

# MOSS NEWS

## April/May 2022

### A Message from Mrs. Szmed



Dear MOSS Families,

What an amazing school year! I want to thank you all for all the support and patience shown to me and our staff this past year. We are honored that you chose us as partners in educating your child. We had many successes and some challenges, yet despite it all, we continued the work that must be done. There are countless people to whom I owe an expression of gratitude and hope that we continue working together in the coming year. Presently, the 2022-2023 school year has 380 students enrolled. That is fantastic!

A big THANKS goes out to all the volunteers who made our fundraisers a huge success! Thanks to volunteers who were in the cafeteria and in the classrooms supporting teachers in everything possible. Your presence and support make a much stronger Mother of Sorrows School. I hope to continue counting on you in the years to come.

Throughout the summer months, I will be reaching out to you through email and the school website will be updated frequently to reflect information for the new school year. We are also planning several get-togethers over the summer, so please keep in touch on our Facebook page.

**Inside this newsletter**, please see the information about **the school office summer hours**. Please feel free to stop in or call if you need assistance.

Our school has an excellent future, thank you for your commitment to Catholic education. Please be a positive Mother of Sorrows Catholic School supporter so we can educate many children for years to come.

Faithfully yours,

**Theresa A. Szmed**

Principal

#### Mother of Sorrows Catholic School Mission

Mother of Sorrows Catholic School is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic, Christ-centered environment. Spiritual engagement and rigorous education experiences inspire each student to live by Christian values, achieve academic excellence, and become global leaders.

### Important Dates:

#### May 23<sup>rd</sup>:

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation  
7:00 pm

#### May 25<sup>th</sup>:

Kindergarten Graduation  
6:30 pm

#### May 26<sup>th</sup>:

End of the Year Picnic

#### May 27<sup>th</sup>:

End of the Year Picnic  
(Rain Date)

#### May 31<sup>st</sup>:

Last Day of School  
9:30 am Mass

Early Dismissal  
10:30 am

Have a  
great summer!



Mother of Sorrows School: 3264 Evergreen Drive, Murrysville, PA 15668

Phone: 724-733-8840 Website: [www.mossschool.org](http://www.mossschool.org)



## Spotlight on Sports

### Track & Field Club

Mother of Sorrows School Track and Field club members enjoyed another great season! Our student athletes competed against nearly 1,500 members who participated with the Diocese of Pittsburgh Track and Field program. MOSS had 27 athletes this season. Events included:

- Grades Kindergarten to 2nd: running events and long-jump
- Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>: running events, long-jump, and javelin
- Junior Varsity: running events, long jump, javelin, and shot-put
- Varsity: running events (including hurdles), long jump, triple-jump, shot-put, javelin, and discus

At the Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade (developmental category) championship meet, Mother of Sorrows School Track and Field obtained metals in the 100 m, 200 m, 400m, and long jump. We anticipate great success for our junior varsity and varsity members as well at their championship meet this weekend! We couldn't be more proud with the dedication and hard work of our MOSS team. It is a joy to watch our student athletes develop over the season. We would like to congratulate the entire MOSS Track and Field members for a great season. We'd also like to thank Lucas Dos Santos, Melissa Borman, Derek Borman, Christine Jordan and David Jordan for taking time out of their busy seasons to coach all our runners. Keep on running, jumping, and throwing!

### Track & Field Club 2022 Student Athletes

Kody Berenger  
Pranshul Bhargava  
Addison Boreman  
Cooper Brandenburg  
Joe Caravello  
Jared Dobrinski  
Archie Donald  
Sabrina Donald  
Sophia Dos Santos

Victoria Dos Santos  
Simon Elomba  
Donatella Iorio  
Giuseppina Iorio  
James Jordan  
Rahini Kad  
Reyansh Kad  
Sebastian Miller  
Leher Misra

Andy Muir  
Jonathan Penrod  
Isaiah Simone  
Noah Simone  
Asher Straley  
Sofia Vignano  
Isaac Wagner  
Genevieve Walker  
Jude Walker



## Spotlight on Sports



### Track & Field

Here is a look at some of our track stars posing with their new medals.



### Girls Volleyball

Congratulations to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Diocesan Championship. Way to go girls! We are so proud of your hard work this season.

## Spotlight on Sports

### Mother of Sorrows 2021-2022 Sports Banquet

The Mother of Sorrows sports teams capped another fun filled season with an All Sports Banquet on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the MOS Social Hall. We celebrated the hard work of our 211 student athletes, the 36 team coaches, and all the parents/families that volunteered their precious time throughout the year to support the MOS sports teams in many different ways. Pictured herein are many of the athletes and coaches that participated in MOS cross country, cheerleading, basketball, volleyball and track & field. At the end of the evening, we also held a special celebration in honor of our graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade student athletes, wishing them the best in their high school careers.

#### MOS Coaches



#### Girls Volleyball



# Spotlight on Sports

## Boys Basketball



## Girls Basketball



# Spotlight on Sports

## Cross Country



## Track & Field



# Spotlight on Sports

## Cheerleading



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Athletes



## Designer Purse Bingo

Our annual Designer Purse Bingo took place on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and it was a **HUGE success!** This luau themed fundraiser sold out in record time and made a profit of **\$27,330.00**. The Designer Purse Bingo Committee would like to thank all the families and businesses that supported this fundraiser. We also want to send a special thank you to Chef Amy Danko for catering this event and creating beautifully decorated luau themed food displays.

### Designer Purse Bingo Committee Members

**Thank you to all our committee members  
that worked so hard to plan this amazing event.**

Darlene Kallen (Chairperson)  
Jennifer Farberow (Co-Chairperson)  
Amanda Berenger  
Crystal Favela  
Linda Galinski  
Jackie Glosser  
Amy Kreutel  
Ashley Petrucci  
Erin Salas  
Jen Speranza  
Jen Walker

### Designer Purse Bingo Volunteers and Set Up

**We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers  
and everyone that helped set up for this event!**

Janie Beacom  
Amanda Berenger  
Ken Berenger  
Jessica Beall  
Jodi Beall  
Sandy Bonidie  
Alana Carr  
Chris Clawson  
Christine Clawson  
Cris Coleman  
Amy Danko  
Molly Denslinger  
Andrea Dixon  
Jennifer Farberow  
Noah Farberow  
Al Favela  
Crystal Favela  
Linda Galinski

Jackie Glosser  
Deanna Harman  
Darlene Kallen  
Joe Kallen  
Karen Kolenik  
Amy Kreutel  
Ashley Petrucci  
Mark Phaneuf  
Shannon Phaneuf  
Amy Radkowski  
Erin Salas  
Ashley Skena  
Ed Szmed  
John Szmed  
Theresa Szmed  
Michael Visnick  
Jen Walker  
Josh Will



## Designer Purse Bingo

### Designer Purse Bingo Event Sponsors

#### Gold Donors:

1. All American Baseball Center
2. Busy Beaver Building Centers
3. Premier Imaging and Camera

#### Silver Donors:

1. Abraham & Gill
2. Iron Belt Partners

#### Bronze Donors:

1. Allstate - Tomley Agency
2. Barb and John Koury
3. Bardine's Country Smokehouse
4. Beall's Greenhouse Nursery and Supply
5. Choice Auto Sales
6. Dr. Gerald Loyacona
7. Dr. John H. Newell
8. Enterprise Bank



9. Fancy Fox
10. Keystone Agency Partners
11. Morgan Family
12. Radiologic Consultants
13. Simply Stunning Hair Salon
14. Steel City Auto Transport
15. Vangura Surfacing Products

### Designer Purse Bingo Event Sponsors

**We would like to thank the following families and businesses for their generous donations!**

380 Auction  
 Alluring Designs  
 Altoona Curve  
 Artsy Nails by Alexandra  
 Atria's  
 Beacom Family  
 Boulevard Sweet Shoppe  
 Bruster's of New Stanton  
 Capital Grille  
 Carnegie Museum of Art  
 and Natural History  
 Christie Stanislaw  
 (Mary Kay Consultant)  
 Dean's Health and Fitness  
 DelGrosso's Park  
 Denslinger  
 Dry Bones Ministries  
 Eat'n Park  
 Elegance Elite Gymnastics

Elizabeth Fontecchio Design  
 Enchanted Experiences  
 Farberow Family  
 Favela Family  
 Galinski Family  
 Gino's Petidejeuner Breakfast  
 Haas Family  
 Hygge  
 Kreutel Family  
 Lucas Family  
 Malley Family  
 MOSS Girl Scout Troop 19019  
 Mother of Sorrows School  
 Neltner Family  
 Oakland Catholic High School  
 Penn Murry Bar & Kitchen  
 Petrucci Family  
 Phipps Conservatory  
 and Botanical Gardens

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre  
 Pittsburgh Children's Museum  
 Pittsburgh Opera  
 Pittsburgh Penguins  
 Radkowski Family  
 Railey Realty  
 Renew the "I Do" Foundation  
 Rob's Pizza  
 Salas Family  
 Salute Beer & Beverage  
 Serra Catholic High School  
 Simply Stunning Hair Salon  
 SolSpace  
 Speranza Family  
 The Good Home of Oakmont  
 Washington Wild Things  
 West Penn Diesel  
 Wooden Loft

## The Little Mermaid Jr. Musical

Our Drama Club put on its very own production of The Little Mermaid Jr. The cast and crew worked so hard preparing for the show and they did an extraordinary job. We would like to thank Mr. Visnick, Mrs. Malley, Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Osche for all their hard work and dedication in getting our MOSS students ready for their big debut!



# The Little Mermaid Jr. Musical



# The Little Mermaid Jr. Musical



# FBLA



The MOSS Chapter of FBLA recently participated in the Pennsylvania State Competitive Event Competition. Mother of Sorrows School received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the state for the Largest Local Chapter Market Share. In fact, 61.11% of MOSS students in eligible grades participated in FBLA this school year. Listed below are all the FBLA winners for this competition. We would like to congratulate them on a job well done. All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners, in the national events, qualify for the national competition to be held in Chicago this summer. Please note, all 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to join FBLA each year! Interested students can sign up in the fall.

### **Business Etiquette:**

Nathan Farberow (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Andrew Waruszewski (5<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Business Spelling:**

Finn Thompson (6<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Career Research:**

Avni Vasudeva (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Carmella Testa (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Leila Kiehlmeier (5<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Desktop Publishing Application:**

Chloe Carr (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Morgan Loughran (1<sup>st</sup> Place)

### **Elevator Speech:**

Cayla Kelly (4<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Exploring Business Issues:**

Lauren Bell (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Skylar Davis (4<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Financial Literacy:**

Bailee Dayton (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
Xavier Miller (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)

### **Leadership:**

Millie Curry (6<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Kennedy Kelly (7<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Makela Kapp (8<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Marketing Mix Challenge:**

Jordan Acie (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Brooklyn Morgan (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Scarlett Zoracki (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Blake Bonidie (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Elijah Pecorari (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Kenedie Price (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Jared Dobrinski (8<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Ryan Loughran (8<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Public Service Announcement:**

Charleston DeGroot (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Elliah Phaneuf (1<sup>st</sup> Place)  
Deauna Hicks (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
AnnaBelle Kelly (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
AryAnna Kelly (4<sup>th</sup> Place)  
Caitlin Rodgers (4<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Social Media Concepts:**

Isabella Salas (9<sup>th</sup> Place)

### **Video Game Challenge:**

Quinn Keller (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
Michael Kiss (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
Harrison Kreutel (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)  
Isaac Hicks (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)  
Regis Keller (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)

## Summer Office Hours

### June 6<sup>th</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup>:

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 am to 11:30 am

### August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>:

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 am – 11:30 am

The office will be closed from July 15<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>  
Regular hours resume August 15<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am – 3:00 pm)



## The Nest



May saw the opening of our new school store. "The Nest" opened on May 16<sup>th</sup>. New items are arriving weekly. We would like to send a huge thank you to our FBLA members for all their hard work in planning and operating the new store.

## Uniform Exchange

Has your child outgrown their uniform? Is your child graduating this year? Donations of gently used MOSS uniforms are being accepted at the school office until 11:00 am, Tuesday May 31, 2022. Please send the donated items into school with your child or drop off the items in the office. If you need uniforms for next year, the donated uniform items are available to anyone. Please come to school (during the hours below) and see if you can use any of the donated uniform items.

June 6<sup>th</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup>: Monday through Friday (8:30 am to 11:30 am)  
August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>: Monday through Friday (8:30 am to 11:30 am)



## The MOSS Parent Student Teacher Association (MPSTA)

MOSS is looking to start a Parent Student Teacher Association for the 2022-2023 school year. The MPSTA's focus will be to increase communication between parents, students, teachers, and administration, welcome new families to MOSS, coordinate fun student activities, host school receptions, and provide enrichment programs for all students. If you are interested in getting the MPSTA off the ground, please use the link below to sign up.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aTEFDZ8GDUuYEq6an2UtRn9M1r6xWphEuYIMTuHsjgVUNjhDN1VIV1g2VE8yR0xITTdOUjVJMjIFQy4u>

## MOSS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

*Did you know that Mother of Sorrows School is turning 60 in 2023?*

Please consider joining the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee to help plan special events beginning in Fall, 2023.

Sign up to be on this committee using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aTEFDZ8GDUuYEq6an2UtRn9M1r6xWphEuYIMTuHsjgVUM1hBRzhDU0M4UDY3WVQzQTBRTzRCNUFERY4u>



# PJAS

## PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

This school year, we had 19 students participate in our Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science club. The PJAS club is open to students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students designed and performed unique experiments in the category of their choice. They also competed in a regional virtual competition in February and did a great job! We would like to congratulate the following students on a job well done:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Awards:

Jameson Raynak: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth and Space  
Finn Thompson: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Botany  
Andrew Waruszewski: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Awards:

Jocelyn Bertagna: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chemistry  
Blake Bonidie: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physics  
Charleston DeGroot: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chemistry  
Jared Dobrinski: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany  
Sophia Glosser: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Behavioral Sciences  
Regis Keller: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany  
Morgan Loughran: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Chemistry  
Rylie Loughran: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany  
Xavier Miller: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany  
Elijah Pecorari: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany  
Elliah Phaneuf: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Behavioral Sciences  
Samantha Schork: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Behavioral Sciences  
Shannon Smith: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards:

Chloe Carr: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Behavioral Sciences  
Madonna Koval: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany  
Ryan Loughran: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Botany

Students who received first place awards at the regional competition were invited to compete in the state competition held at Penn State University. On Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> Jameson Raynak, Andrew Waruszewski, and Finn Thompson presented their work to a panel of judges at Penn State's main campus. Jameson Raynak received a 1<sup>st</sup> place award for his project which focused on the effect of light pollution on star visibility. Andrew Waruszewski received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for his study on the effects of soil brand on seed germination rates. Finn Thompson received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for his study on the effects of soil brand on overall plant growth.

We are so proud of their accomplishments and look forward to competing again next school year!



# PJAS



# Night of Talent

The MOSS Night of Talent took place on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. All of our performers and artists did an amazing job showcasing their special gifts from God. Thank you to all those who participated in this fun event. Please check out some of our talented artists in the pictures below.



## Fundraising Option (2022-2023 School Year)

### MOSS Family Fundraising Options for the 2022-2023 School Year

As part of your FACTS online registration for the 2022-2023 school year, you agreed to participate in three (3) operating budget fundraisers. The profits from these fundraisers supplement approximately \$125,000 in operating revenue that does not come from tuition revenue. We count on each MOSS family's participation so that tuition can remain affordable for all who want a Catholic education for their child(ren).

Many families enjoy participating in the fundraisers, but some would rather pay a fundraising fee as part of their tuition. So, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each family can have the following options:

1. Participate in the three (3) operating budget fundraisers (selling raffle tickets for 3 raffles planned for the Fall, Winter, and Spring). If a family does not fulfill their obligation, a \$175.00 fee for each fundraiser not supported will be added to the family's tuition bill.
2. Pay a family fundraising fee of \$500. This fee will be added to your FACTS tuition amount and will be paid according to the family's payment schedule.

All families need to choose one of these options by **Friday, June 3, 2022**, so that the information can be included in the 2022-2023 tuition statements being mailed in mid-June. If no choice is received by this date, it will be assumed that your family will participate in the three (3) operating fundraisers set for the 2022-2023 school year.

Here is the link to the form to designate your choice by Friday, June 3, 2022. This link will expire at 3:00 pm on June 3, 2022.

<https://forms.office.com/r/h0gPWJvJMA>

Thank you for your support for Catholic education. Please reach out to Mrs. Szmed if you have any questions.



# Bunny Brunch Fun



# Around the Halls of MOSS



Congratulations to our winners from the Rotary Club "End Plastic Soup" contest. These students' drawings were chosen for their annual calendar.



2<sup>nd</sup> grade takes a look at the beautiful display of ecosystems created by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.



Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students completed a Podcast project in computer class with Mrs. DeGroot.



Kindergarten students learned all about ants and created an ant hill.

## Around the Halls of MOSS



2<sup>nd</sup> grade students had an exciting day exploring the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History!



Congratulations to our FBLA winners of the Pennsylvania State Competitive Event Competition.



Transitional Kindergarten and Mrs. Visnick's Kindergarten class had a lot of fun making bird feeders out of pipe cleaners and Cheerios to celebrate Earth Day!

# Around the Halls of MOSS



Mrs. Bayer's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were inspired by God's beautiful tree buds blooming outside, so they made "allergy free" buds to enjoy inside their classroom.



3<sup>rd</sup> grade learned all about a new robot, Sphero. They even played soccer with their new friend!



Kindergarten students grew Easter grass for baskets and also celebrated and honored Mary.



## Around the Halls of MOSS



The annual 8<sup>th</sup> graders verse faculty volleyball game took place this month. Congratulations to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for winning the game.

### End of the School Year Prayer

O God, we praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.  
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,  
with challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.

The days have passed quickly, O Lord.  
The weeks, the months, the seasons and the holy days.  
The learning, play, and programs have all come forth from your hand.

Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.  
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.  
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion  
and bless us according to your will.

With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams  
watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead  
and guide us each day as you have done this past year.  
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a positive energy.

May we continue to grow in age, wisdom, knowledge  
and grace all the days of our lives.

*Amen*

