



THE HOWLER

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT SFA

SPRING 2015

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MMI Dining

By: Samantha Barton

Many of you may have noticed that our lunch service was switched from Sodexo to MMI, and there were two reasons why.

Sandra Cole, SFA food service director, as well as Mrs. Brown, assistant principal, said that our



school made this change because Sodexo could not provide certain services that were required by

St. Francis, such as online payment. This is where parents can check their children's balances and see what they purchase for lunch. They can also view the nutritional facts about the daily menu.

Another new feature is the keypad system, which allows students to punch in an assigned number rather than trying to remember to bring their cards every single day. Checkout has become faster due to this change. This is much easier and preferable, given that the line for lunch is usually packed, especially on Fridays.

The Howler asked a student and a faculty member what they thought of the new food service.

Seventh-grader Keegan Dolan said, "It's great! Although I do wish they had more options." Mrs. Botto, the seventh-grade science teacher, commented, "I enjoy the salad bar and all the extra goodies they have."

All in all, MMI Food Services seems to be working out fine. We now have important new high-tech accounting features, and we still have Sandra Cole and her great staff and all the good food they prepare.



By: Marc Piadade

Computer teacher Randie Moore recently introduced the middle school students to a computer program called, SketchUp. It's a three-dimensional modeling program that will help future architects and interior designers. It is used to transform simple drawings into three-dimensional models! In this application, the user can build their own house designs, input their choice of furniture, and add other decorations to make their new design awesome. SketchUp is already used by numerous architects to help with various floor plans and graphic designs.

To make designing easier, SketchUp has added different tools to assist in building amazing creations. One of the tools, the "Follow Me" tool, can be used to add small or large additions around the perimeter of the house such as plant holders for windows or small balconies. Another interesting tool to use is the classic, "Draw Square" or "Draw Circle" tool; it is an interchangeable tool that can help you create the perfect circle, square, or rectangle.

SketchUp's great hurrah is its revolutionary "Push and Pull" tool. This specific tool is able to take boring two-dimensional objects and create three-dimensional shapes. The "Push and Pull" tool is the centerpiece of SketchUp and its possibilities are unlimited.



Student Faculty Volleyball 2015

By: Adam Cummings

Coming back from a vicious defeat by the students last year, the faculty rebounded to win this year's student faculty volleyball game. The students hoped that last year's win would start a winning streak, but it wasn't to be.

In a two out of three match, the games that were played this year were very close, but the teachers won the first two, and that gave them the win. When asked about the match, faculty player Mr. Jeffrey stated, "We are back on top after suffering a demoralizing defeat last year. The cosmos is back in alignment!"

The faculty had pre-game doubts because they had lost one of their starting players, Father Jolly, who is known for his volleyball skills. The students thought that without him they had the advantage. Carson Jones, one of the student players stated that he had fun and enjoyed it even though they lost.

One thing the eighth-graders love about the game is the fact that they get to dress up for it. From kilts to tutus, the students wore some wild costumes. According to Andrew Scruggs, a spectator, "Their outfits were ridiculous."

The atmosphere in the gym was electric, and loyalties frequently changed; the shouts for the students would quickly change in favor of the teachers. From the big-game atmosphere to the outlandish outfits, the student faculty volleyball game is always fun for everyone.



The SFA Variety Show

By: Evan Kubick

On January 27, Saint Francis had its annual Variety Show. This show, organized by Tim Vaziri, is for student performers to show off whatever unique and entertaining skills they have. The show included instrumentalists, dancers, singers, and many other unique categories of entertainment.

In order for students to get into the show, they had to prove their worthiness to Mr. Vaziri and perform for him. Out of the many shows he watched, Vaziri could only choose the performances that stood out in talent and would appeal to an audience of elementary and middle school students. In the end, he chose twenty-one acts to perform and two eighth graders to host.

To kick off the show, Mr. Vaziri had

his very own middle school choir sing for the school. Then the show proceeded to entertain everyone with its variety of acts that kept the audience on the edge of its seat.

Even though every act was outstanding, a few acts were extra special. The most popular acts included Will Thomas's act, Evan Kubick's act, and Sophie Matheson's act. Will Thomas and his always entertaining style sang "Guy on a Buffalo" and played it on his guitar. He even had a humorous video projected for the audience to see to go along with his act! Sophie Matheson played "What Makes You Beautiful" on her drums. Evan Kubick played a combination of "Enter Sandman" and "One," both by Metallica, on his guitar.

Overall, the show was a huge success in the eyes of all present. The audience

included the entire school and the performers were grades four through eight. But no matter what the age or role in the show, everybody was entertained.

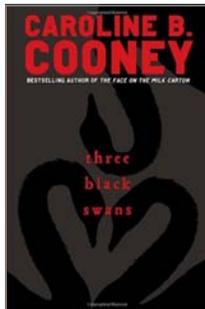


Variety Show 2015

Book Review: *Three Black Swans*

By: Abby Simpson

A fast-paced, jaw-dropping, and thrilling installment from bestselling author, Caroline Cooney, *Three Black Swans* follows the enthralling tale of two cousins, Missy and Claire. Missy and Claire have been inseparably close all of their lives and share an almost uncanny resemblance to each other. When Missy's teacher assigns a project, Missy takes it too far and submits Claire as her long-lost twin in a video. It's all a joke until the news goes viral, spreading all over the nation seemingly overnight, and the families are thrown into chaos. Will the girls find out that the scam they've invented as a joke is really something else? And what happens when another mysterious girl contacts them? Emotional and nail-biting, this book will keep you on the edge of your seat.



Spotlight On: Sophie Matheson

By: Jay Schaffler

Do you remember Sophie Matheson rocking the drums at the talent show? She even made Mrs. Prus go crazy! "I used to be the only female percussionist in my band, so I truly, truly appreciated Sophie's performance," said Mrs. Prus. "It was amazing. She

even got the teachers to dance!" said Hailey Wakefield, Sophie's good friend. Any performance that makes a teacher go crazy is definitely a good performance!

Sophie started drumming last summer, and since then, she has practiced hard. Her grandfather, being a drummer himself, motivated Sophie. Everybody enjoyed how great she was when she got up on stage at the talent show and rocked out! Evan Kubick, another performer in the talent show, said, "She's an awesome performer! I hope I get to hear her perform again."

It doesn't stop there, though! Sophie has another love — basketball. She can often be seen walking across campus with her basketball under her arm. Musician, athlete, and a scholar! Mrs. Prus said Sophie is a straight A student. In conclusion, she is one talented girl!



Let's Go Fly a Kite!
Stephen Morris (K) enjoys Kite Day with 8th grade National Junior Honor Society members.



Marriage of Q and U

Kindergarteners, Ryan Wiggins and Piper Green, are presented to their classmates by 'Father' Don Thompson who officiated the marriage ceremony of Q and U.



Mrs. Chrestman's AP Psychology class from SBA visited the JrK classes on March 18, 2015. Pictured above are former SFA students Maddie Arnold and Ben Jones working with Gracie Kathman, Colton Free and Hudson Duneheew.



Peewee Basketball Team



Sarah Wiggins



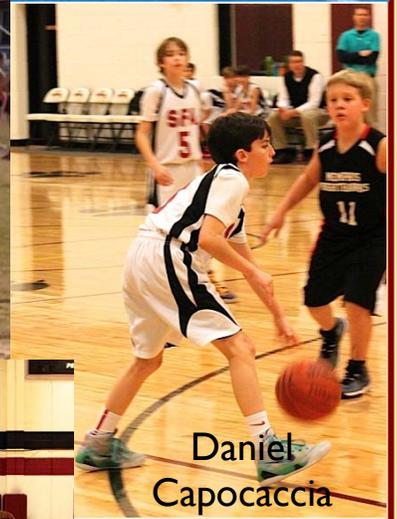
Maggie Carkeet



Emma Wadovick
and her team



Jennifer Sosnowski



Daniel
Capocaccia



Arman Guron



6th grade Boy's Basketball



Peewee
Basketball Team



Sarah Vosburgh



Joshua
Hamman



Grades 3/4 Combo
Girl's Basketball Team



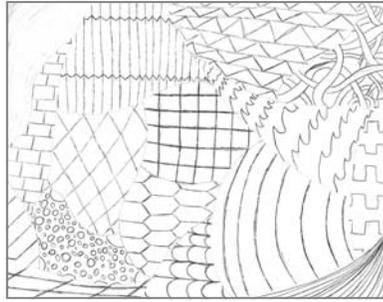
2015 Track Team



Dragon
by Madison Mayhall,
8th grade



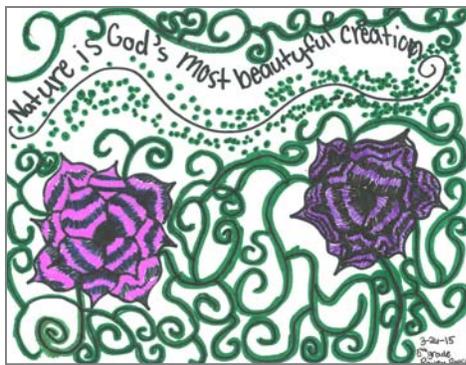
Angel
by Maggie Alexander, 7th grade



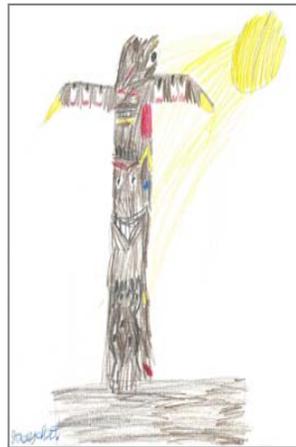
Collage of Shapes
by Erin O'Donnell, 7th grade



Sunflower
by Ryan Beatty, 4th grade



Nature
by Raven Reese, 5th grade



Totem Pole
by Joseph Opferman, 4th grade



Summer Flowers
by Katie Schaffler, 2nd grade

Into the Woods Musical

By: Abby Simpson

This year for the spring musical, Mr. Vaziri brought to life the “fairytale” classic, *Into the Woods*. This play is a fast-paced, entertaining, and humorous production highlighting the strange aspects that make traditional fairy tales so enjoyable. A combination of the classic tales *Rapunzel*, *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Little Red Riding Hood* - *Into the Woods* pokes fun at the misadventures that occur in these stories which all children love. *Into the Woods* has humor, catchy songs, and loveable characters. Annie Wadovick, eighth-grade, said, “I loved it. It was an endearing and nostalgia-inducing twist on my favorite stories.” Will Thomas starred as the Baker through all performances, Emma Twele and Austin DeVine split the role of the baker’s wife. Lauren DeVine and Leah Rumpitz shared the role of the witch. Abby Simpson starred in the significant role of narrator, and Mark Hieatt portrayed Jack admirably. This play was a big success. Both the cast and audience had a great time.



By: Isabella Webb