

## Curriculum

continued from p. 4

students used their skills, including, main idea and supporting detail knowledge, grammar use, cooperation, and critical thinking skills, to complete the challenge. In social studies, students are learning about maps and globes by participating in the Flat Stanley project.

Third Grade is studying multiplication and will get ready to master the facts 0-12 in the upcoming weeks. They will be excited to learn about the Multiplication Ice Cream Sundae challenge to come! Third grade language arts completed a descriptive writing and learning exercise about the parts of a paragraph. Each student created a Frankenstein and then wrote a detailed paragraph to explain his/her "monster".

Fourth grade science classes ran experiments on how to grow mold and attended the Butler County Water Festival [see story p. 3]. Fourth graders also wrote stories that reflected their descriptive writing study. Mrs. Carroll's class wrote about their pumpkin pal and Mrs. White's class wrote about haunted houses.

### Intermediate: Grades 5-6

Fifth grade science students presented a "Bone" project where they created a song, poem or skit to learn the scientific name and location of 17 bones in our skeletal system. In social studies, fifth graders have been studying economics. They have learned the importance of, and reasons for, a budget, as well as, saving for future expenses. Mrs. Harig's grade five students are reading the book *Wonder* and identifying character traits while exploring themes that we can apply to our own lives. (We are anxiously awaiting the release of the movie so that we can take a field trip to see it and compare the media to the text!)

Sixth grade science is working on a Powerpoint group presentation about one particular weather storm system. Channel 12 meteorologist, John Gumm, visited our classes to talk about his career. Sixth grade language arts students are working on making writing more detailed and specific. They buried overused "dead" words, wrote a eulogy for them, and had a funeral in class.

### Junior High: Grades 7-8

The seventh graders are realizing the payoff from the hard work they dedicated to their science fair papers as they prepare to run their experiments and gather data! They are also reviewing working with data/charts/graphs in preparation for the next step for Science Fair. Seventh grade science students are studying genetics and heredity by making Punnett squares to determine the predicted outcome of offspring.

In language arts, the eighth grade just finished up a poetry unit where they wrote poems using rhyme scheme, iambic pentameter, and figurative language. Cincinnati Air visited and worked with the eighth grade math classes. The kids learned about trades involved in building a water park and solved real life problems associated with the task. Grade eight has started their stock market game simulation where they invest \$100,000 (fake money) in the stock market. Eighth grade science is studying the elements and their properties. They will each be making a model of their chosen element as well as a presentation for the class.

### Specials: All Grades

In technology, sixth grade just started their first programming unit: basic HTML and web design.

In art, the sixth and seventh grade classes are learning about the printmaking process. The sixth grade students learned about the Pop Art movement and are drawing icons, logos, or symbols on styrofoam and using multiple colors of ink to print their images. The seventh grade students are drawing stylized animals on linoleum blocks and using carving tools to create their animal prints.

In music, the seventh grade is watching *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, which is an allegory for the life of Jesus. They are looking for symbolism and connections between the two.

In library, students reviewed main story elements; such as, character, setting, and theme using a variety of output methods including posters, charts, drawings and even Play-Doh creations!

Students in Spanish class have been learning about The Pulsera Project which is a non-profit organization that enriches Central American communities and US students through empowerment and education.

In physical education, students started the year with an exercise unit and have transitioned to sports, including volleyball and soccer. Students have been concentrating on strengthening their skill levels during each PE unit.



Proud 2nd graders completed the Bat Cave Challenge in time for Halloween.



# VOLUNTEER VOICES

November 2017

Grow in Faith, Live in the Spirit

## Family Participates in Houston Hurricane Relief Efforts

Tina Pratt

MTCES Trustee and mother of two MTCES students, Michelle Kiigi, is also the founder and Executive Director of the non-profit organization named Kilazo Kizuri, which was founded earlier this year. Kilazo Kizuri is Swahili and translates to "A Good Bed." The non-profit does just that...it provides baby boxes to new mothers who do not have access to a crib. The box is "baby friendly," made with highly sanitized robust cardboard box materials that are produced with eco-friendly materials and certified with a non-toxic mattress. The baby box by itself is a safe baby sleeper."

Most of the work that Kilazo Kizuri does is to help mothers in Kenya by providing them resources and vocational training to help empower them, however, with the recent natural disasters in the US; Kilazo Kizuri started a special project to help families affected by Hurricane Harvey. Michelle elaborates:

"Kilazo took a step to provide comfort to babies and infants who together with their families were forced to evacuation centers, school halls and other crowded shelters. While the

continued on p. 3



Bedan Keigi Njenga and Michelle Kiigi (back row center) with their daughters Njeri and Nungari (front) visit Houston.

## Fall Athletes Bring on the School Spirit

Noel Balster

The fall sports season has come to a close, and our MTCES athletes did not disappoint. Our talented competitors brought home tournament championships, 1st places finishes, and the hardware for the school's trophy case. [Refer to the box on p. 2 for athletic achievements.]

One of the season's highlights was the *double* White Out on October 13<sup>th</sup>. That Friday night, an enormous crowd of students, family members, faculty, and staff gathered in the student center for the final home games of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls volleyball teams, Team Cline and Team Hartman. School spirit was in abundance, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class displayed an outpouring of support and camaraderie. "The turnout for the games was amazing, and it was wonderful to see the 8<sup>th</sup> graders so excited about cheering on their classmates."

continued on p. 2



8th grade volleyball Team Cline gets pumped up for its White Out game.

## Fall Athletes

*continued from p. 1*

said parent Amy Schmitt.

8th grader Addison James designed the season's White Out T-shirts. Addi said, "I knew my class wanted to incorporate the words 'raise the roof' in the design, so I worked off of that." She does not consider herself an artist, but was responsible for creating the first MTCES White Out shirt that officially sold out.

During the season-ending pep rally on October 26th, the student body gathered to recognize our football players who participate in the Golden Bears program and all girls volleyball players. Many faculty members shared their volleyball talents during the traditional 8th grade vs. faculty volleyball game. The faculty was victorious with a score of 15-13.

Best of luck to our boys and girls basketball teams who are gearing up for the winter sports season!

## Girls Volleyball Achievements

**Greater Cincinnati Catholic Youth Sports (GCCYS) League Standings:**

League Champions— 3rd grade Hampton, 5th grade Harmeyer\*

League 2nd Place— 4th grade Molina, 5th grade Schmitt\*

League 3rd Place— 5th grade Tereba\*, 7th grade Breissinger, 7th grade Brewer, 8th grade Cline

\*In their division, the 5th grade took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

**GCCYS Tournament Results:**

Tournament Champions— 3rd grade Platinum-Mould, 3rd grade Copper-Culley, 4th grade Gold-Molina, 4th grade Platinum-Williamson, 5th grade Gold— Harmeyer

Tournament Runner Up— 4th grade Bronze-Walker, 5th grade Silver— Tereba



Above left: Addi James proudly displays her sell-out T-shirt design and her school spirit. Above Right: 8th grade volleyball teams and their supportive classmates at the double White Out.

## Fall Festival Fun

Bridgett Risk

MTCES student council members, sixth and seventh graders, and junior high teachers collaborated to make this year's Fall Festival a fun time for all who attended. The event offered MTCES families a night out to enjoy bouncy houses and games for the kids and a spaghetti dinner for all. Student council members worked to serve the dinner, bus tables, and provide the desserts, while sixth and seventh graders ran a variety of games for the younger kids in attendance. Two MTCES families, the Saleks and the Shuttes, were once again instrumental in providing the food for the dinner. The money raised at the event went to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament school and orphanage in Haiti.

Right: The Fall Festival put 1st grader Molly Couch and little sis Nora in the Halloween spirit.



## First Quarter Curriculum Highlights

Amanda Ocariz

From making pumpkin bread to learning the skeletal system, the students at MTCES are engaged in learning. The following is a list of "great learning going on" throughout the MTCES building. As the list progresses from kindergarten to 8th grade, it is incredible to see the academic growth that develops each year.

**Lower Grades K-4:**

Kindergarten is working on pumpkins. Students observed the inside and outside of pumpkins. They learned about the life cycle of pumpkins and tasted pumpkin seeds to create a class graph.

First graders in Mrs. Castrejon's class just finished a unit on bats where they read many nonfiction books, compared birds to bats, measured the wingspan of a bat using different units of measurement, and conducted some science experiments investigating more about a bat's sense of smell as well as their use of echolocation. Mrs. Couch's first grade students participated in a super hero hunt for super silent "e." Mrs. Bauer's class learned about pumpkins, writing pumpkin facts and learning about the pumpkin life cycle. Students participated in a pumpkin how-to, making a snack out of pudding, spices, graham crackers and whipped topping, and recording project steps. Most importantly, students sampled pumpkin bread!

Mrs. Holleran's second grade students presented short plays, where the kids worked on public speaking skills, voice inflection and projection, and dialect. Also in grade two, students recently had a cumulative comprehension challenge called the "Bat Cave Challenge". The

*continued on p. 3*

## Hurricane Relief Efforts

*continued from p. 1*

families were appreciative of having somewhere to sleep, the babies were exposed to sleeping in sleeping bags with their parent(s) and other family members."

The weekend of October 13, Michelle and her family, including her children Nungari and Njeri, traveled to Houston where they teamed up with West Houston Assistance Ministries (WHAM) to provide supplies to families who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Kizuri sold t-shirts to raise funds, as well as received donations from MTCES families and from Michelle's parish. MTCES raised \$750 that contributed towards the cause. With the total funds raised, Kilazo Kizuri was able to deliver 30 baby boxes and 50 care packages that included: diapers, baby blankets, onesies, Vaseline, baby wash, and baby lotion.

While in Houston, they were able to see 15 families who were recipients of the boxes and care packages. Since then, WHAM has been sending them pictures and stories from the families who have received the boxes. They will also be sending packages to Puerto Rico to the families who were affected by Hurricane Irma. For more information or to donate, visit <http://www.kilazokizuri.org/>



Nungari (right) looks on as a baby rests in a new baby box.

## Fourth Grade Field Trip to Water Festival

Lori White

MTCES fourth graders were lucky to attend the Butler County Children's Waterfest last month at Miami University in Hamilton. The event is presented by the Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District and offered free of charge to fourth grade classes from schools throughout Butler County. Activities and presentations given by volunteer presenters and guides focused on protecting the water supply for people, plants, and animals and on taking care of ecosystems. Students learned about flood control with a simulated model of a flood plain that demonstrated how forests are better equipped to prevent flooding than are streets and parking lots. They also got to test the pH balance of acids and bases using litmus paper, learn about where groundwater comes from, and taste a sample of pure, clean Hamilton groundwater.

In addition to great presentations, the students watched a live bird show and got to sing and dance along with a musical show called Wade in the Water about how animals need clean water. Critter Outreach provided students with up close visits with various animals including a boa constrictor and a chinchilla. The kids had opportunities to touch the animals and enjoyed watching the chinchilla take a dust bath! Waterfest is a great event that offers many hands on educational activities on a very important topic.

