



THE HOWLER

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT SFA

FALL 2015

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Interviewing Mrs. Scherer

By Annie McDonald

Recently, *The Howler* interviewed our new principal, Mrs. Scherer. We agree that she is not only a great fit for her new job, but there are also some cool facts about her that we think SFA should know. Read for yourself:

Q: How long have you been working in Catholic Education?"

A: "About 25 years."

Q: "Where are you from?"

A: "Urbana, Illinois."

Q: "Where did you go to school?"

A: "Wiley Elementary, Urbana Jr. High, Urbana High School, Illinois St. University, and the University of Illinois."

Q: "What is your favorite sport?"

A: "Showing horses."

Q: "What do you think is the best part about Memphis?"

A: "St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School!"

Q: "What are three words that you would use to describe yourself?"

A: "Happy, curious, and short!"

Q: "What is your favorite book and TV show?"

A: "My favorite book is *Green Eggs and Ham*, and my favorite TV show is *The Voice*."

Q: "What are some of your hobbies?"

A: "Riding horses and outrigger canoeing."

Q: "What is the #1 goal you want to achieve at St. Francis?"

A: "I want to make the school the best it can be."

Q: "What advice do you have for middle school students?"

A: "Be the best you can be.

Work hard and play hard. Enjoy life!"

Q: "What are some things you want the students to know about you?"

A: "I love this school and I love the students."



Mrs. Scherer was a student for Halloween!

St. Francis Goes High Tech

By Laura Schaffler

This year all the middle school students at St. Francis received new Apple MacBook Air laptops. The middle school students are carrying them all over school and getting to take them



Above: Lydia Gillock works diligently on her laptop.

home every night. The students are even getting to put their own stylish cases on them.

The Howler wanted to talk to some

students and teachers to see what they think about the new laptops.

Mrs. McBride said, "I like that my students can do Aleks whenever I want them to, and they can use Schoology to keep up with their homework."

Seventh grader Alina Stark said, "I like the new laptops because it is easier to type the notes that we take instead of writing them." "One bad thing about the new laptops is that I sometimes have trouble connecting to the wifi," said Ella Demilio. Mr. Sweeney, one of the driving forces behind the SFA technology surge said, "We get to do more in class in the same amount of time." Maggie Carkeet, one of our eighth-graders, likes the laptops because the students get to see their quiz and test grades immediately. Mrs. McBride is overwhelmingly in favor of the laptops, but she does see one minor drawback. "I don't like that the students have stopped writing down their homework because it is on Schoology, and they end up not looking on Schoology."

The Howler weighed the opinions of our students and teachers and the great majority of them are very positive about the new technology. The laptops are liked by most throughout the school.

The question we have all been waiting for, do we like them or not, has finally been answered. The new laptops are a big yes at St. Francis!



Mrs. Lenahan loves her new laptop!

Congrats to our Spelling Bee winners!

1st: Maggie Alexander

2nd: Joseph McDaniel

3rd: Matthew Minatra



Not Your Average Dance Team

By Rachel Hosp

A new athletic opportunity has been added this school year for girl students. It is the St. Benedict Eaglettes Dance Team. Tryouts were open to all diocesan girls in sixth through eighth grade. The team is coached by Lindsey Bartholomew who is also the SBA Varsity Dance Team coach. Lindsey is very enthusiastic about her new squad. "I'm so excited to have finally started this new dance team for middle-schoolers! The SBA team has been very successful over the last few years, and I think it's great that we have extended that same opportunity to our middle-schoolers. I'm thrilled with the work ethic and talent level of our young dancers."

The varsity girls will be helping the younger girls by acting as big sisters to teach them dance routines and to provide advice. The team will be learning two dance styles – pom and hip-hop. The girls will be performing at SBA football tailgate parties next year and at JV basketball games this year. Although they're rather inexperienced, the Eaglettes will take part in a competition called "Cheer for the Kids" hosted by SBA. It will be a great chance to make new friends and be among other girls with similar interests.

Team members are very excited and enthusiastic about the new friends they're making and the dances they're learning. Sixth-grader Maddie Cummins said, "The dance team has brought me

many new friends. I love this team!" At a recent practice, Emma Nelson, one of our eighth-graders, excitedly told *The Howler*, "Our team is a family that will last forever." Eighth-grader and team captain Laura Boyd added, "This is not your average dance team!"



2015-2016 Eaglettes Dance Team

Book Review: Merlin

By Jay Schaffler

In this fantasy novel, Emrys and his mother wash up on some distant shore. Emrys has no memory of his past, and his mom won't tell him anything about the place and he desperately wants to forget about it. As they begin to live in this foreign area, Emrys has the longing to find his true home—a place neither on Earth nor in Heaven, but a place in-between. Emrys ventures on a journey to a mythical island to find fantastic beasts and monsters at every turn, his true family, his real name, and some other unexpected surprises.



Classroom Engineering

By Jay Schaffler

Seventh-graders are experiencing hands-on engineering in Mrs. Botto's science class. The students are playing with robots and learning at the same time. With this new system, kids get to learn basic programming skills and problem-solving tactics, yet it feels like a game. If students want to learn even more and want to solve real world problems, they can join the Robotics Club. Up until this year, robotic engineering was only experienced by members of the Robotics Club, but now every seventh-grader gets to build and program these Lego robots.

The Howler interviewed eighth-grader Aidan Fitzpatrick, "I wish that I had had the opportunity to do robotics when I was in seventh grade. It would have been a refreshing break from the usual science class routine." Many eighth-graders probably feel the same way. Daniel Pickett, seventh-grade, commented, "I think it puts a new perspective on engineering and problem solving." Another seventh-grader was also enthusiastic about robotics. "Robotics is a nice change from working in the textbook," said Owen Hensley, "and it helps kids understand engineering."

Overall, this new, innovative method of learning shows what it takes to be an engineer and change the world. It has captivated, intrigued, and challenged students to think of new ways to solve problems.



Right: Ryan Diaz having fun with Robotics!

Right: Congratulations to Austin DeVine for winning the 2015 Lions International Peace Poster Contest!



SFA Sports



SFA 5th grade volleyball team got silver in the PAA championship.



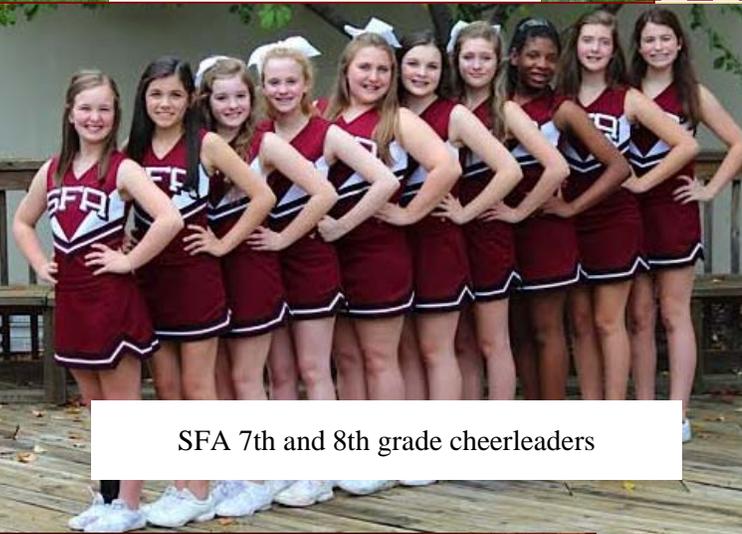
SFA 3rd and 4th grade soccer team



SFA 5th and 6th Football team



SFA 7-8th grade football team won the league championship.



SFA 7th and 8th grade cheerleaders



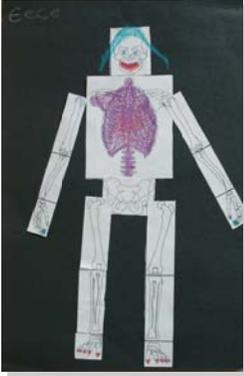
SFA 7-8th grade girls' soccer team, first place champions in the Shelby County League championship



SFA 6th grade volleyball team

SFA 1st and 2nd grade soccer team being silly!





Skeleton
By CeCe Bell,
1st grade



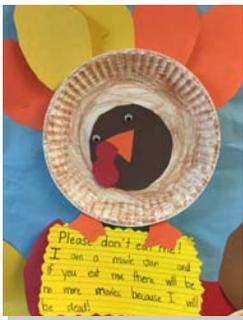
Fall Tree
By Cecelia Odom, Kindergarten



Armpit
By Kathryn Hosp, Weston Alexander, Bianca Brown and James Reid Hamblen, 6th grade



Guy
By Michael Martin,
5th grade



Turkey
By Abigail Cronau, 2nd grade



My Halloween Costume
By Emma Lockwood, 1st grade



The Rose Cross
By Jordan Simpson, 6th grade

Missoula Children's Theater

By Jay Schaffler

Once again, SFA partnered with Missoula Children's Theater to present an amazing performance of *Little Red Riding Hood*. The cast enjoyed acting, and the other students learned what it takes to produce a drama. The motto for this year was "Stay on the path," which is a metaphor for staying true to making good decisions and avoiding peer pressure in real life.



Several pictures from the Missoula performance!

"Worst Fear" By: Molly Butler

