

Shepherd's Staff



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Achievement Tests! By: Ellie Martin

From March 21st -29th, students of Good Shepherd Lutheran School will be taking the Stanford achievement tests.

These week and a half long tests are taken to see how the students are doing academically and to make sure they are learning on schedule.

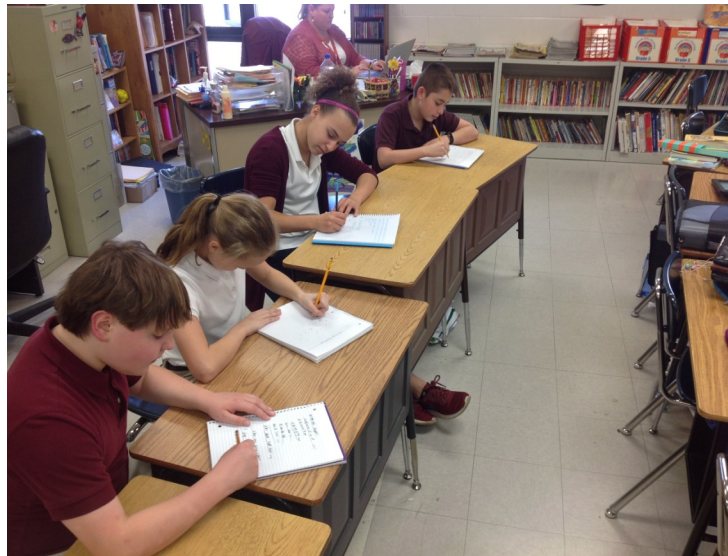
The students are given a booklet with the questions and a

scantron sheet to record their answers. The tests are taken in their homerooms.

Some students love the achievement tests. Lillie Cuddeback of the sixth grade says, "I prefer test week. It's nice to change it up once in awhile, and to be honest, I like that we don't have homework." Abbey Goetter,

also of the sixth grade says, "They are stressful because, what if you don't pass? I also don't like that they are

Students have different opinions about the achievement tests, but what do you think?



Sixth Grade Students Practicing for Their Upcoming Achievement Test.

really long and hard."

The achievement tests are accomplished in complete silence to make sure everybody can focus well on their task. Sometimes the teachers will let the students bring healthy snacks to eat so that they stay focused and aren't hungry.

The School Auction

By: Clara Rainey

Every year Good Shepherd has an auction to raise money. This year the auction is on Saturday, March 18th, and is held at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in the gymnasium.

The auction is the most successful fundraiser for Good Shepherd. Each classroom has an auction basket, and students are encouraged to bring in things for their classroom basket. These donations are a big part of why the auction is so successful. This year, the first grade auction basket theme is gardening. One of the Jr. high teachers, Ms. Combs, has a spa day classroom basket. Fifth grade has a grilling basket. These are just a few of the

baskets available at this year's auction.

Mr. Mayhew, the principal, said, "The auction is



the largest fund raiser at Good Shepherd. Some of the money will go to build a Makerspace in our school; the rest goes to educational purposes." He also said, "We raise up to \$30,000 to \$35,000 (each year).

Since the auction raises so much money, there is a lot to do to get ready for it. Mrs. Overby, a parent and member of the auction committee, said, "We have to contact people to get donations. We also have to rent decorating items and hire people to prepare food." Lots of people give donations, so there are a lot of tables. Mrs. Overby said, "Last year we had 15 tables full of baskets, and the tables were eight feet long."

This is Good Shepherd's 33rd annual auction. Many people come to the auction, and this is why it is the largest fundraiser at Good Shepherd.

"The auction is the largest fund raiser at Good Shepherd. Some of the money will go to build a Makerspace in our school; the rest goes to educational purposes." —Mr. Mayhew

Solo and Small Ensemble Contest

By: Grace Combs

The Solo and Small Ensemble Contest took place on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Coolidge Junior High in Granite City, Illinois. This year Good Shepherd had 90 student entries in this competition. These entries were composed of music and band students from third grade through eighth grade. Each of the students involved in this contest either performed a musical instrument or vocal solo in front of a judge. Some students chose to perform a musical piece in a small ensemble, and many of Good Shepherd's students participated in multiple solos and ensembles.

The Solo and Small Ensemble Contest has been around for many years. This contest is organized by a group of music teachers called the Illinois Grade School Music

Association, and they have been doing this every year for 80 years to help students improve in their musical talents. These teachers offer their time and talents to make this contest happen, and they only charge six dollars for each solo and five dollars per person in an ensemble.

Mr. Stegman, the music director of Good Shepherd says, "Kids improve most during the time they are preparing for this contest because they are all practicing hard on their solos and trying to do a really good job. This contest is a really good opportunity for kids, and it allows them to perform on their own rather than with the band."

Morgan Overby says, "I like this contest because kids get to show their personalities in music."

The students of Good Shepherd did really well in this contest. All together, Good Shepherd students earned 55 Division I ratings and 19 Superior (perfect score) ratings. Along with the students who received Division I Superiors, many students are eligible to attend the IGSMA State Solo and Ensemble competition at Triad Middle School on Saturday, May 6th, 2017.

Good Shepherd is proud of all the brave students who participated in this contest, and they are especially grateful to Mr. Stegman, who taught many free private lessons and accompanied over 40 students, so they could perform their best in this contest.

"Kids improve most during the time they are preparing for this contest because they are all practicing hard on their solos and trying to do a really good job."

—Mr. Stegman

Jr. Olympiad
By: Andrew Hilmes and Ms. Combs

On Wednesday, March 8th, four of Good Shepherd's best problem-solving students participated in the Jr. Olympiad at the Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Sixth grader Kanalu W., seventh graders Megan H. and Sydney S., and eighth grader Justin W. were chosen by their teachers to form this four-person team.

During the Olympiad competition, these students completed various challenges to make them think "outside the box." They also

had to practice working as a team. This year these students



Justin W., Sydney S., Meghan H., and Kanalu W.

had to use their engineering skills to build a tower, they had to solve mathematical puzzles, and they had to complete a

geography trivia test. The team did very well overall; they placed 22nd out of 43 teams, but they were the first to finish the geography test, and they received all the points for that part of the competition. The Olympiad is sponsored by the Madison County Regional Office of Education. They support this competition so they can provide students with problem solving opportunities, which require higher level thinking and group task skills.

Got Talent?!
By: Emma Hill

Do you know what your special talent is? Well, if you do, bring it to the Good Shepherd Talent Show! There is no age limit, so bring on the talent! Good Shepherd is having a talent show on Tuesday, March 14th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the Good Shepherd gym.

This Talent show is brought to you by Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Maske. Students will be performing acts from singing to dancing.

Many students are excited that Good Shepherd has a talent show. Olivia Johnes, a fifth grader, said, "Yes, I am very happy Good Shepherd has a talent show."

There will be many different acts in this year's talent show. Kylie Brunton and Claire Garkie said, "We are singing in the talent show."

This year there are 12 participants in the talent show, but there will be no

chance to show their talent. Come and support Good Shepherd students by attending this year's talent show!



winner, because there are no judges. Mrs. Daniels says, "I don't think that the students should be judged on their act. They should not be afraid to go out there and do their act."

The talent show is held every year at Good Shepherd, and many students look forward for the

Amazing Alumni

By: Nyah Rameriz

On February 6th, 2017, Alumni Night was held in Good Shepherd Lutheran School's gymnasium. Alumni night is a night when students and teachers who have graduated from Good Shepherd Lutheran School, come back to watch a basketball game and reunite with each other. Different alumni, like Elise Halbrooks, came to watch this thrilling basketball game played by some amazing Good Shepherd students. There was also an amazing band playing that night led by Mr. Stegman, the school's music director, who also did an amazing job.

Good Shepherd planned alumni night by putting the word out and making sure most of the alumni knew about this special night. They did this to reunite those who

have graduated or left Good Shepherd Lutheran School and invite them to watch a student basketball game.

Alumni night was exciting." Both the band and teams tried their very best to make the game enjoyable for the alumni.

"It felt exciting, having all of the alumni cheering for us."

—Grace Combs



Alumni Enjoying the Game and Reuniting with Friends

Good Shepherd's team won the game. One of the basketball players, Grace Combs, said, "It felt exciting, having all of the alumni cheering for us."

One of the band members, Clara Rainey, said, "Everybody tried their hardest.

The Amazing Track Team

By: Olivia Johnes

Every year we have a track team, but does everybody know about it? Mr. Krueger and Mr. Voss are the coaches. Track has two sections, which are track and field. When you do track, you have a choice of 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1600 meter runs; you also have relays and hurdles. If you do field events, you have a choice of shot put, discus, high jump, long jump, triple jump, or softball throw. The practices are held at school and the meets are at different high schools. This year's track season officially begins on Monday, March 20, 2017.

Mr. Krueger, one of the coaches said, "I did track myself, and I did it because I

Good Shepherd's first track team was formed in the spring of 1985. Mr. Mayhew said "When they (founding members) were in the meeting to determine what sports and activities they would have at Good Shepherd, track and field were one of the sports that came to mind."

If you are interested in joining the Good Shepherd track team, it's not too late to sign up! Join now and see what you can accomplish if you work hard and have fun!



2017 Junior Track Team



2017 Senior Track Team

loved it." He also said, "I started to coach because I love track and love teaching kids how to do it."

Valentine's Day

By: Morgan Overby

Valentine's Day is the day of the class parties. Students get to play games and have snacks. The Valentine's party is always at Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

Do the student's and teacher's really know why we celebrate Valentine's Day?

Mr. Mayhew said, "We have Valentine's Day . . .

. . . to respect our classmates and hand out cards (which help us) grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ."

Mr. Krueger said, "It is a way to share Christ's love for other people."

The real reason we



celebrate Valentine's Day is years ago in ancient Rome there was a mean king. The king did not like seeing people getting married and he was very cruel and he started a lot of wars. In the same city, there lived a priest named St. Valen-

tine, and he spent most of his time in his garden and loved seeing young couples get married or even in love. St. Valentine married people in secret. The King found out and sent his soldiers to arrest St. Valentine and took him to the dungeon where he would wait until he would be executed.

Legend has it that St. Valentine became close friends with the jailer's daughter. It is believed that he left her a farewell note, signed "From your Valentine." St. Valentine died on February 14, 270. Valentine's Day is celebrated now in memory of St. Valentine's death and his sacrifice for love.

President's Day

By: Meghan Sommer

Every year Good Shepherd celebrates President's Day in February, but what is President's Day?

In 1971, a bill was passed in the United States which declared the third Monday of February as President's Day. Many people thought it was good to have a day to celebrate all presidents, not just Washington and Lincoln.

Today, it can be referred to as either President's Day or Washington's Birthday.

Clara Rainey, from Good Shepherd Lutheran School, said, "President's Day is when we celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lin-

coln's birthdays."

Emily Pinkel, also from Good Shepherd, said, "It's a day to honor and celebrate Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays."

Illinois also had a third president, Ronald Reagan, who had a birthday in February as well. We ignore him, too!



Interestingly enough, Illinois, known as the "Land of Lincoln", officially celebrates the day as Washington's Birthday, not as President's Day.

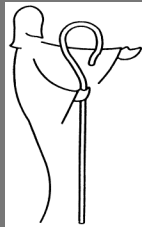
How's that for a twist on presidential birthdays? Of course,

"It's a day to honor and celebrate Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays."
—Emily Pinkel

Open House

By: Emily Pinkel

Good Shepherd is having an Open House for all grades Sunday, March 26, 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in visiting our school or know someone who might be, please consider visiting Good Shepherd on this date and bring a friend!



About *Shepherd's Staff* Writers

This edition of *Shepherd's Staff* was written, edited and published by Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Journalism 101 class, which is composed of fifth and sixth grade students. The newspaper is a culminating project of this quarter-long course. During this class, students analyzed many local and national news articles. They learned the key components of a news story, the importance of a good lead, and the value of citizen interviews.

Students were involved in every step of producing and publishing this newspaper. In addition to writing the stories, they also determined the newspaper layout and the arrangement of the articles.