

The Panther Press

NEWS BY THE STUDENTS FOR THE STUDENTS

April 15, 2021, Volume I, Issue 3

STAFF SUPERSTAR

By Trevor Burgess and Macey Vallette



Mr. Aaron Keup Photo by: Marilyn Strube

The honor of this month's "Staff Superstar" goes to Trinity's 5th/6th grade teacher, Mr. Keup! There is a lot of fun and interesting facts about him that we think may surprise you. For instance, did you know that one of Mr. Keup's hidden talents is baking bread? He makes all types, whole wheat, white, rye and now, even a family recipe for whole wheat raisin. He sometimes makes loaves with his class, too, both for fun and as a science lesson. The school sure smells good on bake day!

Speaking of Mr. Keup's class, a tradition he likes to continue at the start of each school year is to take measurements of his students and write them on his classroom door. At the end of the year, he looks back at how much they have grown.

Mr. Keup's point of view regarding electronic devices is that the computer is the most useful. "Personal devices have become more of a distraction. It is important to teach students how to use technology correctly and sparingly."

What subject does he like to teach best? Any subject students are engaged in, and if he can add humor, all the better! He loves to make his students laugh. When it is snack time, Mr. Keup's favorite snack is Greek yogurt with homemade maple syrup and homemade granola.

Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Keup worked many other jobs. He worked on a farm, a stone factory, a car wash, a golf course, and even landscaping for Zehnder's in Frankenmuth. He got his very first job in 6th grade mowing the lawn at Freeway Fritz Restaurant in Bridgeport, MI. He continued working there as a server, cook, and even a drive-thru teller until his senior year in high school. Who knows, he may have served your parents or grandparents on their way back to Reed City after a day of shopping at nearby Bronner's Christmas store!

Mr. Keup is an amazing teacher and does a great job teaching 5th and 6th. Make sure when you see Mr. Keup, to congratulate him on being this month's staff superstar!

SPECIAL EVENTS

"March is Reading Month"

Pi DAY, PIE DAY!

By Aaron Allen and Paul Saladin

On Monday, March 15th, TLS celebrated Pi Day. Pi is also known as π , which is a number commonly used in math, not much else. The teachers surprised us when they gave each class a unique challenge that would enter three students into a pie eating tournament. The pie-eating challenge consisted of five lifesaver gummies hidden in a pie pan filled with whipped cream. Whoever got all five out first won a \$5 McDonalds' gift card, and moved on to the second round where one student from each classroom fought it out to win the coveted \$10 Wesco gift card.

Mr. Chatel challenged his student's to write as many Pi digits as they could in 40 seconds. The top three students were decided by who wrote the most Pi digits. First place went to Caleb Kage with 33 digits, second to Macey Vallette with 27 digits, and third to Aaron Allen with 25 digits.

Mr. Keup decided his top three contestants with whoever could make the most words out of the words, "pineapple pie." The winners were Miriam Hunt in first; second, was Elizabeth Calabrese, and third was Lilly Allen.

Mr. Rohde's way to pick out the top three students was by who could name the most homophones, "Words that sound alike but are spelled differently," he explained. Example: Pi and pie. The top three were Heidi Pollaski in first, Maddy Kage in second, and Tabitha Saladin in third.

Miss Eising's top three students were chosen by who could list the most types of pie. Many unique pies were offered such as, lasagna pie and rabbit pie. The top three were Noah Waldman, Sydney Kage, and Evelyn Tonn.

The kindergarten contestants were chosen randomly: Trinity Murray, Conner Rhodes, and Kelsey Snider.

The top three contestants from each classroom were then covered in a large trash bag to protect their clothes and keep them from using their hands. With just their mouths they quickly found and removed the gummies buried deep in the whipped cream. The five finalists were: 7th grader, Macey Vallette; 6th grader, Miriam Hunt; 3rd grader, Tabitha Saladin; 2nd



Miriam Hunt Photo by: Marilyn Strube

grader, Noah Waldman; and kindergartener, Trinity Murray.

The top five winners then “ate-it-out” revealing the overall winner of the Pi Day Pie Contest, 6th grader, Miriam Hunt! Thanks to Mr. Saladin for a great activity and a lot of fun.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. KEVIN DEVINE

By Aaron Allen and MacLean Chatel

On Friday, March 19, the whole school was treated to a morning assembly with musician, Kevin Devine.

While all the students sang and clapped along, the younger students seemed to enjoy the show the most, especially when it was time to jump up and down!

Afterwards, Mr. Devine allowed us to interview him. He said that he has been a musician since he was seven-years-old. He likes playing songs that he has written best, and classical music, too.

We were amazed to learn that he can play five instruments: “Accordion, piano, guitar, bass, and penny whistle.” His favorite to play is the piano.



Kevin Devine Photo by: Aaron Allen

Mr. Devine has entertained schools all over the United States with his musical talents. We are glad he was able to come to Trinity, too!

Kindergarten

By Trevor Burgess

The kindergarten students enjoyed St. Patrick’s Day by wearing green. They also got to have donut holes after chapel. Amelia Nolf and Creighton Koetje both agreed that the ones with sprinkles were the best. Trinity Murray preferred the chocolate ones.



Left to Right: Gabriel Harnden, Onnabelle Garvon, Chloe Tonn, Brendan Watson, Ellie Meiner, Ryker Mortensen, Creighton Koetje, Trinity Murray, Carolina Erler, and Connor Rhodes.

Photo by: Marilyn Strube

When asked about favorite books, Amelia said hers is Amelia Earhart. Creighton likes a book about a bear named Bruce.

The music assembly with Mr. Kevin Devine was a real hit with the kindergarteners. Chloe Tonn’s favorite song was “Coming around the Mountain.” Titus Hunt liked the one where they got to jump up and down. Onnabelle Garvon liked the one about the train.

Chloe, Titus and Onnabelle said they all love music time in class when they get to play instruments. Looking to the future, both Chloe and Onnabelle said they would like to play guitar someday. Chloe added, “My dad has one.” Onnabelle said she has two of them at home. Titus said he wants to play the drums.

The class also enjoyed using their five senses while taking a “sensory walk.” For touch, they felt the difference between the blue spruce’s poky needles and the white pine’s soft needles. For smell, they sniffed the blue spruce which reminded some of last year’s Christmas trees. For sight, they saw the grass was dry and yellow. They talked about what it might look like after Spring Break --hopefully green! For the sense of hearing they tried to listen for birds singing, but Mr. Jacobson said they only heard each other talking and playing. He didn’t encourage them to taste anything outdoors, but we can be sure they enjoyed the taste of cold, refreshing water when they returned to the classroom.

1st/2nd Grade

By Gus Rohde and Paul Saladin

On Tuesday, March 9, the 1st and 2nd graders celebrated “Pajama Day” and they made a fort out of blankets and other supplies. As always it was a hit and everyone enjoyed it. On “Wow Wednesday,” the kids brought in their extraordinary word. Thursday, they brought in their word of wisdom. On Friday, the 1st and 2nd graders wore athletic clothing and read about their favorite sports.

On Monday, Pi day, there was a pie eating tournament (see Pi Day, Pie Day!) The contestants from 1st and 2nd were all 2nd graders: Noah Waldman, Sydney Kage, and Evelyn Tonn.

The next day, the kids designed a book cover with colored pencils and other drawing utensils. On St. Patrick’s Day, everyone wore green; some even wore fun green hats!



Left to Right: Laura Trucks, Lukas Murray, Paul Visner, Sydney Kage, Lucas Watson, Noah Waldman, William Throop, Cassidy DuBreuil, Addy Kaverman, Layla Deverman, Evelyn Tonn.

Photo by: Paul Saladin

Joke Day,” the kids took turns telling jokes, Cassidy DuBreuil’s joke was: “Knock Knock. Who’s there? Fin. Fin who? Finish up this knock knock joke, it’s raining out here!” On Friday, they enjoyed the music of Kevin Devine. Evelyn Tonn said she liked it, especially because he played the “Edmund Fitzgerald.” On the last Monday of March is Reading Month, Miss Eising’s class took a nature walk outside.

We asked the kids if they had any suggestions for next year’s March is Reading Month. They responded saying they wanted more ice cream, desserts, and bacon, to meet with the president, and “Pajama Day,” every day!

3rd/4th Grade

By Taylor Chatel and Caelynn London

March is Reading Month was such an exciting time this year in the 3rd and 4th grade classroom. On “Design a Book Cover Day” they were all inspired by *Hank the Cowdog*. Gavin Hardy drew a big barn and Sutton Koetje drew a cabin with a cactus and a rock.

For “Joke Day,” Briggs Pruitt brought in an awesome hunting joke. Have him share it with you! When asked if they like jokes, Tabitha Saladin says only if they’re funny.

Everyone wore lots of green on St. Patrick’s Day. Gavin said that it’s his favorite color. Sutton said they celebrated by going to his grandparents’ house.



Tabitha Saladin, Ty Cooter, Briggs Pruitt, Sutton Koetje
Photo by: Taylor Chatel

Spring is Briggs’ favorite season but Ty Cooter said that he likes summer best. Tabitha enjoys how in the spring you see lots of different types of flowers. Briggs is happy with the warm weather and the fresh grass. Even though it may not be their favorite, they all enjoy the springtime.

5th/6th Grade

By Macey Vallette

“March is Reading Month” was a great hit in the 5th/6th grade classroom. They helped to earn points towards meeting the month’s AR goals. One day they especially enjoyed was “PI Day.” Austin Burgess and Mary Saladin both liked PI day; Emma Davis said, “Meh, sure.”

A homophone for Pi is pie. Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have a different meaning. While Pi expresses the number 3.14, the homophone “pie” means dessert, which the students love to discuss! Austin’s favorite pie is strawberry. Emma’s is

lemon meringue, while Mary said, “I don’t know, I like a lot of pies.”

Another good day for 5th and 6th was St. Patrick’s Day. The whole class wore lots of green to celebrate.

Since the school reached its AR goal for “Disney Movie Day,” the 5th and 6th grade got to watch their Disney movie choice, *National Treasure*.

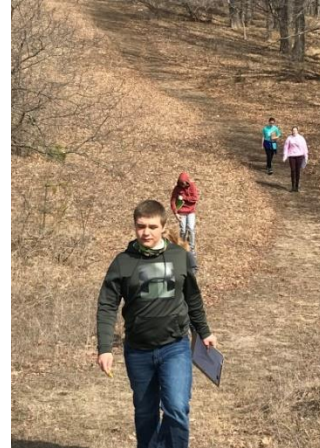
To show gratitude for Mr. Keup, the students surprised him a few days before his birthday with a birthday party in the school’s basement complete with birthday snacks!

Overall, “March is Reading Month” was a huge success for the 5th and 6th grade classroom.

7th/8th Grade

By Taylor Chatel and Caelynn London

Everyone in the 7th and 8th grade classroom looks forward to March is Reading Month. For “Design a Book Cover Day” they all got to create their own books and name them. MacLean Chatel named hers *The Life of Sammi the Pig* and Gus Rohde named his *How to Eat a Kit-Kat*.



Ruger Ranguette, Logan Moser, Macey Vallette, Mya Cooter
Photo by: Jim Chatel

When asked if they like jokes, Ruger Ranguette said he does if they’re funny. He also said that his favorite color is green while MacLean’s favorite is blue. Gus said his family sometimes makes Irish stew to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. MacLean wears green and pinches people if they aren’t wearing it too.

Ruger doesn’t like spring very much but enjoys summer. Because of the change in weather, Gus also likes spring but prefers fall the most.

They are excited to get a chance at more AR points in the upcoming months and are looking forward to the end of the year.

PANTHER ALUMNI

By Anna Saladin

The third trimester of the school year has begun and the Trinity Lutheran alumni are still doing very well! Grace Jacobson, currently attending Reed City High School, loves her Language Arts class because “Miss Clairday is a great teacher, [she] helped me with my writing.” Grace recently won top five in the state for a short story competition. She was also elected class secretary a few weeks ago. Grace

says the biggest difference between Trinity and high school is that there are a lot more people in every class.

Layla Garvon is now going to school at Big Rapids High School. She says her favorite class is Intensive Science and she is involved in the drama program, Serenade (choir), and student council. Layla agrees that the amount of people is a huge transition and also stated, "I have a different teacher for every class, it's super fun, [and] really different."

All of the Panther alumni are doing well and are excited to continue high school and move forward in their careers.

SPORTS CORNER

By Gus Rohde

Due to COVID restrictions, the annual Men's Division I Basketball Tournament, also known as "March Madness," was cancelled in 2020. But this year, the tournament was back and nothing short of incredible.

One of the most storied achievements in college basketball is making it to the Final Four. This year, the teams were 1st seeded Gonzaga, 1st seeded Baylor, 2nd seeded Houston, and 11th seeded UCLA. Baylor put the hammer down on Houston, with a score of 78-59, and Gonzaga edged out the UCLA Bruins, beating them 93-90 in overtime.

The national championship game took place on April 5th, and the two teams that were featured were said by many to be the best two teams in the country for the entire season. The Gonzaga Bulldogs were led by their freshman guard, Jalen Suggs, fresh off his buzzer-beating-shot to knock off UCLA two nights before. Baylor, with its stellar guard Davion Mitchell, is an excellent shooter and defender.

Although Gonzaga was favored to win this game, Baylor had other ideas. The Bears' spectacular defense and three point shooting propelled them to a 10 point halftime lead, 47-37. In the second half, things didn't get much better for the Bulldogs. Gonzaga struggled to score and stop Baylor's offense from taking over the game. The game was not close, and Baylor won its first ever national championship, with a final score of 86-70.

FROM US TO YOU



L to R: Paul Saladin, Aaron Allen, Taylor Chatel, Macey Vallette, Caelynn London, MacLean Chatel, and Gus Rohde. (Trevor Burgess, absent)
Photo by: Marilyn Strube

We had a great time covering the final half of "March is Reading Month" for this issue. From "Pi Day" to "Final Destination Day" we enjoyed the activities as well as reporting on how other classrooms celebrated each day. We look forward to covering next month's events in our final issue for the 2020/2021 school year. See you then!

April Staff and Features:

Trevor Burgess/Macey Vallette: "Staff Super Star"

Trevor Burgess: "Kindergarten Corner"

Gus Rohde/Paul Saladin: 1st/2nd

Taylor Chatel/Caelynn London: 3rd/4th and 7th/8th

Macey Vallette: 5th/6th

Aaron Allen/MacLean Chatel: "Interview with Mr. Kevin Devine"

Aaron Allen/Paul Saladin: "Pi Day, Pie Day!"

Anna Saladin: "Panther Alumni"

Gus Rohde: "Sports Corner"

Mrs. Strube: Editor