

2015-2016: A BIG YEAR FOR STEWARDSHIP!

What a great year for MQP's school stewardship program! Students, parents, teachers and staff shared their time, talents and treasures to help those in need. Each grade participated in at least three stewardship activities, ranging from field trips, guest speakers, crafts and even visits from live animals! An all-school mass and rally in April wrapped up the program for the year. At the rally, each grade presented a check to the organization(s) of their choice. These funds came from proceeds raised at the school's Mission Carnival. Check out below highlights from the year and all the enriching activities kids got involved in! They learned a lot, had fun doing it *and* helped the community!



Highlights

- ♥ Exposed students to the many faces of stewardship and how they tie in to the virtues
- ♥ Brought the Bridge Bread ministry to MQP
- ♥ Donated \$3,000 from the Mission Carnival to 12 nonprofits in the St. Louis area
- ♥ Filled 16 backpacks with school supplies for the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries
- ♥ Raised \$800 through the Penny Wars for the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries
- ♥ Donated \$800 to Join Hands ESL from the 8th grade's "Change for Change" campaign
- ♥ Developed a new stewardship bulletin board, now on display in the school
- ♥ Provided each student with a journal to record stewardship experiences

A huge THANK YOU to the parent volunteers!

This program wouldn't be possible without you!

The Year at a Glance

Pre-school – Loving All of God’s Creatures

Preschoolers might be little, but they aren’t too young to start learning about stewardship! They were introduced to the concept through something all children can relate to — animals! For the first activity, students talked about how to be kind and caring to all animals. They learned about the patron saint of animals, St. Francis of Assisi, and made bird feeders with Cheerios and pipe cleaners. The second activity focused on pets. Kids brought in blankets, towels, treats and toys to donate to Stray Rescue. They also made doggy treats! In March, the attention turned to spring by focusing on bugs and garden helpers. Nature on the Move came to visit and talked about backyard creatures. They even brought an actual garden snake, frog and spider for the kids to see! *Donation: \$300 to the Endangered Wolf Center*

Kindergarten – Caring for God’s Children

The kindergarteners were busy this year discovering the different ways to take care of God’s children. In October, they practiced their sewing skills by making blankets for charity. In January, the class reached out to Midtown Catholic Charities and hosted a baby shower for the Family P.R.I.D.E. Program, Midtown’s outreach to pregnant moms and parents of newborns and toddlers. Students donated baby items and decorated crosses with tissue paper to give to the new moms. For the spring activity, the kids learned about empathy and caring for those who suffered a loss, whether it’s a loved one, pet or special item. The class walked to Annie’s Hope and heard how that agency helps children experiencing grief. Before the field trip, they decorated memory boxes to give to the children. *Donation: \$300 to Annie’s Hope*

First Grade – Protecting God’s Creation

First graders learned how to respect and love God’s creation in all forms, both the earth and its creatures. In the fall, kids decorated garden stones to take home as a reminder God has blessed us with such a beautiful Earth. The winter activity taught kids the 3 Rs — reduce, reuse and recycle — and how they can take care of our planet for future generations. Students then put these lessons into action by having relay races in the halls, where they sorted items by the 3Rs. Afterward, they reused old toilet paper rolls and made bird feeders. In March, first graders enjoyed a visit from the World Bird Sanctuary. The presenter brought real live animals, including eagles, owls and falcons. Students learned how injured birds are nursed back to health and how to keep the environment safe for them. They loved seeing live creatures in the school gym! *Donation: \$300 to the World Bird Sanctuary*

Second Grade – Cherishing Our Elders

Second graders started off the year by listening to a guest speaker, Mrs. Godar, talk about what life was like when she was in second grade. (Kids couldn’t believe she lived without an iPad or cell phone!) During the second stewardship activity, they learned about several retirement communities in St. Louis. To tie in the year of mercy, kids made divine mercy chaplets to share with residents of St. Agnes, who gather monthly to pray the chaplet. In

March, students learned how important memories are for the elderly. To provide a way for cherishing those memories, kids decorated picture frames to share with residents of the Mother of Perpetual Help, whom they visited several weeks later. During this visit, they sang songs and spent time with the residents. It was an impactful way to show young people how they can make a difference with the elderly and brighten their spirits.

Donation: \$300 to Cardinal Ritter Senior Services

Third Grade – Feeding God’s People

Students began the year with a visit from a very impactful guest speaker, Ms. Nellie, who grew up in poverty and frequently didn’t know where her next meal would come from. She shared some of the struggles in her life and how she overcame them. In January, the class walked over to Kirk Care Food Pantry, where they saw first-hand how a food pantry operates and serves the community, even people in our own neighborhood! Kids had fun separating donated food items. In the final stewardship activity, students participated in a “hunger banquet,” where they were divided into three groups and given three very different breakfasts, based on the level of wealth in their assigned country. Kids in wealthy countries feasted on donuts and chocolate milk, whereas the poor countries got rice and dirty water (tea). It was an impactful way to illustrate the relationship between poverty and hunger throughout the world. *Donation: \$300 to Kirk Care Food Pantry*

Fourth Grade – Celebrating Our Differences

Fourth graders learned about the many various disabilities people have, the challenges they face, and what makes them unique. A visit from C.H.A.M.P. Assistance Dogs and two of their canine helpers kicked off the year, where kids saw some of the amazing ways these dogs serve their clients. In January, a speaker from St. Louis Arc spoke about how people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can still get involved and be a part of their community. Kids were shocked to learn that some very famous celebrities have disabilities! For the final stewardship activity, MQP parishioner and co-founder of One Classroom, LeeAnn Armitage, spoke to students about what it’s like for a child with disabilities to be in a mainstream classroom and how a classroom benefits when there is inclusion. Students finished off the morning rotating through hands-on “learning stations” that allowed them to experience first-hand what it’s like to have a physical disability, such as blindness.

Donation: \$150 to C.H.A.M.P. Assistance Dogs and \$150 to One Classroom

Fifth Grade – Honoring the Armed Forces

The fifth graders earned a greater understanding of our country’s service men and women. In the fall, U.S. Airforce Colonel Paul Judge, a retired pilot, talked to students about his 27-year military career. He passed around his helmet, which kids were shocked to find is much heavier than it looks! To honor Veteran’s Day, the class collected personal hygiene items for the VA Hospital in St. Louis. In January, students learned about the Joshua Chamberlain Society, a charity that helps veterans receive long-term support. One of JCS’s heroes, Sergeant Josh Eckhoff from the U.S. Army, visited students and humbled them with his story about the life-changing injuries he sustained in Iraq. For the last activity, kids discovered interesting facts about the American flag and how critical teamwork is in the military. They created a collage of an American flag using newspaper and magazine cutouts. Look for it in the MQP halls! *Donation: \$300 to the Joshua Chamberlain Society*

