

Dear Parents,

Did you know that we are currently facing a Literacy Crisis in the U.S.? Those of you in education, know it. Literacy is at an all-time low and anxiety for children is at an all-time high. We need to help our students to understand the trauma. Researcher Kathleen Seeman from the Science and Reading Institute at Wilmington, Delaware states, "As adults we need to acknowledge reading trauma, acknowledge student effort, and begin to really teach the five components of Literacy to our children, which are: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension." Our students who cannot read are struggling. Our teachers here at Annunciation understand this. Did you know that 30% of our students in the U.S. will learn to read no matter what method is taught, but 70% of our student population require direct, systematic instruction to learn how to read successfully? There is a science to "teaching students how to read." If you can read, you should be thanking your early literacy teacher. If you read with high levels of comprehension thank them and the upper grade teachers! People use to ask me when I moved from teaching fifth grade down to first...what made you do THAT? The growth that happens in those early grades is pretty magical. (I still loved fifth, in fact-each grade level has its' charm!) Opening up the world of print to children is just magical however, and let me tell you...It is HARD WORK!

That being said, our country is in a world of hurt regarding student literacy and researchers are digging deep to find out that the inability to read is a key component for many problems in our society. 70% of American students are struggling in Literacy. We as a nation have to step up to do something about these dismal statistics.

Seeman states, that "Literacy is a root cause of violence, crime, poverty, absentee parents, abuse, and addiction." Students who do not read as well as their peers, know they are not performing at their level. There are a couple of things that they do in order to handle this situation. One- they just are a student who continues to work really hard...or they might use avoidance techniques. You ask them to read to you at bedtime, and they say, "There is something I just HAVE to tell you." Hence taking up valuable minutes that they could be reading to you but they are distracting you from the job at hand. Have you ever experienced this with your child? I know I did!

Not knowing how to read influences each students' ability to make a living, it influences their mental health, and research tells us it can lead to addiction. All of us want our children and grandchildren to do better and be better than we were! So what do we do about this situation?

First of all, research also tells us that "children will rise to the highest level of education, held by the mother or maternal figure they are exposed to." If you happen to be a single parent, do not fret If you have someone who loves books and they share this love of reading with your child...fantastic. Encourage this level of interaction between the two individuals.

In addition to that, what has been seen in research is 'generational uninvolvement.' If your parents were involved in school, then you as a parent find that you are involved in school. (Seaman, 2023). If they weren't, you take a step back and just "let the school handle the teaching." Believe me, we want all of you here at Annunciation, and we want you involved with your child's learning. Here at Annunciation we consider us a triangle of learning, the student, the parent, and the child.

Researchers believe in PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) in reading. You are thinking, What? No way! Way! Students literally can have anxiety, avoidance issues (I need to go to the bathroom, get a drink, go to the nurse, etc.) when presented with academic subjects that are difficult for them and all of these are Trauma responses to how they feel about reading! I have seen this happen especially with students who are Dyslexic.

Seaman said, "If you want to raise a child OUT of a traumatic childhood...teach them to read...and ENJOY reading." How is this done? By helping them to choose good literature to read and by reading with them! If they see that YOU enjoy reading...guess what? They will want to read! Let's say you yourself were what we call, a "reluctant reader." There is a method that I want you to concentrate on using with your child if you are a parent of a child who does not like to read.

1. Use audio books that are one level higher than your child's reading level. Listen to the tapes 12-15 minutes PER day.

These will be the outcomes if you do this according to Axelson:

- reading scores will go up
- reading levels will go up
- writing will improve- because they are listening to higher levels of speech
- behaviors that were disruptive will go down (calling out, goofing around,) and
- avoidance techniques mastered by your child will also go down. (These can include the need to tell you about things that hurt, false need to use the restroom, get a drink, just somehow- get out of the classroom!)

This is food for thought for you. We know that we are all busy, but somehow there is always time in the car going from place to place. Get a book on tape for your child. (Remember it can be up to one reading level above your child's current reading level) Listen to it when they are with you and stop it and talk about what is going on. Talk to them about the words being used, have them imagine different possible endings, and ask them higher level questions about what is going on! You CAN be involved in their reading success no matter what their age! This is a must for Pre-k-3<sup>rd</sup>, but fourth and beyond still love to be read to especially if it is a funny book! Think about what this can do for their self-esteem- getting to spend time with YOU in this way as well! Double goodness!

We also know older siblings can assist other children with their learning and mastery of skills! This week I have seen a preschooler that was ready for addition and subtraction! I approached

her older sister and asked her to help her. She beamed and said that she would do what I suggested. I want to tell you something...as you are raising your children, it feels like it will be forever before they are graduating from high school and they are going off to college. News flash...YOU are a parent forever. Right now you put in the time and the work with them and the sweet rewards come back to you later! Your children are YOUR greatest treasure and mine! We all want to be the fun parent who takes them to Funway to Sky Zone, and Chuckie Cheese, but do the work to help support their reading NOW.

Reading influences the rest of their educational career and quite frankly the rest of their lives! Have you ever seen your son put together a crib for their baby and end up with “extra pieces?” As grandma, you don’t say anything- but you wonder- Hmmm...I pray that side bar doesn’t come down in the night! Well, I have and although they were proud of themselves for “getting it put together,” it is a bit scary! LOL

I encourage you to make beautiful memories learning together! READ! Being “busy” is no longer an excuse. Everyone has “car” time! My mom used the old adage, “You make time for the things you want to make time for...” Let’s all make the effort to spend 15 minutes reading with our kids or grandkids this week. Some of you may already be spending more time than that. When in doubt- get the good book on tape. (One level up!) Come on! You can DO It!

In Christ’s love,

Mrs. DeMar

**Spotlight on Students: Second Graders** were working on endings of words. At the second grade level they did a Gallery Walk where they move from poster paper to poster paper and worked in pairs to come up with words that ended in these endings. ft, ng, nt, etc. They did a fantastic job!

**7<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Working on coming to a consensus in Mr. Litow’s class. What a fun activity. They were given 15 items to prioritize according to what would be most valuable. They did it by themselves, in a pair, in a small group and then in a large group. At any point someone could veto and they’d have to start from scratch. It was hilarious! They were getting ready to study the writing of The Constitution of the United States.

**First Graders:** Were moving from station to station, (Read to self, writing, Math) and also being assessed in reading by Mrs. Rizzo when I walked into their classroom. Everyone was working so diligently!

**Fifth Graders** this week were learning to read a story problem, identify information that was unnecessary to writing an “expression” from the problem and writing the expression using numbers, and the appropriate operation. It was challenging for them!

**8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** 8<sup>th</sup> graders are acting like a whole new group of students this school year. They are calm listeners now. Bella came to me and asked me if they could use the gym to play volleyball because it was raining outside. I said yes, and I am glad that I did because they played a really nice game, encouraging one another, complimenting one another, and listening to directions. They are just the greatest group of kids! I so enjoy them!

**Preschool** was counting the spots on the dice and then counting how many rubix cubes to put into the red solo cup (Sorry, I just want to sing the song!) They counted them as they put them in and when they took them out! This was when I realized that she had a student ready for addition already!

I will see 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in the next few days! Have a great weekend!

M.DeMar





Annunciation School Newsletter  
October 18, 2023  
Annunciationbvm.org

Just a reminder that Thursday, October 26 is a late start day. School will begin at 9:30 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. Morning care will be extended to 9:30 that day for families that would like to use it. The charge for morning care is \$5.00 per day regardless of what time your child arrives. You will be billed through FACTS at a future date. Morning care for all students is in the gym. Students may be dropped off as usual starting at 9:15 a.m. There will be staff members in front of the primary building at 9:15 to open doors and a supervisor on duty in the back of the upper building to supervise students as they arrive. The first bell will ring at 9:25 a.m. and students will enter school as usual. Teachers will be having meetings during this time.

Thursday, October 26 is also the day of Pumpkinpalooza. If your child is bringing a pumpkin, it may be brought to the gym any time after 9:10 a.m. (earlier if your child uses extended care.)

Please remember there is no parking in the horseshoe drive in front of the upper building in the morning.

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Every month at Annunciation School, special attention is paid to a particular virtue. Students are taught the meaning of this virtue and how it applies to their everyday life. At the end of the month, a student in each class, sometimes two students, displaying this virtue is chosen to receive an award, along with a dress down pass.

The virtue of the month for September was Respect. Awards were presented today after the all-school Mass.



Congratulations to the following students who were recipients of the award for Respect.

Kindergarten: Juliana Esquivel and Inez Cuevas

First Grade: Max Ortega

Second Grade: Amelia Ortega

Third Grade: Ceci Austin

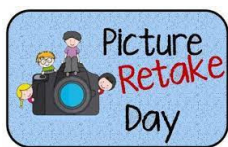
Fourth Grade: Finley Johnson

Fifth Grade: Ion Stonecliffe and Julie Pikul

Sixth Grade: Lily Whipple

Seventh Grade: Melanie Martinez and Shealyn Wroblewski

Eighth Grade: Patrick Bergeron and CJ Stewart



This Friday, October 20, is Picture Retake Day. Students having a retake or who were absent on Picture Day may dress down this day. Retakes are taken first thing in the morning so if your child is having a retake please have him/her to school on time.

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## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences for grades K – 8 are scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 2. We will give you your conference time as soon as the schedule is complete. If you have not yet returned your conference time request form (on yellow paper and sent home with your oldest student last week), please do so ASAP.

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The Luminary Mass has been rescheduled to **Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

**If you would be willing to volunteer to bring in cookies for the reception** in the gym following the Mass, please text Julie Cibulskis at 630//363-7073.

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Mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 24 for the Home and School Dine Out fundraiser at Portillos. You won't want to miss it. There is more information at the end of the newsletter.

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Student Council is busy planning a Fun Night for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 on Friday, October 27 from 5:00 – 6:30 and a dance for students in grades 7 and 8 on the same night from 7:00 – 9:00. These are the details for the night.



### Halloween Fun Night/Dance-Oct 27

**Five Dollar entrance fee for Fun Night 5-6:30**

**Grades 4, 5, and 6**

- Pop and candy bar included
- Games (awards given)
- Costume Contest

**Five Dollar entrance fee for dance 7-9 pm**

**Grades 7 and 8**

- Pop and candy bar included
- Don't have to wear a costume but you are welcome to do so

**If you have any questions email Mr. Litow ([nlitow@annunciationbvm.org](mailto:nlitow@annunciationbvm.org))**



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Student Council is also busy planning a ceremony for Veterans Day. Please see the information at the end of the newsletter to learn about our Veterans Day Assembly and collection of veteran's pictures.

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Home and School is hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 21.

Please find more information at the end of the newsletter.



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Don't forget, pizza orders for this week are due by tomorrow at noon. If you would like to volunteer in the upper building for Pizza Friday, please use this link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EABA829A6FACE9-45070245-pizza>

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Just a reminder that all volunteers at school must be current with their Safe Environment requirements. If you are planning to help at a party, drive for a field trip, etc. and do not know if all of your requirements are up to date, please contact Ms. Beth Clark, at [bclark@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:bclark@rockforddiocese.org) to find out what you may be missing. This is especially important if you are planning to help at a Halloween party. Thank you.

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Afternoon Patrol Schedule – Week of October 23

Audrey Brown, Lincoln Hurd, Alina Rodriguez

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# Volunteers needed for trunk or treat!!!



Please register your car on signup genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EABA829A6FACE9-45071801-trunk>

or contact David Hernandez at (630)251-7345





# Pumpkinpalooza!

Student Council is sponsoring a school-wide competition to promote school and Halloween Spirit!

**Decorate a pumpkin!** Use paint and other accessories to decorate a pumpkin. Be creative! You may make any style of pumpkin that you choose. It could be cute, funny, scary, an animal, whatever! Please just keep them appropriate for a Catholic grade school. Pumpkins must be decorated. They cannot be carved.

**Pumpkins should be brought to the upper building before school on Thursday, October 26.**

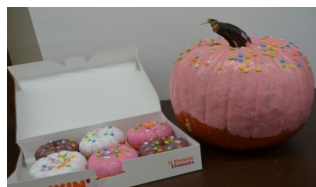
**They will be put on display in the gym. All classes will view the pumpkins during the school day and students can vote for their favorites by putting a quarter in the bag in front of each pumpkin.**

**Students may bring as many quarters as they want and vote as many times as they like.**

**We will have some quarters available to exchange for dollars if necessary.**

**Every classroom will have two winners. Winners will be announced the following week.**

**All pumpkins should be taken home after school.**



You're invited to a  
**Portillo's®**  
**FUNDRAISER**



Join us at Portillo's for a fundraiser to support:

## Annunciation BVM

When:

**October 24, 2023**

**5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

at the Portillo's located at:

**531 N. Randall Rd.**

**Batavia, IL**

20% of sales will benefit your organization. Order online or in app for pickup using code **PORTILLOS22** before checkout in the "Apply Offer" field, or show this flyer or a digital version to cashier when ordering at the restaurant. Valid on drive thru, pickup, curbside, and in restaurant orders.

**Portillo's®**  
**FOR GOOD**

[portillos.com/community](https://portillos.com/community)

For online/app orders to qualify for the fundraiser, orders must be placed for pickup only, from the participating restaurant, on the fundraiser date and during the listed fundraiser hours. Gift card purchases, delivery orders, and orders placed on the third party websites are excluded from the fundraiser. Online ordering subject to availability. \$200 minimum fundraising sales required for the organization to receive donation. Cannot be combined with other offer codes.

**WE'RE HIRING! APPLY AT [PORTILLOS.COM/CAREERS](https://portillos.com/careers)**

## **“Tradition of Excellence”**

**180 raffle tickets have been sold.**

**You still have time to buy your Raffle Ticket!!!**

**Don't Miss Your Chance to Win BIG!**

**You can turn in Donations and Raffle Tickets**

**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

**We will collect and sell Raffle Tickets before, and after school on the dates above.**

**Don't Miss Your Chance to Win BIG!**

**You make a difference!**

- Purchasing your raffle ticket.
- Selling more raffle tickets.
- Attending the dinner and Silent Auction.
- Becoming a Volunteer.
- Asking someone to sign up for Sponsorship.

**Thank you for all your help and support!**

**You have your invitation...**



**Have you Sent your RSVP?**

**WE WANT SEE YOU THERE.**



# Class Baskets

To make it easier Wish Lists were made on Amazon!

Wish Lists are under Alicia DeKing and can be sent directly to her house.

Any contribution helps. Cash will be used to purchase items or gift cards.



**We welcome all contributions to the event.**





Home and School is partnering with Schaefer Greenhouses to put on a fundraiser to support Annunciation School. Please consider purchasing a poinsettia for a co-worker, friend, and/or family member. Please help spread the word. Your support is greatly appreciated! Be sure to place your order by OCTOBER 30TH. Make checks payable to Annunciation Home and School.

Quantity

Total

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia 5-7 flowers \$21.95 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia 7-9 flowers \$36.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total due \_\_\_\_\_



## Veterans Day Assembly

Student Council is hosting a special Veterans Day Assembly on Friday, November 10, 2023. All students are encouraged to invite any family members, special friends, etc. who are veterans, to attend this assembly and be recognized by the student body.

Veterans are invited to come to school at 8:45 a.m. and enjoy coffee and doughnuts. The assembly will begin at 9:00 in the gym.

Veterans will sit in chairs with the students who invited them. They will be asked to stand and give their Name, Branch of Service, Years Served, Assignment in the Service and Who Invited Them.

We hope to have many veterans join us on this day.

If your child would like to invite someone to come to this assembly, please complete the form below and return it to school by November 2nd. Space will be limited in the gym, but if the veteran would like to have someone accompany him/her, he/she may do that.

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Name of Veteran attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Invited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service:    Army    Navy    Air Force    Marines    Coast Guard

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pictures Requested

Dear Annunciation Parish and School Families,

In addition to our Veterans Day Assembly we would like to invite everyone to submit pictures of the veterans in their family with the veteran's name, rank and one short sentence about the picture, if they would like. Please print and submit the picture(s) to the school office or email the picture(s) to [nlitow@annunciationbvm.org](mailto:nlitow@annunciationbvm.org). We will be hanging the pictures on the walls at school for students and visitors to look at through Veterans Day.

We would like to recognize an alumni of Annunciation as the first picture to be hung every year.

Boatswain's Mate Second Class Rory Rena  
U.S. Coast Guard





Dear Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

Here's what you need to know about the big event, which will take place from Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 3 pm to 5 pm and Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 pm to 8 pm in the School Gym. Students will be able to preview and purchase books during the school day on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Say goodbye to cash and hello to **eWallet**—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make it to the Fair, then **shop at our school's Book Fair online**. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Every online purchase will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:  
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/annunciationbvm>

The countdown to more Bookjoy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Happy reading,

Jacquie Jungels and Michele Sojka  
Book Fair Co-Chairs



Rosary High School Presents:

# TRICK-OR-TREAT!

## COMMUNITY EVENT

WEAR YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME, BRING AN  
EMPTY BAG (FOR CANDY) AND COME  
TRICK-OR-TREAT AROUND ROSARY HIGH SCHOOL

*Children 5th grade and younger welcome!*

Saturday October 28th  
12:30-2:30pm

Rosary High School  
901 N. Edgelawn Dr.  
Aurora, IL 60506



Questions?  
Contact Mrs. Sarah Hoying at  
[shoying@rosaryhs.com](mailto:shoying@rosaryhs.com)

 **ROSARY  
Royals**

*Sponsored by the Rosary National Honor Society and Student Council*



# ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE PREPARATORY



16:1 Student/  
Teacher Ratio

**100%**  
College  
Acceptance



97% of  
Students  
Participate  
in SFHS  
Activities

**29**

Average  
ACT Score  
Class of 2023  
Top 50%



60 Hours of  
Christian Service



Microsoft  
Showcase School

# OPEN HOUSE



Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday, November 5, 2023 1:00 p.m.