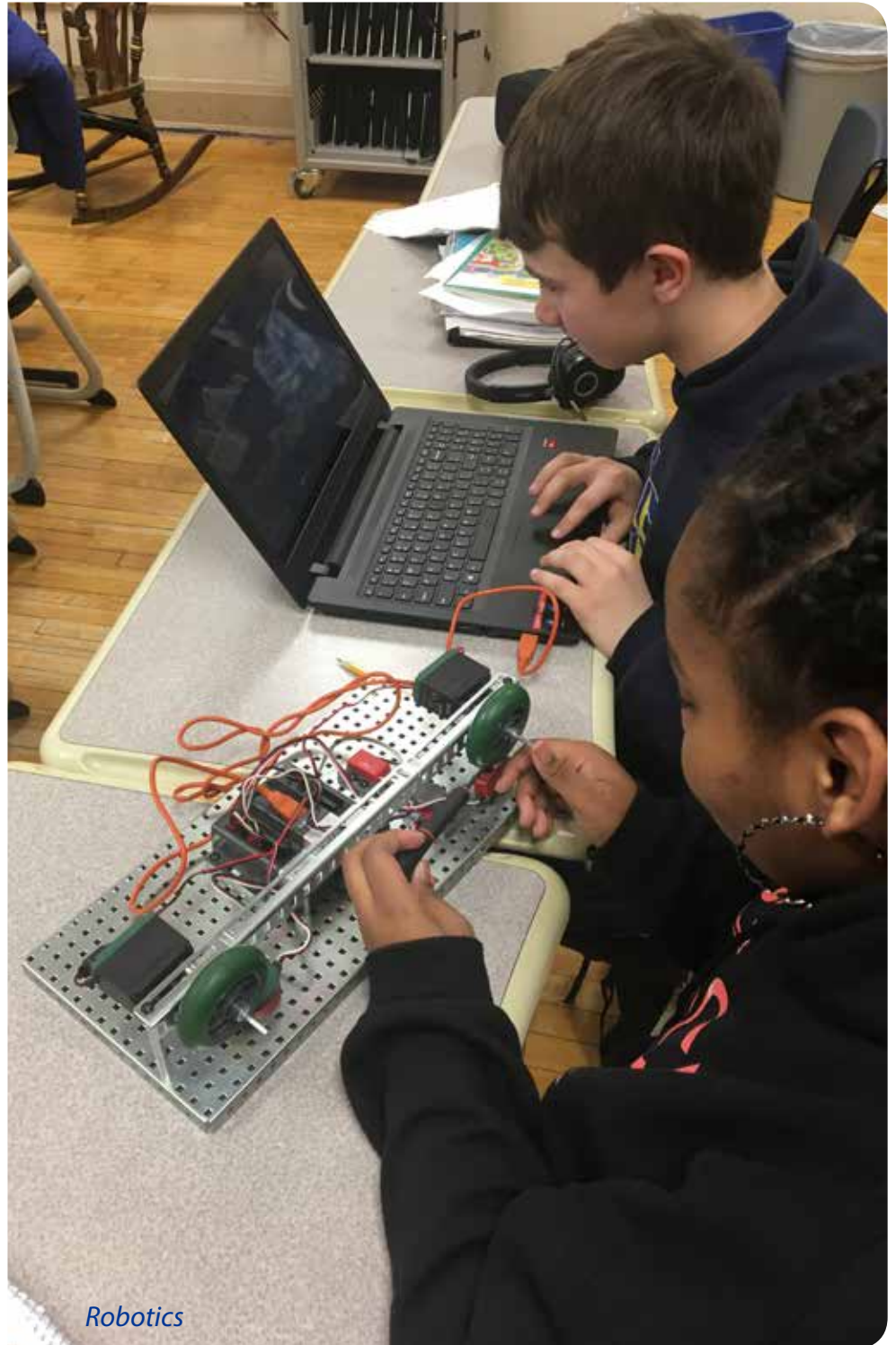
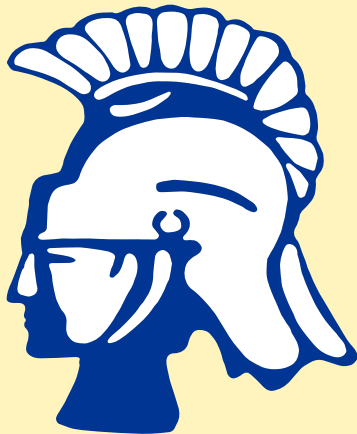


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*Robotics*



## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Every day Little Flower students and staff begin our day by reciting The Little Way:

*God is first; Do all things with love; Do even the simplest things to the best of your ability; Show integrity; Welcome everyone; Find the joy in everything; Make every day and every moment count; Serve the community; Strive for excellence.*

Every other week we gather as a school to discuss what each of these traits looks like at Little Flower. To begin the year, we discussed that “God is first” entails reverence and wonder, and we built a wonder wall in our hallway. For “Do all things with love,” our topic was empathy, and we introduced our students to our new “buddy bench” on the playground.

As the year progressed, we recognized that we wanted Little Flower students to spend even more time pondering The Little Way and sharing their ideas with one another. In January we began Little Way Families. On the weeks between introducing a new trait, our students meet in multi-age families to pray and to discuss and practice the concepts from The Little Way.

For Lent, we began with “Do even the simplest things to the best of your ability.” We watched a video and discussed how we need to keep ourselves healthy to be able to operate at “the best of our ability.” In families we challenged students to discuss their Lenten resolutions but especially to include one resolution that focused on a positive activity to increase their personal health. We invited them to join a before-school walking club (ok, most of them are running most of the time, but we’ll take that) as a healthy start to the day.

Two weeks later, we reviewed “Show integrity” and how to be reliable and keep your word. We tied this to our Lenten resolutions and our ability to keep promises to ourselves and God even when no one else would notice.

Next week, for “Welcoming everyone” we will challenge our students to show cooperation; to support each other in keeping their word; to encourage each other when times are difficult; and to reach out to those we might not always include in our circles.

The Little Way has been instrumental in explaining to everyone in our community what it means to be a part of the Little Flower community. Through sharing, it has brought us closer to one another, and through our brothers and sisters, it brings us closer to God.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Little Flower Catholic School, an educational ministry of Little Flower Parish, exists to provide quality Catholic education for the Eastside and beyond as it has since 1926. Little Flower is a compassionate, caring community for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade that celebrates the growth of each person. We welcome all families who share our philosophy and mission.

Our school provides a safe, nurturing environment, a challenging academic curriculum, with an emphasis on the arts, that prepares students for higher education and helps them develop into confident, responsible citizens. Following the words of St. Therese, our patroness, “Love is repaid by love alone,” we promote a dedication to the Catholic values of peace, justice, and service.



## A WORD FROM FR. BOB

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Friday of the First Week of Lent. The Gospel on the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus' forty-day fast in the desert and his temptations by the devil. The Gospel on the Second Sunday of Lent is always the story of his transfiguration. At his transfiguration, Jesus gave us a glimpse of his glory and also a glimpse of the glory that will one day be ours as well.

As Christians, our challenge especially during Lent is to grow into the likeness of the risen Christ or, to use Matthew Kelly's words, to become the-best-version-of-ourselves. Since its beginning, Little Flower School has been dedicated to calling forth the best in our students through education and formation. To the extent we are able to call forth the best in them, they will grow into the likeness of the risen Christ and become the-best-version-of-themselves.

People often ask me what part of my priesthood I have enjoyed most. Many, if not most, are surprised when I tell them what I enjoyed most was teaching 8th grade English grammar at the beginning of my priesthood. Although I no longer have the opportunity to

teach every day, every year I try to teach 8th grade religion once a week.

To be an 8th grader today is very different from what it was when I was in 8th grade. When I was in 8th grade, I had one teacher, Sr. M. Rosita Purler, who was also the principal. Today they have several teachers. Sr. Rosita was one of the best teachers I ever had. Our 8th graders are blessed to have Mrs. Theresa Slaton as their home room teacher.

Today's 8th graders also have far more responsibilities than we had. Besides all their 8th grade "jobs," they play an important role in the life of the younger students who look up to them and see them as role models. They also have service requirements, which we did not have.

Not only do they have far more responsibilities than we had, they also have far more opportunities. We really did not take any field trips. This year they saw the IRT production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. They attended one of the 2019 Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament games. They hosted a Senior Prom for Little Flower parishioners 55 and older. They did two service days at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. On March 29, they will participate in the "Lead Like Jesus" program. Between spring break and the end of the school year, they will lead the "Living Stations" on Good Friday, celebrate May Crowning,

enjoy their 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C., and graduate from Little Flower.

I have really enjoyed teaching this year's 8th grade class. This year my primary focus has been on marriage. More than some other classes, this class has had all kinds of good questions about God, faith, and religion in general. Their questions demonstrate an openness to God, an openness to faith, and an openness to religion. One member of the class will be baptized and confirmed and receive First Communion at the Easter Vigil.

Faith is a journey. One author has suggested that there are four stages of faith: familial, affiliative, searching, and owned faith. The faith of middle school students typically is a searching faith. Besides our journey of faith, all of us spend our entire lives trying to make sense of our lives. As they prepare to enter high school, our 8th graders are trying to make sense of their lives.

Our Little Flower community is privileged to help them along their journey of faith and to help them make sense of their lives. Your ongoing support of Little Flower School helps us help them. Thank you for all your support.

Have a blessed Easter!

Fr. Bob





Determining Time of Death

# WHO MURDERED THE MATH TEACHER???

by Makayla and Erionna

The Date: Monday, March 11, 2018

The Scene: In our 8th-grade science class, we discovered our math teacher, Miss Hanzel, lying dead on the floor.

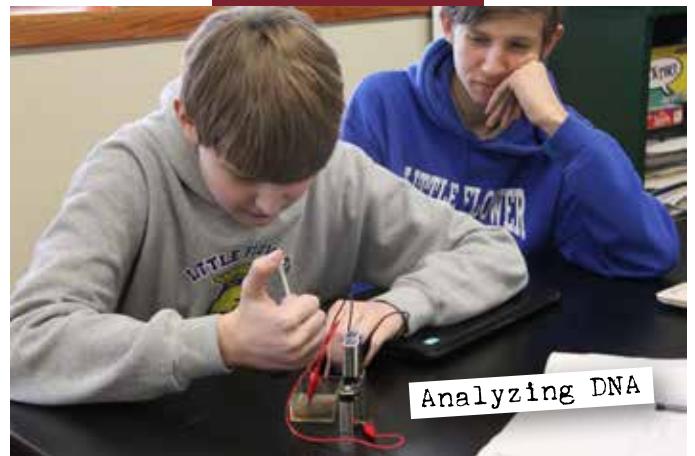
The Suspects: After doing some investigation, we, the 8th graders, discovered there were two potential suspects who might have contributed to this death, our 8th grade science teacher Mrs. Navin and our 8th grade homeroom teacher Mrs. Slaton.

The Case: We interviewed both suspects to find out more information. Our 8th-grade class reviewed the evidence found at the crime scene. We extracted DNA from both suspects' mouths and ran tests over the DNA to find our best match. We ran angor mortis tests to help us figure out the time of death and how our victim might have died.

The Conclusion: Mrs. Slaton killed our math teacher!



Collecting Evidence



Analyzing DNA



The Arrest

# JACOBS EDUCATOR AWARD



CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Navin for being recognized as one of five Jacobs Educator Award winners this year. Outstanding teachers from across the U.S. who are at the cutting edge of integrating technology to support problem-based and/or inquiry learning classrooms are encouraged to apply for this award. Recipients will connect with researchers at the IU School of Education to create

short reports that will provide useable research for busy teachers to help them understand best practices.

Learn more about this prestigious honor here:

<https://education.indiana.edu/community/awards/jacobs/>

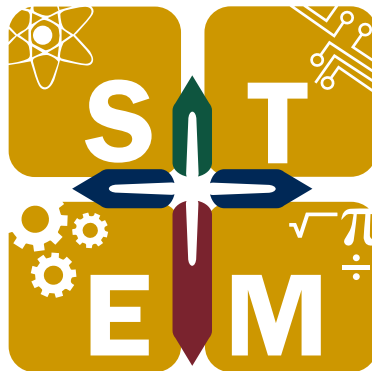
# THE ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RODEO

by Anna

In February, the eighth grade hosted the annual Senior (Citizen) Prom. This year's dance was called "Rootin' Tootin' Rodeo." Guests enjoyed talking with the eighth graders, bingo, cards, and western music. A spaghetti dinner was served, followed by the crowning of the king and queen, Flynn Bates and Charlene Runge. Many rounds of bingo and cards followed after the King and Queen's first dance. Around 100 people attended including Bob and Mary Sitzman who wrote to the 8th grade saying they had a pleasant evening. As many can agree, it was a wonderful night in the wild west.



3rd grade Engineers



5th graders doing Infection Investigation



7th graders coding to Create Apps



4th graders Calculating the Bounce

## ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

As you know, Little Flower Catholic School typically conducts an Annual Fund, beginning in November of each year, in conjunction with our annual All-Class Reunion.

An Annual Fund is essential to the operation of Little Flower School, as it helps with the costs of sustaining programs and improving facilities that are not covered by tuition. In addition to building improvements, the Annual Fund also supplies funds needed for technology improvements, innovation grants for teachers, and needs-based tuition assistance.

One specific project we would like to accomplish this year is to increase security in our school building, which would include more security cameras, a new buzz-in system, and

new interior doors on the classrooms. Since November 1, the Annual Fund has generated over \$73,000.00 in donations! We need to keep the trend going in order to begin making the necessary upgrades.

For those who are able, we invite you to increase your investment in Little Flower Catholic School through a generous donation to this year's Annual Fund. Whether you are a first-time donor or a long-time benefactor, your assistance will make a positive impact on the lives of our students and can help us to carry on the tradition and promise of Little Flower Catholic School.

Please continue to pray for God's continued blessings on our school.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.

Little Flower's Annual Spring Musical this year is *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*

We have two LF alumni working on the musical this year. Mr. Gabe Elam '07 is our music teacher, and Lauren Lay '03 is volunteering helping with rehearsals. The students were inspired to pick this year's musical after watching the live action *Beauty and the Beast* from 2017. The art club, under the direction of Mr. David Wissel, Art teacher, is painting the backdrop. The students are also making the majority of the props for the

musical. Mrs. Nancy Herrman, PE teacher, is choreographing the show.

The show will take place on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Ticket Prices - first 4 rows reserved for \$8, \$6 General Admission, \$15 Family ticket (parents and their children).

Cast members and their families may purchase tickets from the school office beginning April 22. Tickets for the general public will be available beginning April 29.







## TEACHER PROFILE: MARLEY STRATMAN

### 1. What is your educational background?

I have been lucky enough to attend Catholic schools for most of my life. I went to Christ the King in Evansville, Indiana for Kindergarten through 8th grade. I graduated from Reitz Memorial High School, a Catholic school in Evansville, in 2012. I then attended Indiana University where I studied Elementary Education with a science concentration and graduated in 2016. While at IU I had many opportunities to complete field experiences in all different grades.

### 2. Tell us about your family.

I am the oldest of 4 in my family. My brother Sam just graduated from IU this year. My sister, Leila, will be graduating from Memorial High School this spring and is excited to be going to college in the fall. My youngest brother, Patrick, is a sophomore at Memorial. My parents have been happily married for 27 years and have always instilled in us the

importance of our Catholic faith while growing up.

### 3. What drew you to Little Flower? What do you enjoy about teaching here?

One of my first interviews after graduating college was at Little Flower. I drove up from Evansville and was nervous and anxious being in a brand new place away from home. During my interview I felt so comfortable walking around the school and talking with Mr. Gawrys about the school environment, families, and current staff members. I felt at ease! Little Flower reminded me a lot of my elementary school, and I left that day knowing I wanted to teach third grade here! I love how supported I feel from the administration, other teachers, and parents of my students. I feel as though I am part of a family here and love making a difference with students at Little Flower.

### 4. How would you describe your teaching philosophy?

As a teacher I believe it is my job to create an environment that fosters positive relationships and motivates students to learn. I think it is important to get to know my students and understand how they learn best so I can help them grow to their highest potential. I try to accomplish this by differentiating learning, incorporating the Catholic faith and morals, and treating my students with respect and love.

### 5. What are some interesting, perhaps unusual, things about you?

I love to cook - all the credit goes to my dad. He has taught me everything I know about cooking! It is a stress reliever for me, and I love trying out new recipes. I also love to do anything outdoors: hiking, camping, swimming, etc. It's my happy place!

## ALUMNI NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Cole Stevenson**, Little Flower **Class of '15**! Cole was awarded a Patterson Scholarship. This scholarship provides four years of full tuition plus a \$10,000 per year housing stipend for the first two years. He received this award because he was named a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar. Cole will attend the University of Kentucky to study engineering.





St. Therese of the Infant Jesus  
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## SUMMERFEST 2019

Planning for SUMMERFEST 2019 is underway! Our volunteers are excited to be making preparations for a great time to be had by all. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY 31, JUNE 1, AND JUNE 2**, and plan to attend the festival to help make it a success!

We have been blessed with successful festivals the past few years, and we want this year to be no exception. Festival proceeds this year will fund much needed updates to the rectory, including a new roof and cooling system. Let's keep Fr. Bob dry and cool!

Plan now to attend, and invite your family, friends, and co-workers. Word of mouth is our best advertising. If you haven't been around the parish lately, this is a great time to come home for a visit. We encourage all alumni to gather some former classmates and stop by the festival to help make it the best one yet!

# Save the Date

**LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION**

Saturday, November 2, 2019  
5:00 p.m. Mass with dinner following

Formal Invitation and details to come!  
Alumni, please plan to join us!