

School prayer service marks one year anniversary of COVID-19 pandemic

EXETER – Exactly one year after transitioning to distance learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic, students from Wyoming Area Catholic School came together in-person on March 12 to mark the anniversary with a prayer service.

“It was beautiful. It was a chance to reflect and that was the whole point, focusing on where we’ve come and where we’re going and that we are so lucky to be in school now and look at what we’ve accomplished,” principal Eileen Rishcoff said.

Rishcoff said teacher Toni Griseto first suggested marking the anniversary with some type of event filled with hope. School administrators and teachers quickly settled on holding a prayer

service. Initially, the event was going to be held inside the school gym but that is when the weather warmed up and they were able to go outside.

“The fact that it was such a beautiful day, it all fell into place. I’m a true believer that God intervenes and we were able to go outside,” Rishcoff added.

Wearing masks and remaining six feet apart, the students all came together on the front lawn of Wyoming Area Catholic School.

The prayer service was actually the first time all 146 students came together for an event in the last year.

“We’ve kept everybody in their own classrooms for the whole year, lunches and everything and

this was the first time they were all together anywhere for the whole school year,” Rishcoff explained. “When I mentioned that, they all started cheering.”

In addition to the prayer service, students also spent time in their religion classes reflecting on how “good things” can come from something that is “bad.”

The gathering of students was visible to many drivers passing by the school. That is because the former Saint Cecilia Church’s abandoned convent, rectory and garages were razed earlier this year.

The demolition has made the school much more visible.

“Our school is beautiful and nobody even knew we existed back here!” Rishcoff joked.



Students from Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter held an outdoor prayer service on March 12, 2021, marking the first anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic which shut down schools in 2020. Students are shown spacing themselves according to health guidelines. (Photo courtesy: Tony Callaio, *The Sunday Dispatch*)

Senior project of Williamsport teen benefits military members

WILLIAMSPORT – The senior project of a Lycoming County teenager is having an impact around the globe.

Zach Lisi, a senior at Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School, recently sent 24 special Easter boxes to members of the military stationed throughout the country and the world.

“It made me feel good to brighten their day,” Lisi explained.

The Easter boxes were filled with candy and notes of appreciation written by students at Saint John Neumann Regional Academy.

To raise money to ship the boxes, Lisi put together a “Penny War” fundraiser at his school from March 10-19.

“I put jars out in front of the office and each class put money in them. Each penny was worth one point. If you put nickels, dimes or quarters in other jars they lost a certain amount of points,” the high school senior said.

A total of \$234 was raised from the “Penny War” fundraiser. The senior class raised the most money and earned a pizza party as a reward.

“I used that money to ship the boxes. People donated the candy and other items to put in the boxes,” Lisi added.

All seniors at Saint John Neumann must complete a service



Saint John Neumann senior Zach Lisi shows off 24 Easter boxes that have been shipped to military members around the world.

project prior to graduation. In keeping with the Gospel message of helping others, Lisi explained what sparked his interest in helping military members.

“I just felt bad that they weren’t home with their families so I wanted to make them feel appreciated,” he said.

The first Easter box arrived less than a week after it was shipped out.



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



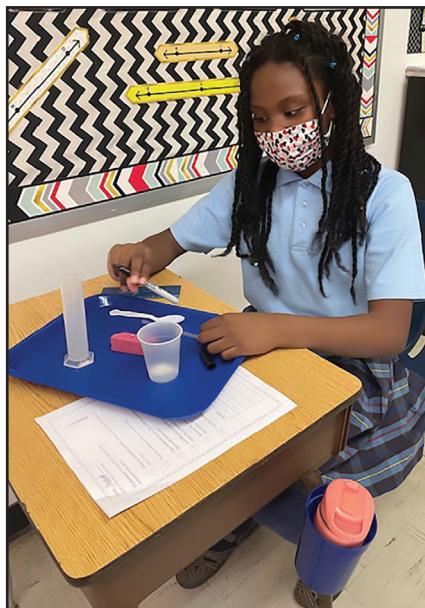
Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Fifth grade students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** made a hydrometer in science class and measured the salinity of water.



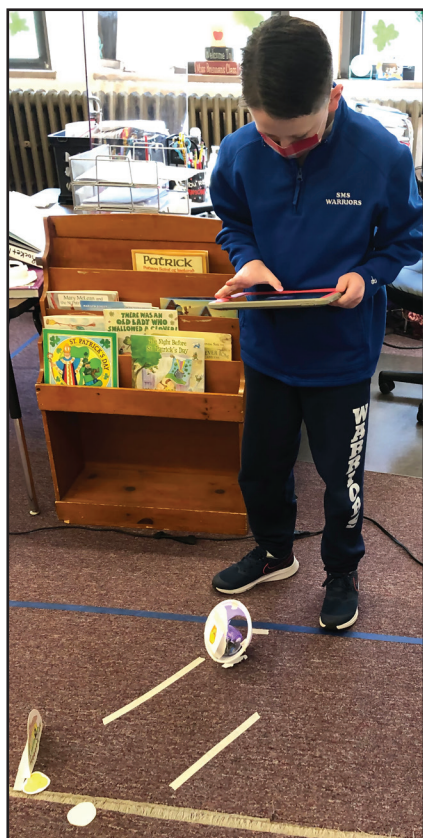
Freshmen students in Mrs. Taylor's art class at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** look over an art piece they created while having class outdoors.



Drishti Matta and Claire O'Donnell, honors chemistry juniors at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, demonstrate titration of an acid for their DVA peers.



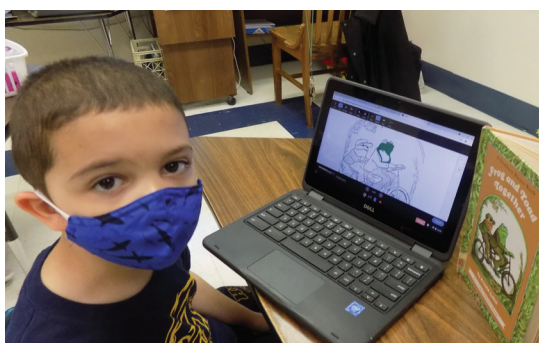
Eighth grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** recently completed a STREAM challenge to build their own bowling alleys.



Third grade students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** had to create a Sphero car and code a path on their computer in order to drive their leprechaun to his pot of gold.



Seventh graders from Mr. Jablonowski's science class at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** took advantage of the beautiful spring weather to move class outdoors. Nina and John design Punnett Squares that are diagrams used to predict genotypes.



Students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** use their computers to create a newly colored cover of classic stories like "Frog and Toad Together."



First graders at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** enjoy the great weather and a chance to play a friendly game of hockey outside during their gym class.



Jack Frusciante, a pre-kindergarten student at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, learns that Jesus is the biggest and best of all superheroes.

An annual tradition in many of our schools is to present The Living Stations just before Holy Week begins. This timeless work allows students to recreate the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus. Typically held in front of classmates and family members, many of this year's performances were broadcast virtually so that others could walk the road to Calvary with the actors.



First graders at **All Saints Academy in Scranton**



Seniors at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre**



Fourth and fifth graders at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**



Second grade class at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**



Rev. Andrew Hvozdovic, V.F., pastor of Epiphany Church, visited the second grade class of **Epiphany School in Sayre** to share information about the sacred vestments and vessels that are using during Mass.



In preparation for this sacred season, kindergarten students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** created Lenten watercolors on canvas.



Rev. Cyril D. Edwards, V.E, chaplain of **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**, posed questions to the freshmen students in attendance at the Feast of Saint Joseph Mass. Other members of the student body watched the Mass from their classroom via the school's YouTube streaming channel.