

The Counselor's Corner

St. Anselm Elementary School Career Fair

If you happened to drive by the church on the afternoon of May 3, you might have thought trouble was brewing. Two EMS vehicles, a fire engine, and a police Hummer were parked outside the main entrance. Rest assured that nothing was wrong! The only thing burning was within the hearts of the police and fire personnel who are passionate about their work and are dedicated to service. Dearborn Heights Fire Marshal Sean Payne, who had been baptized at St. Anselm, made all the fire vehicles appear. He later met with students inside of the school to expand on what they saw and heard outside. Thanks to Officer Jeff Kropodra from the Westland Police Department, our students had the rare opportunity to explore the police Hummer. This vehicle was originally used in combat settings, but its tolerance of high levels of water now make it a peace-time asset during floods.

Inside school, the gym held many professionals with some link to St. Anselm. If participation/recruitment prizes had been given, Mrs. Brenda Mikiciuk would have won. She and two of her sisters are nurses with different specialties. They had a great display of pictures and objects amidst a very creative and patriotic setting. Students used stethoscopes to listen to the beating of their hearts, and one lucky person from each grade got to wear surgical gear. The other sister, Mrs. Witzleben, is a flight attendant. She spoke about air travel, told us how important seat belts are, and she had a kit from first class on display.

Two engineers represented very different aspects of this profession. Mr. Lackey, a structural engineer, had a great display of building materials to engage the students. Mr. Lackey also showed students a slide show, along with a stationery display of impressive projects he and his company had worked on throughout the United States. Mr. Chris Johnson, a Ford Motor Company Systems Engineer and graduate of St. Anselm, explained how he and other members of his team work to turn concepts into reality. Mr. Johnson had a video, and he gave out posters of cars, along with rubber bands that begin and end in the shape of a Mustang.

Mr. Gary Gardner, an attorney, used his enthusiastic personality to explain the Bill of Rights. He reinforced his teaching with a handout that explained the ten Amendments in simplified terms. Mrs. Jessica Nosis brought in some of her artistic work, and she explained graphic design and the preparation needed for that field. Ms. Mary Melonio, Director of Music Ministry at St. Gerald in Farmington, not only explained what she does to support liturgically correct and meaningful music in church, but she also demonstrated her musical abilities and people skills by playing the students' favorite hymns and having them sing along.

Mrs. Julie Walkuski, a leader in IT work at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, handed out mood pencils and made library science come to life. Students and staff were privileged to view a rare talking book, created in 1895, that Mrs. Walkuski had brought with her. Mr. Madrigal introduced the students to hospitality. He showed the students a trick to remember which side the bread plate goes on and where the glasses need to be placed on a formally set table. He dazzled many by showing different ways of folding napkins.

Mr. Ali Nehmeh, a proud, hard-working, business owner, made the students aware of the opportunities available to those interested in making quality pizza at an affordable price. Students were able to see and touch wrapped, but raw dough that could become the foundation of a pizza. Then, he won the hearts and stomachs of our students by giving them each a complementary slice of his Little Caesar's cheese pizza, along with cookies.

Career Fair 2017 was a wonderful day for all. The excitement was palpable, and students left with lots of freebies, along with first-hand knowledge of some career options. Our guests were very impressed with the conduct and respect of the students, and I was amazed at the enthusiasm and the effort of the presenters who all had some connection with St. Anselm. The closeness and caring of this community is apparent. This event was just one more example to support St. Anselm's great reputation for educating the whole person.

Diane L. Rivard