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THE  
**BUGLE**

St. Bartholomew Academy Newsletter  
May 2018



Dear Parents,

Among many cultures, the moment of creation is described as light coming out of the darkness. Twenty-five years ago, scientists from Princeton University reported that they had seen the first light of the cosmos which was emitted a trillion- trillionth of a second after the beginning of space and time. The oldest light in the universe was seen by using a NASA satellite located some 923,000 miles from the Earth. Imagine- the light waves from the Big Bang had just reached us from 13.7 billion years ago. What we were able to see, in our lifetime, was the primary source of physical life.

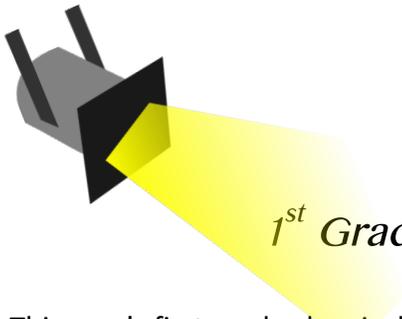
Our sun is a product of this light. You and I wake up to it every day. We see it no matter where we go. We know it supplies energy to our planet. But have we ever realized at what great cost or great love this energy comes to us. Cosmologist Brian Swimme explains this great gift to us. "Our sun creates light by an amazing process where 600 million tons of hydrogen are transformed into 596 million tons of helium. The 4 million tons left over become light. Every second our sun is transforming 4 million tons of itself into light... the light disperses in all direction. Everything that has happened in the life of this planet is directly dependent upon this light. We are moving here and talking and thinking only because coursing through our bodies is the energy from the sun. If the sun were not there, the earth's temperature would be 400 degrees below zero. The whole biosphere would shrivel up and die." In other words, all human activity is powered by the generosity of the sun. Our sun's light comes from the same light that was emitted 13.7 billion years ago.

This month we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World. On Sundays, when you and I gather in church, one of the prayers we say is the Nicene Creed. We hear the word, "God from God, light from light, true God from true God." I believe that the light that was emitted 13.7 billion years ago was God and the light of our sun is God-light from light- transforming itself every second so that you and I and all of creation can exist. If we believe that this light fuels every part of our being, then we are not walking in the presence of God, but we are the presence of God walking in this world. Everything is God. Imagine if we truly believed this deep within ourselves. The transformative, creative energy in us would be unleashed and the darkness of evil, sickness, sadness, and violence could be changed into the light of forgiveness, good health, happiness and peace. God so loved the world that He gave us light- His only begotten Son. Mary so loved God that she gave us light through the birth of her Son. You also love. What light will you give that will transform and create something in the space and time that God has given to you? It is said that what is not given is lost.

During this month of Our Lady, let us pray that we be like her- a person who unleashed the transformative and creative energy within her being and gave this world the purity of her light

In Christ,

*Sr. Elizabeth*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Spotlight (Grade 1-1)

This year's first grade class is demonstrating a hard working spirit. The children exhibit enthusiasm with each new topic they are introduced to and I am very proud of all they have accomplished.

*In first grade we are practicing to be kind and compassionate toward others. Our main class rule is "To Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated". In religion we learn how much God and Jesus love us. We try to follow Jesus's example and to be like him.*

*First grades favorite time of the day is when we pray the Rosary. We gather in a circle and think about all of our family, friends and people who have no one to pray for them. Each child offers two intentions before they say their Hail Mary. During the month of May, we honor Mary every afternoon by crowning her before the Rosary.*

*During the autumn we learned about plants and how they grow. As part of this unit we created a first grade garden, where the children planted tulip bulbs in front of the convent. The children were very excited when we saw the first tulip bloom. We also are growing our own plants in the class to see first-hand how a plant develops from a seed.*

*The first grade celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by holding a "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast with our prayer buddies. Parents came in to prepare a delicious meal for the children. Next, the first grade and their prayer buddies made their own Obleck to determine if it was a solid or a liquid. Everyone had a great time.*

*In Math we learned addition, subtraction, graphing, geometry, time, money and measurement. The children found the unit on money, and learning how to count coins especially enjoyable. The hands on experience in counting coins and the relevance to everyday life enhanced their grasp of the subject.*

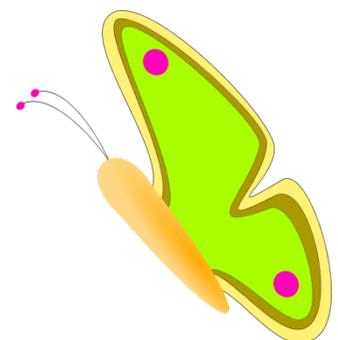
*We have also read many interesting stories this year. The children especially enjoyed the stories about butterflies. To enhance the story and to learn more about butterflies, we will be observing caterpillars and watch them transform into butterflies. We plan to hold a prayer service and release the butterflies shortly after they emerge from the chrysalis. The children also created their own caterpillars and butterflies with construction paper showing the different cycles. Please stop by the first floor to see their beautiful work.*

*I am blessed to have such an amazing group of students in my class. The remainder of the year should be very exciting.*

Diane Schweizer

Christian Ascitutto      Layla Boyd  
Dominick Dawidoicz    Sean Denney      Sophia Jones  
Karlie Kroeger      Michael Kwiatkowski    Noah Mann  
Dante Mariani      Avery Pacheco    Braeden Sheppard

Julianna Urs      Zoe Badilla Sanchez





### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Monday, May 14:** Carl V. Sicola Memorial Golf Classic, Maplewood Country Club

**Thursday, May 17:** Spring H.S.A. Meeting/Art Fair/Spring Concert, 7:00 PM

**Monday, May 28:** **NO SCHOOL**, Memorial Day

**Wednesday, May 30:** Athletics Awards Night

**Friday, June 1:** Graduates' School Liturgy and Pass it on Mass, 8:30am  
NOON DISMISSAL  
Father Daughter Dance

# Save the Date

*Closing Exercises: Tuesday, June 5th*

*PreKindergarten (9:00 AM) and*

*Kindergarten (10:30 AM)*



**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation**

**Friday, June 8th**

**6:30 PM**



# A note from the HSA

***Happy Spring! I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Break!***

***Recap of last month and shout out's:***

A HUGE shout out to Maureen Doherty, Kelly Kroeger and all of the 5K committee for another successful event! The kids once again enjoyed the new and improved Fun Run with the Child's Play obstacle course and loved getting their medals after they crossed the finish line! It was a lot of fun looking to see the real time tracking for the 5K as well! Congrats to all who participated!

Thank you to Linda Suriano for organizing and Jennifer Mortarulo for leading the Paint & Sip Night on April 26<sup>th</sup>!

***What to look forward to this month:***

Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>! We are truly blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing teaching staff at SBA. The HSA is proud to provide breakfast on this morning as just a small token of our gratitude for all that you do!

The HSA Spring General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Spring Concert and Art Show on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a recap of the school year and as we recognize the efforts of our parent volunteers, faculty and staff!

***Calling all Volunteers!***

We have an amazing community here at SBA! Last year, I was invited to sit in on a parent panel with the Middle States Team and one of the things that came up over and over is how the community at our school is like a family. That we can call on people for help and the call is always answered. We have lots of special events and fundraisers to make sure our children are getting the best experience here. None of these things are possible without volunteers. If you are looking for a way to get involved or help give back to our school community, our family, there are plenty of opportunities coming up. We need volunteers to help with lunch duty, as well as for upcoming events such as the annual school picnic.

Lastly, if you have a fundraising idea you'd like to share we're all ears! Please contact me at [njgribbins@gmail.com](mailto:njgribbins@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continuing support!

Jeanette Gribbin  
HSA President