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Agnes Action

VOLUME 6

ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2015

Mystery Teacher:

by Brady Seiner

Think you can guess the mystery teacher?

The Mystery Teacher's favorite color is blue. She was born in Nebraska. Her favorite food is salmon. She has been teaching for 30 years. Her favorite animal is an alligator. She likes teaching social studies. She has three kids and she drives a blue car.

Have you guessed who she is?

Please turn in your guess to your teacher by Friday, December 18th!



The Pope Visits America!

By Luke Gapp

I know most of you have heard that Pope Francis came to America in September, 2015. I was one of the lucky people that got to attend most of the events with my family. We traveled east for one week in hopes of seeing the Pope.

First, we went to an event in Philadelphia called "The World Meeting of Families". It was a family event where kids got to do lots of activities while the parents attended meetings about Christian faith. My mom, Debbie Gapp said, "Our experience of the World Meeting of Families was amazing with great speakers, music, and a sense of Catholic unity." It was surprising when we ran into Fr. Jeff, from the Newman Center, at the World

Meeting of Families. Of his experience seeing the Pope, he said, "We wanted to meet Christ, and Christ was coming to us through a 78 year old man dressed in white."

The second thing we did was go to Washington D.C. where the Pope addressed Congress and came out to bless the crowd. When the Pope was addressing Congress, he brought up four specific Americans: Abe Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr, Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton (one of the most influential Catholic authors of the twentieth century). Debbie Gapp said, "He humbly challenged our legisla-



tors, while simply stating that America is a great nation from which come saintly people." I think he had a great impact on our U.S. Congress and America. One of the most unexpected things the Pope said to everyone he met while in America was, "Pray for me!"



Syrian Refugees

By Lauren Mockler

People are leaving Syria because of the Civil War and they want a safer life. In 2012, 100,000 refugees left Syria. In April, 2013, 800,000 fled. Today, it's doubled to 1.6 million in 4 months. In October 7, 2015, 7.6 million people or refugees have left Syria. Some have left to Lebanon and Jordan, while others have gone to Egypt and Iraq. Some families are leaving on overcrowded boats across the Mediterranean Sea to Greece from Turkey hoping to get to Europe.

Lebanon has the largest number of Syrian refugees 622,000 people. Jordan has over 490,000 refugees. Turkey has over 450,000 refugees and over 13,000 waiting to be registered. Iraq has over 158,000 refugees. Egypt has the least amount of Syrian refugees with over 97,000. These countries combined have received over 1 billion dollars from the United Nation refugee community. Families walk for miles at night to avoid being shot or caught by soldiers. A lot of kids have to work dangerous jobs to support their families. In some camps, people have set up shops, schools, and playgrounds. Diseases are spreading because of water and sanitation issues. In March 2011, they demonstrated against the government which began the Civil War. At this time there doesn't appear to be an end.



MEET THE TEACHER

by Taryn Taggart

Meet Mrs. Bohnsack.

Mrs. Bohnsack has four kids: 3 boys and 1 girl. Her birthday is Feb. 16th. Her husband's name is James. Her favorite part about St. Agnes is that she gets to see all the kids in the school. Her favorite part about teaching is that she gets to do all different activities all the time. Mrs. Bohnsack wanted to teach because her dad was a teacher and she wants to show kids how to have a healthy lifestyle. Mrs. Bohnsack was born in Adirar, Minnesota. She taught in three different schools before she came to St. Agnes. She taught in Sheridan, Wyoming. Mrs. Hamm said that Mrs. Bohnsack got the job because she was very friendly and easy to talk to. Kambry Job said, "Mrs. Bohnsack is a good teacher because she has really fun games." So far this year Kambry's favorite activity is tennis.

Curved Screens

By Leah Herbster



Have you heard about curved screens on phones? Curved screens on phones can do really cool things! For instance, when the curved phone screen faces down, and you get a message, the sides light up. The only bad part about a curved screen is that it's hard to find screen protec-

tors for it. The curved screen actually fits better in your pocket if the screen is facing your leg because it curves with your body. They cost about \$50 to \$100 more than a flat screen. They do have the same type of glass as a flat screen does, so they

crack the same as a flat screen would. According to Russ who works at Verizon Wireless in Vermillion, "Curved screens do have positives and negatives, but overall, they are good phones."

The Super Blood Moon Eclipse

By Ali Powell

On September 27-28th a Super Blood Moon Eclipse happened. The moon was at its perigee which means it was closest to the Earth. That is when it's a full moon, and a Super Full Moon can look larger and brighter from spectators on Earth. Total eclipses of Super Full Moons are rare.

NASA says they have only occurred 5

times in the 1900's. Solar and lunar eclipses come in pairs. A lunar eclipse always takes place two weeks before or after a lunar eclipse. The same mechanism that causes a Blood Moon to be red is the same mechanism that causes sunsets to be vibrant colors. This mechanism is called Rayleigh Scattering.



Don't worry, the world will not end! That theory is just a myth according to astronomers and scientists. They have no reason to believe that the world will end. The next Super Blood Moon Eclipse will not happen again for another eighteen years!

Advent Trivia by Abby Roob

- 1) What is Advent's seasonal color?
- 2) What does the color stand for?
- 3) Advent is a time for what?
- 4) What do Advent calendars help you do?
- 5) The church celebrates the season of Advent for how many weeks?
- 6) God sent his only son to be what?



(Answers found on page 5)

Illness Strikes Fr. John

By Abby Roob



As many as you know, Fr. John had emergency surgery in mid-October. He was diagnosed with Colon Resection and had to have a large portion of his small intestines removed. It was a very serious illness and surgery. The doctors were surprised that he survived. He stayed in the hospital for ten days. Fr. John could do most everything after he came home from the hospital, but he couldn't walk or drive very far. Fr. John is getting better, but he is facing some challenges. He is very tired and he sleeps over nine hours each night. He really isn't hungry for food. Food doesn't taste that good to him and he says activities take a long time to do.

He has been slowly coming back to work and doing school Masses on Fridays, but he hasn't been up to doing full weekend Masses on his own yet. We have been grateful to Fr. Jeff Norfolk from the Newman Center and Fr. Ken Bain from the Diocese for helping St. Agnes during Fr. John's leave of absence. Thank you to everyone for your prayers for Fr. John! We are fortunate that God has blessed him with healing and the ability to continue his ministry with us!

Cherry Street Dollar Store

By Ali Powell



The Cherry Street Dollar is owned by Dennis Whipple and Sarah Stewart. You can find The Cherry Street Dollar on 7 West Cherry Street in Vermillion. One of the special things about this store is it sells most items for one dollar! But some items are below or above. They have eight employees working for them. They have hundreds of items from candy to cold medicine and everything in between. Customers think the store is clean and organized. The most items sold are school supplies, party items, cookies, snacks, and balloons. According to Dennis Whipple, owner of the store, sales haven't been very good because shoppers haven't changed their shopping habits yet, but they hope to get more business very soon! Altogether, I think Cherry Street Dollar is a great place to shop! Check it out!

Sanford Construction Project

By Mrs. Herbster

SANFORD
Vermillion

No doubt if you've driven on Walker Street, you've noticed there's a lot of construction going on at Sanford Hospital in Vermillion. According to Tim Tracy, CEO of Sanford, this is phase 1 of their big construction plan. There will be a total of 3 phases. He explains, "Phase 1 will modify existing portions of the emergency room to provide additional space while enhancing privacy and security for the staff and patients." They will also be building a new laundry and pharmacy to serve the hospital, clinic, and nursing home. Phase 1 will be completed sometime in mid-December.

Phase 2 will be the removal of the 1933 building and replacing it with a new building. That will be completed in the spring of 2017.

Phase 3 will be the remodeling of a number of other areas and be completed by summer of 2017.

Ms. Pirie

By Lauren Mockler



St. Agnes has been very fortunate to have had many student teachers over the years. Ms. Taylor Pirie has helped for almost two semesters. Last semester, she helped the 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Koppang. Mrs. Koppang said she was a great help because 21 students can be a lot to handle. She also said Ms. Pirie is very compassionate and has a lot of patience. 3rd grader, Hailey Hamm said her favorite thing about Ms. Pirie is her smile and laugh. This semester Ms. Pirie has been student teaching with Mrs. Crowley in Kindergarten.

Ms. Pirie graduated from USD on Dec. 12th and has already been hired to teach 1st grade at Oscar Howe Elementary in Sioux Falls next school year! She was born in Spirit Lake, Iowa, on October 16th. Her favorite food is pasta. If she wasn't teaching she would want to be a zookeeper. Her favorite part of St. Agnes is the community and how we all help each other. She is very proud to announce that SHE'S ENGAGED!!!!!!! She will get married Memorial Day weekend in her hometown. The thing we like the most about Ms. Pirie is that she makes us all smile and she's a great teacher. We will miss her, but wish her well!

St. Agnes Scores Excellent USD Student Teachers!



Miss Megan Schlosser is a USD student teacher and has been assigned this past semester to 1st grade at St. Agnes. She will be leaving after the semester to student teach Special Education at Jolley Elementary and VHS. She already has a job next year teaching Special Education at Oscar Howe Elementary School in Sioux Falls through the USD PDC program to get her Master's Degree.



Miss Marissa Fallesen is also a USD student teacher and assigned to 3rd grade at St. Agnes for the full year! Miss Fallesen is also in the Army. She will graduate in May of 2016.

Divergent Book Review

By Autumn Waters

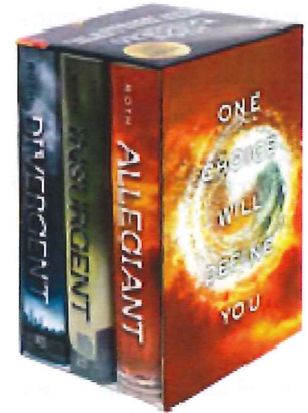
Divergent is a book series that is a science fiction, action, and romance novel. Tris, the main character of the series, was born into "Faction", (which is part of a split up city).

When she turned 16, she was allowed to transfer to another Faction. Some Factions center around intelligence, some around kindness, and some around self-defense or bravery.

In the series, Tris lives through all the Factions. The Factions are: Abnegation, Amity, Candor, Dauntless, and Erudite. All Factions focus on something different. For example, Candor focuses on honesty.

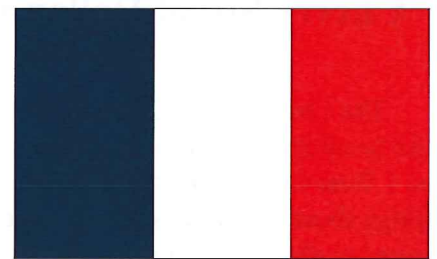
There are some violent parts in this book as well as mature words, and affections, so be prepared if you or your child plan on reading this series. The series is a trilogy, so if you're interested in

books like: the Maze Runner, Harry Potter, Twilight, or the Hunger Games, then I would recommend this series.



ISIS ATTACKS

by Quinten Stange



I.S.I.S. is a terrorist organization that has done some nasty things. The most recent bombing was on a plane and in the heart of France. Scientists have speculated whether I.S.I.S. did it or not, but 99.9% of them are certain they did it. So, why are they so certain? Well one reason why is because there are intercepted communications that say they did it, but they did not say how. So, the question arises whether they even did it. The cockpit and plane recorder indicate it was not an accident. People are asking how did the bomb get on the plane or was it made by a lithium battery? The battery is explosive so it could have gone off at any time!

Based on the information, I.S.I.S. did it and not another terrorist group called Al Queda because I.S.I.S. attacks randomly regardless of bystanders. Eight brothers wrapped in explosive belts with machine rifles targeted sites with precision near the heart of France. The reason why is because they hate Francois Holland, the President of France. In conclusion, there is fear that I.S.I.S. is getting more dangerous.

Thank you to all of the student teachers for their contributions at St. Agnes School!

Christmas Program 2015
by Sydney Christensen



This year the St. Agnes music teacher, Mrs. Schuh prepared a country themed Christmas program for the school. It was held in the gym at 7:00pm on December 9th. Mrs. Schuh said that when she prepares a concert, it takes more planning than work, and she also said that she likes to get the students' approval to see if the students like the music and if they think it's funny. It is a tradition to have a Christmas Concert, so that is why she does it every year.

Every 5th grader has a part in the play. Abby Roob who played Rachel, had a solo. Abby says that she was really nervous to do her part, and she said she cried a little right after she was done with her song because people clapped for her. "They were tears of happiness and relief," said Abby.

The plot was about how Rachel's cousin typically travels around the world during the holidays, but this year she spends it in Custard County. She discovers that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and spending time with family, not WHERE you spend it.

Mrs. Schuh was very proud of the students and their performance! Their performance paid off. A special thanks to Mrs. Andre who helped with background music, and to the Knutson family who donated hay and country props.

St. Agnes Students: Where Are They Now?

By Autumn Waters



For the school's first addition of St. Agnes Students – "Where Are They Now?" I interviewed Sarah Merrigan who went to St. Agnes for pre-school through 5th grade from 1990 to 1997. Sarah is Catholic and thinks that St. Agnes is a good school that instills strong values and morals into people, no matter their religion. Sarah graduated college with a degree in Elementary Education and is now a second grade teacher. St. Agnes helped Sarah by telling her that the most important things that we teach children is not found in textbooks, but rather we need to teach children life lessons and how to treat people.

Sarah thinks that St. Agnes really helped her in middle school and high school, too. She thinks that St. Agnes helped her with that big transition from elementary to middle school by preparing her to make good choices and be her own person. Sarah thinks she was lucky to enter that stage of life knowing what was right versus what was wrong. Sarah thinks that St. Agnes is different compared to a public school because it's smaller and the teachers get a chance to work with each individual. Sarah worked for Red and Gold for two years and attends Mass when she's in Vermillion. Sarah thinks that the new school addition is beautiful, and she's happy for all the staff and students, but the orange chairs in the gym are still the same. She still keeps in touch with her classmates through social media and some of her best friends went to St. Agnes as well!

NEW Church & School Parking Lot!

By Brady Seiner

The new school parking lot took about a month and half to complete. According to Project Manager, Todd Larsen, the old parking lot originally had 109 parking spaces, but now it has 122. They plan to rip up the old parking lot in the spring and put down new concrete to match the new lot. When totally complete, it will have 165 parking spaces. The concrete is 6 inches deep with a 10 inch crushed concrete base. The strength of the concrete is 4,000 psi (pounds per square inch).

"I love the new parking lot! It's so nice to have spaces available and not have to park on the street," stated teacher, Mrs. Herbster.



Advent Trivia Answers



1) PURPLE

2) Penance

3) Waiting and Preparing for Jesus

4) Helps you count down days until Jesus's birth

5) Four weeks

6) The Savior of All People

The Peanut Movie

by Leah Herbster

The Peanuts Movie (which came out in theaters in November) is a funny movie. The movie is great, especially for little kids. It's rated G. The movie is mainly about Charlie Brown feeling like he doesn't belong. The Little Red Hair girl is in the movie quite a bit. The rest of the Peanut gang is in the movie along with Snoopy. My favorite part is when Lucy says she WON'T pull the football away, but she does anyway and then Charlie Brown falls right on his back. This movie is for all ages, not just kids. The Peanuts characters have been around since the 1980's. The creator, Charles Schulz was born in 1922 and died in 2000. He was from St. Paul, Minnesota. It's pretty cool that the characters he created are just as loved today as they were 35 years ago!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS WORD FIND

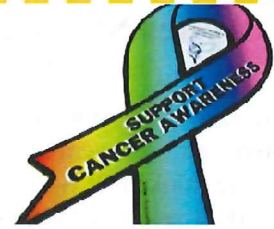
By Caleb Emerson

C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
G	J	Z	u	L	g	A	j	A
D	R	s	q	E	v	R	z	N
E	C	l	p	I	d	Y	f	T
L	E	d	k	G	p	c	j	A
B	G	v	d	H	x	m	o	v
A	N	r	Y	E	K	N	O	D
T	A	p	s	g	o	b	f	y
S	M	s	H	P	E	S	O	J

santa	Mary
sleigh	manager
stable	Joseph
donkey	Christmas

Cancer Awareness

By Sydney Christensen



Cancer is a terrible disease that not only affects the person with cancer, but their loved ones as well. Cancer is a disease where abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and destroy body tissue. In other words, it's a bad thing.

Cancer can form tumors, but some cancers such as Leukemia do not form tumors, it affects the blood cells. For women breast cancer is most common, for men prostate cancer is most common. Did you know that at least 1 out of 2 men will get cancer and 1 out of 3 women will get cancer? This means men are more likely to get cancer.

Fortunately some cancers can be treated. The three main ways are, surgery which is where doctors remove the tumor directly, chemotherapy which is where doctors use chemicals to kill cancer cells, or Radiation Therapy which is where doctors use x-rays to kill cancer cells.

There are ways to prevent cancer such as: not smoking, staying fit, wearing sunscreen, eating fruits and vegetables, not taking illegal drugs, and not eating red meat in excess. A large amount of cancer research has been done, and it continues to be a growing research project.

Fun facts about St. Agnes, the students and staff participated in fundraisers to show our support for cancer awareness. The student body brought one dollar in to the school for a choice of pants and a shirt the color of a cancer. We raised about \$125.00

In conclusion, cancer is a devastating disease and there are some ways it can be dealt with, but scientists are still trying to find a cure. In the meantime, everyone can help those with cancer by showing our support through doing fundraisers, bringing awareness to the disease, as well as ways to prevent it.

Football Safety

By Caleb Emerson



There are 3 million youth football players in the U.S. alone. As of November 4, 2015, there have been 8 high school deaths in football. To Andre Smith's teammates his brother, Erick, had this to say; "Just be aware, protect yourself, and be cautious because something as simple as a football injury can end a whole life."

There are a couple of things that could increase game safety. The first would be enforcing illegal head first hits (or head to head hits) which has been against the rules since 1976. Coaches and referees don't always enforce that rule. The second is wearing 5 star helmets instead of 4 or lower which will help prevent concussions.

In the summer, football can be a dangerous sport because of the heat and players can become overheated. Coaches need to give their players water breaks. If they don't stay hydrated, their body can shut down and they can die. On extremely hot days, coaches need to consider having their players practice without football pads.

High School Soccer

By Taryn Taggart



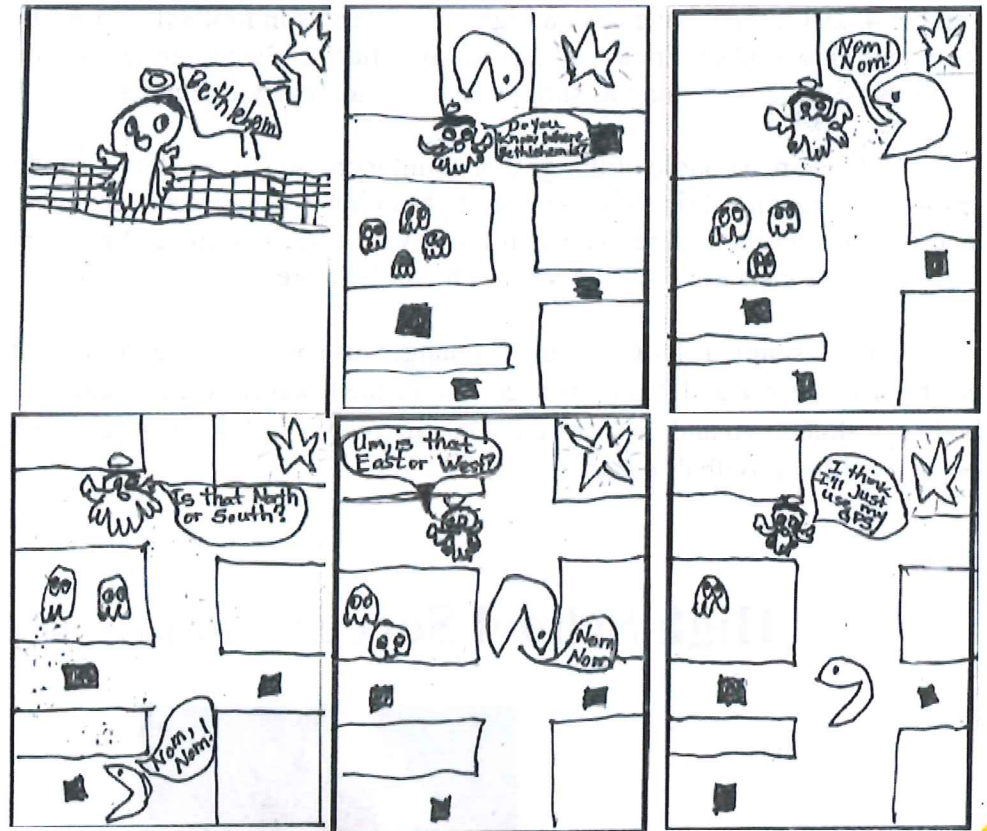
This year was the 2nd year girls soccer was a high school sanctioned sport and the 1st year the boy's soccer team was sanctioned. Neither team receives any funding from the school district. High school soccer has fundraised by selling Tanager cards, raffle tickets, having a car wash, and this thing called " Tanked ", where they put a toilet in peoples yards and people would have to pay to get the toilet out of their yards. Thousands of dollars were also donated by athlete's families, community members, and businesses.

Madie Gregoire is a junior on the girls team, and did very well this year. They were coached by Shannon Fitzsimmons. They only lost one game this season. Madie said their worst lost was in Regions against West Central because they lost in a shootout. Madie said one of the worst injures was when Cheyenne Mallory, a senior, tore her ACL in their last game. Madie played outside left defender. Her favorite place to play soccer was in Vermillion. She said their toughest opponent was Tea. She also said the best part about playing soccer is being with friends.

Ross Dollhoff is a freshman on the boys team said the boys did well, even though they were down 3 seniors by their last game. There were 5 seniors, but 3 got injured. Their record was 1-1-5. Their coach was Curt Nelson. Ross's favorite place to play was at Tea Stadium or Sioux Falls Christians Stadium because of the turf. He said their toughest opponent was Sioux Falls Christian. On the varsity team, he played right blocker/wing and on the JV team, he played defensive mid field. His best experience was that he got to be on the varsity team. Their closest game was against Freeman Academy and that ended in a tie. His favorite thing about playing soccer is getting to know new people and building teamwork.

COMICS

By
Luke
Gapp



Agnes Action has been published by the 5th graders at St. Agnes School in Vermillion.

This Project Based Learning Assignment was directed by their writing teacher, Mrs. Herbster.

A special thank you to all those that took special time to be interviewed and/or be photographed.

Everyone in the 5th grade participated with specific jobs: editors, art/logo designers, managers, layout designers, comics, coloring page, word find, trivia & photographer.