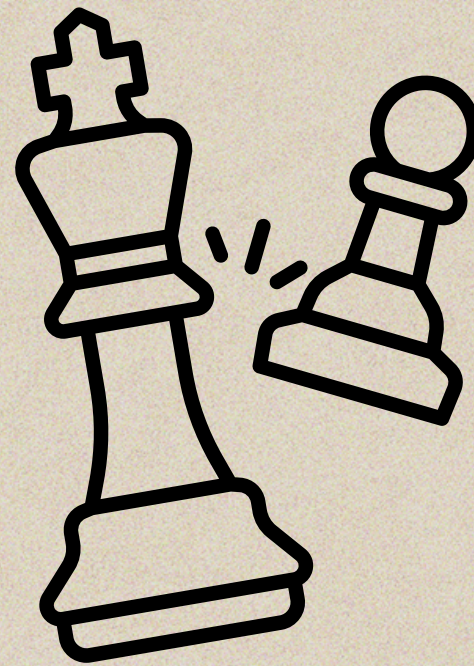




CHES ANYONE??

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3YWF5APN](https://tinyurl.com/3ywf5apn)

(CLICK LINK TO PLAY OR SCAN QR CODE)



SEARCH & CHES BY: HANS WERNER



By: Emily Tao

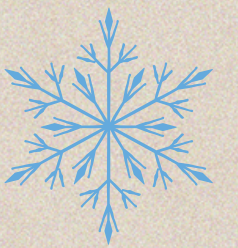




# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The Christmas Concert of 2024 was an exemplary show of the arts, singing, and dancing! This show started with fifth-grade handbells of the classic Ukrainian song “Carol of the Bells.” After, the Saint Gregory's band performed their string percussion and brass instruments wonderfully! Kindergarten and First Grade sang “Thirty-Two Feet and Eight Little Tails” and “Merry Christmas.” Following this wonderful choir, seventh graders played “Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer” on their handbells.

Second and third grade introduced themselves with the classic pieces “Away in a Manger” and “I Saw Three Ships/ Jingle Bells.” Our third bell piece was sixth grade playing “Let It Snow,” showcasing their incredible talent with bells! Fourth and fifth graders sang “Sing We Noel” and “Here Comes Santa Claus.”

Last but not least, our eighth graders played on bells “I’ll be home for Christmas” as their final Christmas Concert bell piece! Following this, sixth and seventh grade gave us their original carol version of “The Christmas Story” and “Angels We Have Heard on High.” Eighth Grade's final two songs of Saint Gregory's Christmas Concert were “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” and “The Secret of Christmas.” The upper school participated in singing our third to last song, “Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home).”

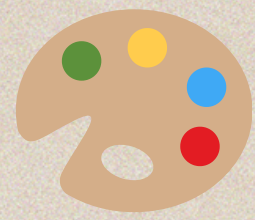
Every year, the Kindergarteners participate with their version of the Nativity scene with the song “Silent Night” sung by every grade and the accompanying audience. Our last performance, “Joy To The World,” was sung again by every grade and accompanying audience. This concluded our 2024 Christmas Concert and the class of 2025’s last-ever Christmas Concert with us!

-Maeve Haggerty

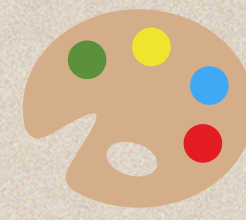




# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## ART SHOW



The 2024 Art show this year was impeccable, showcasing all our talent at this school and featuring the beautiful masterpieces created by Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. The art demonstrated each grade's progress by learning from Saint Gregory's Art Teacher, Ms. Delaney. She has spent so much time putting together each piece in the Kopp Wing and assisting each grade with their art pieces, so we thank her so much for putting this much effort and time into this Art show! As usual, our school hosts a challenge for each student to draw a festive and wintery piece to try and be on the covers of the Christmas Concert pamphlet. Our winners this year were Sami El-Hajjar in eighth grade, Yao Yang in sixth grade, Margot Whalen in fourth grade, and Leo Quijano in third grade. Each artist did a fantastic job with details, shading, following the winter theme, and overall festivity! We cannot wait for next year and hope to see all three beautiful paintings, drawings, and sculptures again!

-Maeve Haggerty





# Teacher Spotlight ✨



**Mrs. Mastromarchi**  
**Fourth Grade**

**Q:**How long have you been a Saint Gregory's School teacher?

**A:** *This will be my 20th year at Saint Gregory's.*

**Q:** Why did you want to be a teacher at Saint Gregory's School?

**A:** *I began doing student teaching, which eventually led to my teaching career.*

**Q:** How has Saint Gregory's School made an impact on your life?

**A:** *I've made great memories working with such amazing students and wonderful co-workers.*

**Q:** What has been the highlight of your career at Saint Gregory's School?

**A:** *Running adventure camp because it is exciting to watch kids be brave and try new things.*

-Tara Govender





# FIELD TRIPS

## EGYPTIAN MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

Once arriving at the Albany Institute of History & Art, the entire class was exhilarated. The tour guide took them to the Egyptian wing of the museum, where the class learned about a mummy who was a priest. Egyptologists know this because there was evidence that his head had been shaved. There was another mummy who was a carpenter during his time on Earth. Egyptologists know this because his right shoulder blade was significantly larger than his left shoulder blade. Students were shocked to see clothing well over 3,000 years old! These were some of the students' most notable artifacts and many others.

After leaving the Egyptian wing and its artifacts behind, the class went to a room where they made ushabti dolls. In ancient Egypt, ushabti dolls supposedly would do your chores in the afterlife. The students then got to create their ushabti dolls. All of the ushabti dolls were very creative. After leaving the museum, the class returned to school with their newfound knowledge.

Overall, the fifth-grade class had an incredible trip and learned a ton. The class is now more educated on ancient Egypt and can say they have seen an authentic Egyptian mummy. They were also able to make their Egyptian art. The class had a wonderful trip. Hopefully, this field trip will create lasting memories for the class.

By: William Murphy



## Indigenous South Americans Cultures Field Trip

In November 2024, the Upper School traveled to Hudson Valley Community College to listen to incredible music. The band Amouta taught the audience about the music and culture of the Andes. Many of the students found the experience exciting and engaging.

Before the show began, a woman dressed in indigenous South American clothes took the stage and gave an introduction about herself, the band, and the music. When the performance commenced, the music included various flutes, drums, pipes, and vocals. This represented how Bolivian and Colombian music may have sounded before the Spanish Conquistadors. Following several songs in this style of music, the band moved onto a different form of pre-Columbian music.

After the introduction of guitars in Latin America, music that sounded more like a song you may hear on the radio combined the sounds of music that had been listened to for thousands of years with the guitar, a relatively new Spanish instrument. These rhythmic songs included parts where the audience was invited to clap along. Towards the end of the performance, some audience members decided to join the band and its captivating music by dancing. The ancient Incas believed that their music was in tune with Mother Earth. Also, every song had a story and deeper meaning. One song's influence was how a donkey walks. Some historians believe that pre-Columbian music originated 5,000 years ago! This shows how firmly embedded this music is in the Andes culture. All in all, pre-Columbian music has a rich history and meaning.

Many of the students in the auditorium that day came away with newfound knowledge. Not only did they hear ancient music, but they also got to see how it evolved. The students also were blown away by the history of some of these songs. Also, they got to have quite a unique experience. This field trip was a real hit among the students, creating lasting memories.

- William Murphy





# NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES FIELD TRIP

In December 2024, the fourth graders at Saint Gregory's School visited the New York State Museum of Natural History. This field trip was to conclude a Native American Nations unit that the fourth graders completed just weeks before. This unit included a project the fourth graders completed to close the unit. This field trip served as a somewhat celebratory experience for the students.

The fourth-grade students have been studying Indigenous American peoples since September. They began the year by learning about the nomadic peoples who first arrived in America by the ancient land bridge Beringia between present-day Russia and Alaska. The class then learned about how the nomads formed civilizations such as the Maya, Aztec, Anasazi, and Inuit people. To conclude the unit, the fourth graders learned about various Native American cultures and how European colonization affected various Native American Nations. In short, the fourth-grade students had significant background knowledge when they started their projects.

After completing the unit, the students began a project that required both a written report and a diorama on the nation that they had been asked to research. Some nations studied were the Navajo, Iroquois, Seminole, and Ojibwe. After submitting the reports and dioramas, the students had to present their reports and projects. They presented their reports by reading them aloud to parents and students from other grades. The students presented their dioramas by telling people who stopped to admire their project what they were representing. The class truly learned a lot through their research experience for this project.

If you want to learn more about this project, read the *Fourth Grade Native American Project* by Jackie Kubikian.

Days later, the fourth grade students traveled to Albany's New York State Museum of Natural History. Upon arrival, the class went right into their guided tour. On this tour, they saw many fascinating exhibits including realistic examples of what people may have worn thousands of years ago and a longhouse about a quarter of the size of a real one. Pierce O'Connor, a fourth grader at Saint Gregory's, thought the field trip was excellent. He said, "The field trip was fun and interesting." This field trip was educational and entertaining for the class and will likely create lasting memories. Overall, the fourth-grade class trip and the project were a success, which helped them combine what they learned and new information in interesting and creative ways. The project was enjoyed by parents and students alike. As a result of such a successful project, the class was rewarded with a well-deserved trip to the New York State Museum of Natural History. Each student in the fourth-grade enjoyed the project and field trip for different reasons. However, they all share one thing in common, they enjoyed the experience.

By: William Murphy





# Community Outreach

This Christmas, the Saint Gregory's community participated in The Tulip Project, a program run by our Pre-K2 teacher, Ms. Meghan. The Tulip Project is an organization that collects Christmas wishlists from families in need and helps provide the items as a blessing to these families. Mrs. Harris's advisory group took on a family of five this season and collected upward of fifteen presents with the community's help. Saint Gregory's families donated clothing, toys, and baby necessities. All of the items were delivered by Ms. Meghan to the family this Christmas. We thank Ms. Meghan for the opportunity to spread Christmas spirit and a special thanks to all the families who participated.

-MADY HESSION



## SAVE THE DATE

March 5 - Ash Wednesday Mass

March 14 - PD Day - No classes

April 4 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 4 & 6 Spring Musical

April 5 - SGS Annual Gala

April 11 - Holy Communion Mass

May 26 - SGS Sports Banquet

June 6 - Mass & Commencement Ceremony

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